

Germany's Nuclear Phase-Out Means Deindustrialization and Genocide

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

This article is translated from German.

Wiesbaden, June 4—The Merkel government and most of the German party establishment, as though dominated by some deviant swarm-intelligence, are plunging to their own demise, and that of Germany as an industrial nation. The consensus behind a nuclear phase-out reflects about as much survival instinct as lemmings display in their periodic migrations. The phase-out of nuclear energy—in the context of the final stage of the collapse of the global financial system—will soon lead to the deindustrialization of Germany and the collapse of its social system; the massive reduction of German industrial potential, in a world of hunger and poverty, means genocide, plain and simple.

Even among energy experts, there seems to be some mental block to a clear understanding of the costs of this reckless adventure, and the public, dazed by the constant static from the media, is permitting itself to collectively ignore the massive cuts in living standards that are going to hit it. And even though the utility companies are forecasting that very cold days this Winter will pose a serious threat to the power supply, and the Bundestag's Office of Technology Assessment fears the consequences of a major power failure, on the level of a "national disaster," in which, after a few hours, basic power supplies would collapse, the watchword is still obviously: "Shut your eyes and keep on going!"

There will, of course, be direct costs—in the form of costly investments in the expansion of offshore and other wind farms, transnational electricity networks, new coal and gas power plants, geothermal plants, pumped storage hydropower stations, etc., meaning an increase in consumer prices—and then indirectly through the increase in production costs. We hear that supposedly something like EU200 billion will be spent on plant conversion by 2020, and households will pay EU40-80 per year in additional costs. There are sup-

posed to be "winners" in this business, such as craftsmen, contractors for solar and wind energy, etc.—as well as "losers," namely the operators of energy-intensive industries such as aluminum, steel, and paper. But these alleged costs, which are calculated in monetarist categories such as euro sums, do not give the entire picture at all.

What about the warnings from EU Energy Commissioner Gunther Oettinger, who attacked the German government on Feb. 27—just under two weeks *before* Fukushima—for Germany's high electricity prices, which would lead to "gradual deindustrialization," he said, because companies will relocate their production facilities—no longer due to high domestic wages, but rather to the high cost of importing electricity? And where does the government really get the confidence that financially precarious energy companies that are hit by the nuclear phase-out will still want to invest in Germany at all? That *gradual* deindustrialization threatens to turn into *precipitous* deindustrialization.

The actual costs, from the standpoint of the physical economy, lie not only in euro sums and the relocation of businesses, but in the reduced total productivity of the economy because of the lower energy flux-density, which is several orders of magnitude less with so-called renewable energies than with nuclear power. This reduction will obliterate the entire complex system, and that will really bring us to the "Great Transformation" propagandized by Hans Joachim Schellnhuber's WBGU¹: namely, the explicitly desired deindustrializa-

1. The German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU), which is headed by Dr. Hans Joachim (John) Schellnhuber, Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE), on April 6 issued a report titled *World in Transition: A Social Contract for Sustainability*. Schellnhuber is a climate advisor to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. See Helga Zepp-LaRouche, "No to Global Gleichschaltung: Make June 17 the Day of German Resistance," *EIR*, May 6, 2011; and several articles in *EIR*, May 13, 2011.

FIGURE 1
Germany's Nuclear Plants



Creative Commons/Lencer

The reactors closed since March 14, 2011 are in red (light tone in black and white); operating reactors are in blue (dark tone).

tion of Germany. Have we really become so collectively insane as to accept that?

'The Kleptocratic Culture of the Elites'

In connection with the financial crisis, Wolfgang Hetzer, Europe's top anti-corruption fighter and the head of Intelligence: Strategic Assessment & Analysis at the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), gave an interview on June 1 in Brussels to *Die Welt*, in which he placed the blame for the financial crisis on a financial mafia, whose sole motives are greed, privilege, and personal enrichment. No less to blame for the crisis, he

said, are the "political accomplices" who let lawyers for the financial industry draft the laws that affect the financial sector (e.g., Guttenberg, Linklaters, Freshfields), and allow the State, as Norbert Blüm said, to become the "gamblers' lookout man."

Unfortunately, it cannot be denied that, as Hetzer says, politics has not only been dragged by the nose around the world stage by the financial sector, but also that, equally complicit are those financial interests that are switching over to renewable energy, and consider the new sale of Indulgences—CO₂ emissions trading—as the new bubble for their casino economy. For it is quite demonstrably the hedge funds and investment banks that, along with the operators of wind farms, solar installations, dealers in CO₂ emission certificates, and the eco-counterculture "experts," who are among the beneficiaries of the new "enrichment orgies." One need only look at the list of funding partners of Schellnhuber's European Climate Foundation, to see "which way the wind is blowing." And as usual, the "political accomplices" are on the scene.

It is well documented that both the theory of anthropogenic climate change, and the thesis of alleged limits to growth, are swindles invented by these financial interests. The climate on Earth is not determined by the negligible man-made CO₂ emissions, but from long-term cyclical processes in our galaxy and related processes in our Solar System, which are also responsible for the current increased frequency of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tornadoes, etc. But since you can't make a killing on an investment in relevant research or remote-sensing satellites, both have been scaled down by the Obama Administration, as well as the EU.

In light of these real threats, which will increase in the coming years, Schellnhuber's "Great Transformation," which is the basis for the government's nuclear phase-out, would be the sure path to suicide of the human species, because we would drive into an ideo-

logical impasse the very scientific and industrial capacities that are urgently needed to better understand the scientific principles at work in our universe.

Just how fatal such aberrations are, is demonstrated by the current political helplessness and disorientation of the private hospitals in the face of the *E. coli* pathogen, which has, within days, caused “more diseases and deaths than nuclear power in the 60 years of its use as an energy source in this country,” as the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* wrote. The health sector is certainly one area that should by no means be privatized, and thereby oriented to the profit motive. But unfortunately, this is an integral aspect of the wrong direction that has been tolerated by what Hetzer calls the “culture of kleptocratic elites” in the past four decades.

Foreign Countries Are Not Deterred

Fortunately, countries such as Russia, China, India, South Korea, France, and many others are not confused by the deviant swarm-intelligence of some Germans, and have intensified their research and investment in all relevant areas, such as nuclear energy—especially the high-temperature reactor and fusion power—manned spaceflight, and earthquake and volcano early-warning systems.

For Germany, however, the path that it is taking poses the greatest danger. It threatens us not only with an eco-dictatorship which, as the WBGU report adequately demonstrates, would subject all areas of life to the fanatics’ strict regimentation. And so it is no surprise that Gerhard Schick, the financial expert of the Greens, described the proposal of European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet for a European Financial Ministry, to dictate the national budgets, as an “important impulse.” Eco-dictatorship and financial dictatorship are one and the same thing.

Belatedly, but hopefully not too late, numerous articles are appearing both at home and abroad, exposing the unsavory “brown” tradition of the environmentalist movement—from Svante Arrhenius, the Swedish inventor of anthropogenic climate change, racial hygiene, and the idea of the superiority of the Nordic race; to the parallels drawn by *Die Welt* on June 3, 2011, between the current nuclear phase-out and “the U-turn” (*die Kehre*) of avowed National Socialist and technology-hater Martin Heidegger.

The word “irreversible” has a good chance of being

declared the 2011 Ugliest Word of the Year,² for neither the nuclear phase-out, nor the European Monetary Union, nor the bailout policy, nor globalization, are irreversible. They are all just different aspects of an oligarchical policy whose failure is becoming obvious, not least because young people in Greece, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Italy, and other countries are taking a stand against it; they know that this policy has stolen their future from them.

In the United States, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur’s (D-Ohio) bill, H.R. 1489, reintroducing the Glass-Steagall standard—a two-tier banking system in the tradition of Franklin D. Roosevelt—is winning solid support in both houses of Congress, and on a nonpartisan basis, as well as from leading trade unions, business associations, mayors, city councils, and even bankers and board members of the Federal Reserve. If this bill is adopted—and it probably will be very soon—the oligarchic control of the world and the power of kleptocratic elites will be broken.

2. This “competition” has been ongoing since 1994.

Documentation

World Opposition to Germany’s Nuclear Exit

The German government’s rush out of nuclear energy is meeting resistance internationally, and increasingly at home as well. Here are some examples:

International

May 23: Nobuo Tanaka, the director of the Paris-based **International Energy Agency**, warns that Germany is threatening Europe’s energy security. In an interview with the German edition of the *Financial Times*, she proposes that Berlin work out a joint decision on nuclear power with its European partner: “Otherwise sustainability and supply security are sacrificed in the whole of Europe.”

May 26: At the meeting of the **G-8 leaders** in Deauville, France, the seven other governments refuse to go along with Chancellor Merkel’s extreme pro-renewables policy. The G-8 agrees on more frequent safety

reviews of nuclear power plants in response to the Fukushima accident, but otherwise to keep nuclear power operating, except in Germany.

May 26: The deputy chairman of the **Chinese nuclear agency CNEA, Xu Yuming**, calls the German decision “wrong for a country that has so few natural resources of its own,” adding: “We invite [German] experts to come here, to do research and work.”

May 30: Anne Lauvergeon, CEO of the **French nuclear firm AREVA**, tells BFM radio that the German move was irrational. “It’s hard to see how they will replace the energy. I’m not sure there is enough Polish coal, and it creates carbon problems. Alternative energy sources are intermittent sources. I think they will do what Austria did in its time: import nuclear electricity from neighboring countries. This will result in higher electricity costs in Germany, with consequences for industry.”

May 30: French Industry Minister Eric Besson issues a statement saying that “Germany will be even more dependent on fossil fuels and imports and its electricity will be more expensive and polluting.” Electricity is twice as expensive in Germany as in France.

May 30: Belgian Energy Minister Paul Magnette is quoted by AFP saying that “in the case of [German] closure, it will be necessary to import energy, probably from France, in other words, produced by the nuclear sector.” Belgium has seven nuclear reactors.

May 31: Swedish Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren defends the Swedish government’s pro-nuclear power policy, and criticizes the German phase-out of nuclear power, in an interview to the daily *Dagens Nyheter*. “The Swedish nuclear power policy will remain unchanged,” he said, “and nothing indicates that any other countries are intending to follow Germany. But, if this means that Germany will be forced to change its climate goals, then it will affect the rest of Europe, and that would be extremely unfortunate.”

May 31: Daniel Johnson writes in the London *Daily Telegraph* that “Mrs. Merkel’s appeasement of nuclear hysteria is disturbing far beyond Germany’s borders because it represents a capitulation to irrationalism by the leader of a nation that once led the world in science and technology. The land of Leibniz and Humboldt, of Goethe and Gauss, is now indulging the fantasies of cynical scaremongers.”

June 1: In Denmark, the conservative daily *Berlingske Tidende* editorializes that “when the German government decides to close the country’s 17 nuclear plants in a relatively short time, without having an alternative plan for the nation’s energy supply, it is a decision that will have serious consequences for the country itself, for European energy policy, and for the climate.”

June 1: In a radio interview with Voice of Russia, **Sergei Novakov** of the Russian state-owned nuclear company **Rosatom** says: “It is very hard to replace the share of nuclear energy by green sources, because in several countries, such as in Belgium, for example, more than 50% of all the electricity generated in the country is of nuclear origin. So to replace 56% in Belgium by green sources is an extremely ambitious purpose which cannot be reached in the mid-term, let us say. So it is clear that, for example, for householders, wind and solar power plants could provide electricity; but for industrial customers it is impossible, because, for example, for metal plants, where you have to be provided with electricity all the time, day and night, it is impossible to use wind or solar farms.”

June 1: The Russian daily *Pravda*, under the headline “Germany Fights Nuclear Windmills,” warns of political tensions in Europe, because 1) the Greens are anti-Russian, and 2) the three German-speaking countries—Germany, Austria, and Switzerland—want other countries in Europe to exit from nuclear power as well.

June 2: From the **United States**, the *Washington Post* editorializes against the German decision, which it characterizes as “bowing to misguided political pressure from Germany’s Green Party.” The nuclear shutdown will cause more carbon emissions, and “Germany is also likely to import more power from its neighbors, regardless of how well it does in ramping up renewables, since sometimes the wind does not blow and the sun does not shine.”

Within Germany

May 27: Fritz Vahrenholt, the CEO of **Innogy**, a subsidiary of the electric utility RWE, attacks the role of the anti-nuclear, anti-technology German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) in formulating the government’s new energy strategy. It is published in *Die Welt*, under the headline, “Pure Ecology Dictatorship.” He denounces the “anti-democratic Jacobin

thinking” of the WBGU, saying its goals could never be achieved by democratic means. He warns against the WBGU call for a “world security council for sustainability,” which would restrict democracy, as well as for a third chamber of Parliament to act as a watchdog for every single piece of legislation; it would be a non-elected body which would “limit the powers of the Parliament.”

“The price to be paid for the utopian climate Jacobinism of the WBGU is too high,” he writes, noting the “increasing signs that the climate warming of the past 12 years has stopped,” and that many experts expect a long period of cooling. As for the total “decarbonization” promoted by the WBGU, “that comes down, very simply, to deindustrialization,” which is apparently what some politicians want.

May 27: Labor representatives of Germany’s nuclear power plant operators issue an open letter calling on the government to refrain from an overhasty phase-out of nuclear power, warning that 30,000 jobs in that sector, and another 90,000 in the supply industries, were at stake.

The letter is signed by heads of the labor councils of E.ON (EOAN.XE), RWE AG (RWE.XE), EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (EBK.XE), and Vattenfall Europe. They emphasize that German nuclear power plants are among the world’s safest, and can continue to provide “sufficient affordable” energy for many years.

“We are here in Germany, not in Japan,” the letter says, and there is no need here for any emotionally heated debate on nuclear power. As a matter of fact, it is “indisputable that nuclear energy has been an important basis for the positive development of our country over the past decades.” The labor leaders denounce the government’s refusal to meet with them and discuss the matter, while at the same time, “casting the dice on the future of the national energy policy.”

May 28: The four companies that operate nuclear reactors in Germany, **REW AG, E.ON, Vattenfall, and EnBW** warn of severe power blackouts should the government attempt to make the country totally dependent upon renewables. They have presented a scientific survey to the Science and Education Committee of the Bundestag by the Bureau for Technology Impact Assessment (TAB), which warns that power blackouts lasting for more than two weeks would drive Germany and its industry into “a national col-

lapse.”

The companies also warn that Merkel’s intent to keep the seven older reactors, which account for a combined capacity of 8,000 megawatts of power, permanently shut beyond the three-month moratorium which expires on June 17, could lead to widespread blackouts this coming Winter. Days with little sunshine and low winds could lead to outages, particularly in Germany’s industry-heavy southern states. “A safe supply to customers in these cases could be severely compromised,” they warn.

Only 4 of Germany’s 17 nuclear reactors are currently producing power, with 7 shut down because of the moratorium, another 5 undergoing maintenance, and another shut down since the Summer of 2009.

May 31: Dieter Zetsche, CEO of automaker **Daimler**, warns that Berlin’s decision poses “the risk that we will turn our backs on an affordable energy supply.” **Hans-Peter Keitel**, head of the **BDI** industry association, states that electricity prices will definitely rise. **RWE**, the power generator, says the company is looking at legal possibilities to counter the government’s move. In the **Christian Democratic Union** (Merkel’s party), the **Wirtschaftsrat**, or council of party-affiliated companies, says that Merkel’s “go-it-alone” nuclear policy in Europe may add billions of euros to power bills paid by industry and consumers. “I’ve heard lots about a phase-out of nuclear power, but little about the costs of phasing in renewable energy,” its president, **Kurt Lauk**, tells reporters.

June 6: Arnold Vaatz, a deputy chairman of the **Christian Democrats’** group in parliament, says in an interview published by *Focus* weekly, that “the rapid exit from nuclear power is the most disastrous mistaken decision, which has been taken in German politics since 1949.”

Without any pressing necessity, “relatively safe and cost-effective nuclear power is being sacrificed in favor of a energy policy adventure which is not well calculated,” Vaatz charges, adding that “this over-hasty decision to exit is a case of command economy,” which, as with the communist German Democratic Republic (where Vaatz grew up), “sets targets that are motivated by mere politics, but not by any real competence.” Power blackouts caused by the nuclear exit would knock Germany out of the first tier of industrialized nations, Vaatz warns.