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Intro to International Studies

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Commodity Project Handout: Silver in Technology



My commodity: Silver, specifically used in technology like phones, cars, and solar panels

In my project I am focusing specifically on the silver used in smartphones.

Silver is mined all over the world but the top 10 places that produce silver are

1. Mexico
2. Peru
3. China
4. Australia
5. Russia
6. Poland
7. Chile
8. Bolivia
9. Argentina
10. United States

Silver is obtained through extraction from other metals like copper, zinc, and lead. The extraction processes differ depending on the metal from which the silver is being extracted. While silver is used for many good things it can also be harmful to the environment. It causes unnatural erosion, contamination of groundwater and contamination of soil and surface water.