A government’s mission is to help the citizens of its nation by providing resources and help to its people. One way the government gains revenue is by collecting taxes. When a government collects taxes, people hold the government accountable and expect them to spend the money wisely. However, when the government does not collect taxes, the people are less likely to demand accountability and look less closely to where money is spent. The oil curse explores the ideas and reality of how nations with high oil revenue treat their people and how it actually impacts their country. In the Arab Spring when people were rising up and demanding democracy the countries with high amounts of oil had the ability to shut down the protesters and could easily control the situation. However, nations with little oil revenue were more responsive to meeting the people’s demands and wants. In the 1960’s the oil industry became nationalized, being owned by the government, rather than being private sectors. Many governments, including the governments in Central Asia abused the power they had. The BTC pipeline in Asia was owned by the government. One might think the immense money the government was gaining through oil revenue would be helping its citizens, however, this was not the case. The people were deprived of true information regarding the pipeline. Citizens who questioned the pipeline were kidnapped and attacked. Innocent people were being bombed which kept fear in the citizens eyes. The government was focused on monetary gain rather than helping its citizens. The focus on a few people gaining money rather than the citizens is also seen in Africa. The government also did not allow the citizens to know the reality of how much income they were receiving by incorrectly documenting transactions. Money went missing in thin air and is suspected to go to the elite class. The country is split: the wealthy and poor. The money from oil is paid to the state which goes to 100 elite families. The rest of the citizens live with no roads, sanitation, or sewers. Not only do governments exploit their citizens by not equally distributing oil revenue, they also exploit the environment. Alaska has experienced so much excess carbon in the air from burning oil that the ice in the arctic has all melted. Polar bears have turned into scavengers, rather than hunters. In Ecuador, Texaco destroyed the land of the native people by not following proper procedures. Oil leaked into the streams and roads which made the wild animals disappear. People got sick from the noise, smoke, and fumes from oil drilling. The oil leakage also can be associated with a cancer cluster. There were dangerous levels of chemicals in the water which hurt both the people and animals. When an oil spill happens in an ocean the damage is irreversible. Animals suffer for many years to come and often times the wildlife will never be the same. The oil curse is real and is very evident in multiple countries. The oil companies and government exploits the land and its people. While the oil industry may seem like a positive industry for foreign countries, in reality it is a curse which hurts it’s native people.