

STORM WARNINGS

*Anarchist bulletin
for the social war*

.....
55-56 – August 15 2022



| Breaking the circle |

In this summer that is breaking old temperature records, many residents of this country that exports its blue gold to the four corners of the globe have discovered a problem that they had believed was reserved for only the poorest, most distant countries: *water rationing*. From Haute-Savoie to Aveyron, dozens of villages have been supplied with water by a procession of tanker trucks; from Creuse to Alpes-Maritimes, others have only been able to cope by supplying tens of thousands of plastic bottles; in Var, a municipality has decreed a maximum water consumption per household, duly controlled by connected meters; in Gard, another municipality has simply decided to cut off the tap to its citizens every day from 6pm to 2am.

Everywhere, bans and municipal limitations on water use have also multiplied, with the usual exemptions that allow golf courses to water their greens, corn producers to irrigate their agro-chemical fields under the burning sun, or factories to suck up water to their heart's content to continue poisoning the planet. Leading the way are the usual sectors; steel, chemical, oil refinery

and pulp. And this is, of course, without forgetting nuclear energy, since four power plants (Bugey, Golfech, Blayais, Saint-Alban) have reached the maximum threshold for thermal discharges into waterways (which should normally lead to their temporary shutdown), and have been authorized in an exonerating manner to further increase the temperature of the water discharged into rivers, despite the additional devastation it causes to fauna and flora. This is a new illustration of how nuclear energy contributes to global warming (the Saint-Alban plant, for example, adds +3°C to the Rhône between upstream and downstream of its reactors), knowing that out of the 32.3 billion cubic meters of fresh water pumped in France, half is used to cool the power plants.

In order to keep the expensive techno-industrial complex moving forward at all costs, other authoritarian techniques of water rationing to the population have also been tried out this summer. Take the town of Gerardmer in Vosges, which, after becoming rich on the mass tourism industry, suffered such a shortage in its water tables that the

27/5, Rome (Italy).

In a communiqué published in July, *Rebels for the extinction of the State and capital* claimed the arson of 10 *Enjoy* car-sharing cars belonging to the hydrocarbon company *ENI*, and 4 others damaged by the flames. "To strike *ENI* today means to sabotage the ongoing war and to act concretely to make those directly responsible pay for creating the situation of climatic and environmental instability that we are living in" states the text in solidarity with various incarcerated anarchists.

JUNE 2022

2/6, Chéronnac (France).

In Haute-Vienne, the wind measuring mast installed within the framework of a project of industrial wind turbines is cut down in the night. Its cables were cut, then it broke on the ground.

18/6, Caen (France)

In Calvados, on a Saturday evening around 9:30 pm, the television, internet and telephone stopped working in the whole Lorge district: the doors of its fiber optic cabinet had been forced open and its cables cut.

18/6, Athens (Greece).

In the neighborhood of Kaisariani, *shadows of solidarity* set fire to eight luxury vehicles in solidarity with the hunger strike of the anarchist Gianni Michailidis.

18/6, Athens (Greece).

An incendiary device is lit in front of the entrance of a branch of the *National Bank*. The attack is claimed by *anarchists* in solidarity with Michailidis.

municipality simply decided to suck the water out of its famous natural lake. And it didn't matter that the level of the lake was already falling by 3 centimeters a day. For several days at the beginning of August, the inhabitants of the so-called "*Pearl of Vosges*" received in their taps water officially declared to be "*unfit to drink*"... which was drawn directly from waters infested with sunscreen and boats for tourists.

But if we now go down a little further south from the Vosges mountains, to the spa town of Vittel, which has seen the upper crust of the Russian aristocracy and the colonial oligarchy pass through in a century, another even clearer situation has arisen: *Nestlé Waters* draws 800 million liters of mineral water per year to bottle 1.5 billion plastic bottles sent to the four corners of Europe, while the deep water tables are gradually drying up, and the solution proposed to the residents by the local authorities is to get water elsewhere, thanks to the construction of a giant pipeline that will draw it from neighboring territories. This situation is similar to that of Volvic, in the Puy-de-Dôme region, exploited this time by *Danone*, where the municipality is now restricting the arrival of new residents by refusing to supply them with water - for lack of sufficient quantities - and reserving it for bottling. This tends to give an aftertaste of the much more critical situation in many countries -from Mexico to Pakistan - where the only drink in poor neighborhoods has become bottled water, after large companies have bought up most of the natural deposits.

This strategic issue of the global decline of freshwater reserves was anticipated in the early 2000s by the major agribusiness companies, which then asked themselves what resource would ensure their growth over the next century before betting on water ... to start buying up natural reserves around the world, since even the most optimistic forecasts are based on the fact that this shortage could affect up to 5 billion people by 2050. The same trend led the Chicago Stock Exchange to do something that had never been done before in December 2020, by deciding to list the subsoils of California, creating the first *future market* for natural water, on par with wheat or oil. And indeed, there was no reason why such a resource in the process of global depletion should not in turn be the object of financial speculation, with the help of clever algorithmic transactions that would fix in advance the price of its use (over several months or years). In California, which has been ravaged for years by drought and fires, where 80% of water consumption is by agricultural companies, we have seen agribusinesses make more money in the last two years by selling titles to use their water than by continuing to farm the land, in particular by selling it to the cities of San Diego and San Fran-

cisco... or to Silicon Valley.

More generally, the depletion of freshwater reserves is leading to a vicious circle that no technical solution can resolve, poisoning the land and air in tandem with extractive industries such as energy (coal, oil, nuclear, and wind turbines), which accumulate pollution in an infernal race. Only 3% of the world's water is fresh, and most of it comes from evaporation from the oceans, of which 10% of the vapor produced waters the continents in the form of precipitation when its temperature drops (the rest returns to the sea). One of the consequences of global warming is not only a global acceleration of the water cycle by the increase in heat at the surface of the seas, but also the alternation of floods with long periods of drought, combined with a decrease in freshwater reserves, which are much slower to replenish (from the snow and glaciers in the mountains to the groundwater in the lowlands, to be brief).

In order to cope with periods of drought, the great geniuses of industry and the energy sector, who foresee nothing less than a 70% increase in their water needs within the next twenty years, have not found a better solution than to prevent water from seeping into the ground by catching it beforehand (creation of giant rainwater reservoirs); pumping it into the groundwater in winter so that there is even less water the rest of the year (construction of mega-basins for industrial agriculture); or even artificially desalinating sea water. However, if this last technology remains the most popular at the moment, from Catalonia to Singapore through the Gulf countries, not only does it aggravate global warming by consuming a monstrous amount of energy, but it also generates huge quantities of salty sludge (one liter of drinking water produces 1.5 liters of brine), both full of chemicals and warmer than the sea water into which it is discharged... thus accelerating the salinization, pollution and warming of the oceans.

In the same vein, following the increasing contamination of groundwater with pesticides and other endocrine disruptors, the powerful *Union of Water Ile-de-France* (SEDIF), which includes 135 municipalities in the Paris region, has spent hundreds of millions of euros on the production of *osmosis* water, which should be flowing into our taps by 2030. This is the same technology used for the desalination of sea water, applied this time to fresh water with lower pressure, while consuming, like its cousin, three times more electricity than current water treatment plants. Except that - a minor detail - this "*purier than pure water*" will remain unfit for consumption due to a lack of mineral salts... which will be added artificially

18/6, Athens (Greece).

In solidarity with Michailidis, an ambush is set up against a police patrol of the Delta unit. The patrol and the police officers who came in as reinforcements were greeted with molotovs.

22/6, Brussels (Belgium)

A police car parked during an intervention in the commune of Schaerbeek is put out of service by an unknown person with a "blunt object": windshield and windows smashed. The cops returned on foot, and their car on a tow truck.

22/6, Saint-Chamond (France)

In Loire, the office of the Macronist deputy lost all its windows in the night, broken with a sledgehammer.

22/06, Munich (Germany).

A few days before the G7 summit, eight riot police vehicles lined up one behind the other were set on fire. Some of the police equipment also went up in smoke with them (shields, riot helmets, bulletproof vests etc.).

22/6, Bremen (Germany).

Paint and stones were thrown at the naval logistics company *BLG*, which provides services to the German army and transports armaments. "*Courage and strength for all those in resistance against the war!*"

25/6, Athens (Greece).

Anarchists/communists claim responsibility for the molotov attack against the policemen in front of the Ministry of Culture next to the district of Exarchia in solidarity with the anarchist prisoner Michailidis on hunger strike.

27/6, Charleville-Mézières (France)
In Ardennes, the campaign office of
Éric Zemmour's party is attacked
around 9 pm: its window shatters,
while a fire is set inside. A young
man arrested just afterwards
is given a six-month suspended
prison sentence.

27/6, Leipzig (Germany).
"In response to the recent raids",
a vehicle of the Post Office is set
on fire. The claim also states that
the Post Office is cooperating
with investigators and ends with
*"Against the state, for anarchy
and release of Lina [in prison
for allegedly organizing physical
attacks on Nazis in their homes]!"*

JULY 2022

1/7, Athens (Greece).
Militant Solidarity claimed to have
placed "two powerful incendiary
devices" in front of the entrance to
Alpha Bank, occupying the same
building as *Axa Insurance* in the
city center. The attack was claimed
in solidarity with Michailidis. In its
communiqué, *Militant Solidarity*
also denounced the management
of information orchestrated by the
State, which silences numerous
actions of solidarity and other
attacks.

2/7, Toulouse (France)
In Haute-Garonne, the stand of
the military aircraft manufacturer
Airbus was targeted during the
city's official Pride, of which it is
one of the sponsors: an inflatable
plane was punctured and tables
turned over. *"From the capitalists
to the politicians, fuck the people
who ruin our lives and recuperate
our struggles! Our desires make
disorder. And we intend to make it
known! Let's clash with Airbus. Let's
crash pinkwashing and its allies!"*

afterwards, while the condensates of undesirable residues
filtered by osmosis will end up in the same river (the Oise)
from which the water had been filtered at the beginning!

In short, it's always the same refrain when it comes to keep-
ing this breathless system on the respirator: fresh water is
running out? Let's put it on the stock market, in mega-ba-
sins or in industrial reservoirs so that first and foremost it
continues to supply the devouring needs of factories. These
factories are poisoning the remaining water every day,
while decreasing its availability by warming and hoarding?
Let's filter it by gobbling up immense energy and extractiv-
ist resources, which will not fail in their turn to close the
circle towards the abyss. It is within this circle of a merciless
war on life that we are now imprisoned, where access to
fresh water represents the ultimate limit to life on earth. A
circle that a few stargazers are already beginning to break
without waiting for anything or anyone, by sabotaging, for
example, the agro-industrial mega-basins in the west of the
territory, by temporarily stopping the semi-conductor fac-
tories, by cutting the data transmitted from the top of the
watchtowers or that run right under our feet, as well as by
igniting what provides power to this deadly world.

What kind of freedom and social relationships can we de-
sire while breathing toxic air, with both feet planted in poi-
soned soil, while drinking brackish water every other day?
If this is already the fate reserved with indifference for a
whole part of humanity sacrificed on the altar of techno-in-
dustrial progress, its unrestrained extension to all life on
earth should tell us something. As true as the small question
posed above, anything but rhetorical, already containing its
own answer: destroying everything that destroys us has be-
come more *vital* than ever...



| Deadly legacies |

In 221 BC, the warlord Ying Zheng completed the unification of China and founded the Qin dynasty, proclaiming himself emperor. After sending his army to repel the wild tribes of the north, he ordered the construction of a set of military fortifications across the Yellow River to defend the newly conquered territories. This colossal work would become known as the "wall of ten thousand *li*", or more commonly as the *Great Wall*, fruit of the forced labor and the ferocious exploitation of hundreds of thousands of convicts, soldiers, workers and peasants who would come to crown the legendary cruelty of the new emperor. Since then, thousands of sections of the *Great Wall* have been destroyed, abandoned, buried, rebuilt, enlarged over 20 centuries of successive dynasties. To this day, it remains the largest architectural structure in length, mass and surface area ever built by human beings. The more than 6,700 kilometers of walls, bastions and fortresses continue to symbolize the power of the state, or rather, the *mega-machine* where technology, exploitation and power converge in a centralized organization, crushing autonomy, differences and freedom. But if its claimed primary vocation was to preserve the territory of the emperors against attacks and incursions by wild tribes - in particular Mongols - that was not necessarily its true intended purpose, as testified by countless histories of kingdoms and republics strewn with gigantic technical constructions all designed to inspire fear and submission in individuals in the presence of state power.

In the early 7th century CE, Emperor Sui Yangdi composed the following poem to support his policy of restoring military fortifications: "*Across the desert we rebuild the Great Wall, / But the idea is not ours, / It was built by wise emperors of the past: / They established here a policy that will last for thousands of centuries, / To secure the lives of their millions of subjects.*" These verses are now perfectly applicable to another human work that in 2011 has managed to dethrone, in width, mass and surface, the immensity of the Great Wall. A work of unbelievable proportions, which has broken free from the narrow borders of competing nations to establish itself in the four corners of the world, regardless of the political regimes in place. A work that crossed all natural barriers, that crossed oceans and penetrated the bowels of the earth, that rushed through forests and conquered mountain ranges, bequeathing a legacy that would

3/7, Jazeneuil (France)

In Vienne, two fields of wheat, the first one hosting a working wind turbine and the other one a wind measuring mast to implant new ones, are burned in the night a few kilometers apart from each other.

6/7, Toulouse (France)

In Haute-Garonne, a newly installed camera in the Bonnefoy district is burned down in solidarity with Ivan, an anarchist imprisoned in Villepinte and accused, among other things, of setting fire to diplomatic cars, as well as with "*all those who continue to conspire and attack*", says the communiqué.

6/7, Athens (Greece).

The *Julian Assagne [sic] Cell* of the *Direct Action Cells* placed an incendiary device in front of a house belonging to a parliamentarian of the party *Nea Demokratia*, and a journalist for the channel *Skai*, Babis Papadimitriou. The action was realized in solidarity with anarchist prisoners.

7/7, Auxerre (France)

In Yonne, three cars of the *local Mission* went up in smoke in the night in its parking lot. Its facade was also hit by flames, with several windows cracked by the heat. The entire fleet of cars of the *local Mission* is now reduced to ashes, after the fire of two other of their cars last March.

8/7, Athens (Greece).

In the parking lot of the electricity company *DEI*, *anarchists/communists* set fire to a car belonging to one of the company's bosses. In the claim, these *anarchists/communists* criticize the bosses, the increase of energy prices etc., then voice their support for the hunger strike of Michailidis.

9/7, Athens (Greece).

The children of chaos set fire to a Porsche in the neighborhood of Vyronas: "Long live the informal anarchist groups! Gianni [Michailidis], stay strong!"

9/7, Athens (Greece).

The Cell of Revolutionary Solidarity places an incendiary device in front of the house of the vice-president of the Supreme Court: "Uncompromising struggle against the state. Freedom for Gianni Michailidis."

13/7, Athens (Greece).

An incendiary device lit in front of a secondary door starts a fire on the top floor of the building housing the offices of the weekly newspaper and radio channel *Real*. The flames then engulfed the entire building. The attack is claimed by *Thousands of Suns of the Night*, in solidarity with Michailidis and other anarchist prisoners. *"Let the whole country know and understand here and now that you are burning everything and making it a desert, that you are eradicating all traces of wildlife and in its place you are building windmills and other renewable industrial energy sources to power machinery, trade and support the tourism industry. We stand with all those who fight for wildlife and the natural world! [...]"*

In the face of the devastation caused by industrialism and the epidemic of forest fires, they call for an *"international campaign against the devastation of the natural world"* under the name *"Nature Revenges."*

7/19, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Placement of an incendiary device targeting a branch of the *National Bank*. *"For the continuation and intensification of the multiform*

"last for thousands of centuries" and determine *"the lives of their millions of subjects"*. The emperors of the Middle Kingdom could never have imagined that in a single year a civilization would manage to erect a wall that weighs 57.4 million tons, according to the most conservative estimates. And that every year, it would still produce its equivalent and probably much more, because in less than a decade the exponential curve of its production has shown an increase of 21%. This is all gathered under the modest name of *"electronic and electrical equipment waste"*, that is to say refrigerators, computers, telephones, screens, stoves, dishwashers, routers, batteries... in short, all that constitutes the sad metallic and plastic flora of our brave new world.

After decades of an extreme dumping policy of these highly toxic wastes in African and Asian countries (a simple plasma screen contains enough lead, cadmium, chromium and arsenic to contaminate 50 m³ of land for at least three decades, which is the equivalent of a small homeowner's garden), industrial states have successively launched programs to support the recycling industry. If the profitability of this business is more and more assured by the price of rare or precious metals that can be extracted from electronic waste (which makes it a commodity like any other) and by a demand that keeps growing in a world in full "ecological transition" towards the all-digital and electrical, there remains the problem of the toxicity of the process itself and of non-recyclable parts, which remains an impossible Gordian knot to solve. And it is not the vast strategic programs to develop a highly sophisticated recycling industry launched on the scale of the European Union - in order to reduce its almost complete dependence on the supply of metals necessary for its industrial renewal - that will magically make the toxicity of this waste disappear. This toxicity is only added to that of nuclear waste which we do not know what to do with, and to that of highly toxic waste from the chemical or electronic industries which we end up packaging in drums to store underground.

Pending better organized solutions, industrialists or States continue to organize, in a more or less mafia-like manner, the export of electronic waste to other countries: from the Agbogbloshie site (Ghana) where ships from Europe unload more than 250,000 tons annually, through the infernal sites near the Nigerian cities of Lagos, Ibadan and Aba, to the open-air dumps scattered in Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, or even Chad and South Africa. Apart from the fact that there is now a real international waste racket which the big names in recycling exploit to dispose of what cannot

be profitably recycled, industrial and political leaders obviously do not hesitate to use any pretext to get rid of their waste. For example, no less than 60% of the second-hand computers and electronic devices given by European authorities to African countries as “development aid” turn out to be beyond repair, i.e. simply disguised waste.

Another major work

Another such work, which is every bit as toxic as electronic waste, still further exceeds this annual production, and by far. Since the great petrochemical leap forward at the end of World War II when all armies were fueled by the magic of chemistry, global plastic production has grown exponentially, from 2.3 million tons per year in 1950 to 448 million tons in 2015. Since the rise of plastics, the petrochemical industry has blessed the planet and its inhabitants with more than 7 billion tons of plastic (a nearly indestructible and non-biodegradable material, with a lifespan ranging from 450 years to infinity, if there were ever any doubt as to the sustainability of the industrial legacy)... of which nearly 6 billion tons are now accumulating in landfills and in nature. Such a *wall* is likely to exceed the most megalomaniacal imagination of any Roman, Chinese, Mayan or Egyptian emperor. It can be proudly added to the already well-filled list of achievements of industrial civilization, which has covered the surface of the earth with factories, nuclear power plants, gigantic dams, highways, mega-ports, chemical complexes and military bases, dethroning by far and in all domains the empires of the past (in terms of mobilized energy resources as well as mass of governed subjects).

Plastic is 99% fossil-based. It is made from *naphtha*, a liquid derived from the distillation of petroleum, or from *ethane*, which is found in natural gas. To produce plastics, the petrochemical sector uses oil and gas, both as raw materials and as energy, making it the world's most energy-intensive industry. The *International Energy Agency* (IEA) estimates that the global petrochemical industry will grow by a third between 2020 and 2030. Already consuming 14% of total oil production and 8% of gas production, petrochemicals are the main source of growth in oil use. According to the most conservative forecasts, more than one billion tons of plastic per year will flood the planet by 2040, which means that oil will eventually be used more to make plastic than as fuel for vehicles. Across the globe, projects to build, expand or reconfigure refineries to produce plastics are proceeding at breakneck speed. In France, investments

anti-authoritarian struggle.
Immediate release of Michailidis.”

7/19, Stuttgart (Germany).
During the night, a vehicle of the Turkish consulate is set on fire. The flames spread to eight others, and the facade of the Turkish consulate and another building were also damaged.

19/7, Athens (Greece).
Anarchists set fire to several vehicles of a Peugeot dealer “in solidarity with the political prisoner Michailidis and other imprisoned companions”.

22/7, Athens (Greece).
The day before the decision to possibly release Michailidis, several groups attacked in different parts of the city: the windows of a post office, of two municipal vehicles, and of Aigaleo's town hall were smashed; and a subway station was devastated, completed by smashed windows at an electricity supplier and an electricity network manager.

27/7, Patras (Greece).
Anarchists claim an incendiary fire attack against the motorcycle of an employee of an asphalt company (23/7), then a second one against an ATM (24/7). Actions carried out in solidarity with Michailidis.

29/7, Kavala (Greece).
A molotov is thrown against an ATM, notably “*in solidarity with our imprisoned companions.*”

31/7, Lusatia (Germany).
Hooks are placed on the line of coal conveyors, damaging the railway installations and disrupting the supply of two power stations. *The friendly hooks - soon also at your place! - state among other things, “We have to create a radical system*

change ourselves, increase the pressure and shut down the power plants ourselves."

AUGUST 2022

4/8, Amersfoort (Netherlands). A brand new relay antenna of the operator *KPN* is arsoned and destroyed during the night.

4/8, Wülfrath (Germany). In North Rhine-Westphalia, the railroad of the company *Lhoist Germany Rheinkalk* is sabotaged by twisting the rails and making them unusable. Europe's largest lime quarry was thus cut off from its most important transport routes to its customers *RWE* (energy company) and *Thyssenkrupp* (weapons company). "*The only possible way out of this vicious circle of crisis and capitalist war is the destruction and overcoming of this economic and social system*", says the communiqué.

6/8, Mesnil-Amelot (France). A mutiny broke out in the detention center (CRA) around 9:30 pm: about thirty undocumented migrants set fire to mattresses and furniture in two buildings, also confronting the cops who had to take refuge in a room while waiting for reinforcements. Other prisoners went to the roofs to cut the fences and try to escape, unfortunately in vain.

9/8, Osny (France). In Val-d'Oise, a prisoner in the disciplinary ward managed to dismantle the door during a telephone visit, before going to the corridor where he destroyed the electrical system, the cameras and the water pipes, causing a flood. Both the disciplinary and segregation quarters, located one above the other, are out of order.

in product development and petrochemical production capacity expansion have increased by 40% between 2020 and 2021, with the help of state subsidies granted as part of the "*essential inputs to industry*" component of the famous *France Relaunch* industrial renewal program. However, the vast majority of new projects aimed at increasing plastics production capacity are in Asia and the Gulf countries, where colossal petrochemical complexes are being built or expanded, such as the rotten fruit of a collaboration between Saudi oil company *Aramco* and French energy giant *Total* in Jubail, Saudi Arabia. Called *Admiral*, this enormous petrochemical complex will produce no less than 2.7 million tonnes of plastic chemicals per year by 2024.

Every three seconds, a *ton* of plastic ends up in the ocean. Exposed to water and salt, the plastic pieces break down into small balls, the size of a grain of rice or even smaller, which gradually become floating continents, or rather, a *plastic soup*. On land, used plastic is simply buried, if not incinerated (a process that sends an impressive load of toxins into the air, in addition to contributing to global warming by emitting as much greenhouse gas as when it was produced). But with landfills filling up by the minute, plastic waste soon began to have a market. Until 2018, when China ended all waste imports, the country had accumulated nearly three-quarters of the world's plastic waste imports, as Western companies took advantage of the opportunity to fill the containers of this major exporter of manufactured goods in the other direction. Following the Chinese embargo, the recycling industry first shifted some of its activity to Southeast Asian countries, led by Malaysia, followed by Thailand and Indonesia. Then, as of last year, faced with the protests of the states concerned by this genuine flood of plastic waste onto their territories, the industrialists seem, unsurprisingly, to be shifting their focus to the African continent. Rather than "recycling" plastic, it is once again a simple matter of *dumping waste*, since this operation remains a highly complex affair: half of the plastic is not recyclable, and about a third can only be recycled once. All this beautiful plastic derived from petrochemicals inevitably ends up in landfills, scattered all over the world, or swallowed by the oceans.

Deadly legacies

Industrialism not only means the production of a mountain of harmful objects - the mechanization and robotization of the present - but it also tends to contract both the past (by destroying autonomy and know-how, and by devastating the

material conditions that made a life outside industrial dependence possible) and the future by condemning them to a perpetual present. The production of waste that transcends the scale of several generations, and perhaps even of humanity, is a clear example. The present as determined by industrial production then extends indefinitely until it engulfs all that could be the future. This is an unprecedented rupture that the first lucid critics of nuclear energy had already raised: considering their danger, not only does the existence of such power plants strongly condition the possibilities of creating a world *other* than a technical and authoritarian one, but the radioactive waste that they produce en masse jeopardizes any future horizon. *A world without radioactive waste, with all that it entails, is already no longer in the array of possibilities.* And this is where nuclear production reaches almost absolute dimensions, determining today everything that will be possible (or not) for all the centuries to come. In light of the enormity of industrial waste production – from plastics to heavy metals – this rotting 21st century has no reason to envy the formidable sword of Damocles that nuclear energy placed in the hands of the State and its technicians in the previous century.

Spanning the four corners of the globe, in the midst of a now undeniable acceleration of climate change which industrial civilization seems determined to respond to by intensifying its war on life, piles of toxic legacies bequeathed by our world are accumulating day after day. Their terrible ontological burden has made futile any attempt to dissolve them in the oceans, to bury them in the bowels of the earth, to transform them into smoke dissipated in the air or to recycle them in order to feed the insatiable beast of industrial production. *Waste is indeed the very heart of the industrial process*, which by contracting the notion of past, present and future into an unbearable eternally poisoned present, has become an intrinsic factor of all current and future human expe-

rience. Despite this, and the lucid pessimism that such awareness might inspire, these modern-day *Great Walls*, like their historical predecessor, do not make hostile incursions into enemy territory impossible or futile, nor do they make wild assaults obsolete. In a world in catastrophe, they continue to ceaselessly reveal an untamed freedom and a heightened awareness. And this is perhaps what matters most today.



| The devil is sometimes in the details |

In this sweltering season of drought, it is not uncommon for fires to break out here and there in so-called natural environments. And so, in the vicinity of Jazeneuil (Vienne), two small wheat fields caught fire, giving rise to an article in a local paper. Well, to begin with, not only did it happen in the middle of the night, from Saturday to Sunday, July 3rd, but also on two agricultural fields that were several kilometers apart, on the road to Sanxay and the road to Rouillé. This did not fail to arouse our curiosity. Maybe someone is pissed off with the local farmer-owner, we thought, for example because he pours pesticides in the river or just because he deserves it, who knows?

Except that Jazeneuil is not just any small village, for those who have a bit of memory, since it is there that a heated opposition has been resisting a new industrial wind turbine project led by the company RES for a year. In June 2021, tires were burned at the foot of a measuring mast, then in September tags against this project bloomed on the facade of the town hall and a dozen houses, before a measuring radar (Lidar) went up in flames at the beginning of December, delaying the future wind farm site by several months.

Then, one says to oneself that the small fields of wheat burned the night of July 3 were perhaps even less trivial than that, perhaps involving the interests of some farmer who has sold out to the wind industry, since even the gendarmerie qualified these two fires as “rather suspect”. An intuition that ultimately took on an additional dimension when a few days later the citizens’ associations opposed to the extension of wind turbines in the region, *Vent de colère* and the *Fédération environnement durable*, produced their little

distancing communiqué in due form, allowing the local press to greedily caption: “*Jazeneuil, two associations denounce anti-wind turbine incendiary damage*” (*La Nouvelle République*, July 6).

As the devil is sometimes in the details (or in the ears of wheat), we learned that on one of the burned fields there was already a wind turbine in operation, while the second field was “recently” home to an anemometer (wind measuring mast), placed there in anticipation of the installation of several others. Whether these harmful structures were the first to be targeted before the flames spread to their host, or whether the opposite occurred and it was the fields that ended up damaging them, we wish in any case good luck to the strangers who continue to walk under the summer stars of Jazeneuil...



Sans nom
July 6, 2022



| Zines, books & journals |

Jean Améry, *At the Mind's Limits: Contemplations by a Survivor on Auschwitz and Its Realities*, (Germany) 1966. French translation published by Actes Sud (Arles), 1995, 165 p.

How can one “think” about Auschwitz when one has escaped it? The mind does not emerge unscathed from a confrontation with the concentration camp universe. In 1943, the Austrian author of this book was tortured by the Gestapo for his activity in the Belgian resistance, then deported to Auschwitz because he was Jewish. It is with a chilling lucidity that will leave no reader unscathed that Hans Mayer (1912-1978), who took the pen name Jean Améry, explores what the concentration camps taught him about the condition of every human being scarred by a monstrous reality.

In his preface to the second expanded edition of 1977, Améry makes it clear from the outset that “*all attempts at economic explanations, all the despairing one-dimensional allusions to the fact that German industrial capital, concerned about its privileges, financed Hitler, tell the eyewitness nothing, tell him just as little as the sophisticated speculations about the dialectics of enlightenment. [...] I can do no more than give testimony.*” But Améry’s testimony is of a particular kind. It is not an enumeration of facts or observations, but a vast exploration of the mental and emotional condition of humans in the camps. “*Nowhere else in the world did reality have as much effective power as in the camp, nowhere else was reality so real [...] Philosophic declarations also lost their transcendancy and then and there became*

in part objective observations, in part dull chatter. Where they still meant something they appeared trivial, and where they were not trivial they no longer meant anything. We didn’t require any semantic analysis or logical syntax to recognize this. A glance at the watchtowers, a sniff of burnt fat from the crematories sufficed.” And he still insists: “*It goes without saying, I believe, that in Auschwitz we did not become better, more human, more humane, and more mature ethically. You do not observe dehumanized man committing his deeds and misdeeds without having all of your notions of inherent human dignity placed in doubt. We emerged from the camp stripped, robbed, emptied out, disoriented—and it was a long time before we were able even to learn the ordinary language of freedom.*” Améry returns extensively to the relationships between internees, the hierarchies between prisoners that were at the heart of the management of the camps. His testimony is not an analysis of the Third Reich, nor of the structures of the SS or the function of forced labor in the Nazi economic model: he seeks to assess the deleterious effects that the monstrosity of the camps had on the human body and psyche.

The second part of the book, entitled “Torture,” is similarly extremely upsetting. “*If from the experience of torture any knowledge at all remains that goes beyond the plain nightmarish, it is that of a great amazement and a foreignness in the world that cannot be compensated by any sort of subsequent human communication. [...] Trust in the world, which already collapsed in part at the first blow, but in the end, under torture, fully, will not be regained. That one’s fellow man was*

experienced as the anti-man remains in the tortured person as accumulated horror. It blocks the view into a world in which the principle of hope rules."

Then Jean Améry returns to what remains to the survivor, and reflects extensively on the unquenchable resentment that gnaws at them, including the impossibility of overcoming - either forgetting or forgiving. He describes his dismay at a defeated Nazi Germany, which only a few years later had recovered to become the leading industrial power in Europe. And he ranks himself among the "disapproving minority of those who held a grudge." In the 1970s, while a young generation of rebels discovered their parents' intimate complicity with the Nazi regime, the Germany of the industrial boom, of the *Wirtschaftswunder*, wanted to gratify those who still occupied commanding positions in politics and the economy with a blissful oblivion, an "it's behind us, we have nothing to be ashamed of," all concealed by a reconciliation that re-established a social consensus based on prosperity. This is where Améry rebels, radically and without concession. "My conviction is that loudly proclaimed readiness for reconciliation by Nazi victims can only be either insanity and indifference to life or the masochistic conversion of a suppressed genuine demand for revenge. Whoever submerges his individuality in society and is able to comprehend himself only as a function of the social, that is, the insensitive and indifferent person, really does forgive. He calmly allows what happened to remain what it was. As the popular saying goes, he lets time heal his wounds."

To conclude, Améry's reflections on revolt do not describe it in terms of oblivion guiding his hand, a revolt without tomorrow, while also refusing to invoke the promise that better days will come. Here it is much simpler, more grounded: "Revolt; well, of course, that is another one of those high-sounding words. It could lead the reader to believe that I was

a hero or that I falsely want to present myself as one. I certainly was no hero. When the little grey Volkswagen with the POL license plate crossed my path, first in Vienna, then in Brussels, I was so afraid that I couldn't breathe. When the Kapo drew back his arm to strike me, I didn't stand firm like a cliff, but ducked. And still, I tried to initiate proceedings to regain my dignity, and beyond physical survival that provided me with just the slightest chance to survive the nightmare morally also. There is not much that I can present in my favor, but let it be noted anyhow. I took it upon myself to be a Jew, even though there would have been possibilities for a compromise settlement. I joined a resistance movement whose prospects for success were very dim. Also, I finally relearned what I and my kind often had forgotten and what was more crucial than the moral power to resist: to hit back." ■

