# Oil and Gas Volatility, Security and Optionality

- Raoul LeBlanc
- VP and Chief Petro-nerd
- Upstream Oil and Gas
- S&P Global
- Raoul.leblanc@spglobal.com

### The Roots of Volatility of Oil and Gas Markets



#### 1. Three Drivers of Price Formation

- Fundamental supply and demand
- Speculation and hedging in paper markets

#### 2. Marginal Pricing and Transmission

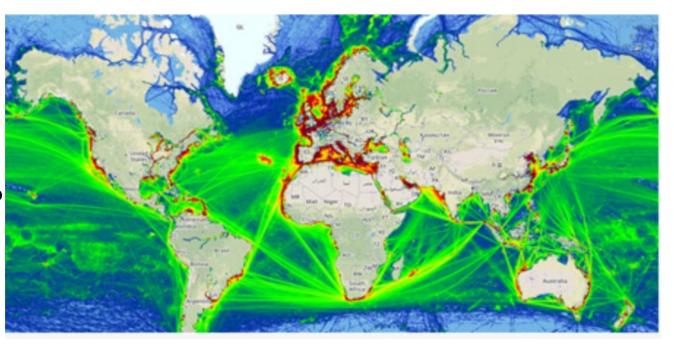
- Inherent decline rate and investment
  - US decline is 30%+ vs global rate of 7%
- The one-bucket reality guarantees

#### 3. Low Elasticity

- Supply not easily moderated, as subsurface dictates operations
- Nobody drives to work twice

#### 4. Substitution

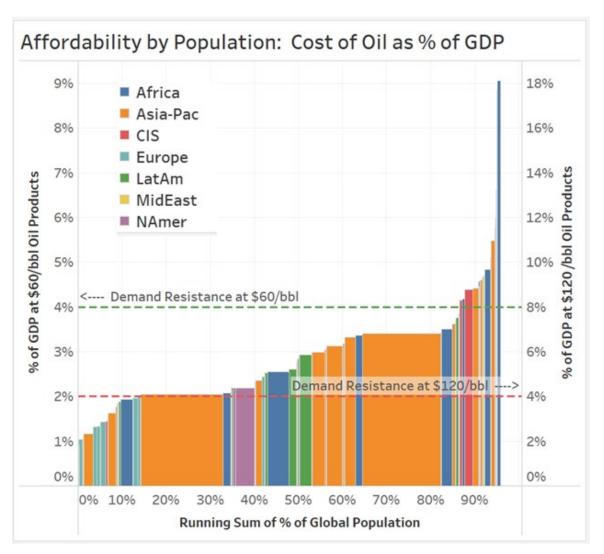
 Band of substitution has narrowed as world has moved to greater efficiency







- Both producers and consumers seek security.
  - Neither buyer nor seller has more inherent power.
  - Consequences of a stoppage usually more acute and immediate for consumers.
- For consumers, physical shortfalls may be catastrophic: energy is life.
  - But they are also rare in the modern context.
- Global, flexible markets usually convert availability risk to affordability risk.
- Most important and immediate energy security measure is already in place: inventories.
- Focusing protection on avoiding physical shortage protection may be like buying an additional lock to protect against a hurricane
- Markets ration energy every day.
  - Recent events have exposed developed countries to this phenomenon.

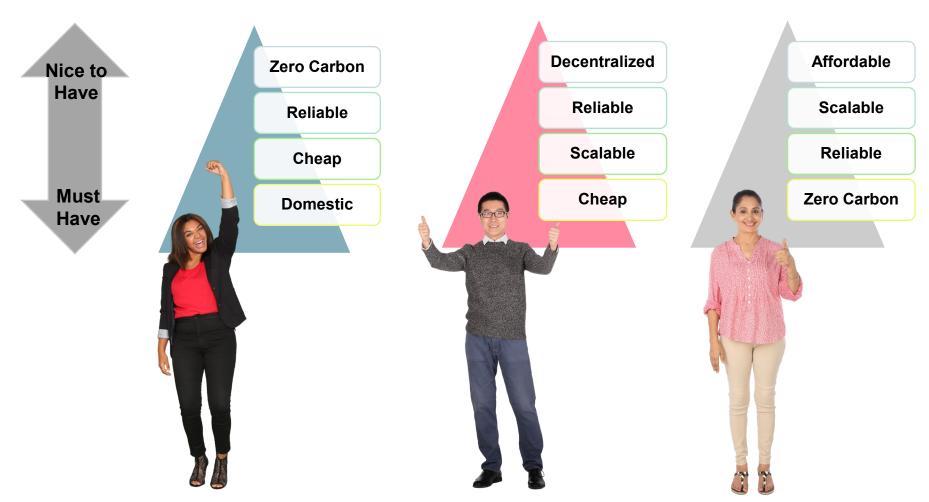


Source: S&P Globa

## Security Is Important, But Energy Necessitates Trade-offs



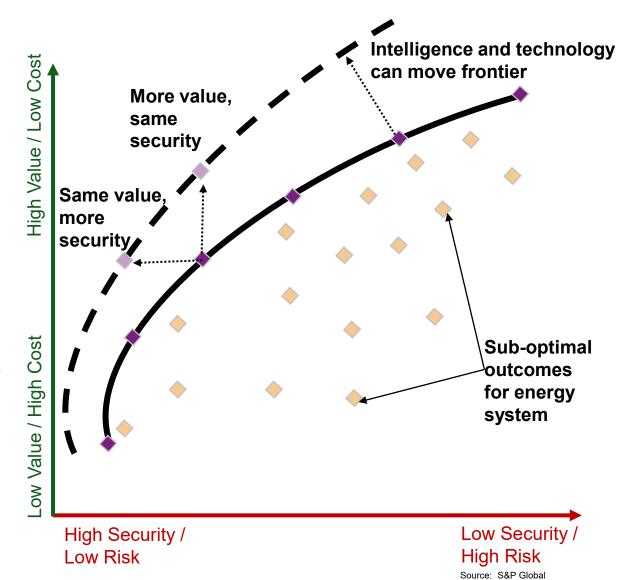
# Crises reveal "revealed preferences." Everyone has a hierarchy.







- Any system engineered for maximum efficiency is, by definition, fragile to volatility and unexpected events.
- Optionality always has a cost.
- Finding the right balance is tricky.
  - Humans are **not good at assessing risk**, especially over time.
  - Total security is **not the right answer**, and correct decisions can have bad outcomes.
  - Expect Monday-morning quarterbacks.
- How does this impact you?
  - Executives: choose a position on the efficient frontier, then adapt the company structures and risk mitigation to that point.
  - Innovators: push the efficient frontier outward: deliver more value and/or more security at any tradeoff.



# Thank You.