

Book presentation in a nutshell

**Era 3 of Humanity.
Shape Paradise or Slip into Hell.**

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Climate change has been discussed at many conferences and in numerous publications, mainly about *What* climate change is and *Which* impacts it has? This leads to *Why* climate action is necessary? Answers on such questions are widely available in print, word and images. *Era3 of Humanity* is addressed to readers, familiar to information about climate change and its impacts, and looking for workable solutions and policies. Then, other questions are raised: *Who*, *What* cause the major problems? *What*, *Who* offers real solutions? *How* realizing effective solutions in due time? Answers should be supplied by the knowledge, expertise and experience of numerous people from the most diverse origin, profession, and fields.

Choose or Lose

Humanity stands at a crossroads. One road is the urgent annihilation of neoliberalism for a drastic transformation of society. The other road is business-as-usual with fossil fuels, militarism, Big Money growth and more inequality and poverty for the many. Ongoing use of fossil fuels causes *irreversible* warming on Earth, stirring up climate change and the destruction of marvelous ecosystems. It breaks down what makes life of humans on Earth possible and pleasant. Countries and peoples with little use of fossil fuels are most exposed to the deleterious impacts of climate change. Rich countries, corporates and clans organize coups, impose sanctions and embargos, provoke wars or invade sovereign states for vesting their supremacy over the world. Danger, uncertainty, extortion, exploitation, inequity affect the way of living of the majority of common people.

The use of *fossil fuels* is destructive for the tender climate, for democratic institutions, for the opportunities of establishing world peace and of improving the living conditions of billions poor people. Fossil fuels are a lever for fabricating super profits, in extreme amounts in periods of warfare. Super profits strengthen neoliberal interests, which impede the deployment of available sustainability solutions for preventing planetary catastrophes.

The tentacles of fossil fuels are spread all-over the world. Liberating oneself and the community from fossil fuels requests courage, creativity and perseverance. Nonetheless, this liberation is a condition *sine qua non* for creating room for positive societal transformations. Replacing fossil fuels by climate friendly, peaceful, just, sustainable energy winning and use is *possible, necessary and desirable*. The clash of the titans in the world of energy is decisive for the future of mankind.

Big Money wields societal power

Big Money is the prevailing political entity in the neoliberal dominion. It designs and masterminds the economic-political strategy of the Western world. Since the dawn of neoliberalism end of the 1970s, the political control by Big Money is a planned *masterminding* of the official democratic decision making: the formal institutions and narratives about democracy are maintained as façade and hull, while the factual contents, decisions and actions, serve Big Money interests. For Big Money masterminding is the most effective and efficient policy-making, given responsibilities and administrative efforts are passed on society and its citizens. *Stealthy* masterminding preserves the mental delusion of politicians, officials, academics, mainstream media, and a majority of Western populations. By economic growth and dubious practices, Big Money continues to expand, while the gaps of inequality between rich and poor increase.

The global oil & gas industry *cashes annually thousands billion US\$ super profits*. This explains the exuberant wealth of petrostates and of oil & gas multinationals, while people dependent on oil & gas suppliers impoverish. *Artificial scarcity* of oil & gas delivers extreme high super profits for whom fabricate such scarcity, as follows: US-power brokers and politicians name particular countries with giant oil & gas resources, "*enemies of Western democracy*", when those countries refuse the Western domination over their oil & gas winning. The enemy countries are excluded from the international oil& gas market by sanctions, embargos, wars and invasions. The *fabricated artificial scarcity* stirs the oil & gas prices up for higher super profits, which mount to thousands billion US\$, numbers alike the 2,718 billion US\$ *global military spending* in the year 2024. The wars have made Western countries more militaristic, in particular the NATO allies. Hence, the producers of weaponry can also pick up a bunch of super profits. Warmongering consumes lots of fossil fuels: for example, the US military is worldwide the largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Transformation of energy systems and of societal institutions

The crucial transformation of fossil to sustainable energy is more sensible when coordinated with profound political, socio-economic, juridical, cultural and mental changes. Compatible societal *institutions* can direct human visions and activities towards Sustainable Development (SD) as the report *Our Common Future* proposed in 1987. The disruptive potency of SD has been broken deliberately by rightwing thinktanks, launching the Planet-People-Profit or 3P jingle for obscuring and deleting the *Politics-Public Policy* dimension, essential for institutional rebuilding.

Only *ethical driven politics* can build and guarantee the suited democratic SD institutions. However, ideal new human characters are paradoxical and dangerous imaginaries. Goodwill and ideal people cannot solve worldwide problems. Keys to global transformation are workable fittings between mental and material interests pursued by individuals and communities. First of all, human beings care for the own interests, being a best attitude for the effective and efficient organization of private and communal life. Problems arise when self-interest deforms in selfishness, egomania, greed and narcissism, so damaging the common good. Preventing and impeding such damages is the task of political, economic, juridical and policing institutions.

Mobilizing all knowledge, expertise and experience

Knowledge, expertise and experience in many societal domains are needed for describing and organizing the several transformations toward Era 3. A tricky question is how to compose the diverse proposals and contributions to a consistent and comprehensive total approach? Interdisciplinary consortia of scientists and experts demand huge time and means, without guaranteeing workable results. Another possibility is the laminar joining of multiple results from diverse domains. It safeguards specialized disciplinary research on various topics (such as energy technologies), while being framed in a multidisciplinary composition.

Now follow brief entries to the book's three parts.

On Energy & Money (Part I, 5 chapters)

Energy is the crucial *spearhead* in all societal transformations. So, the book starts with a step-by-step introduction about *what is energy*, and how energy helps in mankind's life (chapter 1). Chapter 2 continues with showing how every kind of human civilization is built on her available types of energy. With the innovations that happened in Europe as pointers, three eras are visible: All energy used was renewable from the creation of homo sapiens as a species until the end of the 18th century. This era 1 was followed by the *steam era* stretched until today: combustion and explosions of fossil fuels deliver warmth and heat, also for the conversions into work and into electricity.

The highest quality of energy is electric current generated from another energy flow. Era 2 electricity was obtained from particular water flows, but mostly from steam. Obtaining and using steam flows implies complicated installations and huge financial expenses. Much larger than the expenses are the public costs from climate change, environmental pollution, accidents and atomic catastrophes and eternal waste problems.

Era 3 initiated during the last quarter of the 20th century by economic and technological drivers. Photovoltaic cells convert light flows and windmills convert wind flows in electricity. Their technological successes surf on the latest innovations in power electronics, new materials, nano technology, etc. By using natural flows causing zero public costs and by technological superiority, solar and wind power deliver since 2018 the cheapest electric kWh ever seen in history. Cheap and abundant renewable electricity makes electricity from steam an obsolete choice. Electricity is top-quality energy and suitable for practically all energy needs, except for long-range heavy load transport with planes, ships, rockets, ... thus also except for warfare.

Renewable electricity, mainly locally generated, is the backbone of a just and sustainable future. In 2014, this path to the future was obstructed by a coup of the big European electricity producers and the EU Commission for giving priority and subsidies to large-scale plants, suppressing small scale and community deployment. This coup had perverse impacts on addressing climate change, being a Mondial problem. Hence, the real solutions must be applicable and affordable by all people and communities on the globe, it means small-scale units. Photovoltaics is by definition small scale and is not at the end of its price-decreasing path. It is the main effective trump of countervailing economic power in the hands of and for the interest of all citizens on Earth.

The neoliberal interests continue to tell fairy tales about atomic energy (ch.3) and hydrogen energy (ch.4). They are revealed as exemplary *delusive truth* cases. The mastodon installations request enormous financial investments, imply costly, unacceptable risks and huge public costs. Both technologies are dinosaurs of steam era 2.

Chapter 5 provides numerical detail about the super profits from oil & gas sales, with the evidence of artificial scarcity by sanctions, embargos, invasions and wars.

On Politics & Money (Part II, 3 chapters)

The failing of the official national and global top-down climate policies is painful, yet unavoidable. The spearhead for saving a livable climate is the transformation from fossil fuels toward renewable electricity beneficial for all on Earth. Pioneers show the practical feasibility of transformation.

Neoliberal interests obstruct transformation because fossil fuels are indispensable for big money accumulation, era 2 economic growth, and warfare. Neoliberalism is clearly specified in chapter 6 by identifying its three main attributes and three supporting pillars.

Chapter 7 explores the role of prices in present societies. The neoclassical economic theory praises the free market principle: the equilibrium of demand and supply would maximize the total benefits of the free participants at both sides. This only happens when the price is set equal to the marginal cost of supplying the good or service. However, in real life few economic transactions occur at free market conditions. *Oligopolies* and deceitful *fringe prices* extort billions of dollars from households, small and medium enterprises and public institutions. Public authorities may intervene in the pricing process with taxes or subsidies, however in real life biased by the rich group of people.

Chapter 8 describes the Emissions Trading Scheme set up after 1997 by the EU Commission nudged by BP and Shell. It assigns *free permits* to the EU installations with huge GHG emissions. The talk that the industry pays for its emissions is fake. Rather, some like Shell and the electricity generators have earned billion euros *swindle profits*, euphemistically called windfall profits. The EU Green Deal continuous the deceit, and even extend it with an ETS-2 for skimming money from common people using fuels for road transport and for heat in dwellings and public buildings.

On Power & People (Part III, 2 chapters)

How can an emperor without clothes continue to reign for decades? This is only feasible by an incredible capacious discursive power, relentlessly active. The TINA myth "*There Is No Alternative for neoliberalism*" is widespread in Western societies, and persistently reconfirmed by Big Money and neoliberal media concerns. However, the reality is that "*neoliberalism cannot offer an alternative*" for ending the catastrophic processes and impacts, because neoliberalism is fully dependent on the massive use of fossil fuels.

The radical character of the necessary transformations leads to introspection of the own way of living, and the pursuing of a forceful independent disposition. Climate activists are expected to adopt such dispositions, contrary to their actual strategy focused on *pressurizing* neoliberal captains and politicians, *demanding* them action, *hoping* they will act, ... to address attributes and problems inherent to neoliberalism. Solutions proposed by Big Money and their right-wing entourage will always be nugatory and counterproductive for SD. Hence, the activists' practice is *to confide in the devil*. Opposite to this practice, is countervailing power for dissolving the neoliberal clusters by making their existence irrelevant. Real countervailing power grows bottom-up from the grassroots by rational actions for the common interests of the people, the 90% of the population.

Chapter 9 describes the possible, desirable and necessary transformation from the steam era to era 3 of renewable energy. The energy transformation interacts with Sustainable Development substituting for neoliberalism. Politics, Public policy stay central for the building of the proper institutions. The chapter also discusses techno-economic and practical issues of an energy economy consisting of 100% renewable electricity.

Chapter 10 reports on a number of visits to the human sciences, which significantly influenced my visions and propositions. Philosophy, psychology, public administration, political philosophy, ... are domains of knowledge indispensable for successful transformations. By systemic avoidance of the apolitical "we/our" language, the book keeps the light on politics and its institutions. The visits did not cover all relevant domains. For example, *law* being a main pillar of organized societies, is not included.

Transformation is a revolutionary process. Who prepares transformation is utterly critical about the reigning elites, their narratives and activities. Criticism is opening the door to change and transformation. Very inspiring for understanding the political systems and events of the present century, is S. Wolin's *Incorporated Democracy* and the related *Inverted Totalitarianism*. Today's Trumpism is the extreme Totalitarianism planted in 2001 by the G.W. Bush administration.

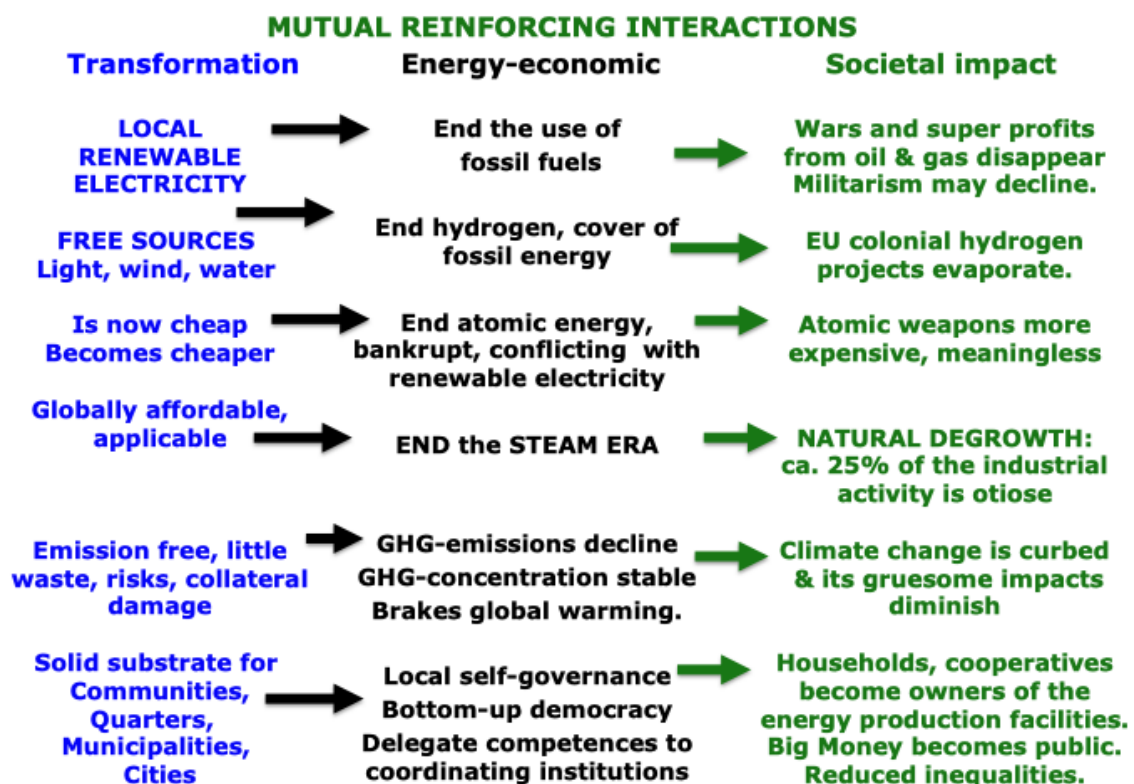
The intended chapter 11 with conclusions and recommendations in a strategic management format failed because accommodating disruptive ideas did not succeed. So, the end is an essay, showing

an exhibition of panels of transformation viewpoints. This allows to transgress established frames and paradigms, and to highlight interactions across diverse domains.

Mutual reinforcing interactions

Era 3 of Humanity is a search for the narrow path with a reasonable probability of maintaining human life on Earth. The path is loaded with impediments to overcome. There are many subjects, analyses, results and propositions to consider. The printed analyses and proposed solutions are the outcome of rational study and balancing, and of mutual reinforcing interactions. Some are presented in the following picture.

Take line 4 as an example: *Local Renewable Electricity – Globally affordable and applicable* implies the *End of the Steam Era*, leading to *Natural degrowth* of circa 25 percent of the global industrial activity. The contraction is economically advantageous by decreased private spending and by terminating the excessive destruction of public capital and environmental amenities. Such degrowth merits the adjective *natural*.



The e-book is free: [Era 3 of Humanity](#)

Printed copies are at sale in bookshops or via internet sellers (skip Amazon, ripper of common people).