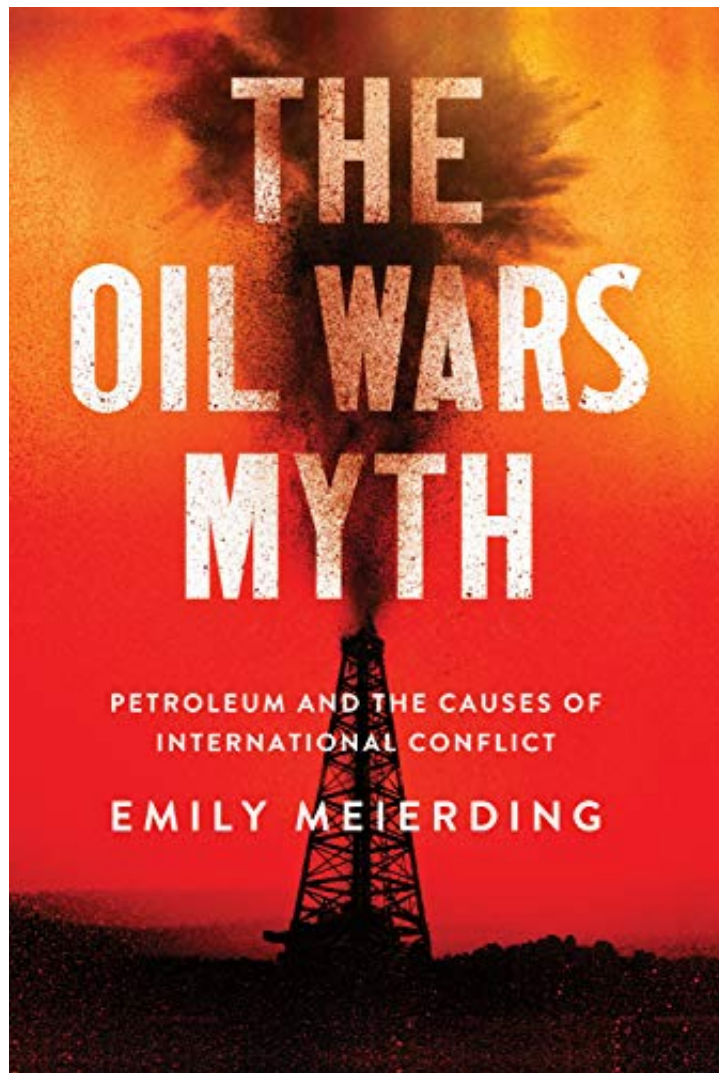


# The Oil Wars Myth: Petroleum and the Causes of International Conflict

*by*

**Emily Meierding**



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## Synopsis

Do countries fight wars for oil? Given the resource's exceptional military and economic importance, most people assume that states will do anything to obtain it. Challenging this conventional wisdom, *The Oil Wars Myth* reveals that countries do not launch major conflicts to acquire petroleum resources. Emily Meierding argues that the costs of foreign invasion, territorial occupation, international retaliation, and damage to oil company relations deter even the most powerful countries from initiating "classic oil wars." Examining a century of interstate violence, she demonstrates that, at most, countries have engaged in mild sparring to advance their petroleum ambitions. *The Oil Wars Myth* elaborates on these findings by reassessing the presumed oil motives for many of the twentieth century's most prominent international conflicts: World War II, the two American Gulf wars, the Iran–Iraq War, the Falklands/Malvinas War, and the Chaco War. These case studies show that countries have consistently refrained from fighting for oil. Meierding also explains why oil war assumptions are so common, despite the lack of supporting evidence. Since classic oil wars exist at the intersection of need and greed—two popular explanations for resource grabs—they are unusually easy to believe in. *The Oil Wars Myth* will engage and inform anyone interested in oil, war, and the narratives that connect them.



## **What people say about this book**

Dimitrios Vogiatzis, "The Oil Wars Myth - BUSTED!". This book investigates the validity of the widespread myth of how oil causes international conflict. As this myth is considered by most people to be true, it is a daring endeavor to try to disprove it. However, Dr. Meierding, a professor of International Relations and Energy Security and Geopolitics, provides compelling evidence that will make every impartial reader agree with her analysis and conclusions. The book is very well written and its clear structure helps readers (even people with no prior knowledge of energy security and geopolitics) understand why fighting wars for oil does not pay. Dr. Meierding offers examples of past conflicts which are considered to be "oil wars" and, through thorough analysis, goes on to prove that the causes of these conflicts were not exclusively, or even at all, caused by states' ambitions of capturing oil resources. In sum, the book engages in a very interesting topic, is easy to read and understand, and provides convincing evidence to bust the oil wars myth. A must-have for people interested in international relations and energy security and geopolitics."

Ebook Tops Reader, "Fascinating Read!. Like most of us, I've grown up steeped in a culture that sees oil wars as indisputable fact. It's in the news, it's on the protest signs, it's part of the common cultural understanding of our time. Dr. Meierding untangles the assumptions that underpin the myth of "classic oil wars", laying out a clear case for a rethinking of these conflicts. A fascinating read."

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