

## A GOLDEN AGE Made of Green?

advancement for demagogues, for those who stand on a soapbox and say, "I will make you proud again. It is the Jew, the Syrian, the German, the Greek—it doesn't matter—the other, the left-handed person, the different—if we get them we are going to be free, and our nation is going to be proud again."

This is a symptom we call Fascism, but it is not a cause. The cause is a **capitalist crisis** that was **always** going to hit us, given the inanity of the so-called growth model of financialized globalization, prior to 2008, and the incredible cynicism with which that crisis was dealt with by the establishment when it hit.

As Greek finance Minister, my sermon to this establishment was "*If you squash us, if you do a coup d'état*"—at this time, they didn't use the tanks as they did in 1967 in Greece; they used the banks, closing them down to asphyxiate the government—"what you are going to deal with, once you destroy a democratically elected Europeanist, progressive left-wing government, you're going to have to deal with right-wing fascists." And lo and behold, Ms. Merkel is now being booted out, effectively, because of the rise of the *Alternative für Deutschland*, because that awful xenophobic, fascist party has stolen around 15 percent of her Christian Democratic power base, and her own Christian Democratic party is now going to try to appease the fascists by getting rid of Merkel.

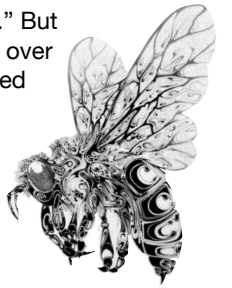
Immigration was never the issue. The loudest noises against the migrant, the foreigner, the refugee, come from places that don't have any, **like Hungary**. They haven't **seen** a refugee. They don't know what a refugee looks like. And yet, that is where refugees are demonized, more than in Sicily or Lesbos, islands in the Mediterranean, that are swarming with refugees, where the local population is actually extremely solidaristic to them. So, it's got nothing to do with flows. Let's get this clear. Our reaction to the arguments that we are being swarmed by foreigners and so on is: Let them in. Borders are a scar on the surface of the planet, on the face of the Earth. They make no sense. The only thing that they do is they increase the profits of the traffickers. And at the same time, we are failing to understand that Europe is aging. We need migrants. We need refugees.

Hillary Clinton the other day stupidly—and I use that word with a great deal of thought—suggested that the way to defeat populism in Europe is to erect borders around Europe and to stop migrants from coming in. Hillary Clinton said that, proving that she was unfit to be president of the United States yet again. So, in other words, you cannot compete with the fascists with **Fascism-Lite**. You cannot compete with them playing their own misanthropic game. The only way you can compete with them is by appealing to the humanity of humans and also to their rationality. And using migrants as a football, in the end, backfires.

- Yanis Varoufakis Continues on page 16

## THE YELLOW VEST'S LESSON FOR CLIMATE CHANGE.

Vincent Picard describes himself as a "militant ecologist." But when protesters took to the streets to express their rage over a planned increase in France's fuel taxes, Mr. Picard joined their ranks. He acknowledges that the carbon tax might encourage the conservation considered critical for a healthy planet. But with the nearest train station 35 minutes away, he has to drive to work every day.



"I am conscious that we have reached the end of fossil fuels and that we have to modify our habits," said Mr. Picard, a 32-year-old pastry maker from northern France. But, he added, "You have to continue to live." The French tax was not politically deft, falling hardest on people outside French cities who were already feeling the pain of stagnating incomes and who do not have the same mass transportation options as urban residents. It angered those who can least afford to pay more to get to work and drop off their children at school.

The Carbon tax is part of an effort started by France in 2014 to regularly raise the tax on fossil fuels to fight global climate change. The budget specified that utilities and other firms with high carbon emissions which operate with greenhouse gas emissions quotas or are exposed to international competition **will not have to pay these taxes**. Trucking and taxi companies, as well as agriculture are also exempt.

The French in the past have been far more tolerant than most societies in accepting high taxes on gasoline and diesel fuels. The cost of a gallon of gas in France is about \$6 or more — with taxes accounting for about 60 percent of that — compared with about \$3 on average in the United States, where high fuel taxes have been a nonstarter. The French government's tax increase, written into law **before** President Emmanuel Macron was elected, proved a tipping point for hard-pressed families already laboring under some of Europe's highest overall tax burdens. Rather than spurring the effort to cut fossil fuel use, the misstep now threatens to set it back.

-Yellow Vest's Continues on page 15

## TIMBER COMPANY MUST FOLLOW OPPONENTS DETERMINATIONS

The Mattole's Rainbow Ridge area is a remote forest of critical biological importance, harboring habitat for sensitive or endangered species such as the *Humboldt Marten*, *Spotted Owl*, *Pileated Woodpecker*, *Golden Eagle*, *Northern Goshawk*, *Pacific Fisher*, *Salmon and Steelhead*, and increasingly rare reptiles and amphibians such as *Red-Legged Frogs*, *Southern Torrent Salamanders*, and *Pacific Giant Salamanders*.

The **Humboldt Redwood Company** owns 18,000 acres in the Mattole, in addition to its 191,000 acres elsewhere in Humboldt County. Both **HRC** and **Mendocino Redwood Co.** to the south are owned by the S.F.-based Fisher family, also owner of the Gap, Old Navy and Banana Republic retail empire. Their lumber is marketed as "Certified Sustainable" by the **Forest Steward Council** in the Bay Area through Home Depot and other outlets.

A formal complaint by the Petrolia-based **Lost Coast League** concerned two specific issues: the logging of previously un-entered forest stands **and** the extensive use of herbicides, Dr. Robert Hrubes, one of the founders of **FSC** and Lead Investigator, stated that the League's Complaints are "*factually with merit*." Rainbow Ridge logging plans need "corrective action." He stated that the issue has **persisted** and, particularly in Mendocino County and the Mattole Watershed of Humboldt County, **intensified**."

Accordingly, two Corrective Action Requests are being raised as a result of this complaint investigation, one pertaining to updating the "**High Conservation Value**" assessment in the Mattole. Accordingly, the assessment is to designate those areas with Dr. Hrubes instructing the HRC to go over their lands with the League to make those determinations.

"*These harvest plans failed the test of sustainable forestry as determined by the Forest Stewardship Council – the reviewing agency on which HRC bases their claim as industry leaders. The public does not buy the idea you can continually poison a mature forest and claim to be growing it sustainably. Had we not brought this action, the practices would continue unabated. We pledge to work with HRC to protect public trust resources in the Mattole,*" declared Michael Evenson, Lost Coast League Vice President.

[lostcoastleague.org](http://lostcoastleague.org)

Audit Report from Dr. Hrubes available upon request)

## "WE HAVE NOT COME HERE TO BEG WORLD LEADERS TO CARE... WE HAVE COME TO LET THEM KNOW CHANGE IS COMING"

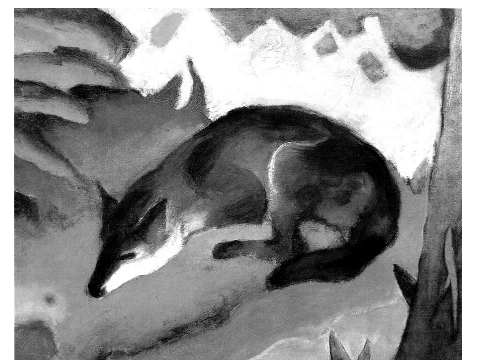
In Poland, at the COP24 climate talks fifteen-year-old Greta Thunberg of Sweden issued a stern rebuke on behalf of the world's youth climate movement to the adult diplomats, executives, and elected leaders gathered by telling them she was not there asking for help or demanding they comply with demands but to let them know that new political realities and a renewable energy transformation are coming whether they like it or not.

"Since our leaders are behaving like children, we will have to take the responsibility they should have taken long ago," said Thunberg, who has garnered international notoriety for weekly climate strikes outside her school in Sweden, during a speech on Monday.

Thunberg said that she was not asking anything of the gathered leaders—even as she sat next to UN Secretary General António Guterres—but only asking the people of the world "to realize that our political leaders have failed us, because we are facing an existential threat and there's no time to continue down this road of madness."

Thunberg explained that while the world consumes an estimated 100 million barrels of oil each day, "there are no politics to change that. There are no politics to keep that oil in the ground. So we can no longer save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed."

"So we have not come here to beg the world leaders to care for our future," she declared. "They have ignored us in the past and they will ignore us again. We have come here to let them know that change is coming whether they like it or not. The people will rise to the challenge."



— Greta Thunberg (@GretaThunberg)

"On climate change, Thunberg demonstrates more clarity and leadership in one speech than a quarter of a century of the combined contributions of so called world leaders. Willful ignorance and lies have overseen a 65 percent rise in CO2 since 1990. Time to hand over the baton."

Kevin Anderson, professor of energy and climate change at the University of Manchester