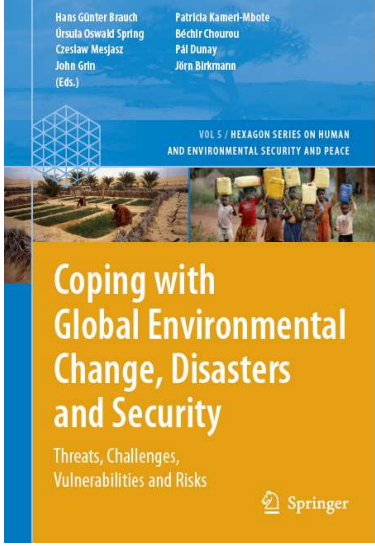
Chulalongkorn University

Bangkok, Thailand
Friday, 14 December 2012, 9.30-12.00

Dr. Vandana Shiva,
First Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture on Sustainable Development (2012)

Soil Not Oil: Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis



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Soil Not Oil:

Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis

- Two visions:
  - Business as Usual: Postponement of Decisions
  - Alternative Vision: Fourth sustainability revolution or perspective & strategy of sustainabiltiy transition
- Hobbesian Predicament: Fossil World
  - Prevailing political, economic and military mindset
    - Political: Neomalthusian vs Conrucopian vision
    - Economic: Market will solve the climate crisis
    - Military: We have the means to protect us against impacts
    - Technological: geoengineering & technical fixes
- An Alternative World: Sustainability Transition

Business-as Usual & Paralysis of Climate Diplomacy: Politics of Postponement

- **Climate Paradox**
  - Legal commitments and Politicy Declarations
  - Lacking performance & implementation
  - Others should act: developed ot developing countries
- **We are the threat, victims and can be the solution**
  - Historical, present and future GHG emission trends
- **Since UNFCCC COP 15: Politics of Postponement without legally binding commitments**
  - COP 15 Copenhagen
  - COP 16 Cancun
  - COP 17 Durban
  - COP 18 Doha:

Hobbesian World: Control of Oil

- Fossil World: Coal, Oil and Gas remain central
  - Requires militaty control over scarce resources
  - Protection of supply lines: pipelines & sea lanes (e.g. Suez Canal, Malacca Strait, South China Sea)
  - Potential of resource conflicts
  - Continuation of fossil world: Fracking & oil sands
  - Increases 4℃ world: security impacts of GHG rise
  - Dominance of military agenda, legitimation of strong forces (navies), dominance of Hobbesian thinking
  - Dominance of only remaining military superpower

Transition to Sustainable World: Decarbonization of Economy

- Protection of soil, water, ecosystems & climate
- Decarbonization of Energy, Transportation, Production Sectors and of Economy by 2050
  - There are alternatives: changing the hard factors
  - Energy saving & resoruce efficiency improvements
  - Increasing reliance on renewable energy sources
- Transformation of soft factors:
  - values, preferences,
  - lifestyles and ways of life
  - Behaviour towards a sustainable consumption

Energy Transformation: bottom-up and top-down

- Leaders: USA & Japan fell behind: opting out
- Transformation started in small countries that objected to nuclear power: Denmark, Austria
- Achievement of GHG reduction goals is possible
  - Germany (with simultaneously moving out of nuclear energy): energy transormation under way
    - Two laws: electricity feed-in law & renewable energy law
    - Bottom-up: decentralization of supply (indpendent prod.)
    - Top Down: Desertec project
  - UK: environmental innovation
  - France (by relying heavily on nuclear energy)

R. Pachauri (IPCC Chair): Solutions & Key Science Questions

A technological society has two choices. First it can wait until catastrophic failures expose systemic deficiencies, distortion and self-deceptions…

Secondly, a culture can provide social checks and balances to correct for systemic distortion prior to catastrophic failures.

Solutions

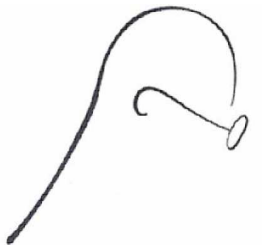
- **A wide variety of policies and instruments are available to governments to create the incentives for mitigation action.**
- **Stabilisation levels assessed can be achieved by deployment of a portfolio of technologies that are either currently available or expected to be commercialised in coming decades**
- **An effective carbon-price signal could realise significant mitigation potential in all sectors**

Key Science Questions

- **How do we define what constitutes “dangerous anthropogenic”?**
- **How do we prepare the human race to face sea level rise & a world with new geographical features?**
- **Is the current pace and pattern of development sustainable?**
- **What changes in lifestyles, behaviour patterns and management practices are needed, and by when?**

Towards a Sustainable Peace based on Sustainable Development

- **Proactive Human & Environmental Security Policy:**
  - Avoids future energy wars on access and control of scarce hydrocarbon energy sources
  - Transformation is fully underway: China and India are among 5 lead nations, in wind power
  - **Proactive Human Security Policy:**
  - **Empower people by enhancing their resilience!**



In Mahatma Gandhi's words:

the change you want to see in the world"