

Is wartime mobilisation a suitable policy model for rapid national climate mitigation?

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Rapid mitigation needs economic restructuring of the scale & rapidity as seen in **wartime**. Mobilisation can be used as a **policy model** for rapid response to climate change.

- Matthew England, 2012 7.30 Program at Australian Broadcasting Corporation
- Paul Gilding, 2011 The Great Disruption
- Mark Delucchi & Mark Jacobson, 2011 Providing all global energy with wind, water & solar power
- Al Gore, 2008 A Generational Challenge to Repower America
- Lester Brown, 2008 Plan B 3.0 Mobilizing to Save Mobilization
- Dennis Bartels, 2001 Wartime mobilization to counter severe global climate change



US wartime **production** 1940-1945

300 000 airplanes

86 700 tanks

>100 000 naval vessels

>20 million rifles

2.4 million trucks & jeeps

41 billion bullets

millions of other war-related items

Cardozier, 1995:157; Overy, 2006; Smith 1991:3-31



wartime **finance**, in the USA, in billion USD

Defense spending	1940 \$2 <i>2013 \$33</i>	1944 \$90 <i>2013 \$1,197</i>
Taxes collected	1941 \$9 <i>2013 \$143</i>	1945 \$45 <i>2013 \$585</i>
Public borrowing	1939 \$40 <i>2013 \$674</i>	1946 \$279 <i>2013 \$3,350</i>

In 2013 money http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm



wartime labour force

USA	1939-1944	Increased by 7.7 million
Canada	1939-1941	Increased by 880,000
Australia	1939-1944	Increased by 204,000



wartime **governance**

Strong executive authority with almost unlimited power to

- Determine how war items were to be prioritised
- Force manufacturers to accept military contracts
- Requisition private properties
- Stop the production of specific goods & services



Broad strategies for rapid mitigation **finance**

- Implement financial incentives & disincentives to shift energy investments
- Implement a large & steadily increasing carbon price
- Increase taxes on luxury goods
- Introduce an expedited sale of climate bonds



Broad strategies for **labour** requirements

- Conduct labour availability & requirement analysis
- Rapidly retrain and retool existing workers
- Develop & expand university & technical courses



Ministry for Transition to a Low-Carbon Future

the principal agency of rapid mitigation activities to:

- conduct technical requirement studies
- set & enforce production goals
- institute efficient contracting procedures
- cut through the inertia & red tape
- serve as a coordinating agency for all transition activities



An independent institution

separate from the Executive and the above Ministry, reporting directly to Parliament and the public, to

- prepare a transition timeline specifying the period when executive control starts & ends
- conduct appropriate checks & balances
- scrutinise government/executive actions, especially those of the above Ministry
- through legal powers, ensure that the government/executive sticks to its transition mandate



Limitations

- Unlikely that governments would adopt emergency mitigation measures unless life-threatening situations became more apparent
- More likely they would attempt to put most resources into adaptation and possibly geoengineering
- Less likely for politicians to support such measures for fear of losing corporate support & in countries with large fossil fuel reserves, tax revenues
- Less likely for politicians to support any policy on tax increase, especially on the scale required by climate mitigation, for the simple reason that it could mean losing support & votes
- Less inclination for executives to give up power once it has been granted them
- May fail to gain the support of the large majority of the population

Why wartime mobilisation is different from rapid climate mitigation

	Wartime mobilisation	Rapid climate mitigation
Threat	very obvious	less obvious
Public support of executive action	easily ensured	Unlikely
Opposition by vested interests	Large industries generally profit from war, unless they are bombed	Opposition from vested interests is from the big GHG emitting industries

Reference

Delina, L. and Diesendorf, M.(2013) 'Is wartime mobilisation a suitable policy model for rapid national climate mitigation?' *Energy Policy* 58:371-380.

Thank you!

