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## **Better-Management Newsletter 4 November 2015**

**Nigel Farage describes the EU - accurately / Apocalypse when? / Super-battery, key to future energy use / Will we have de-growth or a crash?**

### **Nigel Farage describes the EU - accurately**

The prospect of a possible Brexit is annoying many in Europe, but as this video clip shows, the (accurate) comments about it by Nigel Farage do not seem to make Angela Merkel happy...I have never seen her look so sour....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLeFfiYgcro>

Frau Merkel is on record as saying that she will champion British concerns with other EU member states to try to keep Britain in. Perhaps she is worried about contagion.

### **Apocalypse when?**

I reckon we will see a crash at some point in the next year or so...but aside from the unforeseen asteroid strike or earthquake I suspect it will be financial in origin – and exacerbated by money printing and ZIRP/NIRP. Inflationary or deflationary? I suspect Bill Bonner is close to the mark...

<http://bonnerandpartners.com/whats-next-deflation-inflation-or-hyperinflation/>

From Jim Rickards...

<http://thecrux.com/recession-time/>

Next month's COP21 meeting in Paris will raise the profile of possible apocalyptic events. As usual, only religious-like fears will be expressed without significant evidence, the greatest fear being that funding for all the fear-mongers and gravy-train supporters will dry up.

The limit I am most concerned about is the cost and EROEI for the energy that powers our transportation system. The practicality of harnessing both wind and solar power is limited by the lack of energy storage devices to even out peaks and troughs and to carry the energy for as far and as cheaply as fossil fuels can.

### **Super-battery, key to future energy use**

So how is progress going? We haven't heard anything about the mythological EESU for a while, but the developers of various types of lithium batteries are becoming more vocal. Expense, recharge time, scalability, number of recycles before the battery crashes and performance in temperature extremes are all limitations, but this is the latest on these...

[http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2015/11/3/smart-energy/batteries-%E2%80%94-why-you-should-believe-hype?utm\\_source=exact&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=1659837&utm\\_campaign=kgb&modapt=](http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2015/11/3/smart-energy/batteries-%E2%80%94-why-you-should-believe-hype?utm_source=exact&utm_medium=email&utm_content=1659837&utm_campaign=kgb&modapt=)

Meantime the voices of the IPCC–led proponents of somehow fixing global warming have set their sights on critics. Soon it will be a crime to speak out about drawbacks in their central theories on AGW. Certainly it is a crime to criticise anyone who isn't white. If you wish to criticise white males, go ahead. Seems we are as endangered a species as are those who still write non-PC articles...

<http://kunstler.com/clusterfuck-nation/good-little-maoists/>

Will permaculture save humanity? Extremely unlikely because it doesn't produce enough food and at any rate, there are too few folk trying it. It takes time to return nutrients to the soil in order to avoid reliance on fossil fuel fertilisers etc... however there are many with their hearts in the right place...

<http://ergobalance.blogspot.co.uk/2015/10/permaculture-regenerative-not.html>

### **Will we have de-growth or a crash?**

When resources become constrained? I suppose COP21 wants to introduce de-growth by stealth, but it won't work IMHO. Here is an argument for de-growth – something no society has ever managed throughout human history...

<http://simplicitycollective.com/what-is-degrowth-envisioning-a-prosperous-descent>

The economists have an opinion on this...

<https://mises.org/library/why-we-need-private-property-deal-scarce-resources>

My thoughts are simply this. If we see a major financial crash/depression, it would remain to be seen if existing financial institutions could survive it. Even so, at some point in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we must see resource scarcity leading to a worse situation for our Western civilisation - unless unexpected technologies arrive and/or major de-population happens. No civilisation has ever collapsed gracefully. If so, then personal lifeboats seem the best solution, but even those could be taken for others under an increasing socialisation of wealth, assets and resources. How can one prepare? Who really knows...but this is worth thinking about at some stage.