00:00:10.376 --> 00:00:20.916 <v SPEAKER 2>Hello, everyone, and welcome to Energy Security Cubed, one of the world's foremost energy security podcasts presented by the CGAI, or Canadian Global Affairs Institute. 00:00:20.916 --> 00:00:24.596 <v SPEAKER 2>I'm Kelly Ogle, Managing Director here at CGAI. 00:00:24.596 --> 00:00:32.536 <v SPEAKER_1>And I'm Joe Calnan, Vice President of Energy and Calgary Operations at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. 00:00:34.536 --> 00:00:44.936 <v SPEAKER_2>For a midsummer episode of the podcast, Joe and I are taking stock of some of the mid-year trends in Canadian and global energy, as exemplified by a few recent news stories. 00:00:44.936 --> 00:00:46.956 <v SPEAKER_2>Looking forward to doing this, Joe. 00:00:46.956 --> 00:00:48.376 <v SPEAKER_2>How are things with you? 00:00:48.376 --> 00:00:50.396 <v SPEAKER_1>0h, I'm doing well, Kelly. 00:00:50.396 --> 00:00:54.496 <v SPEAKER 1>It's like you said, mid-summer, although it hasn't felt like it here in Calgary recently. 00:00:54.496 --> 00:00:58.936 <v SPEAKER 1>We've been having a very rainy July, which is strange. 00:00:58.936 --> 00:01:02.316 <v SPEAKER 1>And at least it's kept some of the smoke away, though. 00:01:02.316 --> 00:01:07.256 <v SPEAKER 2>Well, it's kept me off the golf course, so that's all right. 00:01:09.916 --> 00:01:12.656 <v SPEAKER_2>But we only get so many golf days in Canada. 00:01:14.676 --> 00:01:16.856 <v SPEAKER_2>What do you want to talk about today? 00:01:16.856 --> 00:01:30.076 <v SPEAKER_1>Well, I was thinking that we could talk about a few news

stories and what they mean for Canada, and generally just have a shorter podcast, where we get a chance to share our own thoughts on these sorts of things.

00:01:30.076 --> 00:01:32.936

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, you know, before you start, you and I are never short of opinions.

00:01:34.996 --> 00:01:40.816

<v SPEAKER_2>But generally, we are using that as cannon fodder for somebody else.

00:01:40.816 --> 00:01:42.496

<v SPEAKER_2>But yeah, this is fun, Joe.

00:01:42.496 --> 00:01:43.456

<v SPEAKER_2>I like doing this with you.

00:01:43.456 --> 00:01:48.236

<v SPEAKER_2>And I know we have had good response from listeners about
some of the commentary that you and I make.

00:01:48.236 --> 00:01:50.936

<v SPEAKER_2>So what do you want to start with?

00:01:50.936 --> 00:01:59.736

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, let's start with a story from the Financial Times
about some troubles with the Science Based Targets Initiative.

00:02:00.376 --> 00:02:14.436

<v SPEAKER_1>For those who are unaware, the SBTI is a not-for-profit
standard setter for companies to align their emissions targets in
alignment, to align their emissions targets with a future 1.5 degrees
warming.

00:02:14.436 --> 00:02:30.896

<v SPEAKER_1>So according to the FT, Financial Times, Oil Supermajor
Shell, Norwegian producer Acre BP, and Canadian pipeline company
Enbridge have all exited the Expert Advisory Group of SBTI.

00:02:31.596 --> 00:02:43.536

<v SPEAKER_1>They reportedly left after being told by SBTI that a new
net-zero emission strategy would require companies to cease
development of new oil and gas fields.

00:02:43.536 --> 00:02:54.556

<v SPEAKER_1>Ultimately, the question here comes down to how much
influence can soft measures such as voluntary regulation really exert
over a physical global energy system?

00:02:54.556 --> 00:03:04.396

<v SPEAKER_1>Statements from Shell, Acre and Enbridge reflect the
views of the companies that the targets being proposed by SBTI are
dislocated from reality.

00:03:04.396 --> 00:03:07.096

<v SPEAKER 1>And we should be clear that they're probably right.

00:03:07.096 --> 00:03:15.076

<v SPEAKER_1>Under current conditions, we will need additional oil and
gas fields to be developed to meet global energy needs.

00:03:16.416 --> 00:03:30.416

<v SPEAKER_2>If listeners remember, the Energy Institute told us last
month that we had reached all-time highs for the consumption of all
forms of energy in 2024, including natural gas, oil and coal.

00:03:30.416 --> 00:03:39.156

<v SPEAKER_2>We're so far off from plateauing traditional energy
demand, it's not even funny, let alone rapidly replacing it with
renewables or, I don't know, fairy dust.

00:03:39.156 --> 00:03:43.836

<v SPEAKER_2>Joe, what are they going to replace all of this 80% of the energy needs of the world with?

00:03:46.056 --> 00:03:48.916

<v SPEAKER_2>This really leaves the net zero concept in a bind.

00:03:49.436 --> 00:03:58.116

<v SPEAKER_2>Joe, you and I have been talking about this for months
now, as the headwinds of decarbonization continue to rise.

00:03:58.116 --> 00:04:02.236

<v SPEAKER_2>It's increasingly clear that few countries will be
beginning to net zero by 2050.

00:04:04.056 --> 00:04:12.196

<v SPEAKER_2>I used to think of it as aspirational and a trip to some
place, not a destination.

00:04:12.696 --> 00:04:17.116

<v SPEAKER 2>I think that the world is coming to that realization.

00:04:17.116 --> 00:04:24.096

<v SPEAKER_2>I think net zero is going to be gone even as a concept.

00:04:25.556 --> 00:04:31.756

<v SPEAKER_2>According to the Climate Action Tracker, there isn't a
single major economy in the world which is aligned with the Paris

Agreement.

00:04:32.976 --> 00:04:45.056

<v SPEAKER_2>However, if this goal is abandoned, the question becomes
what sort of rallying point is left for limiting the worst impacts of
climate change, which is really a statement of relativity, Joe.

00:04:46.176 --> 00:04:52.536

<v SPEAKER_2>It's how we all look at that as a problem, as an
opportunity, as a challenge.

00:04:53.916 --> 00:05:00.596

<v SPEAKER_2>I guess what mitigation and adaptation strategies are
required.

00:05:00.596 --> 00:05:10.296

<v SPEAKER_1>We should be clear that we are seeing some disruptions
that I think can be fairly, can be associated with climate change.

00:05:10.296 --> 00:05:22.176

<v SPEAKER_1>I think that, I wouldn't say that all the forest fires
are caused by climate change, but there are dry conditions in some
parts of BC that cause forest fires to be more likely to emerge.

00:05:22.176 --> 00:05:23.996

<v SPEAKER_2>0kay, so I'll counter that with...

00:05:23.996 --> 00:05:26.336

<v SPEAKER_1>0h yeah, go ahead and counter it.

00:05:26.336 --> 00:05:47.996

<v SPEAKER_2>And it's just, I don't disagree, but we go back to the
discussions we've had about forest management and the whole pine
beetle situation that was created by a government policy back in the
90s, which created the pine beetle problem, which then decimated all
pine forests from there to western Alberta and the Rockies.

00:05:48.756 --> 00:05:57.136

<v SPEAKER_2>Therefore, you've got lots of pails of gasoline awaiting
arson and lightning, right?

00:05:57.136 --> 00:05:59.516

<v SPEAKER_2>So, I agree.

00:05:59.516 --> 00:06:24.896

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that there are more, maybe it's just more ability
to, or sorry, more opportunity to see things from a media perspective,
but catastrophic weather events seem to be more prevalent, but then
you'll find Bjorn Lomborg, and who was the fellow we had here for the
dinner from Colorado?

00:06:27.336 --> 00:06:28.196 <v SPEAKER 1>Roger Pilkey.

00:06:28.196 --> 00:06:29.616 <v SPEAKER 2>Roger Pilkey Jr.

00:06:29.616 --> 00:06:36.756

<v SPEAKER_2>Show you statistics that, you know, things like
hurricanes and fires are way less prevalent than they ever were
before.

00:06:36.756 --> 00:06:42.216

<v SPEAKER_1>We can always talk more about, you know, what really can
we attribute to climate change?

00:06:42.976 --> 00:06:47.176

<v SPEAKER_1>And, I mean, there are those attribution studies.

00:06:47.176 --> 00:06:54.696

<v SPEAKER_1>I mean, I'm not 100% sold on them, but I can see the
value in trying to figure out what can be attributed to what.

00:06:54.696 --> 00:06:59.896

<v SPEAKER_1>Because I think that the really important thing here is
figuring out what are the costs of climate change we can expect.

00:06:59.896 --> 00:07:01.236 <v SPEAKER_1>Right.

00:07:01.236 --> 00:07:11.336

<v SPEAKER_1>So let's say, assuming we do get beyond 1.5 degrees, get
closer to 2 degrees of warming, maybe even beyond that, what sort of
impacts can we actually expect from that?

00:07:11.956 --> 00:07:13.676

<v SPEAKER 1>What can we expect to be the actual cost of that?

00:07:13.676 --> 00:07:16.156

<v SPEAKER_1>And I know that that's a very, very difficult thing to
do.

00:07:16.156 --> 00:07:22.696

<v SPEAKER_1>And maybe it's too much for me to expect any sort of
modelers to pin a real number on that.

00:07:22.836 --> 00:07:33.076

<v SPEAKER_1>But I also think at this point, the net zero concept, the
concept of whatever the cost, we're going to get emissions down to
zero.

00:07:33.076 --> 00:07:42.996

<v SPEAKER_1>Like even if the costs of it are well above \$1,000 per
ton of CO2, I don't think that that's a feasible option.

00:07:42.996 --> 00:07:51.116

<v SPEAKER_1>I don't think the countries and citizens of those
countries are going to accept such high costs of emissions management.

00:07:51.116 --> 00:07:57.256

<v SPEAKER_1>So if we're not going to consider that, then we should
really be considering like, what are the costs of climate change?

00:07:57.256 --> 00:08:12.476

<v SPEAKER_1>And what sort of avenues can be taken to effectively
choose the best ways to both limit the emissions, but also to adapt in
scenarios where we can't limit emissions effectively?

00:08:12.636 --> 00:08:16.256

<v SPEAKER_1>And it's not just the costs, it's also the current
geopolitical situations.

00:08:16.256 --> 00:08:25.496

<v SPEAKER_1>The fact that there's not a single world government that
can directly regulate all emissions and directly force companies and
individuals to reduce their emissions.

00:08:25.496 --> 00:08:27.356

<v SPEAKER_1>That's just not something that we have right now.

00:08:27.356 --> 00:08:34.796

<v SPEAKER_1>And that's really the reason why I think we've developed
all of these international institutions, which are claimed to have
that power.

00:08:35.696 --> 00:08:50.736

<v SPEAKER_1>But these international institutions are now kind of
being shown to be a little bit toothless as soon as companies start
leaving them like GFANS, like this group, and increasingly perhaps the
UN as well.

00:08:50.736 --> 00:09:00.136

<v SPEAKER_1>Not really having the power to enforce anything and to
really shape the world in that direction.

00:09:00.236 --> 00:09:01.896

<v SPEAKER_1>So, what else to think about, though?

00:09:01.896 --> 00:09:18.456

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, in the last decade and a half, you know, you've

seen the rise of these, like what I'll call, existential actors and not-for-profits and these things that opine on what should be done about climate.

00:09:18.656 --> 00:09:26.496

<v SPEAKER_2>And they were real popular under Obama, et cetera, you
know, and the Paris Agreement and everybody lighting their hair on
fire.

00:09:26.656 --> 00:09:31.056

<v SPEAKER_2>And the reality is that people need energy, Joe.

00:09:31.056 --> 00:09:38.656

<v SPEAKER_2>And they're gonna, the societies are gonna find it at the
most reasonable price they can.

00:09:39.756 --> 00:09:49.296

<v SPEAKER_2>And notwithstanding, trying not to pollute, I guess, is
what I would say, rather than climate.

00:09:49.296 --> 00:09:54.996

<v SPEAKER_2>But we could go, we could, you and I could drone on about
this for hours.

00:09:54.996 --> 00:09:56.016

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's talk about something else.

00:09:56.036 --> 00:09:57.956

<v SPEAKER_2>What do you want to talk about now?

00:09:57.956 --> 00:10:02.156

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, next up is something that's a very important news
story for this week.

00:10:02.156 --> 00:10:10.516

<v SPEAKER_1>And that is the European Union's Framework Trade Deal
with the United States and its implications for global energy.

00:10:10.516 --> 00:10:24.076

<v SPEAKER_1>So on Sunday, the EU made a deal with US President Donald
Trump to set a 15% baseline tariff on all European goods alongside
sectoral tariffs on steel, aluminum and copper at 50%.

00:10:25.416 --> 00:10:32.456

<v SPEAKER_1>The EU will supposedly also invest an additional \$600
billion in the United States during Trump's term.

00:10:32.456 --> 00:10:42.476

<v SPEAKER_1>But all of these details, it's hard for me to see \$600
billion of investment being directed by the EU.

00:10:42.476 --> 00:10:45.076

<v SPEAKER 1>But we'll really see how this all turns out.

00:10:45.076 --> 00:10:51.576

<v SPEAKER_1>So there's numerous debates about the logic of this trade
deal and whether it is really a deal at all.

00:10:52.416 --> 00:10:58.896

<v SPEAKER_1>But I'd like to focus on another really important
component here, which is the energy part of the agreement.

00:10:58.896 --> 00:11:10.756

<v SPEAKER_1>According to this statement from the White House, the EU
is expected under this deal to spend \$750 billion on imports of
American energy through to 2028.

00:11:10.996 --> 00:11:14.176

<v SPEAKER_1>So that's around 250 billion per year.

00:11:14.176 --> 00:11:29.476

<v SPEAKER_1>Now, according to Eurostat, the EU imported a total of
375 billion euros of oil, natural gas and coal in 2024, equivalent to
around 405 billion US dollars.

00:11:29.476 --> 00:11:44.076

<v SPEAKER_1>Currently, the United States exports around 45 billion
euros of oil, 20 billion euros of LNG and another 4 billion euros of
coal to the EU for a total of about 70 billion euros or 76 billion US
dollars.

00:11:45.356 --> 00:11:52.256

<v SPEAKER_1>Driving these exports up to 250 billion dollars per year
would require some dramatic changes.

00:11:52.256 --> 00:11:57.476

<v SPEAKER_1>The largest potential is to increase the American share
of the EU oil market.

00:11:57.476 --> 00:12:10.376

<v SPEAKER_1>Driving up the American share of this market from the
current 17% to a full 50% could potentially increase the value of
American energy exports to the EU to 160 billion US dollars.

00:12:10.376 --> 00:12:13.276

<v SPEAKER_1>This is of course assuming that oil prices go up a bit.

00:12:14.556 --> 00:12:21.156

<v SPEAKER_1>Capturing the full 100% of the EU LNG market could
potentially bring this number up to 180 billion.

00:12:21.156 --> 00:12:26.636

<v SPEAKER_1>And again, that's assuming that LNG prices remain
relatively high too.

00:12:27.856 --> 00:12:42.236

<v SPEAKER_2>However, this would require a massive restructuring of
the global energy system, the violation of long-standing energy
security partnerships and direct EU involvement in forcing importers
to buy American energy at a premium.

00:12:43.156 --> 00:12:47.656

<v SPEAKER_2>And still not reach this \$250 billion goal.

00:12:47.656 --> 00:12:58.396

<v SPEAKER_2>It's easy to say that this is just an effort to humor the
president, but it betrays a lack of energy literacy, which is becoming
increasingly apparent in the Trump administration, and I would add, in
the EU.

00:12:58.396 --> 00:13:02.096

<v SPEAKER_2>It would be foolish for the EU to pursue this goal for its own energy security targets.

00:13:02.096 --> 00:13:10.756

<v SPEAKER_2>This is really, I think this is a publicity stunt by both
the woman head of the EU and Trump.

00:13:11.176 --> 00:13:23.356

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, Joe, it flies in the face of Qatar just about
just telling the EU yesterday that you better back off of these ideas
about carbon border adjustments on LNG or we won't sell it to you.

00:13:23.356 --> 00:13:26.456

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, it's a joke, Joe, like it really is.

00:13:26.456 --> 00:13:31.436

<v SPEAKER_2>Having said that, Trump's got all the cards.

00:13:31.436 --> 00:13:38.696

<v SPEAKER_2>Like everybody's just, they're kneeling in effigy, in atonement, looking for atonement from this guy.

00:13:39.416 --> 00:13:42.776

<v SPEAKER_2>Like, and Canada's next here, coming up by Friday.

00:13:42.776 --> 00:13:48.136

<v SPEAKER_2>Like, he's just swinging a big hammer around and knocking
the pins down.

00:13:48.136 --> 00:13:52.996 <v SPEAKER 2>Like, it's, to me, I'm, I don't know where we're going here. $00:13:52.996 \longrightarrow 00:14:01.596$ <v SPEAKER 2>The United States is looking to fund their ability to keep taxes low and reduce their deficits. 00:14:01.656 --> 00:14:04.176 <v SPEAKER 2>And, you know. 00:14:04.176 --> 00:14:04.636 <v SPEAKER_1>Yeah. 00:14:04.636 --> 00:14:05.056 <v SPEAKER_1>Yeah. 00:14:05.056 --> 00:14:12.576 <v SPEAKER_1>I'd say that access to the American market is, is something that all of these countries are extremely invested in maintaining. 00:14:12.576 --> 00:14:22.336 <v SPEAKER_1>And so there's, there's big questions about, there's always been big questions about the distribution and the, the incidence of these taxes. 00:14:22.336 --> 00:14:24.236 <v SPEAKER_1>Like, tariffs are taxes. 00:14:24.276 --> 00:14:25.336 <v SPEAKER 1>They're taxes on imports.

00:14:25.336 --> 00:14:30.236
<v SPEAKER_1>They're, they're effectively, you call them consumption
taxes for the American consumers who buy.

00:14:30.236 --> 00:14:30.736
<v SPEAKER 2>Exactly.

00:14:30.736 --> 00:14:32.096 <v SPEAKER_2>That's who's paying for this.

00:14:32.096 --> 00:14:32.356 <v SPEAKER 2>Yeah.

00:14:32.356 --> 00:14:39.476
<v SPEAKER_1>But, but, you know, where it comes to any sort of taxes,
the incidence that wherever it falls on the producer and the consumer.

00:14:39.476 --> 00:14:50.696

<v SPEAKER_1>And the thing is that Europe, Japan, you know, China,
Canada, none of them have very good alternative customers for things
that they sell to the United States.

00:14:51.416 --> 00:15:00.436

<v SPEAKER_1>The US just consumes so much stuff that it is a crucial
market for the excess goods produced by these countries.

00:15:00.436 --> 00:15:11.936

<v SPEAKER_1>And it's hard for them to see a situation where they're
not worse off by being locked out of the US market than they would be
if they pay these taxes, apparently.

00:15:11.936 --> 00:15:15.136

<v SPEAKER_1>Apparently, that's a conclusion that they're increasingly
coming to.

00:15:15.136 --> 00:15:20.676

<v SPEAKER_1>And so that's a pretty grim prognosis for sustainability.

00:15:20.716 --> 00:15:22.076

<v SPEAKER_1>Especially their systems.

00:15:22.076 --> 00:15:27.756

<v SPEAKER_2>Something we don't address here is, you kind of addressed
it around the discussion of energy security.

00:15:27.756 --> 00:15:30.936

<v SPEAKER 2>But maybe it's more about security writ large.

00:15:30.936 --> 00:15:41.696

<v SPEAKER_2>NATO and the American umbrella of security over the
Persian Gulf and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

00:15:42.036 --> 00:15:45.396

<v SPEAKER 2>There's a whole lot of pieces in this puzzle.

00:15:45.396 --> 00:15:47.636

<v SPEAKER_2>But let's just back up to your comment about oil.

00:15:48.556 --> 00:15:54.356

<v SPEAKER_2>The United States produces about 13 million barrels a day
of oil and uses 20 million barrels.

00:15:56.276 --> 00:16:01.496

<v SPEAKER_2>I think the assumptions you make about exporting US crude
would be product oil, right?

00:16:01.496 --> 00:16:04.416

<v SPEAKER 2>It would be not crude, but products, right?

00:16:04.416 --> 00:16:08.596

<v SPEAKER_2>There's not a lot of refining capacity in Europe at all.

00:16:08.596 --> 00:16:21.316

<v SPEAKER_2>So I don't know where those numbers come from, but they
make me a bit nervous because the United States, they're about to
start seeing a giant decline in oil production as the Permian.

00:16:21.316 --> 00:16:23.516
<v SPEAKER_2>They're not drilling.

of the state of th

00:16:23.516 --> 00:16:26.776

<v SPEAKER_2>Production is slipping.

00:16:26.776 --> 00:16:27.896

<v SPEAKER_2>Gas, different story.

00:16:27.896 --> 00:16:38.936

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that maybe if the analysis was more along the LNG
line, but again, it's a massive change to the whole energy security
platform of the globe.

00:16:39.536 --> 00:16:44.776

<v SPEAKER_2>This is interesting, but I think your numbers lay it out
pretty clearly.

00:16:45.336 --> 00:16:46.716

<v SPEAKER 2>This doesn't happen.

00:16:46.716 --> 00:16:49.776

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, it's very difficult to see this happen.

00:16:52.356 --> 00:17:04.436

<v SPEAKER_1>The reason why I said that, the reason why I think that
the oil market is the most likely to see increases because the US
absolutely already dominates the LNG market in Europe.

00:17:04.436 --> 00:17:06.116

<v SPEAKER_1>It provides 50% of Europe's LNG.

00:17:06.116 --> 00:17:06.736

<v SPEAKER 2>Is that what it is?

00:17:09.056 --> 00:17:19.236

<v SPEAKER_1>I suppose we could potentially have a future where EU
decides to reduce its pipe natural gas imports, but that would require
locking out Norway.

00:17:19.236 --> 00:17:22.776

<v SPEAKER_1>Norway currently provides around 50% of EU piped gas.

00:17:23.796 --> 00:17:26.276

<v SPEAKER_1>Locking out Norway, which I don't think is something
that's going to happen.

00:17:26.276 --> 00:17:32.516

<v SPEAKER_1>Norway is a great energy security partner to the European
Union. and it's very much aligned with Europe.

00:17:34.576 --> 00:17:43.136

<v SPEAKER_1>So it's the oil market that the US has a relatively, I'm
saying a relatively small component of the market, but it's still 17%.

00:17:43.916 --> 00:17:51.616

<v SPEAKER_1>I think it's by far the largest supplier of crude oil and
petroleum products to Europe.

00:17:51.676 --> 00:18:03.876

<v SPEAKER_1>So growing that share would be, there's a greatest
opportunity, I suppose, there for trying to get even close to this
\$250 billion target.

00:18:03.876 --> 00:18:16.596

<v SPEAKER_1>But even then, it's just so, it would just be such a
crazy thing to do to absolutely allow the United States to take over
all of these energy markets.

00:18:18.676 --> 00:18:26.276

<v SPEAKER_1>European energy consumption just isn't high enough for a single country to be supplying \$250 billion per year.

00:18:26.276 --> 00:18:30.196

<v SPEAKER_2>No, yeah, and that's a very good point, Joe, like it.

00:18:30.196 --> 00:18:41.336

<v SPEAKER_2>And they are more consumption bearish and more attuned to
trying to reduce consumption in Europe than other parts of the world.

00:18:41.336 --> 00:18:41.936

<v SPEAKER 1>Yeah, exactly.

00:18:42.116 --> 00:18:53.596

<v SPEAKER_1>It would be a strange thing to do to sign a huge number
of long-term supply agreements with American suppliers when Europe's
also trying to reduce its own consumption.

00:18:53.596 --> 00:18:59.296

<v SPEAKER_1>I think this would be an enormous amount of new supply,

new long-term supply agreements.

00:18:59.296 --> 00:19:13.596

<v SPEAKER_1>So I'm skeptical that anything will really come out of
this, but maybe a few new deals on LNG, maybe a few more percentage
points of additional oil supplies from the United States.

00:19:16.256 --> 00:19:21.956

<v SPEAKER_1>We'll see how it all turns out, but let's just say that
\$250 billion is kind of out of the question.

00:19:22.276 --> 00:19:33.256

<v SPEAKER_2>It's just what's so tragic about this, Joe, is that under
the Trudeau administration of Canada, there's no market for natural
gas.

00:19:33.956 --> 00:19:53.956

<v SPEAKER_2>If Energy East had been built with the capacity to store
oil on the eastern coast at the Irving refinery, Canada would be
shipping that crude oil and natural gas, sorry, LNG, to Europe, but
just what we've left behind here over the past decade is just
astounding.

00:19:53.956 --> 00:19:57.916

<v SPEAKER_2>But that's again a discussion for another day.

00:19:57.916 --> 00:19:58.496 <v SPEAKER_2>What else, Joe?

00:19:59.916 --> 00:20:12.196

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, last up, we should talk a little bit about the
issue of data transparency and my concern that we may be seeing a
decline in the availability of good information on energy.

00:20:12.196 --> 00:20:32.016

<v SPEAKER_1>So earlier this month, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright
told Bloomberg that the administration may pull funding from the IEA
from the International Energy Agency if the organization does not
reform itself to be better aligned with what the administration sees
as more likely future of a continued fossil fuel demand.

00:20:32.016 --> 00:20:47.376

<v SPEAKER_1>So we have been clear in our criticisms of the IEA in the
past, but it's important to make something else clear here, which is
that the US administration does not seem to be all that interested in
accurate data on international energy flows and international energy
supplies.

00:20:48.456 --> 00:20:50.316 <v SPEAKER 2>0r national ones either.

 $00:20:50.316 \longrightarrow 00:21:05.296$

<v SPEAKER_2>This is shown by the recent decision of the
administration to cut 100 employees from Energy Information
Administration, the EIA, earlier this year severely weakening an
organization which could have been promoted as a more hard-nosed
alternative to the IEA.

00:21:05.296 --> 00:21:14.836

<v SPEAKER_2>We should be clear, the EIA is a globally recognized
source of information which in our view comes fairly cheap with a \$135
million budget last year.

00:21:15.876 --> 00:21:27.036

<v SPEAKER_2>As a consequence of these cuts, the EIA was forced to
abandon its international energy outlook, a direct competitor to the
IEA's information which should have been given more resources rather
than less.

00:21:29.256 --> 00:21:52.036

<v SPEAKER_2>I understand, as you said Joe, you and I have been very
vocal with our tone toward the IEA regarding its climate initiatives
rather than information about energy sources and their use, which they
do, but they have to, they've always had to opine on climate change in
a big way.

00:21:52.036 --> 00:22:03.696

<v SPEAKER_2>But again, this administration just swings a hammer at
everything and busts it up, like it's really, you need good
information.

00:22:03.696 --> 00:22:06.196

<v SPEAKER_2>Everybody wants good information.

00:22:06.196 --> 00:22:19.136

<v SPEAKER_2>I see recently where they've had to readjust some of the
last, the EIA has had to readjust some of their own production numbers
from the US national oil production in April and May, I think it was.

00:22:19.136 --> 00:22:22.456

<v SPEAKER_2>The numbers were way off the side from what actually was
produced.

00:22:22.456 --> 00:22:24.656

<v SPEAKER_2>Not that, I can't remember if it was plus or minus.

00:22:24.656 --> 00:22:26.216

<v SPEAKER_2>I think it was negative.

00:22:26.216 --> 00:22:29.976

<v SPEAKER_2>But you know, that's a function of not having people to
do the work.

00:22:29.976 --> 00:22:47.576

<v SPEAKER_2>Like you know, how do guys, people like our own fellow
Rory Johnson put together the stuff that gives people an opportunity
to understand what the future looks like based on prior information,
on prior actualities.

00:22:47.576 --> 00:22:49.976

<v SPEAKER_2>It just makes it worse.

00:22:49.976 --> 00:22:51.356

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, yeah, I completely agree.

00:22:51.356 --> 00:22:52.556

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm not a fan of the IEA.

00:22:52.556 --> 00:22:53.876

<v SPEAKER_2>You know that, Joe.

00:22:54.136 --> 00:23:01.936

<v SPEAKER_2>But this goes beyond that when you start discussing the
realities of energy systems and how you monitor them.

00:23:01.976 --> 00:23:02.916

<v SPEAKER 1>Yeah. yeah.

00:23:02.916 --> 00:23:09.896

<v SPEAKER_1>And my worry also is that like the US has the complete
ability to destroy the IEA, if it's so true.

00:23:09.896 --> 00:23:10.636

<v SPEAKER 2>Yes, absolutely.

00:23:10.696 --> 00:23:13.596

<v SPEAKER 1>That's within the powers of the president.

00:23:13.596 --> 00:23:17.536

<v SPEAKER_1>I think that it's a terrible idea to do that, but you can
go ahead and do that.

00:23:17.536 --> 00:23:27.676

<v SPEAKER_1>With the IEA, I think that it's very possible and
probably even likely that if the US cuts funding for it, then it
becomes a more Chinese organization.

00:23:28.396 --> 00:23:32.136

<v SPEAKER_1>I don't know if that's good for anybody except for maybe
China.

00:23:33.316 --> 00:23:53.976

<v SPEAKER_1>I feel as though this is a creeping thing that has been
happening, is that China is stepping in on many prerogatives that are
traditionally American, and is taking over these international
organizations for information, for distribution of aid, for many other
things and increasing its soft power in the process.

00:23:55.716 --> 00:23:58.736

<v SPEAKER_1>That's a very, very major concern with the Trump
administration.

00:24:00.216 --> 00:24:11.776

<v SPEAKER_1>To a certain extent, I can sympathize, I suppose, with
the fact that the American people might never have seen much direct
benefit from some of these things.

00:24:11.776 --> 00:24:20.336

<v SPEAKER_1>But where it comes to accurate energy information, I
think that's for sure to the benefit of the American people.

00:24:20.796 --> 00:24:31.276

<v SPEAKER_1>And that is something that the American people should be
considering when they have a leader who's trying to kind of dismantle
some of these organizations.

00:24:33.176 --> 00:24:38.816

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm going to make a comment which lots of people are not going to like it, but so what?

00:24:38.816 --> 00:24:41.556

<v SPEAKER_2>America is very insular about itself.

00:24:41.616 --> 00:24:55.056

<v SPEAKER_2>Like it's, you know, a lot of Americans, and I've got all
hundreds of friends that are Americans, but a lot of them don't have a
clue about what's going on in the world outside of their own county,
let alone the state, let alone the country itself.

00:24:55.056 --> 00:24:56.916

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think this is an example of that.

00:24:56.916 --> 00:25:01.716

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't think it's not going to matter a hill of beans to
most Americans.

00:25:01.716 --> 00:25:11.056

<v SPEAKER_2>But from the standpoint of America kind of being the linchpin of information for the world, which people rely on, this isn't good. 00:25:11.676 --> 00:25:13.376 <v SPEAKER 1>I don't like it.

00:25:13.376 --> 00:25:31.836

<v SPEAKER_1>But I suppose we should consider though from these three
stories, which of course, a reminder are first of all, the question of
net zero, and then also the issue of the EU-United States agreement.

00:25:31.836 --> 00:25:35.736

<v SPEAKER_1>And then lastly, this issue with the energy information.

00:25:35.816 --> 00:25:37.236

<v SPEAKER_1>What do we think Canada should get?

00:25:37.596 --> 00:25:46.516

<v SPEAKER_1>What do we think Canada should take away from these
stories and the uncertainties around the world that seem to be
abounding?

00:25:47.556 --> 00:25:49.676

<v SPEAKER_1>I could share my thoughts or do you want to go first?

00:25:49.676 --> 00:25:58.116

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, you go ahead and of course, I'll jump in and
contradict you or we'll agree and I'll give you my thoughts, but I'll
let you go first.

00:25:58.116 --> 00:26:23.296

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, I guess we're of course at a time of major
uncertainty where we're seeing many of the things that were kind of
taken for granted earlier in the 2020s, which is of course climate
change, US leadership around the world and accurate information are
all a little bit more uncertain now.

00:26:23.296 --> 00:26:36.236

<v SPEAKER_1>Where it comes to the climate angle, I think the net zero
thinking around climate change, I think that is increasingly
proving to be too rigid.

00:26:36.236 --> 00:26:42.476

<v SPEAKER_1>And I think we should move back toward the cost of carbon
idea.

00:26:42.476 --> 00:26:47.876

<v SPEAKER_1>I think that's a much better way to put things where it
comes to commit with cost-benefit analysis around this.

00:26:47.876 --> 00:27:03.516

<v SPEAKER_1>And I think that our current cost-benefit analysis

systems already do that, but we should kind of get rid of the assumption that the net zero 2050 angle is the only way we can think about these sorts of things.

00:27:03.676 --> 00:27:06.296 <v SPEAKER 1>We should be more flexible.

00:27:06.296 --> 00:27:30.296

<v SPEAKER_1>Where it comes to this issue with the EU-US agreement, as
much as it seems to be based upon some faulty premises, I think the
fact that the US has been able to tie things off with Japan and with
Europe, and now I've been hearing some stories about them coming to a
sort of truce with China on trade.

00:27:30.296 --> 00:27:36.956 <v SPEAKER_1>I think that they're setting things up so that they can deal with Canada and Mexico in a long-term situation.

00:27:36.956 --> 00:27:55.856

<v SPEAKER_1>So we should be anticipating a big ramp up in terms of
public pressure around many different parts of our trade policies, and
including, of course, the issue constant problem of supply management
and various other bug bears in the Canada-U.S.

00:27:55.856 --> 00:27:56.416
<v SPEAKER_1>relationship.

00:27:56.416 --> 00:28:00.636 <v SPEAKER_1>We should be anticipating a lot of issues around that.

00:28:00.636 --> 00:28:05.836

<v SPEAKER_1>And we should be using this angle of joint energy
dominance.

00:28:06.076 --> 00:28:11.456

<v SPEAKER_1>How can Canada contribute to the larger North American
energy dominance framework?

00:28:11.456 --> 00:28:14.736

<v SPEAKER_1>We should be really leveraging that, I think.

00:28:14.736 --> 00:28:19.956

<v SPEAKER_1>And then a last lesson from this information side of
things.

00:28:19.956 --> 00:28:39.096

<v SPEAKER_1>You know, as much as we can complain about the US pulling
funding for things like this, you know, I'd say that Canada, the
Canadian federal government should be in the business of creating its
own independent, accurate, and well-funded energy information service

of its own.

00:28:39.176 --> 00:28:43.476

<v SPEAKER_1>I think that's something the Canadian federal government
should take a serious look at.

00:28:43.476 --> 00:28:51.996

<v SPEAKER_1>Just because we are a major player in the international
energy system and we don't have anything even coming close to the EIA.

00:28:51.996 --> 00:28:56.356

<v SPEAKER_1>Even under its weakened form, the EIA is an excellent
source of information.

00:28:57.156 --> 00:29:04.456

<v SPEAKER_1>Canada should look into how to try to move itself into
this situation.

00:29:04.656 --> 00:29:06.916

<v SPEAKER_1>It could even be under the CER.

00:29:06.916 --> 00:29:22.776

<v SPEAKER_1>I think that there's some great folks in the modeling
part of the CER, but they're obviously under resourced and they're
having difficulty even coming out with the Canada's energy future
2025.

00:29:22.776 --> 00:29:31.076

<v SPEAKER_1>And that's not something that Canada should be in a
situation where we're under resourcing our resource.

00:29:32.436 --> 00:29:37.736

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, under resourcing our resource information
frameworks.

00:29:37.976 --> 00:29:43.956

<v SPEAKER_1>Like this is something that we should really be putting
more focus on, because we are a big player in this.

00:29:43.956 --> 00:29:45.176

<v SPEAKER_2>So, I'm going to go backwards.

00:29:45.176 --> 00:29:50.556

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm going to respond to that point first, Joe, because I
totally agree.

00:29:50.556 --> 00:29:58.096

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, my old friend Alan Fogwill, who was the
president or whatever the title was, executive director of the
Canadian Energy Research Institute, which is now defunct.

00:29:58.096 --> 00:30:04.636

<v SPEAKER_2>All of its data is at the University of Calgary School of
Public Policy.

00:30:06.716 --> 00:30:20.436

<v SPEAKER_2>Alan would pound the table about this at conferences and
from his own perspective, trying to convince, mostly through the
period of the Trudeau government, to build this data set.

00:30:20.436 --> 00:30:30.516

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, Alberta, BC and Saskatchewan, and I'm sure
Ontario as well, and the little bit that's produced in Manitoba, have
the best data sets of production of energy in the world.

00:30:30.516 --> 00:30:31.956

<v SPEAKER_2>There's no question about it.

00:30:31.956 --> 00:30:37.476

<v SPEAKER_2>Better than the Texas Railroad Commission, better than
anything in the Middle East, better than anything in Europe or South
America.

00:30:37.476 --> 00:30:39.356

<v SPEAKER_2>It just is.

00:30:39.356 --> 00:30:41.376

<v SPEAKER_2>And so the data is there.

00:30:41.376 --> 00:30:44.876

<v SPEAKER 2>Again, it calls for federal provincial cooperation.

00:30:45.376 --> 00:30:54.456

<v SPEAKER_2>This particular entity could be built by, in concert with
the provincial energy regulators and the federal government.

 $00:30:54.836 \longrightarrow 00:30:59.596$

<v SPEAKER_2>It wouldn't have to be the part of the CER, and it should
be, it could be independent.

00:31:01.336 --> 00:31:02.556

<v SPEAKER 2>It could be a not-for-profit.

00:31:02.656 --> 00:31:05.996

<v SPEAKER_2>I think it's absolutely necessary.

00:31:06.016 --> 00:31:10.276

<v SPEAKER_2>5 million barrels a day, 5% of global oil production.

00:31:10.296 --> 00:31:11.076

<v SPEAKER 2>How many?

00:31:11.096 --> 00:31:18.056

<v SPEAKER_2>25 billion cubic feet per day, a large portion of the gas
production in the world.

00:31:18.096 --> 00:31:39.876

<v SPEAKER_2>And electricity, the most, Ontario is oftentimes the most
energy-efficient electrical generation system in the world by a lot
when it comes to emissions and the use of the whole vast array of
renewables, nuclear and gas.

00:31:39.876 --> 00:31:44.236

<v SPEAKER_2>So yes, Joe, I totally agree that this should be something that we should strive for.

00:31:44.236 --> 00:31:55.656

<v SPEAKER_2>In fact, you and I should write an op-ed about that and
maybe a large letter to follow to the governments of the provinces and
the federal government to build this.

00:31:55.656 --> 00:31:57.716 <v SPEAKER_2>So I totally agree.

00:31:57.716 --> 00:32:14.976

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, as far as the EU-US trade agreement, I'm kind
of nervous about how Trump continues to throw his weight around as the
most important economy in the world.

00:32:15.276 --> 00:32:33.756

<v SPEAKER_2>And I don't know what the ulterior motives and the
underlying premises are other than to raise revenues for the United
States, which are, as you said in the discussion, purely a tax on
consumption by Americans, and to try to increase revenues.

00:32:35.656 --> 00:32:40.176

<v SPEAKER 2>I don't know that much of it comes to...

00:32:40.176 --> 00:32:42.216

<v SPEAKER_2>I guess it will come to fruition.

00:32:42.696 --> 00:32:48.256

<v SPEAKER_2>\$600 billion of investment by the EU into the United
States, that's a lot of money.

00:32:48.256 --> 00:32:55.076

<v SPEAKER_2>And when I think about \$250 billion a year of energy
exports, that's two-thirds of a billion a day.

00:32:55.076 --> 00:33:05.536

<v SPEAKER 2>Divide that by \$80 bucks a barrel of oil equivalent, Joe, it's a lot of production, whatever that be, whether it be LNG, oil or coal, it's a lot. 00:33:05.536 --> 00:33:07.656 <v SPEAKER 2>And I just don't... 00:33:07.776 --> 00:33:18.576 <v SPEAKER_2>I think that the way they bandy these numbers around is, I think, it's a bit fantasy. 00:33:18.576 --> 00:33:22.996 <v SPEAKER_2>But I guess, as you said, more information to come, we'll see. 00:33:22.996 --> 00:33:29.076 <v SPEAKER 2>There's definitely a realignment of the energy, of the global economic trading system, though. 00:33:29.076 --> 00:33:30.036 <v SPEAKER_2>This is... 00:33:30.036 --> 00:33:31.216 <v SPEAKER_2>Trump is... 00:33:31.216 --> 00:33:34.516 <v SPEAKER_2>This is purely disruptive toward that, and the old... 00:33:34.516 --> 00:33:43.536 <v SPEAKER 2>our whole premise of think tanks since the 1950s of the global international order is just... 00:33:43.536 --> 00:33:44.796 <v SPEAKER 2>it's upside down. 00:33:44.796 --> 00:33:48.056 <v SPEAKER 2>And what fills that vacuum? 00:33:48.056 --> 00:33:49.276 <v SPEAKER 2>Countries like China. 00:33:49.276 --> 00:33:54.956 <v SPEAKER_2>And as you pointed out, so, you know, I guess more information to come. 00:33:55.036 --> 00:34:04.016 <v SPEAKER_2>And finally, your first point and our first point of

discussion was the whole idea of net zero and the pullback by large...

00:34:04.016 --> 00:34:11.916

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, I think, Joe, you know, it was Shell and Norway
and Enbridge through the most recent...

00:34:11.916 --> 00:34:17.536

<v SPEAKER_2>I think a lot of other companies and entities have pulled
out of this particular science-

00:34:17.536 --> 00:34:21.476

<v SPEAKER_2>supposed science-based initiative to reduce submissions
earlier.

00:34:22.416 --> 00:34:38.376

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that a lot of these things that were a product of
the whole climate change industry that was created for redistribution
of the world's wealth, in my opinion, has just met the headwinds of
the reality of the energy system.

00:34:38.416 --> 00:34:42.636

<v SPEAKER_2>And decarbonization is as a whole.

00:34:43.056 --> 00:35:31.756

<v SPEAKER_2>And I totally agree with you that let's look at carbon as some sort of a price on carbon, which is a push to lower pollution as the future of whatever our pathway to lower carbon emissions is, as opposed to some final number, which isn't reachable in 2050, and get back to a journey toward lower emissions, as opposed to a destination of net zero or one and a half degrees Celsius, which is, again, an arbitrary number that some a bunch of scientists cooked up, in my opinion, that maybe might be relevant, might not.

00:35:31.756 --> 00:35:34.736

<v SPEAKER_1>You know, climate change, it's a tricky issue.

00:35:34.816 --> 00:35:36.456

<v SPEAKER_1>What is the best way to approach this?

 $00:35:36.456 \longrightarrow 00:35:44.716$

<v SPEAKER_1>Because I think we overestimate how much control we have
over this system, and we need to be a bit more humble.

00:35:44.716 --> 00:36:05.976

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that may be the whole underlying problem, Joe, is
that, and they make jokes about it, you know, you keep increasing the
carbon tax, and the temperature is going to go down, you know, like,
it's not, like, it's, but that's, it's almost, that fallacy is almost
what's been the policy premise.

00:36:05.976 --> 00:36:24.436

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah, and we haven't talked about this as much, but with
the EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism coming in, well, first of

```
all, there's the whole thing, there's a whole thing about Canada
actually potentially being one of the only suppliers of LNG that can
meet those carbon border adjustment mechanism requirements.
00:36:25.436 --> 00:36:27.196
<v SPEAKER_2>It's got to fall by the wayside, Joe.
00:36:28.076 --> 00:36:30.136
<v SPEAKER_2>They got to fuel their economy.
00:36:31.056 --> 00:36:32.976
<v SPEAKER_2>The factories in Germany aren't going to...
00:36:32.976 --> 00:36:35.716
<v SPEAKER_2>Are they going to continue to bring more coal in?
00:36:35.716 --> 00:36:37.096
<v SPEAKER_2>Like, you know...
00:36:38.216 --> 00:36:39.996
<v SPEAKER_1>Well, I mean, we'll see.
00:36:40.336 --> 00:36:42.256
<v SPEAKER_2>Is CBAM legislation?
00:36:42.256 --> 00:36:45.216
<v SPEAKER_1>No, the CBAM was passed already.
00:36:45.216 --> 00:36:50.336
<v SPEAKER 1>It's going to be taking effect in 2026, so January this
year.
00:36:50.336 --> 00:36:52.796
<v SPEAKER 1>0f course, they still have time to change course.
00:36:53.416 --> 00:37:04.296
<v SPEAKER 1>But the thing is that when we're talking about the size
of the global energy market, we were already talking about the EU's
share of that market.
00:37:05.736 --> 00:37:14.216
<v SPEAKER 1>It's a slice of the market, a relatively big slice, for
sure, of global energy trade, but it's by no means the dominant share
of it, and it's a shrinking proportion.
00:37:14.236 --> 00:37:24.716
<v SPEAKER_2>Well, it certainly isn't, yeah, it's that line on a graph
is going down, inverse to Asia and other developing parts of the
```

world.

00:37:24.716 --> 00:37:25.396 <v SPEAKER_2>You're right.

00:37:26.236 --> 00:37:39.896

<v SPEAKER_1>When I talk to Europeans, they seem to think that because
they've created this carbon-bottled adjustment mechanism, they'll be
able to force the rest of the world to come along with them, which
isn't really true.

00:37:39.896 --> 00:37:47.016

<v SPEAKER_1>I think that this is the logic of the EU's regulatory
superpower framework of thinking about their role in the world.

00:37:47.016 --> 00:38:04.016

<v SPEAKER_1>The problem is that the EU is a shrinking part of the
global market, and so their proportion of control over the way the
rest of the world operates is actually becoming smaller over time.

00:38:05.576 --> 00:38:28.176

<v SPEAKER_1>This is a problem with the way the EU will continue going
down this path, because eventually it could get to a situation where
it keeps adopting these very strict regulations, assuming everyone
will come along with it, and these regulations have, of course,
economic harms, especially when you impose regulations everyone else
doesn't, and then everyone else will just not impose the same
regulations.

00:38:28.176 --> 00:38:38.856

<v SPEAKER_1>Then the EU just kind of continues down a spiral of low
economic growth, which seems to be the way it's been going so far.

00:38:38.856 --> 00:38:46.656

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, to finish off here, Kelly, what I'm thinking we
could do is quickly talk about what you're reading these days.

00:38:46.656 --> 00:38:49.036

<v SPEAKER 1>So let's finish with that.

00:38:49.036 --> 00:38:52.376

<v SPEAKER_1>So I'll also talk about a couple of books I'm reading
too.

00:38:52.376 --> 00:38:54.576 <v SPEAKER 1>Well, you start.

00:38:56.456 --> 00:39:14.256

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't have anything going that might be of interest
other than, I'm reading Agatha Christie Mysteries from, written by the
great English author, Agatha Christie in the 1920s and 30s.

00:39:14.256 --> 00:39:15.456

<v SPEAKER_2>I've read them all before.

00:39:15.456 --> 00:39:17.476

<v SPEAKER 2>There's probably 40 books.

00:39:17.476 --> 00:39:24.916

<v SPEAKER_2>And I'm starting right at the beginning with the first book she wrote about the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot.

00:39:26.136 --> 00:39:27.896

<v SPEAKER_2>That's all I'm reading for the summer, Joe.

00:39:28.036 --> 00:39:34.916

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm not, other than, you know, data that we have to opine on.

00:39:34.916 --> 00:39:38.036

<v SPEAKER_2>I got several books sitting there.

00:39:38.036 --> 00:39:42.296

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm probably going to take on something about the Second
World War here for the winter.

00:39:42.296 --> 00:39:45.816

<v SPEAKER_2>But I don't have much to offer, Joe.

00:39:45.816 --> 00:39:50.236

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, on my end, there's two books that I'm working
through right now.

00:39:50.236 --> 00:39:53.736

<v SPEAKER_1>The first one is quite a bit denser than the second.

00:39:53.736 --> 00:39:56.636

<v SPEAKER 1>The first one is Vladislav Zubok's Collapse.

00:39:58.356 --> 00:40:13.356

<v SPEAKER_1>It's a history of the mainly focusing on 1989 to 1992 in the Soviet Union, just outlining what happened to result in the collapse of the USSR.

00:40:13.356 --> 00:40:14.776

<v SPEAKER_1>He does not pull any punches.

00:40:14.996 --> 00:40:17.696

<v SPEAKER_1>He obviously is not a fan of Mikhail Gorbachev.

00:40:17.696 --> 00:40:39.196

<v SPEAKER_1>He thinks that Gorbachev was too concerned with the

opinion of Westerners and not concerned enough with the well-being of the people, of course, of Russia, but the entire, all of the republics in the Soviet Union at the time.

00:40:39.196 --> 00:41:05.376

<v SPEAKER_1>He thinks that it was a very foolish thing to do what he
did with this glass nose, and to be accelerated and naïve, allowing
power to just kind of filter out of him without forming up some idea
about what economic future was going to be in the Soviet Union
beforehand.

00:41:05.416 --> 00:41:24.396

<v SPEAKER_1>Great book, great book, really tells you a lot about how
quickly things can go to absolute, you know, could just go really down
the tube so fast if the people themselves lose faith in the actual
legitimacy and the authority of the state.

00:41:24.396 --> 00:41:26.916

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, Joe, I'll just, I'll just comment on that.

00:41:26.916 --> 00:41:45.076

<v SPEAKER_2>Like you weren't even born in that period and, and I was
involved in business and I had some interests globally, let's just
say, and you know, I remember several opportunities to potentially
invest in, so in Russia, right?

00:41:45.076 --> 00:41:51.016

<v SPEAKER_2>Like in, in, around that time, like a few years later in
the early 90s.

00:41:51.016 --> 00:42:07.096

<v SPEAKER_2>And you know, it was just absolutely like you'd look at a
project and the, the potential to pillage and steal was just so
opportunistic.

00:42:07.096 --> 00:42:19.496

<v SPEAKER_2>And, and you know, the exodus of, well, the import of
foreign capital on a no-holds-barred basis was like the Wild West.

00:42:19.496 --> 00:42:25.556

<v SPEAKER_2>And then the export of, you know, oligarchs taking all of these assets out of Russia and living in London.

00:42:25.556 --> 00:42:30.476

<v SPEAKER_2>And it was just really, really an interesting time that
followed that period.

00:42:30.476 --> 00:42:35.996

<v SPEAKER_2>I remember phone calls on, from satellite phones with
people talking about, you need to help him do this.

00:42:35.996 --> 00:42:50.496

<v SPEAKER_2>And several Canadian service, that, the lots of Canadian
service companies got started in, or took some of their assets to
Russia and helped with the rebuilding of their energies, and of their
energy system.

00:42:50.496 --> 00:42:56.296

<v SPEAKER_2>Because the opportunities were large, like service rigs
and fracking companies and things like that.

00:42:56.296 --> 00:42:57.696

<v SPEAKER_2>A lot of them went to Russia.

00:42:57.916 --> 00:43:00.656

<v SPEAKER_2>It was because it was so lucrative.

00:43:00.656 --> 00:43:07.516

<v SPEAKER_2>But you're right, the period that, like the turmoil of
that period was dramatic.

00:43:07.516 --> 00:43:09.656

<v SPEAKER_2>Anyways, just an aside to your comment.

00:43:09.656 --> 00:43:10.496

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah.

00:43:10.496 --> 00:43:18.256

<v SPEAKER_1>Something else that was really interesting about the book
is how complex the Soviet, you know, it was a communist system.

00:43:18.256 --> 00:43:21.276

<v SPEAKER_1>But the Soviet financial system was quite complex.

00:43:21.276 --> 00:43:24.016

<v SPEAKER 1>And it was a delicate balance.

00:43:24.276 --> 00:43:32.316

<v SPEAKER_1>It's very similar to how, I mean, like, I'm not saying
that there are similar systems, but it's similar to how there's a
really delicate balance with the US financial system.

00:43:32.476 --> 00:43:35.656

<v SPEAKER 1>And you can't push things too far.

00:43:35.656 --> 00:43:36.136

<v SPEAKER_2>Right.

00:43:36.136 --> 00:43:42.016

<v SPEAKER_1>This is an example of where the Soviet financial system

was pushed too far.

00:43:42.096 --> 00:43:48.216

<v SPEAKER_1>It was, there was just this naïve idea about kind of
decentralizing banking.

00:43:48.216 --> 00:43:51.956

<v SPEAKER_1>And it really led them to a really bad end.

00:43:51.956 --> 00:44:03.956

<v SPEAKER_1>And the reduced aggregate demand in the Soviet Union, the
reduced life expectancy in Russia, just all of these things really,
really hurt the place.

00:44:03.956 --> 00:44:10.376

<v SPEAKER_1>And I think it's led the place to become quite insane
today.

00:44:10.376 --> 00:44:10.556

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah.

00:44:11.016 --> 00:44:18.456

<v SPEAKER_1>And that's, that's why they're, they're currently doing
this, this assault on Ukraine right now.

00:44:18.456 --> 00:44:20.056

<v SPEAKER 2>So what's your other book?

00:44:20.056 --> 00:44:27.796

<v SPEAKER_1>My other book, in a kind of interesting related thing is,
it's Kazuo Ishiguro's Sleeping Giant.

00:44:28.016 --> 00:44:30.376

<v SPEAKER 1>I'm rereading this book.

00:44:30.376 --> 00:44:31.456

<v SPEAKER 1>Excellent, excellent book.

00:44:31.456 --> 00:44:32.836

<v SPEAKER_1>Really recommend everyone read it.

00:44:32.836 --> 00:44:45.696

<v SPEAKER_1>It's a, it's of course a fiction book, but it engages
with the question of, of course, you know, the main characters are
this old couple.

00:44:45.696 --> 00:44:50.056

<v SPEAKER_1>And I'm really, really, you know, it's really nice
reading this.

00:44:51.856 --> 00:44:56.236

<v SPEAKER_1>Very, it's just a beautiful narrative of their lives
together.

00:44:56.236 --> 00:45:25.416

<v SPEAKER_1>But it's also about the idea of what it would take to get
two groups of people or, or maybe even more, but like groups of people
who have a long running, like blood feuds, basically, like, like, you
know, this this constant back and forth between them, what it would
take to get them to stop their bloody engagement.

00:45:25.416 --> 00:45:33.836

<v SPEAKER_1>And I feel as though, you know, this has lessons for today, where it comes to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

00:45:33.836 --> 00:45:34.616
<v SPEAKER_1>It has lessons.

00:45:34.616 --> 00:45:37.176

<v SPEAKER_1>I think it will have lessons and does have lessons right
now.

00:45:37.176 --> 00:45:47.596

<v SPEAKER_1>We'll have lessons in the future for Ukraine, Russia, and
for all of the various other wars that have happened with so many
people killed on both sides.

00:45:47.596 --> 00:45:57.316

<v SPEAKER_1>And, and the resulting rage and desire for revenge that
comes out of it, like what does it take to heal those sorts of
divisions?

00:45:57.956 --> 00:46:01.956

<v SPEAKER_1>And what does it take to prevent violence from propping
up again?

 $00:46:01.956 \longrightarrow 00:46:07.516$

<v SPEAKER_1>I think that's something that the world is going to be
having to deal with quite a bit in the coming century.

00:46:07.516 --> 00:46:09.036

<v SPEAKER 2>Well, I'm afraid you're right.

00:46:09.036 --> 00:46:14.396

<v SPEAKER_2>I hate, I hate to say it, but it's, I think there's more
to come, unfortunately.

00:46:14.396 --> 00:46:21.736

<v SPEAKER_2>It's a person should always try to read now and then read
something that's got some hope in it.

```
00:46:21.736 --> 00:46:24.236
<v SPEAKER_2>So there you go.
00:46:24.236 --> 00:46:25.776
<v SPEAKER 2>That was kind of fun, Joe.
00:46:25.836 --> 00:46:26.096
<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah.
00:46:26.096 --> 00:46:26.376
<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah.
00:46:26.376 --> 00:46:28.136
<v SPEAKER_1>No, that was great, Kelly.
00:46:28.196 --> 00:46:29.176
<v SPEAKER_2>I love doing that.
00:46:29.176 --> 00:46:31.416
<v SPEAKER_1>Quite expansive discussion.
00:46:31.416 --> 00:46:34.036
<v SPEAKER_2>I hope we didn't offend anyone with our opinions.
00:46:35.276 --> 00:46:36.176
<v SPEAKER 1>I'm sure we did.
00:46:36.176 --> 00:46:37.976
<v SPEAKER_1>I'll talk to you next time, Kelly.
00:46:37.976 --> 00:46:39.176
<v SPEAKER 2>0kay, Joe.
00:46:39.176 --> 00:46:40.436
<v SPEAKER_2>Carry on.
00:46:44.516 --> 00:46:50.676
<v SPEAKER 2>Thanks everyone for listening to this episode of Energy
Security Cubed on The Canadian Global Affairs Podcast Network.
00:46:50.676 --> 00:46:54.536
<v SPEAKER_2>You can find The CGAI Network on iTunes, Spotify and
Google Play.
00:46:55.256 --> 00:46:57.376
<v SPEAKER_2>If you like the show, give it a rating.
00:46:57.376 --> 00:47:02.616
<v SPEAKER 2>You can also find The Canadian Global Affairs Institute
```

on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

00:47:02.616 --> 00:47:07.936

<v SPEAKER_2>If you liked this episode and want to help us keep
creating content, you can support us by donating at cgai.ca.

00:47:10.276 --> 00:47:13.876

<v SPEAKER_2>Energy Security Cubed is brought to you by our team at CGAI.

00:47:13.876 --> 00:47:18.956

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks go out to our producer, Joe Calnan and Drew
Phillips for providing our music.

00:47:18.956 --> 00:47:19.856 <v SPEAKER_2>I'm Kelly Ogle.

00:47:19.856 --> 00:47:21.876

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks for joining us on Energy Security Cubed.