

About The Way We Should – Reconsidering Our Energy Sources* – Review –

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The name of Roland Mösl is already well-known among the computer scientists and the researchers of solar energy. The task which made him popular was the writing, in 1991, of the concept of a solar power house, the Gemini Haus. He's also the founder of the Planetary Engineering Group Earth, working his entire life on new concepts and inventions in order to lead humanity to the age of solar energy.

I would say that Roland Mösl's most recent book, the *Calculation ERROR* (A publication of PEGE, Salzburg–St. Leonhard, 2013) leads me to the reverse of the feeling once promoted by the popular song of the Scorpions band. There is no “Wind of Change,” there is only the greed and the ambition of the moment, and it needs such works to make us see how manipulated we are. I cannot present in this paper all the interesting key-aspects of Mösl's book, I cannot even pretend that I understand all the technical information, I was not even reading it with the eyes of a scientist. Yet, I find it useful not just for architects, engineers and researchers of the fields of planetary energy. Far more than that, it is a book for every simple consumer and for every man accomplishing political actions, a book about the mission Mösl thinks he has.

It is a well-known fact and does not surprise anybody any more that global energy resources will run out in a couple of decades, and public and political discussions touch on the necessity of alternative energy resources. Yet, the problem is that initiatives remain merely at the level of discussions, and even discussions represent not a loyal mirror and knowledge of the facts, but often some corporate or economical-political interest. This idea explains why Mösl's book is titled the *Calculation ERROR*. Let a short citation stay instead of my explanation: “Humanity is in a civilization jump since two centuries. Before the civilization jump was only renewable energy, mainly biomass. After the civilization jump will be only renewable energy, mainly sun and wind. To start the civilization jump, by using fossil energy to boost the development was right, a necessary development. Half-century ago, humanity reached space, reached the technology level – to fulfill the civilization jump. Phase out fossil energy – Phase in renewable energy, to have a high-tech civilization – for the next some billion years. But there is a deadly calculation error – The death calculation, namely that it is cheaper to

* Roland Mösl, *Calculation ERROR: The Downfall of USA+EU by Worshipping a Destructive Cult* (A publication of PEGE) (Salzburg–St. Leonhard, 2013), 412 p. ISBN 978-3-9503506-0-9

succumb than to survive, that it's cheaper to destroy than to maintain.” This is the speech he said at the Gusi Peace Prize ceremony in 2011 and this is the reason why Mösl considers necessary to present all sides of the renewable energy problem.

To say the truth, environmentalists seem to be able to convince a minor part of the global population that they represent mankind's greatest interests. The possible perspectives of our planet's future are not so many (due to global contamination and the greenhouse effect, for example, but there are many more reasons). Even so, if the human nature is based on egoist instincts or the society on the idea of individual welfare, we cannot expect people to give up on technological advantage and comfort. Among Mösl's intentions is to clarify that environmental fundamentalism cannot lead to success, and, instead of promoting lifestyles that conquer just a few conscious and rich people, we should invest energy and money into the research of all the ways we can reach and preserve solar and wind energy. Renewable energy could be a longtime solution, only that problems cannot be monopolized by a single sector. Neither economic sciences, nor green policy, nor engineering alone can pretend to provide the solution. As we can read, solutions are across the boundaries of disciplines. The problem of the end of fossil energy resources requires cross-sector research and more than the consciousness of the present.

Even those who are not fans of the global conspiracy theory, reading this book, could ask themselves why governments, even the rich ones, fail to see the priority of changing environmental policy, since the knowledge required for this change is already ours.

The greatest aim of Mösl's work is the attempt to find the allies for the solar age. In order to succeed, he explains technical possibilities and even the estimated costs of solar energy equipments, because, as he thinks, public opinion is formed by an industry paid and maintained by the powerful economic and corporate interests. As we know, corporate lobby – clandestine and public as well – is one of the greatest political powers. According to his work, renewable energy needs to gain for itself the industry, the investors as well as the simple people: the car drivers, the consumers, and the environmental fundamentalists. Further, he gives series of examples of some recent political mistakes, when governments could have given a chance to the future, exposing what should have been done and what was actually done (for example after the oil crisis in 2008).

Mösl thinks the solution for the energy-problem is not “renounce and reduce”, but the passage to electric mobility and the production of renewable energy surplus. Of course, we cannot tell that his ideas are so ingenious, since we heard them before, but consistently argued and explained, combined with the awareness of liability, they seem the only solution to save mankind from the fast coming disaster. It is exactly this profound awareness of making part of mankind that I find extremely important. Most people do not like to hear about disasters and we all have the tendency not to take environmental problems too seriously. It still requires a lot of work to become aware that ours is not the only generation which has to live on the earth, and that responsible life means responsible actions for protecting what is given. Reading this book, the first thing I remembered was *The Physicians*, by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, because we are in a similar situation. It is not by accident that Mösl used comparison between the Second World War and the ecological disasters which can result from our lifestyle and attitude. Nowadays, with the opulence of sciences and the complexity of technologies, with the

greed of the free market investors and the wars carried sometimes for unknown or minor reasons, it is more and more difficult to choose between the good and the bad things. It is at least admirable if a man has such powerful convictions about the mission he has to accomplish.

The sceptical would say: of course, theoretically speaking it is easy to accept that the intelligent, competent planning of research and resources, the admission of climate change and of the necessity of planet renovation, the new economic strategies can lead to the so called solar age. They would say that Mösl is an idealist, since immediate welfare and profit is much more attractive than a future without us. Are we prepared, morally speaking, to take such responsibility for the planet? What are the fundamental human values today? It is one topic of them in political discussions, and another one in the political actions? This book is an answer to this question, and I ask the readers to answer it too.

Cultural Benefits of Death. **A Review of Irina Petraş' Book *Death upon the Bearer***

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Irina Petras's book – *Moartea la purtător: stări şi cuvinte*¹ (*Death upon the Bearer: feelings and words*) – appeared at The Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest in 2011, which is in my opinion an almost defiant fact if we think about the aspect that death is, as Robert Kastenbaum would say, the enemy that economy should fight in silence, establishing systems that prevent and erode. The work retakes partially the ideas and literary analyses from *Ştiinţa morţii* (*Death Science*) but it orients them in a new direction – the present desire to write a book about death, the previously existent desire that remained unsatisfied by the two volumes of *Ştiinţa morţii* (the first one appeared at Dacia printing house, Cluj in 1995, and the second one in 2001, at Paralela 45 printing house. This is actually a way of stating that writing a book about death cannot represent an objective fully accomplished – something that was surely known and assumed by Irina Petraş – and this is why it functions as a trigger agent of the creative-thanatic impulses.

There are three major identifiable levels in the construction of the book *Moartea la purtător* and three afferent manners of using the meanings generated by the

¹ Irina Petraş, *Moartea la purtător: stări şi cuvinte* (Death upon the Bearer: feelings and words) (Bucharest: Editura ASE, 2012), 249 p., ISBN 978-606-505-563-6.