

# Contents

<i>List of figures and tables</i>	vii
<i>Foreword</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xviii
<i>List of acronyms and abbreviations</i>	xix
<b>Scenario</b>	
<b>From fossil fuels to solar power: transforming the global economy</b>	<b>1</b>
The power of the pyromaniacs	5
Fossil resource dependency: how economic processes have come adrift from their environmental and social bases	10
Global competition in place of global environmental policy	12
The origins of the fossil-fuel economy	14
Accelerating change and global displacement	15
Business unbound: cutting loose from nature and society	19
Reconnecting business and society through solar resources	21
From the political to the economic solar manifesto	25
<b>PART I</b>	
<b>CAPTIVITY OR LIBERATION: FOSSIL FUEL AND SOLAR SUPPLY CHAINS COMPARED</b>	
<b>Chapter I</b>	
<b>Ensnared by fossil supply chains</b>	<b>37</b>
Long supply chains due to limited resources: the logic of globalization	37
Fossil resource supply chains and industrial concentration: market destruction through market mechanisms	44

	The spider in the web: the growing influence of Big Energy and Big Mining	49
	The convergence of power: networking, supercartels and the disempowerment of democratic institutions	56
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Exploiting solar resources: the new political and economic freedom</b>	<b>62</b>
	The solar supply chain	66
	The economic logic of the solar energy supply chain	76
	Solar power: technology without technocracy	82
 <b>PART II</b>		
<b>THE PATHOLOGICAL POLITICS OF FOSSIL RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>The 21st century writing on the wall: the political cost of fuel and resource conflict</b>	<b>93</b>
	A world in denial: the disregard for limited reserves	94
	Dwindling reserves versus worldwide growth in demand	103
	Arming for the resource conflict	105
	Resource reserves, gunboat diplomacy and the moral bankruptcy of society	115
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>The distorting effects of fossil supply chains</b>	<b>120</b>
	The rise and fall of the fossil city	121
	The fossil resource trap closes on the developing world	128
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>The mythology of fossil energy</b>	<b>137</b>
	Figures of fancy: the inadequacy of conventional energy statistics	139
	The inadequacy of energy forecasts	143
	The profligate subsidies for conventional energy systems	149

The feigned productivity of nuclear and fossil energy	153
Ideology and the physics of energy	159
The fear of the small scale	166

### PART III

#### THROWING OFF THE FOSSIL SUPPLY CHAINS

<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Energy beyond the grid</b>	<b>173</b>
	Wireless power: the potential of solar stand-alone and stand-by technologies	174
	The potential for natural and technological solar energy storage	182
	Synergistic applications, cross-substitution and all-load micro-power plants	195
	The solar technology revolution and the solar information society	201
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>The untapped wealth of solar resources</b>	<b>206</b>
	The higher productivity of biological materials	209
	Replacing fossil with solar resources	218
	Solar materials: from agricultural monocultures to polycultures	220
	The real biotechnology: materials science, not genetic engineering	225
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>The profitability of renewable energy and resources</b>	<b>231</b>
	Whose costs? Why solar and fossil resources cannot be compared on the basis of economic efficiency calculations	233
	Cost avoidance: economical application of solar resources in a nutshell	237

**PART IV**  
**TOWARDS A SOLAR ECONOMY**

<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>Exploiting solar energy</b>	<b>251</b>
	The role of capital allowances – and their problems	253
	Tax-exempt status for solar resources: overcoming the legitimacy crisis of environmental taxation	256
	Possibilities and problems in the market for green electricity	259
	Green suppliers and municipal self-sufficiency	269
	Creative destruction in the energy industry and the transformation of the resource industry	276
	Hard roads to soft resources	280
<b>Chapter 10</b>	<b>Regionalization of the global economy through solar resources</b>	<b>285</b>
	Regionalization effects through solar resources	288
	'Own implementation' versus 'joint implementation': opportunities for the developing world	292
	Regionalizing trade flows	296
	The sustainable economy: global technology markets, regional commodity markets	301
	Trade not talk: beyond the energy industry	308
<b>Chapter 11</b>	<b>The visible hand of the sun: blueprint for a solar world</b>	<b>312</b>
	Forwards: towards the primary economy	316
	Work and the solar economy	320
	From the bounty of the sun to global economic prosperity	323
	<i>References</i>	326
	<i>Index</i>	341

# List of figures and tables

## Figures

2.1	Comparison of electricity generation from fossil fuels and renewables	79
2.2	Internal processing steps involved in solar and fossil fuel/nuclear electricity generation	81
3.1	Estimated duration of crude oil and natural gas reserves	105
7.1	The 'petrochemical snake'	212
7.2	Comparison of solar and petrochemical resources	213
7.3	The range of applications of a solar raw material	222
9.1	Energy supply structures incorporating renewable energy	274
9.2	Model for the future: municipally/regionally integrated energy supply incorporating renewable energy	275

## Tables

1.1	Geographical concentration of mineral reserves	43
2.1	Characteristics of solar resources	68
2.2	Can industrial concentration and monopoly structures be avoided?	88
3.1	Mineral reserves	102
3.2	Growth rates for fossil energy use in Asia, in millions of tonnes	112
4.1	Energy imports as a percentage of export revenue, selected developing countries	134
6.1	Stand-by power consumption and equivalent PV panel area	180
6.2	Energy storage technologies	193

6.3	Energy regulation strategies in biological systems, compared with existing and potential architectural applications (selected examples)	198
7.1	Comparison of market prices for fossil and regenerable resources	214
7.2	Comparative evaluation of products manufactured from fossil and solar raw materials	216
10.1	Regional distribution of economic activity: renewable and non-renewable resources compared	290