



Energiewende needs Degrowth

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Structure of the presentation

1. Energiewende and imperial mode of living
2. Historical development
3. Successes and Shortcomings
4. Conclusions



Energiewende and imperial mode of living

Imperial mode of living (Brand/Wissen)

- mode of living (Gramsci)
- fordist mode of production and living
- social structures, production and consumption, everyday live
- imperial because of elements of coercion (access to natural resources exploitation of labor)



Energiewende and imperial mode of living

Energiewende tends to modernize and stabilize
the imperial mode of living



Historical development

- social and ecological movements of the 1970s
- politicization of environmental and energy related issues
- strong anti-nuclear movements, search for alternatives
- 1980: „Energiewende: growth and prosperity without petroleum and uranium“



Historical development

- development of renewables
- institutionalization of the green movement
- 1991 StrEG
- 2000 EEG



Successes of the Energiewende

- sharp increase of renewable's share
- oligopoly was weakened
- broad participation and support
- new actors: cooperatives, citizens, farmers, etc.
- decentralization and democratization
- reduction of carbon emissions



Shortcomings of the Energiewende

- efficiency without degrowth
- the roots of the imperial mode of living is not touched
- Energiewende as opportunity for investment
- passive revolution (Gramsci)
- market integration of renewable energy
- tenders and corridors
- slowing down the speed – pushing it in an other direction



Energiewende needs degrowth

- further democratization (fight against energy poverty, public ownership)
- selective growth – labour relations
- heating and mobility
- coal phase out – just transition
- socio-ecological transformation = transformation of German model of capitalism



Thank you for your attention!!!