

# **THE FUTURE OF ENERGY**

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## 1.— Energy is necessary.

The interest of politicians, businessmen, technologists, scientists and the people at large is focused today on the problem of energy. Everybody will agree on the fact that “Energy is necessary” for the future of mankind. But many tend to paraphrase it by saying that “Energy is a necessary evil”. No objection to the necessity: but an analysis of the motivations for regarding energy as “evil” reveals some Freudian undertones. This rejection of the technology, as solution to the rising environmental concerns, perceived as a Faustian deal, after centuries of a passionate technical endeavour deeply engraved in our conception of the world, is a curious phenomenon to say the least. All these problems and the associated concerns are serious: the inevitable growth of energy consumption under the sheer momentum of the system and the very human expectations of the poor, may indeed add enough yeast to make them leaven beyond control. However, like in the case of famine, illness etc., also here Science and Technology should be trusted; indeed there are reasonable expectations that, combined, they will have the possibility of solving also this problem, in full accord with the economic, dynamic and technical constraints that a working system has to comply with.

That energy supply has been a major element of our civilisation may be evidenced in Figure 1 (R.A. Knief, 1992) where the approximate energy pro capita from the beginning of mankind as a function of time is shown. Energy for food gathering has been supplemented by that for household use (initially heating), organised agriculture, industry and transportation. Hay for working horses<sup>1</sup> is included, the equivalent of diesel for trucks and tractors today. One can see that the total energy consumption for the most advanced part of mankind has grown about 100 fold from the beginning of history, reaching today the level of about 0.9 GJ/day/person. This corresponds to the equivalent of burning 32 kg of Coal/day/person, or a continuous, averaged supply of 10.4 kWatt/person. As a reference the food energy supply of 3000 kcal/day corresponds to a thermal continuous power supply of 0.14 kWatt/person. Hence the energetic food supply represents a mere 1% of the total energy need of each of us.

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<sup>1</sup> Still in 1899, in the USA about two thirds of the mechanical energy actually came from horses.

The direct total energy production of the planet, evidently a fraction of the above, mostly coming from fossil fuels, represents an average, power production in excess of 10 TWatt. As a comparison, the geological heat from the earth's crust due to natural Uranium and Thorium decays is about 16 TWatt. Incidentally this represents the totality of geothermal stationary energy. Hence mankind has roughly doubled the internal energy generation of the planet. The portion of the earth's kinetic energy transformed into lunar and solar tides in the hydrosphere is an averaged power of 3.49 TWatt. There is not much power to harness out of the tides of the sea !

Over the last 150 years, the energy consumption of the planet has steadily increased at the rate of 2.3 %/year (Figure 2). There is no doubt that the world's consumption will continue to grow in the future, since the world's population is steadily growing and billions of people in the Developing Countries strive for a better life. The present, enormous disparity in energy consumption (Sweden's 15'000 kWatt h of electricity/person/year, Tanzania's 100 kWatt h/p/y) will tend to converge.

There is also no doubt that energy will have to be produced and used in a more efficient way: but this is a necessary but not sufficient condition for a stabilisation of the energy consumption. We will undoubtedly get more mileage out of a litre of petrol, but there will be more cars, light bulbs will have a better efficiency but there will be more light bulbs, etc. We shall witness a better efficiency, but also a strong increase of energy consumption. We know that the so-called energy intensity, i.e. kWatt h for dollar earned is roughly a constant, slowly varying with social conditions and time. The world's economic forecast is of a GNP growth of about 2%/year. It is not an accident that this is roughly also the expected energy growth planet-wide.

Such a large consumption raises obvious questions of the longevity of (fossil) resources. There is no doubt that in order to sustain the pace of growth of our civilisation, some new massive energy sources will be needed in the long run (Figure 3) .

The longevity of the survival of the necessarily limited fossil's era will be affected at one hand by the discovery of new, exploitable resources, strongly

dependent on the price and the other hand by the growth of the world's population and of their standard of living.

It is generally expected that the world's population will grow to a level of the order of  $10^{10}$  people by about the end of the century and remain stable after that. Assuming then an average energy consumption equal to the average European value of 3 Tep/y, we find that asymptotically — I would add roughly by the time fusion will be deployed — the need for an averaged, total world's power production of the order of 39 TWatt, or about three times the present level. (Incidentally an exponential growth at +2.3 %/y as evidenced in Figure 2 would lead to this value in 55 years).

At the present consumption level, known reserves for coal, oil and gas correspond to duration of the order of 230, 45 and 63 years (Figure 3). Natural uranium, used as at present ( $^{235}\text{U}$ , MOX will not help much) has known reserves for 54 years. These number will be affected positively on one hand by the discovery of new reserves, and negatively on the other by the increased consumption. Even if these factors are hard to assess, taking into account the long lead time for the development of new energy sources, the end of the fossil era is at sight. And what after that ? (Figure 4)

## 2.— Energies for the future.

Very many individuals, committees, working groups etc. have exercised their forecasting capability, predicting the energy mix for the future with a variety of scenarios. Common element to all these predictions is however the rise of the demand, roughly at the level of about 2 %/year. There are two main approaches to the question:

- 1) the “epidemic” approach of Marchetti, (Figure 5) who makes use of the epidemic equations to fit the past energy pattern in order to extrapolate for the future. In this scheme there is in the future, as it has been in the past, a dominant energy source. Transitions occur at the Kondratiev's maxima of energy consumption, in correspondence of a surge in the energy prices. Transitions are technology and economically driven, rather than caused by

availability resources. In his prediction the next turns are (I) natural gas with a maximum in 2030, followed by (ii) fission driven “new nuclear”, with a maximum in 2090, (iii) eventually followed by a choice between solar and/or fusion during the next century.

- 2) The “energy mix” approach for instance by the World Energy Council (Figure 6, Shell Planning Group), in which a number of different, novel technologies, still to be developed, take progressively the place of fossils, which already by 2050 represent no more than 1/3 of the total primary energy supply. These new technologies are Wind, new Bio-mass, Solar, Geothermal and a “Surprise” to be defined, which develop quickly after circa 2020, in an explosive manner. Classic, fission driven nuclear energy survives, but at a modest level. There is no contribution of Fusion, at least until 2100. Their assumption on Geo-Thermal must be discarded, since it has been unrealistically assumed an averaged power of about 3 TWatt, since, as already pointed out, the geological heat from the full earth’s crust is a mere 16 TWatt.

Contrary to the Marchetti’s approach, in which a continuity with the past and purely economical considerations are dominant, the “energy mix” approach puts an extraordinary faith in the capability of technology of introducing new, ecologically driven methods for energy generation. These methods imply also a spatially distributed network of relatively small scale devices rather than centralized sources, as it is for instance today for electricity production. The main concern about this second approach is that the new renewable (solar, wind, etc.) though they may acquire a very important role in the medium and long range, they alone may not be enough to sustain the future expectations, which, for instance for 2060, assume an averaged total power production in excess of 30 TWatt, mostly coming directly or indirectly from the Sun.

### **3.— How much energy from the Sun ?**

The total annual, primary solar direct radiation energy, collected in the most favourable locations of the Sun belt is of the order of 2500 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>,

corresponding to a time averaged power of the order of 280 Watt/m<sup>2</sup>. (Here in Sorrento we have about 2/3 of such a value). Including diffused light, the energy density is about 30% higher.

The total active surface to collect the indicated power of 30 TWatt is about  $S_{coll} = 1.07 \times 10^5 / \eta \text{ km}^2$ , where  $\eta$  is the conversion efficiency of the primary solar energy into useful energy. Note that the total, cultivated area of the planet is about  $10^7 \text{ km}^2$ . The efficiency is about  $\eta = 0.1$  for photo-voltaic (the occupational area must be scaled by a factor taking into account the space between captors) and that and  $\eta = 0.005$  for new bio-mass (fast growing trees). In the case of wind energy (50 m tall towers, 33 m diameter helices separated by 1.25 diameters on average, class 4 wind) the required area for a given average power is about ten times the one of photo-voltaic.

In order to compare directly solar to nuclear (either fission or fusion), we consider the thermal solar option, in which the sunlight is concentrated by mirrors in order to produce high quality heat, typically of order  $500 \div 800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  or even higher. The peak power density of solar light is about  $0.1 \text{ W/cm}^2$ . If concentrated by a factor 2000, it gives a power density of about  $200 \text{ W/cm}^2$ , the same as the one from rods of a fission reactor, and in principle exploitable in a similar way. Concentration factors up to  $10^4$  have been obtained with solar towers (Figure 7).

A typical LWR produces a fission driven thermal power of  $3.0 \text{ GWatt}_{(t)}$ . In order to harness this amount of solar thermal power, the effective collector's surface must be of the order of  $10 \text{ km}^2$ . In practice, taking into account the inevitable light losses of the optics (about 50%), the actual collector area should be about twice as large, i.e.  $20 \text{ km}^2$ .

The cost of the heat generating part of a  $3.0 \text{ GWatt}_{(t)}$  reactor is nowadays of the order of  $1.5 \div 2 \text{ } \$\text{US Billion}$ , the cost subsequent heat utilisation being the same for the solar and nuclear options. High temperature heat is the standard entry point for electricity production. With the development of a hydrogen market, it could become also a source of hydrogen from water dissociation. For a competitive investment cost, the  $2 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^2$  system of solar collecting mirrors should then cost no more than about  $75 \div 100 \text{ } \$/\text{m}^2$ . At present, its cost is about  $200 \text{ } \$/\text{m}^2$ , but for a world-wide installed power of  $350 \text{ MWatt}$  (peak). In view of

the huge scale factor ( $10^5$  and up), a factor 2 ÷ 3 reduction in cost is not too extravagant.

If properly constructed, the duration of operation of a solar plant should be comparable to the one of a LWR, namely 40 years or more. Its maintenance costs are definitely smaller and fuel cost is strictly zero. There is no fuel to produce, to handle or to dispose.

Solar power utilisation generally requires an effective energy storage, in order to smooth out daily variations. This is currently performed heating a molten nitrite salt (melting point  $220\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , stable to about  $600\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) which is kept in a low thermal leak storage tank. This technology is very mature and there are many substances at low cost which can be heated to the required temperature, acting as thermal storage. In the case of an exceptionally long low solar yield, an additional heater operated with fossil fuel can be operated as a backup.

Clearly the solar thermal option could be made cost competitive with other present forms of energy, provided deployed on a sufficiently large scale. If  $\eta$ , the conversion efficiency of the primary solar energy into useful energy is made sufficiently large, (for instance in the case of solar thermal the heat collection is probably 0.50, which combined with a thermo-dynamical efficiency of  $1/2$  could give  $\eta \approx 0.25$ ) the amount of land required becomes quite reasonable.

#### **4.— Conventional nuclear power.**

When nuclear energy was first developed in the sixties, it was greeted with the greatest enthusiasm. (We recall for instance the international, UN sponsored “Atoms for Peace” programme in Geneva in 1959). It promised an unlimited, cheap and abundant source of energy for the future of mankind. In the course of the years this enthusiasm has gradually disappeared and today nuclear power is perceived by many as “evil”. Under the pressure of popular concern, a huge number of regulatory constraints have eroded the price margin of nuclear energy, which today does not seem to be any longer “the cheapest energy”, especially when compared to fossils and in particular Natural Gas and Coal. It is also evident that at least in the developed countries, nuclear power has almost

completely filled its potential market's niche and, in this, nuclear is in good company with steel, housing, and cars, reached some kind of saturation in number. This is instead not completely so in the Developing Countries, where some fraction of the new installation are nuclear (f.i. China). The problem will present itself again in some 15÷20 years, when present installations will have reached the end of their practical life span.

The apriori predicted features of nuclear energy, when compared to fossil fuels, are (1) potentially zero emissions and (2) an extremely parsimonious use of the fuel. For instance 1 ton of Uranium — provided iscompletely fissioned ( $k = 1$ ) — could produce the equivalent energy of 14 Million barrels of Oil (BOL) or 3 Million Tons of Coal (TEC). There is therefore a potential gain in the power yield of about  $3 \times 10^6$  with respect to chemical energy. The present, planetary demand of energy (10 TWatt) could be ideally exhausted with about 3900 ton/year of fully fissile material. If fission is replaced with fusion (D+T), the primary, natural Lithium consumption in the same conditions will be a mere 16'000 ton/year, from which 6'800 ton/year of unstable T is bred, however  $6.6 \times 10^{13}$  Cie/year.

Unfortunately the present nuclear power technology, essentially based on Light Water Reactors (LWR) operated mostly on enriched Uranium and thermal neutrons, is far from such an idealised expectation. Only the  $^{235}\text{U}$  (0.71%) of natural Uranium is directly fissile, of which about 60% is extracted by enrichment. Therefore only about  $k = 0.4\%$  of the potential energy contained in the natural Uranium is energetically used.

For instance in order to produce  $1 \text{ GW}_e \times 30 \text{ years} = 6.1 \text{ TWh}$  one has to handle  $4.50 \times 10^7$  ton of high content Uranium ores (2000 ppm), to be compared with  $3.21 \times 10^8$  ton of coal mining for a Coal fired plant. The conclusion is that most of the “magic” nuclear factor of  $3 \times 10^6$  of nuclear energy is, as of today, almost wiped out.

This is why, in spite of the tremendous potentials of nuclear energy — if used in this way — there is no more energy for future use from Uranium than from Oil.

There are additional important arguments which play in disfavour of a purely LWR based nuclear energy option — especially if it has to be generalised:

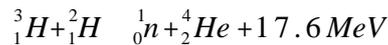
- (1) a significant amount of long lived isotopes (gases, etc.) are released in the environment, and more if reprocessing and MOX are used, in order to improve fuel efficiency.
- (2) Accidents have almost doubled the dose to population, mostly the criticality accident of Chernobyl.
- (3) The problem of the long lived radioactive waste. Existing nuclear power plants produce annually about 12'000 tons of highly radioactive spent fuel, of which about 1% (120 tons) are Plutonium. The radio-toxicity of this mass of material reaches the level of the initial Uranium ores only after about 1 million years
- (4) Links to military applications. The critical mass of the Plutonium from a LWR is only some 30% larger than the one of bomb-grade  $^{239}\text{Pu}$ . An ill-minded group of individuals — especially if Nuclear Power is becoming wide-spread in Developing Countries, intrinsically more unstable because in a rapid evolution — may realise quite terrifying devices.
- (5) The thermo-dynamical efficiency, namely the fraction of thermal energy actually ending up in electricity is, as well known, temperature dependent and it is about 33% for LWR's, related to the actual level of technological development in the late sixties. In order to keep its competitive edge in the future, nuclear energy has to substantially increase the operating temperature and hence abandon the saturated steam option of classic LWR's.

To conclude, and in order to harness realistically the immense potential energy inside nuclei, very tough, revival conditions must be satisfied, which, in turn, will inevitably demand new methods and new ideas. In addition, we must use, far more efficiently, a naturally abundant fuel in order to secure its wiser use and practically unlimited resources. Both Fusion and Accelerator driven Fission have a fighting chance of achieving such a goal.

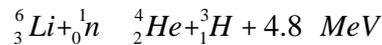
## 5.— A Renovated Nuclear Scenario

Energy is released whenever low Z nuclei fuse or high Z nuclei fragment (packing fraction). This leads to two substantially different breeds of devices: Fusion and the Accelerator driven Energy Amplifier (fission). Both methods hold the remarkable promise of  $Q = 1$ , namely full combustion of an initial, natural fuel and of virtually unlimited natural resources:

- (1) Fusion, in its simplest form, consists of the magnetically confined burning of Tritium ( $^3\text{H}$ ) through the reaction:

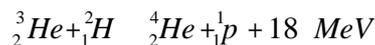


The unstable Tritium ( $t_{1/2} = 12.33 \text{ y}$ ) is produced by “breeding” from Lithium, using the produced neutron:



Additional  ${}^3_1\text{H}$ , which is needed to compensate inevitable losses, comes from the (fast) reaction  ${}^7_3\text{Li} + {}^1_0\text{n} \rightarrow {}^4_2\text{He} + {}^3_1\text{H} + {}^1_0\text{n}$ , in which the neutron is not destroyed. In this way we can achieve a breeding equilibrium, namely a situation in which the amount of  ${}^3_1\text{H}$  produced and burnt are the same. The main shortcoming of this reaction, the easiest to achieve, is that the bulk of the produced energy is carried by the fast (14 MeV) neutron, which, through secondary interactions, produces a considerable amount of activation in the reactor’s structure.

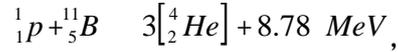
- (2) More advanced Fusion reactions promise less radioactive activation. Another reaction would be possible with an initial deuterium-helium 3 mixture



in which, however, some neutrons (6%) are produced in deuterium-deuterium collisions  ${}^2_1\text{H} + {}^2_1\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3_2\text{He} + {}^1_0\text{n} + 3.27 \text{ MeV}$ . The main shortcoming of this reaction is the lack of availability of  ${}^3_2\text{He}$ . The best one has been able to offer so far is to gather this fuel on the Moon, where it is accumulated as the result of the Solar Wind. It is hard to believe that thousand of tons of fuel could be brought back to Earth in an economically convincing fashion.

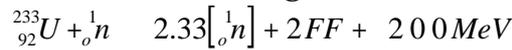
- (3) One of the ultimate advantages of Fusion with respect to Fission, is that there are several exothermic reactions which produce no neutron, neither

directly, nor indirectly through secondary reactions. Since neutrons are the primary sources of activation, this will be a tremendous asset, making the reaction inherently “clean”. It is probably in this way that an ultimate nuclear energy will be eventually exploited in a very far fetched future, excluding the possibility of a “Cold Fusion”. The simplest reaction of this kind is

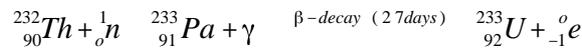


which unfortunately is known not to “ignite” in a magnetically confined device (Tokamak) and most likely also with inertially confined Fusion. Note that this reaction does not produce any gamma’s or neutrons. Both Hydrogen and  ${}^{11}_5B$  (81 % of natural Boron) are extremely abundant and easily obtained. Far more exotic devices are needed in order to exploit such a formidable asset.

- (4) Coming to Fission, the Accelerator driven Energy Amplifier (EA) is based on the fission reaction (FF: Fission Fragments)



driven by neutrons from a high energy Accelerator. Just like in the case (1) of Fusion,  ${}^{233}_{92}U$ , which does not exist in nature, is bred from natural Thorium by the reaction induced by secondary neutrons



An external supply of neutrons, provided by an accelerator is necessary, since the neutron producing reaction gives 2.33 neutrons, while 2 neutrons are needed to close the breeding cycle. The difference being  $2.33 - 2.00 = 0.33$ , it is hard to sustain criticality because of the inevitable neutron losses.

Like in the case (1), a breeding equilibrium is reached, in which the amounts of  ${}^{233}_{92}U$  produced and burnt are equal. The EA can burn completely also the additional elements which are produced by  ${}^{233}_{92}U$  capturing neutrons (5% of fissions) and the subsequent reactions, in secular equilibrium with the main ones. Therefore, in contrast with the LWR’s, the EA achieves with a closed actinide cycle complete burn-up by fission of the initial  ${}^{233}_{92}Th$  and therefore  $\eta > 1$ . The only “waste” left are therefore Fission Fragments, which have a strong but not very long lasting activity.

Both Fusion and Fission devices listed above are non-critical devices, in which, in addition, melt down has been rendered impossible. In both devices a

fraction  $f$  of the produced (electric) energy is recirculated, either to heat-up the plasma or to run the accelerator. This fraction  $f = 25 \div 30 \%$  for devices of type (1) i.e. D-T magnetically confined Fusion and  $f = 5 \div 10\%$  for the EA, type (4). In the following we shall limit our considerations to devices (1) and (4). Device (5) is essentially identical to (4), with the exception of a different choice of fuel.

The main motivations for the Research and Development of new sources of energy from nuclei is that of *reconciling the inherent advantages of such powerful and virtually unlimited energy sources with an environmentally acceptable and safe new technology*. This has been the main thrust behind Fusion and it explains why so many people have been working so hard for such a long time in order to achieve it. The by far less ambitious development of the Accelerator Driven Energy Amplifier stems from the same objectives. It is therefore reasonable that the potentialities of both methods are compared and critically assessed (Figure 8).

## 6.— The energy carriers.

So far we have considered the possible alternatives for the primary energy sources. However of fundamental importance is also the choice of the “energy carrier” from generation to use, especially taking into account that both in the case of solar and nuclear (see for instance the concept of the Canton Island of Marchetti) the distance between the points of production and of use will necessarily stretch over much longer distances.

In this domain we are witnessing a progressive increment of fractional use of electricity, with an increase pro capite in the developed countries from 1100 kWatt/h to 25'000 kWatt/h in less than 100 years. One can visualise three main steps of the electricity penetration into the market ( Figure 9).

Evidently electricity alone cannot be the only future carrier. Many applications now based on fossil fuels (oil and gas) cannot be immediately converted to the use of electricity. For these applications, the use of hydrogen is emerging. It should be stressed that hydrogen and electricity are the only two energy carriers which produce no harmful emission at the point of use and, by themselves, also at the point of production.

Hydrogen ( $H_2$ ) promises future uses which are unique and make it much more valuable than just another ignitable material.  $H_2$  is a remarkable energy carrier and the least polluting fuel. The introduction of  $H_2$  as an energy carrier requires no major technological breakthroughs. It is technically feasible to replace oil and natural gas with  $H_2$  in virtually all present uses.

$H_2$  can be stored, transported and delivered using technologies which are similar to the ones widely used for natural gas.  $H_2$  has a smaller density than methane (0.0899 vs. 0.714 gr/litre ntp) and a combustion energy per unit volume which is only 1/3 (12.76 vs. 39.7 kJ/litre ntp). Diffusion is larger by a factor almost three, which implies tighter seals. But it will flow more easily through a pipe, about a factor 2.8 faster. A pipeline designed for natural gas will transport  $H_2$  at the same pressure, but with only 80% of the energy flow. (Fe embrittlement?). One can expect that the cost of transmission for unit energy of  $H_2$  will be about 50% higher than for natural gas.

When  $H_2$  is burnt in air the only pollutants are nitrogen oxides ( $NO_x$ ), which is however strongly reduced, because of the presence of H ( $H_2O$ ). Catalytic heaters, suitable for small scale applications, operate at lower temperatures than ordinary combustion and reducing  $NO_x$  emission to a negligible level.

Fuel cells permit the direct transformation of  $H_2$  into electricity at a theoretical efficiency of 0.83 (enthalpy limit), though practical performance is lower (0.7). This is about two times higher than ordinary turbo-generators or vehicle engines, produce no  $NO_x$  and a much smaller waste heat.

Studies on relative safety of  $H_2$  methane and gasoline have concluded that no one fuel is inherently safer than the others in every respect, but that all three fuels can be and have been used safely. Hydrogen-rich gases have been used for home heating and cooking for more than a century. "Town-Gas" is a mixture of approximately half  $H_2$  and half CO and it has been generally used in most developed countries before natural gas became widely available.

Producing  $H_2$  from fossils allows  $CO_2$  sequestration, thus reducing emissions to zero. It can be efficiently produced by water dissociation with high temperature nuclear heat (800 °C). Finally  $H_2$  is the most obvious "storage" for solar energy.

## 7.— Conclusions.

To conclude, in the medium and long run, fossils most likely will not be capable to produce substantially more primary power than what available today. The factor about three in power demand forecasted for the middle of this century (according to 2% yearly increase of demand) must be met with different and innovative technologies, of which two seem to be most promising, namely (i) solar and (ii) new nuclear.

Solar energy is abundant and if used efficiently could produce the energy needed for a long time to come. In particular the solar thermal approach seems rather promising, in the sense that it can be made rather efficient ( $\approx 0.25$ ), it uses standard technologies for heat conversion and utilisation and it has potentialities for a price competitive to other sources. An advanced photovoltaic (at present  $\approx 0.1$  and with higher unit area cost) may take over at a later date. However meaningful utilisation of this form of energy is limited to the “sun belt” of relatively desert and sunny lands, fortunately of large proportions, but often very far of the main centres of human activities. It requires the development of a renovated system of energy carriers in which (i) electricity and (ii) hydrogen are the main contenders.

There is no such a theorem which says that nuclear energy should be necessarily bad. But, in order to be applicable on a vast scale, energy from nuclei must undergo a deep transformation and very tough, revival conditions must be satisfied, which, in turn, will inevitably demand new methods and new ideas. There is no doubt that the environmental and safety features will govern any new development in the field of energy from nuclei. In addition, we must use, far more efficiently, a naturally abundant fuel, in order to secure its wiser use and practically unlimited resources. A renewed nuclear approach must be based on full breeding of a natural element, either through Fusion or through Fission. In both options the available potentially energy, though not strictly renewable, can realistically last for many tens of centuries at a few times the present consumption.

But even if the practical use of this “nuclear” form of energy — at least in the present exploitation of the D-T reaction — may be questioned, Fusion should

be pursued vigorously as such since it is exploring a fundamental domain of basic science. There are two main forms of high temperature matter in Galaxies: (1) the low density high temperature gases, mostly hydrogen, gravitationally confined in space (2) and the high temperature and very high density compressed matter in the interior of stars. These domains correspond roughly and respectively to magnetically confined and inertially confined Fusion. They must be both thoroughly studied in order to better understand the Universe. For me, Fusion is and remains an essential field of Fundamental Science, worthwhile pursuing vigorously.

Let me conclude with an anecdote related to Benjamin Franklin. A minister for finance asked him what was really the interest of studying electricity by flying kites. His answer was: "I do not really know, but I am sure that one of yours successors will put a tax on it !"

## 8.— Figures

- Figure 1 Energy vs. time for advanced sample of human civilisation
- Figure 2 (a) Energy consumption as a function of time.  
(b) Kondratiev cycle for electric energy consumption in the US
- Figure 3 Projected decline of world's conventional crude oil production. Graph also shows the demand, the oil production of the OPEC countries and of the other countries. (source: International Energy Agency)
- Figure 4 Energy consumption and human civilisation.
- Figure 5 Energy prices, consumption and substitution of primary energy supply (source: Marchetti).
- Figure 6 Future forecast of primary energy supply under the sustained growth scenario. (source: Shell Planning Group)
- Figure 7 Picture of the 10 MWatt<sub>e</sub> solar thermal power station (Solar 2).
- Figure 8 Comparison of residual radio-toxicity of EA, MF and LWR's. The reference level of Coal is also shown,
- Figure 9 Progressive electricity use in the US.

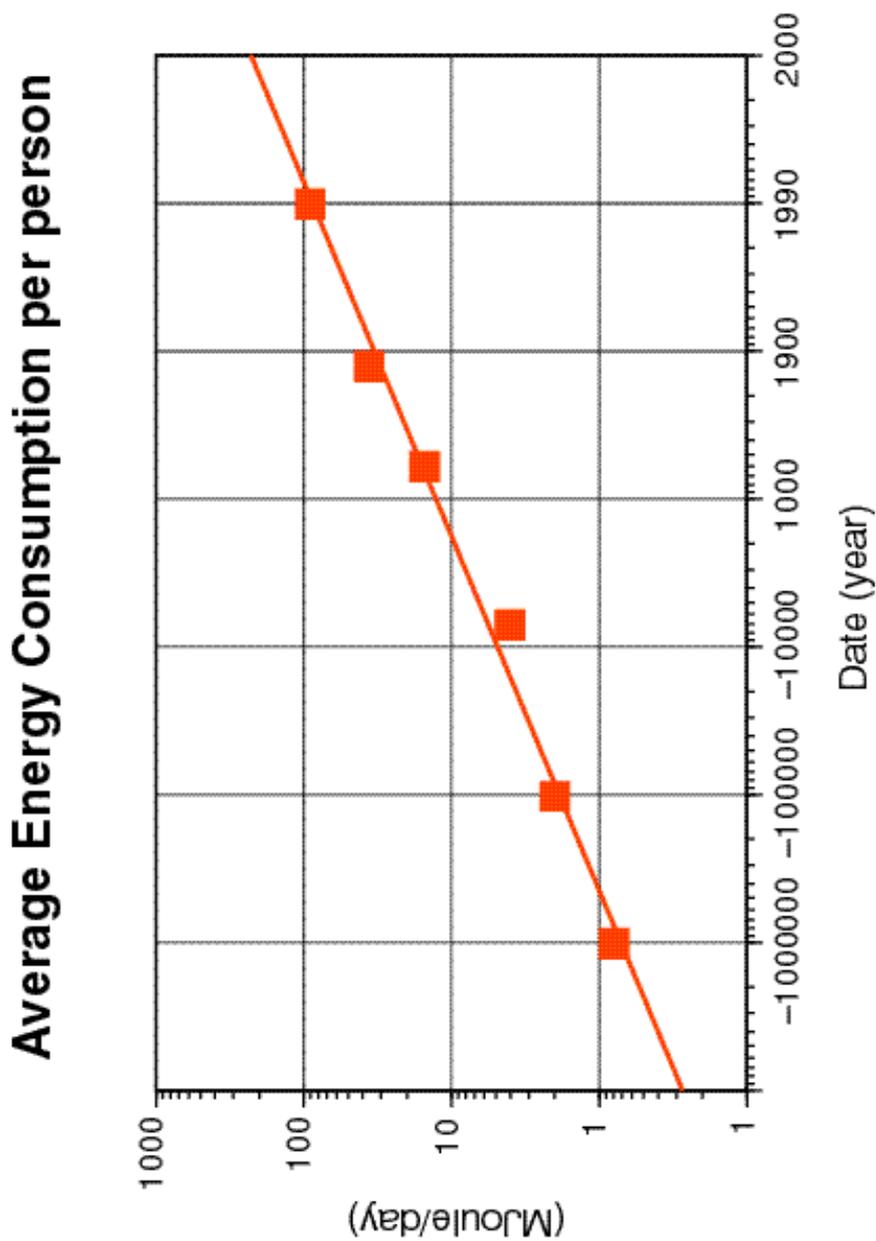
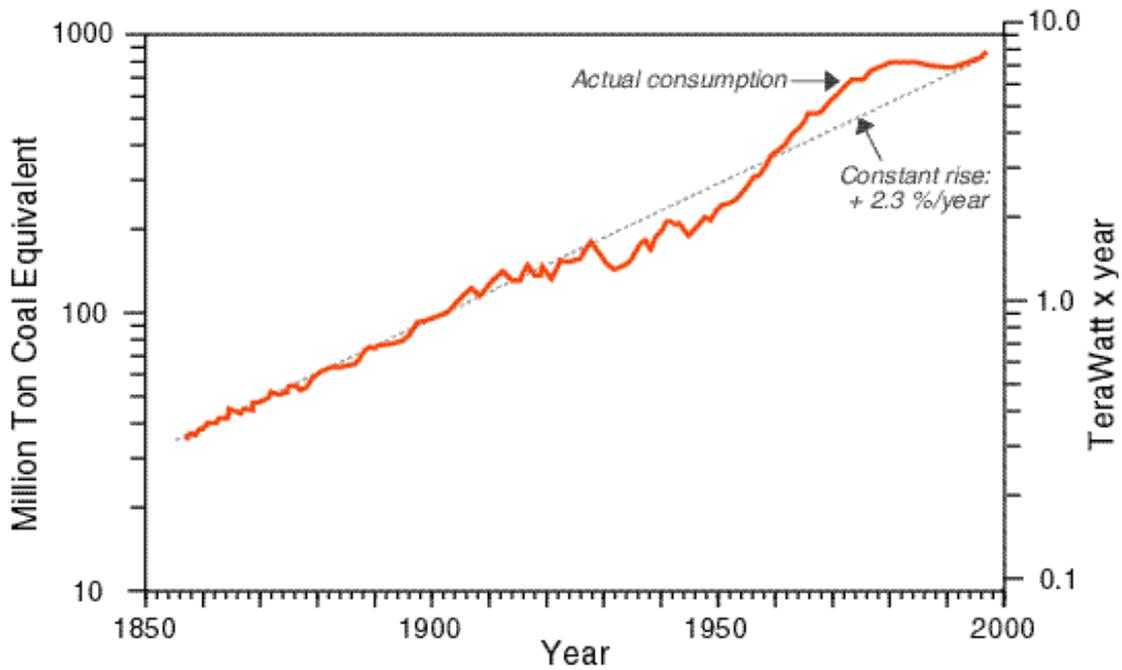


Figure 1.

*Approximate per capita consumption of energy as a function of time [R. A. Knief, 1992]. Energy for food gathering has been supplemented sequentially by that for household use (initially heating), organised agriculture, industry and transportation.*

Figure 1

### Primary energy input for the world, in MTCE



### Kondratiev cycles for electric energy consumption in the US

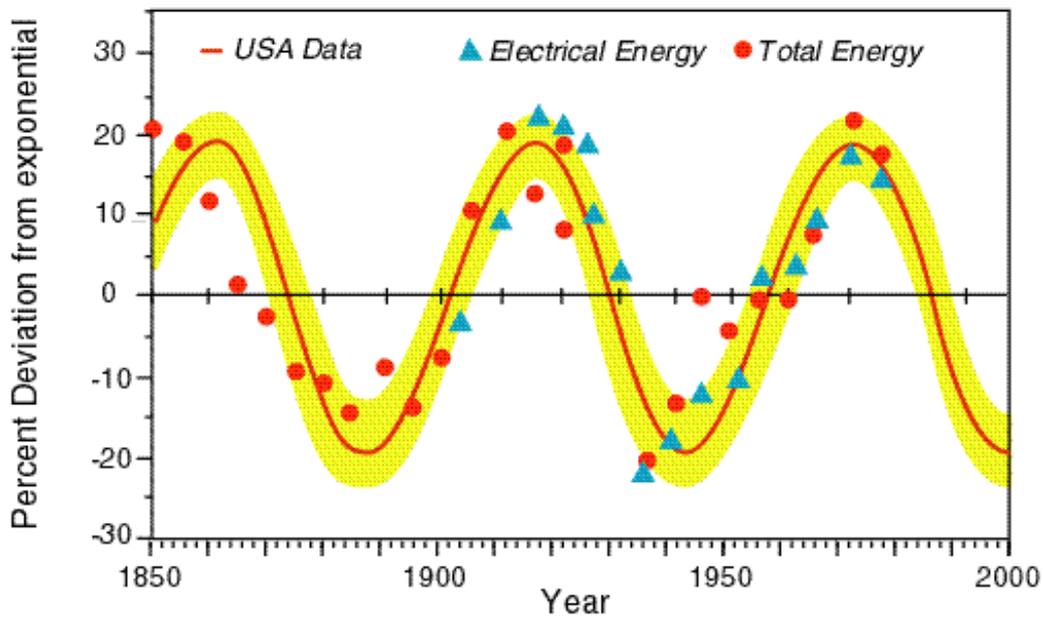


Figure 2

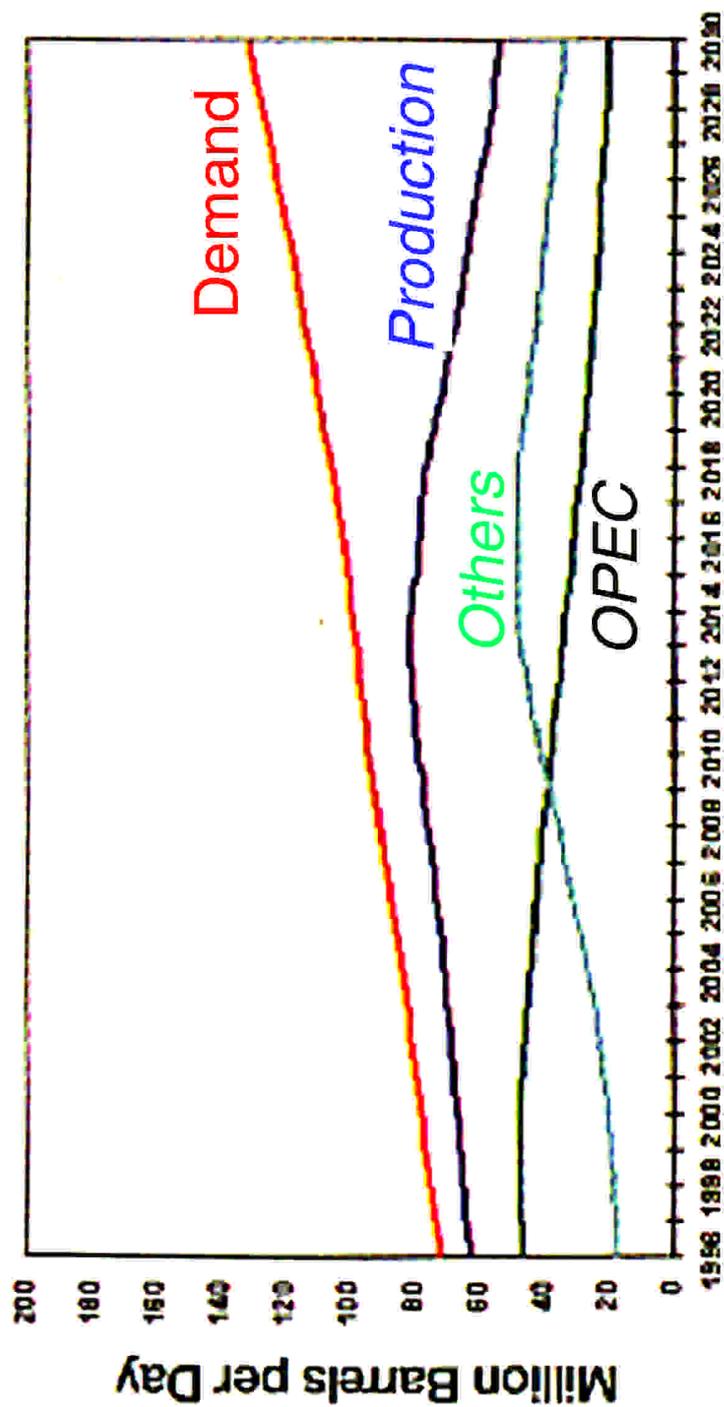


Figure 3.

The International Energy Agency projects a declining world conventional crude oil production (dark blue) after 2015. Graph also shows the global demand (red line), the oil production of the Middle Eastern OPEC countries (light blue) and that of other countries (green)

# Energy consumption and Human Civilisation

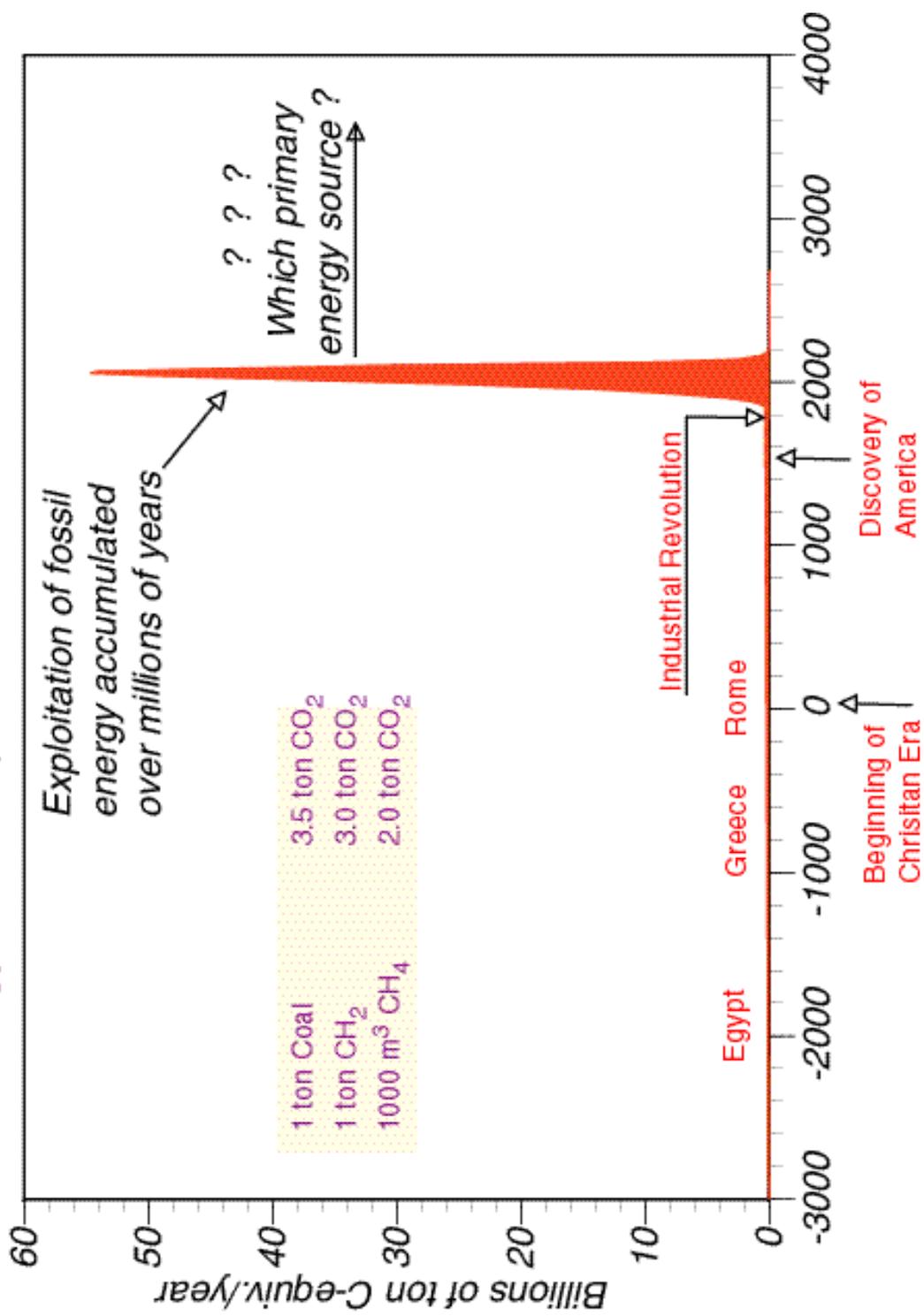


Figure 4.

Energy prices,consumption and Substitution,All Synchronised

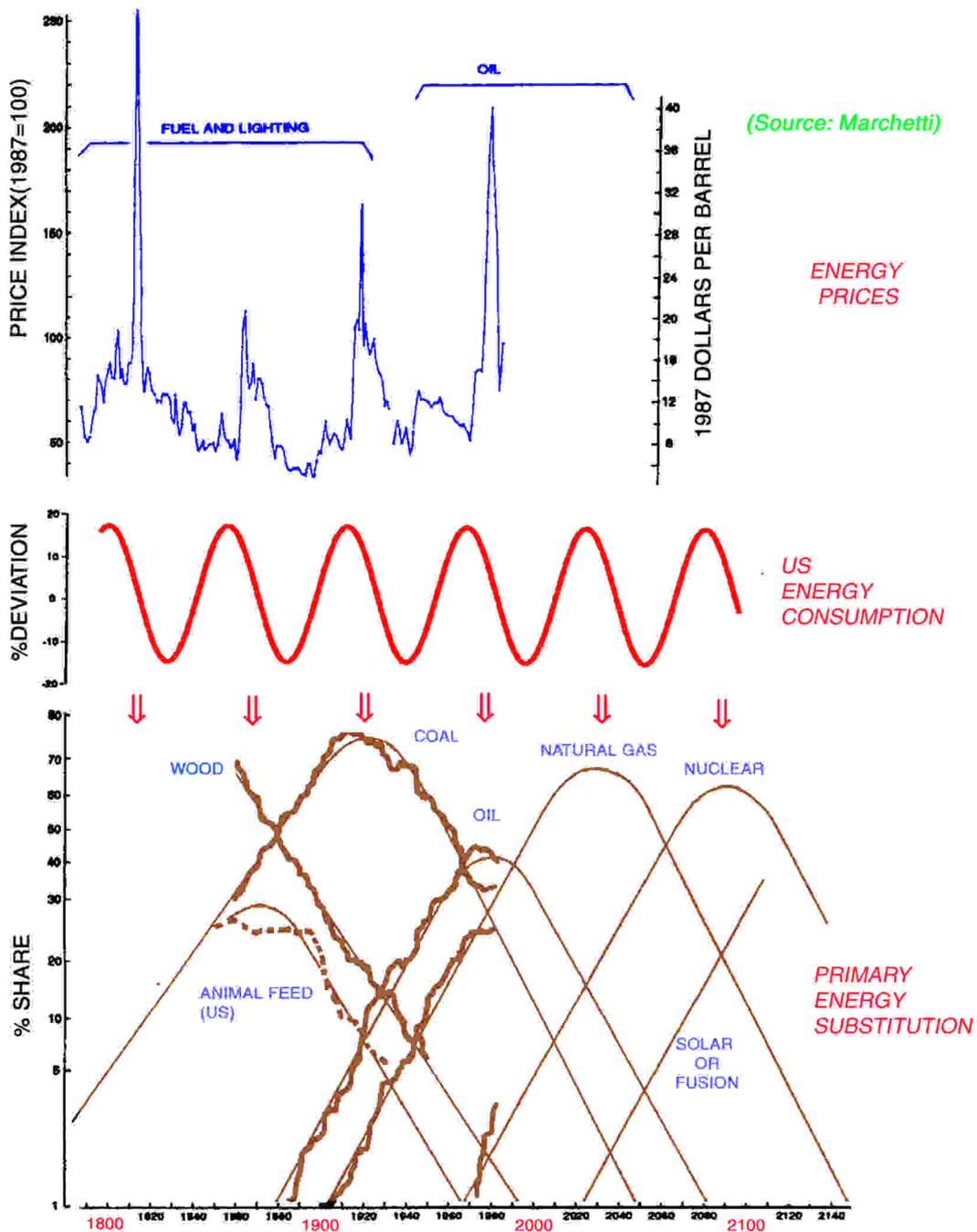
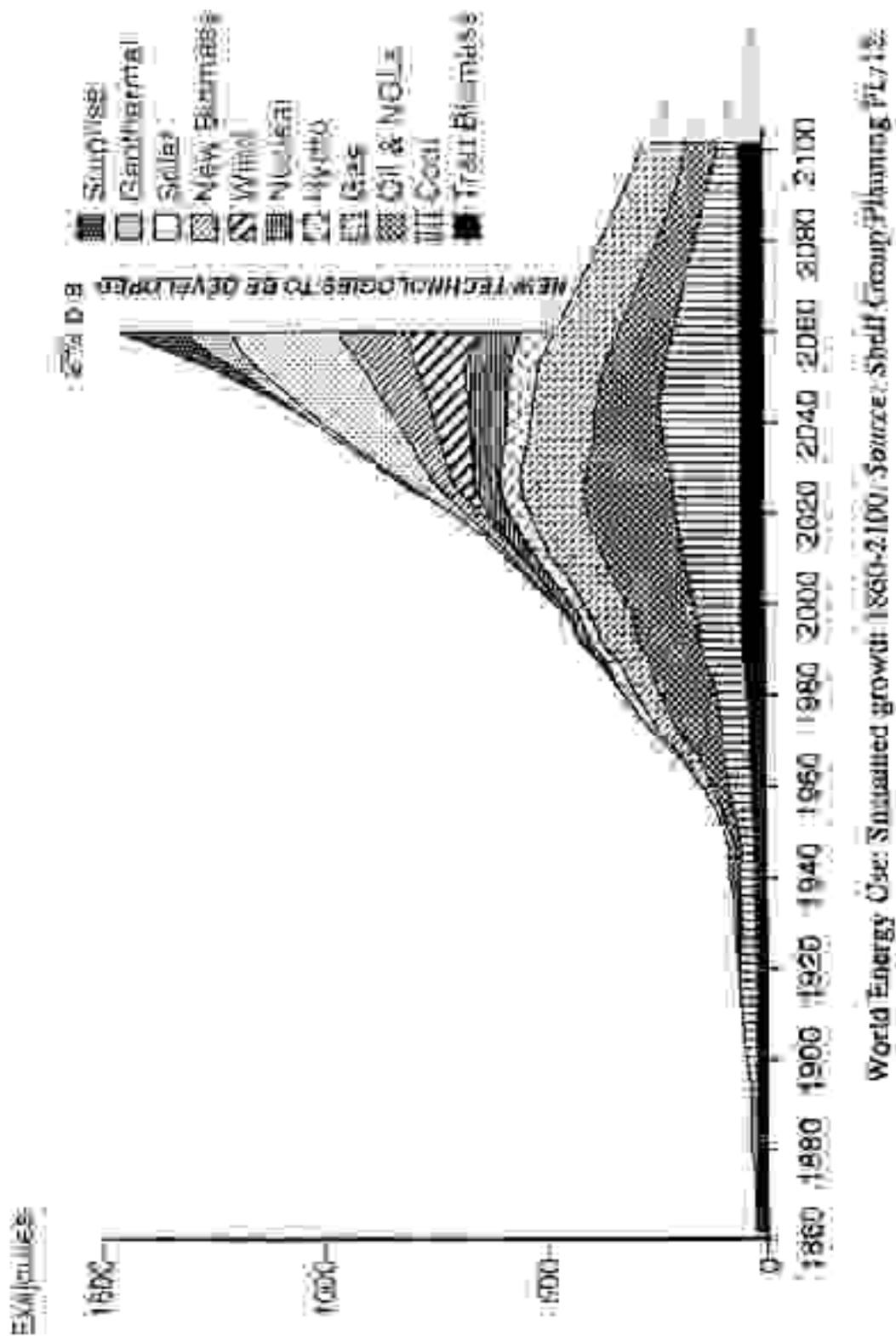


Figure 5.



World Energy Use: Simulated growth: 1860-2100. Source: Shell Group Planning PL/12.

Figure 6.

## 10 MWe Solar Two power plant in operation



Temperature : 565 °C

Gross Thermal average power: 42 MWatt

Total collecting surface: 100'000 m<sup>2</sup>

Rankine turbine power: 12.5 MWe

Steam : 100 bar @ 510 °C

Thermal storage: 1500 tons of nitrate molten salt.

Figure 7

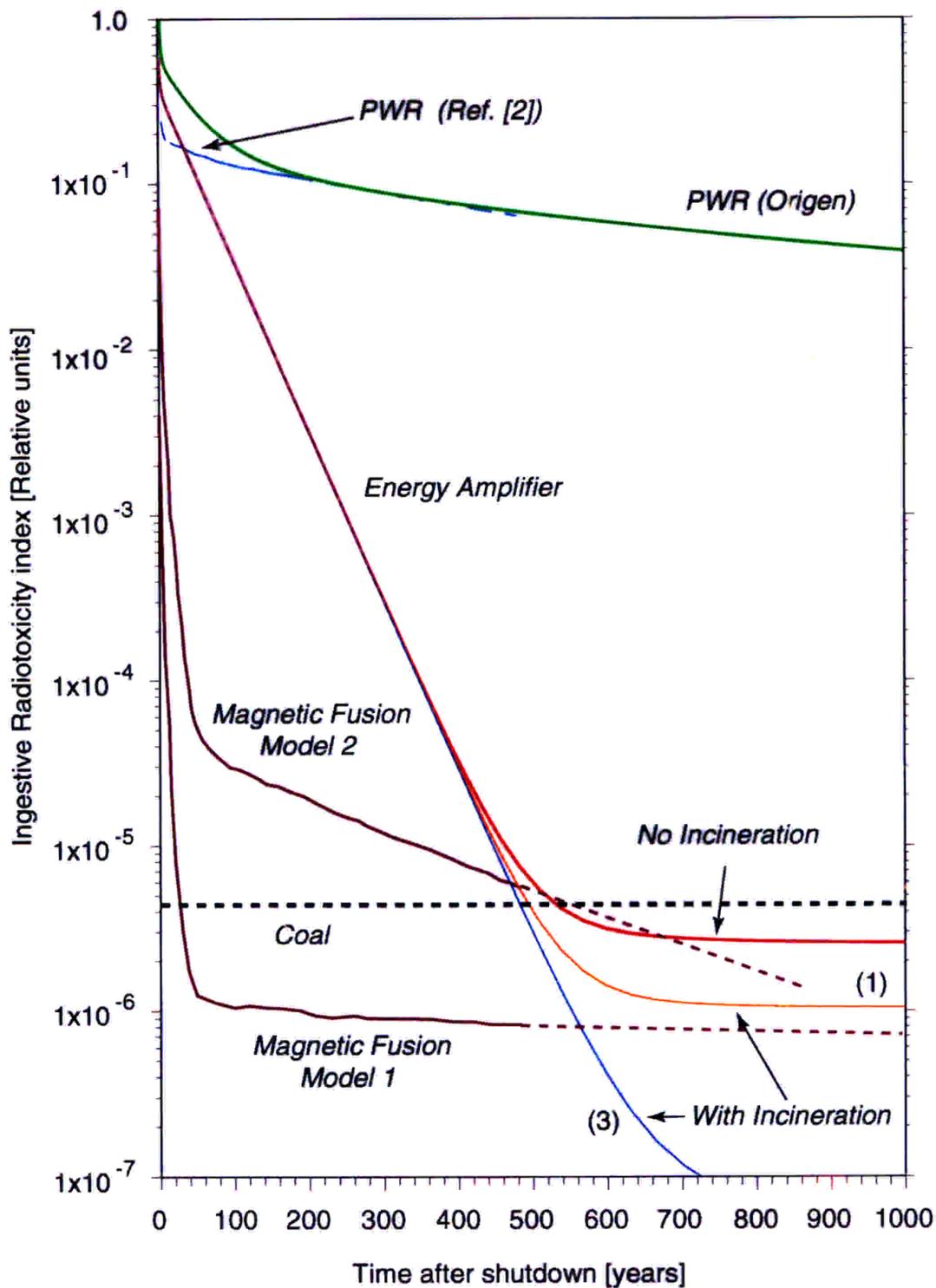


Figure 8.

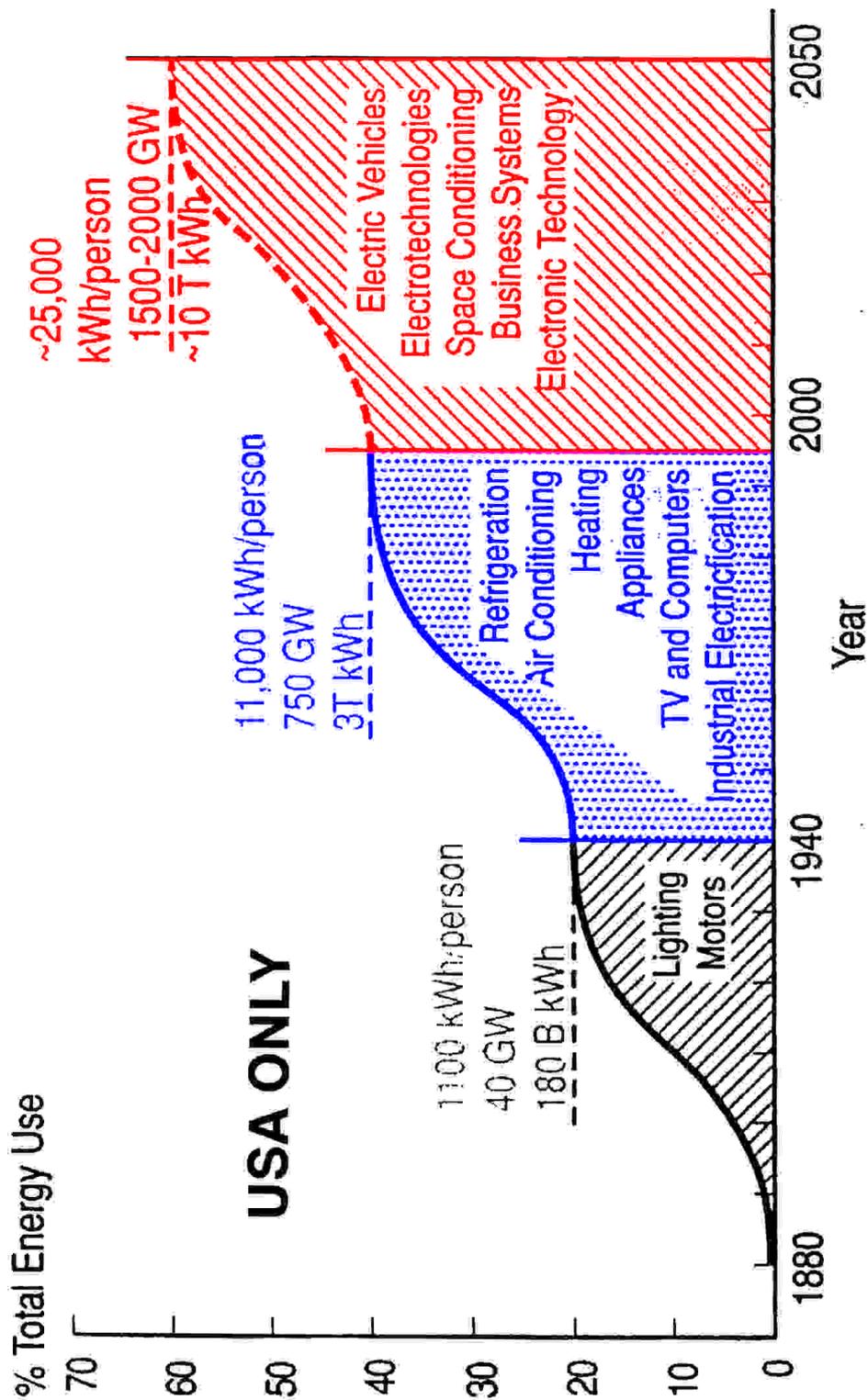


Figure 9.