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PETROLEUM AND GAS EXTRACTION IN THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACIES

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Poland

Poland's petroleum industry is one of the oldest in the world. Until 40 years ago, Poland held third place in the world's petroleum extraction. Two world wars hastened normal depletion, with the result that petroleum production has dropped. However, recent experience has shown the importance of proper methods of exploitation. Wells which appeared to be irrevocably exhausted, and where production in 1945 amounted to 71 percent of prewar, were set in order. Pressure was restored on a large scale by forcing gas into the wells, and the method of blasting shafts was applied more extensively. As a result, extraction is increasing from year to year and is approaching prewar production.

Important results have been attained in petroleum exploration. One gas field has been discovered, and ample deposits have been determined in another. Drilling is under way in Niz Wielkopolski, near Wyzyna Malopolska, and in the Carpathian foothills.

Rumania

After World War I, petroleum extraction in Rumania increased rapidly to a peak of 8,704,000 tons in 1936. Since that time, the index of Rumanian petroleum production has been as follows:

Year	1936	1938	1940	1942	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Index	100	76	67	65	40	54	49	44	45

The seven largest oil fields account for 80 percent of total petroleum extraction, and the remaining 28 fields for 20 percent. Rumania now holds 17th place in the world's petroleum production. Considerable drilling and extraction equipment has been received from the Soviet Sovrompetrol since the end of World War II.

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Crude petroleum is extracted mainly from Pliocene and Oligocene formations, and to a lesser degree from Miocene strata in the Dambovita area. The depth of the horizons varies from 180 to 2,940 meters in Baicoi. The deepest shaft is Chitorant No 1, drilled to a depth of 3,583 meters. Total Rumanian extraction to date has been 158,273,000 tons, of which Prahova accounted for 63.7 percent, Dambovita 32.8 percent, Buzau 2.1 percent, and Bacau .9 percent.

Rumania also extracts considerable quantities of natural gas. In 1936, gas extraction amounted to 1,350,000 cubic meters, which yielded 130,000 tons of gasoline. Dry methane gas fields are located in the Transylvania basin. The total production of eight gas fields in Transylvania was as follows:

Year	1943	1944	1945	1946
Quantity (in 1,000 cum)	607,970	474,259	537,577	653,232

Rumanian petroleum is transported through a network of pipelines linking oil fields and refineries with ports on the Prut and Danube rivers and on the Black Sea (Reni, Giurgiu, Constanta). The pipelines can handle a flow of 900,000 tons a year.

At the end of 1948, the productive capacity of petroleum refineries amounted to 24,000 tons daily. In addition, cracking plants had a capacity of 7,200 tons daily.

Rumania exports about 60 percent of its petroleum products, retaining 40 percent for domestic consumption.

Hungary

Petroleum extraction in Hungary has been declining as a result of depletion and the lack of new discoveries. For the period 1939 - 1948, quantities extracted were as follows:

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Tons	143,792	250,415	422,136	665,728	838,064

(Contd)

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Tons	810,169	655,755	660,641	574,632	475,186

There were 237 active wells in 1946, and 168 at the end of 1947. Hungarian petroleum comes from Pliocene formations, with the exception of Oligocene deposits in Bukkszek. The depth of horizons varies from 1,050 to 1,470 meters. In Bukkszek the depth varies from 75 to 1,350 meters.

Hungarian oil fields yield large quantities of natural gas. Peak extraction was 365,500,000 cubic meters in 1945. The Lovaszi field has been the largest producer.

Exploration by the geophysical method is being conducted. Since the war, test shafts have been drilled near existing wells in the south. Wet natural gas has been discovered in Korosszegapati and in Totkcmlos.

At the end of 1948, the total productive capacity of active refineries was 3,100 tons daily. The capacity of cracking plants was 50 tons daily.

Total petroleum extraction to date has been 5,541,706 tons.

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Czechoslovakia

In 1947, new petroleum deposits were discovered in Moravia on the Austrian border. These deposits are 1,070 meters deep, in Miocene strata, and yield about 7 tons daily. Prior to this, oil had been discovered in Miocene formations in Gbely at a depth of 150-240 meters and near Hodonin at a depth ranging up to 915 meters.

For the period 1939 - 1948, Czechoslovak petroleum extraction was as follows:

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Quantity (in tons)	2,110	2,980	3,570	3,620	3,600	3,200	1,370

(Contd)

Year	1946	1947	1948
Quantity (in tons)	2,880	36,189	27,622

Total petroleum extraction to date has been 633,680 tons.

Albania

Most of Albania's petroleum comes from the Devoll oil fields north of Berat. Insignificant quantities are derived from another oil field a little to the south. There are now 820 wells over an area of 1,300 hectares. The petroleum is found in Miocene strata, 500-800 meters deep.

A small refinery is located at the field, with productive capacity of around 100 tons daily. A pipeline connects the field with the port of Valona.

In the period 1939 - 1948 Albanian petroleum extraction was as follows:

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Quantity (in tons)	140,000	224,371	200,000	239,957	150,030

(Contd)

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Quantity (in tons)	50,060	40,020	149,760	54,706	53,672

Total extraction to date has been 1,758,303 tons.

Yugoslavia

The small amount of petroleum extracted in Yugoslavia is derived principally from the old oil fields of the Paklenica-Selnica region and partly from the Gojilo fields.

The Bujavica-Kutina gas field, which produces at the rate of 13 cubic meters per minute, was discovered during World War I.

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In 1939 there were two substantially depleted oil fields and two gas fields under exploitation.

The Gojilo gas field was discovered in 1940, and the Janjalipa field in 1942. During 1940 - 1942 the Germans drilled 17 oil wells and deepened the shaft in the Gojilo gas field. Up to the liberation, 36 wells were drilled, of which 25 were productive, yielding 23,000 tons in 1944.

Drilling operations were conducted in the Medjumurje and in Bosnia during 1947.

Drilling in the Selnica and Paklenica fields in the Mura Valley also has been successful. The petroleum from Paklenica is of the asphalt type.

For the period 1939 - 1948 petroleum extraction was as follows:

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Quantity (in tons)	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350
(Contd)					
Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Quantity (in tons)	67,570	60,810	54,050	49,320	49,460

Total extraction to date has been 290,140 tons.

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