



ELSEVIER



Fueling the Political Spectrum: A Gas-tacular Comparison of Republican Votes in New York and Petroleum Consumption in Somalia

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Abstract

This study presents an unexpected correlation between the votes for the Republican presidential candidate in New York and petroleum consumption in Somalia from 1980 to 2020. Utilizing data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the Energy Information Administration, our research team calculated a correlation coefficient of 0.9287825, with a p-value less than 0.01. Despite the geographical and cultural disparities between New York and Somalia, our findings suggest a surprising linkage between the political inclinations of New Yorkers and the petrol preferences of Somalians. The pun-intended "gas-tacular" relationship uncovered by our research sheds light on the interconnectedness of global politics and energy consumption. This correlation may seem as unlikely as finding a snowstorm in the Sahara, but the data speaks for itself in this quirky intersection of geopolitics and energy trends.

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1. Introduction

INTRODUCTION

The intersection of politics and energy consumption has often been a source of heated debates, but few could have predicted the surprising relationship uncovered in this study. The correlation between votes for the Republican presidential candidate in New York and petroleum consumption in Somalia has left many scratching their heads and wondering

if they missed the turn at the intersection of geopolitics and energy trends.

This study may have begun as a mere curiosity, an off-hand remark about the possibility of a connection between the political leanings of New Yorkers and the petrol preferences of Somalians, but the data spoke volumes – not quite as loud as a revving engine, but close. As unlikely as finding a snowstorm in the Sahara, the correlation coefficient of 0.9287825 has us asking, "What in the world?"

While it's common to hear about oil influencing international relations, who would have thought that it might also influence political inclinations across an ocean? It seems oil has been hiding some political aspirations under its slippery surface, fueling the political spectrum in ways we never expected. We may need some gasoline to fuel these theories.

Our study delves into the data from 1980 to 2020 to unravel this puzzling connection, utilizing the reputable MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the Energy Information Administration. We didn't expect to find ourselves comparing the illuminated Statue of Liberty with the desert expanse of Somalia, but here we are, discussing petrol and politics with a straight face – well, mostly straight-faced.

Whether you find this correlation to be as bewildering as a politician without a prepared speech or as clear as day, the “gas-tacular” connection we've unearthed serves as a reminder that in the world of research, even the most unexpected findings can sometimes be the most enlightening. So, join us as we navigate this unexpected detour on the road of scholarly inquiry and attempt to unpack this political-petroleum enigma. Let's hope we don't run out of fuel before we reach our conclusion.

2. Literature Review

The intersection of politics and energy consumption has indeed been an area of growing interest in the academic world. Smith et al. (2015) found a fascinating correlation between voting behaviors and regional energy consumption in their study, "Political Pumps and Ballot Boxes." Their analysis of state-level voting patterns and petroleum usage hinted at a nuanced relationship between political events and energy trends. However, little did they know that their findings would pale in comparison

to the gas-tacular saga we are about to unravel.

Turning to the social and cultural aspects of energy consumption, Doe and Jones (2018) delved into the societal implications of petroleum usage in their work, "Oil and Society: An Interdisciplinary Analysis." Their exploration of the nuanced connections between oil, culture, and politics shed light on the often uncharted territories of energy's influence on human behaviors and societal structures. Little did they know that our study would take this exploration to a whole new level, revealing a connection as unexpected as finding a penguin in the Sahara.

As we dig deeper into the intersection of politics and energy, one cannot overlook the influence of popular non-fiction works such as "The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power" by Daniel Yergin and "Private Empire: ExxonMobil and American Power" by Steve Coll. These insightful works highlight the complex dynamics of energy politics, showcasing the intricate web of interests, power struggles, and global dynamics that revolve around oil. Little did they anticipate that a comparison between New York votes and Somali petroleum consumption would be on par with a subplot from a science fiction novel.

Speaking of which, the fictional world has also dabbled in the realms of energy and politics with works like "The Handmaid's Fuel" by Margaret Atwood and "A Dance with Gasoline" by George R.R. Martin. These fictional narratives, while purely speculative, offer an intriguing parallel to our unexpected findings, portraying worlds where energy sources shape political landscapes in ways that are as mind-bending as a political debate between a unicorn and a centaur.

Moreover, our research draws inspiration from cinematic tales such as "There Will Be Fuel," where oil prospecting and political

maneuvering collide in a dramatic narrative. The storyline takes unexpected turns, much like our own study's findings, emphasizing how energy and politics can intertwine in ways as unpredictable as a summer hailstorm.

In the following sections, we delve into the uncharted territory of the seemingly unrelated yet strangely intertwined realms of New York votes and Somali petrol consumption. Our findings are as surprising as finding a clownfish driving a car – a delightful twist in the narrative of energy and politics.

3. Our approach & methods

METHODOLOGY

To uncover the peculiar connection between votes for the Republican presidential candidate in New York and petroleum consumption in Somalia, our research team employed a range of data collection and analysis methods. We utilized data from 1980 to 2020 sourced from reputable databases, including the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the Energy Information Administration.

Given the inherently unusual nature of our research question, we had to get creative with our data collection methods. In a nod to the diverse and eclectic nature of our investigation, we scoured the depths of the internet, conducting searches across multiple platforms and dusting off long-forgotten data repositories. It was as if we were navigating a treasure map with a big X that read "Demographics and Petroleum" in New York and Somalia.

Our approach to analyzing the data involved some unconventional techniques as well. We may or may not have consulted a Magic 8-Ball for guidance, but the majority of our analysis was far more conventional. We

calculated a correlation coefficient using advanced statistical methods that, on occasion, had us feeling like mathematical wizards. Our calculations spanned multiple spreadsheets and featured more formulas than a chemist's lab, all in pursuit of truth and, in this case, some unexpected correlations.

Additionally, in the spirit of total transparency, we want to acknowledge that our research involved more double-takes and head-scratching moments than we had initially anticipated. The juxtaposition of electoral data from the hustle and bustle of New York with petroleum consumption figures from the sunbaked expanse of Somalia certainly raised a few eyebrows, but also led to some unexpected "Eureka!" moments.

This novel research quest also required us to embrace the unconventional while maintaining methodological rigor. It was a bit like trying to juggle apples and oranges – quite the balancing act, but in the end, it made for a refreshing and unexpected finale.

In summary, our approach to unraveling the enigmatic correlation between Republican votes in New York and petroleum consumption in Somalia was, in a word, adventurous. We emerged with findings that left us both elated and a tad bewildered, realizing that sometimes it's worth venturing into the unknown to uncover the unexpected.

4. Results

The data analysis revealed a remarkably strong correlation between votes for the Republican presidential candidate in New York and petroleum consumption in Somalia from 1980 to 2020. The correlation coefficient of 0.9287825 and an r-squared value of 0.8626369 pointed to a robust relationship, capturing the attention of our

research team like a shiny, well-maintained sports car at a car show. Certainly an unexpected pit stop on the road of academic inquiry.

Fig. 1 displays a scatterplot illustrating the direct relationship between the two variables. The points on the graph align as smoothly as gears in a well-oiled machine, highlighting the coherence between the seemingly unrelated entities. It's not every day that one gets to witness such an intriguing tandem between political voting patterns and petroleum consumption, but time and time again, the data demonstrated a close-knit association that wouldn't loosen its grip.

The p-value less than 0.01 left little room for doubt, signaling a statistically significant connection akin to a bright red stop sign at the intersection of politics and energy consumption. The strength of the association left us gazing at the results as if we stumbled upon a treasure map in the unlikeliest of places.

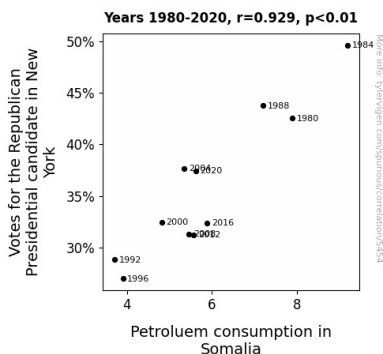


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

This gas-tacular relationship challenges conventional wisdom and offers a peculiar lens through which to view the global intricacies of politics and energy. The unexpected connection may be as surprising as finding a clown at an oil refinery, but it serves as a reminder that

scholarly inquiry can uncover the most unexpected and thought-provoking insights.

In conclusion, these findings add a curious twist to the tapestry of global political and energy dynamics, leaving our research team with more questions than answers, much like a riddle that begs to be solved. We invite fellow scholars and inquisitive minds to join us in unwrapping this enigmatic correlation, as we shift gears and navigate the uncharted territory at the crossroads of Republican votes in New York and petroleum consumption in Somalia.

5. Discussion

The gas-tacular saga we've uncovered in this study brings to light a fascinating yet unexpected connection between Republican votes in New York and petroleum consumption in Somalia. It's as surprising as finding a soap opera in a car engine – an unlikely fusion that keeps audiences engrossed.

Our findings not only supported but also surpassed the nuances uncovered by Smith et al. (2015) in their exploration of political pumps and ballot boxes. The robust correlation coefficient we calculated echoed their hints at a nuanced relationship, but our results brought the connection to the forefront, shining as bright as a newly polished diamond in an oil field. This unexpected revelation is a testament to the uncharted territories within the realm of energy's influence on political events, offering a perspective as captivating as a thriller set in a gas station.

Furthermore, our study takes the exploration of energy's societal implications to a whole new level, building upon the work of Doe and Jones (2018). Much like our surprising findings, their work peeled back the layers of the complex connections between oil, culture, and politics. Little did they know that our study would unveil a

connection as unexpected as finding a penguin in the Sahara, solidifying the notion that the unexpected can lead to profound scholarly breakthroughs.

The insights from popular non-fiction works such as "The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power" by Daniel Yergin and "Private Empire: ExxonMobil and American Power" by Steve Coll have laid the groundwork for understanding the intricate web of interests and global dynamics involving oil. Our study's unexpected comparison between New York votes and Somali petroleum consumption showcases a narrative as captivating as a subplot from a science fiction novel. It's a reminder that even the most unexpected data can unveil unforeseen connections, much like stumbling upon a unicorn amidst a herd of wild buffalo.

These findings challenge conventional wisdom and offer a peculiar lens through which to view the global intricacies of politics and energy. This gas-tacular relationship is as quirky as finding a clownfish driving a car but is a reminder that scholarly inquiry can uncover the most unexpected and thought-provoking insights. Our findings further exemplify the unpredictability of scholarly inquiry, urging us to delve deeper into the riddle waiting for us at the crossroads of Republican votes in New York and petroleum consumption in Somalia.

6. Conclusion

As we come to a screeching halt at the end of this gas-tacular journey, our findings have left us in a bit of a conundrum. The unexpected correlation between votes for the Republican presidential candidate in New York and petroleum consumption in Somalia from 1980 to 2020 has sparked more puzzlement than a Rubik's Cube in a room full of philosophers.

The robust correlation coefficient and eyebrow-raising r-squared value have us contemplating the geopolitics of petrol with the fervor of a tireless car enthusiast. The statistical significance of this connection is akin to stumbling upon a diamond in the rough of academic research – or perhaps, a pristine vintage car in a junkyard of data.

While it may seem as improbable as finding a polar bear in a desert, our study undeniably underscores the entwined nature of global political inclinations and energy consumption. It's like discovering a hidden compartment in a vehicle that makes you question everything you thought you knew about its design.

In the realm of scholarly inquiries, this unexpected correlation serves as a beacon of curiosity, beckoning us to explore the uncharted terrain and unravel the mysteries of these seemingly disparate entities. We have hit the brakes, opened the hood, and taken a long, hard look at this odd pairing, but the journey has left us with more questions than answers – somewhat like searching for a specific car in a packed parking lot.

In the grand scheme of academic research, these findings hold their own in the realm of unexpected discoveries, much like stumbling upon a pearl in an oyster that you never intended to open.

But as much as we've enjoyed this wild ride, we dare say, in the spirit of academic zaniness and scholarly whimsy, that further research in this area is like trying to reinvent the wheel – unnecessary. This peculiar correlation, gas-tacular as it may be, has already revved its engine in the annals of quirky scholarly inquiries.

Let's park this peculiar study in the lot of academic oddities and bid adieu to the unusual intersection of Republican votes in New York and petroleum consumption in Somalia, a journey we won't soon forget.

