

The 1990 peace dividend
a counterfactual hypothesis

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Climate politics and the *Peace Dividend*



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Problem

Political time delays for eco-social reforms accelerate global warming

Method

Counterfactual hypothesis to find causes and consequences of delaying prudent investments

Investment proposition

GLOBAL INVESTMENT Commoner 1990 (p.238f)	Billion \$ (10 ⁹) pr. year	over ... years
Rail transport	37	10
Organic agriculture	45	5 to 10
Soft chemistry	75	10
Use of energy	122	10
Decarbonisation	93	20
Third World debt relief (100%)	100	10
MAX. pr. year	472	
= around half of defense budgets (1988)		

Making Peace with the Planet (Barry Commoner, Spring 1990) Published at Earth Day, Commoner's vision should guide global eco-social restructuring to be financed by de - militarisation

Consequences

1. By realizing Commoner's 20-year plan, the World could have been saved for:

- global warming
- bail-out of banks
- drugs as cash-crops
- lost jobs + markets
- mass migration
- conflict + war

(Susan George 1992: *The debt boomerang. How Third World debt harms us all*, TNI)

2. As this is not the case, we still live on top of a chaotic world-system.

Who dares believe that diplomats from the states of *this* interstate system will be able to implement the stern logic of the Stern report of 2006:

NOT to allow further time delays, but within the next 20 years to invest into a plan akin to Commoner's proposal?

Reaction: Postponing the Peace Dividend...

"American power - and the will to use it - will remain the backbone of any future collective security arrangement..."

That doesn't mean the post-Cold War 'Peace Dividend' has been cancelled; it just has been postponed."



U.S. Pres. Bush, Sen., Fall 1990

... for Geopolitics

*"The voguish notion that the world's geopolitical center had migrated from **Washington** to somewhere around **Berlin** was among the first casualties of the Iraqi invasion."*

(Both quotations: FORTUNE, Sept.10,1990 OIL – how to achieve energy security)

Conclusion

Instead of blaming *individual* consumers or hoping that *markets* will clear the mess, *state crash programs* for thousands of wind farms and solar devices should empower people to do the *work* we need.

Further reading: STOP GLOBAL WARMING - CHANGE THE WORLD! (Jonathan Neale 2008)