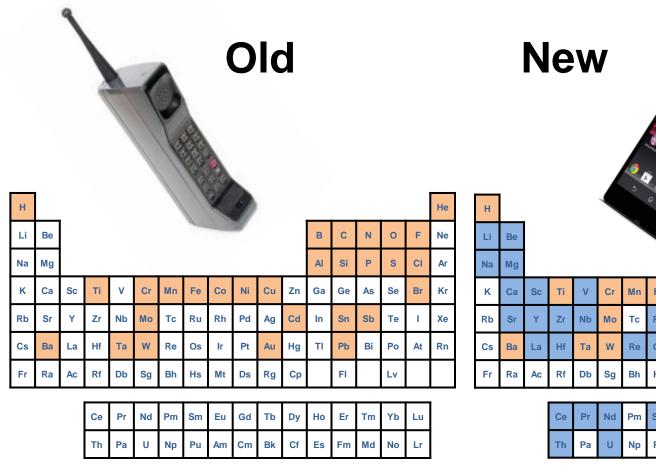


Critical Minerals in the Context of Global Mineral Resources

Larry Meinert Mineral Resources Program, USGS

Why Are Minerals Important?

Technology is growing more complex...







™USGS

~75 elements

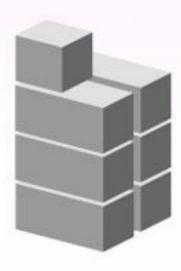
China used more cement in the last three years than the U.S. used in the entire 20th century.



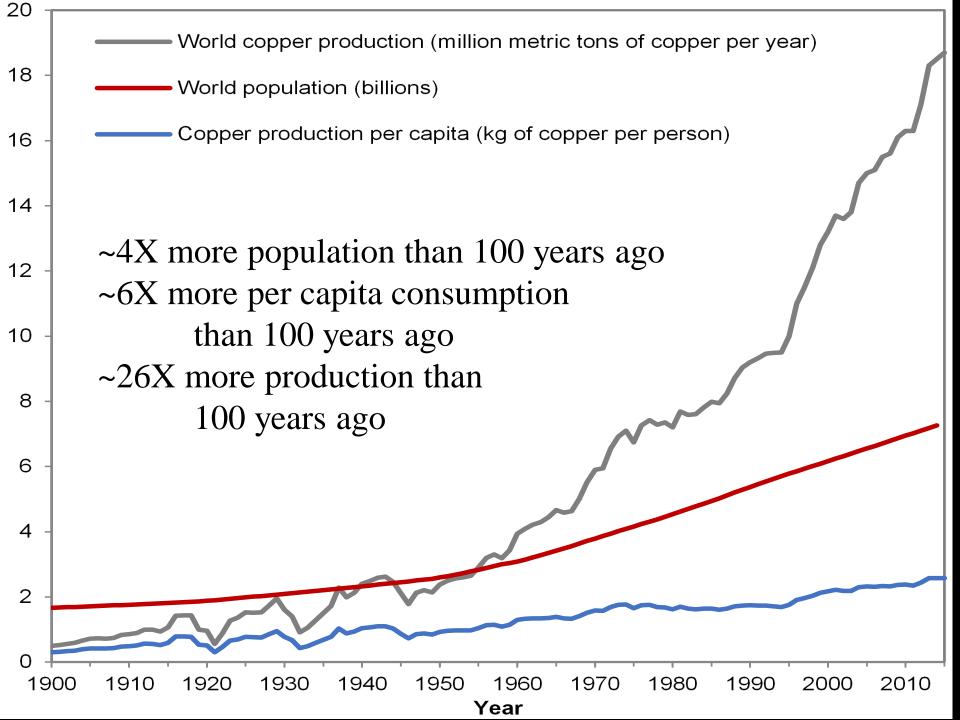


4.5 gigatons [1901-2000]





6.6 gigatons (2011-2013)



Main Points:

- ◆ As world population and standards of living increase, new resources are needed
- ◆ Recycling, even if 100% efficient, cannot supply entire need
- More efficient or innovative manufacturing and technology can help, but cannot supply entire need
- ◆ Complete life cycle analysis needs to include upstream (exploration, discovery, and production) as well as downstream (manufacturing, recycling, disposal) parts of the cycle



2015 U.S. NET IMPORT RELIANCE¹

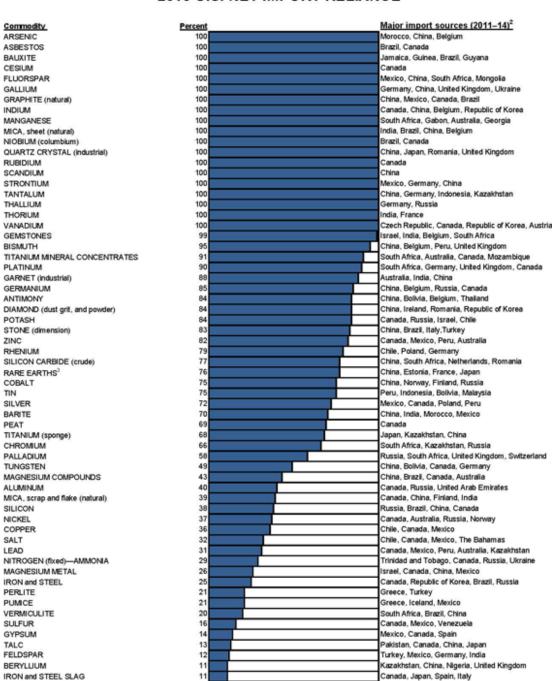
World Trade

Although the US is a major producer and exporter of many commodities such as molybdenum and beryllium, it relies on world trade for most mineral resources and is >90% reliant on imports for 24 commodities, including REE

Source: USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries (2016)

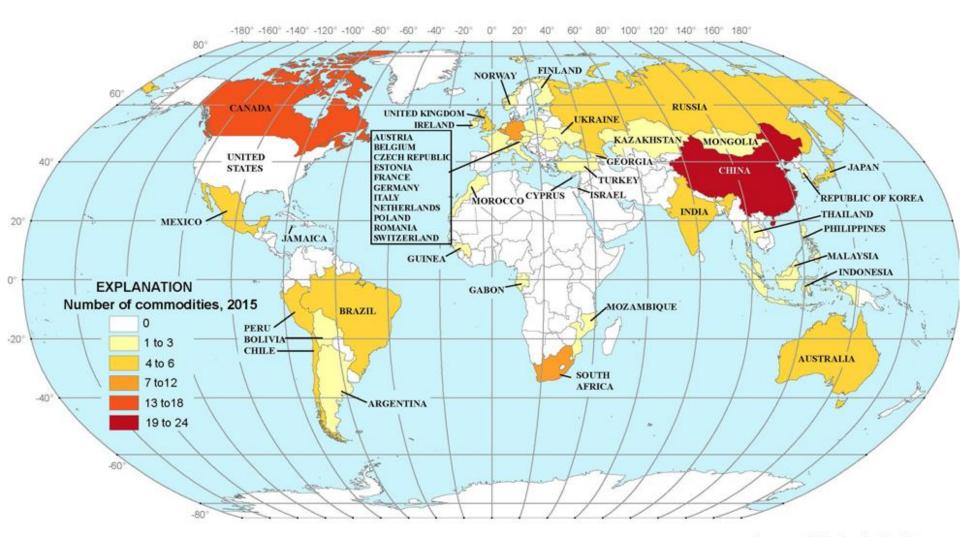
CEMENT





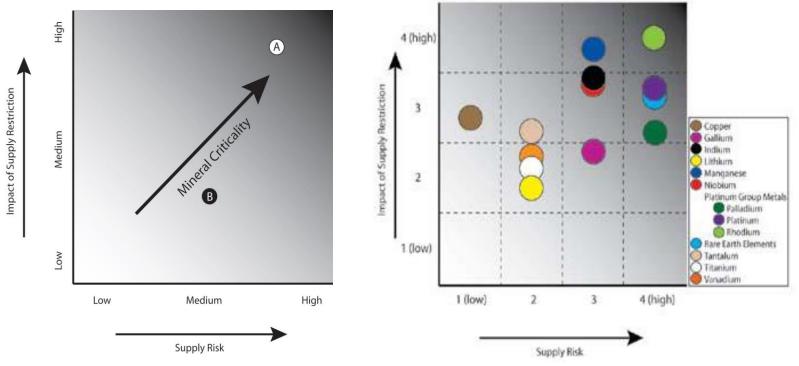
Canada, Republic of Korea, China, Greece

MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES OF NONFUEL MINERAL COMMODITIES FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES WAS GREATER THAN 50% NET IMPORT RELIANT IN 2015



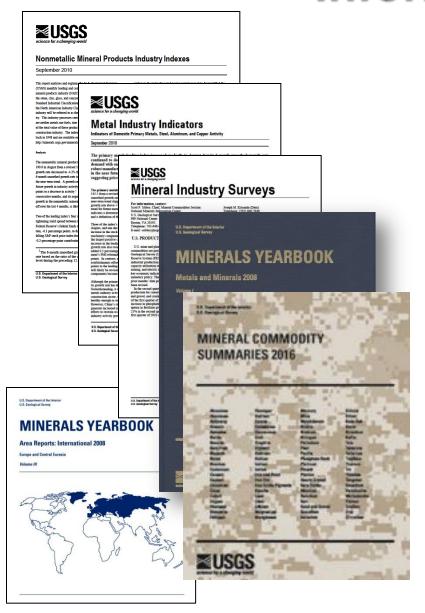


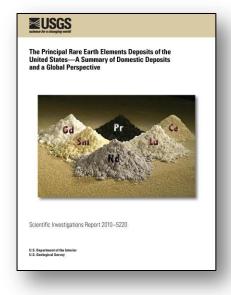
A critical mineral as defined in a 2008 National Academy of Sciences report is one that is both essential in use and subject to the risk of supply restriction

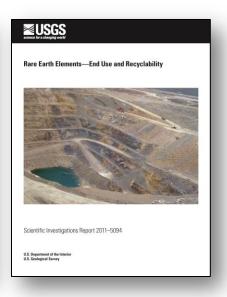


U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey

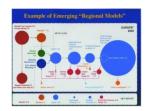
Information is Critical







The Global Flow of Aluminum From 2006 Through 2025: *USGS Open-file Report 2010-1256*



Mines and Mineral Processing Facilities in the Vicinity of the March 11, 2011, Earthquake in Northern Honshu: *USGS Openfile Report 2011-1069*





The Principal Rare Earth Elements Deposits of the United States—A Summary of Domestic Deposits and a Global Perspective

USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2010–5220 http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5220/





Critical Minerals Summary

- 1) World reserves are adequate, but production is limited and/or dominated by a few sources e.g., China; supply disruption is possible.
- 2) Several bills concerning critical minerals currently pending in Congress
- 3) Future Federal policy guided by the work of several ongoing White House (OSTP) studies:
 - a) Critical Materials Criteria & prioritization
 - b) Critical Materials information sources, gaps, needs
 - c) Critical Materials Long term R&D strategy & needs
 - d) Materials Genome Initiative
- 4) Data & Research cooperation with EU, EC, and Tri-Lateral Commission
- 5) New and ongoing research

 USGS Genesis and resources of REE deposits,
 e.g., Mountain Pass, Bokan Mtn, etc.
 - USGS Annual Mineral Commodity Summaries & Minerals Yearbook DOE Critical Materials Institute (CMI) discussed by Rod Eggert