

Resistance to Technology & Environmental Movements

Technikkritik und Umweltbewegung

Technik & Umwelt

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Technological Scepticism

- Recurrent
- Some historical milestones:
  - 1825-1830: Captain Swing and King Ludd
  - 1865: W.S. Jevons „The Coal Question“
  - 1914-1918 WW I
  - 1968-1972: B. Commoner
  - 1973: Limits to Growth vs. Starr/Rudman
  - >1970: Risk and Technology Assessment
  - „NIMBY“, central „bans“

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Auswirkungen eines mit 60 km/h fahrenden Zuges auf die Umgebung (1862)



Lok-Führer und Hühner auf einem mit 60 km/h fahrenden Zug (1862)

Innovation: Scepticism and Resistance in View of the Unknown

Speed kills..... 19th century sceptical German cartoons reflecting Science's (Prussian Academy of Sciences) verdict

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**“Weeping willow“  
Strategy:**

**Use constraints/  
opposition as  
opportunity**

Vienna waste  
incinerator bowing to  
“green” public  
perception



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**Environmental Concerns**

13<sup>th</sup> Century: First air pollution complaints

18<sup>th</sup> Century: Fear of timber „famines“

1884: J. Ruskin „Storm Cloud of the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Century“

1896: S. Arrhenius on CO<sub>2</sub> and climate

1900: Conservation movement

1920s: Oil scarcity fears

1952: „Killer smog“ in London

1962: R. Carson „Silent Spring“

1972: Limits to Growth

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**Recurring Perception of Scarcity**

*“...the data at hand in regard to the gas still  
available underground ... make it probable that  
the annual output will never be very much more  
than it was during the period 1916 - 1920.”*

R.S. McBride and E.G. Sievers (USGS),  
Mineral Resources of the United States, 1921, p.340.

US gas production:

22 Mtoe in 1920

100 Mtoe in 1995

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*“The stone age did not come to an end because of a lack of stones.”*

Sheikh Yamani

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Technology – Environment Paradox

- Race between productivity/efficiency and output/consumption growth
- Solving one problem, but creating yet another one
- Scale of influence
- Uncertainty and surprise, genuine or „constructed“ (attention management problem)

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IPAT Identity for OECD 1900-2000 (all #'s rounded!)

	POP 10 <sup>6</sup>	GDP POP \$/cap	GDP 10 <sup>9</sup> \$	ENE GDP kgoe/\$	ENE Mtoe	C... ENE tC/toe	C MtC
1900	350	3000	1000	.7	700	.9	600
2000	900	21000	19000	.25	5000	.7	3300
Factor In- crease	2.6	7	19	.36	7	.74	5.5
aagr %/yr	1.0	2.0	3	-1.0	2.0	-0.3	1.7

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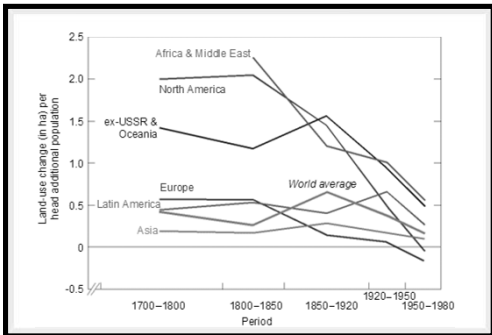
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### Land-use Change per Head Additional Population (ha per person)



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### Energy Efficiency (%) and Emissions (g/km) for Horses, and Early and Contemporary Automobiles

	Horses	Cars (ca. 1920)	Cars (1995)
<b>Engine efficiency, %</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Wastes</b>			
Solid	400	-	-
Liquid	200	-	-
Gaseous, including			
Carbon (CO <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>d</sup>	170	120	70
Carbon (CO)	-	90	2
Nitrogen (NO <sub>x</sub> )	-	4	0.2
Hydrocarbons	2 <sup>e</sup>	15	0.2

<sup>d</sup> Total carbon content of fuel  
<sup>e</sup> Methane  
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### Global Materials Mobilization

Billion tons per year, AD 2000

	Fossil energy	Metals	Industrial raw materials	Constr. materials	Earth moved	Food & fibers	Total
Mining/harvesting	10	>5	2.5	~16	-	>5	>40
Overburden, wastes	>20	>15?	<1	>1	>50	<5	>100

Source: Argawal (1991), Grübler (2001), Nöstaller (1996).

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*Far away from the stone age, we used more crushed stone in 30 years than our ancestors in 30,000 years.*

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Dimensions of Global Change ca. AD 2000

	Land use 10 <sup>7</sup> km <sup>2</sup>	Water use km <sup>3</sup>	Materials mobilized 10 <sup>9</sup> t	Emissions 10 <sup>9</sup> t			
				Arsenic	CFCs*	Sulfur	Nitrogen#
Human	47	3,000	>100	0.04	0.5	70	80
Natural	84	10,000	<25	<0.02	-0	<25	<50
Human as % of Nature	56%	30%	400%	200%	~∞	300%	200%

\*Peak in 1988: >1.1 Million tons.  
#1990 data.

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*We “dematerialize” at ever higher levels of materials use.*

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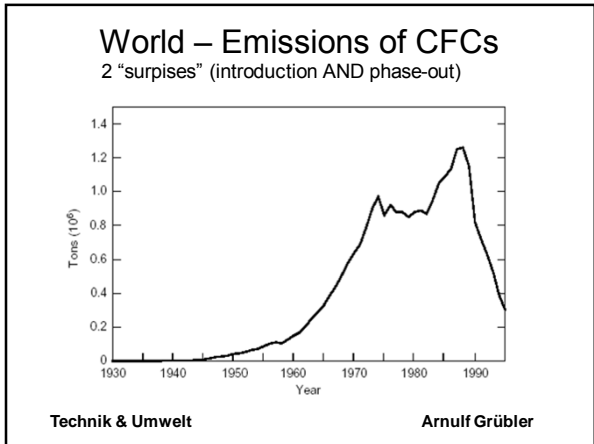
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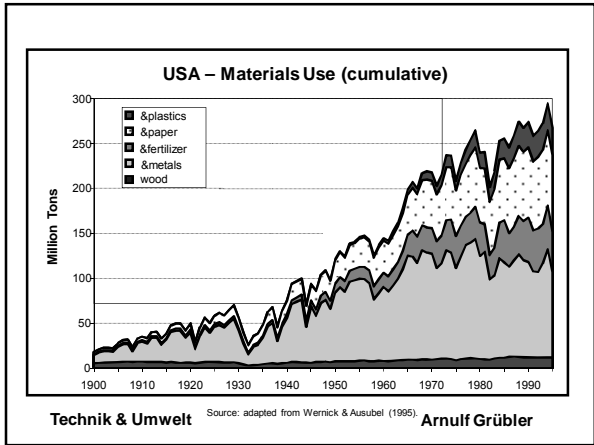
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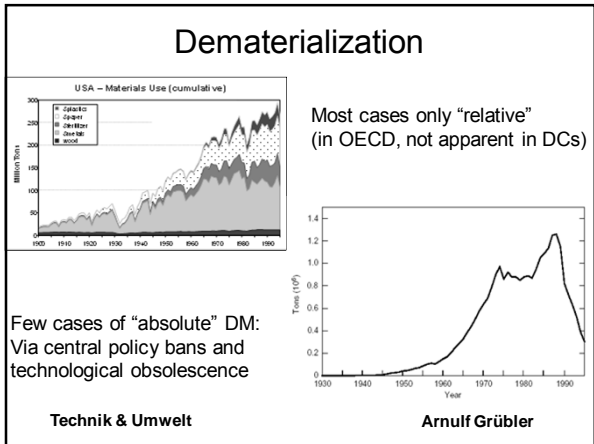
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## Decision Making Paradoxa

- Imperfect information:  
„discovery by accident“ vs  
„precautionary principle“
- Difference between subjective and  
probabilistic risk perception
- Difference between individual vs central  
decision making (PC vs. Reactors)
- Diametrically opposing world views

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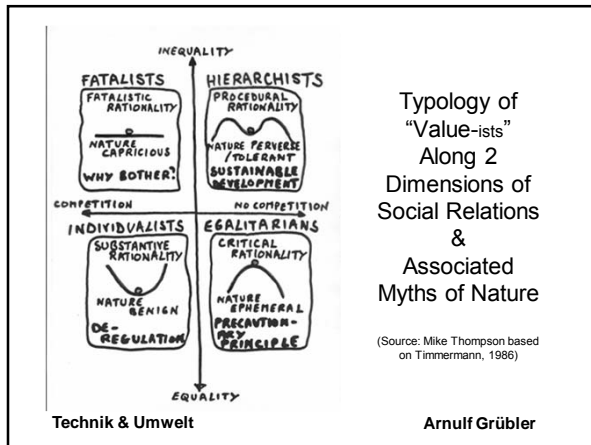
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## Genuine and „constructed“ Uncertainties

- Ignorance (lack of „know-why“ and  
„know-how“)
- Lack of technology (e.g. for  
measurement and modeling)
- Knowledge not available to right people
- „Attention management“  
(get ear of decision maker)
- Biases and filters: „Discovery by  
accident“

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## Value and Lifestyle (Preferences) Change



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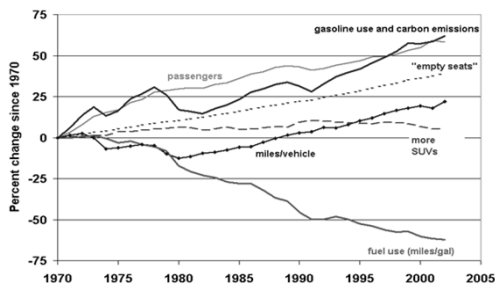
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## Percent Change since 1970 in US Automobile CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Driving Forces



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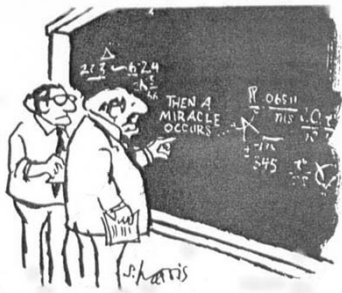
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"I think you should be more explicit here in step two"



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## 4 Systems of Enquiry

„Truth“ is:

LEIBNITZ Gottfried Wilhelm von	Analytic „get the right model“
LOCKE John	Empirical „get the right data“
KANT Immanuel	Synthetic „integrate theory and data“
HEGEL Georg Friedrich Wilhelm	Conflictual „synthesis out of dialectic discourse“

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