

Just Transition

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How to manage the transition?

- A climate change-driven transition is underway.
- It has its benefits and costs, its winners and losers, and it will hit a part of society very hard.
- It is the state that is driving it and that is governing it.

= Should governments aspire to a just transition? (And what is „just“?)

Deep repository of radioactive waste (2014)

- Siting process running for more than 25 years, no results.
- 32 interviews with majors involved in the process.
- NIMBY reasoning expected.

- The Responsibility Frame: We all want light, we all wanna use power, so we gotta find a way.
- The Risk Frame: Here you have a virgin landscape, that's what we are here for.
- The Dysfunctional State Frame: In that process, we're the least important.
 - „That they (State representatives) absolutely don't take into account any of our decisions or something that they promised and never keep their word. ...“
 - „Well that's the difference between them developed countries and here, that there you've got the law and there's no way around it. Here, they come up with a law and in a year they totally change it, you see.“

Czech Coal Commission

- 2019, to determine the timetable and method of transitioning away from lignite in the Czech Republic. Phase-out by 2038.
- The nomination of CC's members happened unsystematically, based on unknown rules and ministers' perception of proportionality.
- The distribution of interests was skewed towards the coal sector and politics. (e.g. a regional representant being also a CEO in coal industry).
- The decision-making process very complicated due to the lack of time and analyses combined with the pressure of Minister Havlíček and his unwillingness to postpone the decision despite members' protests.
- Direct communication with the public was limited as the meetings were closed, there were no public discussions and press conferences were sparse.

= Shadow Coal Commission, NGOs withdrawing from the Commission, its decision not accepted by part of society.

Turow lignite coal mine extension

- The Polish government extended the license for the Turów coal mine until 2044, despite opposition from neighboring communities in the Czech Republic and Germany.
- The mine's operations are causing environmental and social issues in nearby areas, and the Czech Republic sued Poland over the mine in February 2021.
- In May 2021, Poland defied an injunction to close the mine immediately, citing job losses and energy system impacts.
- Studies have shown that renewable energy alternatives for the region could produce more jobs and save electricity production costs.
- As of September 2021, Poland had not ceased mining activities at the Turów mine and was ordered to pay a daily penalty payment by the European Commission, which the Polish government refused to comply with.

Just transition

= Should governments aspire to a just transition? (And what is „just“?)

- In modern democracies with a high degree of legal protection for the individual, just decision-making by the state is not only moral but can also be pragmatically more advantageous.
- Distributive + procedural justice.