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## **Better-Management Newsletter 22 November 2015**

**“The Collapse of Complex Societies” / The warped ideal of multiculturalism / Infrastructure cannot be maintained / Disconnect between the reality that growth requires extra energy**

### **“The Collapse of Complex Societies”**

In his book, “The Collapse of Complex Societies”, Joseph Tainter points out that all historical collapses have been largely due to the complexity of society and the weight of the overhead cost of maintaining them. It is likely that our global society will be no different as we pick the lowest hanging fruit in terms of resources and desire for growth at any cost. So I tend to agree with Richard Heinberg...

<http://www.countercurrents.org/heinberg191115.htm>

Perhaps the biggest cost is our perceived need to help all those who are either unwilling or unable to help themselves – either at home or abroad. The health costs are blowing out now in every OECD country...even the UK National Health Service (and well, Obamacare is just now an unaffordable Joke)...

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/nhs/12005483/NHS-faces-worst-financial-crisis-in-its-history.html>

Our creation of a multi-racial society also comes with a cost...some other ethnicities can be productive and easily assimilated, while others pose either an overhead cost for social welfare, or a blatant threat to our open society’s basic tenets ... the masses in Birmingham, Molenbeek and Marseilles are now a costly overhead to European society and must leave us questioning whether Europeans – among others can have visa waivers for access to Australasia...

### **The warped ideal of multiculturalism**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/12009577/Paris-is-tragic-proof-that-Enoch-Powell-was-right-about-threats-to-our-country.html>

These two examples of different kinds of overhead costs demonstrate that health services in Europe can easily languish while money is found by governments to fight “terrorists” overseas. But what about extremists from within – for which there is now no effective cure...few countries with open societies can cover the cost of that...

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/12009887/British-police-would-struggle-to-cope-with-Paris-style-attacks-and-on-the-run-terrorists-says-armed-police-chief.html>

### **Infrastructure cannot be maintained**

Every OECD country now has infrastructure it cannot maintain whether in hard assets or social welfare obligations that keep growing like topsy. Having an open society that preaches tolerance to all, simply adds to the overhead cost. Most OECD countries can no longer cope with the overhead cost of retiring post WW2 “baby boomers” and yet continue to print money to obscure that fact.

As a consequence, at all international seminars our politicians talk of growth so we can fund the extra social costs... Our leaders at G20 spoke of the need for growth and APEC talked of the need for growth. All the while essential built infrastructure just becomes more decrepit and no-one even talks about it.

### **Disconnect between the reality that growth requires extra energy**

Then the politicians will go to COP21 in Paris this week to talk about getting out of fossil fuels. Somewhere in their tiny brains there absolutely must be a disconnect between the reality that growth requires extra energy; and any progress to implement more renewable energy projects requires even more fossil fuels. Yet growing fossil fuel use is not on the agenda, yet the reduction of fossil fuels usage is.

Do they think we are as stupid as they are?

Well ....Yes they do. And we prove it by electing them and tolerating their duplicity.

It is as Richard Heinberg says...we simply cannot afford our modern lifestyle. The simple fact of reducing EROEI and thereby net energy ensures that.