17.906 The Geopolitics and Geoeconomics of Global Energy, Spring 2007 Prof. Flynt Leverett

Discussion 7: Resource Nationalism and Market Power (III)

Russia

- Late 80s early 90s
 - o Command economy
- 70s and 80s
 - o made Poland and East Germany dependent upon oil
 - good when prices were low
 - bad when prices were high
- Gas is the big interest
 - o Largest reserves in the world

Putin

- Wants to influence oil companies
 - Launch politicized tax investigations against the leaders of oil companies
 - Prosecution of key leaders
 - Exile
 - Arrested

Russian energy is very heavily under national control Where do Russian pipelines going

- Germany
- Western Europe

Huge consumers of Russia's Gas

- India
- China
- Western Europe

Issues with Russian pipelines

- Insurgencies in lots of central Asian countries
- Must have a steady flow of gas regardless of attacks, etc.

East Asia

- Not the same problems
- West and East of Russia are way more stable than the center

Russia

- Really wants to counteract US influence in European countries
 - New NATO countries