

Full circle

July 2021

1. After having spent 250 years developing your industry and making yourselves comfortable, thanks to the cheap and abundant energy of fossil fuels,
2. and using your manufactures to conquer and rule most of the planet,
3. you decreed that fossil fuel energy is bad for your health, now that you're well fed and your population has stabilized, while poorer third world countries struggle, and their population is exploding.
4. Alas, the drop in energy prices associated with the decrease of your consumption will benefit poorer countries which are currently starved of energy and will grab gladly the unexpected opportunity to develop their economies and exports.
5. When you realized the potential benefit to the poor and the cost to the rich, you ruled that fossil fuels are also bad for the health of the poor.
6. If they don't abide, you plan to punish them by erecting barriers to trade in order to kill their exports,
7. thus forcing them to either continue to starve or trade among themselves in a separate economy.
8. When you'll become aware that despite all your efforts all of the fossil fuel in the planet's deposits will eventually be consumed to the last drop, although cheaply and by others, you will try to alter your restrictive policies without losing face.
9. In so doing you will endeavor to reestablish high energy prices to the detriment of the poor who had the audacity of trying to better their fate, furthermore at your expense. The nerve!
10. Now, who's boss, will you ask?
11. But perhaps will it be too late: your aging populations may have become irrelevant, while the populations of developing countries will be large, young, and prosperous, thanks to the boon your policies offered them, although unwittingly.
12. They might rule the world by then. Will you find solace in the contemplation of the ubiquitous forests of your windmills, by now decrepit?
13. But don't panic: you won't freeze or live in the dark, thanks to the hundreds of nuclear power plants that will have been erected by then. After all, wasn't it the whole idea when Margaret Thatcher imagined in 1984, in the midst of a colliers'

strike, to promote a novel climate controversy in order to render nuclear power palatable to the public?

14. You might inquire timidly about possible risks, what with meltdowns and nuclear waste, but rest assured that nuclear energy presents no hazard to your health **whatsoever**, unlike that infamous (although indispensable) element of life, that criminal and murderous atom of carbon, which poisons the air we breathe at the massive concentration of 0.016%.

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