

## China Tightens Grip on Rare Minerals

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China is set to tighten its hammerlock on the market for some of the world's most obscure but valuable minerals. China currently accounts for 93 percent of production of so-called rare earth elements and more than 99 percent of the output for two of these elements, vital for a wide range of green energy technologies and military applications like missiles.

Deng Xiaoping once observed that the Mideast had oil, but China had rare earth elements. As the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has done with oil, China is now starting to flex its muscle.

Even tighter limits on production and exports, part of a plan from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, would ensure China has the supply for its own technological and economic needs, and force more manufacturers to make their wares here in order to have access to the minerals.

Read the entire article by Keith Bardsher at the [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com) website. Published: August 31, 2009