

Unused material

Łukasz Woliński

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Łukasz Woliński
www.scifinarratives.com

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This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to the actual people, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

Intro

The *Subway Emergency* story was planned as a first in a series. The stories were supposed to be interspersed with short documents describing the state of the world in 20XX, similarly as in *The Sheep Look Up* and *Stand on Zanzibar* by John Brunner. Back in 2019, I wrote a couple of texts but decided against using them. Although I still plan to build a series of short stories following the *Subway Emergency*, I want the reader to explore the world through the eyes of the characters. Moreover, the 2020 flu pandemic subplot quickly became outdated, as we got hit with COVID-19. Still, I don't want to waste the already created material, so I'm releasing it now.

The Archive

Everyone knew that by the end of century large part of Miami would be underwater. In Miami Beach all of it would happen even faster. But no one cared. Why?

The mortgages are taken for twenty, thirty years, but the average buyer stays for thirteen years. For a long time, buyers believed that they'd be able to sell the problem to someone else, and banks believed that mortgages would be paid, and that they would be able to sell them packaged in some fancy financial products—just like before the 2007–2008 crisis.

But come on! Sooner or later it had to happen. You can't ignore hurricanes flooding your investments. Sooner or later someone had to lose nerve and say, "No way, we're not lending money for that new beachfront condos. No, we're not gonna insure that waterfront hotel. Timescale is too short before they go underwater. We don't need toxic assets." What an idiot, right? The government would bail you out, as always! It would just print that trillions of dollars, right?

Well, it doesn't matter. Some buzzkill pulled the plug and started the domino effect. The collapse of the South Florida real estate market is a fact. Similar problems in other low-lying coastal areas around the world can't be ignored. So, we're living in interesting times. We're in the middle of a financial meltdown... And we haven't yet recovered from the Pandemic crisis. The world's economy is hurting, the unemployment is rising... And all that other stuff happening in presidential race... You know what I mean, right? November is gonna to be interesting! Whatever the results, this country will be unrecognizable in one or two decades.

Joe, the Finance Ninja, a podcast, October 13th, 2036

The sea level at the Battery has already gone up by about 20 inches (50.8 centimeters) relative to the 2000-2004 period. Such a big climb was caused by the dramatic increase of the rate of global sea level rise in the last three decades, mainly

due to the accelerating melting of polar ice. Despite the deep cuts of greenhouse gas emissions during this period (see: *Green New Deal*), the carbon-neutrality has not been achieved yet, and the atmospheric CO_2 concentrations are still growing, albeit slowly. Save for the widespread adoption of carbon removal techniques or some form of geoengineering, the sea levels can reach 8 feet (2.44 meters) above the 2000-2004 level by the end of the century.

(...)

A complex infrastructure spread between the islands making up the City—subways, water and sewage systems, electric grid, fiberoptic cables and radio masts, bridges and underwater tunnels, highways, etc.—is directly threatened by the rising seas and extreme weather events. Densely packed buildings, many of them being of mixed-use and tall and/or having multiple underground levels, built to different codes, pose unique challenges during fires and non-fire emergencies. Large population of the most vulnerable citizens—including (but not limited to) the elderly, people with disabilities, refugees, VR addicts, morbidly obese—require special care from the Fire Department during disaster events. (...) The Department uses a variety of AI/ML tools to identify the most at-risk communities and regularly employs disaster actors from these communities during mass casualties training exercises.

New York City in a warming world: current state of disaster preparedness, emerging challenges and suggested solutions, Master's thesis, Ivy Kusanagi (Lieutenant, Fire Dept. of the City of New York), 20XX

You had your life

You stole the future from us

You've got everything

We've got nothing

A writing found on the wall of the retirement home in Florida on April 23rd, 2021. The security was increased, but nothing happened.

Update, September 6th, 2022: the place was flooded during a hurricane.

Yes, I know about the wildfires. Yes, I know about the floods. Yes, I know about the hurricanes. It's real. It's happening. But it's not because of some *greenhouse gases*. It's because we're the sinners!

Repent your sins until it is too late, my children.

Rev. Erriksen during sermon in his megachurch in Cloverville, Kentucky on
December 8th, 2019.

EAT THE RICH

A slogan sprayed on the asphalt of the 57th Street (Billionaire's Row) in Manhattan. Photographed close to a burnt-out sportscar, shortly after sunrise, on a calm January day of 2021. You know, one of this after-the-riot mornings.

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Y'all know how it went. The 2019 economic slowdown had everyone worried about an upcoming recession, and then that Illuminati-bioengineered super flu happened. Fucking hell, why no one saw that coming? *2020 super flu pandemic*, as it's called. Or, in the rich, northern hemisphere at least, just the Pandemic. Whatever. Three hundred megadeaths worldwide. Maybe it's not *that* apocalyptic if we look at this as percentage of the population... But, yeah. Shit hit the fan, right? Right.

So, it's a history now. And what were the consequences for the world? Well, the good news is that the GHG emissions plummeted in the 2020s, and programs like the Green New Deal kept them on that downward trajectory. So our kids and grandkids might see the 22nd century, after all. Disclaimer: if we don't get hit by some other Illuminati virus.

Done the good news. Now, the bad news. We're at least a decade behind schedule in terms of the scientific and technological progress. Where is my robotic servant? My self-driving car? My brain implant? My space hotel? Huh? Imagine how much further we could be had the R&D money not evaporate during that great shitshow of the 2020s...

Angry Old Man, a podcast, March 16th, 2035

Many tech fanatics believe that the last AI winter is the result of the post-Pandemic economic crisis. That's not the whole picture. They tend to ignore the end of

Moore's law for silicon chips and the limitations of the deep learning which manifested in the 2020s...

Technology To-day/morrow, June 17th, 2036

Worldwide efforts to rebuild the economy in the less carbon-intensive way bear fruits. However, most of the reductions come from the electricity production and transportation. The progress in sectors like agricultural production or industrial processes is much slower, and that is a cause for concern. Extrapolations of current trends show that limiting the warming to the so-called *safe* level of 2 degrees in 2100 is still at risk. That risk, of course, is much smaller than pre-Pandemic...

A Case for the Geoengineering, 2038

With so many factories closing, there is not much market for collaborative robots, eh? And with that sky-high unemployment are you gonna tell people that you'll pour more money into AI and robotics research? Don't think so.

A woman, who declined to be named, waiting for her appointment in one of the Talent Reallocation Centres in Sheffield, summer 2023