Project Group (14 - The War in Ukraine - a turning point towards sustainability?**):**

Comment

Authors of the Comment: Espen Rechsteiner, William Oo, Friedjof Ohms, Judith Willers, Ariana Beck, Janika Pfnister, Anneke Wilzewski, Eric Steiner

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The Ukraine war - A turning point towards sustainibility?
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We're living in a time of multiple crises but the Russian invasion in Ukraine has set itself apart. This war is a product of already existing issues concerning Europe's dependence on fossil fuels and energy imports by Russia.
As well as worsening longer standing crises, it is creating new problems as well, such as inflation, a renewed immigrant crisis, and an accelerated and large scale destruction of natural ecosystems and biodiversity. However with joint action this war may be perceived as a turning point towards the social-ecological transformation in the future.
But what does that term even mean? „Social-ecological transformation is an umbrella term which describes political, socioeconomic, and cultural shifts resulting from attempts to address the socioecological crisis." (Brand & Wissen, 2020)

Russia's Invasion in Ukraine was only made possible by Europe's fossil dependence, which gave Russia the financial resources to fund the full scale invasion on Ukraine.

Germany has always been dependent on gas delivery. About 50 % of the gas used in Germany to heat homes and water for example has been delivered by Russia in the past. This made about 46 billion cubic meters per year. Only 25% of the gas used in Germany has been imported through so-called Liquified Natural Gas Terminals (LNG). However, since the war in Ukraine has started, there has been a complete change. Gas delivery from Russia has dropped down to below 10% now and politicians are looking for other sources to get oil from.

So what are our alternatives?

First of all, Germany is planning to build new LNG Terminals and there are new contracts being made with different countries to keep the gas delivery up. (Witsch, 2022)

The question we thought of: "Could this be a turning point for Germany to expand renewable energy?"

The Ukraine war is causing people to look for renewable energies as well. Solar cells are currently in high demand, especially for private individuals with their own houses. There are more than twice as many orders as in previous years. However, it is not possible to determine exact forecasts for this year yet. (Sackmann, 2022)

Wind power makes an enormous contribution to the energy transition. But the expansion in Germany has been stalling for years. During the last three years, no more than 500 wind turbines

have been installed per year. In order to achieve the climate target of generating at least 80% of electricity from renewables by 2030 2000 new wind turbins have to be built per year. (Hansen, 2022)

To promote this, for example, electricity prices can no longer be controlled throughout Germany, but from individual clamping units. Thus, federal states with a lot of wind power would have a minimum electricity price on windy days, while federal states with very little wind power would have an immensely higher consumption at the same time. This price incentive would be one way in which the electorate will demand a significant increase in wind power.

Taking the example of the German energy supply, the reaction must be firm implementation of the Osterpaket together with financial participation of the citizens in wind and solar parks. Rethinking the current model of a centralized energy supply towards a decentralized system. Creating a resilient and just energy supply for everybody. Furthermore, looking at that issue on a global scale Germany should advocate together with a coalition of the willing for a depth cut concerning the countries of the global south to enable them to begin with the expansion of renewable energies.

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