



# INTERROGATING MIDDLE EAST OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND THE GLOBAL OIL MARKET, 2007-2019

**Bailey Saleh, PhD**

*Department of Political Science, University of Maiduguri, PMB 1069, Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.  
Postcode - 600004*

*ORCID-ID 0000-0002-5401-4382*

## ABSTRACT

The Middle East region, for the past eight decades has been actively engaged in the extraction of crude petroleum oil; where much of it were exported and the proceeds served as major foreign revenue earners. Even though the Middle East oil producing countries have embarked on local refining of crude oil, yet they found themselves as major importers of refined oil and petroleum products because of the sub-optimal performances of their refineries. The study is a qualitative. Document studies were adopted for generating data from mainly secondary sources. Documents scrutinized include academic journals, bulletins, textbooks and internet materials. The study has established that OPEC has slightly outperformed the Middle East in two vital areas of refining and output of petroleum products. The study has further established that the Middle East has outperformed OPEC in the areas of oil demand and crude oil imports. The inability of the Middle-East countries to leverage in the areas of refining and output of petroleum products to meet local consumption needs and of generating more employment and empowerment for citizens inform the motivation for this study.

**KEYWORDS:** Crude Oil, Petroleum, Refining, Export, Foreign Revenue, Global Oil Market.

**JEL Codes:** F5, F59, G13, R1.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Third world countries in the last six to seven decades have benefited from the discovery of petroleum oil in their domestic economies. The 'liquid gold' has turned their economies around propelling some of them into global prominence in the areas of politics and economy. It has specifically catapulted Middle East oil producing countries into assertive positions thereby serving as voices for other voiceless Middle East countries that are economically weak. Oil producing Middle East countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, UAE, Kuwait and Qatar are among the leading buoyant economies of the region with noticeable global presence. If the Middle East can leverage on indigenous refining and processing of crude oil into products, it will generate employment opportunities for their youths and also economically empower the youths through the refining value-chain. In addition, the proceeds from these large-scale local refining and processing activities can efficiently be utilized in making their economies manufacture-driven, that will improve the ranking of their individual national economies in the world development ranking index (OPEC, 2018; NPP, 2017).

The sub-optimal performances of the refineries of Middle East countries turned the region into major importers and consumers of refined oil and petroleum products from foreign countries. Paradoxically, they don't even know exact quantity of crude oil produced by western-dominated oil companies in their various countries. It is therefore this failure on the part of the political leaderships of these Middle East oil producing countries to turn the refining sectors of their petroleum industries into massive employment generation and wealth creation for their citizens and the general development of their nations that form the motivation for the study (LCCI, 2016; Saleh, 2019; OPEC, 2017/18).

## 2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of data generated are as presented and analyzed through critical discourse method in the succeeding paragraphs:

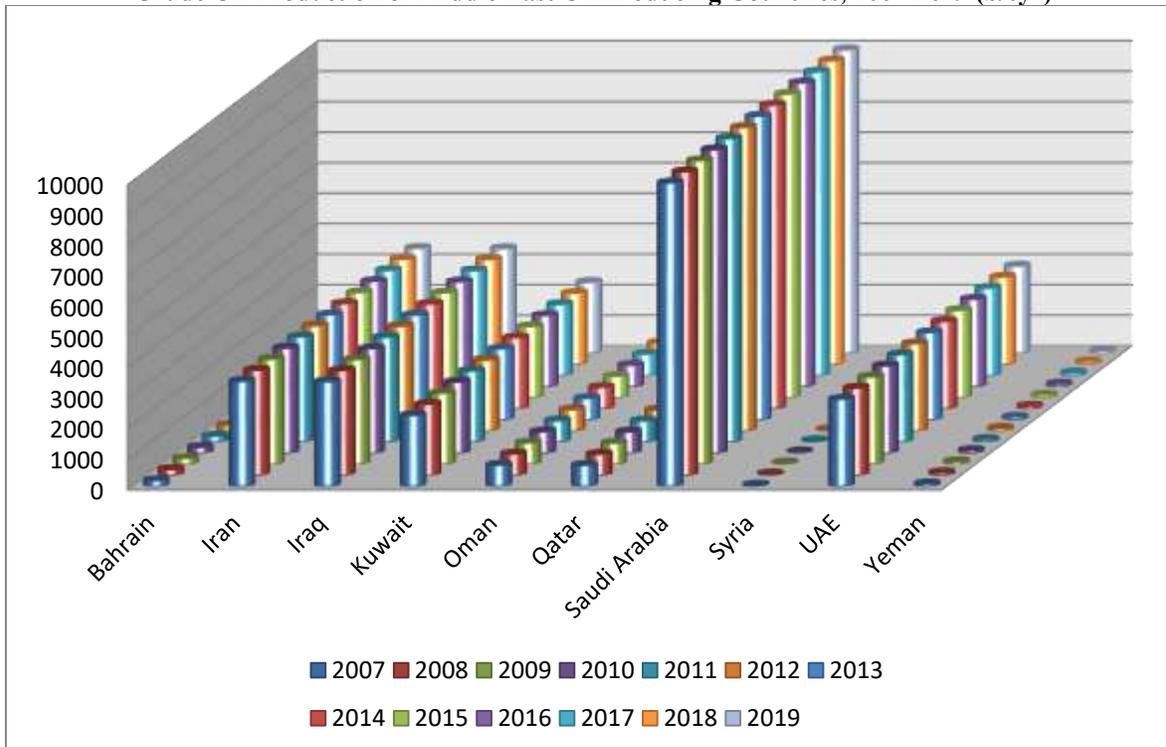


### 2.1 Crude Oil Production by Middle East Oil Producing Countries, 2007-2019

The ever-increasing rate of oil exploration, prospecting and extraction in the Middle East, also witnessed the corresponding increase in the number of countries in the region joining the elite league of oil producing countries. It also witnessed continuous increases in the level and quantity of crude oil that is being produced by in the region. The total crude petroleum oil produced by Middle East countries between 2007 and 2019 stands at 268,986.34b/cyr, which represents 28% of the world total crude oil production for the same period which stands at 960,949.6b/cyr. The performances of individual Middle East countries in terms of crude oil production between 2007 and 2019 are as follows: Bahrain 2,549.82b/cyr (1%), Iran 44,811.26b/cyr (5%), Iraq 44,679.44b/cyr (5%), Kuwait 30,309.24b/cyr (3%), Oman 9,120.28b/cyr (1%), Qatar 9,032.92b/cyr (1%), Saudi Arabia 129,390.3b/cyr (48%), Syria 664.3b/cyr (0%), UAE 37,233.82b/cyr (4%) and Yemen 1,194.96b/cyr (0%). This shows Saudi Arabia leading the region. (OPEC, 2017/18; LCCI, 2016; Malachova, 2012; Srivastava, 2019; Cox, 1987).

This is as presented in Figure 1 below:

**Fig. 1:**  
**Crude Oil Production of Middle East Oil Producing Countries, 2007-2019 (b/cyr)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/18

### 2.2 Summary of Crude Oil Production of Middle East Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3 (USA, Russia & China)

Summary of crude oil production of Middle East countries compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3 put the Middle East as the least performer with 268,986.34b/cyr representing 28% of the world total, which stands at 960,949.6b/cyr for the period 2007 and 2019. The B3 with 579,651.1b/cyr (60%), Non-OPEC with 560,382.2b/cyr (58%) and OPEC with 400,569.74b/cyr (42%) have all outperformed the entire Middle East region for the period of the study. A very serious cause for concern is that the B3 who are the major buyers of the Middle Eastern crude oil have out-performed the latter with over 146%. This means that the entire Middle East region is living at the mercy of the B3 in the global oil industry. The cumulative regional average stands at 24,237.99b/cyr. The individual region annual average stands at 141,276.11b/cyr (OPEC, 2017/18; Sayigh, 1984; Gilpin, 2001; Petersen, 2020).



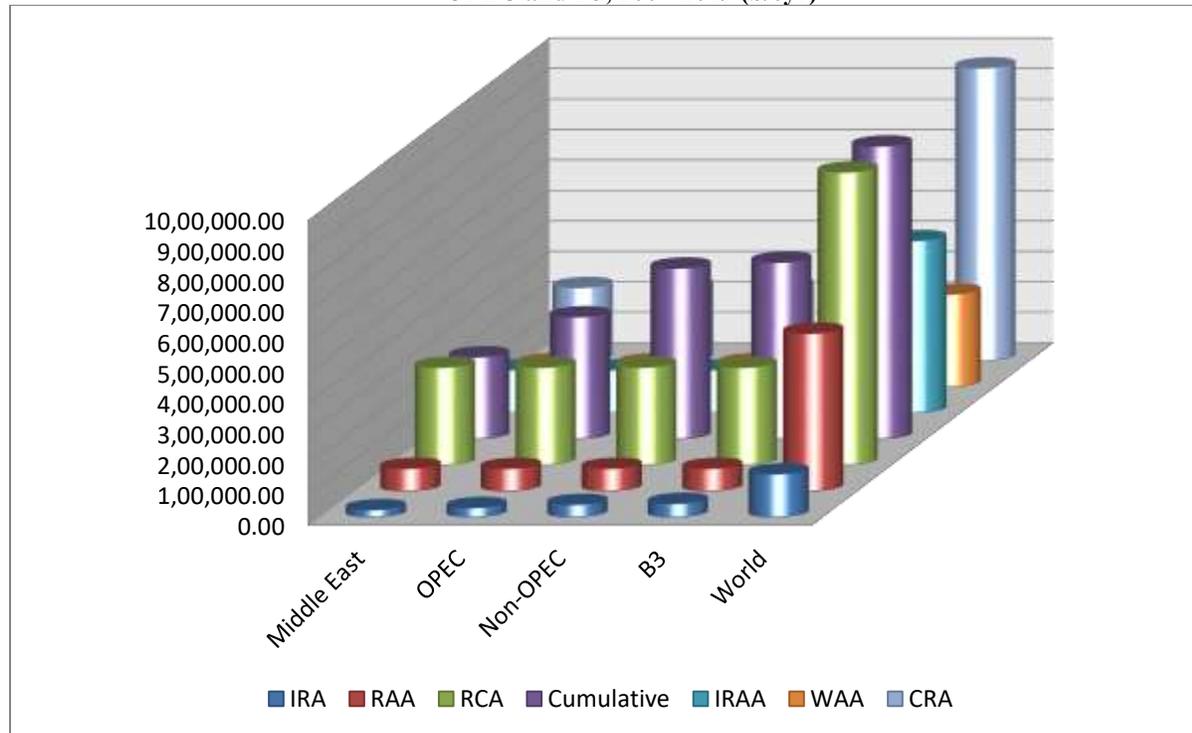
This is as presented in Table 1 and Figures 2 and 3 below:

**Table 1: Cumulative Crude Oil Production of Middle East Oil Producing Countries Compared with other Regions of the World, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr & in %)**

S/No.	Region	Cumulative	World Annual Average	Cumulative Regional Average	Individual Regional Annual Average	Percentage
1.	Middle East	268,986.34	73,919.2	320,317.05	23,768.18	28%
2.	OPEC	400,569.74	73,919.2	320,317.05	30,813.06	42%
3.	Non-OPEC	560,382.2	73,919.2	320,317.05	42,106.32	58%
4.	B3	579,651.14	73,919.2	320,317.05	44,588.55	60%
5.	World	960,951.94	517,434.4	960,951.94	141,276.11	100%

Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

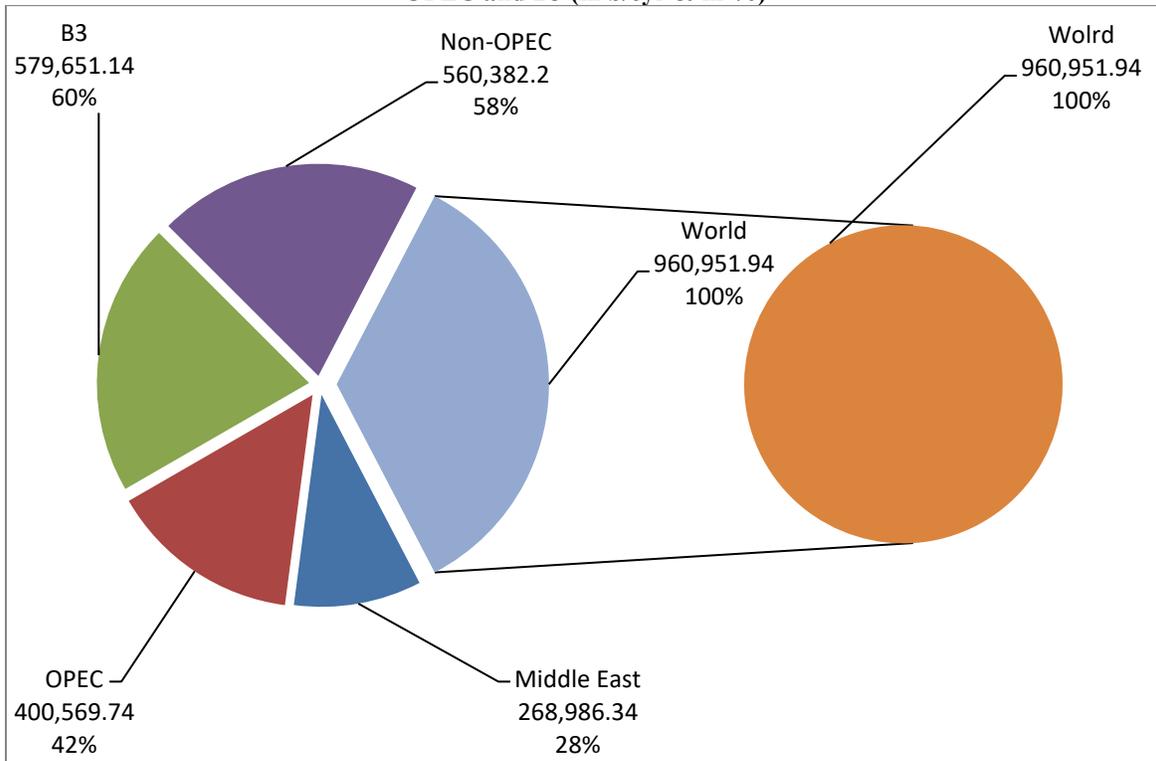
**Fig. 2: Cumulative Crude Oil Production of Middle East Oil Producing Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019 (b/cyr)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018



**Fig. 3:**  
**Cumulative Crude Oil Production of Middle East Oil Producing Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3 (in b/cyr & in %)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

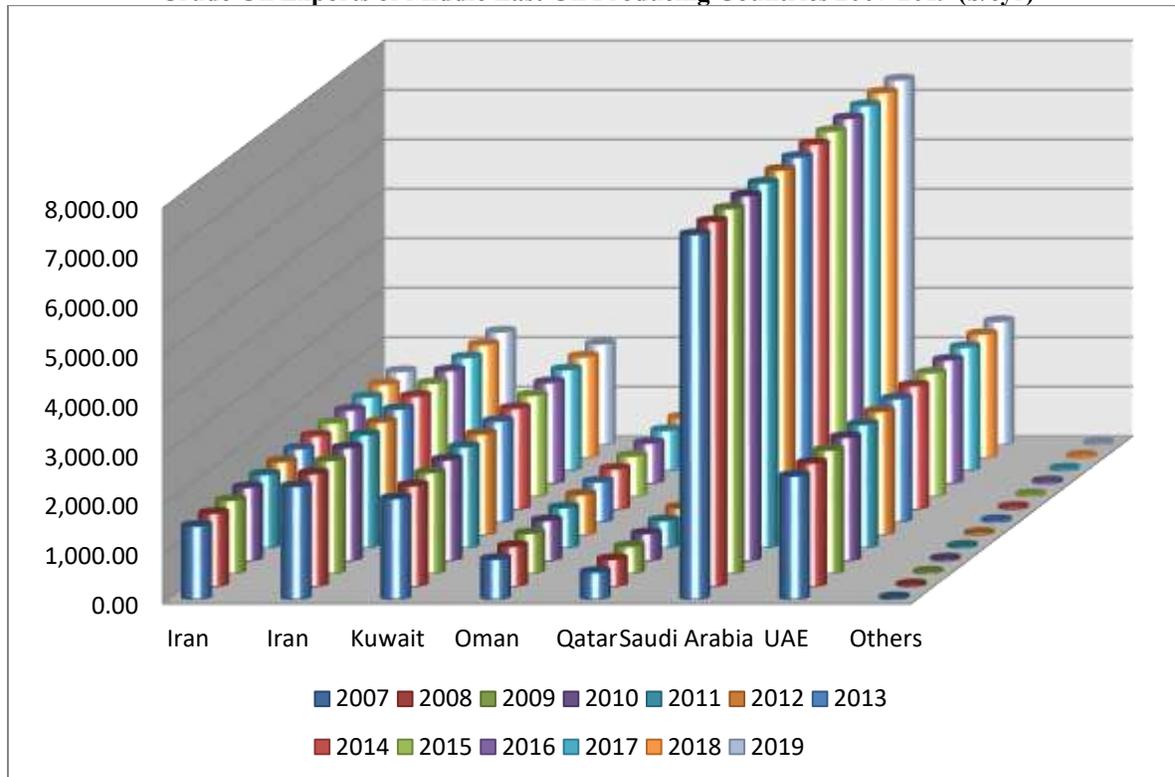
### 2.3 Crude Oil Exports of Middle East Oil Producing Countries, 2007-2019

In spite of the fact that the Asia & Pacific region has been very active in the world petroleum industry over the past seven decades, however, bulk of its crude oil produced are being exported to North America, Europe and Asia (principally the B3). The West in particular and now China who monopolizes the exploration and extraction of Middle East crude oil are also the determinants of crude oil prices in spite of the existence of OPEC as a global cartel for regulating and marketing of oil worldwide. The individual and total cumulative crude oil exports of the Middle East countries show that Saudi Arabia leads others with 95,960.41b/cyr (43%) with annual average of 7,381.57b/cyr. UAE is 2<sup>nd</sup> with 30,480.76b/cyr (15%) with an annual average of 2,498.52b/cyr. Iraq is 3<sup>rd</sup> with 29,738.02b/cyr (13%) with an annual average of 2,287.54b/cyr. Kuwait is 4<sup>th</sup> with 26,559.78b/cyr (12%) with an annual average of 2,043.06b/cyr. Iran is 5<sup>th</sup> with 19,316.44b/cyr (9%) with an annual average of 1,485.88b/cyr. Oman is 6<sup>th</sup> with 10,624.64b/cyr (5%) with an annual average of 817.28b/cyr. Qatar is 7<sup>th</sup> with 7,219.16b/cyr (3%) with an annual average of 555.32b/cyr. While the miscellaneous exports of others is the last in the 8<sup>th</sup> position with 569.7b/cyr (0%) with an annual average of 43.82b/cyr. The country annual average is 17,112.99b/cyr (totaling 136,903.92b/cyr) and the cumulative country average is 27,808.61b/cyr (totaling 222,468.91b/cyr) for the period of the study (NPP, 2017; OPEC, 2017.18; Malachova, 2012; Srivastava, 2019).



This is as presented in Figure 4 below:

**Fig. 4:**  
**Crude Oil Exports of Middle East Oil Producing Countries 2007-2019 (b/cyr)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

#### 2.4 Summary of Crude Oil Exports of Middle East Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019

Summary of crude oil exports shows the Middle East countries recording 222,468.91b/cyr (23% of world total which stands at 945,989.37b/cyr) for the period 2007 to 2019. The Middle East has outperformed Non-OPEC countries (114,629.58b/cyr [12%]) by over 100%. The Middle East export performance is below that of B3 whose exports stands at 289,178.41b/cyr (30% of the world total). On a lamentable note, OPEC is the highest exporter of crude oil with 542,181.38b/cyr representing 58% of the world total exports for the period of the study. This does not in the least portrays any level of seriousness by third world -dominated global oil cartel. The regional annual average is 72,768.41b/cyr (totaling 291,073.64b/cyr) and the regional cumulative average is 236,497.34b/cyr (totaling 945,989.37/cyr) for the same period. While the cumulative individual regional annual average stands at 22,470.46b/cyr. However, this is a negative indicator for a region that aspires to be economically independent (Rodrigue, 2004; NNPC, 2017/18; Saleh, 2019; OPEC, 2017/18).



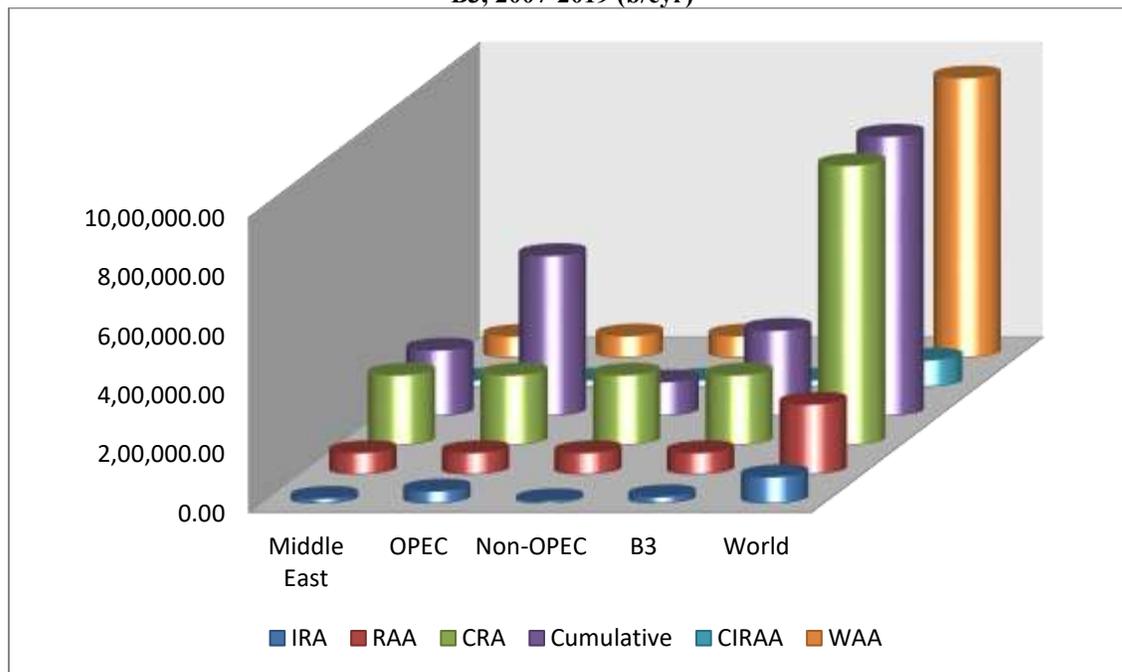
The performance of Middle East in crude oil exports compared with other regions is as presented in Table 2 and Figure 5 below:

**Table 2: Cumulative Crude Oil Exports of Middle East Oil Producing Countries Compared OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr & in %)**

S/No.	Region	Cumulative	RAA	CRA	IRAA	Percentage
1.	Middle East	222,468.91	72,768.41	236,497.34	17,112.99	23%
2.	OPEC	542,181.38	72,768.41	236,497.34	41,706.29	58%
3.	Non-OPEC	114,629.58	72,768.41	236,497.34	8,817.66	12%
4.	B3	289,178.41	72,768.41	236,497.34	22,244.49	30%
5.	<b>World</b>	<b>945,989.37</b>	<b>236,497.34</b>	<b>945,989.37</b>	<b>89,881.83</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

**Fig. 5: Cumulative Crude Oil Exports of Middle East Oil Producing Countries Compared OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019 (b/cyr)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

### 2.5 Refining of Crude Oil Capacity of Middle East Countries, 2007-2019

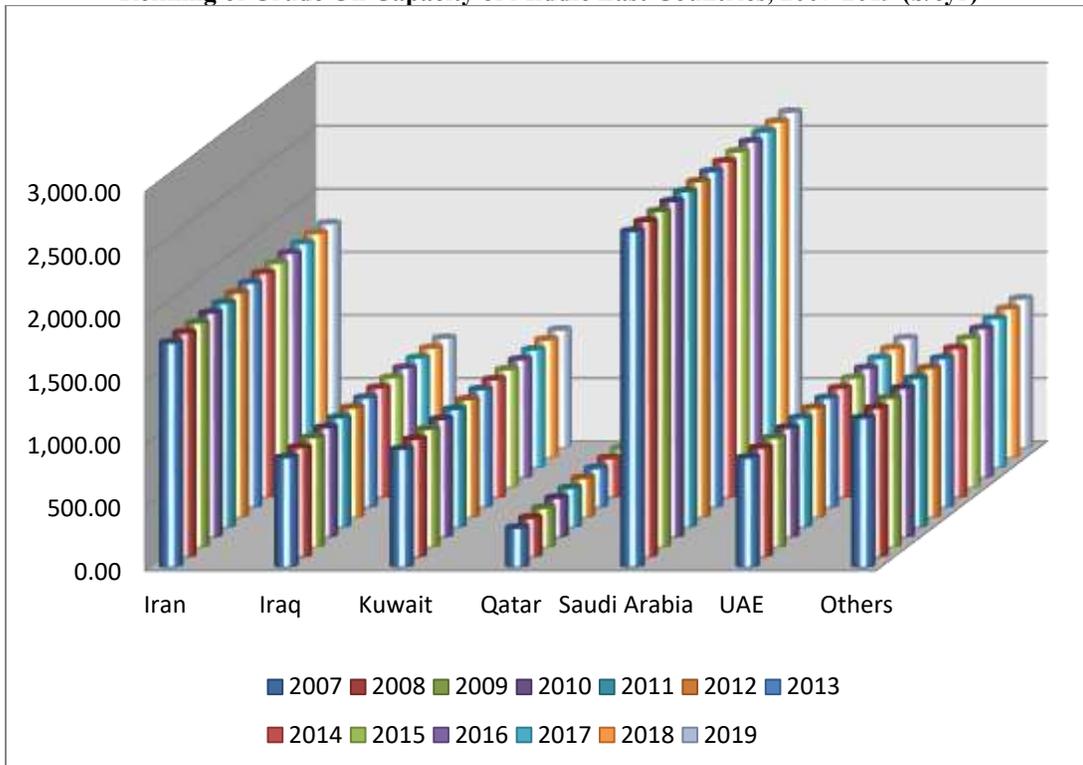
The refining capacity of Middle East countries between 2007 and 2019 shows Saudi Arabia leading the region with 34,608.6b/cyr representing 31% of the regional total. Iran is 2<sup>nd</sup> with 23,121.8b/cyr (21%). The combined total refining of Others with 15,369.9b/cyr (14%) is placed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> position. Kuwait is 4<sup>th</sup> with 12,168.0b/cyr (11%). Iraq is 5<sup>th</sup> with 11,310.0b/cyr (10%). The United Arab Emirate (UAE) is 6<sup>th</sup> with 11,276.2b/cyr (10%). Qatar is 7<sup>th</sup> with 4,058.6b/cyr (3%). The cumulative country annual average is 8,608.7b/cyr totaling 60,260.9b/cyr. The cumulative country average is 15,987.59b/cyr totaling 111,913.1b/cyr. Lack of political will by the leadership of the Middle Eastern countries towards massive local refining and processing of all their crude oil in their domestic environments is indeed a negative trend. Unless if, and until when their political leaders embark on aggressive exclusive refining of all the crude oil produced, they will continue to remain under unrestrained slavery to the B3 and the West for the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Tetraut, 2008; OPEC, 2017/18; Fareed, et-al, 2019; Srivastava, 2019).



The refining performances of the Middle East countries are as presented in Figures 6 and 7 below:

**Fig. 6:**

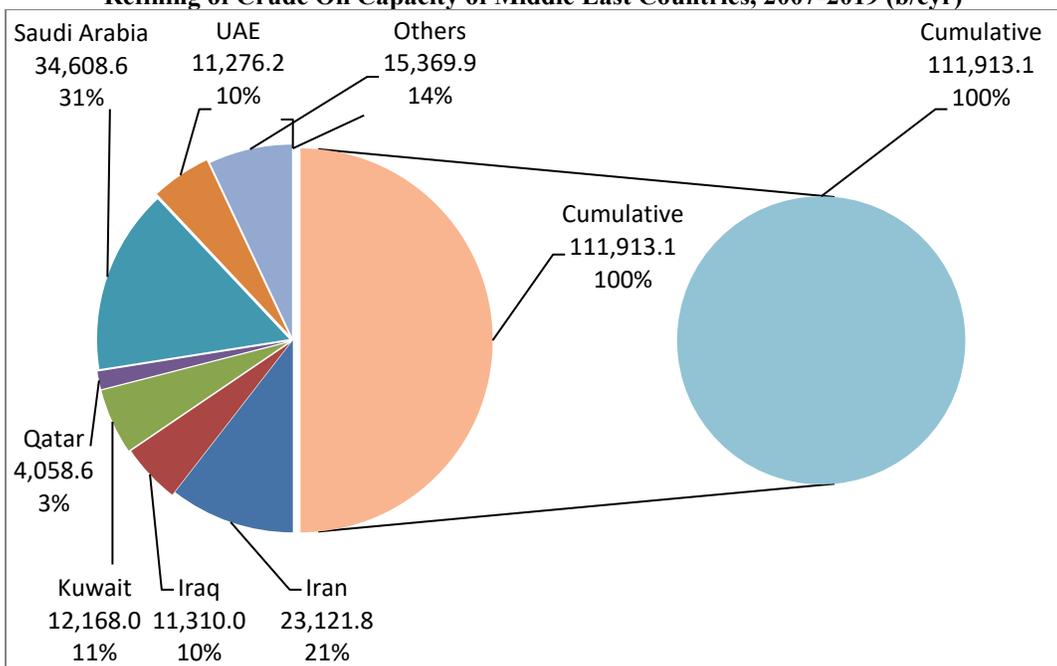
**Refining of Crude Oil Capacity of Middle East Countries, 2007-2019 (b/cyr)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

**Fig. 7:**

**Refining of Crude Oil Capacity of Middle East Countries, 2007-2019 (b/cyr)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018



### 2.6 Summary of Crude Oil Refining of Middle East Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019

Summary of crude oil refining of Middle East countries compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3 shows the region at bottom of the regional refining ladder with 111,913.1b/cyr representing 9% of the world’s total which stands at 1,247,675.73b/cyr. The B3 with 531,840.4b/cyr (42% of world total) and Non-OPEC countries with 1,104,019.04b/cyr (89%), have outperformed the entire Middle East region. However, the Middle East’s performance is 78% of OPEC’s total refining which stands at 143,656.74b/cyr (11% of world total). OPEC has also seriously underperformed. This will bring us to the difficult question as to whether third world oil is a ‘prospect or peril’ for their citizens and national economies? (Maynes, 1998; LCCI, 2016; Wallerstein, 1989; OPEC, 2017/18).

The cumulative refining capacity of Middle East compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3 is as presented in Table 3 and Figure 8 below:

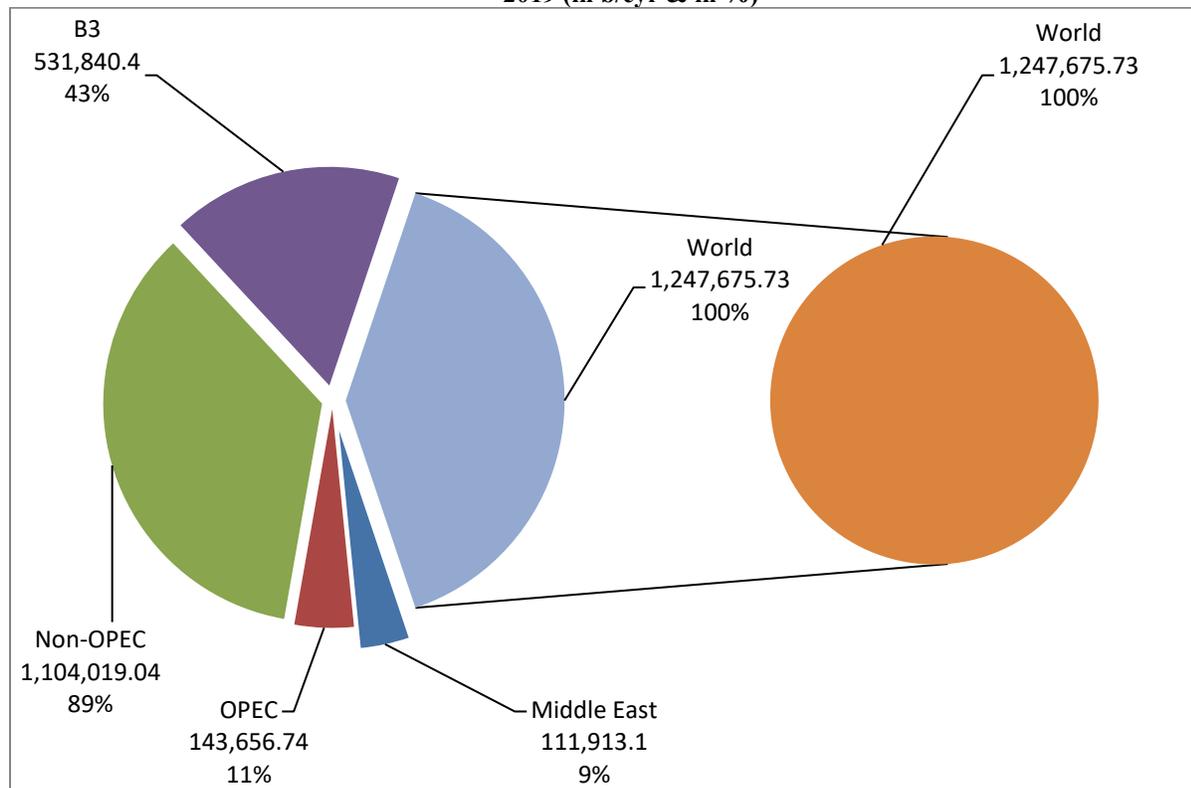
**Table 3: Cumulative Refining Capacity of Middle East Countries compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr & in %)**

S/No.	Region	Cumulative	RAA	CRA	IRAA	Percentage
1.	Middle East	111,913.1	95,975.6	311,918.94	8,608.7	9%
2.	OPEC	143,656.74	95,975.6	311,918.94	11,050.52	11%
3.	Non-OPEC	1,104,019.04	95,975.6	311,918.94	84,924.54	89%
4.	B3	531,840.4	95,975.6	311,918.94	40,910.78	43%
5.	<b>World</b>	<b>1,247,675.73</b>	<b>383,902.4</b>	<b>1,247,675.73</b>	<b>145,494.56</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

**Fig. 8:**

**Cumulative Refining Capacity of Middle East Countries compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr & in %)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

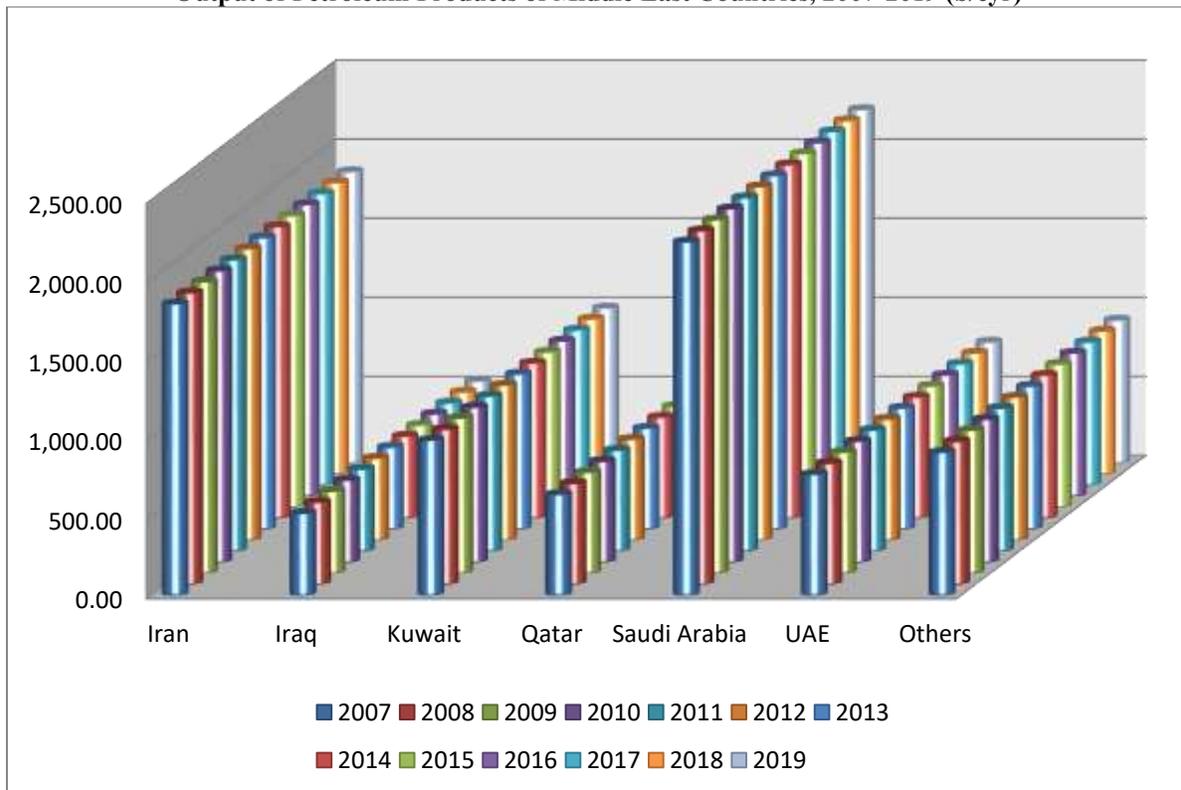


### 2.7 Output of Petroleum Products of Middle East Oil Producing Countries, 2007-2019

Since the discovery of oil in the Middle East, there has been steady increase in crude oil production as well as modest increase in the region's output of petroleum products between 2007 and 2019. However, it is the traditional Middle East oil producing countries of the Persian Gulf that are major producers of output of petroleum products for the period of the study. The total output of petroleum products by Middle East countries between 2007 and 2019 stands at 102,523.72b/cyr. The individual performance of Middle East countries in terms of output of petroleum products for the period of study showed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the regional leader with 29,064.62b/cyr (29%) with an annual average of 2,235.74b/cyr. Iran is 2<sup>nd</sup> with 23,965.76b/cyr (23%) with annual average 1,843.52. Kuwait is 3<sup>rd</sup> with 12,750.66b/cyr (12%) with an annual average of 980.82b/cyr. The miscellaneous output of others is 4<sup>th</sup> with 11,754.60b/cyr (11%) with an annual average of 904.20b/cyr. UAE IS 5<sup>th</sup> with 9,949.42b/cyr (10%) with an annual average of 765.34b/cyr. Qatar is 6<sup>th</sup> with 8,296.6b/cyr (8%) with an annual average of 638.20b/cyr. Iraq is 7<sup>th</sup> with 6,742.06b/cyr. The country annual average is 7,886.44b/cyr totaling 55,205.08b/cyr. The country cumulative average is 14,646.25b/cyr totaling 102,523.72b/cyr which equals the total cumulative for the period of the study (Fareed, et-al 2019; Petersen, 2020; OPEC, 2017/18).

This is as presented in Figures 9 and 10 below:

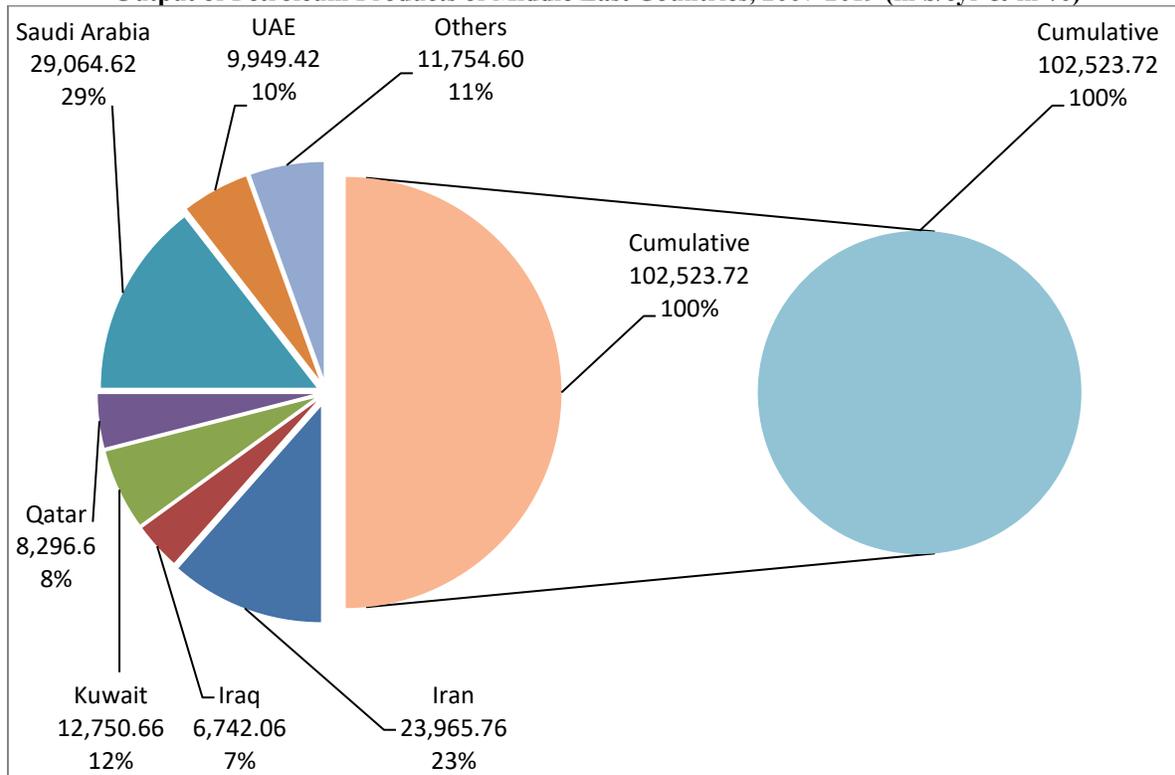
**Fig. 9:**  
**Output of Petroleum Products of Middle East Countries, 2007-2019 (b/cyr)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018



**Fig. 10:**  
**Output of Petroleum Products of Middle East Countries, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr & in %)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

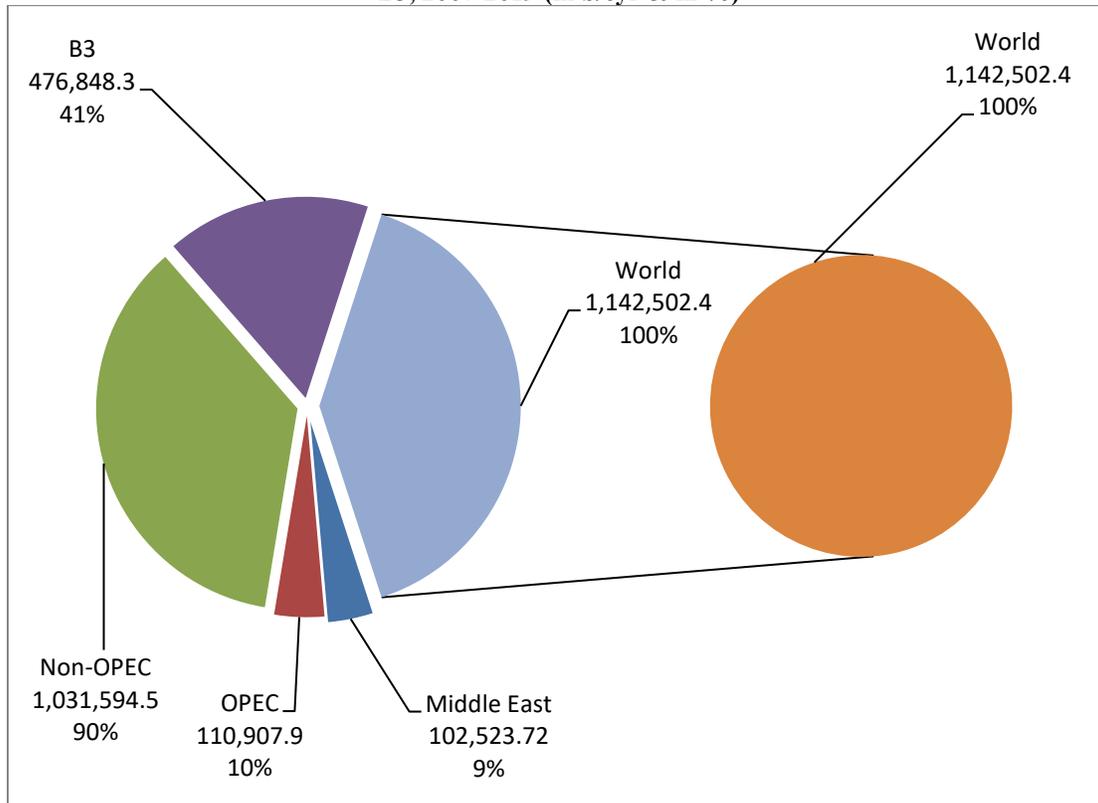
### 2.8 Summary of Output of Petroleum Products of Middle East Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019

Summary of output of petroleum products of Middle East countries compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3 places the region as the least with 102,523.72b/cyr representing 9% of the world total of 1,142,502.4b/cyr. The Middle East performance in this regard represents 92% of OPEC's total output of petroleum products of 110,907.9b/cyr (which is 10% of the world total) for the period of the study. The Non-OPEC performance, which stands 1,031,594.5b/cyr represents 90% of the world total; and overwhelms the performance of the Middle East with over 900%. The B3 has equally outperformed the Middle East by over 400%. While the regional annual average is 87,884.8b/cyr totaling 352,539.2b/cyr; and the regional cumulative average is 285,635.6b/cyr totaling 1,142,502.4b/cyr which is also equal to the total cumulative for the same period. This poor performance by the region means absence of jobs and lack of wealth creation for citizens. Middle East Individual Regional Annual Average stands at \$7,886.44tr, OPEC Individual Regional Annual Average stands at \$8,531.37tr, Non-OPEC Individual Regional Annual Average stands at \$79,353.42tr, and B3 Individual Regional Annual Average stands at \$36,680.64tr. While the World Regional Annual Average stands at \$132,451.87tr (Fareed, et-al, 2019; Sayigh, 1984; Cox, 1987; OPEC, 2017/18).

The cumulative output of petroleum products of Middle East compared with other regions of the world is as presented in Figure 11 below:



**Fig. 11:**  
**Output of Petroleum Products of Middle East Oil Producing Countries Compared OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr & in %)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

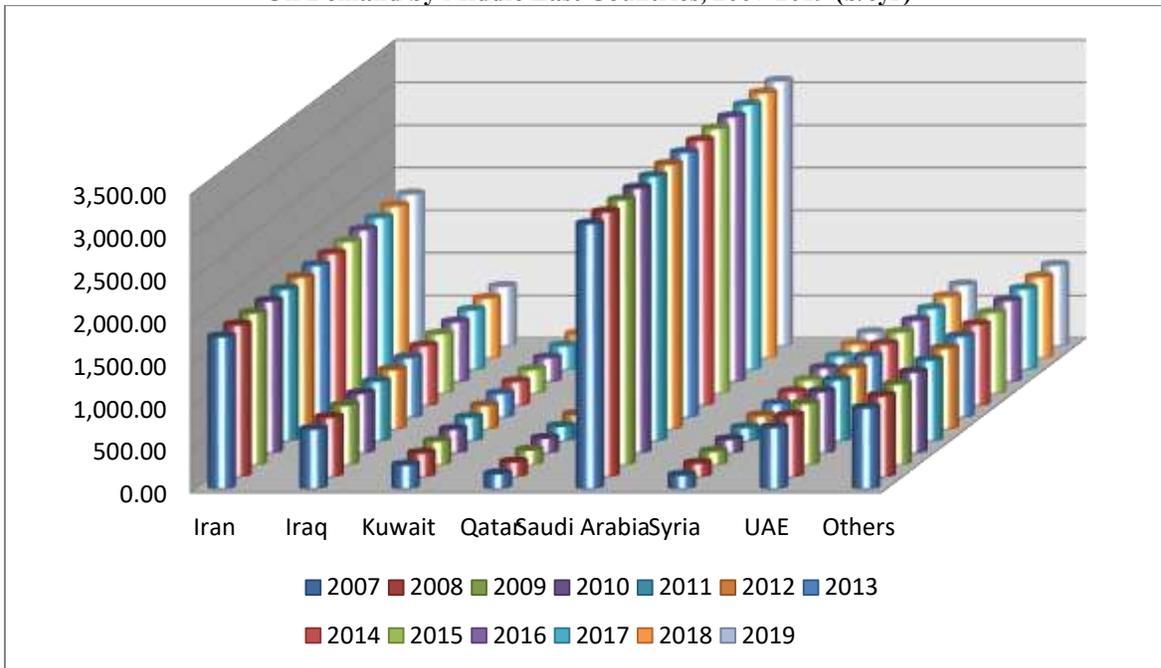
### 2.9 Oil Demand by Middle East Countries, 2007-2019

In view of the nascent explosion in industrialization and more particularly manufacturing across the world, the demand for oil industrialized and aspiring nations have is on an accelerated increase. This brings us to fact that even those highest crude oil producers, highest refiners and highest producers of output of petroleum products, are simultaneously the highest on the list of those demanding for oil in the world. Oil is critical to manufacturing and industrial growth. Apart from Iran that is on the fast tract, for technological and industrial revolution, the rest of the Middle East oil producing countries are unfortunately living under the complacency of their enormous crude oil wealth. As such, even the quantum of their oil demands are for powering foreign industries domiciled their domestic environments. Therefore, the increasing demand for oil by Middle East countries put their total cumulative for the period of the study to 102,470.94b/cyr (22% of world total). The individual performances of the Middle East countries places Saudi Arabia as the regional leader with 15,558.6b/cyr (40%) with an annual average of 3,111.72b/cyr. Iran is 2<sup>nd</sup> with 8,923.6b/cyr (22% of the regional total) with annual average of 7,882.38b/cyr. Others is placed 3<sup>rd</sup> with 4,751.1b/cyr (12%) with an annual average of 950.62b/cyr. The UAE is 4<sup>th</sup> with 3,600.0b/cyr (9%) with an annual average of 720.0b/cyr. Iraq is 5<sup>th</sup> with 3,502.5b/cyr (9%) with an annual average of 700.0b/cyr. Kuwait is 6<sup>th</sup> with 1,399.0b/cyr (4%) with an annual average of 279.8b/cyr. Qatar is 7<sup>th</sup> with 875.4b/cyr (2%) with an annual average of 175.08b/cyr. Syria occupies the last and 8<sup>th</sup> position with 799.6b/cyr (2%) with an annual average of 159.92b/cyr (Petersen, 2020; OPEC, 2017/18).



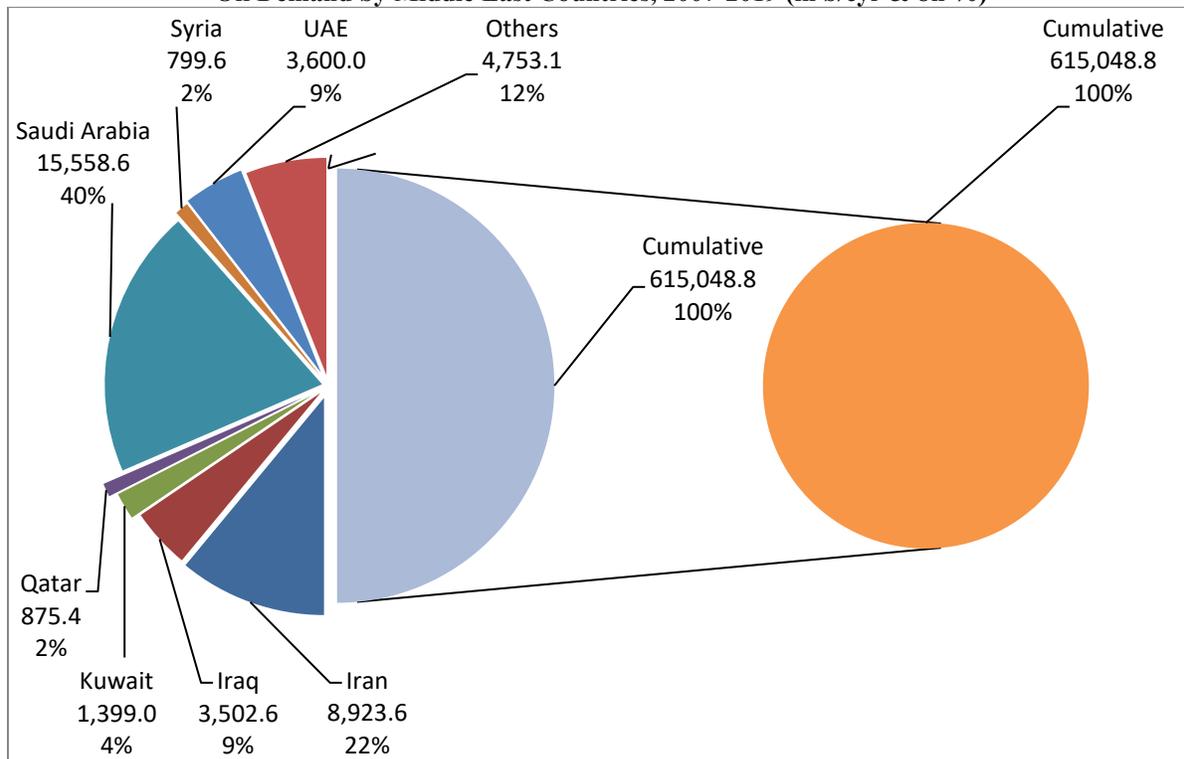
The is as presented in Figures 12 and 13 below:

**Fig. 12:**  
**Oil Demand by Middle East Countries, 2007-2019 (b/cyr)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

**Fig. 13:**  
**Oil Demand by Middle East Countries, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr & %)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018



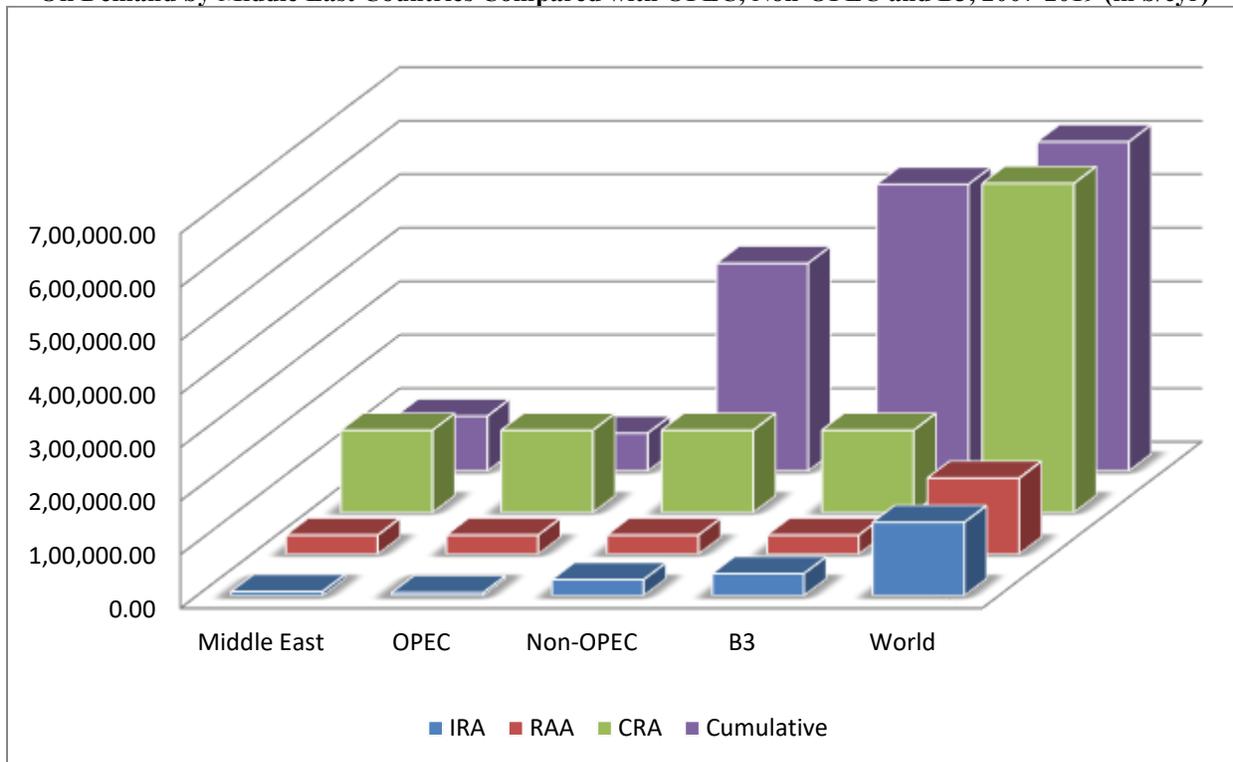
### 2.10 Summary of Oil Demand by Middle East Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019

Summary of oil demand by Middle East countries compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3 shows that the Arab Kingdoms/Empires outperforming OPEC this regard by 145%. The Middle East with 102,470.94b/cyr, representing 17% of the world total cumulative oil demand of 615,048.8b/cr; has put up an impressive performance. Once more as a global oil cartel, OPEC with 70,610.6b/cyr (11%), is the least in this regard. However, the Middle East total cumulative oil demand for the period of this study just represents 26% of Non-OPEC's total cumulative oil demand of 387,909.0b/cyr. The Non-OPEC performance represents 63% of the world total in this regard. The Middle East region; has also been outperformed by its traditional allies the B3 by over 522% for the period of the study. The B3 total cumulative oil demand of 535,677.74b/cy represents 87% for the period covered by this study. Middle East IRAA \$7,886.44tr, OPEC Individual Regional Annual Average \$8,531.37tr, Non-OPEC Individual Regional Annual Average \$79,353.42tr, B3 Individual Regional Annual Average \$41,205.98tr and World Individual Regional Annual Average \$13,977.217tr (Malachova, 2012; OPEC, 2017/18; Petersen, 2020).

This is presented in Figures 14 and 15 below:

Fig. 14:

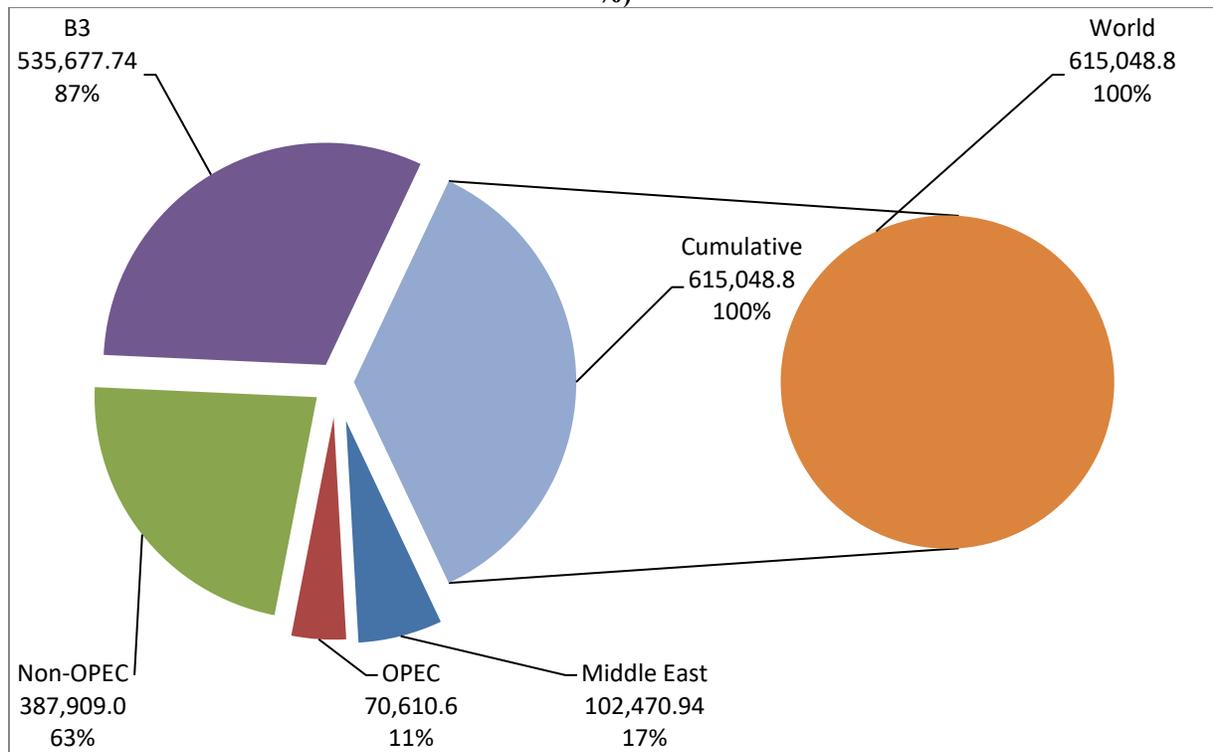
Oil Demand by Middle East Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr)



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018



**Fig. 15:**  
**Oil Demand by Middle East Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr & in %)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

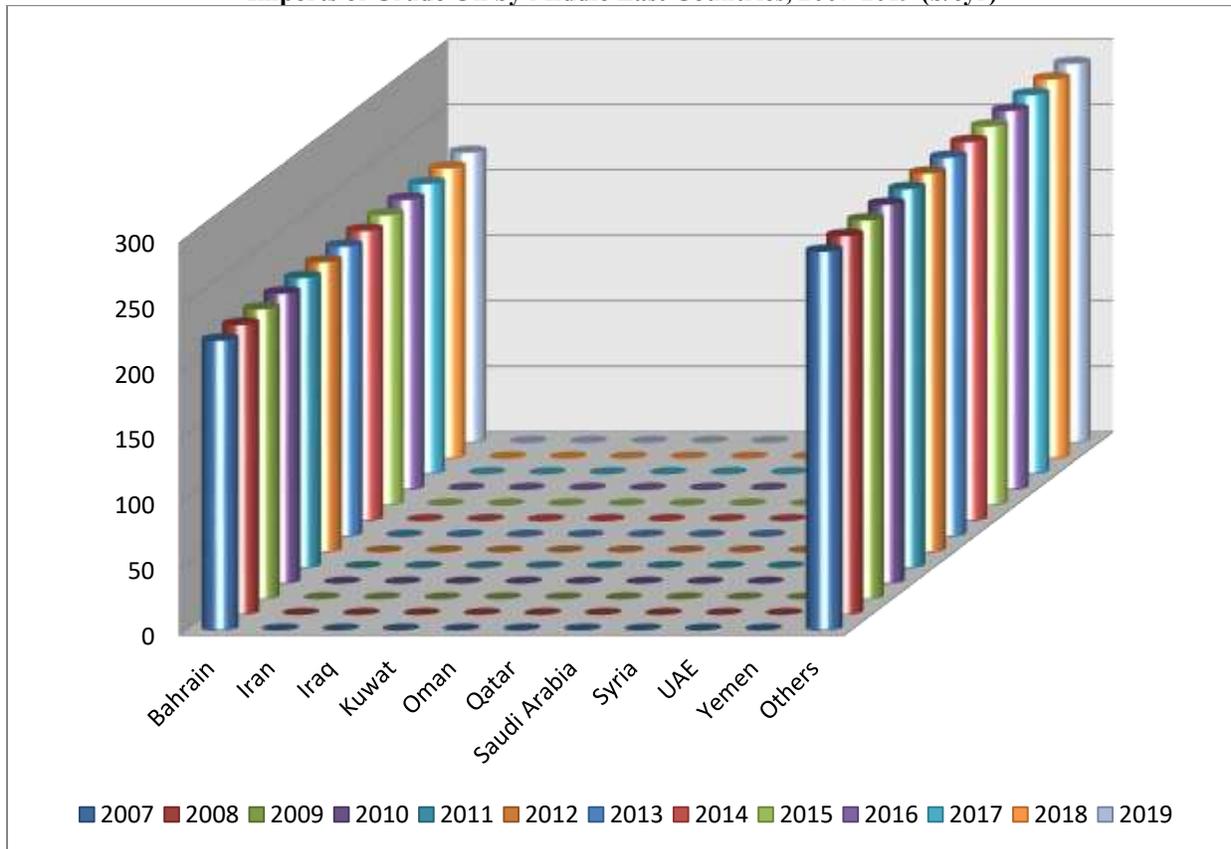
### 2.11 Imports of Crude Oil by Middle East Countries, 2007-2019

The world's imports of crude oil by Middle East countries shows that the entire region total cumulative imports for the period of the study stands a meager 6,648.72b/cyr representing 1.9% of total world imports of 342,509.6b/cyr. In fact, it is only Bahrain with 2,882.62b/cyr (with an annual average of 221.74b/cyr); in the Middle East region that manifestly featured on the world crude oil imports table for the period of the study. The miscellaneous imports of other countries of the region accounted for 3,766.10b/cyr with annual average of 289.70b/cyr. The total imports of Bahrain represent 43% of the total imports of crude oil of the region. While the miscellaneous imports of others represent 57% of the regional total. However, for the purpose of plotting the empirical graph for the Regions imports, all the oil producing countries will appear with zero imports each (Srivastava, 2019; Mayness, 1998; NNPC, 2017/18).



This is as presented in Figures 16 and 17 below:

**Fig. 16:**  
**Imports of Crude Oil by Middle East Countries, 2007-2019 (b/cyr)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

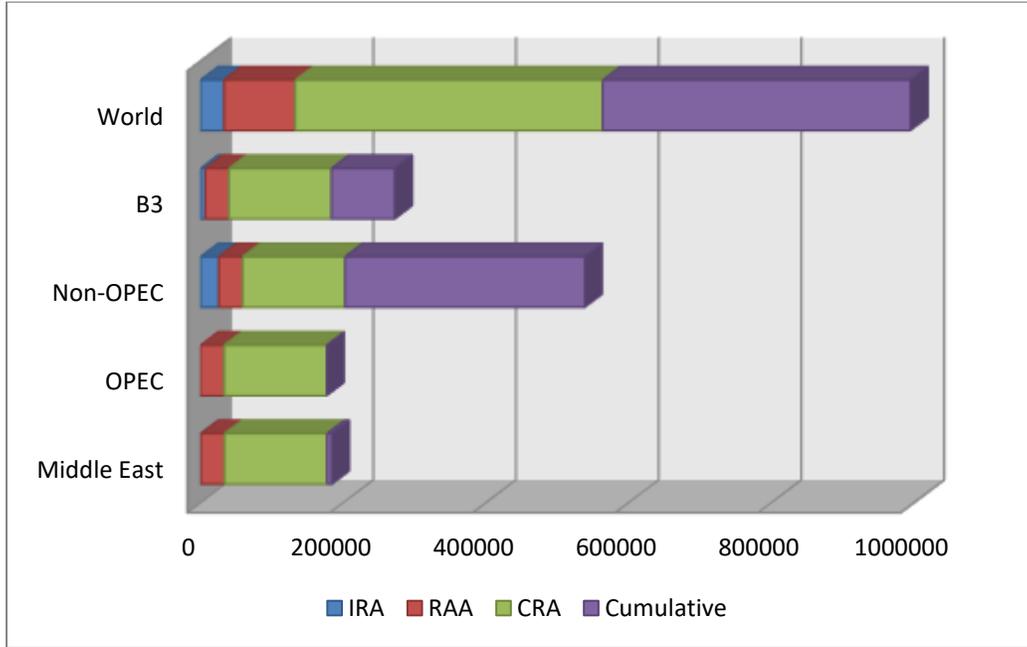
### 2.12 Summary of Cumulative Crude Oil Imports of Middle East Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC, and B3, 2007-2019

Summary of imports the Middle East region as the least importer of crude oil with 6,648b/cyr representing 1.9% of the world total for the period of the study; where it performed slightly above OPEC with zero imports and zero percentage. Non-OPEC recorded 342,509.6b/cyr and B3 recorded 88,669.1b/cyr (Tetrault, 2008; NPP, 2017; Gilpin, 2001; OPEC, 2017/18).



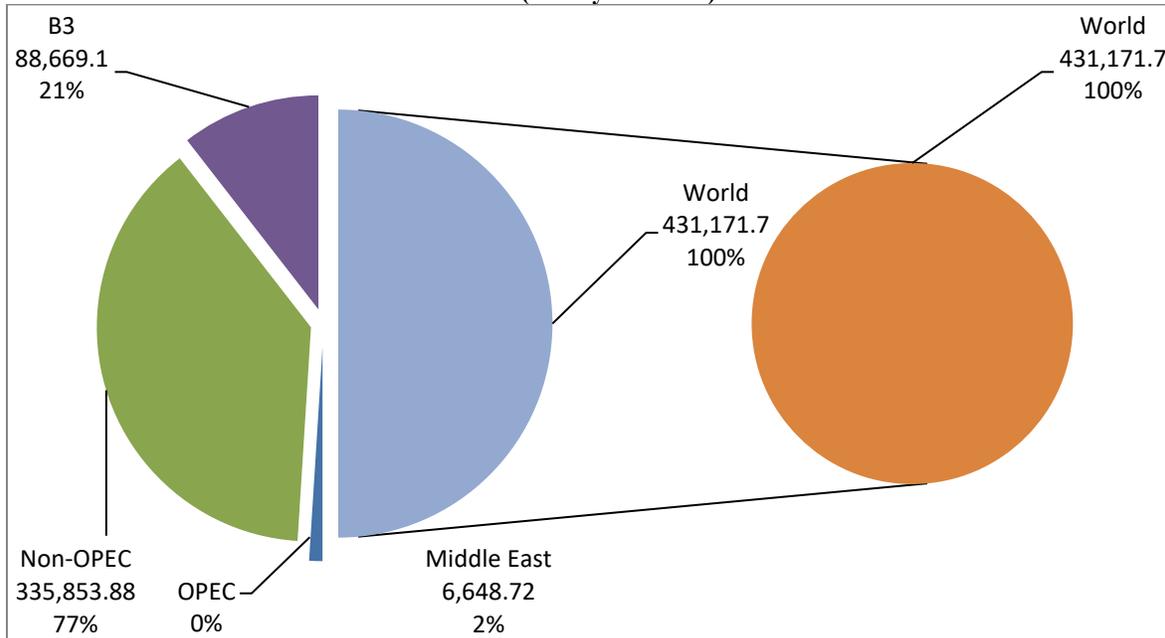
This is as presented in Figures 17 and 18 below:

**Fig. 17:**  
**Cumulative Crude Oil Imports of Middle East Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC & B3, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

**Fig. 18:**  
**Cumulative Crude Oil Imports by Middle East Countries Compared with OPEC, Non-OPEC and B3, 2007-2019 (in b/cyr & in %)**



Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018



### 3. CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

From the analysis so far, the study has established that OPEC with 11% of world refining has outperformed the Middle East whose world refining stands at 9%. The study has also established that OPEC with 10% of the world output of petroleum products has outperformed the Middle East whose world output of petroleum products stand at 9%. The study further established that the Middle East with 17% of the world oil demand has outperformed OPEC whose world oil demand stands at 11%. In the same vein, the study has also established that the Middle East with 2% of world crude oil imports has outperformed OPEC whose world crude oil imports stands at zero (0%). Conclusion can be drawn that the Middle East has underperformed in the vital sectors of the global oil industry such as in refining and output of petroleum products. The region's failure in the two vital sectors of the world petroleum oil industry has serious implication for their citizens and region in areas of unemployment and poverty at the domestic level.

By way of recommendations, the Middle East should take advantage of their over eight decades of fraternity with the B3, more especially to domesticate all refining and processing of the whole crude oil produced in their countries. The indigenous scientists, engineers and technicians in the petroleum industry should as a matter of urgency be made to understudy their foreign counterparts with a view of taking over from them soonest.

### REFERENCES

1. Almond, G. (1988). *The Return of the State*. American Political Science Review, Stanford University, JSTOR.
2. Betarlanfy, L. (1969). *General Systems Theory: Foundations, Development, Applications*. New York: G. Braziller.
3. Dudley, B. J. (1973). *Instability and Political Order: Politics and Crisis in Nigeria*. Ibadan: University Press Limited.
4. Cox, R. (1987). *Production, Power and World Order: Social Forces in the making of History*. New York: Columbia Press.
5. Fareed, G., Yaseen, Z., & Ashraf, M. I. (2019). *Oil Politics in the Middle East: Understanding the Genesis of Petrodollar Strategy*. *Pakistan Social Science Review*, 3(1), 17-37.
6. Gilpin, R. (2001). *Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order*. New Jersey: Princeton Hall Press.
7. Kolade, C. (2000). *Comparing Foreign Policy: Trends, Findings and Methods*. Ibadan: Freeman Press.
8. LCCI (2016). *Nigeria; Looking beyond Oil. Lagos: A Publication of Lagos Chambers of Commerce and Industry*.
9. Malachova, A. (2012). *The Middle East and Oil: Economic Modernization and Political Stagnation*. *E-International Relations*.
10. Maynes, C. W. (1998). *The Middle East in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. *Middle East Journal*, Published by Middle East Institute, 52(1), 9-16.
11. *National Petroleum Policy (2017)*. Nigerian Government Policy and Actions, 2017. Abuja: Ministry of Petroleum Resources Publications.
12. *Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (2017/2018)*. Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation-Annual Report (2017/2018). Abuja: NNPC Publication.
13. *Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (2004b) OPEC Annual Statistical Bulletin 2004, 2008, 2010*. Available at: <http://www.opec.org> Accessed on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025.
14. Petersen, T. T. (2020). *Rethinking Gulf Energy Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. *Journal of Arabian Studies*, 1(10), Issue 1, 116-121.
15. Ricardo, H. H. H. & Rodrick, D. (2005). *What You Export Matters*. "Working Papers." Howard University, USA: Center for International Development.
16. Rodrigue, J. P. (2004). *Straits, Passages, and Chokepoints: A Maritime Geo-Strategy of Petroleum Distribution*. *Les Cahiers de Geographie du Quebec*, 48 (135), 357-374.
17. Simon, H. A. (1957). *Administrative Behavior: A Study of Decision-Making Process in Administrative Organization*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. New York: The Free Press.
18. Saleh, B. (2019). *Empirical Comparison of Nigeria's Foreign Policy and Foreign Direct Investment in the Fourth Republic 1999-2018*. *International Organization of Scientific Research Journals Series – IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. 24(5), Series 10; May, 2019.
19. Sayigh, Y. A. (1984). *Arab Economic Strategy in a Changing World Oil Market*. *Third World Quarterly*, 6(1), 43-53.
20. Srivastava, M. (2019). *Report: Middle East Energy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Towards Reshaping Power Supply and Demand in the Region*. *Middle East Business Intelligence*, Vol.3. [www.meedmashreconstructionhub.com](http://www.meedmashreconstructionhub.com). Accessed on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.
21. Tetraut, M. A. (2008). *The Political Economy of Middle Eastern Oil: Understanding the Contemporary Middle East*. USA: Boulder Co, Lynne Rienner. 255-279.
22. Wallerstein, I. (1989). *The Modern World System III: The Second Era of Great Expansion of the Capitalist World Economy, 1730-1840s*. New York: Academic Press.