

DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE POWER SYSTEM - THE REVOLUTION UNNOTICED

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Traditional power system....

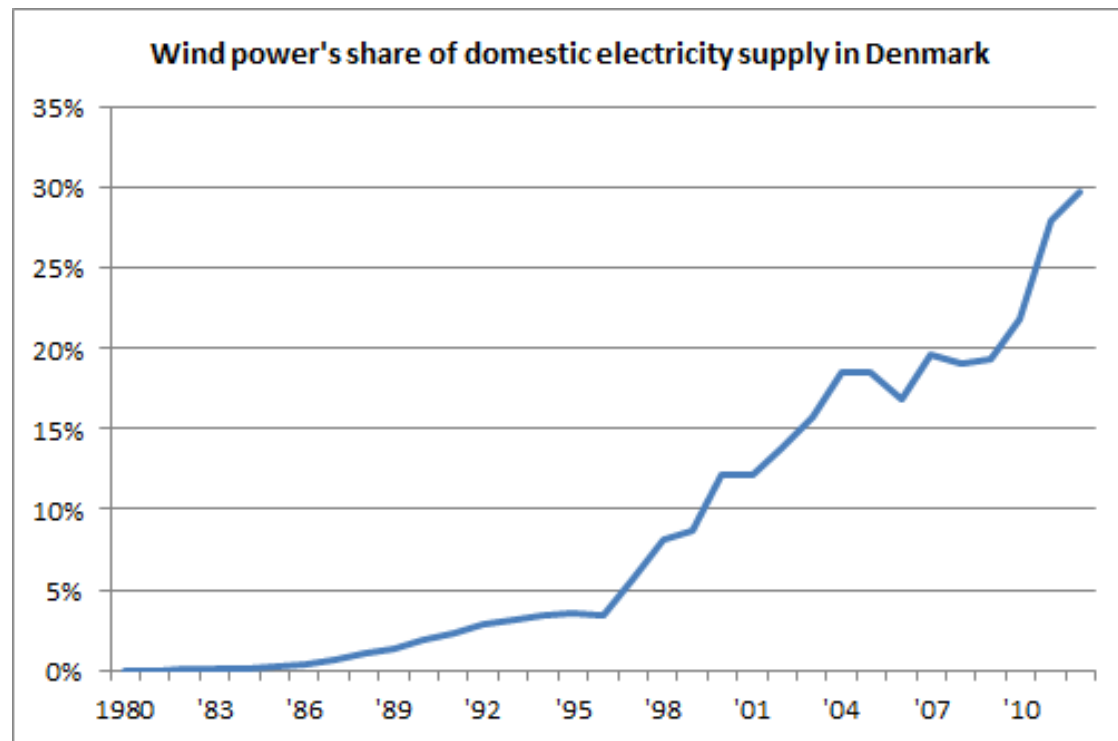
- Energy consumption is increasing steadily;
- Centralized power generation dominates;
- The large power plants are owned by large energy companies with close connections to the government;
- Fossil fuels are the dominant energy source.

...and its limits

- Fossil fuels are limited and will sooner or later run out;
- The atmosphere's capacity to accommodate CO₂ emissions is limited;
- Air pollution and the potential for a nuclear catastrophe is increasing;
- Close connections between government and energy companies leads to a narrow understanding of „national interests“ and is undermining democratical influence of citizens.

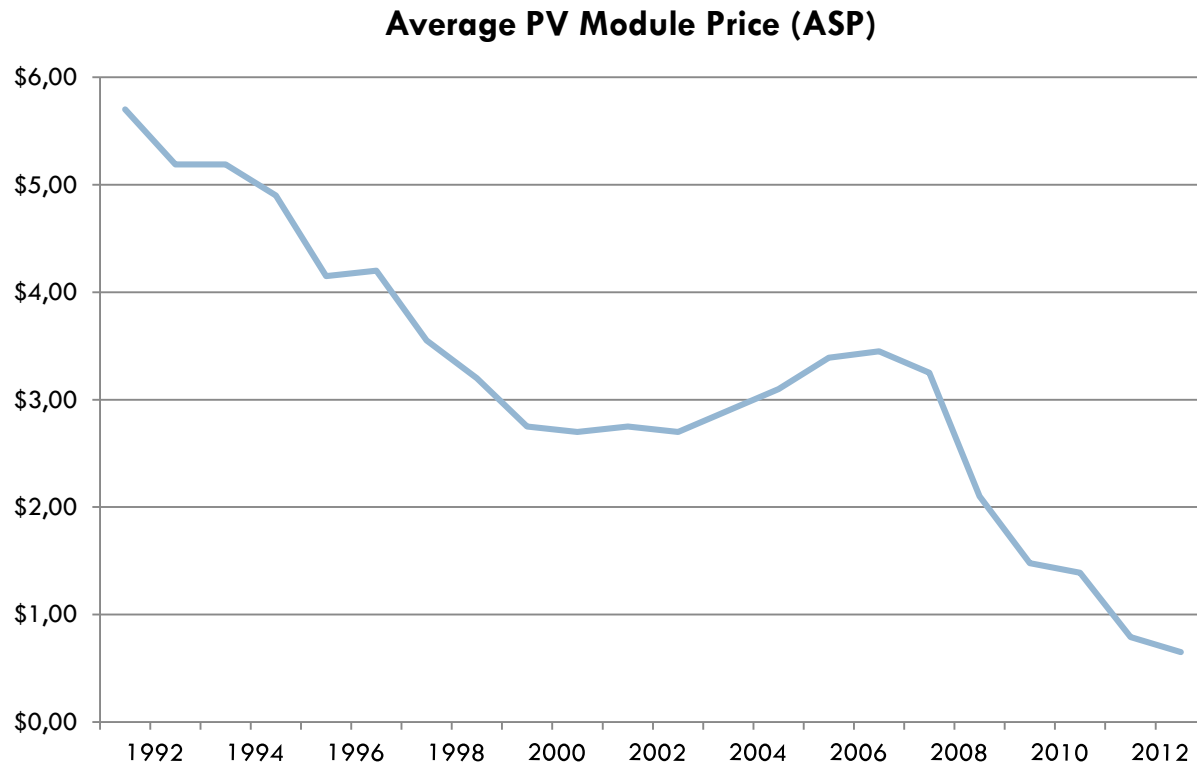
The quiet revolution...

- Farmers in Denmark and Germany look for alternatives to nuclear energy... and find one.



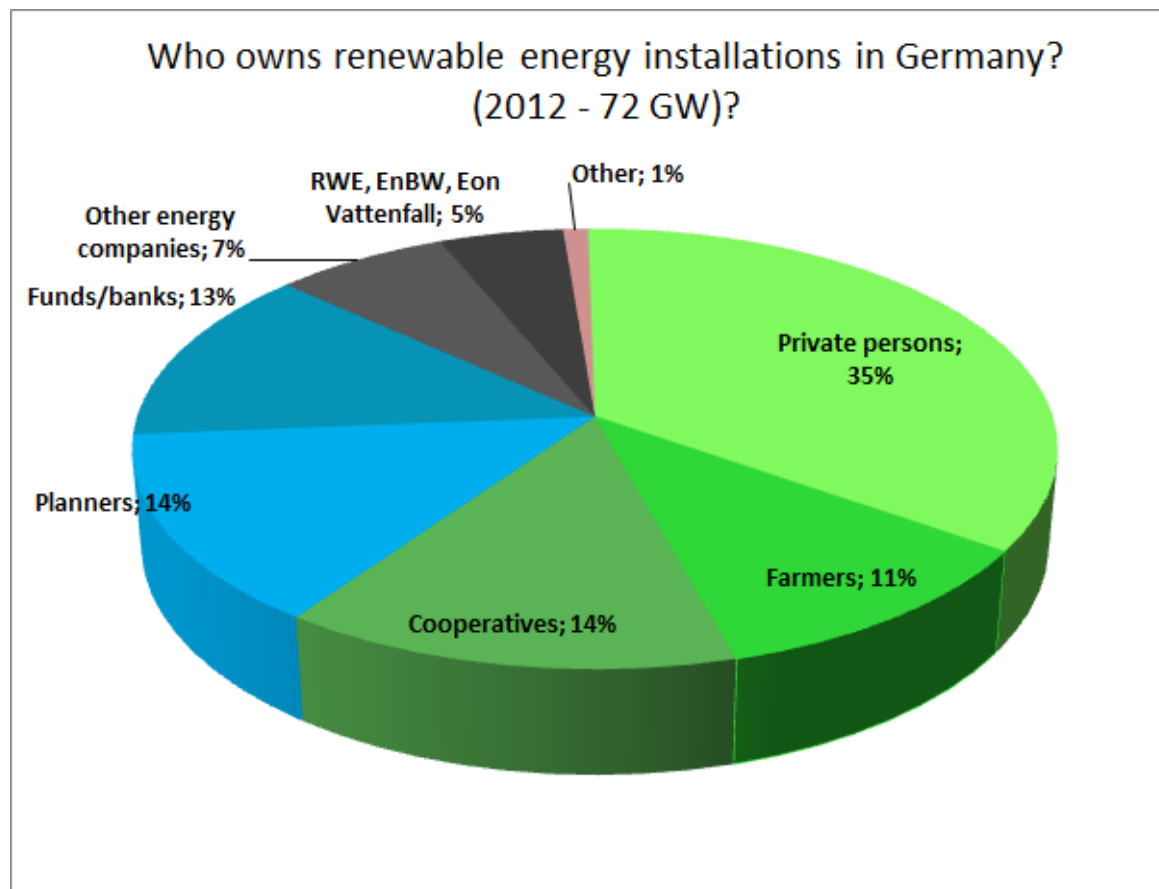
The quiet revolution...

- Prices of renewable energy falling significantly



The quiet revolution...

- From centralized to distributed power production...



The quiet revolution...

- In Germany in 2012 there were:
 - ▣ 754 energy cooperatives
 - ▣ August 2012 – 1.223.000 PV plants in Germany installed
 - ▣ Average size of a PV plant – 20 kW
 - ▣ 75% of new PV-plants smaller than 10 kW (February 2014)
 - ▣ 89% of the society supports further energy transition despite rising energy prices

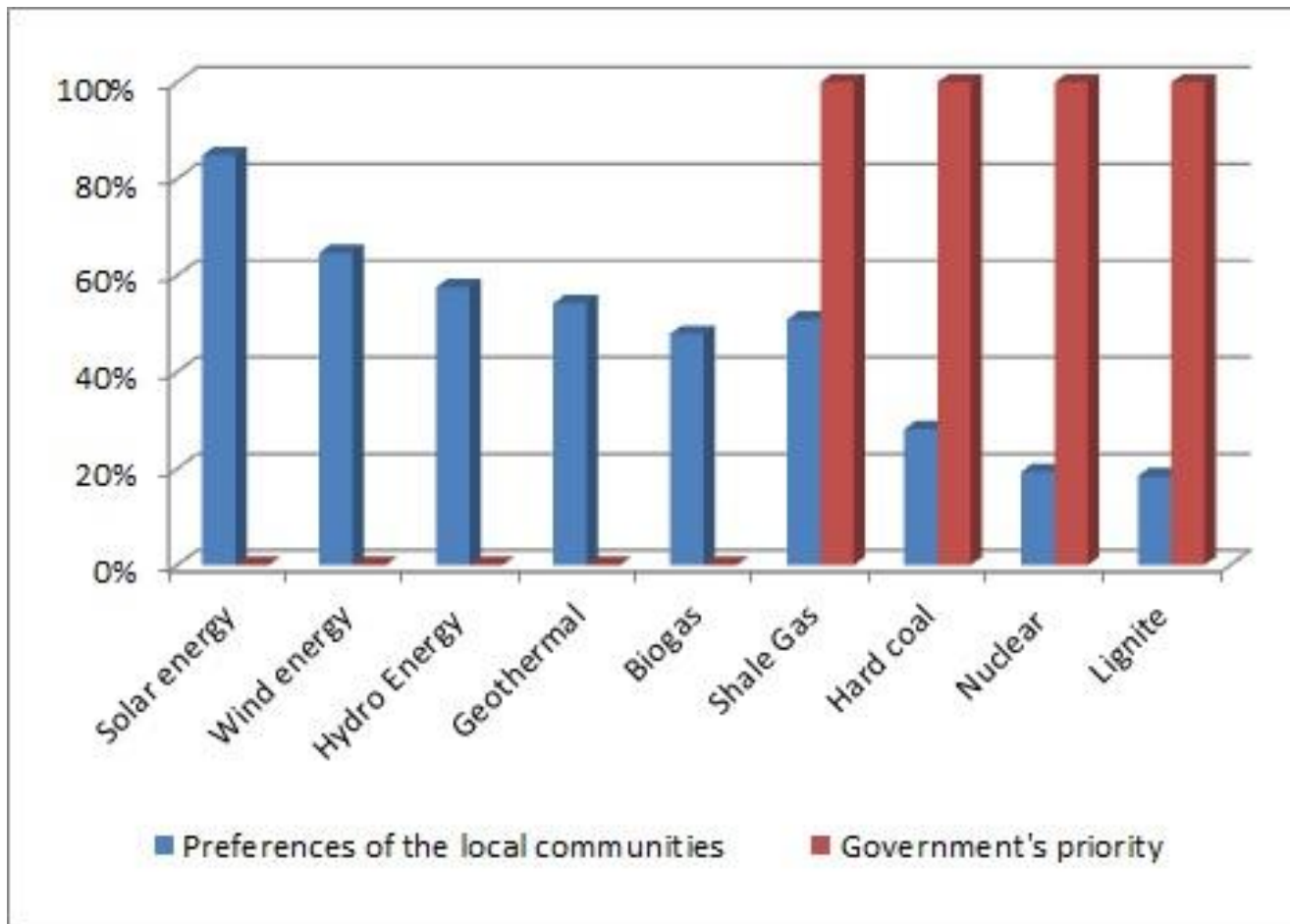
Meanwhile in the East....

- In most Eastern European Countries, including Poland and and Russia, power market is dominated by state owned companies;
- „New renewables“ such as wind and solar are playing a very small role;
- Distributed power production is almost non existing;
- Close connections between the governments and the state owned energy companies lead to mismanagement of public money for the benefit of few.

The voice of the local authorities....

- Results of a survey conducted among local authorities in Poland between August and October 2013:
 - ▣ According to 85% and 65% of local authorities Poland should support solar and wind energy respectively;
 - ▣ Only 19% and 18% of respondents preferred increased support for nuclear and lignite respectively
 - ▣ 64% of local authorities are against development of nuclear energy in Poland

...and the government's priorities



Summary

1. The traditional power system is facing significant challenges;
2. State owned power companies have a significant impact on the energy policy at the costs of power consumers;
3. A significant decrease of the costs of renewables below grid-parity makes it possible for energy consumers to become independent from the monopoly of power companies;
4. Move towards a distributed, renewables-based power system would lead to the empowerment of the society and fairer distribution of financial resources.