

10. Energy and Nuclear Power

General overview of energy and the energy crisis

- A. Pattern of energy consumption in U.S. are well known
 - wood, 19th C.
 - coal, early 20th C.
 - petroleum and natural gas, 1930s on
 - nuclear, scheduled to take over in 1970s
- B. Early philosophy of energy consumption
 - abundant, cheap energy is the key to economic growth
 - foster policies that promote the cheapest possible energy, thereby encouraging use
- C. options for energy policy
 - private versus public
 - price, production or distribution control
 - regulation through selective taxation

Coal

- A. as a source, largely privately owned and unregulated
- B. only significant early government interest has been mine safety
- C. more recent government regulations has been environmentally focused (all late 1960s, early 1970s)
- D. Result, by 1970s, coal was no longer an energy source of choice

Oil

- A. energy of choice, 1950s on
- B. oil policy
 - 1930s, overproduction --> price destabilization
 - 1950s, oil depletion allowance
 - tax credits given to foreign companies
 - by early 1970s, this policy is starting to have problems

Electricity

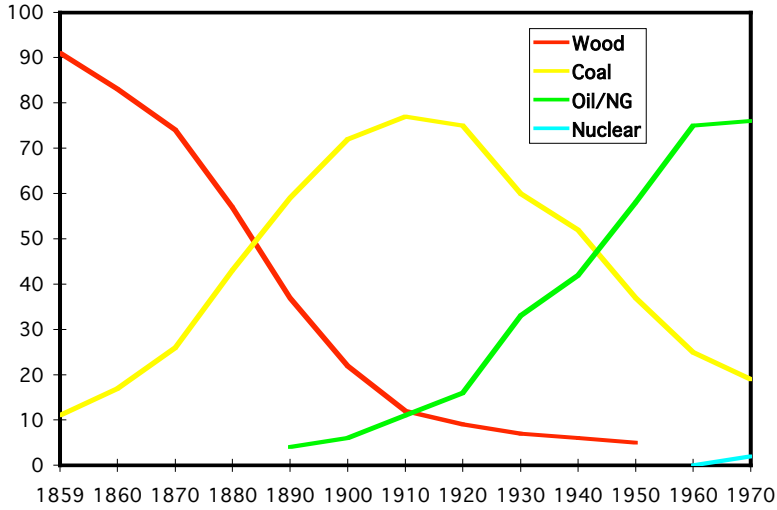
- A. Not an energy source but a way of delivering energy
- B. Public utility concept

Nuclear Power

A. August 1, 1946, Atomic Energy Act

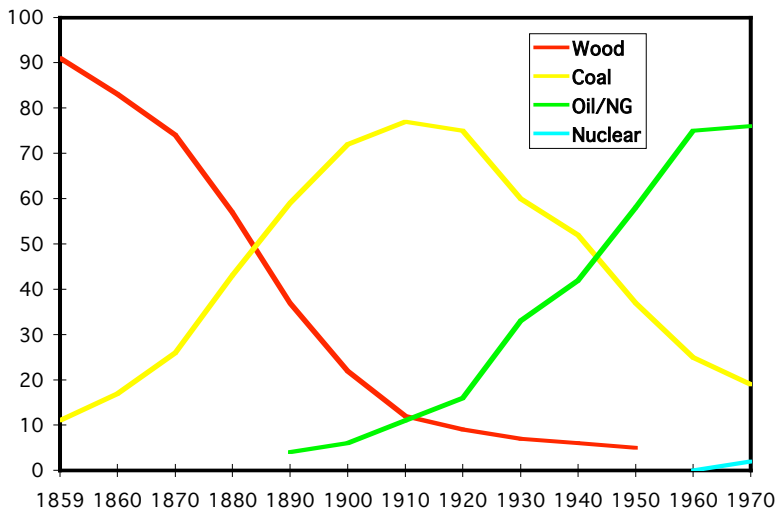
Energy Sources, 1850-1970

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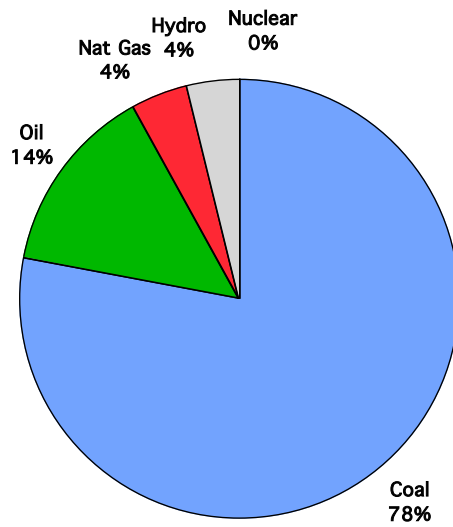
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Energy Sources, 1850-1970



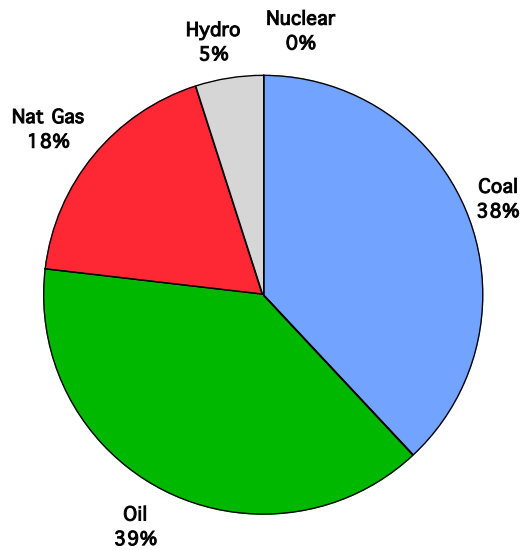
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Major Energy Sources: 1920



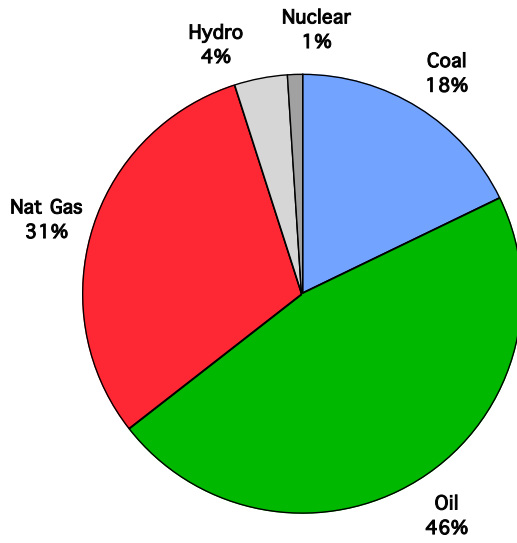
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Major Energy Sources: 1950

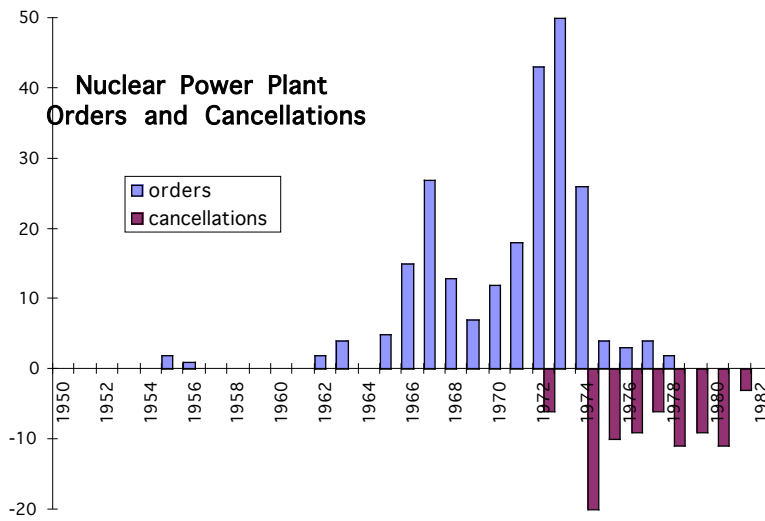


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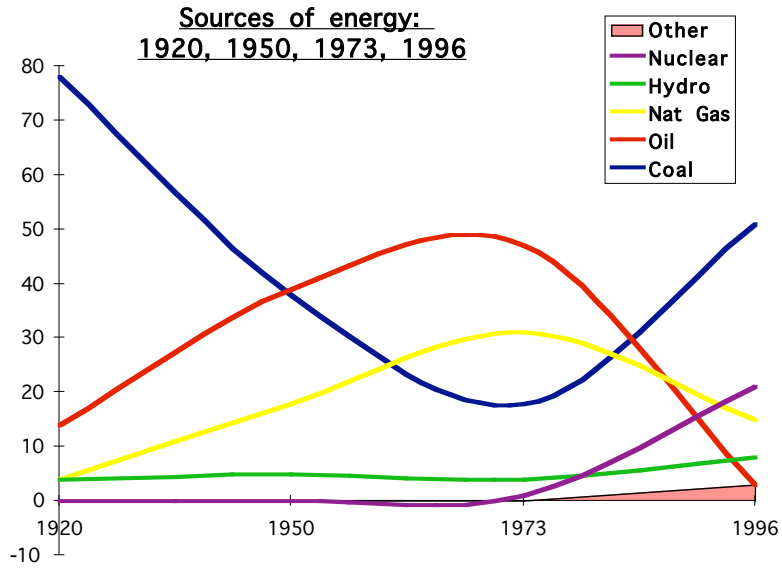
Major Energy Sources: 1973



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