

# Materie prime critiche e strategiche

UNA INTRODUZIONE

**Alois Bonifacio** (abonifacio@units.it)

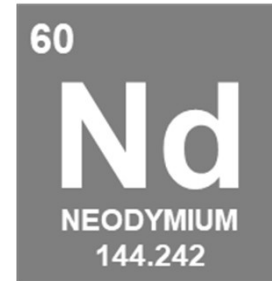
Professore associato di *Fondamenti Chimici delle Tecnologie*



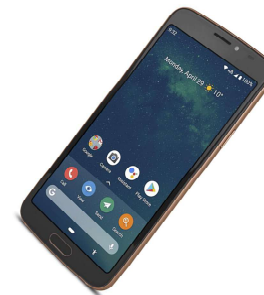
**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TRIESTE**

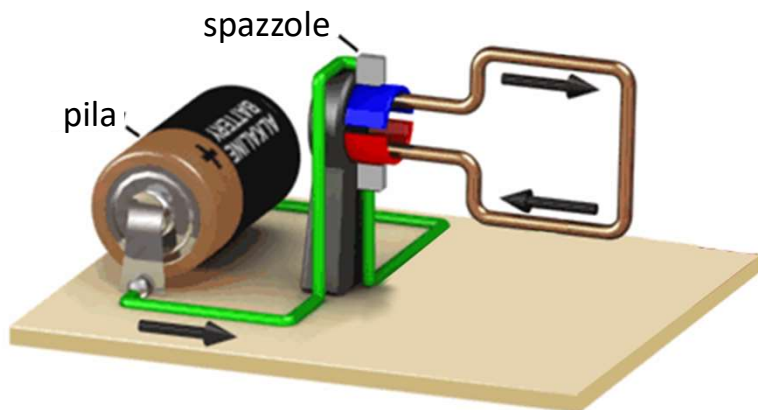




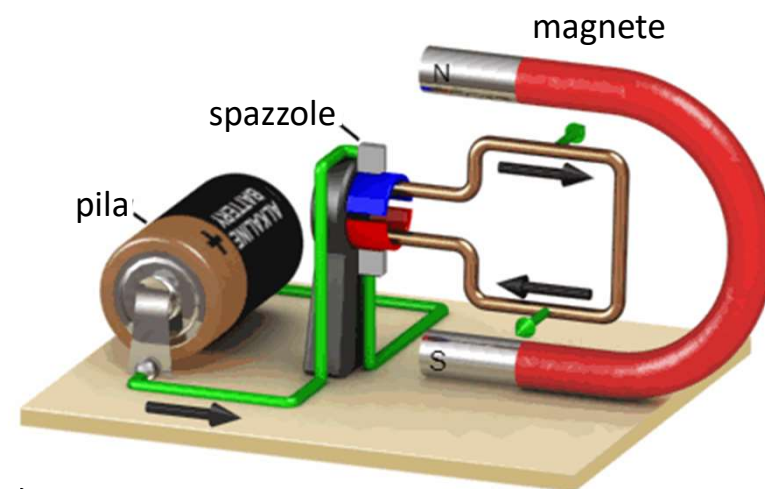


magneti  
**NdFeB**

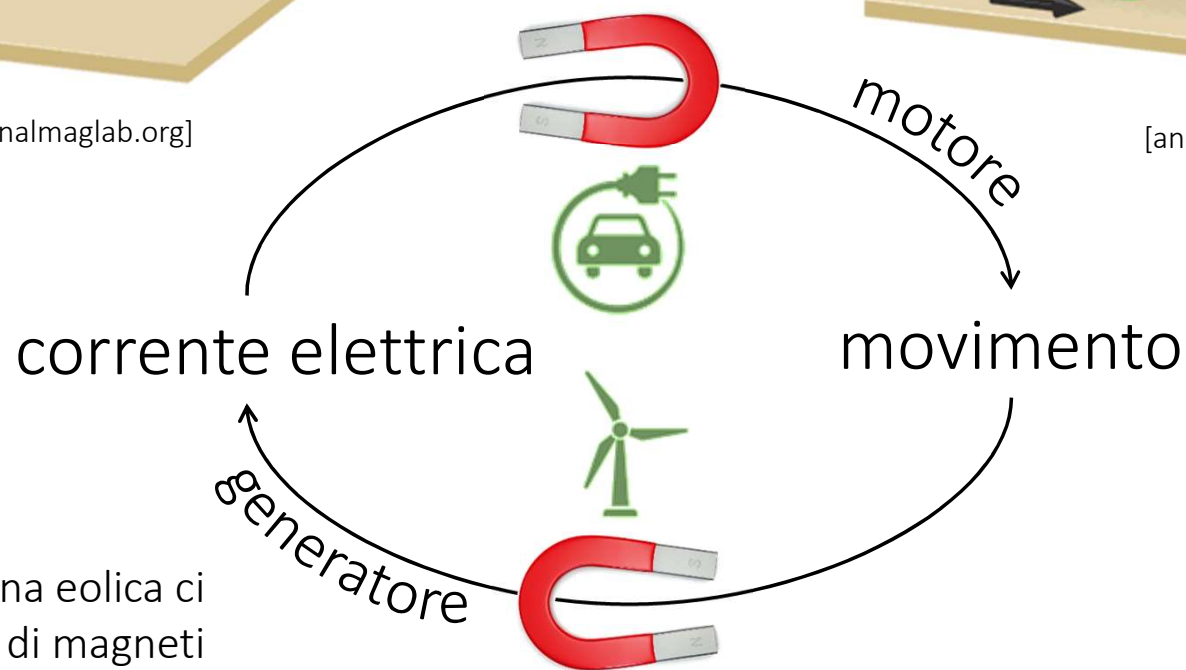




[immagine adattata da: nationalmaglab.org]



[animazione da: nationalmaglab.org]



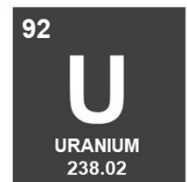
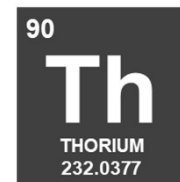
in una turbina eolica ci  
sono ~2t di magneti  
**NdFeB** ( > 500 kg di Nd )



[figura da: [www.japantimes.co.jp](http://www.japantimes.co.jp), © Reuters]



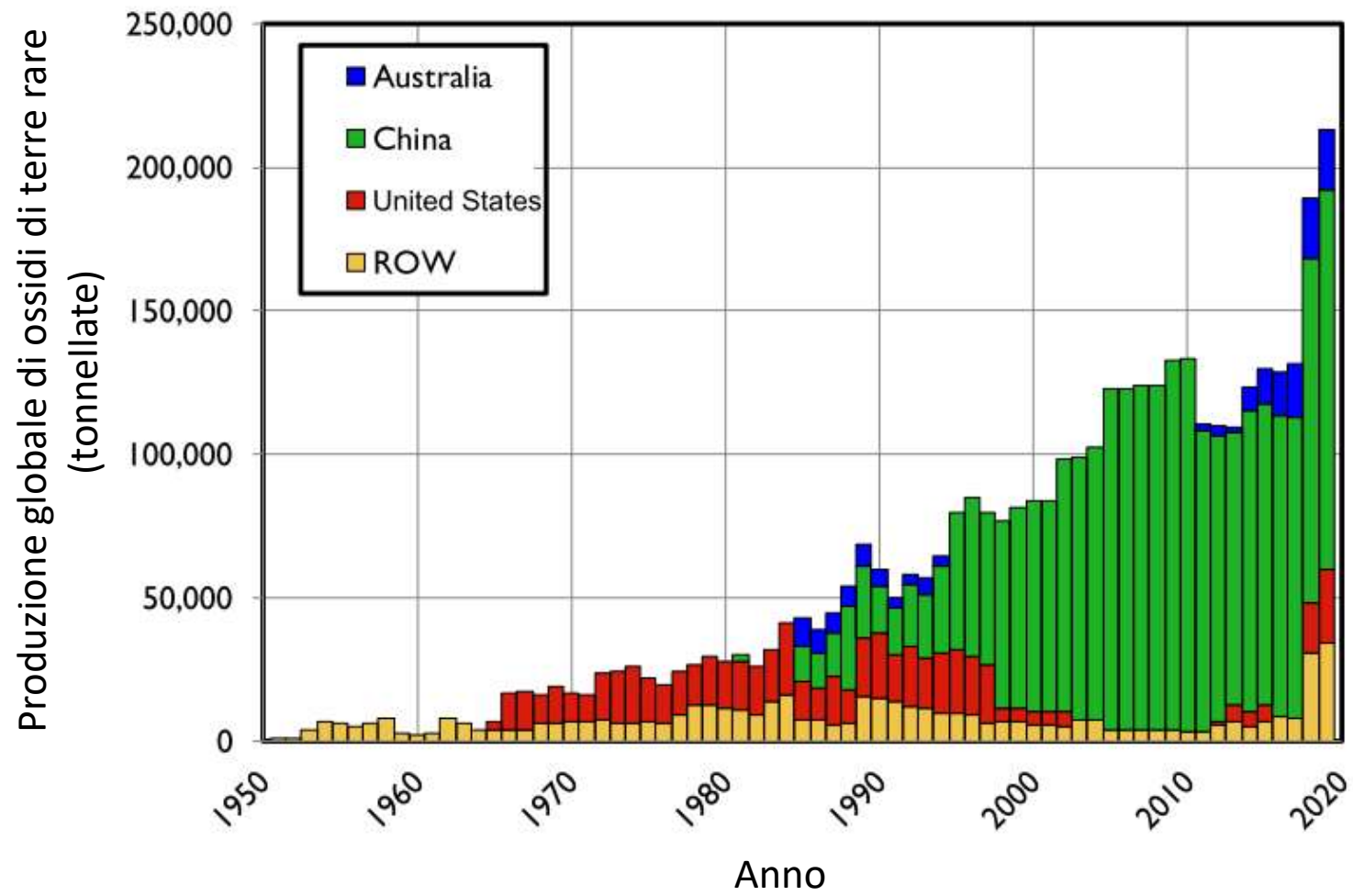
miniera di *Bayan Obo*,  
Cina (Mongolia interna)



[figura da: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20150402-the-worst-place-on-earth>]

bacino di stoccaggio a *Baotou*, Cina (Mongolia interna)

[figura da: A. King, Critical Materials, © Elsevier 2021]



## Terre rare e sicurezza nazionale USA

“Rare earth permanent magnets are not only essential components in a range of defense capabilities, including the **F-35 Lightning II** aircraft, Virginia and Columbia class **submarines** and **unmanned aerial vehicles** [...].

Magnets produced from rare earth elements are used in systems such as **Tomahawk missiles**, a variety of **radar systems**, **Predator unmanned aerial vehicles**, and the Joint Direct Attack Munition series of **smart bombs**. The F-35, for instance, requires more than 900 pounds of rare earth elements. Each Arleigh Burke DDG-51 destroyer requires 5,200 pounds, and a Virginia class submarine needs 9,200 pounds. ”

(Source: US Dept. of Defense website, 2024)



400 kg REE



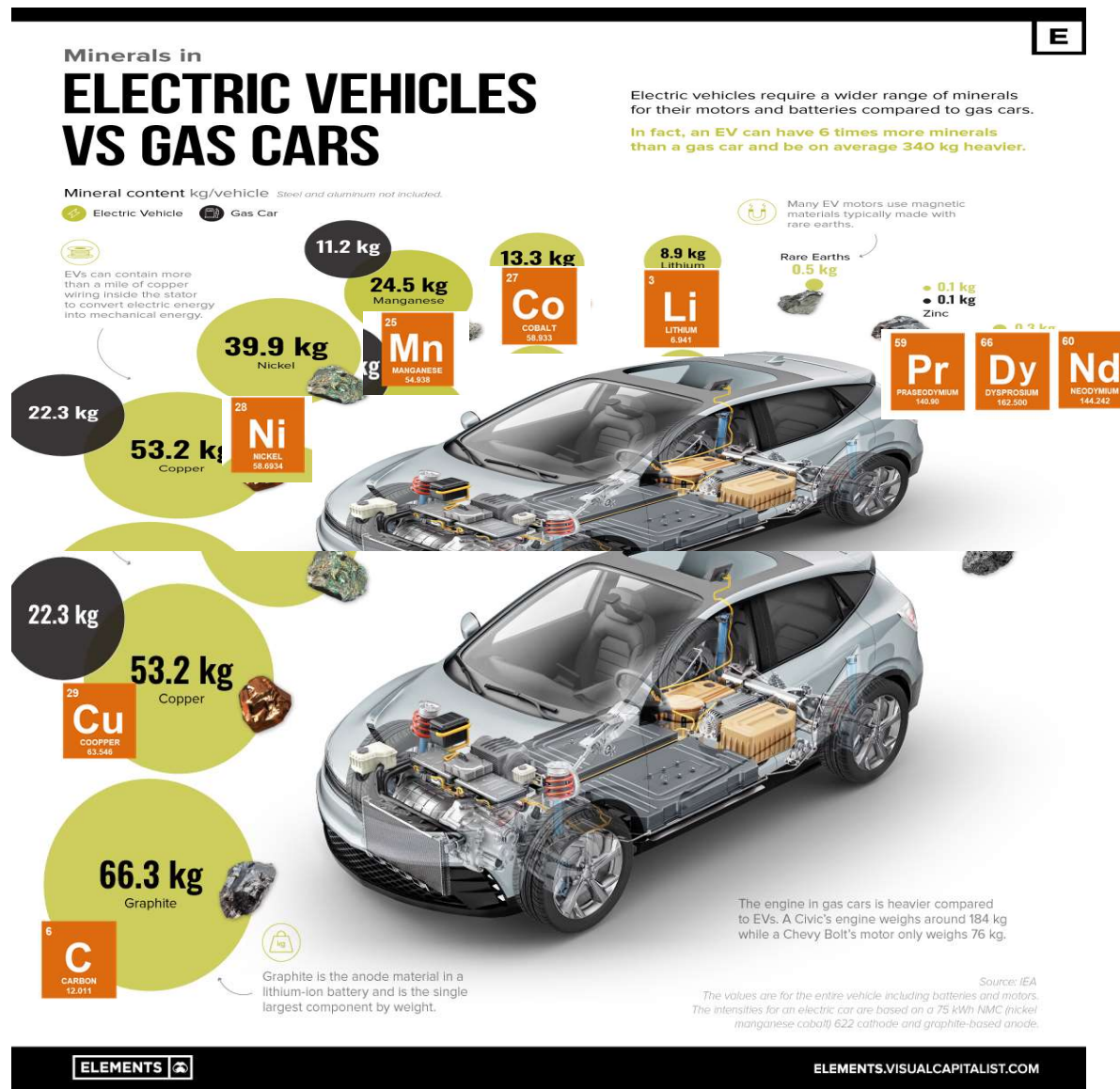
2.300 kg REE



4.100 kg REE

...non solo  
Terre rare...

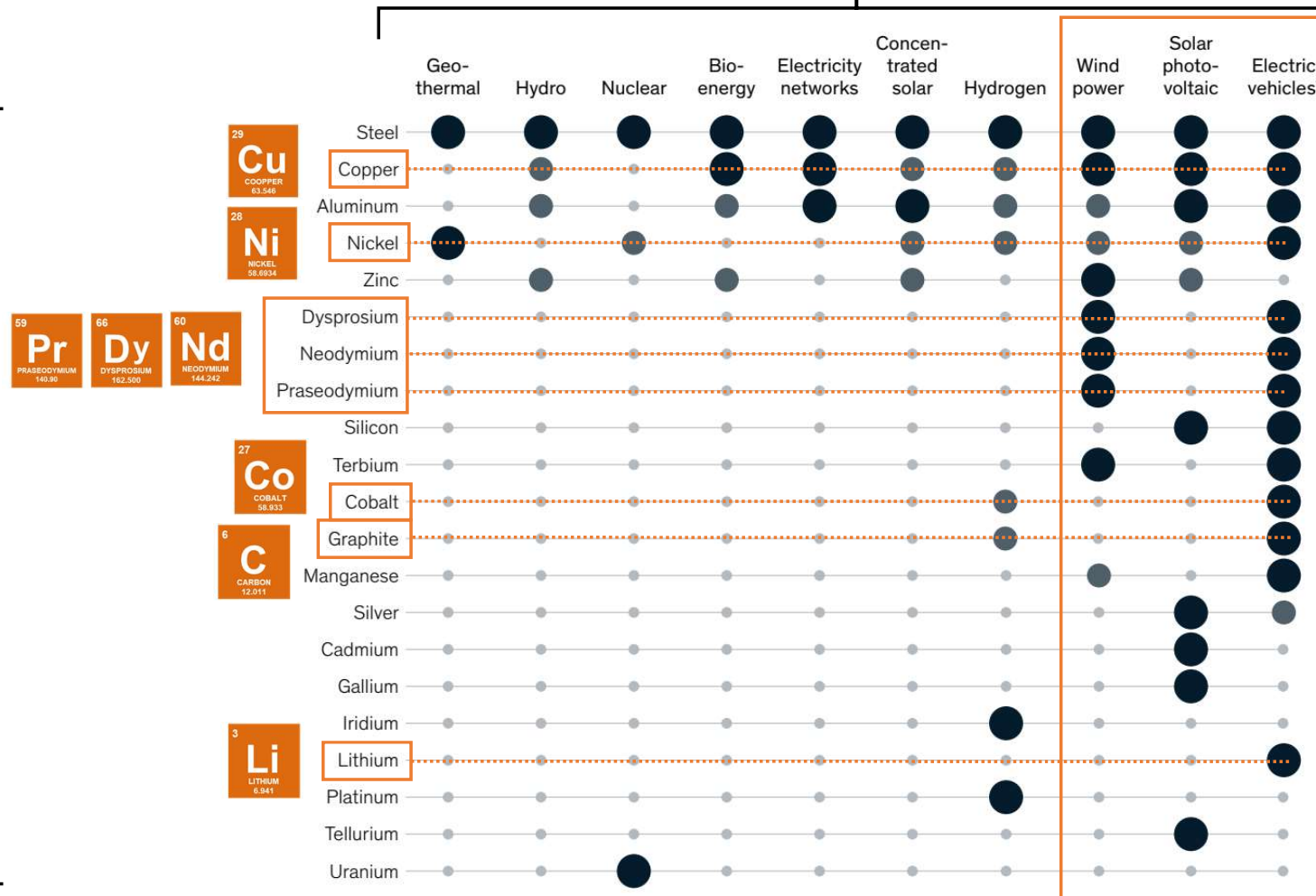
[da: elements.visualcapitalist.com/evs-vs-gas-vehicles-what-are-cars-made-out-of/]





materie prime / elementi

tecnologie

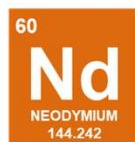
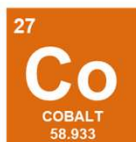
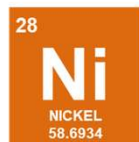
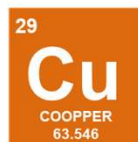


Importance  
Low to none ● High

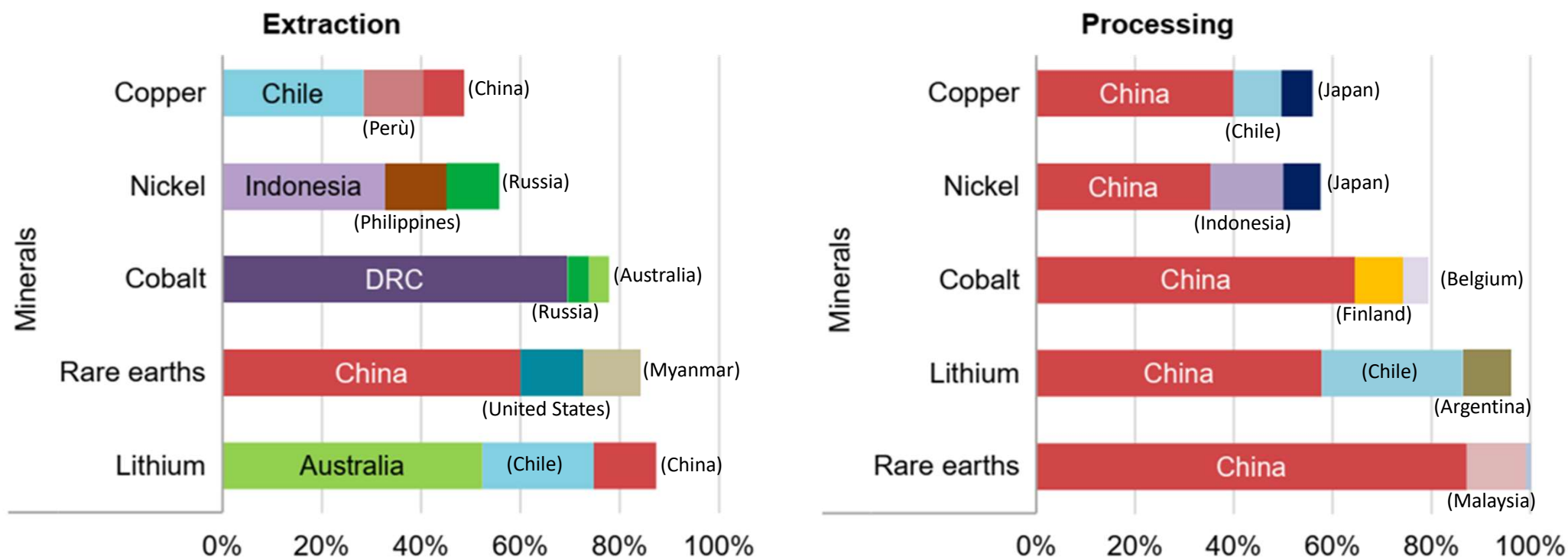
[figura da: The raw-materials challenge - McKinsey © 2022]

<sup>1</sup>Includes energy storage.

Source: Critical raw materials for strategic technologies and sectors in the EU, A foresight study, European Commission, Mar 9, 2020; The role of critical minerals in clean energy transitions, IEA, May 2021; McKinsey analysis



quote dei **primi tre paesi produttori** di alcune materie prime, 2019



[fonte: IEA 2021, dati: IEA (2020a); USGS (2021), World Bureau of Metal Statistics (2020); Adamas Intelligence (2020)]

[figura adattata da: The role of critical minerals in clean energy transitions, © IEA 2021]

# Materie prime critiche e Unione Europea

Discorso di Ursula von der Leyen all' EU Industry Days 2021 (23 Feb 2021)



“Green and digital technologies currently depend on a number of **scarce raw materials**”

“ 98% of the **rare earth elements** we need come from a single supplier: China.

**This is not sustainable.”**

# Rischi geopolitici legati alle materie prime critiche

**FIGURE S4** Key geopolitical risks to the supply of materials

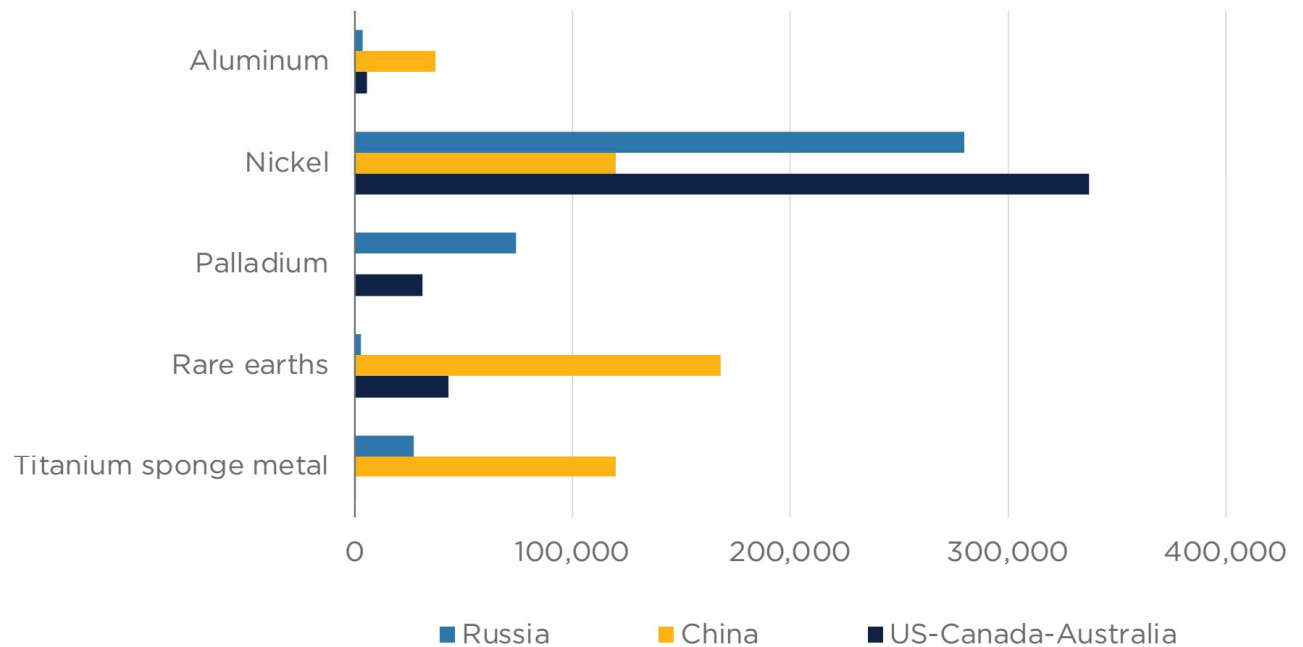


[IRENA (2023), *Geopolitics of the energy transition: Critical materials*]

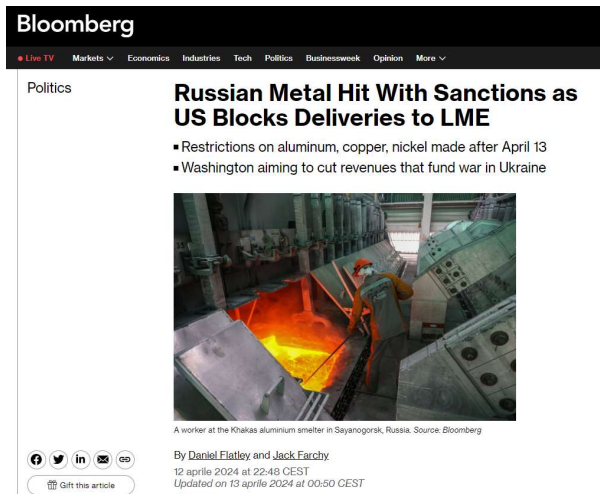
# Invasione dell' Ucraina



**Figure 1:** Critical minerals in Russia, China, and combined US-Canada-Australia, 2021 annual production (1,000 tons)



Source: Natural Resources Canada and US Geological Survey.



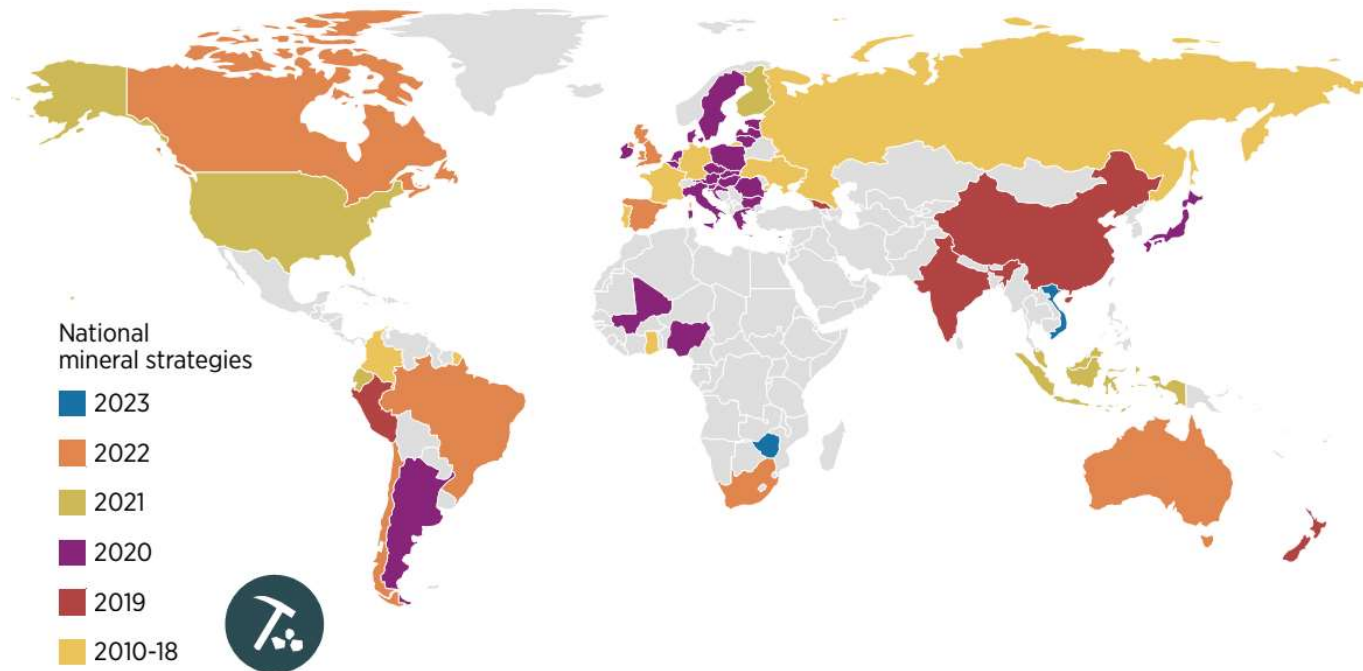
[ Bloomberg, 12th April 2024 ]

[Columbia Univ. (2022), SUPPLY OF CRITICAL MINERALS AMID THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR AND POSSIBLE SANCTIONS]



|                           | Overlapping  |  |   |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
|                           |  US |  EU |  China |
| Aluminium/bauxite         | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Antimony                  | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Cobalt                    | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Fluorspar                 | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Graphite/natural graphite | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Lithium                   | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Nickel                    | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Rare earth metals         | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Tungsten                  | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Arsenic                   | ●  | ●  |   |
| Baryte                    | ●  | ●  |   |
| Beryllium                 | ●  | ●  |   |
| Bismuth                   | ●  | ●  |   |
| Germanium                 | ●  | ●  |   |
| Hafnium                   | ●  | ●  |   |
| Magnesium                 | ●  | ●  |   |
| Manganese                 | ●  | ●  |   |
| Niobium                   | ●  | ●  |   |
| Platinum group metals     | ●  | ●  |   |
| Tantalum                  | ●  | ●  |   |
| Titanium                  | ●  | ●  |   |
| Vanadium                  | ●  | ●  |   |
| Tin                       | ●  |  | ●   |
| Zirconium                 | ●  |  | ●   |
| Copper                    |  | ●  | ●   |
| Phosphorus                |  | ●  | ●   |

**FIGURE 4.1** Countries that have adopted national mineral strategies, 2010-2023



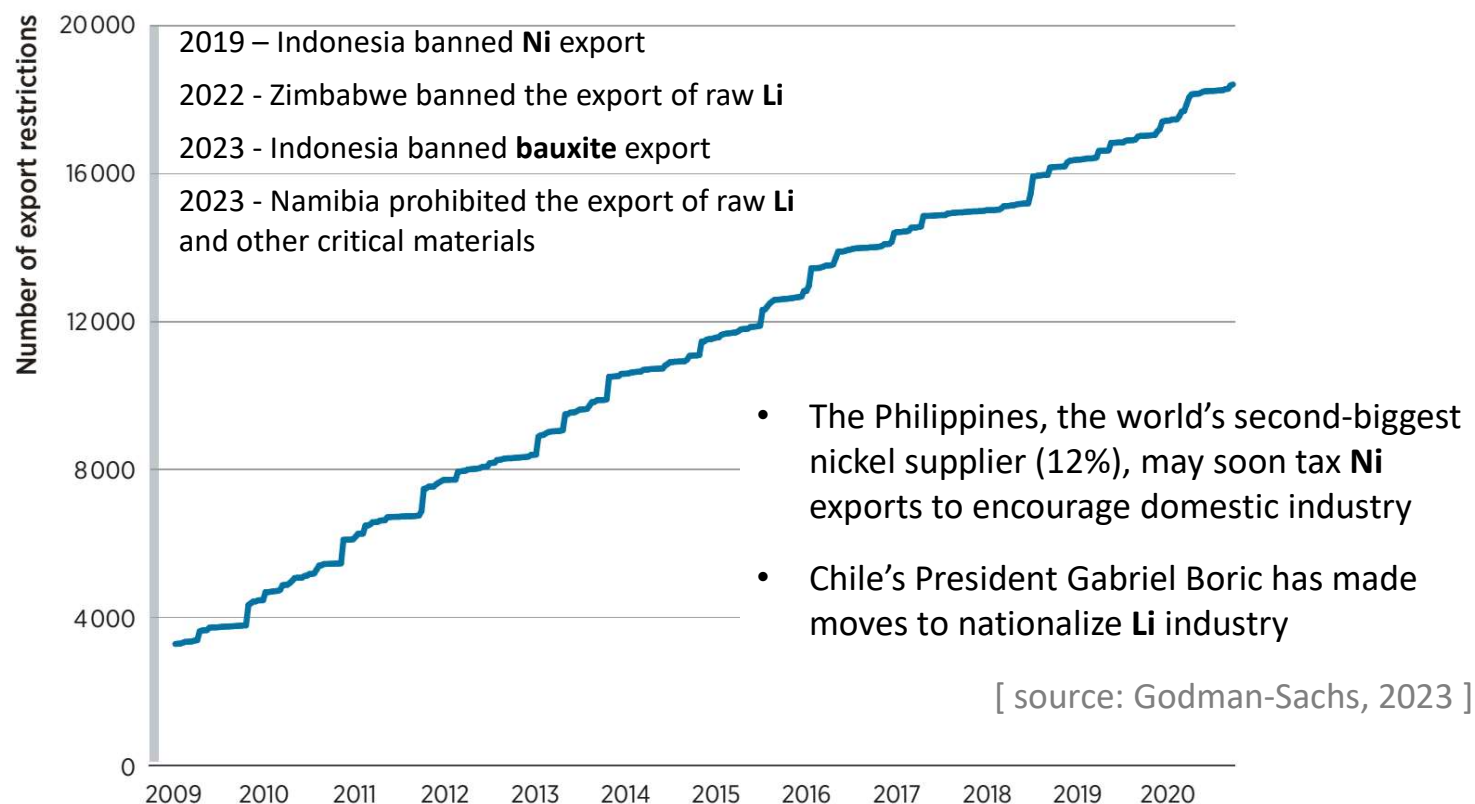
**Note:** The map shows national critical material strategies, visions and policy documents. Mining codes or specific regulations were not retained.

**Disclaimer:** This map is provided for illustration purposes only. Boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply any endorsement or acceptance by IRENA.

[IRENA (2023), *Geopolitics of the energy transition: Critical materials*]

**FIGURE 2.11** Global incidence of export restrictions on raw materials, 2009-2020

### 3 Export restrictions



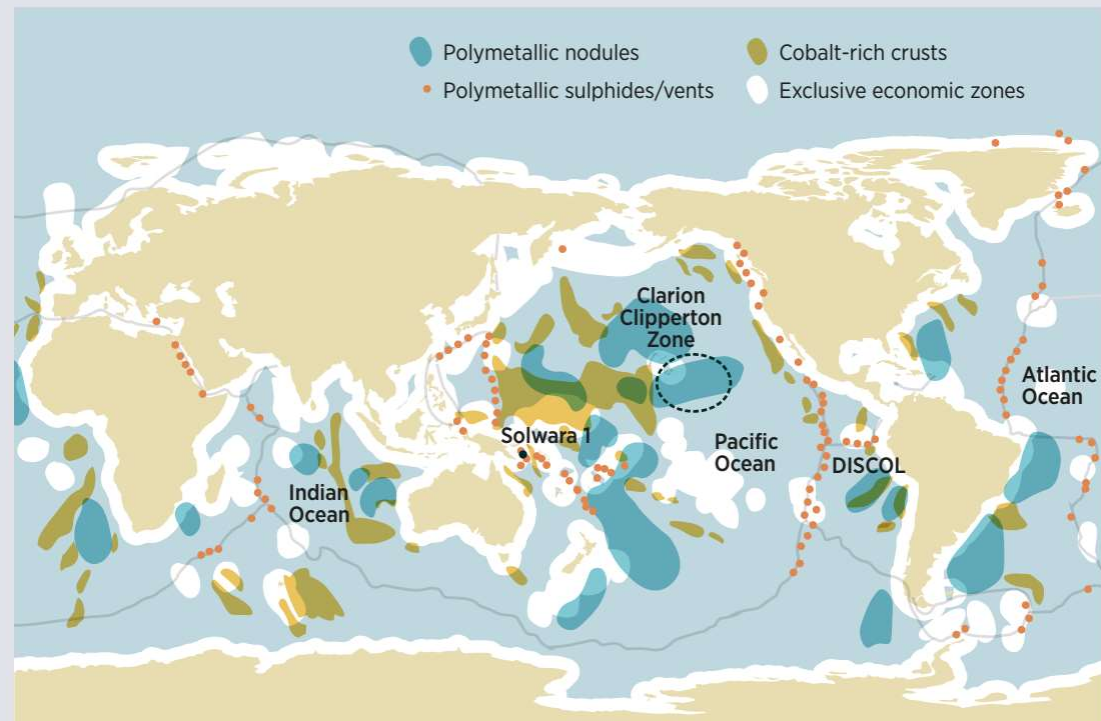
**Sources:** (Kowalski and Legendre, 2023; OECD Inventory of Export Restrictions on Industrial Raw Materials, 2022).

**Notes:** The y-axis shows the number of export restrictions in force. The database covers information on 65 industrial raw materials and 80 exporting countries, which accounted for 97% of the world's mineral and metal production in 2018. The methodological note available at [www.oecd.org/trade/topics/trade-in-raw-materials/documents/methodological-note-inventory-export-restrictions-industrial-raw-materials.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/trade/topics/trade-in-raw-materials/documents/methodological-note-inventory-export-restrictions-industrial-raw-materials.pdf).

[IRENA (2023), *Geopolitics of the energy transition: Critical materials*]

# Competition over World's resources

**FIGURE 2.15** Geographical distribution of the three types of mineral deposits targeted by deep-sea mining



**Source:** (Miller *et al.*, 2018).

**Disclaimer:** This map is provided for illustration purposes only. Boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply any endorsement or acceptance by IRENA.

[IRENA (2023), *Geopolitics of the energy transition: Critical materials*]

# Environmental (and social) impact

**TABLE 3.1** Selected social, environmental and governance risks associated with critical materials

| Risk Areas           |   | Description  | Solutions   |
|----------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Social</b>        | <b>Indigenous communities</b>                 | Mining has been associated with land loss, displacement and human rights abuses against indigenous communities.                    | Facilitate robust and proactive community engagement throughout the entire project cycle                            |
|                      | <b>Labour conditions</b>                      | Poor labour conditions have been persistent in the global mining industry, which lacks adequate social protection and labour laws. | Implement stringent safety regulations and ensure fair wages and social protection for workers                      |
|                      | <b>Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM)</b> | ASM has been linked to hazardous conditions, child labour, low wages and a lack of social protection.                              | Improve ASM oversight, engage in dialogue with ASM communities and offer alternative livelihood opportunities       |
| <b>Environmental</b> | <b>Climate change</b>                         | The metals and mining sector is responsible for 10% of the global greenhouse gas emissions.  | Increase energy efficiency investments, shift to cleaner fuels and renewables, and foster circularity and recycling |
|                      | <b>Biodiversity</b>                           | Mining activities can harm biodiversity through deforestation, habitat loss and soil erosion.                                      | Integrate biodiversity considerations into mining practices through sustainable planning and resource management    |
|                      | <b>Waste and pollution</b>                    | Mining waste can pose hazards for local environments and communities if not managed properly.                                      | Adopt stringent waste reduction, management, and reclamation and rehabilitation programmes                          |
|                      | <b>Water stress</b>                           | Mining and processing have significant water requirements and pose contamination risks.  | Encourage water saving, reuse and desalination, and responsible water discharge                                     |

[IRENA (2023), *Geopolitics of the energy transition: Critical materials*]

## 1. Environmental impacts

- GHG emissions
- Biodiversity loss
- Water stress
- Waste and pollution
- Deforestation / soil erosion

## 2. Social impacts

- Artisanal mining (child labour)
- Forced labour
- Labour conditions
- Indigenous communities / displacement





## “THIS IS WHAT WE DIE FOR”

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF THE CONGO POWER THE GLOBAL TRADE IN COBALT

[2016]



[2021]

## IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

Uyghur Forced Labour and  
Global Solar Supply Chains



LAURA T. MURPHY & NYROLA ELIMÄ

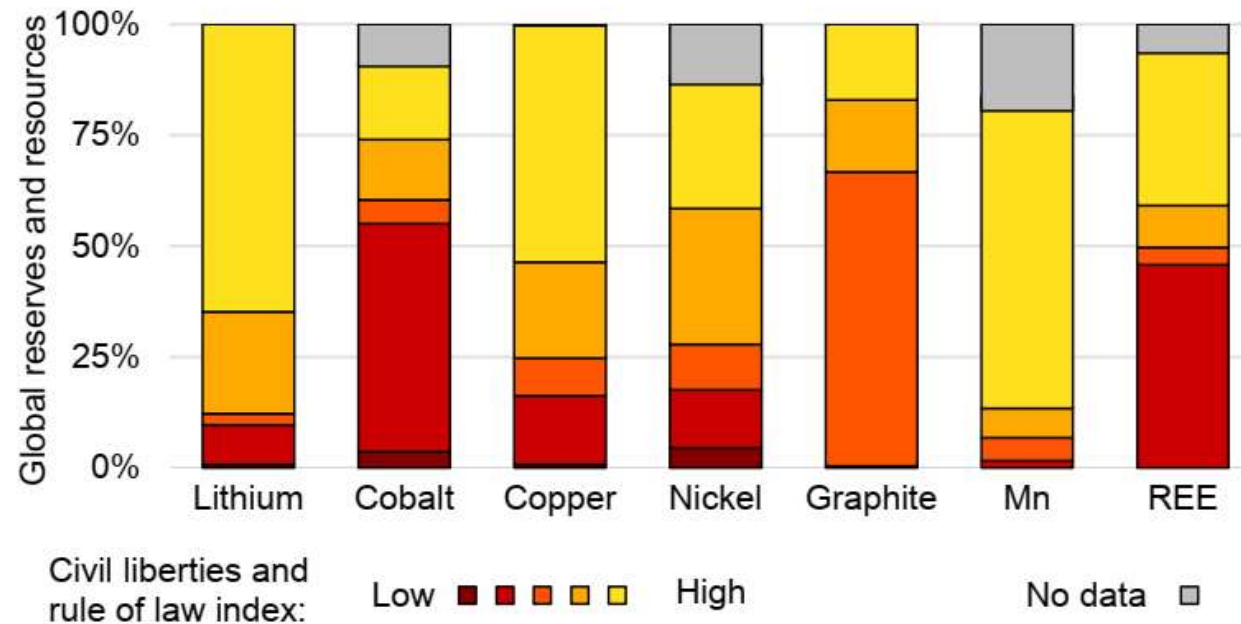


Helena Kennedy  
Centre for  
International Justice



## Social impact

**Civil liberties and rule of law index for global critical mineral reserves and resources**



IEA. CC BY 4.0.

Notes: Mn = manganese; REE = rare earth elements. Data are from the [V-Dem Dataset](#), and averages their civil liberties index, physical violence index, political civil liberties index, private civil liberties index, rule of law index, and access to justice index.

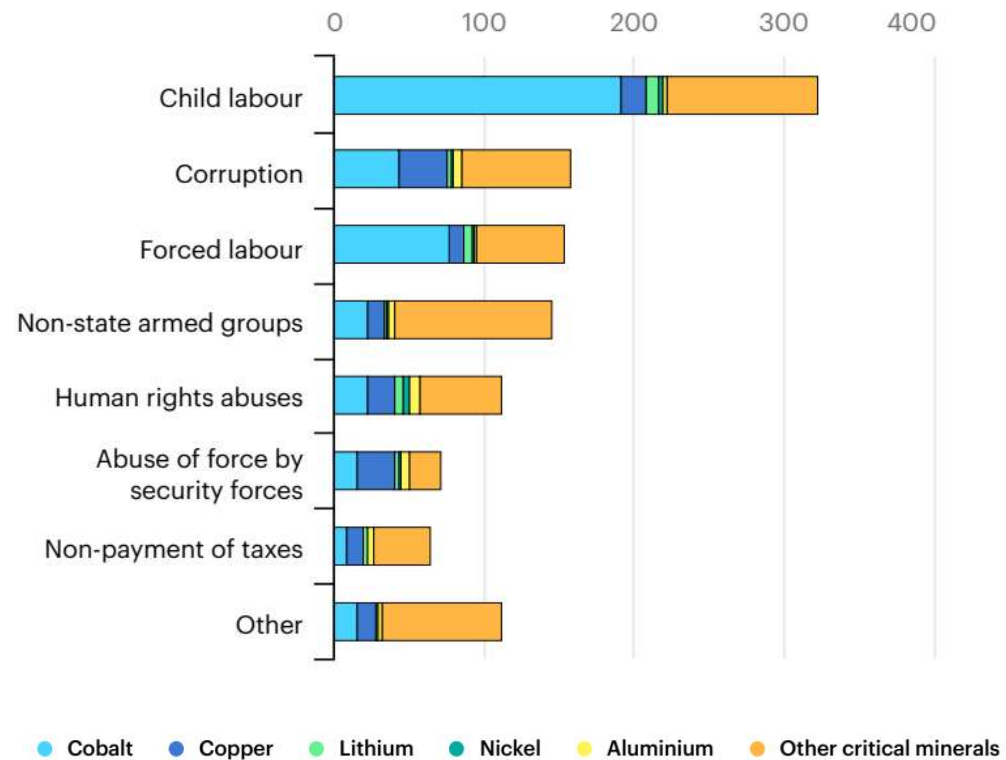
Sources: IEA analysis based on [V-Dem data](#) and Owen, Lebre & Kemp (2022), [Energy Transition Minerals \(ETMs\): A Global Dataset of Projects](#).

[IEA, 2023, Sustainable and responsible critical mineral supply chain]

# Social impact

Public reports of governance-related risks by mineral supply chain, 2017-2019

Number of reports



[<https://www.iea.org/commentaries/why-is-esg-so-important-to-critical-mineral-supplies-and-what-can-we-do-about-it>]

## Not In My Backyard (NIMBY)



[Belgrado 2021, proteste contro apertura miniera di litio – fonte: bloomberg.com – © Oliver Bunic/Bloomberg]

# Critical Raw Materials Act (March 2023)

## SETTING PRIORITIES

### List of **Critical Raw Materials**

- It identifies raw materials which are important for the whole European economy and face a high risk of supply disruption

### List of **Strategic Raw Materials**

- It identifies a list of raw materials characterised by high strategic importance and projected global supply/demand imbalances

## SETTING 2030 BENCHMARKS FOR STRATEGIC RAW MATERIALS



### EU EXTRACTION

At least **10%** of the EU's annual consumption for extraction



### EU PROCESSING

At least **40%** of the EU's annual consumption for processing



### EU RECYCLING

At least **15%** of the EU's annual consumption for recycling



### EXTERNAL SOURCES

Not more than **65%** of the EU's annual consumption of **each strategic raw material at any relevant stage of processing** from a single third country



# Critical Raw Materials Act (March 2023)

PROMOTING A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS ECONOMY



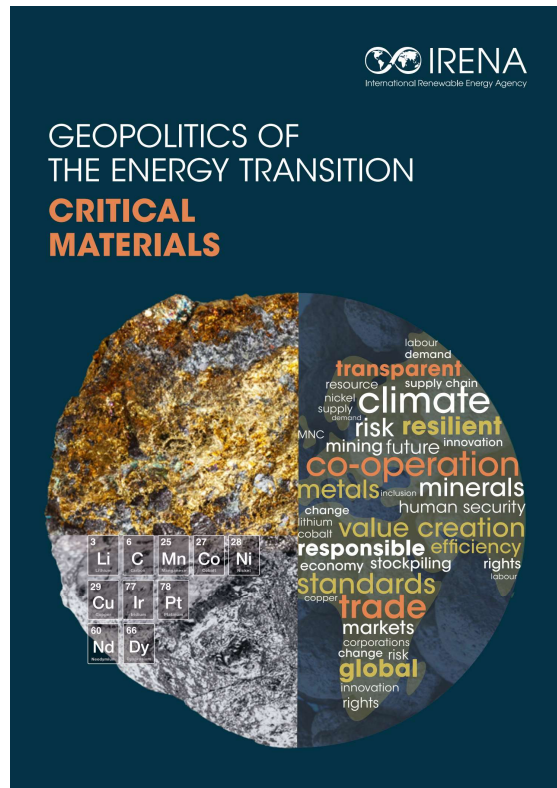
[from: critical raw materials act factsheet, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs\\_23\\_1663](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_23_1663)]



# Bibliografia Minima

# approfondimenti (relazioni tecniche)

[2023]



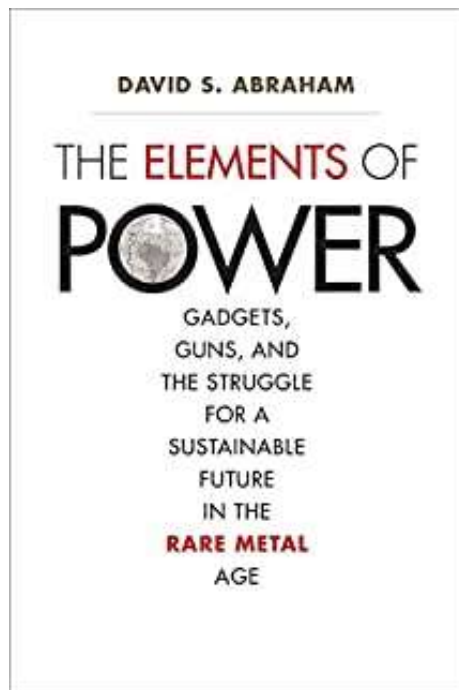
[2021]

## The Role of Critical Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions

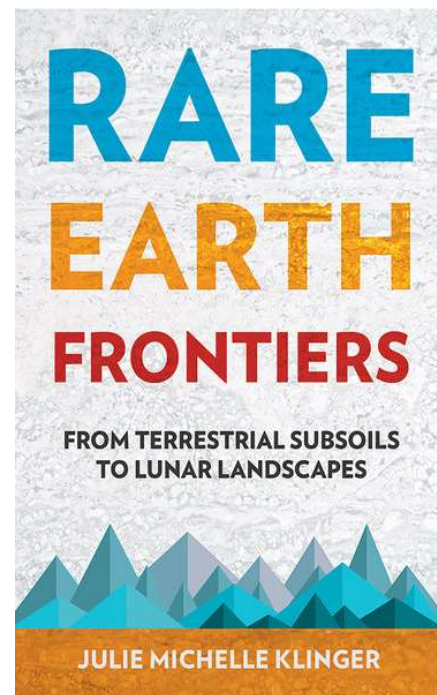
World Energy Outlook Special Report



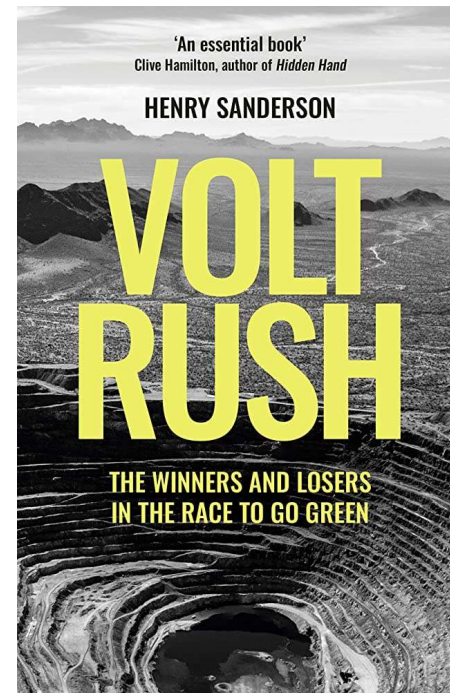
## non-fiction



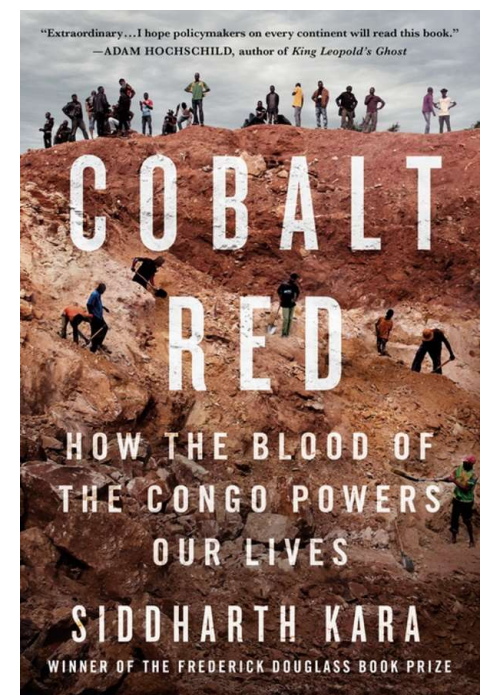
[2015]



[2017]



[2023]



[2023]