

Essay from the bold Pastor
#80 - Shale Gas Revolution -

Once in a century-scale industrial revolution is underway in the U.S. A new natural gas drew attention in 1990s. It's called "shale gas" and is extracted from shale formations that's made up of soil. Though the new gas didn't take off for a long time because extraction was difficult, its production increased dramatically in 2000 with the introduction of a new technology.

The U.S., originally the third biggest oil producer in the world, had been losing its place in the industry. However, the production picked up in 2009 and the momentum is only pushing it farther. IEA (International Energy Agency) already announced that the U.S. will beat Saudi Arabia to become the biggest oil producer by 2017. It is clear that mass production of shale gas is the factor behind this prediction. Shale formations spread all over the country, and the estimated reserve is at least 150 to 300 years' worth. Furthermore, shale gas is cost effective. It only costs 6 yen to generate one kilo watts while oil costs 10 yen, wind power costs 20 yen, and solar power costs 35 yen. Another benefit of shale gas is that its CO2 emission is less than oil by 1.5%.

Actually, there's a country that has more shale gas sleeping underground than the U.S. It's China. Unfortunately for them, the new technology mentioned above is called "hydraulic fracturing" and requires a massive amount of water. The technology cannot be used in China where water shortage is a constant concern. Besides, the U.S. registered the technology as an international intellectual property, securing themselves as the sole beneficiary. Clearly, they got hold of something quite powerful.

By the way, both President Bush and Obama were advocates of "Bioethanol" and "Go Green" until several years ago. We don't hear that at all these days. Not only that, President Obama proudly stated that the U.S. born shale gas revolution will dominate the entire world and nobody can't beat the U.S.

However, the bible warns as the following;

Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Deuteronomy 8:11-14

As seen in the case of Vietnam and Iraqi War, the U.S. has always faced crisis after indulging in unprecedented economic booms. I hope that they will thank the Lord for their prosperity, abandon personal greed, and make a revolution of the mind to love God and the others this time.

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