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**Energy and Climate Policies Debunked
Democratic Revolution against Neoliberal Breakthrough***

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This lecture is about a book written in the language of the Dutch-Flemish people (nearly 25 million in total). Translation of a slightly adapted version in English is pending. The publisher of the Dutch edition wants a grace period, before the English version enters the market.

This lecture starts with positioning issues: the relation Energy-Climate; the title and subtitle; Neoliberalism attributes & main pillars; book properties like accessible, scientific, innovative and uncommon.

Then a few elements from the various parts and chapters are discussed, without covering contents in full. Throughout the book is searched which policies are realistic and available for saving the human species from self-destruction.

*** Verbruggen, A. (2023), Energie- en klimaatbeleid ontluisterd. Democratische omwenteling tegen neoliberale doorbraak, Garant Uitgevers, Antwerpen-Apeldoorn, 242p. €22**

Aviel Verbruggen

Energie- en klimaatbeleid ontluisterd

Democratische omwenteling
tegen neoliberale doorbraak



**Garant, Antwerpen-Apeldoorn
August 2023**

Dutch language book, 242p. €22

English translation is pending

Energy and Climate

Energy & Climate

... two essential elements for life on earth, hence for every person

... numerous people are engaged with energy & climate, professionally or voluntary

Crazy links between Climate and some Energy, i.e., fossil fuels

- Climate cares since billion of years for flora & fauna on Earth, which also turned in fossil fuels
- Fossil fuels = dense chemical energy stocks = economically profitable iff rolling of their 'externalities' due to leakages (methane, oil spills, ...) and to solid & gaseous waste + greenhouse gases

Gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions destroy the mildness and generosity of the climate

How to address the widely known facts?

- Many speak and write about climate in the "we"-style (e.g. Greta Thunberg and Y4C)
- All people on Earth cause & experience Climate Change, yet I strictly avoid the "we"-style, because:
 - Of the 8 billion people, about 1 billion is rich to superrich
 - Richness is paired with excessive emissions of greenhouse gases – from the past to the present
 - Additionally, rich people are less exposed to the devastating impacts of Climate Change
 - The actual lifestyle of the rich reveal their *factual negation* of the evolving climate calamity

Energy and Climate

Where do I and you stand?

Belonging to the rich part of the global population, myself and most of my audiences are part of the *factual* negators of the climate calamity.

This is due to our adopted lifestyles, customs, aspirations, etc. and also due to the carbon lock-in of industrial societies.

Concepts and discourses are important

A few wealthy people are convinced that societal change is needed; the larger part not at all.

The latter argue their attitude and behavior by defining the societal climate problem as:

“When the present generations reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, they bring offers for the future generations likely more wealthy than the present ones”

This problematic position - typical for economists - is assuming that

present – mostly the rich – humans own the privilege of climate destruction.

The proper discourse

Greenhouse gas emissions, properly characterized on their physical-societal attributes, is

“gaseous litter”.

Littering is not a privilege but a crime.

This clarifies the duties of the emitters and the rights of the victims. Litterers are obligated to

1. Stop littering immediately
2. Clean the mess, being liable for loss and damages due to littering in the past and the present

Title and *Subtitle*

Energy and Climate Policy Debunked

- **Debunking needed for showing why present policies are not halting greenhouse gas emissions**
- **The book analyzes deceiving policy, naming the main deceivers such as:**
 - big money with giant energy conglomerates on top
 - obedient politicians
 - large bureaucracies like the European Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency
 - lobbyists
 - neoclassical economists, ...

Democratic Revolution against Neoliberal Breakthrough

- **Democratic** is participation of the many, the people, broad diversity, building power from below
- **Revolution is** drastic change, transformation, turnaround, reversal, ...
necessary insurrection of the people AGAINST the rich and superrich
- **Neoliberal Breakthrough of the 1980s:** big money's reaction to '*Limits To Growth 1972*'
not respecting the limits, but breakthrough the limits of nature
hence expanding climate destruction, which fall-out is experienced today.

The Neoliberal Breakthrough-2 of the 2020s will squander the last chance of human survival

Neoliberal, Neoliberalism - attributes

Often named without clear meaning, contents

Three main attributes (based on Wolin, S. 2008, Democracy Incorporated. Princeton Univ.Press)

(1) Financial power, concentrated in big money clans and giant corporations, dominates obedient politicians in strategic socio-economic decision-making.

Politicians function as façade and may care for socio-economic and ecological debris

(2) Economic growth for profit is stimulated, augmenting the fortunes of the superrich, while many ecological barriers are trespassed

[UNDP based on Thomas Piketty: economic growth benefits over 1980-2016 went 12% to the 50% lower wage-earners, while 27% went to the 1% superrich]

(3) More social justice is not a political priority.

Inhumane inequality is said to be 'normal', evident difference between the poor (falling short in taking initiative) and the superrich (the ones that stimulate the growth machinery). Hence, charity patronage should suffice.

Unequal property and income relations among various groups of the people, and vague promises about higher living standards at the horizon, keep common people in the neoliberal rat-race.

Are you and me not a victim of this race?

Neoliberalism is built on three main pillars

1. Intensive and unlimited use of fossil fuels.

Without this concentrated energy supply, available on human command, the neoliberal economy will disintegrate.

While the emissions of greenhouse gases visibly increase climate calamities

2. Control over money creation, money flows and stocks

With the money handles, superrich clans and giant corporations dominate politicians in money-based economies, and know to mastermind strategic socio-economic decision-making.

While populism is flourishing, totalitarian regimes shift to fascist extremism, inhumane inequality grows and 'illegal' migration from poor countries is ungovernable

3. Prevalent discursive power in market economies (and beyond)

Media controlled by big money repeat the mantras of 'free markets', of the superiority of Western ideology, ... culminating in the mantra ***"there is no alternative for neoliberalism"***

While ***'only alternatives make sense'*** for maintaining human life conditions on Earth. 'The specter of inverted totalitarianism' in a 'managed democracy' (Wolin, 2008) is palpable

**Demolish the three pillars to preclude neoliberal breakthrough-2 wrecking humans future.
The book aims to contribute in demolishing the pillars.**

Book properties pursued during editing

Accessible by a broad range of intelligent readers

- Complicated wording and jargon are avoided
- Chapters end with lists 'things to remind'
- No referencing in the text. Endnotes provide details and references.

Scientific

- Statements, projections and conclusions are based on literature, research and experience
- Applied disciplines are technology, economics and political economy
- Consistent composition: the various parts fit together, achieving synergy

Innovative and uncommon

- Novel viewpoints and robust analysis generate unheard and unread conclusions and propositions
- Debunking deceiving energy and climate discourse and policy façades
- Cynical belief in neoliberalism aggravates climate calamities

Note

Radical critique on present energy & climate policies and politics is not cynical, yet a source of hope on real results obtained by good policy-making. Contrary: Assume present policies were the right, best ones, then hope is futile!

Energie- en klimaatbeleid ontluisterd

Democratische omwenteling
tegen neoliberale doorbraak



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Part I About Energy and Money

Ch.1 Energy, an always present yet unknown companion

Energy resources are fabricated by Sun and Earth cooperating

- as **Flows** (light, wind, water) & as **Stocks** (fossil fuels, uranium)
- the **Resources** are *free gifts* from nature: there are no economic manufacturing costs
- **Man** can harvest **Flows** or mine **Stocks**

Why turn free energy resources in high-priced energy commodities?

- By industrialization, mining **Stocks** crowded out harvesting **Flows** in economic activities
- **Institutional Property Right** rules: the owner of the land/sea above a stock, also owns this stock
- Under capitalist regimes, most stocks of the nation are privatized
- **Giant companies** largely control the mining of encroached stocks,
and capture shocking super-profits = rents = profits without effort (Ch.2)
paid by end-users of commercial energy

Pernicious impacts of using energy Stocks

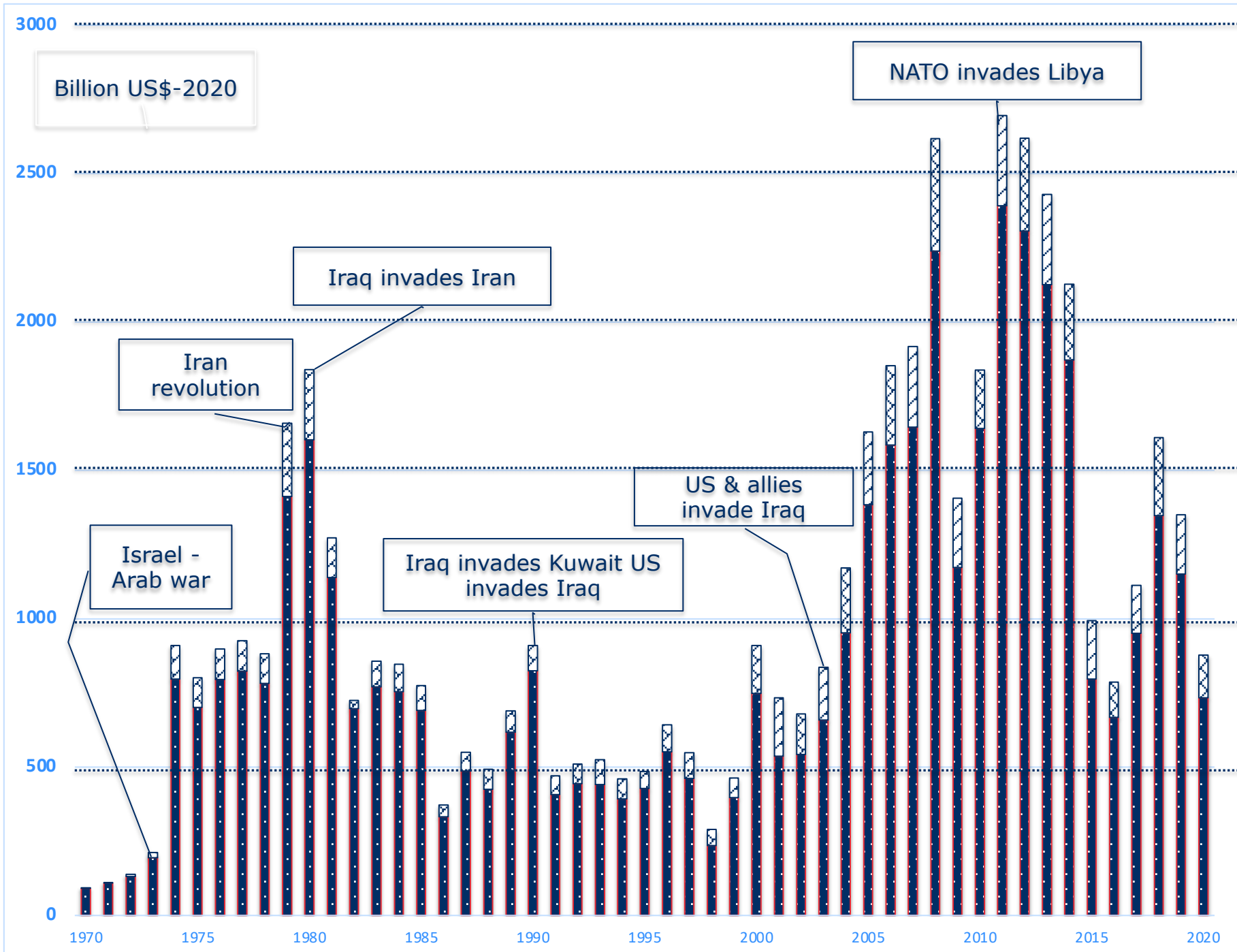
- **Mining and use of Fossil fuels & Uranium** cause numerous damages,
inflicted on nature, biological systems, atmosphere, climate, human health, etc...
- **Unpaid damage costs** by **Stock owners**, are rolled off on common people, now and forever
- **Irreversible Catastrophic Climate Change** endangers human existence on Earth

Ch.2 extract Super- Profits

**1970-2020:
52,544 bn
US\$-2020**

**on average:
1,030 bn/yr**

**Coincidence
of war &
excessive
rent heights
or
Causality?**



**Sanctions
+
War in
Ukraine
+
Embargos

=**

**Super -
profits
again
excessive**

**IEA (2023)
estimate for
2022
amounts to
3750
billion US\$**

2021-2022

Part II - Focus on Lobbyism and Delusive-Truths

Lobbyism in Brussels, in Member State Capitals, in Universities, in ...

End 2022, Qatar lobbyists paid EU Members of Parliament => media outrage over this trifle

Q1 Where is the outrage about extensive and continuous lobbying by big money, by corporations?

Q2 Is outrage at lobbying reconcilable with praise and support for the outcomes of lobby processes?

Q3 What explains media's constancy in supporting the products of lobbying and deceit?

Q4 Why is the impact of corporate lobbying on energy and climate policy not revealed?

"Delusive-truth" (far more effective deceit than "fake news")

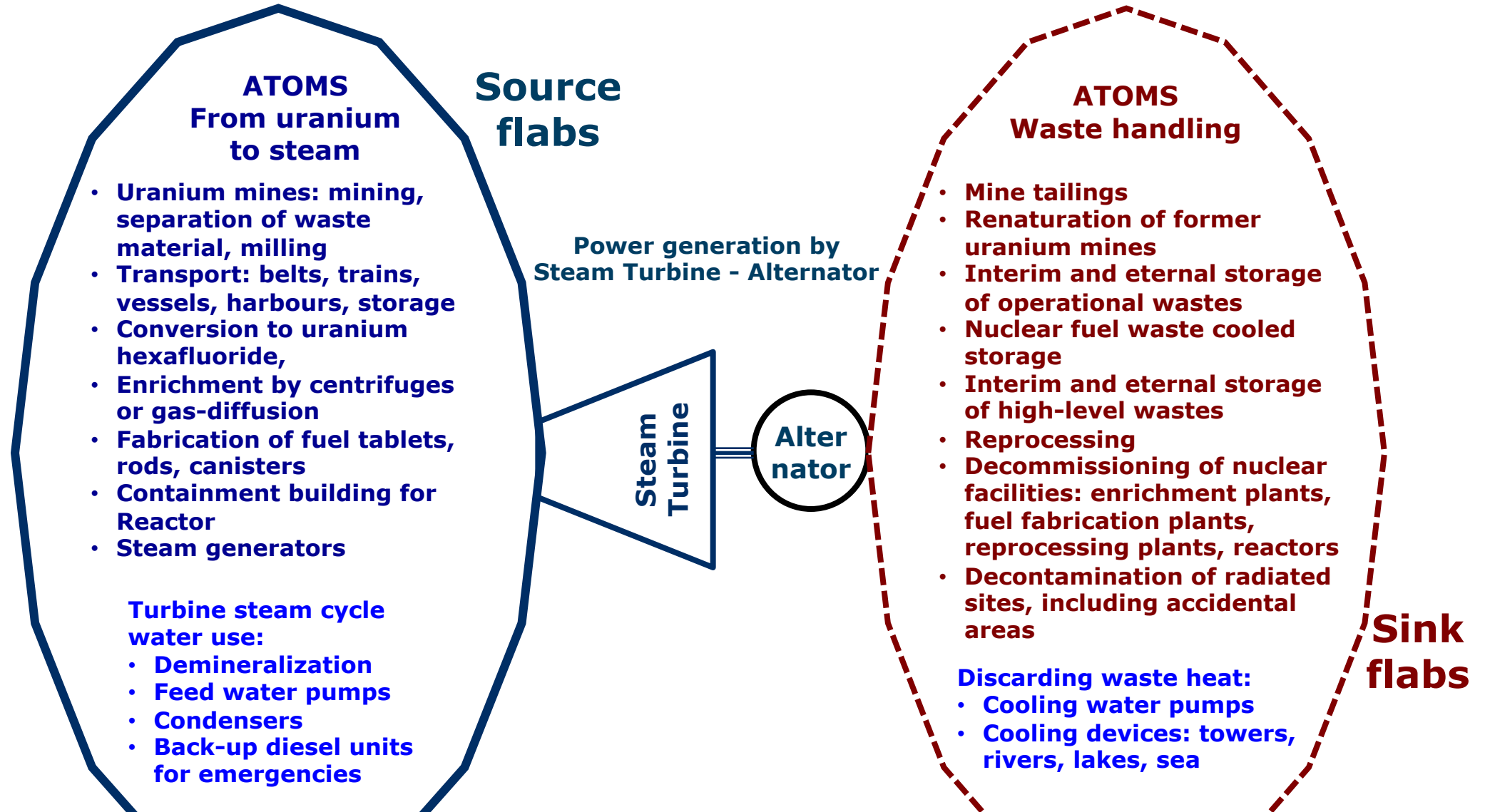
Construct counterfeit on a truth. A truth can be a mathematical theory, law of physics, observable fact.

Archimedes 'Give me a firm place to stand and a lever and I can move the Earth'. Truth is the lever multiplying force. Man moving the earth is illusion, deceit.

Cases studied in Ch.3 & Ch.4 are

- ***The EU Emissions Trading System*** (Truth is axiomatic mathematical theory of perfect markets; Delusive is proper application of the theory in the real world => a 'market' façade conceals free permits for industry, and for electricity companies 'money pumping' from non-ETS energy users).
- ***The EU Electricity Exchange*** (Truth is marginal cost pricing is optimal when all supply contributes to construct the MC-curve in an optimally composed generation park; Delusive is considering only the fringe of supply for capturing huge super-profits).
- ***Atomic power generation*** (Truth is $E=mc^2$; Delusive is applying the atom fission processes in a guaranteed safe and economically beneficial way).

Atomic power generation implies expensive, risky source & sink activities



Whatever fantastic atomic power process is invented for cooking water (e.g. fusion), the enormous flabs make atomic power bad business, for entrepreneurs, investors, governments, ... mainly for the common people, always carrying the burdens of the folies of technocracy.

Part III – Constructing the Common Future

After debunking EU energy and climate policy-making, what are the alternatives?

- **For searching and finding alternatives, a person must revolutionize the own mindset:**
 - Liberate the mind, perspectives, thinking from the neoliberal discourse, by**
 - **A critical attitude towards established media**
 - **Intensively follow independent media from a broad variety**
 - **Look at facts (a fact is a fact when confirmed from diverse angles)**
 - **Do not belief stories contradictory to facts**
 - **Do not hope (and spend time & resources) on neoliberal powers to solve the climate crisis, which they occasioned and continue to foster**
 - **Avoid narrow nationalism and eurocentrism for addressing the global issue of climate change**
 - **Only radical solutions can demolish the pillars of neoliberalism**

Ch.5 Energy Revolution

- **Reiterates the fundamental role of energy for life and for civilization, illustrated with two figures**

Four components of a radical energy transformation

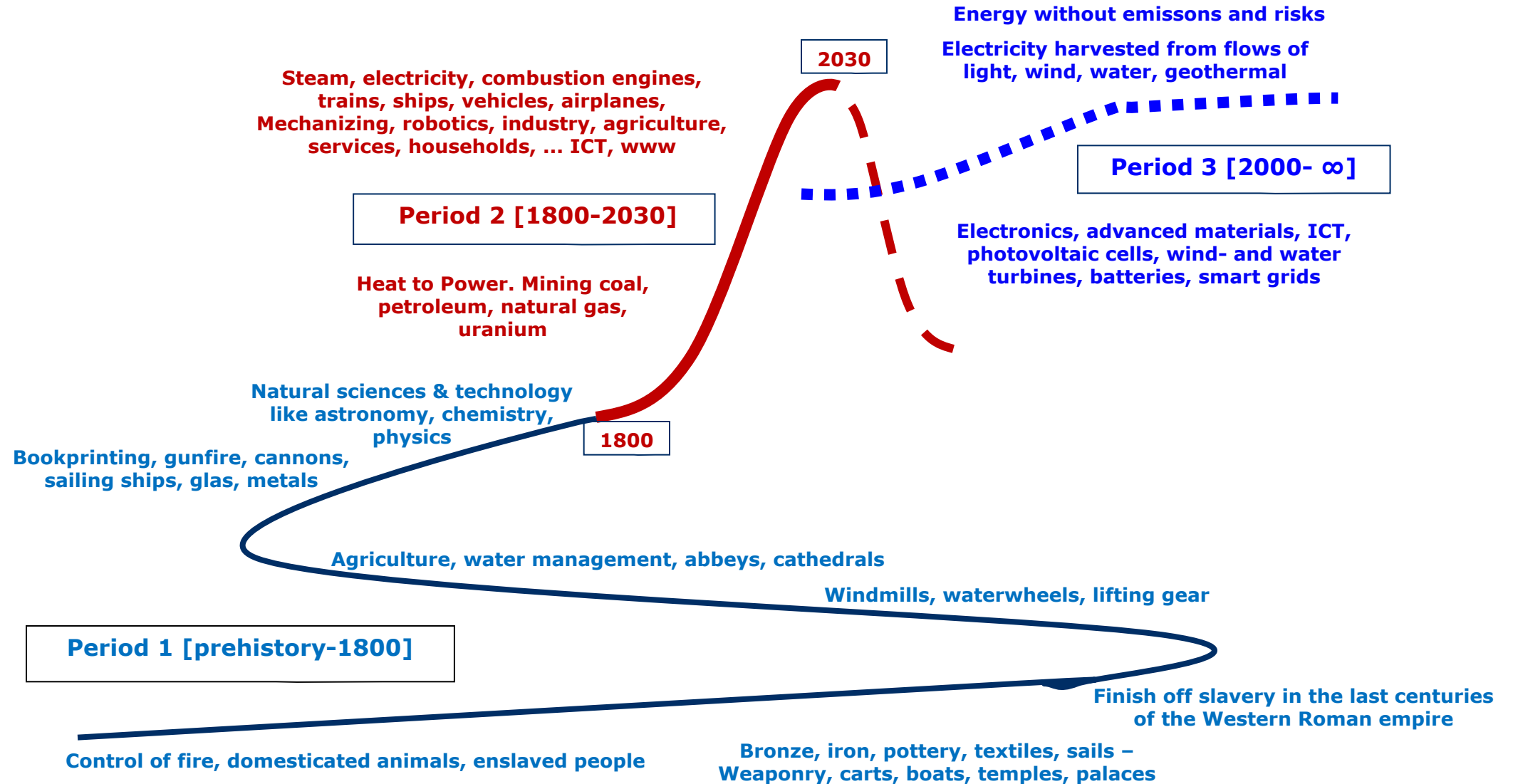
- 1. Stop mining fossil fuels**
- 2. Phase out atomic power generation**
- 3. Electricity meets practically all commercial energy demand**
- 4. All electricity from – mainly local – harvested light, wind, water, geothermal flows**

Three main periods of energy use and related Western civilization

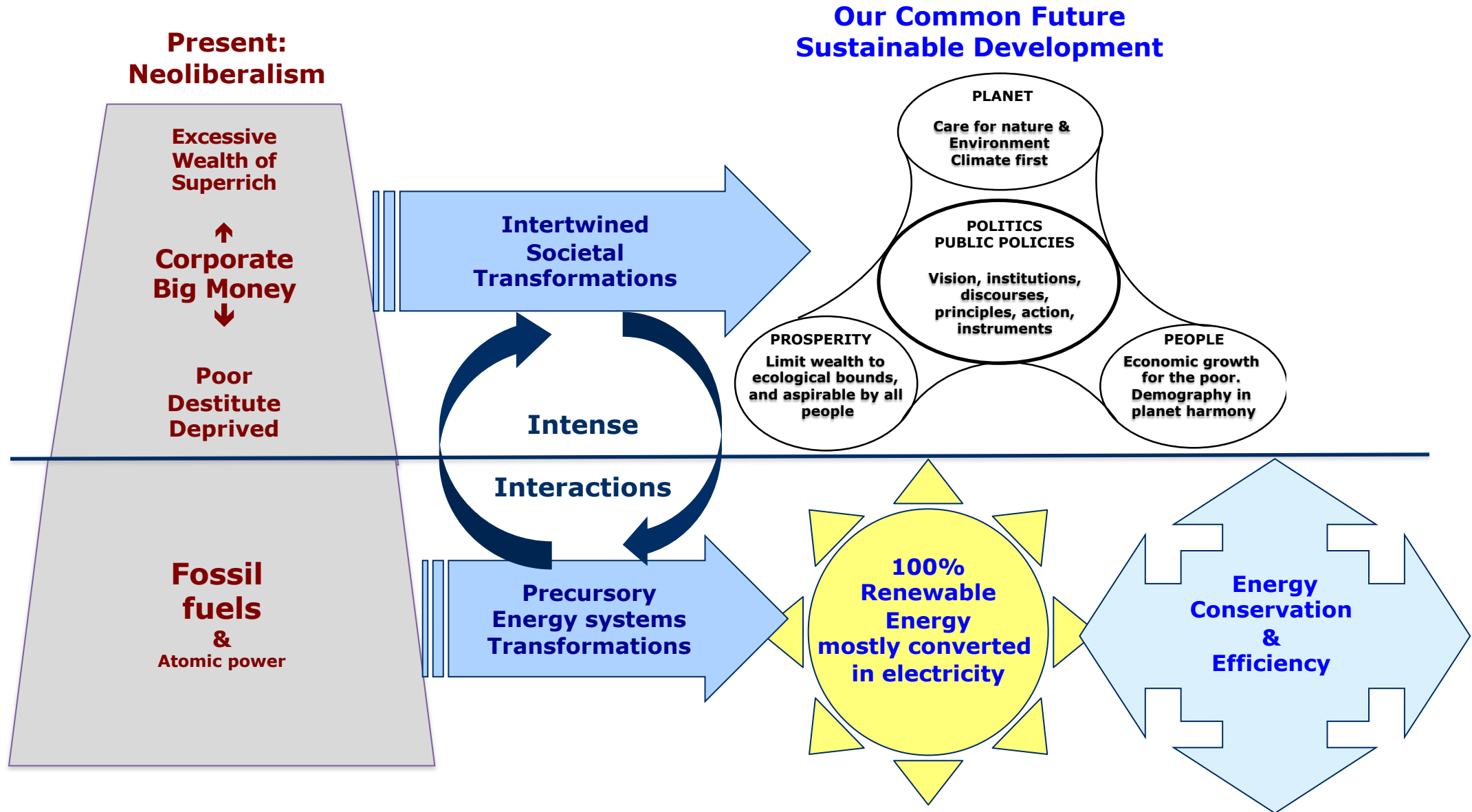
1 [prehistory-1800]

2 [1800-2030]

3 [2000-∞]



Societal transformations for the public good towards Sustainable Development, based on 100% renewable energy, energy conservation & efficiency



Ch.5 – Energy Revolution

Neoliberal powers defend their pillars

- Continue the use of fossil fuels, sideways with CCUS, 'Sustainable Fuels', hydrogen beyond storage
- Economic growth for more accumulation by the superrich
- Energy conservation is skipped
- Subsidizing atom power goes on, and waste problems are rolled off on common people
- Giant electric corporates capture the renewable energy projects

2014 Putsch by energy corporations, lobbying the European Commission

- Large-scale renewable electricity projects are prioritized
- Favorable regulations for supporting small-scale projects are missing

“Small-scale renewable electricity generation realized bottom-up” is

- Possible: PV, wind are micro, mini technologies. 'Large-scale' is the aggregate of many PV-cells, panels. Windturbines are overstretched to 15MWe. WindkWh levelized cost prices in US\$ct-2021/kWh (IRENEA 2022): 3.3 onshore and 7.5 offshore (8.1 in year 2022).
 - Desirable: end monopolistic profit-making, alias preclude super-profits (ch.2)
 - Necessary: climate change and collapse are global issues, to be addressed globally.
- Small-scale PV, wind, water, geothermal are affordable by communities in all countries

Ch.6 Acting Politically

BigMoney is omnipresent in top-level politics, also observable in UNFCCC-COP meetings, IPCC Working Group 3, ...

Liberalism: “captured regulation”, i.e. a sovereign public authority makes regulations that **BigMoney** and giant corporates tried to influence, capture

Neoliberalism: “masterminding of strategic socio-economic processes”, i.e. the initiative goes out from **BigMoney** and giant corporations with neoliberal power

Political power is the ability to move or to paralyze people for realizing pursued goals.

Execution of power holds 4 stadia:

1. Inform/persuade

Discourse, media are essential, and may win a 2/3rd majority of a population

2. Seduce/bribe

Money is visibly active, and may push up the majority to 9/10th.

3. Induce/coerce unwilling opponents

Laws, rules, regulations and penal codes

4. Exclude/eliminate obstinate opponents

Illegal act, corruption, crime, atrocity, homicide, ... are observable

Ch.6 Acting Politically

Revolutionary power for transformation may be tempted to apply similar 4 stadia for demolishing neoliberalism.

Likely, this will be insufficient, hence

1. It is necessary to construct an alternative discourse & paradigm for the neoliberal ones. "Our Common Future" Sustainable Development is an appropriate platform to build on. Independent media are crucial to expand and get wider audiences.
2. BigMoney has to be broken; conquering BigMoney is impossible, meaningless
3. Lawgiving has to be renewed
4. Illegal acts, corruption, etc. cannot be part of the new future
The way to eliminate neoliberalism is
make it *irrelevant* by a fast deployment of "small-scale renewable electricity realized bottom-up",
make it *unmighty* by demolishing its three pillars

The book mentions some aspects of money, and refers to the self-governance ideas developed by Ostrom.

Ch.7 Conclusion: Manifest for actual democratic revolution

As manifest, the conclusion aggregates action-directed ideas presented in the book.

A design of the context wherein people act, shows Energy & Technology as substrate.

Human to nature & to congener human relations range from *extractive-unequal* to *associate-equal*.

**State of the world insight – highlighted in the book – highlights facts or developments:
20 problematic + 16 hopeful ones.**

Humans on a deteriorating planet need emergency intervention, with:

- **7 elements *diagnosis and remedies***
- **7 phenomena in the *healing process***
- **7 favorable *spillovers***

**Healing is navigating between a calamitous situation, neoliberal powers, inertia ...
and bottom-up democratization - feasible for the first time in human history,
thanks to the new energy&technology substrate.**

Such substrates are globally affordable and globally required to avoid climate collapse.

Ch.7 Manifest for actual democratic revolution: feasibility concerns

Emergency intervention may avoid humanity's collapse at the doorsteps to a bright future.

Five aspects of the feasibility assessment of democratic revolution:

1. The power of a consistent and comprehensive worldview, paradigm
2. The new reality is irreconcilable with the old one
3. Pioneers are building paths to Period 3 of human civilization
4. Inclusive generalization (from pioneers to communities in multi-level societies)
5. Reflection and sobriety

The book's last words:

Ethical pondering of societal morality is part of the revolution. In respect of the universal equality of human beings and of the limited carrying capacity of the Earth as universal biotope, sobriety is the most dignified attitude to life.

Final Point. What had to be written, is written. This is the end of this book.