



Energy, Economics, and the Structure of Society

The development of a fossil fuel–intensive society had many obvious impacts on the ability of the economy to produce wealth and to provide humans with an increased material standard of living. What is perhaps less obvious is that this development also enabled and forced many other changes to society by giving economic and political power to those who controlled access to this energy. This section examines some of those changes as they occurred in the United States (and many other areas of the world).

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