

International Structured Trade Commodity Finance The Circle Of Opportunity

The book contains real acts of corrupt practices that have caused huge financial losses to Banks & Insurance sector across many countries. Although these practices originated from the Indian business community operating in India and overseas but have wide ramifications for all international banks. In fact, many global players might already be using the same methods – supplemented with documentary evidence in respect of case studies in the book. The issues also relate to money laundering through trade route which are so large and require adequate attention from regulators – steps for which have been suggested. If implemented effectively, it may bring some major changes in international trade documentation, mitigating the risk of future frauds/dubious methods.

This title guides the reader through all the steps involved in commodity financing operations, from pre-export financing to enforcement of security and insolvency issues. It deals with risk and risk transfer issues, regulation and due diligence, and also covers Islamic finance aspects. It is valuable for practitioners and advisers involved at any stage of the deal. The second edition of the best-selling International Trade Finance A Practitioners Guide is structured as a detailed and practical guide to established and emerging techniques in successful trade finance. Across 9 chapters it explains the practical issues involved in the successful application of modern trade finance practices. Interest areas trade finance, commodity finance, pre-export finance, emerging markets, structured finance.

The past twenty years have seen great theoretical and empirical advances in the field of corporate finance. Whereas once the subject addressed mainly the financing of corporations--equity, debt, and valuation--today it also embraces crucial issues of governance, liquidity, risk management, relationships between banks and corporations, and the macroeconomic impact of corporations. However, this progress has left in its wake a jumbled array of concepts and models that students are often hard put to make sense of. Here, one of the world's leading economists offers a lucid, unified, and comprehensive introduction to modern corporate finance theory. Jean Tirole builds his landmark book around a single model, using an incentive or contract theory approach. Filling a major gap in the field, The Theory of Corporate Finance is an indispensable resource for graduate and advanced undergraduate students as well as researchers of corporate finance, industrial organization, political economy, development, and macroeconomics. Tirole conveys the organizing principles that structure the analysis of today's key management and public policy issues, such as the reform of corporate governance and auditing; the role of private equity, financial markets, and takeovers; the efficient determination of leverage, dividends, liquidity, and risk management; and the design of managerial incentive packages. He weaves empirical studies into the book's theoretical analysis. And he places the corporation in its broader

environment, both microeconomic and macroeconomic, and examines the two-way interaction between the corporate environment and institutions. Setting a new milestone in the field, *The Theory of Corporate Finance* will be the authoritative text for years to come.

Commodity Derivatives In the newly revised Second Edition of *Commodity Derivatives: Markets and Applications*, expert trading educator and author Neil Schofield delivers a comprehensive overview of a wide variety of commodities and derivatives. Beginning with discussions of commodity markets generally before moving on to derivative valuation and risk management, the author then dives into individual commodity markets, like gold, base metals, crude oil, natural gas, electricity, and more. Schofield relies on his extensive experience at Barclays Investment Bank to offer readers detailed examinations of commodity finance and the use of commodities within a wider investment portfolio. The second edition includes discussions of critical new topics like dual curve swap valuation, option valuation within a negative price environment using the Bachelier model, volatility skews, smiles, smirks, term structures for major commodities, and more. You'll find case studies on corporate failures linked to improper commodity risk management, as well as explorations of issues like the impact of growing interest in electric vehicles on commodity markets. The text of the original edition has been updated and expanded and new example transactions are included to help the reader understand the concepts discussed within. Each chapter follows a uniform structure, with typical demand and supply patterns following a non-technical description of the commodity at issue. Discussions of the physical markets in each commodity and the main exchange-traded and over-the-counter products conclude each chapter. Perfect for commodity and derivatives traders, analysts, and risk managers, the Second Edition of *Commodity Derivatives: Markets and Applications* will also earn a place in the libraries of students and academics studying finance and the graduate intake in financial institutions. A one-stop resource for the main commodity markets and their associated derivatives Finance professionals seeking a single volume that fully describes the major commodity markets and their derivatives will find everything they need in the latest edition of *Commodity Derivatives: Markets and Applications*. Former Global Head of Financial Markets Training at Barclays Investment Bank Neil Schofield delivers a rigorous and authoritative reference on a crucial, but often overlooked, subject. Completely revised and greatly expanded, the Second Edition of this essential text offers finance professionals and students coverage on every major class of commodities, including gold, steel, ethanol, crude oil, and more. You'll also find discussions of derivative valuation, risk management, commodity finance, and the use of commodities within an investment portfolio. Non-technical descriptions of major commodity classes ensure the material is accessible to everyone while still in-depth and rigorous enough to deliver key information on an area central to global finance. Ideal for students and academics in finance, *Commodity Derivatives* is an indispensable guide

for commodity and derivatives traders, analysts, and risk managers who seek a one-volume resource on foundational and advanced topics in commodity markets and their associated derivatives.

This publication serves as a roadmap for exploring and managing climate risk in the U.S. publication. It is the first major climate publication by a U.S. financial regulator. The central message of this publication is that U.S. financial regulators must recognize that climate change poses serious emerging risks to the U.S. financial system, and they should move urgently and decisively to measure, understand, and address these risks. Achieving this goal calls for strengthening regulators' capabilities, expertise, and data and tools to better monitor, analyze, and quantify climate risks. It calls for working closely with the private sector to ensure that financial institutions and market participants do the same. And it calls for policy and regulatory choices that are flexible, open-ended, and adaptable to new information about climate change and its risks, based on close and iterative dialogue with the private sector. At the same time, the financial community should not simply be reactive—it should provide solutions. Regulators should recognize that the financial system can itself be a catalyst for investments that accelerate economic resilience and the transition to a net-zero emissions economy. Financial innovations, in the form of new financial products, services, and technologies, can help the U.S. economy better manage climate risk and help channel more capital into technologies essential for the transition. The 2010s have been a dramatic period for most primary commodity markets. Producers suffered heavily as prices fell in response to new supply facilities going into production, juxtaposed against disappointing demand evolution from China in particular, marking the end of the most powerful and enduring commodity boom since the Second World War. This book is a guide to the primary commodity universe, an increasingly crucial part of the world economy. In this updated edition, Marian Radetzki and Linda Wårell introduce and explain pertinent issues surrounding international commodity markets, including the importance of fossil markets among commodities, price formation, price trends, the shift in primary commodity consumption towards Asia, the increasing reliance on commodity exchanges, new relaxed attitude towards depletion, cartel action, and the revival of nationalism and state ownership. This is an accessible read for graduates, academic researchers, and professionals in the mineral and energy sectors.

This issue discusses a number of factors affecting global growth, as well as growth prospects across the world's main countries and regions. It assesses the ongoing recovery from the global financial crisis in advanced and emerging market economies and evaluates risks, both upside and downside, including those associated with commodity prices, currency fluctuations, and financial market volatility. A special feature examines in detail causes and implications of the recent commodity price downturn; analytical chapters look at the effects of commodity windfalls on potential output and of exchange rate movements on trade.

The Trade and Receivables Finance Companion: A Collection of Case Studies and Solutions is based on the author's personal

experience gained through more than 40 years in the field of trade finance. This Companion applies the techniques described in his first volume, *Trade and Receivables Finance: A Practical Guide to Risk Evaluation and Structuring* to an extensive range of international trade scenarios. Practical solutions are discussed and presented through a specially selected collection of more than 20 case studies. These books provide an unrivalled and highly practical set of manuals for the trade and receivables financier. The reader is taken on a journey from the structuring of trade products including collections, import and export letters of credit, back to back credits, guarantees and standby credits to fully and partially structured financing solutions for the importer, manufacturer, distributor, middle-party and exporter. Each funding technique provides a compelling alternative to an overdraft. The case studies include the risk assessment and financing of open account payables, stock and receivables transactions and the evaluation and use of credit insurance as a supporting tool. The structuring of commodity finance across the trade cycle, to include warehousing, and call-off is also described. Many of the chapters contain a summary 'keynote' overview and comprehensive 'deal sheet' extracts of the chosen solution detailing facility and operational requirements.

Master's Thesis from the year 2005 in the subject Business economics - Banking, Stock Exchanges, Insurance, Accounting, grade: 1,25, University of Hamburg, 47 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Today bananas from Honduras will be sold in Novosibirsk, coffee from Brazil will be sold in Moscow and Russian oil will be sold in Zurich. To make this trade possible, new financing techniques like structured commodity trade financing are needed. Behind these transactions, reliable tools are inevitable. It is an understatement to say that doing business with someone in another country is more complicated than just finding ways to transport goods over long distances. One of the most obvious differences from doing business domestically is the fact that companies face new risks such as country risks, industry risks and especially credit risks. To make it easier for western creditors to conduct a profitable business in Russia and hedge their risks, lenders need to be aware of the economic, political and legal situation in the country; particularly, the creditors need to understand the new Russian currency law. The intention of the new federal law is to 'create a single government currency policy and to increase the stability of the Russian Federation and its internal currency market'. The purpose of this master thesis is to describe the pros and cons of this law, the risks that western creditors face when they engage in financing export transactions and the ways to prevent these risks. The influence of the federal law "on currency regulation and currency control" on western creditors is a very genuine topic for this master thesis, because this work shall increase the understanding of international finance as well as the interest for its practice in Russia. The absence of a deep research and the freshness of the topic make it especially interesting for investors. Is the recent situation in Russia friendly to western creditors? What aspects of the FZNo173 are necessary to know when financing Russian exports? What impact will this law have on western creditors? What are the ways to hedge risks associated with the FZNo173? These questions will be discussed in this paper.

A comprehensive resource for understanding the complexities of agricultural finance *Agricultural Finance: From Crops to Land, Water, and Infrastructure* is a pioneering book that offers a comprehensive resource for understanding the worldwide agriculture

markets, from spikes in agricultural commodity prices to trading strategies, and the agribusiness industry generally to the challenges of feeding the planet in particular. The book also goes in-depth on the topics of land, water, fertilizers, biofuels, and ethanol. Written by Helyette Geman—an industry expert in commodity derivatives—this book explores the agricultural marketplace and the cycles in agricultural commodity prices that can be the key to investor success. This resource addresses a wide range of other important topics as well, including agricultural insurance, energy, shipping and bunker prices, sustainability, investments in land, subsidies, agricultural derivatives, and farming risk-management. Other topics covered include structured products and agricultural commodities ETFs; trade finance in an era of credit shortage; securitization and commodity-linked notes; grains: wheat, corn, soybeans; softs: coffee, cocoa, cotton; shipping as a key component of agricultural trade; and the major agricultural shipping routes and the costs. The book: Offers the first comprehensive resource that deals with the all aspects of agricultural finance Includes information that is crucial for pension funds, asset managers, hedge funds, agribusiness corporates, CTAs and regulators Covers a range of topics from agricultural bunker prices, futures, options to major shipping routes and the costs This text is a must-have resource for accessing the information required to trade successfully in the agricultural marketplace.

Commodities: Markets, Performance, and Strategies provides a comprehensive view of commodity markets by describing and analyzing historical commodity performance, vehicles for investing in commodities, portfolio strategies, and current topics. It begins with the basics of commodity markets and various investment vehicles. The book then highlights the unique risk and return profiles of commodity investments, along with the dangers from mismanaged risk practices. The book also provides important insights into recent developments, including high frequency trading, financialization, and the emergence of virtual currencies as commodities. Readers of *Commodities: Markets, Performance, and Strategies* can gain an in-depth understanding about the multiple dimensions of commodity investing from experts from around the world. Commodity markets can be accessed with products that create unique risk and return dynamics for investors worldwide. The authors provide insights in a range of areas, from the economics of supply and demand for individual physical commodities through the financial products used to gain exposure to commodities. The book balances useful practical advice on commodity exposure while exposing the reader to various pitfalls inherent in these markets. Readers interested in a basic understanding will benefit as will those looking for more in-depth presentations of specific areas within commodity markets. Overall, *Commodities: Markets, Performance, and Strategies* provides a fresh look at the myriad dimensions of investing in these globally important markets.

Very few books published so far have touched upon commodity finance and fewer still have provided a systematic explanation and analysis of the subject. It is however a subject that is relevant throughout almost every corner of the world. From food to gold, commodities are ubiquitous. In this book, Dr. W. Huang, a practitioner and a trainer, covers commodities, commodity markets, commodity trade and the finance of commodity trade. As such, practitioners such as bankers and traders in commodity finance, and those institutions operating in this field, or planning to be active in this field, will all benefit from this book. This revised and updated second edition is a hands-on summary of commodity finance, with a special chapter dedicated to real-life case studies of

commodity finance. Topics covered include: – High-level overview of commodity trade and finance. – The three major sectors of commodity finance: soft commodities, hard commodities and energy – Commodity finance and emerging markets, as most commodity export countries are emerging markets countries. – The special mechanisms and products of commodity finance, from plain vanilla products to more complicated structures. The concept of Supply Chain Finance is also covered in detail. – Bank and country risk. – Risk management principles, with practical case studies. – The organization of a typical commodity finance bank. The key benefits of the book are: For bankers – how to do business and what risks should be watched for? For traders, brokers and institutional investors – how commodity finance is done and what bank instruments can be used. For students – how is commodity finance handled and developed by banks? Each chapter can be read independently. The content has been reviewed by both experts and newcomers, incorporating their comments on style and content, to ensure it is as useful and clear as possible. The comprehensive guide to working more effectively within the multi-commodity market. The Handbook of Multi-Commodity Markets and Products is the definitive desktop reference for traders, structurers, and risk managers who wish to broaden their knowledge base. This non-technical yet sophisticated manual covers everything the professional needs to become acquainted with the structure, function, rules, and practices across a wide spectrum of commodity markets. Contributions from a global team of renowned industry experts provide real-world examples for each market, along with tools for analyzing, pricing, and risk managing deals. The discussion focuses on convergence, including arbitrage valuation, econometric modeling, market structure analysis, contract engineering, and risk, while simulated scenarios help readers understand the practical application of the methods and models presented. Gradual deregulation and the resulting increase in diversity and activity have driven the evolution of the traditionally segmented market toward integration, raising important questions about opportunity identification and analysis in multi-commodity deals. This book helps professionals navigate the shift, providing in-depth information and practical advice. Structure and manage both simple and sophisticated multi-commodity deals Exploit pay-off profiles and trading strategies with a diversified set of commodity prices Develop more accurate forecasting models by considering additional metrics Price energy products and other commodities in segmented markets with an eye toward specific structural features As one of the only markets strong enough to boom during the credit crunch, the commodities markets are growing rapidly. Combined with increasing convergence, this transition presents potentially valuable opportunities for the development of a robust multi-commodity portfolio. For the professional seeking deeper understanding and a more effective strategy, the Handbook of Multi-Commodity Markets and Products offers complete information and expert guidance. This guide describes mechanisms and instruments that could be adapted and introduced by developing and transition economies to help improve the financing of trade by the private sector, with particular reference to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). It provides examples of best practice, and sets out the current state of trade finance infrastructure in developing countries and transition economies. A list of bibliographical references and useful web resources are included. Are you interested in learning more about the complex area of structured trade finance? Structured Trade Finance (STF) is a

highly specialised area of trade finance that has evolved directly from practice. As it grows and becomes more complex in an increasingly risk-based regulatory environment, there is a need for more detailed guidance on the subject. Foundations of Structured Trade Finance will provide you with exactly this. Written by Dr Oramah — President of Afreximbank and a professional who played an important role in the evolution of STF — this report will:

- Address the philosophical foundations and risks associated with structured trade finance
- Provide step-by-step guidance on how deals can be structured
- Outline the scope of coverage outside the confines of commodities
- Examine real life case studies and draw out lessons that can be learned from these STF has proven itself as an effective instrument for attracting trade finance to those regions that receive limited trade finance and which lag behind in trade and economic performance. Ensure you're aware of the risks associated with it.

This annual publication monitors the trends of international trade in goods and services in the medium term. The series is part of a larger effort by UNCTAD to analyse trade-related issues of particular importance for developing countries. The recovery in international trade in the last two years was in part due to nominal factors and in part to increase in volumes. In particular, the price of commodities regained ground and the United States dollar depreciated in real terms against a basket of currencies. Stronger global output growth and investment also played a role.

This aid for trade monitoring report examines trends and developments presenting a comprehensive analysis of donor and partner country engagement. In addition, it addresses the regional dimension and provides fact sheets that help in assessing the outcomes and impacts.

Structured Trade and Commodity Finance in Emerging Markets What Can Go Wrong and How to Avoid It Elsevier

This study examines the landscape in which Malawi's two agricultural commodity exchanges (Comex) and warehouse receipts systems (WRS) operate and makes recommendations on how to improve their performance and benefits to key stakeholders. A mixed methods approach was adopted, involving semi-structured interviews with key market participants, compilation and analysis of secondary data from Malawi and other African Comex, and a review of existing literature. A review of international experience indicates that historically Comex often develop hand-in-hand with warehouse receipt systems (WRS), which help stimulate demand from off takers for standardized contracts while providing financing that increased volumes traded. In recent years, electronic trading platforms have given an impetus to the consolidation of existing Comex, and the development of regional networks of exchanges and warehousing arrangements. Nonetheless, a common reason why Comex fail is that they do not attract sufficient trading volumes to pay for their operating costs. This is often associated with default on contracts and fears of the market for commodities being cornered by a few larger traders. Of the 23 Comex in Africa, over half are still in their planning or inception stages and, with the notable exception of the agricultural futures and options traded on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, most of the remaining Comex are thinly traded and receive financial support from government and/or donors.

John MacNamara's timely report looks at the principles and practice of structured trade and commodity finance deals and what can go wrong. It is supported by invaluable case study material. An authoritative guide to structured trade and commodity finance

in emerging markets A detailed study of the problems and opportunities presented by structured trade A clear explanation of typical structures and risk mitigation techniques

Biography of Aidan Applegarth, currently Managing Director, Global Head, Operations & Risk, Commodities & Structured Trade Finance at HSBC, previously Banking & Management Consultant at Bankingwise Limited and Global Head of Structured Trade & Commodity Finance at Barclays.

This handbook includes contributions related to optimization, pricing and valuation problems, risk modeling and decision making problems arising in global financial and commodity markets from the perspective of Operations Research and Management Science. The book is structured in three parts, emphasizing common methodological approaches arising in the areas of interest: - Part I: Optimization techniques - Part II: Pricing and Valuation - Part III: Risk Modeling The book presents to a wide community of Academics and Practitioners a selection of theoretical and applied contributions on topics that have recently attracted increasing interest in commodity and financial markets. Within a structure based on the three parts, it presents recent state-of-the-art and original works related to: - The adoption of multi-criteria and dynamic optimization approaches in financial and insurance markets in presence of market stress and growing systemic risk; - Decision paradigms, based on behavioral finance or factor-based, or more classical stochastic optimization techniques, applied to portfolio selection problems including new asset classes such as alternative investments; - Risk measurement methodologies, including model risk assessment, recently applied to energy spot and future markets and new risk measures recently proposed to evaluate risk-reward trade-offs in global financial and commodity markets; and derivatives portfolio hedging and pricing methods recently put forward in the financial community in the aftermath of the global financial crisis.

The increasing internationalization of supply chains is challenging our interpretation of conventional trade statistics, as traditional concepts such as country of origin or the distinction between goods and services become blurred. This publication, jointly produced by the WTO and the Institute of Developing Economies-Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO), focuses on the factors that have helped to shape global productions.

What affects the supply of oil? How important is the weather in determining grain prices? Why has the price of copper skyrocketed? This unique book analyses the economics of key commodity groups, including energy, agriculture and metals. It examines the supply/demand fundamentals of several major and minor commodities, physical characteristics, production and consumption patterns, trade flows and pricing mechanisms. It also explains the main tools used to hedge price risk, such as futures, options and swaps. This second edition has been fully revised and restructured, and contains four new chapters, including oil refining, electricity and price risk management for energy, metals and agricultural commodities This book is an indispensable reference text for students, academics and those working in the commodity business.

The International Handbook of Shipping Finance is a one-stop resource, offering comprehensive reference to theory and practice in the area of shipping finance. In the multibillion dollar international shipping industry, it is important to understand the various

issues involved in the finance of the sector. This involves the identification and evaluation of the alternative sources of capital available for financing the ships, including the appraisal and budgeting of shipping investment projects; legal and insurance aspects of ship finance; the financial analysis and modelling of investment projects; mergers and acquisitions; and the commercial and market risk management issues involved. Edited by two leading academics in this area, and with contributions from 25 prominent market practitioners and academics over 16 chapters, this Handbook covers shipping finance and banking, maritime financial management and investments. As such, it includes: shipping markets; asset backed finance; shipbuilding finance; debt finance; public and private equity and debt markets; structured finance; legal aspects and key clauses of ship mortgages; marine insurance; mechanisms for handling defaulted loans; investment appraisal and capital budgeting; financial analysis and investment modelling; business risk management and freight derivatives; and mergers and acquisitions. Thus, the Handbook offers a rigorous understanding of the different aspects of modern shipping finance and maritime financial management and investments, the various characteristics of the available products, the capital needs and requirements, and a clear view on the different financial management strategies through a series of practical examples and applications. Technical where appropriate, but grounded in market reality, this is a “must-have” reference for anyone involved in shipping finance, from bank practitioners and commodity trading houses, to shipbrokers, lawyers and insurance houses as well as to university students studying shipping finance.

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This report attempts to demystify the sphere of commodities markets worldwide by providing an in-depth examination of the major commodity groups, focusing on product characteristics, supply chains, pricing, liquidity, financial intermediation, industry players and the interplay between derivatives markets and the underlying physical goods. In so doing, the report contributes to the international debate with important information about the diverse market structures across commodities, including supply and demand elasticities, concentration of ownership, infrastructure organisation and layers of financial participation. While describing the endogenous factors, it also examines the increasing role of exogenous factors now impacting commodities. Finally, it assesses the drivers of the growth of derivatives markets and their impact on price formation.

Trade has always been shaped by technological innovation. In recent times, a new technology, Blockchain, has been greeted by many as the next big game-changer. Can Blockchain revolutionize international trade? This publication seeks to demystify the Blockchain phenomenon by providing a basic explanation of the technology. It analyses the relevance of this technology for international trade by reviewing how it is currently used or can be used in the various areas covered by WTO rules. In doing so, it provides an insight into the extent to which this technology could affect cross-border trade in goods and services, and intellectual property rights. It discusses the potential of Blockchain for reducing trade costs and enhancing supply chain transparency as well as the opportunities it provides for small-scale producers and companies. Finally, it reviews various challenges that must be addressed before the technology can be used on a wide scale and have a significant impact on international trade.

Trade finance is the backbone of international trade for entities ranging from a small businesses to multi-national corporations. An estimated 80 percent of world trade relies on this form of finance (WTO, 2017). Despite its systemic importance and rapid growth, data availability is only partial. During the 2008 financial crisis, policy makers, notably the G20 recognized that the absence of comprehensive trade finance data posed a significant hurdle for policy-makers to make informed, timely decisions. This paper proposes a stand-alone dataset to reflect the scope, dynamic and recent innovations of the trade finance market to support macroeconomic policy analysis.

Many questions have been raised about America's status in the increasingly interconnected global economy. Yet key facts--such as the amount of foreign assets abroad owned by U.S. citizens--are not known. The crucial data needed to assess the U.S. position are unavailable. This volume explores significant shortcomings in U.S. data on international capital transactions and their

implications for policymakers. The volume offers clearcut recommendations for U.S. agencies to bring data collection and analyses of the global economy into the twenty-first century. The volume explores How factors emerging since the early 1980s have shaped world financial markets and revealed shortcomings in data collection and analysis. How the existing U.S. data system works and where it fails how measurements of international financial transactions are recorded; and how swaps, options, and futures present special reporting problems. How alternative methods, such as collecting data, from sources such as global custodians and international clearinghouses, might improve coverage and accuracy.

Fluctuations of commodity prices, most notably of oil, capture considerable attention and have been tied to important economic effects. This book advances our understanding of the consequences of these fluctuations, providing both general analysis and a particular focus on the countries of the Pacific Rim.

This paper discusses developments and prospects for energy, metals, and food markets since the early 2000s, the start of what is termed a commodities supercycle—the rise of commodity prices over a decade or more as a result of a rapid urbanization and an expansion of infrastructure. Macroeconomists often assume that technological innovation is exogenous (driven largely by external factors or forces), but this volume documents how innovation in energy markets is directly affected by prices. When oil, natural gas, or fossil fuels become scarce, prices increase. This stimulates innovation and the adoption of new technologies and techniques for recovery and use of these resources. Conversely, when these commodities are abundant, prices fall, slowing the pace of innovation and the adoption of new techniques. At the heart of international trade in commodities are cross-country differences in resource endowments. Natural resources are materials or substances that occur in nature and can be used for economic gain, and so these include not only reserves of hydrocarbons, minerals, fisheries, and forests, but also temperate weather, fertile land, and access to water, which are important to agriculture.

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