

Coal-phase out and justice

Do government policies have to be just?

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- Ethical imperative: Governance should prioritize fairness and dignity.
- Social stability: Just systems foster cohesion; injustice can incite unrest.
- Promotes trust: Just decisions enhance trust in institutions.
- Equal representation: Fair governance gives voice to all societal segments.
- Economic benefits: Justice promotes economic stability and growth.
- Protection of rights: Justice upholds individuals' and groups' rights.
- Enhances accountability: Fair governance emphasizes leader accountability.
- Human flourishing: Justice enables fulfilling lives for citizens.
- Future generations: Just decisions consider long-term societal impacts.
- Global reputation: Countries emphasizing justice gain international respect.

Coal and our society

- It has a long history of usage.
- Fueled the industrial revolution and modern economy.
- Played a significant role in shaping modern social policies and left/socialist/communist movements.
- Enormous environmental impacts.

Coal's sociopolitical influence

- Industrial rise: Cities like Manchester, Pittsburgh, and Essen emerged as coal-fueled industrial hubs.
- Working class: Rapid urban migration led to a new urban-industrial working class.
- Mining realities - mine collapses; "black lung" disease; child labor; long working hours.
- Labor movements: unions like NUM (UK) and UMWA (USA).
- Significant labor actions, e.g., UK's 1984-85 miners' strike.
- Political shifts: Coal's influence on governance; leftist movements in coal regions.

WAR IN COLORADO! WOMEN AND BABIES

VOLLEYS FIRED IN STREETS

Militiamen, With Machine Guns, Attack Strikers in Mine They Captured

9 KILLED IN BATTLE

Armed Engagements on Today at Several Points in Coal Fields

TRINIDAD, Colo., April 28.—Two hundred militiamen, with a machine gun mounted on a ridge west of Walsenburg to-day were capturing the Mitchell mine, capturing the mine by means, with a terrific fire.

A number of persons are reported to have been wounded during the capture of the mine.

Local officials of the United Mine Workers of America declared 50 militiamen tried to change the Mitchell mine, but were repulsed.

The mine is owned by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, which is controlled by the Rockefeller family.

The mine is situated in the town of Trinidad, which is a coal-mining center. The mine is one of the largest in the state.

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PROPOSES GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF ROCKEFELLER'S COLORADO MINES

WASHINGTON, April 28.—Government ownership and operation of John D. Rockefeller's Colorado mines was proposed in a bill introduced in the house today by Congressman Bryan of Washington.



A Typical Tent in the Colony at Ludlow

MEXICANS CHEER AS U. S. TROOPS ENTER HARBOR

BY BERNARD HOOKER
VERA CRUZ, April 28.—San. President's troops were ordered to land from their base here today to enter the harbor to take the possession of the city.

Typical Group of Children Harassed in the Town Colony at Ludlow by Rockefeller's Militiamen

SLAUGHTERED

By Edward A. Evans
CORRESPONDENT OF THE STAFF

TRINIDAD, Colo., April 28.—The strikers started all this trouble in Colorado, the militiamen say. Strikers declare they were peaceable until the militia, recruited from the gutter of the cities, and paid by the mine operators, began to shoot and kill.

But it is conceded by all that it wasn't until the bodies of 11 little children and two women

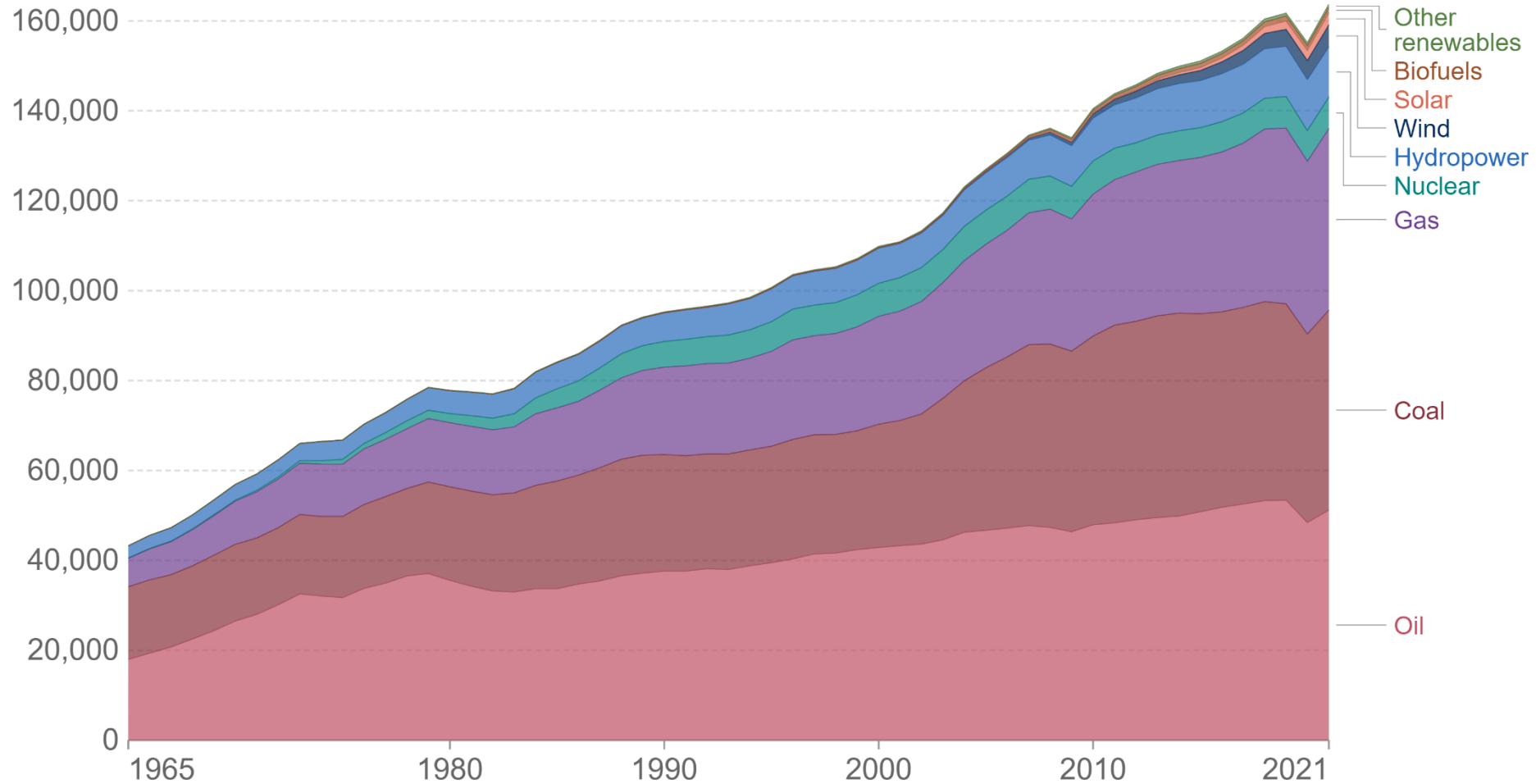
were taken
seized with
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THE
F
and
Paul G.



Energy consumption by source, World

Primary energy consumption is measured in terawatt-hours (TWh). Here an inefficiency factor (the 'substitution' method) has been applied for fossil fuels, meaning the shares by each energy source give a better approximation of final energy consumption.

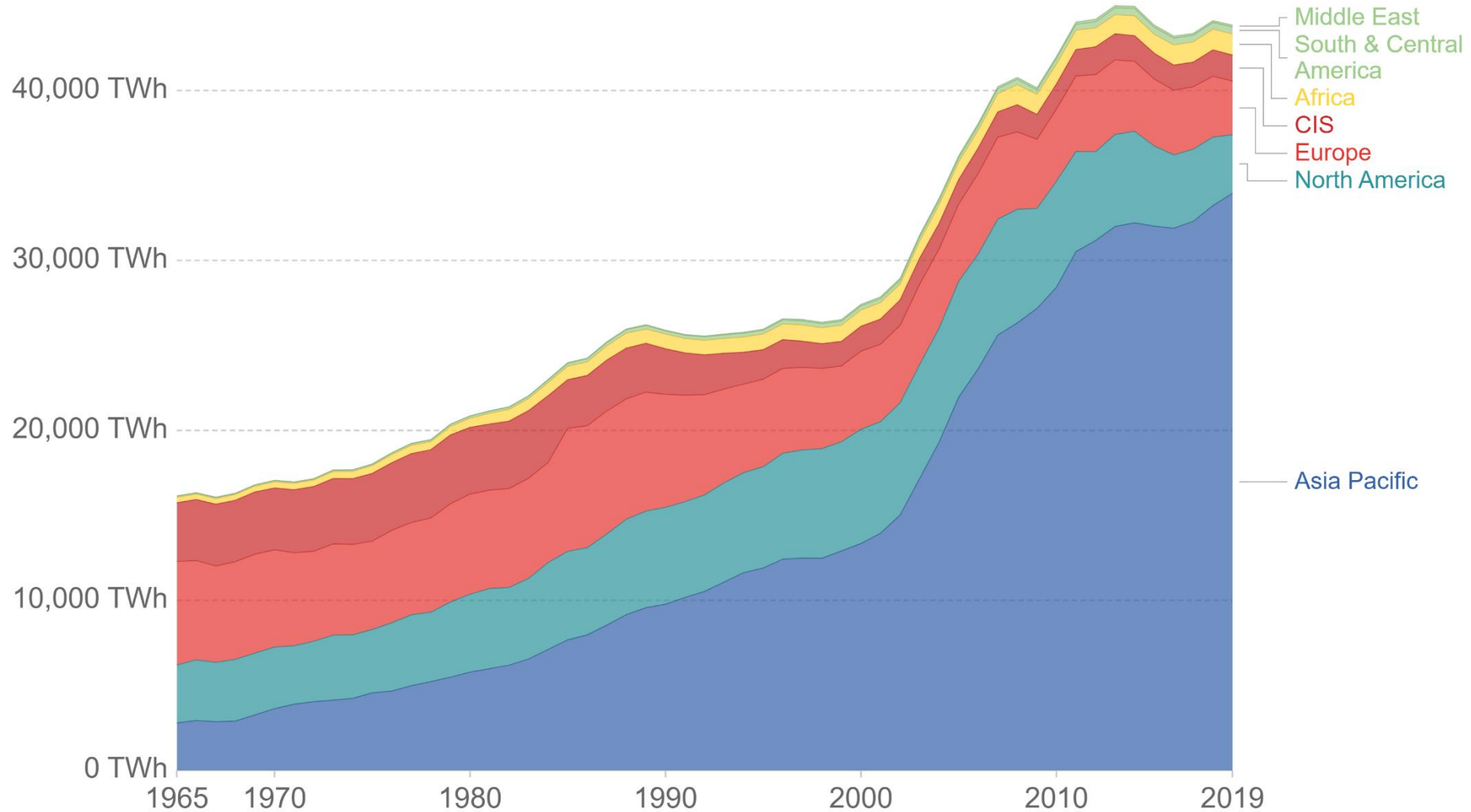


Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy

Note: 'Other renewables' includes geothermal, biomass and waste energy.

Coal consumption by region

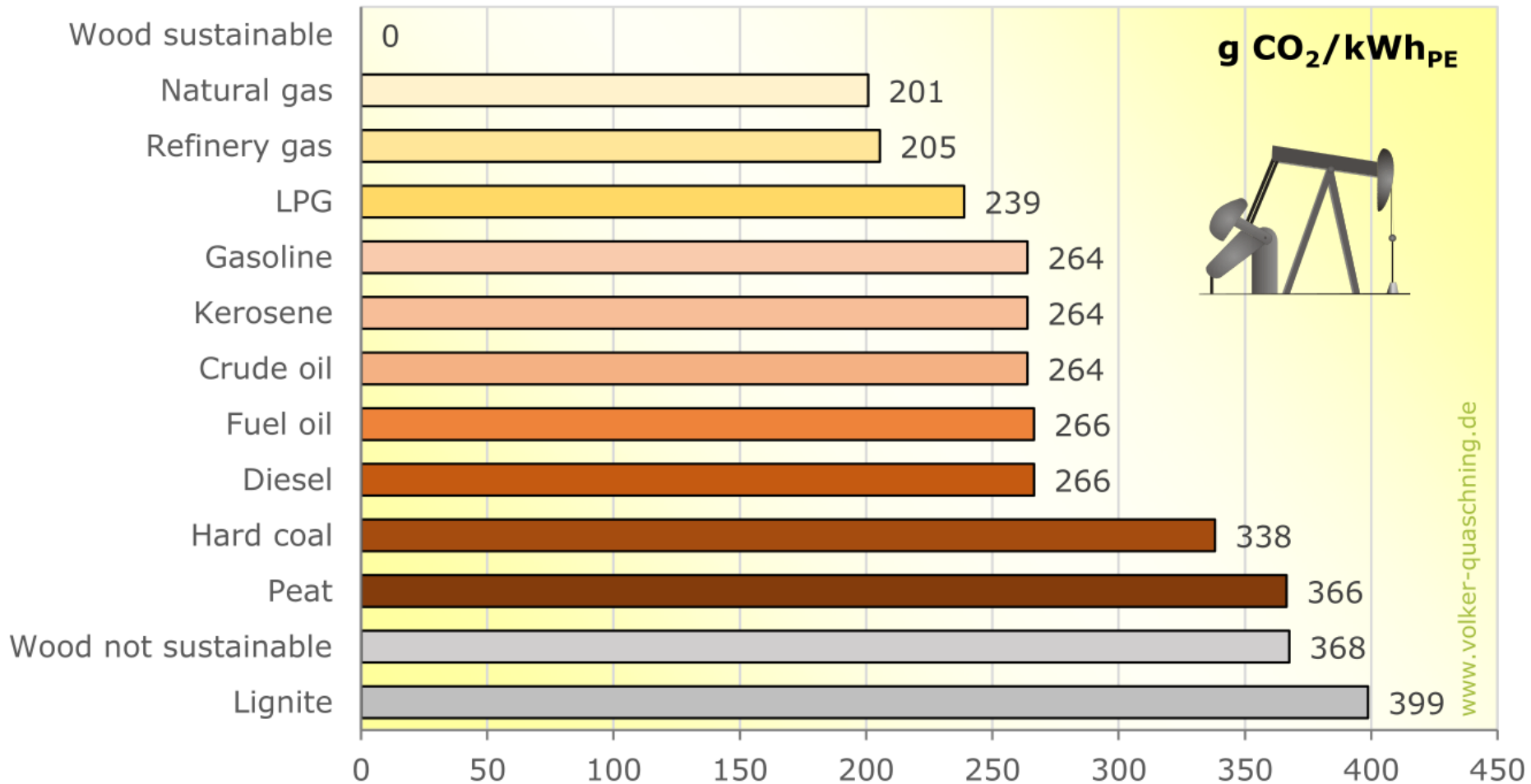
Annual coal consumption, measured in equivalents of terawatt-hours (TWh) per year.



Source: BP Statistical Review of Global Energy (2020)

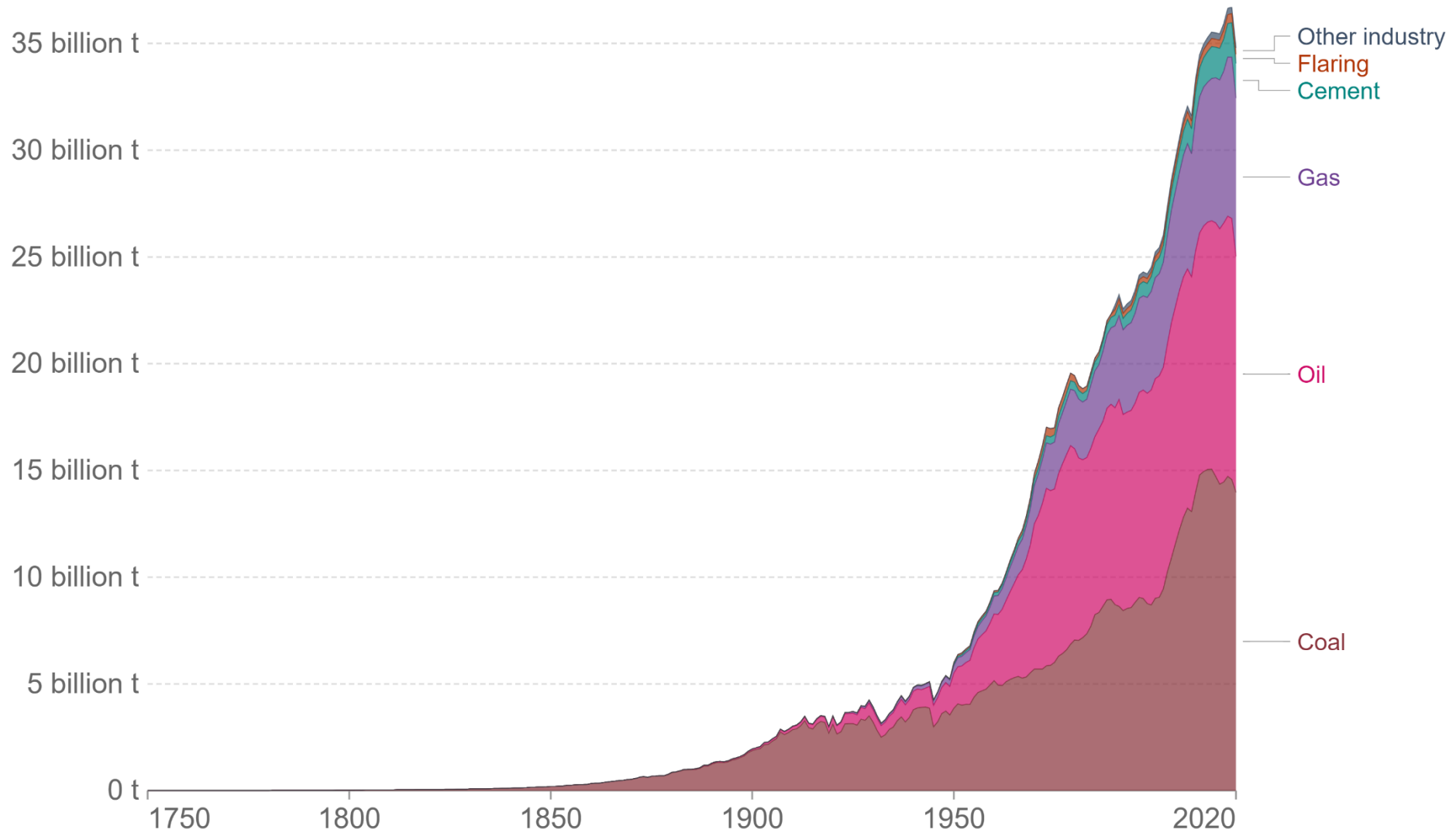
Note: CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) is an organization of ten post-Soviet republics in Eurasia following break-up of the Soviet Union.

CO₂ emissions by fuel



CO₂ emissions by fuel type, World

Annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from different fuel types, measured in tonnes per year.



Coal phase-out (phase-down)

- COP26 in Glasgow – calls for parties to phase-down their use of unabated (*without CCS*) coal power and phase-out subsidies.

India Raises Last-Minute Objection (7:40 p.m.)

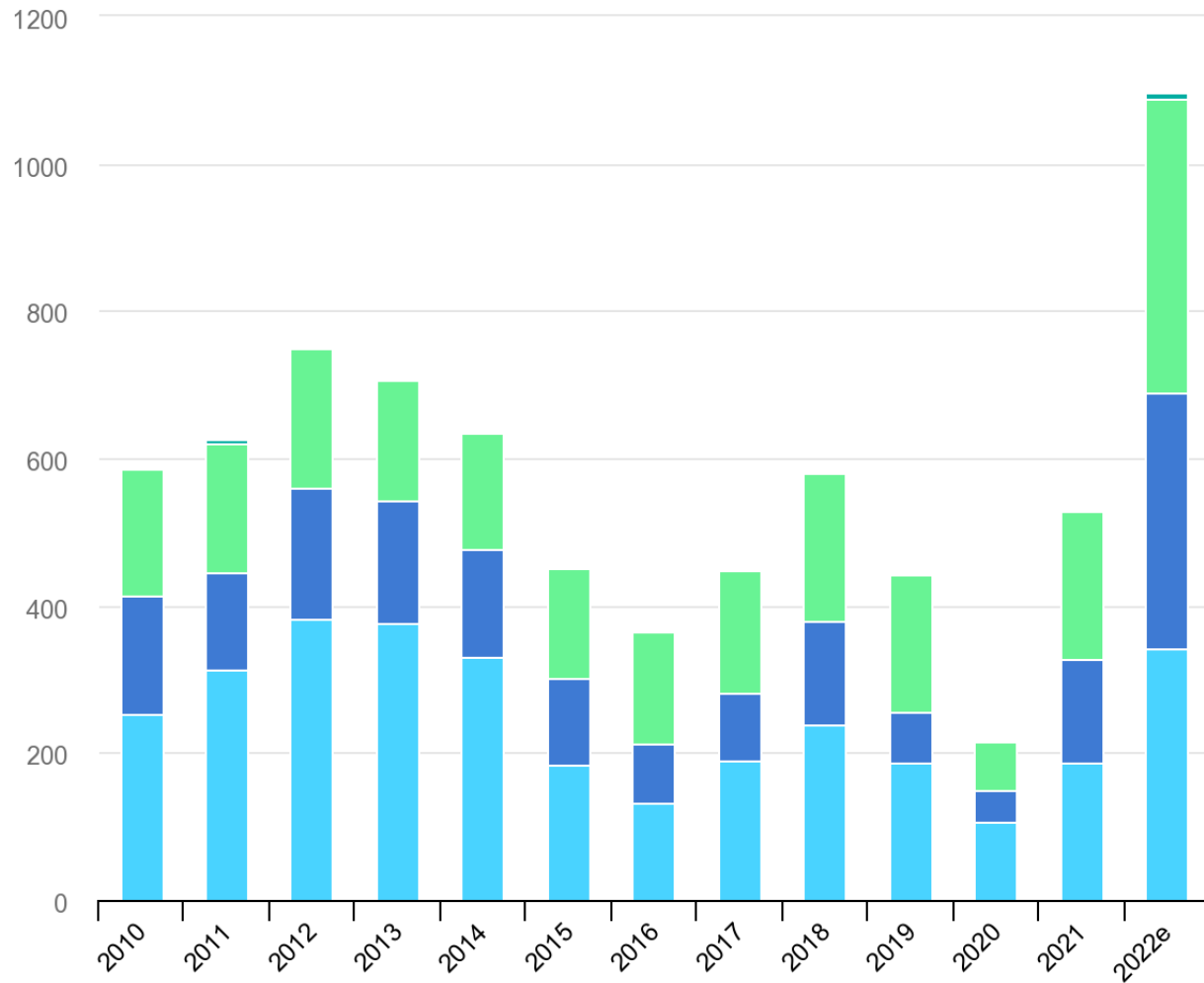
In a last-minute move, India proposed weakening fossil fuel language in the pact, shifting from a commitment toward “accelerating efforts towards the phase-out of unabated coal power” to instead supporting a “phase down unabated coal power.”

Switzerland and the European Union expressed strong objections to India’s proposal, but ultimately accepted it, paving the way for the adoption of what EU climate czar Frans Timmermans called a “historic” document.

1) Economy of coal

- Cheap to produce, easy to use, and abundant.
- Subsidies to coal industry.
- Environmental damages not internalized to the price.

Global fossil fuel subsidies, billion USD (2021)



2) Demand patterns

In developing regions:

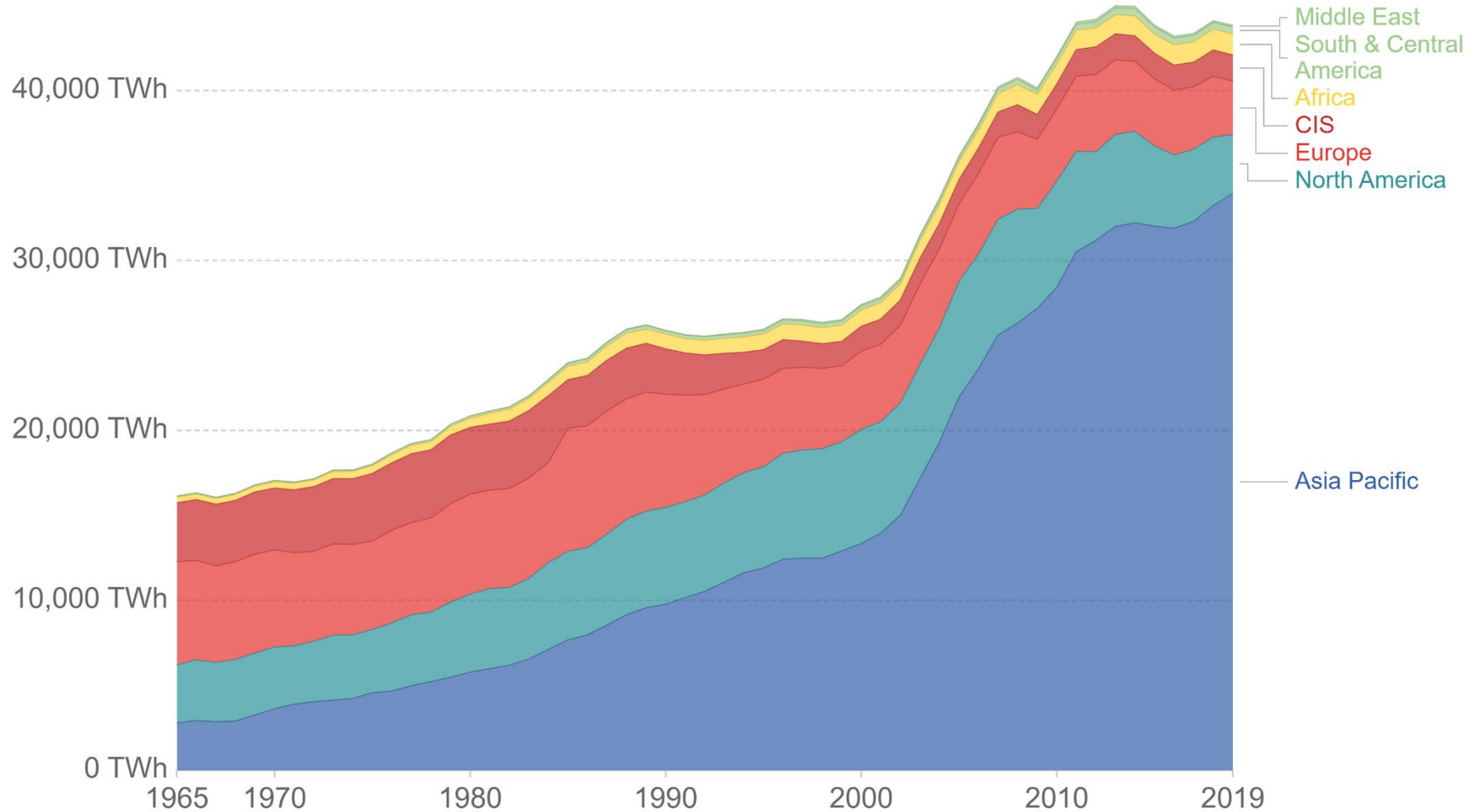
- Population is expanding.
- Per capita economic output is on the rise.
- Consumption levels are increasing.
- All energy sources are deemed essential.

In developed regions:

- Population remains stable.
- Economic growth is modest.
- There's a divergence between energy consumption and GDP growth.
- Traditional fuels are gradually being substituted by low-carbon alternatives.

Coal consumption by region

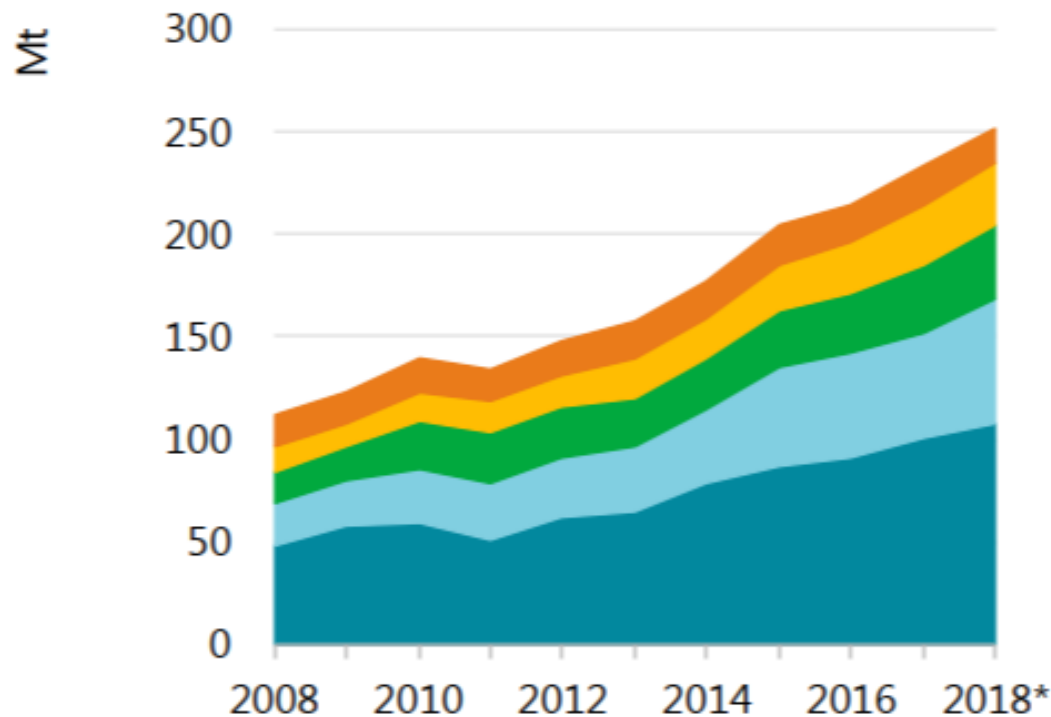
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Thermal coal demand of the major coal consumers in Southeast Asia



3) Resistence of the system

- Coal is embedded in the energy and social systems of industrialized countries.
- On the physical level, there are mines, transport, and combustion, which represent huge sunk costs.
- At the level of actors, there are vested interests – such as companies, governments, and mining communities.
- At the level of institutions, coal is an important part of national identity and security, and is embedded in regulation and law.

Coal „cultural identity“

Coal industry embraced as a cornerstone of the collective sense of self.

Importance of coal for livelihood of the community, independence, the very existence of the industrial sector.

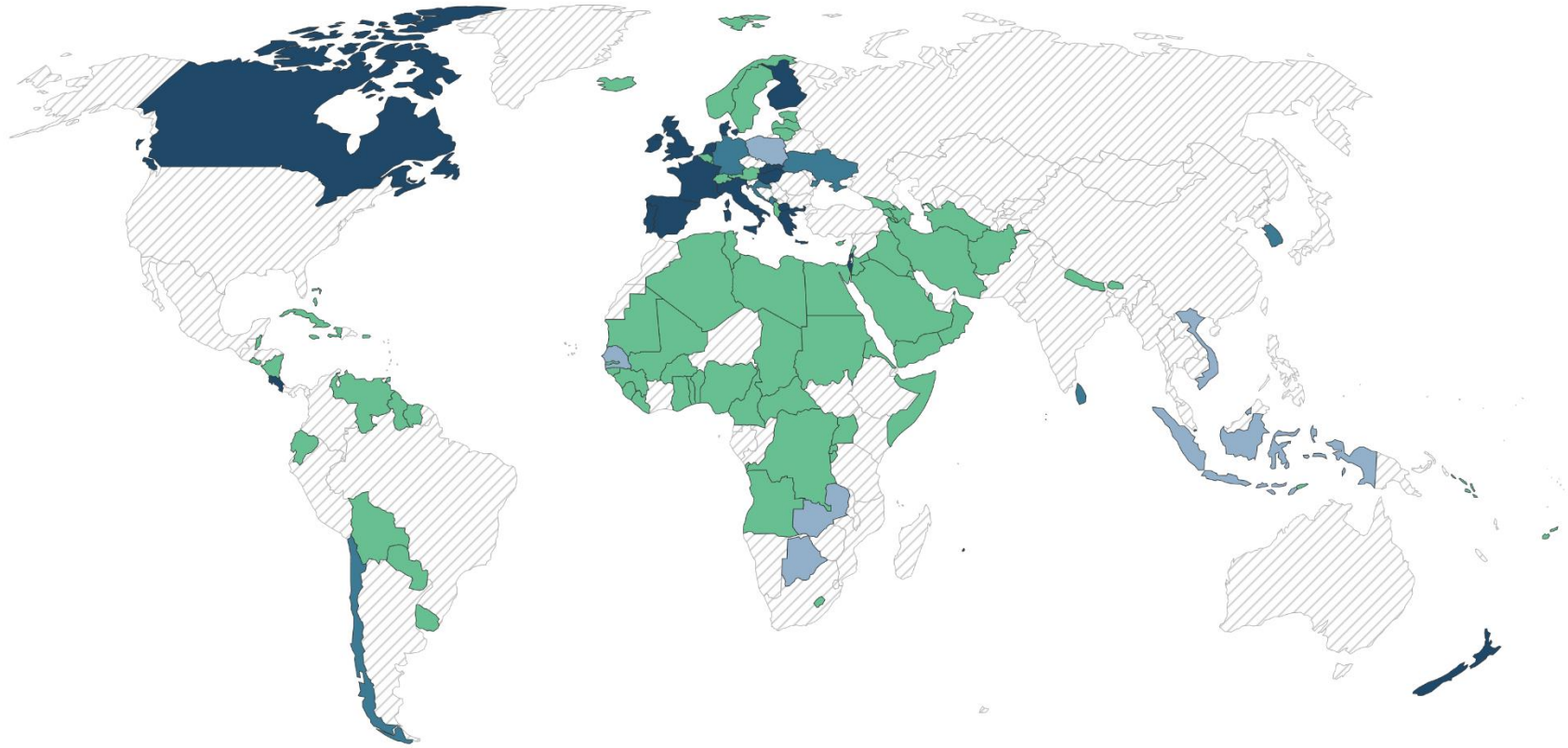


KOHLE·IST·BROT



When will countries phase out coal power?

This measures pledges to phase out coal from the electricity mix.



■ Coal free ■ Phase out by 2030 ■ Phase out by 2040 ■ Phase out in 2040s ▨ No pledge

Data source: Powering Past Coal Alliance; Ember Climate; Beyond Coal EU; Bloomberg Coal Countdown and other sources

Note: Where a concrete phase out date is not defined, we have allocated the final year of the target decade. For example, "Phase out in the 2040s" is given a target date of 2049.

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Coal phase-out and 'call for justice'

- Climate justice: focuses on the uneven climate change impacts on vulnerable groups across nations.
- Environmental justice: ensures fair environmental laws and policies for all, irrespective of race or income.
- Energy justice: prioritizes equal access to energy, its effects on communities, and inclusive decision-making.

Turow coal mine

- Mine spans about 30km² in Poland. Land subsidence and damaged houses in Germany, low groundwater in CZ and PL.
- PL extends mining till 2044 (citing energy security and jobs), despite environmental concerns, failing to meet the legal obligations.
- In 2021, the Czech Republic filed a lawsuit against the mine at The Court of Justice of European Union - the court then ruled that mining must stop immediately
- February 2022 – The Czech-Polish Agreement - seemingly resolved the dispute, but the fairness of the outcome remains debatable



Author of the picture - Anna Uciechowska

Turow coal mine – what justice for whom?

- Climate concerns vs. energy and economic needs.
- Local impacts vs. national benefits.
- Short term benefits vs. long-term (economic and environmental) sustainability.

Sources

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