



With The Global Pandemic Into A Better Future

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To my wife, who always supported me on my strange ways of dealing with this world and my both kids, my main reason why I care about the future of this planet.

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Intro

There is no doubt, a lot of individual pain got apparent and visible by this global pandemic and there is no doubt, this virus exists and being harmful. We all like to envision a world, back to normal, continue as we did in the good old time. The truth is, there was never a normal, and we as a society will never be where we have been before. Why is that? You can not unlearn the things you learned and unseen the things you have seen.

When you think of the concessions we made, like stopping insane flight traveling, no more mass gatherings with people we don't know and will never get close to anyways, cutting down commute to work, reducing our unhealthy fast/street food ingestion, and massive reduction of the global supply chain. This opens the question of what replacement have we chosen if any?

Western world people are more aware of what and how they eat than ever before. Personal health has become a priority for many, the question of what is enough is not anymore just because finding your spiritual self or based on the perception of depletion and destruction of our planetary resources, but also fueled by personal consciousness and quite often the need for change. The new normal is to increase the engagement with close friends, locally which replaces the superficial Instagram/Facebook/twitter world of „look how great my life is“. We are getting more empathy for the ones living in our neighborhood, trying to understand the impact of economic changes, and also got finally more time to realize how we are used to living and think of what and how we want to spend our lifetime. Many people realized the small flat is good enough for a sleep & work lifecycle, but not for a life to live. Many relations broke up as it came clear there is not enough in common, no common goal. Others got more stable by finally living together daily and getting known to each other.

Our society was used to grow by externalizing the cost of products, by exploiting others, by shipping waste to other places, other countries destroying nature to grow more food for us, all of us burning fossil fuels and assuming nature will take care of the CO₂ and other harmful waste. All that to let us wonder: why do „these“ people destroy the wonderful nature, which belongs to all of us.

If the virus of this pandemic was engineered in a laboratory, it was a masterpiece. Making all social and environmental issues clearly visible, engaging all humans to cut down unnecessary usage of nature, and giving us time to reflect and also make change happen. John Maynard Keynes, a great economist living almost 100 years ago, was asking when all these automation and engineering improvements are done, how his grandchildren will spend their day. As per his projection in 2030 every one of us will only have to work 15 hours a week to have an excellent and comfortable living standard. His conclusion was to assume we would spend time together, evolving our knowledge and mindsets and creating a new normal where production and consumption is not the main driver anymore, but the social interaction and mindfulness of generations to come.

I always have been a tree-hugger in my life, but also I was part of the problem by choosing to work in the e-commerce engineering field for the last 2 decades. Traveling like crazy from Europe to Asia

to South and North America, spending usually 1-2 weeks at the same place, all year round. All of it was perceived to be „necessary“ given the surrounding situation. I had fun, met great people, got to a lot of places to join real life and living standards which are far away from ours and not just sneaking into it by a market visit, but joining the life of real people. Yes, I tried to compensate by installing solar energy at home, compensating for CO₂, recultivate a specific land plot near my home, getting people in touch who would never have met otherwise, and now are running global efficiency projects on specific subjects. And even if on a local spot or in sum, it may be positive for the future, none of my actions can ever undo the specific harm I already did to the planet.

The changes of this pandemic are so complex, I can only imagine „one“ to be able to do such a great engineering masterpiece - the one who is most negatively affected by our behavior and need to defend itself - our mother nature.

With all the awareness, engineering skills, time, and superior material available to us - how do we as a human race are going to proceed, how do I?

I invite you to join me on this fictional and yet so real journey to a future that can be great for all of us.

Rolling Back The Hands Of Time

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