World raw steel production 1970/1981

By the Raw Materials Group

During 1981 and 1982 world output from iron ore mines and steelworks have fallen to their lowest levels since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

However, seen in a longer perspective this development has been very uneven. Important changes in the relative strength of different countries, regions and companies have taken place.

The Raw Materials Group has put together basic data on the structural changes in the steel industry, changes that will have far-reaching economic and political consequences in the coming decades.

World raw steel production 1970/81 (in kt)

	1981	Share in % 1970	1981
A. Industrialized capitalist countries	**399 051**	**66.79**	**56.19**
Australia & Oceania	*7 870*	*1.16*	*1.10*
Australia	7 635	1.13	1.07
New Zealand	235	0.03	0.03
Europe	*154 499*	*26.79*	*21.76*
a. EEC	126 043	23.16	17.74
Federal Republic of Germany	41 610	7.56	5.86
France	21 124	3.99	2.97
Great Britain	15 487	4.75	2.18
Italy	24 730	2.90	3.48
Other EEC	24 000	3.96	3.25
b. Other Europe	28 456	3.63	4.02
South Africa	*8 815*	*0.80*	*1.24*
Asia	*101 787*	*15.67*	*14.33*
Japan	101 667	15.66	14.31
North America	*126 200*	*22.37*	*17.76*
Canada	14 800	1.88	2.08
USA	111 400	20.49	15.68
B. "Third world"	**57 202**	**3.64**	**8.05**
Africa	*2 422*	*0.14*	*0.34*
Algeria	550	0.01	0.08
Egypt	800	0.04	0.11
Zimbabwe	650	0.06	0.09
Others	422	0.03	0.06
Asia	*27 913*	*1.31*	*3.93*
India	10 537	1.05	1.48
South Korea	10 757	0.08	1.51
Others	6 619	0.18	0.94
Latin America	*26 867*	*2.19*	*3.78*
Brazil	13 215	0.90	1.86
Mexico	7 600	0.65	1.07
Others	6 052	0.64	0.85
C. Socialist countries	**254 200**	**29.57**	**35.76**
Soviet Union	150 000	19.44	21.11
Peoples Republic of China	35 600	2.63	5.01
Others	68 600	7.50	9.64
World Total:	**710 700**	**100**	**100**

Source:
Stahl und Eisen, Vol 102 (1982), No 7

The 20 largest steel companies in 1970 and 1981

(production in Mt and share of world production, incl. centrally planned economies)

1970			1981		
Company	**Production**		**Company**	**Production**	
	Mt	%		**Mt**	%
Nippon Steel	33.6	5.6	Nippon Steel	32.9	4.7
US Steel	28.5	4.8	US Steel	21.2	3.0
BSC	25.6	4.3	Bethlehem	15.2	2.1
Bethlehem	18.7	3.1	NKK-group	14.6	2.0
NKK-group	12.9	2.2	Finsider-group	13.9	2.0
Thyssen	12.7	2.1	BSC	13.2	1.9
Sumitomo	11.2	1.9	Thyssen	11.8	1.7
Kawasaki-group	11.0	1.8	Kawasaki-group	11.4	1.6
Finsider-group	9.7	1.6	Sumitomo	11.4	1.6
Republic Steel	8.7	1.5	ARBED-group	11.0	1.6
Wendel-Sidelor	8.2	1.4	Estel	9.9	1.4
Usinor-group	8.0	1.3	Jones & Laughlin	9.9	1.4
National Steel (US)	7.6	1.3	Usinor-group	9.8	1.4
Armco	7.2	1.2	Posco	8.7	1.2
BHP	6.9	1.2	Republic Steel	8.6	1.2
Hoesch-group	6.8	1.1	Sacilor-group	8.0	1.1
Inland Steel	6.4	1.1	Siderbras-group	7.7	1.1
Jones & Laughlin	6.3	1.1	BHP	7.5	1.1
Cockerill	6.1	1.0	Armco	7.4	1.1
ARBED-group	4.9	0.8	National Steel (US)	7.4	1.1
Total 20 companies	**241.0**	**40.4**	**Total 20 companies**	**241.5**	**34.1**
World Production	**597.1**		**World Production**	**707.3**	

Sources:
IBRD Staff Working Paper No 160, Aug 1973, Metal Bulletin Monthly, April 1982.

The two tables and the chart clearly indicate the dramatic changes that have taken place: production of crude steel has *decreased* in the developed capitalist countries from 403 Mt in 1972 to 399 Mt in 1981. During the same period production in the "third world" increased, from 31 Mt to 65 Mt, a rise of 52 per cent.

The most important relative change within the developed capitalist world is the falling production in North America. This is clearly reflected in the decline of US steel companies, which have lost their leading position to European and Japanese steel producers. This development is the main cuse of the present trade war over steel exports between the US on one side and the EEC and Japan on the other.

1970:		
7 US companies	83.4	14.0
8 EEC companies	82.0	13.7
4 Japanese companies	68.7	11.5
1 Australian company	6.9	1.2
1981:		
7 EEC companies	77.7	11.0
4 Japanese companies	70.3	9.9
6 US companies	69.7	9.8
1 South Korean comp.	8.7	1.2
1 Brazilian company	7.7	1.1
1 Australian company	7.5	1.1

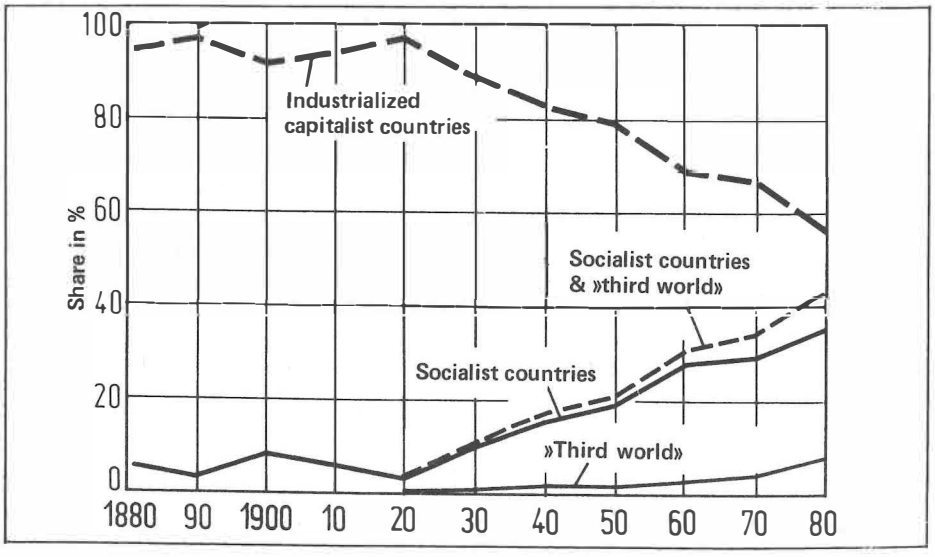

Fig
World production of raw steel 1880 - 1980

Source:
Stahl und Eisen, Vol 102 (1982), No 7