

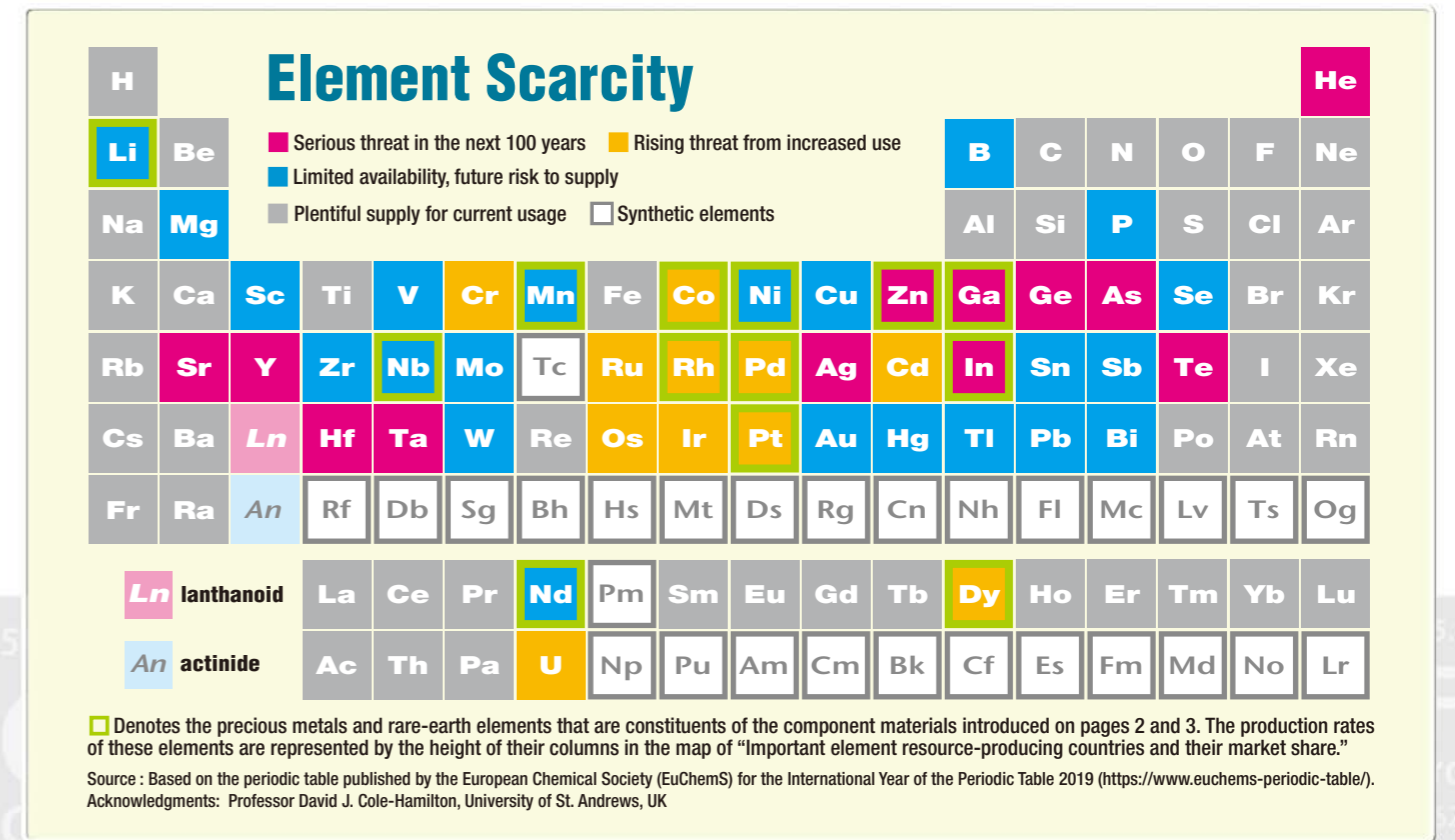
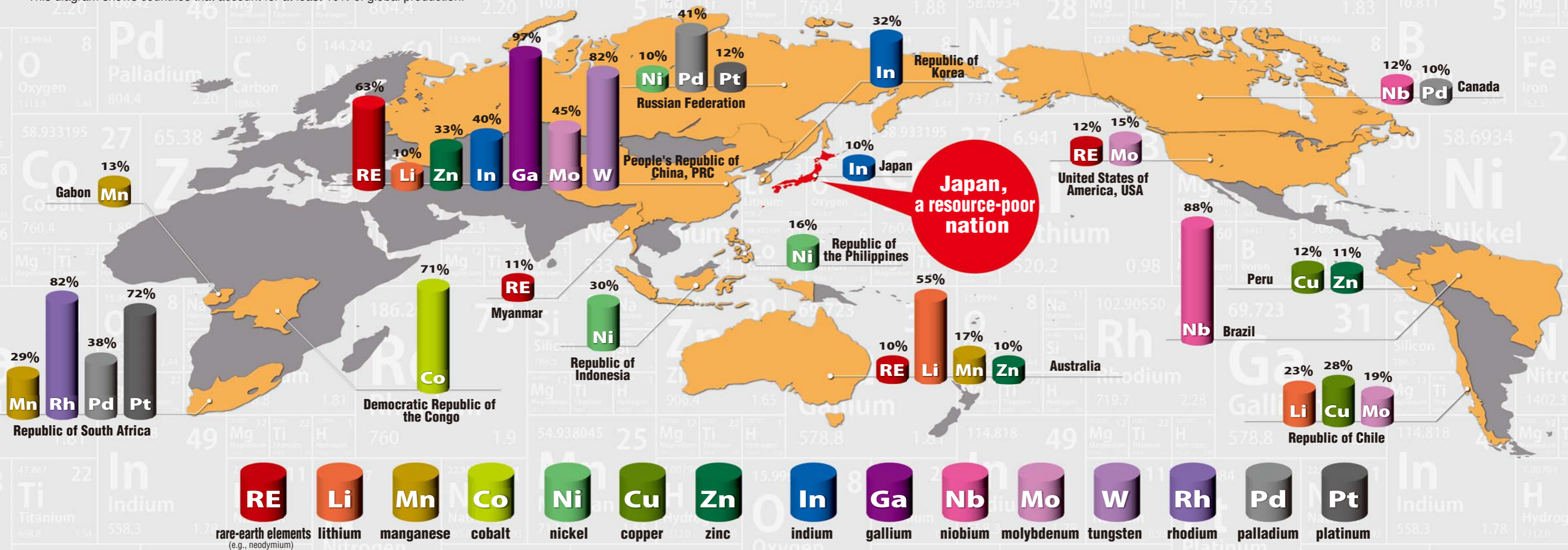
Manufacturing aligned **With the Earth**

The Earth has limited deposits of mineral resources. Yet the demand for critical materials will continue to increase, and there is concern that we will be faced with a shortage of many elements a few decades from now (refer to the chart on the right). Moreover, mineral resources cannot be produced anywhere on Earth as their reserves are severely unbalanced regionally (see the lower diagram).

Balancing the supply and demand of mineral resources is a challenge the entire world now faces. Solving this problem will require developing technologies for the global circulation of resources and innovative uses for elements that do not impact the environment.

Important mineral-producing countries and their market share

This diagram shows countries that account for at least 10% of global production.



Sources: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) "Mineral Commodity Summaries 2020" and the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) "Material Flow of Mineral Resources 2019"
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