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| **IB DP Geography – Powerful Organisations and Groups** |

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| Name of organisation / group | OPEC | Logo / Brand  [Flag of OPEC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_OPEC.svg) |
| Year Established | September 14th 1960 |
| Brief History of the organisation / Group including any recent member changes. | |
| The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 14 nations, founded on 14 September 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela), and headquartered since 1965 in Vienna, Austria. As of September 2018, the then 14 member countries accounted for an estimated 44 percent of global oil production and 81.5 percent of the world's "proven" oil reserves, giving OPEC a major influence on global oil prices that were previously determined by the so-called "Seven Sisters" grouping of multinational oil companies.  The stated mission of the organization is to The organization is also a significant provider of information about the international oil market. The current OPEC members are the following: Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia (the de facto leader), the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. Ecuador, Indonesia and Qatar are former members. | |
| Country of Base / Headquarters. | Vienna, Austria | |
| Recent News Story Notes | Example of how it is a co-operation or aims to influence policies and on what scale. | |
| Oil prices jumped after Iran attacked two U.S.-Iraqi bases in its first response to the killing of one of its top generals on Jan. 3, sparking fears the deepening conflict will disrupt global crude supplies. Futures in London briefly surged more than 5% to almost $72 a barrel as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed responsibility for the missile strikes, which the Pentagon said were launched from Iran.  Oil facilities in Iraq, OPEC’s second-largest producer, are secure, and disruptions in supply from the country are unlikely, Barkindo told reporters. The so-called OPEC+ coalition of 24 nations serves as insurance against any major halts in world supply, he said.  While oil flows from the Middle East continue unimpeded for now, the risk of disruption is spooking crude markets. Most exports from the Gulf, including shipments from Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq, pass through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway that Iran has repeatedly threatened to block in the event of a war. | The group has agreed to define OPEC’s mission thusly: “to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets in order to secure an efficient, economic, and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.” | |
| Criticisms of the organisation / group activities | Key powers identified for criticism. | |
| Some of the world’s greatest oil-producing countries, such as Russia, China, and the U.S., do not belong to OPEC.  OPECS activities cause climate change  1. They can charge high fees  2. They have huge market power  3. Very little competition and can lower production if they want this can harm countries like USA and China, India who need MASSIVE amounts of oil  4. They have no regulation body who oversee there activities  5. Pollution and global warming is caused by there activities  6. They are more concerned with economic not environmental activities  7. They can have spill over effect to third parties e.g. buying oil can cause pollution and damage another part of the world  8. They have no moral ethics to help combat pollution | 1. They can charge high fees  2. They have huge market power  3. Very little competition and can lower production if they want this can harm countries like USA and China, India who need MASSIVE amounts of oil  4. They have no regulation body who oversee there activities  5. Pollution and global warming is caused by there activities  6. They are more concerned with economic not environmental activities  7. They can have spill over effect to third parties e.g. buying oil can cause pollution and damage another part of the world  8. They have no moral ethics to help combat pollution | |
| Map to show spatial spread of influence of the organisation / group | Memorable photo from recent event linked to the organisation / group | |
| See the source image |  | |