



ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics
Fundación Ética & Economía Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomie

ethecon Dossier

german **english** spanish french edition

International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020 to Jeffrey Preston Bezos (USA)

Ultra-rich founder, CEO and/or major shareholder of (among others) the world's largest cloud- and retail-company AMAZON, the daily newspaper WASHINGTON POST, the supermarket chain WHOLE FOODS and the space company BLUE ORIGIN (all USA)



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Alternative and progressive
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World Association for
Political Economy (wape)



The Cover Picture

The photo shows the person who is named and shamed with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020:

Jeffrey Preston Bezos, the richest man in the world, owning companies like AMAZON, the WASHINGTON POST and the space company BLUE ORIGIN.

” With adequate profit, capital is very bold.

A certain 10 percent will ensure its employment anywhere;
20 percent certain will produce eagerness;
50 percent, positive audacity;
100 percent will make it ready to trample on all human laws;
300 percent, and there is not a crime
at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run,
even to the chance of its owner being hanged.

“

Thomas J. Dunning
Economist and trade unionist (1799 - 1873)
published in the Quarterly Review
London 1860



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AMAZON is destroying workers' rights and the environment - international resistance is forming under the slogan: „make amazon pay!“ – like in this light-projection



make
amazon
pay

On the Corona-Pandemic

During the work on this dossier the volunteer team of ethecon was confronted with the Virus SARS-COV-2, commonly called corona. This pandemic, through international travel restrictions and great financial pressure, forced the ethecon activists to move the public event, naming and shaming Jeffrey Bezos, online.

The extent and duration of the pandemic could not be predicted when this dossier was completed, but it was clear that the pandemic would have long and dramatic consequences for the resistance to corporate crime.

About this Dossier

This dossier was published for the first time on the occasion of the ethecon public awardshow on November 21st, 2020. ethecon named and shamed Jeffrey P. Bezos with the infamous International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020, following his denunciation on the international Day of Peace on September 21st, 2020.



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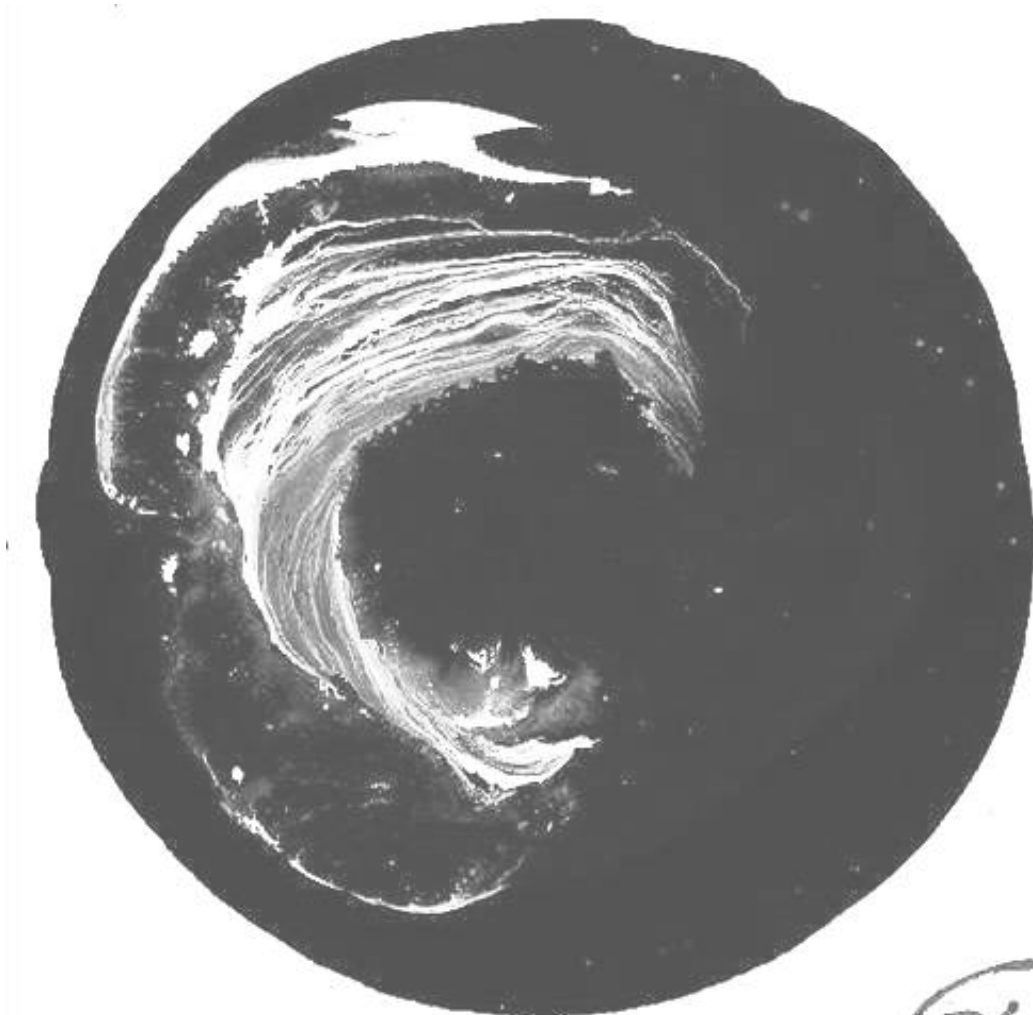
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Pieno

*¡El planeta azul debe mantenerse verde!
Keep the Blue Planet green!
Der Blaue Planet soll grün bleiben!*



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Otto Piene (regarding the image on the previous page)

The picture shows the „Blue Planet“ by Otto Piene who died in 2014. Together with Heinz Mack and Günther Uecker, Piene founded the epochal Zero-Art. The motto of this artwork was the base of the cooperation between the world-famous artist and the ethecon foundation since 2005 in the framework of the International ethecon Blue Planet Project. This project is still active and includes for example the annual presentation of two international awards since 2006: The International ethecon Blue Planet Award honours persons, who are protecting and rescuing the Blue Planet, while the International ethecon Dead Planet Award (up until 2018 “Black Planet Award”) names and shames persons, who are ruining and destroying the Blue Planet to a dead, uninhabitable Planet. From 2006 to 2009 Otto Piene painted the artwork on glass as an annual unique copy for the annual trophies for the Blue Planet Awards. More about the work of Otto Piene is available in our orderable and free brochure “The International ethecon Blue Planet Projekt” (Donation welcome).

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In Advance

The International ethecon Blue Planet Project¹ and the two International ethecon Awards (by Axel Köhler-Schnura/Founder²)

The two international ethecon prizes Blue Planet Award and Dead Planet Award (former "Black Planet Award") have been conferred by ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economy since 2006. Today they belong to the most well-known anti-globalisation prizes worldwide.

What are these prizes all about? What is the presentation of these two ethecon Awards all about?

My foundation members, supporting members of the ethecon foundation, the donors and of course also I, together with my co-founder Ms. Rehmann, are involved in ethecon because we do not want to stand by and watch how fundamental principles of ethics are being trampled underfoot, just so that the rich and powerful of this world can become even richer and more powerful. And this while there has been already done vast damage by humans and ecology with the danger of a full social and ecological ruin of humanity. We are convinced that the reason for our social and ecological downfall of our Blue Planet is the profit principle and the associated destruction of fundamentally ethical principles caused by our economy. We are in favour of establishing ethical principles in economy and of a reorientation of a profit-based system to a solidarity-based system. Saving the planet will be only possible if we crash the profit principle.

The idea to promote efforts to preserve and rescue fundamental ethical principles with a foundation prize already came up during the foundation year in 2004. There were and are many prizes that award achievements in various sectors of society. However, there are not many prizes that honour resistance against abuse and ruin of ethics and moral that has the consequence of destruction of the environment, war and exploitation.

Our idea corresponded to the cycle of works "Blue Planet" of the artist Otto Piene (born 1928/deceased 2014)³. He belonged to the big artists of the 20th century. Together with Mack and Uecker he

¹ Detailed information about the International ethecon Blue Planet Project in the form of a brochure may be ordered free of charge from ethecon.

² Axel Köhler-Schnura, Dipl.Kfm., Düsseldorf/Germany, born in 1949, married, four children (one deceased); studied business administration, sociology, computer science, various languages: Until 1976 economic sociology research within the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft/DFG (German Research Institute). After that various positions in private industry, the last position in the executive management of a polygraphical company. Since 1988 owner of companies in the field of ecology. Substantially involved in the founding of organizations as Dachverband der Kritischen AktionärInnen (Association of the Critical Shareholders), Pestizid Aktionsnetzwerk (Pesticide Action Network Germany/PAN) and the Coordination gegen BAYER-Gefahren (Coalition against BAYER-Dangers/CBG). Active as a volunteer on the board the international network of the Coalition against BAYER-Dangers. Founding donor and chairperson of the board of directors of the International ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics; formerly in the German Coordinating Circle of the European Social Forum. Frequent publications. Awarded with the Business Crime Award 1998, the Prize for Civil Courage 2000 and the Henry Mathews Award in 2011; in 2008 nominated for the Alternative Nobel Prize. (Quoted from inter alia Who's Who/Edition for Germany an Wikipedia/Germany)

³ More information about Prof. Otto Piene and his work can be found in the ethecon brochure entitled "Blue Planet Project" (available on request free of charge).

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created the epochal ZERO art and is responsible, amongst other, for SkyArt. With the mentioned work Piene demanded: "Keep the Blue Planet green!" Piene's credo was simple as well as astonishing: "Yes, I dream of a better world. Should I dream of a worse one?"

Piene launched together with ethecon the International ethecon Blue Planet Project in 2005 and it was based on the idea to have an international prize. However, the discussion process about this prize quickly showed that it is not enough to just honour actions that fight for ethics and moral. It showed that it is equally important to denounce misdeeds against ethics and moral. Finally, the idea emerged to have two linked together ethecon prizes: The positive ethecon prize Blue Planet Award and the negative ethecon prize Dead Planet Award.

Both ethecon prizes are one unit, two sides of the same medal. Together they reflect the state of the ethical principles that shape our world. At the same time, they illustrate the vision of ethics and moral that enables a world without exploitation and oppression. The two ethecon prizes outlaw ruthlessness, greed, war and destruction of the environment. And they follow the ideals of solidarity, peace, environmental protection and justice. They demand resistance, change and commitment in the interest of the ideals; stand for a liveable future for this, our world.

The first prize, the International ethecon Blue Planet Award, awards commitment to preserve and rescue the Blue Planet and calls attention to the pressing scope of actions and opportunities. The second prize, the International Dead Planet Award, denounces the desecration of our world or the danger of a dead, uninhabitable Planet and it condemns indifference and ignorance.

The two international ethecon prizes together show: There is hope. The force is in us, in every single of us.

The two international ethecon prizes fundamentally only award people and no institutions. Like that growing and targeted anonymization of decisions are supposed to be opposed. Especially in the events of negative developments the responsible people like to hide themselves behind the facades of any institution. They like to refer to alleged constraints and blame decisions that were sort of taken automatically. However, whether it is positive or negative, it is always the same: They are always people who take decisions and bear responsibility.

The presentation of the two international ethecon prizes usually takes place once a year. At the beginning of every year an internationally widespread call is initiated in which about 10 thousand recipients are asked to make proposals for award winners – for the International ethecon Blue Planet Award as well as for the International ethecon Dead Planet Award. After a thorough advisory and decision-making process the award winners are announced on the occasion of the international anti-war day, on September 21st. The international public is informed in detail in two extensive dossiers in at least three languages about the reasons why certain winners were chosen – one for the Dead Planet Award and

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one for the Blue Planet Award. The two ethecon prizes are awarded every third weekend of November of each year at a public, big ceremony in Berlin.

Many actors from all over the world are involved in the activities to present the awards. However, we deliberately do not involve actors from the prevailing circles and institutions but actors from resistant movements who fight for peace, ecology and justice. Like that the inseparable connection of the two awards and the meaning of these prizes to support our aim are supposed to be stressed and become visible.

The recipients of the International ethecon Blue Planet Award are invited to a ceremony in Berlin. After a detailed presentation of reasons (laudation) the prize will be handed over in person. We offer the recipient the possibility then to cooperate with ethecon and the network of the foundation.

This is different for the ethecon Dead Planet Award though. The awarding of this negative prize will only be justified with a diatribe at the ceremony. The prize winners are only informed of this awarded infamous prize by an "Open Letter" that is published in three languages. However, the presentation of the award in person does not take place during this public ceremony. But also for this awarding people and organisations of international, social movements are involved.

When the two International ethecon Awards were born in 2005, a process to find prize trophies was created. Otto Piene spontaneously offered to create the trophy for the International ethecon Blue Planet Award and since 2006 he designed the annual prize trophy for the International ethecon Blue Planet Award as a unique, valuable sculpture that is made out of glass and wood. Until 2009. He asked then – now 82 years old – for reasons of age to be released from this responsible task.

With Katharina Mayer⁴, the great photo artist and Becher student (Born in 1958), we found someone who worthily continued the Blue Planet Project that was established by Piene and ethecon and who further developed the character of this project. From 2010 until 2018, the prize trophy of the International ethecon Blue Planet Award was not designed with a brush, but with the help of photo art.

In 2019 we entered new territory again and made a mural in the streets of Düsseldorf, with help of the street art collective "Farbfieber". By this mural, the ethecon Blue Planet Award became something new and interactive entirely, bringing the story of our awardee to pedestrians.

In 2020, glass artist Günter Pohl designed the Trophy of the Blue Planet Award honouring Phyllis Omido using glass and lead, representing the fragility of the Blue Planet and the struggle of Omido, honouring the essence of our Awardee's Lifetime achievement.

⁴ More about the person and works of Prof. Katharina Mayer in the ethecon brochure „Blue Planet Project“ (can be obtained free of charge)

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The prize trophy of the International ethecon Dead Planet Award is created in a completely different way. This trophy is a plastic globe that is industrially manufactured under exploitative and environmentally unfriendly conditions that is designed annually as a Dead Planet by young people. The artistic alienation is deliberately not carried out by the artist who creates the annual positive prize but by a young person who is randomly chosen. In doing so, it is avoided to create the infamous trophy of the International ethecon Dead Planet Award as an art of work of high quality. It is guaranteed that in our world that is oriented towards usability no new precious objects are created. Especially for someone who does not deserve this appreciation – in the truest sense of the word. At the same time the young person is a symbol for the endangered future of the Blue Planet, for those who are threatened by a dead, uninhabitable Planet. It is the youth whose future is destroyed by the ecological, social and martial ruin of the world.

It is significant and important to mention that the denounced people who are awarded with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award generally despise this award trophy. Down to the present day not one of the reviled persons has accepted the award personally and has laid him/herself open to criticism by the public. The prize trophy could be handed over to a delegate at the best, such as to an employee of a press office. However, most of the times we could observe how the prize was destroyed by security guards.

ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics is a foundation from the bottom. The foundation has emerged from global movements against globalisation and big corporations that fight for environmental protection, peace and justice; supported by activists who fight against corporate power, exploitation, war and environmental destruction; globally networked, connected with principles of international solidarity. ethecon is a foundation that sees itself as being responsible for future generations.

The International ethecon Blue Planet Project that compromises the two international ethecon prizes wants to express this solidarity and these principles. Searching and finding the annual recipient on the basis of the mentioned principles, the annual presentation of the ethecon prizes during a ceremony that has a different topic every year in the context of the responsibility to sustain a liveable world, the presentation of the International ethecon Dead Planet Award in the context of broad international actions – that is the International ethecon Blue Planet Project.

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Excerpt

**from the statement of ethecon justifying the bestowal
of the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020
to founder, CEO and major shareholder Jeffrey P. Bezos
of the world's largest cloud-service and retail company AMAZON (USA)**

" ...

First and foremost responsible for decisions and actions of the world's largest cloud-service and retail company AMAZON INC. (USA), are the executives and major shareholders, led Jeffrey Preston Bezos, the company's founder, CEO and major shareholder. The company belongs to them in essential parts. They lead the company decisively. The ruin of human health and the destruction of the environment on a grand scale, and even the deaths of many people, go to their account. They pose not only a threat to peace and human rights, but also to democracy, ecology and humanity as a whole. They act for the benefit of personal power and personal enrichment. To do so, they trample on morality and ethics and accept the demise of Earth as a dead, uninhabitable planet.

ethecon sees the actions of Jeffrey Preston Bezos and the other major shareholders of AMAZON, as a shocking contribution to the ruin and destruction of our Blue planet. For this frightening disregard and violation of human ethics, ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy names and shames Jeffrey Preston Bezos exemplary with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020.

... "

Berlin, September 21, 2020⁵

⁵ ethecon announces the nominees on the 21st September, since it is considered the international Day of Peace.

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The Protests against Jeffrey Bezos and his corporate crimes are global as in this case in India

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Background

to the defamation of the company founder, CEO and major shareholder Jeff Bezos from the mail order and technology group AMAZON Inc. (USA) with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020

AMAZON is a publicly listed U.S. corporation with headquarters in Seattle.⁶ It is the global market leader in online mail order and sells a wide range of consumer products, including books, movies, household goods, toys, electronics, foods, and medicine. It has an unprecedented worldwide distribution network of its own mail order and logistics chains, material and digital distribution channels. AMAZON distributes series, films, music and audio books via its streaming divisions PRIME VIDEO, AMAZON MUSIC and TWITCH and produces its own series and films in the AMAZON STUDIOS. AMAZON has its own online payment service AMAZON PAY and the cashless supermarket chain AMAZON-GO.

AMAZON is a leader in the trade with web services such as so-called "cloud computing" and the leasing of storage and computer capacity.⁷ As its own brands, the Group mainly produces integrated, "smart"⁸ consumer electronics such as KINDLE, FIRE TABLET and ECHO. With ALEXA⁹, AMAZON brought one of the first application-suitable A.I. assistants into millions of households and researches the mass evaluation of customer data ("Big Data") as the basis of artificial intelligence.

The Group in figures

In February 2020 approximately 5000 hyperlinks from other internet addresses were linked to the web addresses of AMAZON (amazon.com) or one of its sub-addresses. To the web addresses of AMAZON (amazon.com) or one of its sub-addresses and, with 41 thousand referring other pages, leaves AMAZON not far behind GOOGLE.de (48,400 thousand). In 2018, 206 million visitors were registered on the AMAZON homepage every month. AMAZON therefore dominates a large part of the internet.¹⁰

With a market value of about 1.2 trillion US dollars, AMAZON was the group with the highest brand value worldwide in April 2020.¹¹ In the fiscal year 2019, it had sales of 280.5 billion US dollars and achieved a net profit of 11.5 billion US dollars.¹² Even U.S. Internet groups such as Google Inc. and

⁶ The corporation has been registered in the legal form of a corporation (with limited liability) in the commercial register in the federal state of Washington since 1994.

⁷ Cf. Britannica (2020): Amazon.com. Available online at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Amazoncom>. Accessed: 05.05.2020.

⁸ Appliances are marketed a "smart" when they can operated via an internet connection, are up-date conform as well as being able to continuously collect data from their users. They aim to form a bridge technology to artificial intelligence (a.i.).

⁹ Cf. <https://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/amazon.de>. Accessed: 05.07.2020

¹⁰ Statista.com (2019): unique visitors amazon.com June 2019. Available online at: <http://www.statista.com/statistics/271450/monthly-unique-visitors-to-us-retail-websites/>. Retrieved: 05-07.2020.

¹¹ Cf. <https://www.finanzen.net/nachricht/aktien/kursrally-amazon-aktie-amazon-macht-apple-rang-beim-boersenwert-streitig-8791317>. Accessed: 05.05.2020.

¹² Cf. FORBES Magazin: <https://www.forbes.com/profile/jeff-bezos/>. Accessed: 05.05.2020.

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Facebook had comparatively far less revenue, accounting for about half and a quarter of AMAZON's annual sales respectively. The net assets of AMAZON amounted to about one trillion US dollars (= 1,000 billion) in June 2020. More than 840 thousand people work for the Group worldwide.¹³

Group founder Jeff Bezos continues to head the Group. He became a US dollar billionaire at the age of 35 (1999) and is today (2020) the richest person in the world with estimated private assets of 146.9 billion US dollars.¹⁴

Company History

Jeffrey Preston Bezos Jorgensen was born in 1964 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His Cuban stepfather in exile, Mike Bezos, an engineer with the oil monopoly concern EXXON in Texas, introduced him to the world of large corporations.

After studying in Princeton, Jeff Bezos worked as a manager at BANKERS TRUST in New York. In 1990¹⁵, he became a hedge fund manager at the Wall Street investment bank D.E. SHAW & CO. Bezos described the eponymous computer scientist David Elliot Shaw, who at the time was turning stock trading upside down with the help of high-speed computers, as his mentor. When Bezos formulated his ideas for an online mail order business, Shaw invested immediately and still owns a large share of AMAZON today.

In 1994 Jeff Bezos founded AMAZON.com¹⁶, one of the first digital mail order companies. Initially limited exclusively to the book trade, Bezos subsequently expanded its product range to include music CDs and video films.

In the first years, the business was limited to digital retail. The entry into the well-known delivery business with AMAZON LOGISTICS was initially limited to the USA and largely relied on the existing public transport and transportation network. Although AMAZON was losing billions of dollars every year until the 2000s, its investors remained loyal, enabling relentless growth or, rather, the conquest of the monopoly position in the digital mail order business announced from the start.¹⁷

During this phase, AMAZON went public in 1997. In a television commercial, Jeff Bezos praised the company's growth rates: "With a growth rate of 2,000 percent per year, you just want to be there."

¹³ <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon>. Accessed: 14.08.2020.

¹⁴ Cf. <https://www.macrotrends.net/stocks/charts/AMZN/amazon/net-worth>. Accessed: 05.05.2020.

¹⁵ The early 1990s were characterized by the rise of huge EDV Groups such as MICROSOFT and IBM, but also by a concentration of ownerships overall.

¹⁶ The name "AMAZON" was chosen according to efficiency criteria: The alphabet starts with the letter "A" and therefore tends to have a higher chance, in alphabetically listed rankings, to be right at the front. AMAZON displaced the name "relentless.com", the personal suggestion of Bezos, which his partners advised against. Even today, URL refers "relentless.com" to AMAZON.

¹⁷ Cf. <https://meedia.de/2017/05/20-jahre-nach-dem-boersengang-were-1997-nur-1000-dollar-in-die-amazon-aktie-angelaegt-haette-waere-heute-halber-millionaer/>. Accessed: 08.05.2020.

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The rapid growth continues almost uninterruptedly until today. Worldwide, AMAZON's turnover has skyrocketed from 2010 to 2019 alone, from 34 to 178 billion US dollars.

AMAZON was and is a pioneer in the mass evaluation of customer data and personalized advertising. Since the end of the 1990s, the Group has relied on product recommendations and discount campaigns in addition to targeted brand advertising. However, AMAZON did not achieve a real technological lead in the field of "cloud computing" - i.e. in the leasing of IT services and infrastructures, until the turn of the millennium.¹⁸

This was soon followed by the profitable takeover of the processing of operational payment transactions, excluding third-party banks and financial service providers. Digital advertising was also taken over under the company's own management. And finally, postal and parcel services with their own delivery to the customer's door were incorporated into the Group.

Particularly since 2009, a number of major acquisitions of other online suppliers followed, such as the online shoe retailer ZAPPOS in 2009 for around USD 850 million.

But AMAZON and Jeff Bezos also bought up promising key technologies: KIVA SYSTEMS was incorporated in 2012 for USD 775 million as "AMAZON ROBOTICS" and the group immediately organized the automation of its warehouses independently.¹⁹

In 2014, AMAZON bought the life-streaming video portal TWITCH for USD 970 million and thus entered into its own media production.

In 2017, the Group finally acquired WHOLE FOODS, the world's largest organic supermarket chain. AMAZON thus increased the number of its employees from 100,000 to 280,000 in 2017 and has since then also controlled a large part of the mail order business for food and medicines.

Overall, AMAZON today controls large parts of the retail trade and the associated logistics. Its 109 logistics centers employ 11 thousand workers.

Platform Capitalism

In the young branch of "Cloud Computing", AMAZON rapidly took the lead since the foundation of the subsidiary AMAZON WEB SERVICES (AWS) in 2002. In 2019, more than 80% of the German DAX companies used AWS. While the sale of these IT services provided AMAZON with a considerable turnover and put the group in the global lead in this field, it also gave AMAZON considerable competitive advantages: On the one hand, the various AMAZON subsidiaries always have access to the

¹⁸ Cf. <https://handel.verdi.de/++file++5ba0b56d56c12f0476dbdd18/download/Amazon.pdf>.

¹⁹ Cf. www.golem.de/news/amazon-kault-kiva-systems-roboter-statt-meschan-im-lagerhaus-1203-90622.html. Accessed: 08.05.2020.

best IT services at a lower price than the competition thanks to internal subsidies.²⁰ On the other hand, the cloud computing of AWS handles relevant data flows of large corporations and thus secures an information advantage for AMAZON.

In addition, AMAZON offers itself to small businesses and dealers via the "AWS Marketplace" platform as a consultant and developer for advertising, production organization and in particular the automation of operational processes. The platform also serves as a marketplace for third-party advertising services.

With "AMAZON Elastic Compute Cloud" (EC2) and "AMAZON Simple Storage Service" (S3), the Group has been offering "all-round packages" for the digital opening of businesses from a single source since 2006. This has enabled many small retailers to set up their own business with only a small amount of start-up capital. The horrendous commissions that AMAZON collects for these services amount to up to 45 percent of the sales price per item sold and an additional EUR 0.99 for private sellers.

AMAZON does not only displace the retail trade so by its monopoly: The company creates at the same time a new class of bogus self-employed dealers, who no longer have their own marketing, clientele, sales channels or operating systems, but are dependent in all respects on AMAZON.²¹

This working model is spreading rapidly: From 2017 to 2019 alone, over 3.3 million dependent webshop dealers were added.²² Geographically, the AMAZON "marketplaces" have already expanded from the USA (1995) to Germany and Great Britain (1998), France (2000), Japan (2000), Canada (2002), China (2004), Italy (2010), Spain (2011), Brazil (2012), India (2013), Mexico (2013), the Netherlands (2014), Australia and Singapore (2017), Turkey (2018) and most recently the United Arab Emirates (2019). Through its marketplaces, AMAZON controls the majority of online sales in 17 states with high consumption levels and consequently the majority of online consumption worldwide.²³

Even those traders who are still able to deal independently on the market become dependent on AMAZON in many ways. For example through the "AMAZON Partner Network" (APN), through which the operators of a website have been able to set links to AMAZON since 2006. If a purchase is concluded through this, the links are traced and the website operator receives the commission. And finally AMAZON gets access to valuable sales data of the third party suppliers through the processing of the

²⁰ So called "internal subsidies" redistribute income from profitable subsidiaries with little competition, high cost, low-profit, or even sectors running at a loss under great pressure from competition. The aim is to undercut and eventually usurp the competition by expansion of the group as far as a monopoly of the market.

²¹ Under the term "bogus self-employment" various forms of employment are combined, although actually meaning employed work, since there is only one client or the place of work is decided by the boss. In this way, workers are cheated out of their hard-fought rights, such as unemployment benefits or trade union rights. Some forms of bogus self-employment are forbidden in Germany. With regards to bogus self-employment particularly at AMAZON, see: <https://www.rosalux.de/news/id/41456/ausgeliefert-oder-widerstand/>. Accessed: 03.07.2020

²² Cf. <https://www.sellercentral.amazon.de>. Accessed: 08.05.2020.

²³ Cf. <https://www.onlinehaendler-news.de/online-handel/marketplace/131848-amazon-marketplace-jde-stunde-kommen-fast-140-neue-haendler-hinzu>. Accessed: 08.05.2020.

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shipping orders.²⁴ Thus AMAZON is always well informed about which third-party goods sell well and much more. The exhaustion of the technological possibilities of information processing represents an immense potential for AMAZON to open up new user groups and new trade and business partners via the website. In the first half of 2020, there were over one million new third-party providers, including more than 400 thousand in the USA alone.

Support and training platforms for young technology and consulting companies will also be provided, in order to bind them step by step to the use of in-house coding and algorithms and ultimately to web services such as the AWS cloud. This has already been described as the "strategy of the deadly embrace": AMAZON binds competitors so tightly that they cannot breathe.²⁵ This principle is particularly effective with the cooperating publishing houses. Some publishing houses such as Ch. Schroer Verlag and Verlag André Thiele have already carrying out these conflicts openly and terminated their cooperation with the online retailer with media impact. In open letters they criticized the high discounts, "nebulous booking tricks with the sales tax" and the conditions dictated by the monopoly.²⁶

In spring 2005 AMAZON started its subscription service AMAZON PRIME. With this subscription service, the Group offers a closed consumption and entertainment system that binds customers to AMAZON's business model via discounts and habituation. Thus with AMAZON PRIME e.g. access to "advantages" is acquired with all business and offer achievements of AMAZON like free supplies, reduced express dispatch, special offers and special entrances to achievements etc.

Access to AMAZON's own films, series (via the online video library AMAZON VIDEO) and music (via PRIME MUSIC) are also linked to the "Prime" subscription. Starting in 2021, matches of the German Bundesliga and UEFA Champions League will also be shown on Prime in Germany.²⁷ By purchasing the rights to further games, AMAZON could attract more soccer fans to Prime and also position itself as a serious competitor to SKY and the major monopolies in sports entertainment.²⁸

In July 2019 there were 17.3 million PRIME customers in Germany.²⁹ Every fourth US American is already a PRIME customer. According to Jeff Bezos' own information, there were over 150 million paying PRIME customers worldwide in January 2020. In 2019, the number of items delivered to U.S. customers within the same day of order has quadrupled.

²⁴ Cf. Fischer und Habel (2019): Verkaufen bei AMAZON – weltweit./. Available online at: <https://fiscer-habel.com/de/verkaufen-bei-amazon-weltweit/>. Accessed: 08.05.2020.

²⁵ Cf. <https://www.blaetter.de/ausgabe/2013/april/amazon-und-die-strategie-der-toedlichen-umarmung>. Accessed: 27.06.2020.

²⁶ Cf. Video „Maximal kostenlose Bananen – die Erfolgsprinzipien von Amazon“ from 31.01.2020, <https://www.manager-magazin.de/video/amazon-die-erfolgsprinzipien-des-jeff-bezos-video-99028210.html>. Accessed: 27.06.2020.

²⁷ Cf. <https://www.amazon-watchblog.de/sortiment/2164-amazon-bundesliga.html>. Accessed: 08.05.2020.

²⁸ Cf. <https://www.amazon-watchblog.de/prime/1966-amazon-2021-champions-league.html>. Accessed: 08.05.2020.

²⁹ Cf. Study by german IFH: <https://www.handelsblatt.com/unternehmen/handel-konsumgueter/e-commerce-abhaengig-von-amazon-kunden-wuerden-fuer-die-nutzung-sogar-zahlen/24511998.html?ticket=ST-2949377-QbdRwqPKU2rhQzOOVWN-ap5>.

The monopolization of the retail trade

AMAZON's rise to an almost universal utility company followed a clear strategy of price undercutting, elimination of intermediate trade and the establishment of its own logistics network. It is no coincidence that this is reminiscent of the rise of WALMART, the world's largest company in terms of sales today. Bezos' favorite book, according to his own statements, is "Made in America" by Sam Walton, the founder of WALMART.

AMAZON is gradually displacing the retail trade with almost all consumer products. Within only 25 years, large parts of this business have been monopolized by the online retailer and shifted from the real counter to the virtual one. Not only books, CDs and videos have long since been marketed here, increasingly in digital form, and brought to the customers. Electronics of all kinds, DIY products, office supplies, drugstore and care products, clothing, food, furniture, software, jewelry and even vehicles are also sold here.

With AMAZON BASICS, a private label was launched in 2009 that offers everyday items such as electronic accessories, cables, bags, laundry towels and other household items at particularly low prices - and specifically undercuts market prices in order to continue the expansion trend worldwide.

In the 25 years since its foundation, the range of goods on offer has been expanded beyond the former book list to such an extent that it is now able to completely replace a large part of the still existing retail assortment. Thus, the retail trade has been monopolized - and the control over its distribution channels concentrated in a few hands - at the same time as it has been largely displaced and replaced as an industry.

But how did AMAZON succeed in this previously unknown raid on the retail trade? By undercutting market prices in favor of expansion, which AMAZON financed mainly in four ways:

1. through decades of losses and extraordinary backing by the lending banks: Since its foundation in 1994 until well into the 2000s, AMAZON has accumulated billions of losses and has not distributed a single cent of dividend to its shareholders. This would have caused other companies to go bankrupt after only a few years. But the well-connected Jeff Bezos was obviously able to sell his vision of monopolizing the retail trade to bankers and investors as a desirable and perspectively profitable project. His shareholders were betting on the long-term increase in the value of AMAZON and, instead of fast dividends, were betting on infinite growth without end ("stakeholder value"). And obviously still do so.
2. by taking over a maximum number of essential services into their own hands, in order to be able to offer their own products at below market prices via "cross-subsidization", ie by using the profits or reduced prices in profitable business sectors such as cloud computing. In addition, the focus is on

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technologies that serve to collect and process customer data in order to achieve market advantages through maximum knowledge of the markets.

3. the ruthless exploitation of workers, the suppression of trade union aspirations and union busting³⁰, especially in warehousing and shipping The extreme flexibilization of labor relations made it possible to dovetail production and distribution from online ordering to delivery, also known as "just-in-time production"³¹. The influence of AMAZON on the merging of production and distribution, on the flexibilisation and precarisation of jobs and the decline of the retail trade are so serious that there is also talk of "AMAZONisation"³². The supply chains of its technology products promote even more cruel working conditions in the Third World. For the automation of warehouses, the production of robots, drones and smart household appliances increases the hunger for rare earths and minerals such as silicon, coltan or cobalt, which are often extracted from mines by child slaves.³³
4. through the merciless exploitation of nature: To undercut competitors' delivery times, waste of resources and climate destruction of global supply chains have been further expanded: AMAZON PRIME delivers express goods with 20 leased Boeing airplanes. The high kerosene consumption thus emits many times more greenhouse gases than transport by ship or even by rail. In 2018 it was announced in the German press that AMAZON would scrap returned but completely new and usable items in order to save further transport and storage costs.³⁴

AMAZON's market dominance also forces the remaining dealers to set up a representation for their stores in the net or even to move the distribution themselves to the cheaper digital no-man's-land. But the AMAZON monopoly cannot be defied there. This is not only due to the technological advantage and sheer size, but above all to the rules of the Internet and international trade dictated by AMAZON, which AMAZON was able to establish through strong relationships, especially with market-liberal institutions,

³⁰ Union Busting is a term to describe various methods used by entrepreneurs aimed at hindering, infiltrating or smashing union structures or to break the fighting spirit and assertiveness of the workers. In this way, wages and working conditions may be dictated one-sidedly from above. An industry has developed around union busting, which ranges from law offices and consulting companies, to private detectives and mercenary companies. As ethicon explained in 2015: "Stop world-wide union busting" at: <https://www.ethicon.org/index.php/ethicon/erklarungen/schluss-mit-dem-weltweiten-union-busting/>.

³¹ AMAZON profits from the logistical concept of "Just in Time", which saves storage and standby costs through strictly clocked delivery and production. The perfectly fitting deployment of these cost-intensive factors, like choice, provision and quality control of packaging, enables AMAZON a highly efficient use of capacity for the packing process and distribution, but resulting in compressed shifts without breaks and the maximum demands on the working time of the few remaining logistics workers.

³² "Amazonisation" overlaps with the term "Uberisation" (named after the US group UBER). Both stand for the developing platform economy which is turning the working world upside down and bringing exploitation to a head. Cf. Stegemann, Patrick für politische Bildung, February 2016.

³³ Cf. Cascais, Antonio; "Kongo: Kinderarbeit für Smartphones?" In Deutsche Welle vom 11.06.2017; <https://www.dw.com/de/kongo-kinderarbeit-f%C3%BCr-smarhones/a-39187274>. Accessed: 03.07.2020.

³⁴ Cf. Das Recherche-Projekt von dem ZDF-Magazin „Frontal 21“ und „WirtschaftsWoche“; „Retour für den Müll – Frontal 21“ vom 13.06.2018; online verfügbar unter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUrObct7EuE>, Accessed: 03.07.2020.

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politics and the judiciary. No national or international anti-monopoly laws or supervisory authorities could stop this raid.³⁵

Even the business-oriented journalist Brad Stone, who likes to praise the genius of entrepreneurs, dryly stated in his - by AMAZON authorized (!) - book about the group that the only innovation of Bezos was the consequent pursuit of a trade monopoly with the technical possibilities of the Internet.³⁶

Modern day labor

Since the 1990s, many large companies have been outsourcing expanding parts of their work to outside companies with lower labor costs, known as "outsourcing. AMAZON intensified this intensified form of exploitation and shifted parts of its development costs online to a swarm ("crowdsourcing") of subcontractors in low-wage countries, self-exploiting start-up companies and even to voluntary, completely unpaid private Internet users.³⁷

AMAZON achieved this with a platform called "Mechanical Turk" (MTurk). This was launched at the end of 2005 as a development platform for the processing of "Human Intelligence Tasks" (HITS, programming tasks) and within a very short time enjoyed rapidly increasing attention in the developer scene. With the help of artificial intelligence, it is not machines that do the tasks of humans, but humans that work through tasks set by computers. AMAZON thus introduced a digital day labor and combined the darkest working conditions with complete electronic monitoring. AMAZON sells online micro-jobs for pennies up to web design at a flat rate. That means work on call, for pittance, at your own risk and without any social security.

AMAZON uses a large part of its digital day laborers, who call themselves "Turkers", for self-promotion and market manipulation³⁸: "According to a survey among 'Turks', they would classify more than 40% of the offered work orders as 'spam' in the broadest sense. This includes setting up fake accounts for e-mail, Twitter, Facebook or other websites, solving captchas, writing fake reviews for products, distributing 'likes' for articles and videos. Everything is 'turkeyed'". This is how AMAZON manipulates the public.³⁹⁴⁰

³⁵ Lina Kahn (expert on monopolies law) calls this the anti-trust paradox: a narrowed perception by the supervising authorities, aligned only on the immediate, short term consumer prices, lacks the necessary sensors for long term strategic market monopoly, as practised by AMAZON: In practice, the regulators consider solely consumer prices.

³⁶ F. Brad Stone: The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon. 2013.
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/j/jep/3336451.0017.209?view=text;rgn=main>. Accessed: 08.05.2020.

³⁷ For the term crowd sourcing see also: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crowdsourcing>. Accessed: 08.05.2020.

³⁸ The name goes back to a chess-playing slot machine, also known as "Chess Turk", a circus attraction in the mid-eighteenth century. This machine which was said to be able to play chess and was alleged to have beaten Napoleon Bonaparte and Benjamin Franklin. Actually a person was hidden inside the machine who carried out the moves of the game. Cf. <https://bigbrotherawards.de/2015wirtschaft-amazon-mechanical-turk-elance-o-desk>. Accessed: 00.06.2020.

³⁹ The project was presented with the negative prize, "Big brother Award", in the category "Economics".

⁴⁰ Cf. <https://bigbrotherawards.de/2015wirtschaft-amazon-turk-elance-o-desk>. Accessed: 08.06.2020.

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Besides the digital one, with AMAZON "FLEX", the well-known day labor in the parcel service sector also returned. The bad working conditions are glossed over by the entrepreneurial side as "GIG-Economy"⁴¹. Thereby individual parcel carriers become "AMAZON-FLEX delivery partners" - pseudo self-employed persons.⁴² AMAZON praises the new freedoms of these workers, their self-organised working hours and the high degree of necessary self-organization. The day labourers book individual work packages via the FLEX app on their smartphones. The marketing of this pseudo self-employment as flexibility disguises the fact that their freedom is above all a freedom from the safeguards that were fought for in regular employment relationships and are anchored in law: Protection against dismissal, statutory leave, contributions of the entrepreneurial side to social and health insurance, etc.⁴³

Also many costs arise for the delivery partner, including the costs for the delivery vehicle, e.g. petrol, maintenance costs, taxes and insurance as well as a special car insurance, which covers commercial transport services (since one is legally liable as a "carrier" for damage to the goods). AMAZON even cynically recommends the conclusion of a professional liability insurance.

FLEX was tested in 2015 in the environment of the American AMAZON headquarters in Seattle. In the USA delivery blocks of two, four, eight and twelve hours per day are available. In 2018, the FLEX partner program was introduced in Berlin, as the first German "field experiment" of its kind to introduce U.S. precarious working conditions. This was followed by FLEX offensives in Munich, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Mannheim. "AMAZON Deutschland Transport Gesellschaft", "AMAZON CITY LOGISTICS ALPHA" or "AMAZON CITY LOGISTICS GAMMA" are the names of new subsidiaries that undermine the parcel business across Germany by using outside carriers. The available delivery blocks may vary from week to week and are not guaranteed. They should not be planned as full-time occupations, AMAZON itself points out.⁴⁴

The parcel industry in Germany delivers more than 3.52 million courier, express and parcel shipments (CEP) every year, and the demand for new workers is huge.⁴⁵ However, despite increasing demand, the working conditions of the delivery staff are constantly deteriorating.⁴⁶ The work becomes harder, daily quantities larger and the hourly wage remains at the legally enforced minimum wage level. Trade unions such as ver.di and the post and communications union DPVKOM sharply criticize this

⁴¹ According to Wikipedia, "GIG Economy" describes "a part of the labour market wherein small, short term assignments are given to independent self-employed, free-lancers and marginally employed workers. An online platform often serves as intermediary between customer and contractor.

⁴² https://www.t-online.de/digital/internet/id_82688640/gewerkschaft-warnt-vor-amazon-flex-privaten-paketboten.html.

⁴³ <https://www.amazon-flex.de/en/>>.

⁴⁴ The chancellery WBS – according to the lawyer Christian Solmecke, FLEX partners in Germany are obliged to register with the Federal Network Agency. (Para.36 Postgesetz, Anzeigepflichtigkeit von Postdienstleistern). <https://www.wbs-law.de/allgemein/flex-startet-in-deutschland-was-bedeutet-der-neue-lieferdienst-fuer-kunden-und-lieferanten-23316/>. Accessed: 09.06.2020.

⁴⁵ Cf. <https://www.macrotrends.net/stocks/charts/AMZN/amazon/number-of-employees>. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

⁴⁶ www.logistic-watchblog.de/neuheiten/1251-privatpersonen-paketboten-amazon-flex-berlin.html.

development. "Where the infrastructure fits, mainly in the big cities, AMAZON delivers the shipments itself. DHL or other delivery services may then take over the rest". Since the competition would be based solely on price and the "building block would lead to further wage and social dumping"⁴⁷, the total bill - i.e. after deduction of privately borne expenses - would not even include the minimum wage. At the same time AMAZON & CO are not ready, according to industry information, to pay more than two euro per delivery (partly notably less) to the classical CEP delivery services. A "race to the bottom" (undercutting race) is in full swing.

Thus competing parcel service providers, and with them regular employment relationships, are being squeezed out by permanent price and wage dumping. AMAZON claims that the subcontractor FLEX is primarily concerned with short-term cushioning of the peak loads of the Christmas business. But in the long term, the aim here is to use the branch conditions of the parcel service providers as a platform to reduce collective wage agreements to a large extent and to achieve market leadership.

"Picker" - The logistics workers

The precarization of the work via the AMAZON warehouses proceeds differently. The overwhelming majority of the approximately 840 thousand workers employed directly by AMAZON perform a stereotyped, monotonous activity and receive the lowest social security permitted by law. They often have no protection against dismissal, unlimited working hours, extremely precarious conditions in the workplace and no works councils or trade union co-determination.

In 2020, there are currently 14 logistics centers in Germany with over 13,000 permanent employees.⁴⁸ The Bad Hersfeld AMAZON employee Christian Krähling described the work as follows:

"The job at AMAZON is hard. Many colleagues say that they feel like part of a machine. The sick rate is correspondingly high (on some days sometimes up to 20 % and more). Musculoskeletal and mental illnesses are predominant. AMAZON works according to the principle of "Standard Work", i.e. all work processes are carried out according to certain rules and in the same way at each location. The system does not take into account the differences between people (e.g. a smaller person works at a table which is not really suitable for him or an older colleague has to pick as much as a younger one etc.). Many colleagues have mentally resigned. A large part of the colleagues employed at AMAZON in Germany are only hired for a limited period of time, many of them for up to two years - and not, as the management says, only during the seasons. But whose employment is limited, cannot plan his life".

⁴⁷ Quoted from: <https://www.verdi.de/themen/geld-tarif/amazon/++co++217910b4-68ca-11e4-a52a-5254008a33df>. Accessed: 11.06.2020.

⁴⁸ There are logistics centers in the following cities: Bad Hersfeld, Berlin, Dortmund, Frankenthal (Pfalz), Graben, Koblenz, Leipzig, Mönchengladbach, Oelde, Pforzheim, Rheinberg, Werne, Winsen und Sülzetal (Magdeburg).

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And even these nasty workplaces are becoming increasingly rare and are being replaced more and more by machines. One example of this is the latest robot generation, called "handle" (grip robot).⁴⁹ These robots, specially developed for use in the logistics sector by the robotics company BOSTON DYNAMICS, which also equips the US military, can lift and transport packages of up to 15kg. To an ever decreasing extent is human labor still required for manual operations in warehouses.⁵⁰

Work is done in three shifts. Rationalization brings efficiency but also bland monotony in the working life of the shift workers. The monotonous work that is performed in order picking, for example, is called "picking". Accordingly, the warehouse workers there are also called "pickers" by AMAZON. They pick all the shipping items of an order from the shelves into a container - just like picking fruit. Via the shipping department, where the bins with the previously collected articles are packed by hand into cardboard boxes, the goods are sent directly to the goods issue and from there via fully automated conveyor belts to the loading stations. The ratio of robots used to human workers is currently about one to four.

Given the extremely precarious hourly wages and the devastating working conditions repeatedly described, free drinks (water, coffee, tea) and performance-related bonuses are supposed to be a lure. The bonuses in the case of "corresponding target achievement" mean nothing other than piecework.⁵¹

While AMAZON describes itself as a logistics company and claims to be guided by the collective wage agreement for logistics companies in Germany, the group actually evades the collective agreement and does not apply any collective agreement at all. Neither that of the retail trade nor that of the logistics sector, which is significantly lower. In fact, AMAZON is destroying jobs with collectively agreed wages in the retail sector on a large scale and replacing them with a small number of logistics jobs. At the same time, AMAZON preaches a neoliberal ideology to its employees like hardly any other company and thus puts the blame for this objective deterioration of the situation of the workforce as a whole on them.

Union Busting

Attacks on the mental health of workers and the undermining of their trade union activities are among the foundations of success and at the heart of AMAZON's strategy. AMAZON builds its logistics centers specifically in places with above-average unemployment in order to increase the pressure on its employees.

⁴⁹ The functions and abilities of the "mobile manipulation robot 'Handle'" are presented in the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iV_hB08Uns. Accessed: 01.07.2020.

⁵⁰ 840 thousand employees to 200 thousand robot systems. Cf. <https://www.revuefy.com/amazon-statistics>. Accessed: 28.06.2020.

⁵¹ Cf. Boewe/Schulten, page 3. The complete document is available online at: http://www.rosalux-nyc.org/wp-content/&files_mf/analysen24_arbeitskampf_bei_amazon.pdf. Accessed: 12.06.2020.

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Colleagues also report a climate of denunciation and total surveillance. Anyone who takes a one-minute break is branded as an "underperformer". An extremely extensive technical surveillance is supplemented by a system of social control. Superiors (leads and area managers) cite anyone who is not fast enough or takes breaks to a talk. In so-called "inactivity protocols" it was noted around 2014 that a worker was "inactive from 07:13 to 07:14". She was instructed that she had "violated her contractual obligation to perform work".

In Great Britain, where AMAZON opened its first distribution center in 1998, colleagues have been organizing themselves in the British printers' union "Graphical, Paper and Media Union" since 2001. After the AMAZON management initially agreed to talks, they surprisingly pulled out all the stops and took action against the union members with extreme severity. All workers were called for personal interviews, GMPU resignations were presented to them on AMAZON letterhead paper for signing and leading union members were dismissed. It took more than ten years for a British trade union to regain a foothold at AMAZON.

On April 9, 2013 - after almost 20 years of business - the Group was confronted with a strike for the first time ever. And not in its home country, the USA, but in Germany. Since then, the colleagues have been fighting along with their trade union ver.di for the conclusion of a collective agreement on "Good and Healthy Work" and the recognition of the regional collective wage agreements for the retail and mail order business in order to achieve permanently higher wages. Meanwhile, they have repeatedly called strikes at six German AMAZON locations.⁵² AMAZON refuses to make any concessions, but instead reacts with massive attacks and intimidation of trade unionists and refuses to conduct collective bargaining to this day. The company management announced that the strikes would have "no effect on the keeping of the delivery promise". In fact, AMAZON has succeeded in off-setting delivery failures caused by strikes at individual locations again and again, largely wiping out the offensives of the colleagues. For example, a dispatch center was opened in Poland in order to be able to deliver from abroad in the event of coordinated, Germany-wide strikes.

In the meantime, however, strikes are also taking place in France and Poland. In France, even a 13th month's salary could be successfully fought for. The colleagues in the Polish city of Poznan protested in solidarity with the striking German colleagues, they did not want to be made into strike breakers. This example of international solidarity is considered by many colleagues as a prelude to the cross-border labor dispute at AMAZON. Although some improvements in working conditions have already been achieved in Germany - such as hygienic improvements, water dispensers, air cooling systems, decentralized break rooms and canteens with their own kitchens. But AMAZON still refuses to

⁵² The strikes included AMAZON locations in Leipzig, Bad Hersfeld (with two locations), Rheinberg, Werne and Koblenz (Koblenz-Gondorf).

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enter into collective bargaining with unions and co-determination through works councils, thus threatening the rights that the labor movement has fought for over a hundred years.

The labor dispute at AMAZON in Germany has developed into a trend-setting dispute. It makes it clear that in the case of a corporation, going it alone at the national level in labor disputes does not help the workers. Only if the colleagues from Germany, Poland, France, the USA - and ultimately far beyond - coordinate and organize themselves well, will they succeed in defying the drudgery. This concerns nothing less than the working conditions of the future.

Eavesdropping

AMAZON also increasingly penetrates into the everyday life of its customers, in order to monitor and evaluate their private habits. The data skimmed off with all available means can easily be turned into money, especially through personalized advertising in all communication channels served by AMAZON. The international project BIG BROTHER AWARDS, which awards prizes for activities that are dangerous for people and democracy, gives some examples of the data stored: Clothes and shoe sizes, language skills, travel destinations, interests in book selection, who the children and family members, friends and acquaintances are, addresses, bank details etc. etc.

One of AMAZON's most important and meanwhile most widespread espionage instruments is ALEXA. It is a cloud-based voice service of AMAZON, which is already installed on millions of devices of AMAZON and other producers. As soon as the word "Alexa" becomes audible near one of the ALEXA-equipped devices, the sound recording and the transmission process starts into the cloud, where the recording is analyzed by the artificial computer intelligence ALEXA and a response is calculated. In addition, ALEXA is able to control intelligent devices (which can be addressed via WLAN) such as light switches, kitchen appliances, heaters, etc. and also to carry out paid orders via AMA-ZON PRIME. For about four years now, ALEXA has been advertising its ability to read aloud news, road traffic information and the weather, as well as sports results, audio books and music.

German consumer advice centers have been warning about AMAZON's business practices, especially with regard to ALEXA and the AMAZON loudspeakers "ECHO" equipped with ALEXA for a long time. ALEXA could "touch the personal sphere of family members and guests by listening in" and therefore was a risk for consumers. The potential for abuse by third parties, such as hackers, could also turn ECHO and ALEXA into a highly sensitive bug. A high goal of desire for all secret and police services of the world.

In a similar context, the North Rhine-Westphalian consumer advice center filed a lawsuit against AMAZON EU at the Munich Higher Regional Court as early as 2017. The reason was the AMAZON DASH button: A simple push button connected to the Internet, which triggers orders for daily needs when pressed. The problem: The DASH button grossly violates laws, "because not enough information is

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available about the ordered goods and their price", according to the consumer center NRW. "However, the price and the specific product are important information - also required by law - which everyone must know before pressing the dash button in order not to buy a pig in a poke. Wolfgang Schuldzinski, head of the consumer advice center, emphasized: AMAZON's innovation consists of "disadvantaging consumers and making it difficult for them to compare prices", which must be countered by all means.

There is no transparency over the tapped and read data, AMAZON keeps the source code and the monitoring algorithms contained within as a business secret. The private users have no power of disposal over the selection and further use of their data.

Health Monitoring

In its "booklets to promote resistance to technological attack", the hacker collective CAPULCU regularly provides information on the dangers of data theft, authoritative paternalism, and informational and economic dependencies with regard to new "smart" technologies. In particular, there are currently warnings about the entry of the data octopus AMAZON into the (European) health and insurance markets. In fact, with "AMAZON PROTECT", the Group also plans to bring the insurance market under its control. AMAZON has a decisive advantage over conventional insurers. In any case, the Group certainly knows much more than the average insurer. It can recognize extensive customer profiles as well as the financial strength, hobbies and interests of its customers.

However, the greatest danger to the insured is not the unfair competition from AMAZON, but a social Darwinian health system in which insurance rates are adjusted according to risk groups, pre-existing health conditions and personal preferences. Once again AMAZON is driving the traditionally dominant companies in the market ahead and dictating new rules. Meanwhile, the insurance giant SANTÉ GE-NERALI, has now also declared the comprehensive recording, evaluation and prognosis of health data to be "absolutely without alternative".⁵³

This private-sector invasion of the health sector by AMAZON goes much further: With its subsidiary AMAZON PHARMACY (formerly the mail-order pharmacy "PillPack") AMAZON already has pharmacy licenses in all 50 states of the USA and serves the prescriptions and medical prescriptions of patients in pre-sorted single-dose packages including direct delivery to their homes.⁵⁴

Strengthening of state repression

Due to regular racist police murders, a large protest movement has been active in the USA for years, fighting for equal rights for black people and for an end to police violence. Again and again the

⁵³ Cf. Capulcu (2018): Delete. https://capulca.blackblogs.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2018/12/DELETEA4_wen.jpg. Accessed: 12.06.2020.

⁵⁴ In 2018 AMAZON bought the US mail order pharmacy PILLPACK for around 770 million dollars. Cf. <https://www.deutsche-apotheker-zeitung.de/news/artikel/2018/06/28/amazon-kauft-versandsapotheke>. Accessed: 03.07.2020.

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demonstrators complain about the collaboration of AMAZON with the police.⁵⁵ Among other things, the company supplies surveillance technologies such as facial recognition software to the repression and surveillance authorities.⁵⁶ The company management was not impressed by the protests and even dismissed workers protesting against this business policy without notice.⁵⁷

Against the backdrop of this practice, the danger posed by ALEXA, ECHO & Co. is once again becoming all too clear. The step towards repressive control of entire political and social systems is not far off at AMAZON.

Exploiter of the Corona Crisis

In the Corona Crisis 2020 the criminal grimace of AMAZON showed itself once again. The Group allowed its workers to continue working without adequate infection protection measures, thus exposing them to a high health risk. At several logistics locations in the USA, Germany and France, there were protests by the workers. The management reacted by dismissing the spokespersons.

Orhan Akman, who is responsible for collective agreements at ver.di in Germany, stated in the course of the corona epidemic: "AMAZON shows no insight so far and endangers the health of the employees in favor of the group profit". Dozens of cases of the virus had been previously ascertained. The colleagues went on strike as a result.⁵⁸

AMAZON became one of the very big winners of the Corona epidemic. While the retail trade in Europe and the USA had to close down extensively to protect the health of its employees and customers⁵⁹, AMAZON collected these sales with its delivery services. During this time, AMAZON hired 100,000 new full- and part-time warehouse and delivery personnel in the U.S. alone to meet the demand. By June 2020, the value of the AMAZON share had risen rapidly once again, and in the first half of the year Bezos accumulated a further USD 30 billion. Particularly in the USA and many developing countries in which AMAZON is also active, the financial ruin of numerous other retailers threatens in the middle of 2020.

AMAZON's delivery drivers were among the occupational groups with the highest risk of infection in the weddings of Corona, along with health care personnel. In the logistics centers the workers were

⁵⁵ Cf. <https://www.newsweek.com/racial-bias-found-amazon-facial-recognition-software-use-law-enforcement-1306407>. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

⁵⁶ Cf. <https://www.newsweek.com/amazon-drivers-warehouse-conditions-workers-complains-jess-bezos-bernie-1118849>. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

⁵⁷ www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/31/amazon-strike-worker-fired-organizing-waokout-chris-smalls. Accessed: 08.07.2020

⁵⁸ Cf. mg/Reuters, (emphasized by author); Akman spoke of at least 30 cases of Corona infections: "Deliveries could be delayed – Strike started at AMAZON – six locations affected." In Manager Magazine, <https://www.manager-magazin.de/unternehmen/handel/amazon-verdi-ruft-mitarbeiter-in-deutschland-zum-strike-auf-a-1308070.html>. Accessed: 30.06.2020.

⁵⁹ At many small locations, small and mid-tier businesses are at risk of severe debt and insolvency. Numerous industrial associations – e.g. The Retail Trade Association (Handelsverband Deutschland, and the Mid-Tier Association (Mittelstandsverband (ZGV)), are warning of a cross-industrial crash in 2021.

exposed to an irresponsible risk. Disinfectants at the work place, larger distances between lockers, compulsory masks and staggered break times could only be enforced after massive protests by the workers.

Even national governments came into conflict with AMAZON during the Corona pandemic: The French government, for example, excluded AMAZON from the entrepreneurial support of the short-time work allowance after the Group refused to provide adequate occupational safety for its approximately 10,000 employees in France and to shut down its business operations. AMAZON thereupon filed an application for state aid, initially accepted the judicial threat of "100,000 euros fine for each individual infringement" and, in view of "this risk", had its French distribution centers closed down completely from mid-April to mid-May 2020. This was a blatant threat calculated to evade the common rules that are legally binding for all retailers, making whole economies dependent on AMAZON.

In the USA, during the course of protests for better health protection of workers, former AMAZON executive assistant and trade unionist Christian Smalls from Staten Island was dismissed for being a "ringleader". This gave the protests wide media coverage. Smalls became the face of the protest against the attrition of AMAZON workers by the overpowering online retailer through his street presence and personal commitment.⁶⁰ The presidential candidate Bernie Sanders and the New York congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez also showed solidarity with him. ⁶¹Sanders sharply attacked Jeffrey Bezos for the fact that his employees depend on public funds for food and housing and threatened to introduce a "Stop BEZOS Act" in the context of his candidacy for U.S. president at the time.⁶²

On June 30, 2020, demonstrators in Washington D.C. erected a symbolic guillotine in front of one of Bezos' private homes, a 2,500 square meter former textile museum, which the richest man in the world had bought for 23 million US dollars in October 2019.⁶³

Tax evasion and anticommunism

AMAZON operates tax evasion systematically and on a large scale. Funds and royalties for license fees are shifted via the business licenses of AMAZON EU S.À R.L. (Société à responsabilité limitée) registered in Luxembourg or AMAZON EUROPE HOLDING TECHNOLOGIES SCS, a closed limited

⁶⁰ Cf. The Guardian, 31.03.2020, "AMAZON fires New York Worker who led the strike over coronavirus concerns", www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/31/amazon-strike-worker-fired-organizing-walkout-chris-smalls. Accessed: 02.07.2020.

⁶¹ Cf. <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/416384-ocasio-cortez-bleats-tax-breaks-for-amazon-says-it-will-displace-working-class>. Accessed: 02.07.2020.

⁶² Cf. Gibson, Kate (05.09.2018): Bernie Sanders attacks WALMART with 100% tax. On CBS, accessed 02.02.2020. A summary of the suggested law available online at: <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/download/the-stop-bezos-act-summary?inline=file>. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

⁶³ Cf. <https://www.newsweek.com/amazon-jess-bezos-washington-dc-protest-guillotine-social-media-video-1514279>. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

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partnership under Luxembourg law without a single employee.⁶⁴ The consolidated profit, which would actually be taxable, does not even come into existence due to this tax trickery.⁶⁵

In 2019, AMAZON EUROPE even received EUR 294 million as a tax credit "gift". With an enormous 32 billion EUR income.⁶⁶

Also in the USA the tax avoidance follows the same pattern, as the internet page "AMAZON-Watchblog" reports: "In 2018 the company even benefited from a negative tax rate and got 129 million dollars back".⁶⁷

While Bezos does not pay any taxes for his company and thus deprives the state of the financial foundations for social security benefits, he also actively interferes in politics and sabotages politicians who advocate more rights for employees and stricter regulations for corporations. For example in Seattle, where former software developer and socialist city councilor Kshama Sawant declared war on the richest man in the world with a new tax law. Bezos invested one million US dollars in her competitors and tried to oust her from the city council without success.⁶⁸

Environmental Destruction

In principle, AMAZON with its 20 leased Boeing 767s by air freight ("AMAZON PRIME") undercuts not only the delivery times of global shipping logistics, but also its ecological balance. With this push, AMAZON is putting pressure on logistics worldwide to use increasingly wasteful and destructive transport routes.

In 2018, several AMAZON employees publicly criticized in 2018 that functional and sometimes even new products were disposed of in large quantities. According to a Germany-wide study by the "Research Group Returns Management", it came to light that in 2018 an estimated 280 million parcels and 487 million items were returned in Germany alone.⁶⁹ A total of 3.9 percent of returned goods were either directly disposed of or scrapped. "Internal product lists, photos and statements by employees prove that goods of all kinds are disposed of on a large scale in German logistics warehouses - for example, refrigerators, washing machines and dishwashers, cell phones, tablets, mattresses and

⁶⁴ Brinkmann, Bastian: Luxemburg-Leaks: -wie AMAZON in Luxemburg Steuern spart., in Süddeutsche Zeitung, 09.11.2014. Accessed: 02.07.2020.

⁶⁵ This construction is to date legally tax-free according to applicable law.

⁶⁶ Cf. Amazon.com: Annual Report 2019, page 68. Accessed: 02.07.2020.

⁶⁷ <https://www.amazon-watchblog.de/kritik/2129-amazon-294-mio-euro-steuergutschrift-32-mrd-euro-einnahmen.html>. Accessed: 02.07.2020

⁶⁸ Cf. <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/wirtschaft/seattle-amazon-kommunalwahl-1.4676634>.

⁶⁹ Cf. <https://www.retourenforschung.de/info-retourentacho2019-ausgewertet.html>.

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furniture. An AMAZON employee reports she destroyed goods worth several tens of thousands of Euros everyday".⁷⁰

AMAZON even offered this "disposal service" to other companies. The Group generated demand by charging external dealers high fees for the storage space of their unsold goods (up to EUR 1,000 per cubic meter). Using so-called "Destroy pallets", entire warehouses were filled with new goods for scrapping or incineration. Just like wage dumping, this scrapping practice not only put price pressure on competitors, but was also taken over by them. More than a year after the abuses became known, nothing had changed, as research by Greenpeace Germany showed. The problem is regularly aggravated by excessive online shopping at Christmas. "AMAZON confronts third party traders who sell their products via the online platform with the choice: Store expensively or destroy cheaply".⁷¹

Basically, the AMAZON consumer model promotes the demand for "disposable products" that are little or not at all usable and increases the veiling of the work and working conditions that these products create.

In the year of the scrapping affair, AMAZON felt compelled for the first time to publish a sustainability report. In which the company announced, among other things, the purchase of 100,000 electrically powered vans from the RIVIAN start-up.⁷² AMAZON invested 700 million dollars in RIVIAN in February 2019. The first electric vans are to be deployed in 2021, and the entire electric fleet will be on the roads by 2030. But a growing proportion of the cobalt used in the batteries of supposedly climate-friendly electric cars comes from the Congo. Under the dictates of predatory military gangs, child slaves, who are frequently killed in mine collapses, are used there to mine this rare raw material.⁷³

AMAZON promised to convert the energy supply of its logistics and sorting centers and other infrastructure to 100 percent renewable energies by 2030. By 2024 the share of renewable energies is to be 80 percent. This success is solely due to the AMAZON employees who exerted sufficient pressure on Jeff Bezos through numerous, coordinated protest actions. At the same time, AMAZON's business model is based on delivery to the front door, which leads to an enormous increase in transportation costs and waste of resources.

⁷⁰ "Frontal 21" and "Wirtschaftswoche", Tuesday, 12th June 2018, 21.00. <https://presseportal.zdf.de/pressemitteilung/frontal-21-amazon-ver-nichtet-massenhaft-retouren-und-neuwertige-produkte/>. Accessed: 27.06.2020.

⁷¹ Cf. Tagblatt – „Schlag ins Gesicht des Klimaschutzes", <https://www.tagblatt.ch/schweiz/schlag-ins-gesicht-des-klimaschutzes-so-viel-neue-ware-vernichtet-amazon-noch-immer-ld.1180686#subtitle-was-ist-destroy-ware-second>. Accessed: 11.06.2020.

⁷² De facto, the support for e-mobility is blocking the expansion of public transport and the exploration of climate-friendly technologies. Cf. Winfried Wolf (2019): Mit dem Elektroauto in die Sackgasse: Warum E-Mobilität den Klimawandel beschleunigt.

⁷³ Electric cars, like smartphones, contain the rare mineral cobalt, which is mainly mined by children in Congo. Paramilitary gangs consciously and purposefully force children into the narrow, regularly collapsing mine tunnels. See also: <https://www.faz.net/aktuell/feuilleton/kobaltgewinnung-durch-kinderarbeit-in-kongo-14024437.html>. Also FAZ of 15.11.2017: www.faz.net/aktuell/wirtschaft/kinderarbeit-im-kongo-amnesty-sieht-autokonzerne-in-der-pflicht-15292622.html. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

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Capitalist cult

While Bezos and AMAZON are increasingly confronted with striking workers and environmental activists, large (capitalist) media houses shower them with praise. In 2018 Jeff Bezos received the "Axel Springer Award" for "visionary entrepreneurship".⁷⁴ In 2019, AMAZON was ranked number one in the best managed companies worldwide by the Wall Street Journal. Bezos, who according to his AMAZON roots has enormous reach in the so-called social media, thanked all "Amazonians" for this honor and the success of his company.⁷⁵ With this cynical thanks he tramples the performance of the workforce underfoot, mocks the ruin of environment and nature, ignores the crimes committed in the name of AMAZON worldwide and puts the hierarchical, ultra-exploitative AMAZON group as a family at the center of attention.

But Bezos also understands an "Amazonian" to be a particularly enthusiastic section of its customers, who form a real fan community around the AMAZON brand. It essentially consists of a neo-liberal, success-oriented, young and well-trained type of customer, which holds an enormous demand potential for Bezos. By the cult around his person and his groundlessly optimistic promise of success, Bezos manages to develop an apparently personal relationship with them.

Ultimately, the "Amazonians" include the major shareholders, who earn directly from the growth of the Group. However, not through fat dividends and short-term business, but through long-term growth and the hope for the big payday that beckons at the completion of monopolization and through the pricing power that comes with it.

The shareholders

One AMAZON share represents a capital share in the Group of only 20 cents. The share prices are far above this and exploded to over 2,000 US dollars during the Corona pandemic. This enormous difference reflects the rapid rise of the Group since 1994.

Never before has even a single cent been distributed as a dividend. Initially, losses running into the billions were accumulated over decades, which would have driven any other corporation into bankruptcy. Now the profits remain in the Group and are used to expand the economic and political power of AMAZON as well as the personal wealth and political influence of Jeff Bezos and the other major investors*.

The circle of investors is comparatively exclusive at AMAZON. The largest shareholder of AMAZON (with a total volume of almost 500 million shares) is still Jeffrey Bezos himself with about 57 million

⁷⁴ Cf. Cutter 2019.

⁷⁵ He tweeted, original quote: "Nice! AMAZON ranked #1 best managed company. Definitely the result of strong teamwork from people who care deeply and passionately about customers, their fellow employees, and the environment. Huge thank you and kudos to all Amazonians."

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shares. At the beginning of 2020, Bezos thus owned 11.1% of the shares of AMAZON. In 2019, the VANGUARD GROUP owned 29.6 million shares and was thus in second place, closely followed by the financial group BLACKROCK with 25.5 million shares.⁷⁶ In fourth place came Bezos' ex-wife MacKenzie, who in 2018 took 19.5 million shares from her marriage in the course of her divorce, thus becoming the richest woman in the world.⁷⁷

The shareholders* of AMAZON speculate that the growth of the corporations will continue and that they will become richer quasi automatically. At the same time, these ultra-rich investors* profit indirectly with their investments in other groups: through the worldwide deterioration of working conditions by AMAZON. Wage dumping, precarity, overexploitation of the environment, etc. - all this lowers the production costs and increases the profits. After all, AMAZON sets standards far beyond its own group of companies for all other groups and industries by undermining the organizational capacity of the workforce, exacerbating exploitation and unemployment, and making conditions of employment more precarious. This shifts the balance of power between the haves and have-nots in favor of the corporations. AMAZON is a collective attack of the ultra-rich.⁷⁸

The ideological cement of this very different, cult-like community is the philosophy of "Day One", the first day. According to chief guru Jeff Bezos, every Amazonian should work as if one had just started that day. And every company should act as if it were still a small start-up business. In the company, flat hierarchies are feigned by the formation of small teams: "A team should only grow so big that it can be satisfied by two pizzas". Especially for the own workers, the incentive is supposed to be an incentive to work harder and to renounce wages etc. For the "pickers" and packers at the lower end of the hierarchy, on the other hand, the "Day One" philosophy is a permanent threat: without protection against dismissal and under constant electronic monitoring, they have to fight for their jobs every day, just as on the first day of work. For the shareholders, the philosophy of a permanent new beginning means nothing more than a promise of eternal growth and endless exploitation. Both are the (supposed) guarantee of wealth.

⁷⁶ <https://www.finanze.net/nachrichten/aktien/großinvestoren-im-visier-wem-gehört-eigentlich-amazon-diese-investoren-halten-die-meisten-amazon-aktien-7141075>. Accessed: 09.07.2020. These financial corporations manage a large share of the global capital, partake in all large corporations, exercise influence over governments and central banks, increasing the private wealth of their ultra-rich investors. See further information: Werner Rügemeier (2019): Die Kapitalisten des 21. Jahrhunderts: Gemeinverständlicher Abriss zum Aufstieg der neuen Finanzakteure. PapyRossa

⁷⁷ She gained her with 4% of the voting-entitled AMAZON shares, climbed to 18th place on the Bloomberg Billionaire Index and became the fourth richest woman in the world. Cf. Forbes, "The Real-Time Billionaire's List – Women", <https://www.forbes.com/real-time-billionaires/#533b10d83d78>. Accessed: 09.07.2020.

⁷⁸ More than 55 billion Euros have been invested across Europe since 2010. Of these, 18 billion were invested in Germany. Cf. <https://www.aboutamazon.eu/map/investing-in-europe>. In 2019 alone, AMAZON invested a whole 24.28 billion US dollars in the USA, double the sum of the previous year. Cf. Amazon.com. Annual Report 2019, page 22. A gigantic mountain of money that will certainly lead to numerous entrepreneurial and company take-overs.

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In order to meet the growth expectations of the shareholders, Jeffrey Bezos, like any capitalist, must regularly reinvest a portion of the company's assets in the technological expansion of the AMAZON empire. The retained dividends and the obscene size of Jeff Bezos' private assets⁷⁹ guarantee from the perspective of the investors that every promising investment will be made and every new market will be developed first by the top dog AMAZON.⁸⁰

Beyond the Blue Planet

Up to now AMAZON has been able to meet the expectations of the investors through growth, the value of the share has already increased nearly sixfold during the last five years. But growth is finite. More and more a similarly radical calculation threatens: The assertion of arbitrary prices with recourse to AMAZONs now already gigantic market power as opposed to that of the consumers. When growth comes to an end, only the assertion of monopoly prices will provide the long expected dividends to the investors.

At the same time, Jeff Bezos must also assert himself as the richest human and alleged visionary. In view of the lack of profitable investment opportunities at the center of the capitalist crisis that has been raging for years, Bezos' followers expect not only "secure" profits, but also philosophical, political and spiritual leadership. In addition to AMAZON, Bezos has accordingly owned, for example, WASHINGTON POST since 2013, in order to secure opinion leadership not only in the digital but also in the traditional analog media. At the same time he founded the space company BLUE ORIGIN to give visions a tangible form in the AMAZON system. Of course both side projects of Bezos also serve as securities against threatening disasters.⁸¹

In the face of climate ruin and eco-collapse, for example, the solutions offered by these guru capitalists like Jeff Bezos or even his competitor Elon Musk lie in the (apparently) humanistic reach for the stars. They sell their dream of endless growth beyond the limited resources of the blue planet. While Elon Musk's space company SPACE-X wants to transport thousands of people to Mars and transform it into a habitable planet with the help of "Terra-Forming", Bezos wants to make life on the moon and on orbital stations possible with his space company BLUE ORIGIN.⁸² He also promises to shift

⁷⁹ The scope of this greatest amount of private capital is difficult to comprehend. Spirt from the aforementioned former textile museum in Washington D.C., Bezos occasionally occupies a ten thousand square meter apartment in the center of New York, although all of his property does not even make up 0.001% of his wealth. A vivid graph is available here: https://mkorostoff.github.io/1-pixel-wealth/?fbclid=IwAR3-iam0_M-Ps6hy4y_WzYhl1J3QtndUuqYTJoANBKZZopAH1arRtiNQEns. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

⁸⁰ Cf. Amazon.com Annual Report 2019, page 89.

⁸¹ The accelerated mechanization and automation of production causes over-production, unemployment and loss of value. Amongst entrepreneurs, no-one is more aware of the problems that automatization and threatening mass unemployment than AMAZON boss Jeff Bezos or Silicon Valley star Elon Musk, both of whom profit from automatization and a.i., driving these developments purposefully forwards and out-manuevering our economic future. See also Tomasz Koniecz' analysis of the Silicon Valley ideology, held as a lecture at the ethecon award ceremony in 2019. Cf. <https://youtube.com/watch?v=tEZ-v1eYNFw>. Accessed: 08.07.2020

⁸² NORTHROP GRUMMAN, LOCKHEED MARTIN & DRAPER have teamed up to form the "Blue Origin National Team", to develop a three-stage moon-lander. Blue Origin is working on the descent module, which is based on its moon landing ferry and the liquid fuel engine BE-7. The

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heavy industry into space in order to protect the earth as the primary habitat of mankind from the consequences of our destructive industry.⁸³

AMAZON plans to use thousands of new satellites for improved broadband Internet connections and is already competing internationally for the frequency rights for 3,236 satellites. To this end, BLUE ORIGIN is developing a reusable rocket that will launch both commercial and government satellites into space. The first flight of the rocket is expected in 2021. To date, BLUE ORIGIN generates most of its revenue from wasteful space tourism for the super-rich and uses Bezos' private ranch in Texas, the size of 200,000 soccer fields, as a launch and landing field. BLUE ORIGIN works with wartime corporations like LOCKHEAD MARTIN and the U.S. space agency NASA on surveillance satellites and the economic development of the moon.

The timely conquest of space before the solution of the approaching ecological and social disasters is technically unlikely. And even if it were possible, this would be an attempt by an unscrupulous class of ultra-rich people to evade responsibility for the impoverishment and hunger on Earth. The narrative of the historical mission of conquering space ultimately serves Jeff Bezos primarily as a promise to his shareholders that the necessary break with the capitalist economic system could be circumvented, the redistribution of accumulated wealth avoided, and the destructive exploitation of resources continued in space. BLUE ORIGIN is Jeff Bezos' inhuman legitimization strategy for AMAZON: Besides the dream of life in space, all the evils that the Blue Planet and humanity have to suffer at the expense of AMAZON are to fade away.

As much as Bezos and also Elon Musk, for example, seem to strive for the preservation of mankind and the Blue Planet, they ruin mankind and the planet by automating work, by global supply chains, by exploiting rare resources.⁸⁴ They contribute significantly to the impoverishment of the masses and the collapse of ecosystems. Even if their private space companies were to stop filling the orbit with satellites etc. tomorrow, the scrap could make any space travel impossible by the middle of this century.⁸⁵

ascent module is being developed by Lockheed and Northrop is adjusting its Cygnus-cargo plane so that it can be developed as a transfer vehicle and lower the lander from high lunar orbit. Cf. <https://www.engineering.com/AdvancedManufacturing/ArticleID/20427/New-Details-About-About-the-Artemis-Moon-Lander-and-Moon-and-Moon-Base.aspx>. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

⁸³ Cf. <https://www.salon.com/2020/06/30/tech-barons-dream-of-a-better-world-without-the-rest-of-us/>. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

⁸⁴ Both concerns profit from the exploitation of rare earths and electric batteries. Sixty per cent of global requirement for cobalt comes from mines in the Congo, where 84,400 tons of the metal are produced. Eighteen thousand tons (around 20% of the total) of which come from small, illegal mines. Cf. <https://www.aktiv-gegen-kinderarbeit.de/2018/09/elektroautos-aus-kinderarbeit-kobaltabbau-im-kongo/>. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

⁸⁵ The Kessler Syndrom describes a domino effect that is triggered by the collision of old satellites and which could make space travel impossible for generations. In 2009, two satellites collided in the earth's orbit for the first time, causing a raging expanse of rubble consisting of tens of thousands of individual parts, which much since be laboriously avoided by other satellites. Cf. <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/kessler-Syndrom>. Accessed: 08.07.2020.

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Dead Planet Award

The owners and the management of AMAZON not only bear the responsibility for the worldwide dismantling of human and social rights on a large scale, for the damage to human health and the ruin of ecology in an irreparable way and with devastating consequences for humanity and the planet, but also for the destabilization of social coexistence and world peace. With their own private space ventures, even the universe is directly and immediately threatened.

For these crimes, ethecon pillories Jeff Bezos, the founder, CEO and largest shareholder of the Group, representing management and major shareholders, by presenting him before the global public with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020.

The Board of Directors and Board of Trustees summarize their decision to present the Dead Planet Award 2020 to Jeff Bezos as follows:

"The management and the major shareholders are primarily responsible for decisions and actions of the mail order and technology group AMAZON. They own a significant part of the company. They decisively lead the company. They are responsible for the ruin of human health and the destruction of the environment on a large scale, even the death of many people. They not only pose a threat to ecology and human rights, but also to democracy, peace and humanity as a whole. They act for the benefit of personal power and private enrichment. In return they trample morality and ethics underfoot and accept the downfall of the earth as a dead planet. In the case of AMAZON, management and ownership are very much focused on one person, the founder, chairman and largest shareholder of the group and at the same time the richest person on the planet with obscene private assets, Jeff Bezos.

ethecon considers the actions of Jeff Bezos a shocking contribution to the ruin and destruction of our blue planet. For this appalling disregard and violation of human ethics, ethecon Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomies scorns him and all other responsible persons at AMAZON with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020."

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Brave new world - delivery
via an AMAZON-Robot



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Beverly Hills, California
USA

privat 3
2320-2330 S Street
Washington, DC 20008
USA

Adress AMAZON global
AMAZON Tower I, Rufus
2021 7th Avenue
Seattle, Washington
USA

Adress AMAZON EU
AMAZON EU S.à.r.l.
38 avenue John F. Kennedy
L-1855
LUXEMBURG

Fon 0800 - 3 - 63 84 69



International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020
naming and shaming Jeffrey Preston Bezos
Ultra-rich founder, CEO and/or major shareholder
of (among others) the world's largest cloud- and retail-company AMAZON (USA)

Selected Weblinks

<https://handel.verdi.de/++file++5ba0b56d56c12f0476dbdd18/download/AMAZON.pdf>.

<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/karriere/AMAZON-labor-der-ausbeutung-1.2610362>.

www.golem.de/news/AMAZON-kauft-kiva-systems-roboter-statt-menschen-im-Lagerhaus-1203-90622.html.

<https://www.tagblatt.ch/schweiz/schlag-ins-gesicht-des-klimaschutzes-so-viel-neue-ware-vernichtet-AMAZON-noch-immer-ld.1180684#subtitle-was-ist-destroy-ware-second>.

<https://www.finanzen.net/nachrichten/aktien/großinvestoren-im-visier-wem-gehört-eigentlich-AMAZON-diese-investoren-halten-die-meisten-AMAZON-aktien-7141075>.

<https://www.AMAZON-watchblog.de>

https://www.jungewelt.de/artikel/379639.kapitalismus-in-der-krise-mal-wieder-streiken.html?fbclid=IwAR0YIcyKEi7Z0LeqOMNHHcT_6DCHhZQdUmrDWNr7NY_UNeWmSaQwIzHTcAs

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Selected Non-Governmental Organisations

- > AMAZON Workers International
Web <https://amworkers.wordpress.com/>
eMail awi@riseup.net
- > Berlin vs. AMAZON
Web www.berlinvsAMAZON.com
eMail info@berlinvsAMAZON.com
- > Campact
Artilleriestraße 6
27283 Verdeb
Germany
- > Dachverband der kritischen Aktionär*innen
(Association of critical shareholders)
Pellenzstr. 39
50823 Köln
Germany
- > Deutsche Umwelthilfe (German Environmental Aid)
Fritz-Reichle-Ring 4
78315 Radolfzell
Germany
Fon +49 - 7732 - 9995-0
- > Greenpeace Germany
Marienstraße 19-20
10177 Berlin
Germany
Fon +49 - 30 -308 899- 0
Fax +49 - 30 - 308 899- 30
Web www.greenpeace.de
eMail assistentz-pv@greenpeace.de
- > Make AMAZON Pay!
Web www.makeAMAZONpay.org
eMail hi@makeAMAZONpay.org



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> Multiwatch

Postfach
3097 Liebefeld
Schwanengasse 9
3011 Bern
Switzerland
Web www.multiwatch.ch
eMail info@multiwatch.ch

> Public Eye

Dienerstrasse 12
P.O.Box 8021 Zürich
Fon 0041 44 2777 999
eMail kontakt@publiceye.ch

> The Congress of Essential Workers (TCOEW)

Web www.tcoew.org

> ver.di – Vereinigte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft (United Services Union)

Web www.verdi.de/themen/geld-tarif/AMAZON
Hotline 08008373433
National Board:
Paula-Thiede-Ufer 10
10179 Berlin
Germany
Fon 030 6956 0
Fax 030 69 56 31 41
eMail info@verdi.de

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Jeff Bezos wants to colonize the space
with his company BLUE ORIGIN



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**Open letter
of the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics
to the managing board, company founder and major shareholder
Jeffrey Preston Bezos of the world's largest mail order
and cloud services company AMAZON INC. (USA)**

Mr. Jeffrey Preston Bezos,

today, on November 21, 2020, the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020, announced by ethecon - Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomie, was awarded during a public event in Berlin.

ethecon - Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomie annually awards two international prizes - the International ethecon Blue Planet Award and the International ethecon Dead Planet Award.

The International ethecon Blue Planet Award honors people who have made outstanding contributions to the protection of ethics and the preservation and salvation of our blue planet in the field of ethics and economics.

The International ethecon Dead Planet Award revilees people who, in a shocking manner, trample on human ethics in the area of conflict between ethics and economics and thus pursue the ruin and destruction of our blue planet to a dead, uninhabitable planet.

The International ethecon Blue Planet Award and the International ethecon Dead Planet Award are one unit, two sides of the same coin. They reflect the state and the possible future of our planet; which may continue as a blue, inhabited planet or perish as an uninhabitable, dead planet.

The two ethecon prizes sensitize the public and draw attention to the issue, they reveal connections and call those responsible by name. They mobilize for the commitment to peace, justice and environmental protection and motivate resistance against warmongering, exploitation and environmental destruction.

In January of each year - at the same time as the World Economic Forum in Davos - ethecon calls for nominations worldwide for the International ethecon Blue Planet Award and the International ethecon Dead Planet Award. In a thorough selection process, the award winners* are chosen by the foundation. On September 21, the International Day of Peace, the annual announcement of the prizewinners will follow.

Mr. Bezos,

They were nominated for the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020 as a result of the international nomination and selection process conducted annually by ethecon, in a logical complement to the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2020.

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The International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020 goes to you, because you are outstanding in trampling on fundamental ethical principles in the area of conflict between ethics and economics and thus threaten to ruin the blue planet into a dead, uninhabitable planet. You are terrifyingly responsible for oppression, exploitation, human rights violations, destruction of nature and social misery.

They act ruthlessly, cunningly, marked by base motives and solely for personal gain. They accept human life and the destruction of the planet for their interests of power and profit without hesitation. They show what is commonly called unscrupulousness and egoism.

In a world increasingly focused on profit as the sole criterion of any decision and development, they stand as a few powerful people against the interests of humanity. They are supported by great capital, always well secured and protected, autocratic and increasingly not subject to any laws and jurisdiction. They belong to those to whom mankind owes war, exploitation and environmental destruction.

They are reviled and personally branded with the International Dead Planet Award 2020, representing all those who endanger the blue planet or provoke its destruction into a dead, uninhabitable planet. Their insult should be a warning and deterrent to them and to all of us.

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of ethecon based their decision on news reports, on facts known to the public, some of which have been known for years, on information gathered by journalists around the world, on publicly available documents, on investigations by government agencies and social movement organizations in various countries, and last but not least on the material published by their companies AMAZON, BLUE ORIGIN and WASHINGTON POST themselves.

Accordingly, the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020 also sees itself as a mobilization for commitment to peace, justice and environmental protection, or for resistance to environmental destruction, exploitation and contempt for humanity. It is intended to sensitize and draw attention to the public, uncover the connections and those responsible, and strengthen resistance to environmental destruction, war and injustice.

In principle, it can be assumed that the reasons for the decision would have been even more consistent and comprehensive if all information, including information kept under lock and key, both within the company and elsewhere, had been made available in full, and possibly even destroyed.

From the wealth of facts researched and taken into account in the nomination process for the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020, we would like to mention a few examples

You are personally responsible for the destruction of millions of retailers' livelihoods, the systematic deterioration of working conditions in trade and logistics, the suppression of trade union organization and the avoidance of taxes by AMAZON.

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You are pioneers of monopolization and responsible for the destruction of social securities and other achievements of workers. Together with the big financial groups (BLACKROCK, VANGUARD and others), banks and monopolies, who support you for this with unlimited credits, investments and the renunciation of dividends from their own AMAZON shares.

You are personally responsible for the fact that AMAZON consumes resources on a gigantic scale through kerosene-intensive air freight, the destruction of undamaged returns and by accustoming customers to door-to-door deliveries, undermines international environmental standards and sabotages all efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gases and to avert the incipient climate collapse.

With AMAZON, you take care of the monitoring of your customers, business partners and employees and design large parts of the Internet for your profit interests. In the process, personal rights are violated, industries are spied on and prepared for takeover, public opinion is manipulated, and the insurance and health care sectors are forced into a social-Darwinian, inhuman selection of customer data.

With AMAZON, they worsen the already inhumane working conditions in the Third World, especially in the extraction of rare earths and minerals such as lithium, coltan or cobalt for the production of robots, automated warehouses or Internet-enabled household appliances, but also in the processing and disposal of electronic waste.

With your space company BLUE ORIGIN and lavish space tourism for the ultra-rich, you endanger humanity even far beyond the borders of the Blue Planet: You fill the orbit with hundreds of satellites for AMAZON and dedicate your obscene private fortune as the richest person to the rescue of profit-driven capitalism into space.

Against your better knowledge you hold on to your destructive business models and deceive the world public about the extent of the destruction and dangers. You counteract all these crimes with unfounded propaganda, buy politicians and media that gloss over your business with AMAZON and the other companies as ecological, fair and sustainable.

It should also be mentioned that the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of ethecon, in deciding to defame you, explicitly refer to the proposal for an international charter "Human Rights and Industrial Health Threats", adopted by the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) in 1994, and the Charter of Universal Human Rights of the United Nations.

Mr. Bezos,

You, of all managers and major shareholders*, are primarily responsible for the decisions and actions of the world's largest mail order and monitoring group AMAZON INC. (USA). You own the majority

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of shares in the group and have managed it since its foundation. You are responsible for the ruin of labor rights, human health and the environment on a large scale, and even the death of many people. You are a threat not only to ecology and human rights, but also to democracy, peace and humanity as a whole. They act for the benefit of personal power and private enrichment. In return they trample morality and ethics underfoot and accept the downfall of the earth as a dead, uninhabitable planet.

ethecon sees in your actions, Mr. Bezos, a shocking contribution to the ruin and destruction of our blue planet. For this shocking disregard and violation of human ethics, ethecon - Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomie reviled you with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020.

The International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020 to you, together with the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2020, will be presented to the human rights and environmental activist Phyllis Omido at a public event in Berlin on November 21, 2020. Unlike you, Mr. Bezos, who are irresponsibly endangering and ruining our blue planet, Phyllis Omido is responsibly committed to the preservation and rescue of our blue planet and its inhabitants*.

We ask you to take an example of people like Phyllis Omido for your personal commitment. She decided against her own career and puts her life in the service of the fight for human rights, environmental protection and global justice. Make a conscientious decision and end the exploitation and ruin of people and the environment by AMAZON and BLUE ORIGIN. Ensure social justice, security and human rights in your company and in its field of activity. Preserve the environment and peace. Use your money for ethical investments and solidarity projects instead of hunting for profit, as demanded by the overwhelming majority of the world population.

This is the appeal of ethecon - Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomie to you, the responsible manager and capital owner of AMAZON, in connection with the abuse of the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020.

At the same time, we demand and actively work together with the national and international movements critical of the Group and globalization to ensure that you and all other responsible managers and major shareholders are held liable, held accountable and, if necessary, punished for your crimes against human ethics and for the environmental, health, financial, social and other damage caused by JBS, both as representatives of the Group and personally.

Berlin, November 21, 2020

Axel Köhler-Schnura (Board of Directors)

Angela Beutler (Board of Trustees)

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Protest against AMAZON
 und Jeff Bezos in the USA

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Smear speech⁸⁶

by John Malamatinas⁸⁷

Dear guests, fellow contestants* and organizers of the Dead Planet Award,

our planet and our life in it are at a crossroads. The year 2020 manifested like no other the consequences of catastrophic human activity on our planet. Corona revealed the overt and covert crises of our society: in hospitals, slaughterhouses and AMAZON logistics centers. The virus has hunted and continues to scare us - fearing for our loved ones and friends, for the people most exposed to the threat, for the future of our coexistence on a planet whose numbers have long since begun to count. Greta Thunberg's warnings about the ongoing climate catastrophe have reached and sensitized many people - unfortunately still far too few. We are still racing towards the social abyss. Will this situation make us think and act clearly?

But there are also those who always profit from crises. No matter whether it is a financial, social or viral crisis. They are always above us and the sad events in this world - events that are mainly the responsibility of those who are responsible. The Corona crisis has brought this to our attention once again: The rich are getting richer, the precarious more and more precarious and the poor poorer and poorer. While the corona crisis is an economic challenge for many households and small businesses, one person in particular has benefited greatly from increased online sales: Jeff Bezos. On the one hand no wonder: local retailers have to give way to the miracle company Amazon, which promises to fulfill every wish within 24 hours. On the other hand a cheek: That Jeff Bezos, meanwhile richest man in the world, on the back of thousands of workers* and the diverted consumption of all of us, could fill his pockets to an extent never seen before. He is thus leading the class of crisis winners, who are profiting above all from the increased use of technology in the current crisis.

"This is not only the biggest river in the world, it's many times bigger than the next biggest river. It blows all other rivers away." Jeff Bezos on the name Amazon

It is - of course without surprise - the great story of a myth-making start-up. The New York Times financial journalist Brad Stone captured it in a book that the British newspaper Times called a "masterpiece of investigative financial journalism". The search for the company name was long, and the various suggestions alone say a lot about the original idea of AMAZON itself: Cadabra, MakeltSo.com, Awake.com, Browse.com, Bookmall.com, Aard.com, Relentless.com (so relentless.com). The name should not be limited to books from the beginning, like one of the first competitors, Books.com. AMAZON founder Jeff Bezos, came from Wall Street from the hedge fund D.E. Shaw, in the middle of a milieu

⁸⁶ This smear speech was held on the occasion of „Dead Planet Award“ of the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy. 23. November 2020, Berlin

⁸⁷ John Malamatinas is a Journalist and activist, living in Berlin and Thessaloniki.

of nerds who had set themselves the goal of making a lot of money. At this time the era of the Internet began: The next big thing! And Jeff Bezos left his well-paid job to take the risk ride on a wave of the Internet's vast expanses.

Bezos had the so-called nose as they say in the industry. "Animal spirits" did the rest - the colorful name that economist John Maynard Keynes gave to one of the essential ingredients of economic prosperity: trust. According to Keynes, animal spirits are a special kind of trust - even "naive optimism". He meant this in the sense that especially for entrepreneurs "the thought of the ultimate loss, which often overtakes the pioneers, is pushed aside, just as a healthy person pushes aside the expectation of death. Where these animal spirits come from is something of a mystery. Certainly the attempts of politicians and others to create confidence with optimistic rumors about the economic outlook have rarely done much good for people.

Amazon.com was registered on November 1, 1994. The older semesters and today's millenials among you may remember: On August 9th of the same year, Netscape Communications launched its first browser Mosaic Web, opening the door to the worldwide web to the general public. The web was ready to take off. Bezos and his small team, including his wife at the time, Mackenzie Bezos (now Scott) and technician Shel Kaphan, worked for two years until the successful launch. They survived thanks to the financial investments of family members and contacts from Bezos' time as a financial investor.

In the first week after the launch in April 2005, orders worth \$12,000 arrived, but books worth just \$846 were shipped. In the second week, \$14,000 worth of orders were received and \$7,000 worth of merchandise shipped. The long road to today's prime delivery within an hour thus began with much smaller steps.

After the first phase, the logistical chaos of storage and shipping had to be overcome. Bezos added wood in the fireplace and began the expansion in all directions, which became the central motto of Amazon's vision of the future. Orders were increasing daily - and so were investments. For Bezos and his team, expansion meant direct and uncompromising reinvestment of all available financial resources. Amazon's medium-term vision, the promise of profits after the first rounds of expansion, attracted investors despite the initial difficulties. The adventurism of the Internet did the rest by the turn of the millennium.

The principle was simple: it was roughly formulated: We have a store that in principle sells everything - first books, but gradually other goods - and exceeds the possibilities of previous department stores. How so? Because the platform principle bypasses the other limits of the two-way market, the connection between consumer and producer, via an intermediary, i.e. long-term storage and its costs. The hope was that the network effect would do the rest. To this day, the share price confirms this incredible

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trend. Trust in AMAZON continues to grow and grow, and has taken on almost prophetic traits. "Everything is possible," says Bezos, and everyone is participating. At the same time, the platform capitalist companies are sprouting up like mushrooms.

In 1997, Rick Dalzel moved from America's largest retail company, Walmart, to Amazon. Before leaving, Don Soderquist, Walmart's chief operating officer, told him that AMAZON was an innovative idea but had limited potential because it didn't have its own inventory and would drive the model into a wall when it reached \$100 million in sales. What a mistake, because Walmart had still not understood Amazon's disruptive potential. Early competitors such as the renowned bookstore Barnes and Nobles and Walmart were quickly forced to follow suit with their own Web offerings. A hopeless process that continues to this day. Because it just happened the other way around - the modernization processes of those big companies became the doom of the thousands of real existing stores.

Jeff's vision of the "everything store" has long since become reality. In the meantime, an algorithm regulates the paths of warehouse employees more efficiently and the new form of purchasing has adapted perfectly to the flexible employment relationships in society. AMAZON employs almost one million people worldwide (in Germany more than 20,000), operates across all borders and has become the horror - not only - of every* retailer*.

Even the furniture giant IKEA is considering selling its products via AMAZON in the future. The Swedish meatball ritual, including the ball bath, breaks down in front of Amazon. The warehouses form a network that makes delivery possible in ever shorter times.

As with all start-ups, "the customer is king". The products are supposed to reach everyone on the planet faster and faster and more precisely. There are no limits to the use of engineering as technology: AMAZON is experimenting in California and elsewhere with fully automated robots and artificial intelligence, and the first fully automated fulfillment centers have already gone into operation. Drones could soon make the good old letter carrier obsolete, and even open the door to their private home to drop off the package themselves.

The well-known "Jeffisms" called phrases of Bezos express these dreams: "There is still so much that has yet to be invented. There is so much new that will happen. People still have no idea how effective the Internet will be and that is still day one on this great journey.

But what is AMAZON really doing for money these days? A large part of Amazon's revenue comes from the cloud business. AMAZON has been providing companies with server capacity for data storage since 2006, and to date, alongside companies such as IBM and Microsoft, has captured about a third of this market. The whole infrastructure is supported by so-called server parks, i.e. huge computer networks, which are Amazon's most important fixed means of production alongside the fulfillment centers. The crowdworking platform "Mechanical Turk" is also very popular - but more about that later.

The early Jeffism "get big fast" still dominates the events at AMAZON today - the expansion possibilities seem to be boundless. Not a word is said about the people behind Bezos and his now extensive team who do the real work. Already early Bezos' authoritarian style of leadership was intimated. He gradually replaced his old team with new people - this manic search for super brains, which is supposed to replace the supposedly old rusty brains, continues to this day. And is not a unique selling point of AMAZON in the renewal addicted tech industry. Also standard at Amazon: Who protests - has shown the previous experience - will be fired directly anyway!

The same applies to the other "team" - what AMAZON claims to be under the motto "Work hard, have fun and make history" as an employer together with its thousands of foremen* and low-skilled employees. Only through an authoritarian and highly technical work model is AMAZON able to realize Jeff Bezos' dreams of a networked future. Due to its market power, AMAZON also exerts pressure on producers and thus indirectly influences the working conditions there. In the end, the focus is not simply a lonely algorithm that regulates the popular search function of Amazon.com, similar to Google, but a gigantic machinery of logistics that has become possible in the course of the last century through europallets - keyword: rationalization.

Amazon's fulfillment centers are the industrial factories of the current capitalist era. They are located in structurally weak regions where jobs are scarce. Most important features: Small town, highway and rail connection. Thousands of people perform strenuous and repetitive work every day, are not allowed to switch on their own brains and are completely accountable to their superiors. It is work that benefits a large part of society - at least the part that has jumped on the Internet ordering hype or often depends on parcel delivery. Ordering at AMAZON has become an important reproductive pillar like the post office or the waterworks. With the difference that AMAZON has been in private hands from the very beginning. Adapted to today's technological requirements, the factory system has been modernized to meet new capital needs: The hand scanner as the new central mobile means of production, automated storage systems, computerized control by the algorithm and all-round control are the defining elements of this modernized factory system.

Amazon's "Chaos Principle" (the storage system organized by the algorithm) is not chaos, but tries to feed back the ordering process more directly to the logistics organization for the purpose of speeding up and fulfilling the delivery time. Every clog, every cigarette, every conversation can and will be seen in many cases. The possibilities of direct control have become cheaper and more widespread in the last decades. Not even the argument "theft protection" is needed for the installation of cameras, which some employees had opposed in the past. AMAZON employee from Wales says about all this: "We are machines, we are robots. It's like connecting yourself to a scanner. We do not think for ourselves. Maybe they don't trust us to think as human beings."

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The AMAZON working model does not only include work on the Fulfillment Center - a fact that is easily forgotten given the breadth of activities of this global company. Thousands and thousands of people around the world work for AMAZON directly from home on their screens, in other words they are workers. And not only the consumers, who with their data and evaluations continue to feed the machine for free. Since 2005, AMAZON has been operating the Mechanical Turk platform, a digital crowdwork platform of the on-demand economy, which enables the company to recruit thousands of clickworkers for various jobs, so-called microtasks. "Clickworkers" are characterized by the fact that they perform small, non-complex but not yet computer- or algorithm-controlled tasks - microtasks - such as the removal of unwanted content, with a "mouse click" - and that for hours at a time. In Germany alone, the number of click workers* is estimated at over one million. The factory leaves the classic material and fixed location and settles into any life that is willing and flexible or forced enough to do extra work on the side. AMAZON is thus a pioneer of "digital Taylorization" in the form of seamless control and machine human control, whether in the warehouses through the hand scanner or for the crowdworkers through the app. Trade union organization? A rarity.

Fulfillment centers and thousands of clickworkers* form the basis for the global high-tech exploitation model of the future. Apart from the enormous mechanization and reorganization of work processes, not much is new about this. The technical development of the logistics sector, not only at Amazon, was accompanied on the one hand by the qualification of a few and mass de-qualification on the other. The class composition is changing: For example, many formerly unemployed or temporary workers are being employed. But it is not too bad for you here in Germany to work together with the employment offices? These changed class compositions are based on "achievements" of capital in the last decades, such as the high degree of flexibilization and precarization, which now also affects the "white-collar workers", i.e. the classical industrial proletariat. The vision and implementation of Agenda2010 in Germany made such forms of exploitation - such as employment relationships without fixed contracts and protection against dismissal - possible here in the first place. This is one of the reasons why Emmanuel Macron is currently implementing far-reaching labor reforms in France. The charismatic leader of "En Marche" is known for his fascination with new technologies and his cooperation with platform companies such as Uber and Airbnb. In the coming years and decades, visions of an unconditional basic income and self-propelled cars, where everyone can afford at least some trips by Uber, could become reality. But not without the thousands of people who, either with hand scanners or 3D printers, make the whole party possible. Politics is already making room for Bezos and his friends by not forcing taxes on them for the sake of the location.

All of Amazon's newer and planned projects make it clear that things won't stop at the AMAZON wonderstore. Since the winter of 2016, the "intelligent listening system" Alexa is also offered in Germany. Alexa is advertised as the new assistant in the household, who goes searching the internet or

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manages other things in the smart home for us - quasi reproductive activities can and probably will replace more and more. The difference to the classic search engine is that Alexa gives only one answer. Maybe it comes from the search engine Bing, maybe from Wikipedia, maybe from the highest bidder: But in any case, one will take Alexa's words at face value - without any choice.

So far, it is a cylinder equipped with highly sensitive microphones called "Echo", standing in the apartment and waiting for the code word Alexa and instructions. Combined with other elements in and outside the home, AMAZON is betting on the future smart home and smart city concept. This concept is based on massive networking and surveying within cities and households with the aim of connecting all areas of life to the Internet, from driving a car to advertising in urban areas to automatically ordering milk when it is empty. AMAZON fits perfectly into an economy of unconditional basic income and the "sharing economy", where in the end - ideally - no one will own a car or have to deliver parcels by hand.

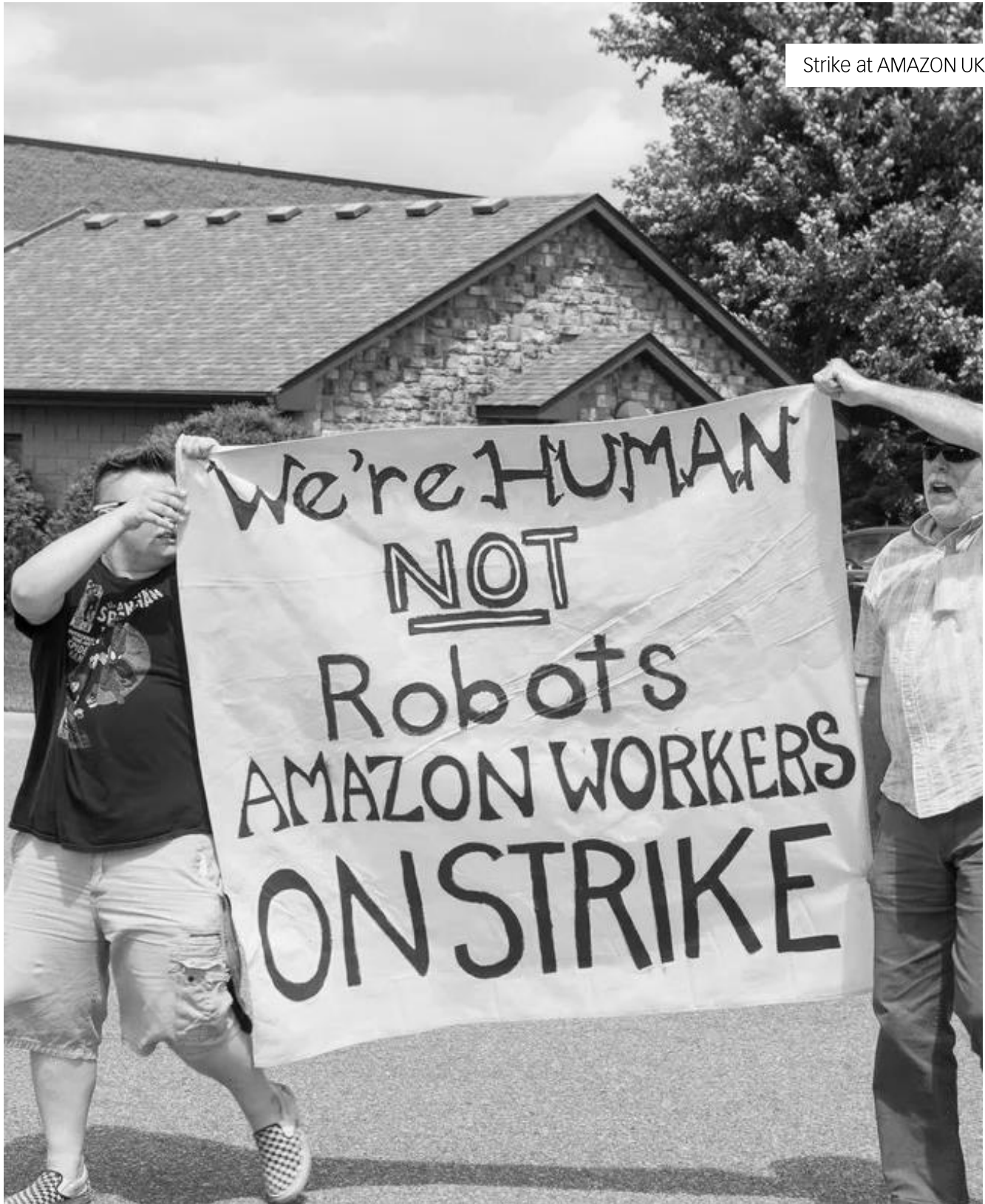
But that is not all. Jeff Bezos is one of the most prominent representatives of what we consider a dystopically presumptuous vision of the future. He wants to go out into the big wide world - into space! Sent almost like God, he wants to open up the commercial path beyond the stratosphere for mankind. First of all the costs for space flights should be reduced and then sometime the moon should be settled! The science fiction moved among us may find this still somehow exciting - but it is clear: Which humans will be able to afford it and which will fall by the wayside? Especially if the multiple crises of mankind will continue. Is one man alone allowed to decide who can get into Noah's boat and who cannot?

The outlook is bleak. AMAZON does not think of the community as Jeff Bezos claims to do. No taxes, no democratic control, no brakes to the madness in sight. We have to arm ourselves for this fight. It starts by talking to the workers at AMAZON and supporting their wonderful strikes in the panoptic factories. Strikes have been going on in Germany since 2013 and AMAZON continues to refuse to sit down at the negotiating table for a collective agreement. The struggle for the socialization and destruction of AMAZON continues. We want to get more parcels delivered at Christmas? Fine, but under what conditions? Let's make sure that Jeff Bezos and his tech friends can't let off steam in the 21st century as planned. For another world.

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Strike at AMAZON UK





Greetings

from Chris Smalls⁸⁸

Hello everybody,

my name is Chris Smalls, former AMAZON employee, now founder of my organization TCOEW. Right now as I speak, I'm in front of Jeff Bezos 80 million \$ mansion in Manhattan, 212 Madison Avenue.

For the last three months, we have been traveling the country, going to all his mansions, we started right here in NYC, we headed down to Washington D.C., to his 23 million \$ mansion, last week we were at his 165 million \$ mansion at Beverly Hills.

As you know this man accumulated over 88 billion \$. And of course of the pandemic, he gets richer and richer. He is making about 4000\$ per second, while half the country is facing unemployment or invocation. Workers are still being exploited, like myself, who have been fired for speaking out against the company.

There is a lot of world crisis and crisis that the billionaires can absolutely relieve. For example climate control. We have homelessness. Right now as I mentioned before workers out here, that are battling underlying health condition that the company is not trying to give a paid medical leave for.

This are just a few of the issues. The two \$ hazard pay that was taken away from these employees.

The unlimited UPT, the fact, that right now they are advocating the workers to work harder because it's Primeday. These things are unacceptable in this country and all over the world.

So I stand in solidarity with Berlin in Germany and all the other countries acting against this company and J.B. himself, the richest man in the world. Enough is enough! We the people have to take the power. Fight back, put the power back into the workers hands. And this is exactly what we are trying to do with this organization TCOEW. The congress of the essential workers.

Our goal and our vision is to have more power in the congress and be able to shut it down, whenever they don't listen to the workers.

So once again, I thank you for inviting me to this platform and this panel. Stay tuned. Stay with us in solidarity, boycott the company of AMAZON and give Jeff Bezos the biggest award that you can. There is negligence to the environment, negligence to crisis of homelessness and unemployment and especially not taking care of his workers.

Solidarity for everyone of y'all

⁸⁸ Chris Smalls is a former AMAZON employee who was fired for speaking up against working Conditions at the company. Today he organizes "The Congress of essential Workers" and protests in front of Bezos' mansions.

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Greetings

from Andreas Gangl⁸⁹

Hello,

a wonderful good afternoon to Berlin for the event. My name is Andreas Gangl. I am a worker at AMAZON in Bad Hersfeld and a shop steward of the trade union Ver.di. I have been trying to enforce a collective agreement with my colleagues at AMAZON for several years.

My boss Jeff bezos is about to get a negative award today for the way he runs his business. I don't want to decide whether this price is justified, but I just want to tell how the situation is with us.

And I have some nice examples just from this year. For example, surveillance: We have cameras in the factory for the production process. That is quite normal, and the workers' council regulates how they are used. But what did AMAZON do this year to monitor the employees because of corona distancing? It used software, ignoring data protection, and did not ask the workers' council for its approval. This was just done, out of America, to monitor the employees.

Another aspect of surveillance, are the continuous checks now a few days after the wage increase of an astonishing 1.787% were announced - before they were like "Yay! We're so generous" – the managers ambushed us, hiding to check if the employees left the work area too early for their break or at the end of their shift.

These are only two examples of how AMAZON organizes the work. By using technology and digitalization, the employees are constantly monitored. Every action is digitally recorded and at most AMAZON locations this is also used to warn, punish or even dismiss employees.

We in Bad Hersfeld have so far been able to prevent this via the works council because the software used does not comply with data protection regulations and should not be used at all. Actually, this would mean that we could no longer work at all. But this is the procedure of AMAZON: They are, on closer inspection, methods of the 19th century applied with the technology of the 21st century to control and suppress the employees.

At the same time with very bad pay. The company refuses to negotiate a collective agreement with us for years. And of course they say, that they don't speak to third parties.

At the same time they run big advertising campaigns on TV, how good the jobs are, or like in the latest commercial, how great they are in terms of the environment and that they are totally green.

⁸⁹ Andreas Gangl is an active AMAZON employee and ombudsman of the union ver.di in Bad Hersfeld.



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In fact, it looks different: AMAZON produces a huge mountain of waste every day. Consumes immense amounts of electricity throughout all their warehouses. Not to mention all the trucks that drive through Europe for AMAZON. They ruin the motorways, pollute the environment and all this only for the profit of AMAZON.

These are a few points with which everyone can judge for themselves whether Jeff Bezos has earned this award.

I hope the award ceremony goes well and I hope to be there next time in Berlin!

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Greetings

from **"Make AMAZON pay!"**⁹⁰

AMAZON is not just any company, but one of the most important transnational corporations of our time and trendsetter for work and factory organization in digital capitalism. Through the aggressive expansion of its market power, AMAZON exerts pressure on producers of goods and also influences the working conditions there. The strike of AMAZON workers for an improvement of their working conditions and their right to collective representation of interests is central to the question of what standards will be considered normal in the relations between labor and capital in the 21st century.

AMAZON is style defining for a new model of production in which intelligent information technology is used to more effectively subjugate human labor to achieve new growth. Industry 4.0", which aims to optimize man and machine into a global production process, is trying to fundamentally change the way we work and live. This not only affects traditional industrial production, but also the outsourcing of individual activities to so-called crowdworking platforms - the latter without any social security. In smart capitalism, all activities are broken down into individual work packages and optimized and reassembled under algorithmic control. Work is further expropriated and devalued in this form of "neo-Taylorism".

We should understand the struggles of the pickers and packers, the workers in the goods receiving department, in the warehouse and shipping department at AMAZON as a political field of growing importance. Digital techniques of recording, evaluating and controlling determine more and more jobs. The changing work regime poses a new challenge for industrial action. In many cases there are not even social places of encounter for the app-controlled workers. The new "servants on call" of DELIVEROO and FOODORA are nevertheless organizing themselves all over Europe and are currently fighting, like the AMAZON strikers, against an algorithmic compression and devaluation of their work and for self-determination and healthy working conditions.

Because AMAZON can be regarded as a pioneer of an overall social development, it is necessary to effectively support the struggles of the workers. The successes of the colleagues at AMAZON will also be our successes! We welcome the presentation of the Dead Planet Award to Jeff Bezos - in contrast to the Axel Springer Award it seems to be an appropriate title for this self-proclaimed pioneer leader who wants to further deface our world together with many others!

⁹⁰ „Make AMAZON pay!“ is a campaign of workers and activists demanding the unionization of AMAZON and the taxation of Jeff Bezos. See: www.makeamazonpay.org/ Twitter: #makeamazonpay!

Greetings

from Multiwatch⁹¹

With its services based on data and artificial intelligence, AMAZON supports oil companies such as BP, Shell and Halliburton. Thanks to AMAZON, they can more efficiently promote the exploitation of raw materials. EXXONMOBIL, CHEVRON and ARAMCO, the world's largest private CO₂ emitters, are also among AMAZON's business partners. By providing multinational corporations with the capacity to process the global flow of data, information technology companies like AMAZON are taking the neo-colonial economic order to a new level. Data processing maximizes profits, while the losses in the form of ecological, economic or health damage are borne by the people of the Global South. AMAZON thus has a role in digital colonialism that should not be neglected.

In addition to the oil industry, the pharmaceutical industry also belongs to the business field of AMAZON Web Service (AWS). AMAZON also works together with the Swiss pharmaceutical company MOVARTIS. In 2019, the pharmaceutical giant has triggered great controversy with a gene therapy against muscular atrophy: "Zolgensma" is the world's most expensive therapy at a price of 1.9 million euros. And AMAZON Web Service (AWS) is probably one of the winners. AWS' not only supports MOVARTIS in making processes more efficient in order to reduce the costs of researching new drugs. In particular, AWS' data processing should make it possible to better develop such individualized therapies as Zolgensma. Instead of research on antibiotics, vaccines (e.g. against coronaviruses) or drugs, which are urgently needed in the countries of the Global South, there is a growing interest in individualized treatment methods such as Zolgensma, the so-called personalized medicine.

Because such treatments yield more profit. One reason is that the phase of expensive clinical tests before the actual market launch is greatly shortened. The clinical tests are shifted to the phase in which the drugs are already on the market. One example of this is individualized gene therapies such as the world's most expensive therapy "Zolgensma". If the phase of clinical tests for such individualized gene therapies is shortened, the research content is already available on the market without the tests being completed. This means that instead of test results, it is the solvent demand that determines whether therapies are applied.

If the drug is already on the market when the clinical tests are conducted, there is increasing pressure to conceal the results of unsuccessful tests. Data processing, for example by AMAZON, is thus gaining in importance. The WHO clearly states that recording all clinical trials is a scientific, ethical and moral obligation. In a position paper of April 2015, it demanded that all results of a clinical trial, whether

⁹¹ MultiWatch monitors multinational corporations based in Switzerland, documents their human rights violations and makes them public. The most important thing for them is to actively show solidarity with the struggles for justice of those affected.

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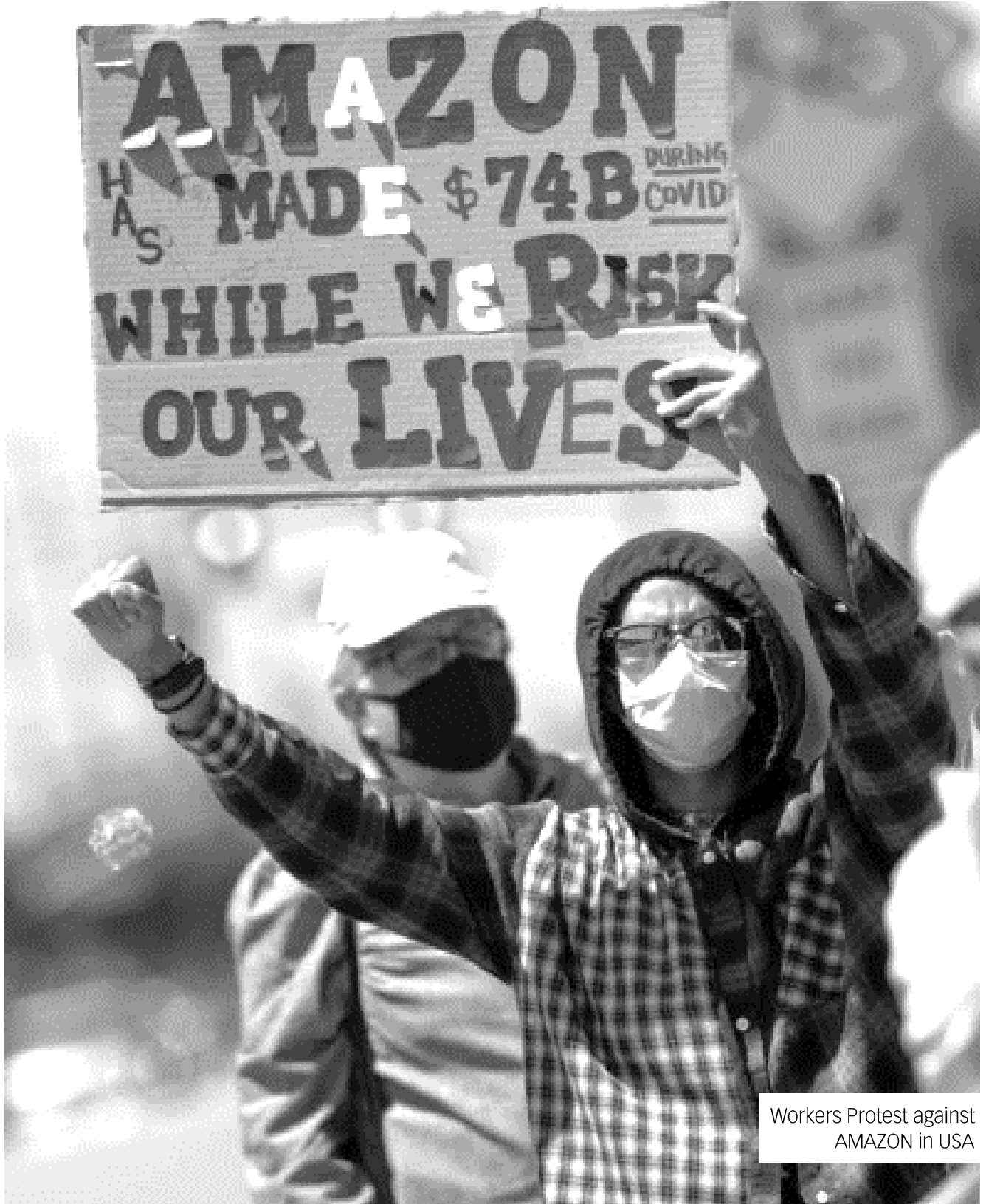


positive or negative, must be published and made available within 12 months after the trial is completed. But these data are becoming increasingly profitable in times of cooperation between big tech like AMAZON and big pharma like Novartis.

Especially in times of the corona crisis, MultiWatch advocates free information. Not only test results, but also innovation should be a public good accessible to all. We call for open patents, which as an alternative to private patents guarantee free use and free research on the condition that all further findings are also made openly available.

With its digital services, AMAZON is strengthening a neo-colonial economic order in which the people in the Global South are among the big losers. The labor struggles taking place in the individual countries due to the lack of protection against COVID-19 must not only network, but also dedicate themselves to the fight against this digital colonialism.

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Workers Protest against
 AMAZON in USA

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Demands

by the International AMAZON Workers (IAW)

While the Corona pandemic has already killed thousands of people and will kill many more, AMAZON warehouses continue to operate 24/7. Governments around the world order social distancing, but at the same time they force workers to continue to work. AMAZON packages flow through cities that, due to the high spread of the virus, have been sealed off from the rest of the world. In countries where the public is prohibited from gathering, AMAZON is allowed to operate as a “state within the state”, free to endanger and exploit us, while we continue to work by the thousands in enclosed spaces. Subcontracted truck drivers and couriers – the veins of our global economy – move the virus between warehouses. Uncountable totes pass between worker hands and facilities. In effect, AMAZON forces workers to risk infecting each other and then bringing the virus home to our families, allowing for its further spread.

This crisis has heavily affected all workers (not just us at Amazon). Some workers like nurses or supermarket workers don't even get proper protective gear! The states of emergency supposedly meant to contain the pandemic are also an attempt to criminalize even the smallest protests and pickets. These policies give the government tools to silence workers, who see that Amazon's irresponsible policies are facilitating the spread of the virus. But even if AMAZON forces us to continue working in close proximity, at an ever-increasing tempo of work and often without healthcare protections, last week thousands of us organized in protest. We protested against the company's attempt to profit from this crisis while putting our health at risk. We protested in Poland and in Spain, we went on strike in Italy, in France and in New York. We showed that it is possible everywhere to fight for our health and our lives and that we won't stop. AMAZON should also know that a wage raise, different from one country to another as if our lives had different prices according to their nationality, will not be enough to buy our health and safety.

We, AMAZON workers from across the world, will not remain silent while our bosses' greed and governments' cowardice endangers us all. We call on workers everywhere to stay safe and practice social distancing, but, at the same time, to organize, protest, and be prepared to fight back!

We demand:

1. The immediate closure of AMAZON warehouses until this coronavirus pandemic is declared over by the World Health Organization. During this shutdown, AMAZON must pay all workers their full salary.
2. That AMAZON give \$20 Billion to the public health systems of countries where AMAZON has operations.



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3. Until AMAZON closes down its warehouses, the company must provide paid sick leave for all workers who are sick, in quarantine, need to care for loved ones, or who need to care of children due to school closures.

4. Until AMAZON closes its warehouses, AMAZON workers must receive hazard pay.

5. Until AMAZON closes its warehouses, there must be no write-ups or firings related to Rates or Time Off Task so that workers may prioritize safety over productivity in these hazardous workplace conditions.

6. Until AMAZON closes its warehouses, the company must reduce working time at its warehouses, without reducing wages. Workers need more paid time off to allow us to fulfill our basic needs and to deal with the impact of Corona on our lives.

March 22, 2020, AMAZON Workers International

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Draft

by the international Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT)⁹² for a Charter on „Human Rights and Industrial Hazards“⁹³

Genesis

A Tribunal of five international judges held in London from 30 November to 2 December 1994 marked the tenth anniversary of the Bhopal disaster. The Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) on „Human Rights and Industrial Hazards“ heard evidence and recommendations from professionals, victims' organisations, public interest groups and individuals on the impact of hazardous production on workers, communities and the environment, and the lack of redress for victims. This was the fourth and final of the PPT Tribunals on Industrial Hazards and Human Rights, which contributed to the development of a Charter on Industrial Hazards and Human Rights.

The world has now acquired ample experience of industrial and environmental hazards. Lessons must be learned from these experiences so that those who have died and suffered will not have done so entirely in vain. Judgement of the PPT held in Bhopal, October 1992

Formed because of devastating industrial disasters such as: Seveso (1976) Italy, Bhopal (1984) India and Chernobyl (1986) Ukraine, the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT / Permanent Court of Peoples) started to work (1991-1994) to address the lack of legal and medical protection of affected workers, residents and collateral and environmental local industrial risks.

Issues of civil protection, liability of operators, international law and many other problem areas of industrial production were addressed. The PPT was constituted on the 10th anniversary of the Bhopal disaster as a proposal for a "Human Rights and Industrial Hazards" Charter ("Industrial Hazards and Human Rights").

Nearly five years in drafting, the Charter is based on a series of public hearings held by the Tribunal in New Haven, USA (1991), Bangkok, Thailand (1991), Bhopal, India (1992), and London, UK (1994).

⁹² The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT), based in Rome, was formed in 1979 as the successor to the Bertrand Russell Tribunals on crimes against humanity. The PPT is an independent forum that examines violations of the rights of peoples, and suggests remedies for such violations. It is composed of over 60 members from all parts of the world who are eminent as jurists or in other fields including the arts, culture, science and politics. A number of judges are Nobel prize winners. The Tribunal submits its findings to the Secretary General of the United Nations, to other United Nations organisations as appropriate, and to other national and international bodies. The Tribunal attempts to fill gaps in international law, which it seeks to influence by elaborating on such documents as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations), the Nuremberg principles, United Nations General Assembly resolutions on de-colonization and the new international economic order. Hearings are initiated by aggrieved groups, and are normally heard by a bench of 3 to 11 sitting tribunal judges. Accused parties are invited to present their case at the hearings. If they do not attend, the PPT appoints legal counsel to represent their case in a rigorous manner. The PPT applies principles of international law, and is bound by the Algiers Declaration of the Rights of Peoples as well as its own statutes.

⁹³ The ethecon founder Axel Köhler-Schnura participated in the final deliberations of the Human Rights Charter "Health, Safety and Environmental Rights" in 1994 in London, where he presented the case study of the "BAYER Group".

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People from many different countries presented evidence. The Tribunal heard testimony from the survivors of industrial hazards, from concerned community groups, and from workers. At the same time, doctors, lawyers, scientists, engineers, and other experts provided information on the origins and effects of industrial hazards.

Despite their diverse backgrounds and experiences, the people who testified told a common story. Industrial hazards are proliferating on a global scale, and they pose a serious threat to human life and health. Moreover, the existing economic, legal, and medical systems are not responding adequately to this feature of globalisation. Victims' groups voiced a common demand for a system which protects them from death, injury, and persistent insecurity. Expert testimony highlighted instances of best practice, but also described the main features of an international order in which hazards are promoted, traded, and protected without effective controls.

The Tribunal held its fourth and final session in London from 28 November to 2 December. The judges heard expert testimony for three days. The Indictment was presented by Graham Reid, Barrister at Law and the Defence was presented by Andreas O'Shea, Barrister at Law. The evidence was heard by six judges: Francois Rigaux, Professor of Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium and President of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (Chairman)

Dr. Rosalie Bertell, President, Institute of Concern for Public Health, Canada

Salak Siveraska, Santi Pracha Dhamma Institute, Thailand

Justice Subhan, former Judge, Bangladesh Supreme Court

Tina Wallace, Development Administration Group, University of Birmingham

Dr. Timothy Weiskel, Director, Harvard Seminar on Environmental Values

The judges were assisted by: Dr. Gianni Tognoni, Epidemiologist at Mario Negri Research Institute, Milan and Secretary General of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal

Joe Verhoeven, Professor of International Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium The judges pronounced their findings and judgement at a press conference at the House of Commons on 2 December, hosted by Harry Cohen MP and John Hendy QC.

The Charter

The Permanent Peoples Tribunal on Industrial Hazards and Human Rights,

Having convened four Sessions in New Haven, Bangkok, Bhopal and London since 1991 to receive testimony and deliberate on issues relating to the right to life, occupational health and safety, environment protection, risk management and damage reduction in the wider global context of hazardous production;

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Having drafted over a period of four years a charter of rights designed to reflect the views and concerns of persons injured and distressed by industrial hazards, and having issued on the second day of December 1994 a Draft Charter for comment and discussion among individuals and non-governmental organisations, including trade unions;

Following the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Peoples, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference of Human Rights, the Beijing Conference on Women, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and other relevant international human rights instruments;

Guided by the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Draft Declaration on Principles on Human Rights and the Environment, the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant instruments for prevention of industrial and environmental hazards;

Guided further by International Labour Organisation conventions and recommendations, including the Convention on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, the Convention on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining and the Convention Concerning the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents;

Gravely concerned by the widespread diffusion of hazardous products and processes resulting in industrial practices which cause human, social and environmental destruction, threatening in particular the habitat, life, economy, society and culture of indigenous peoples;

Deeply concerned by the frequency of small-scale but harmful hazardous events, as well as the magnitude and nature of major industrial accidents, including the incidents in Seveso, Chernobyl, Bhopal, Basel and elsewhere;

Concerned by the ineffectual national and international system of hazard prevention, post-disaster relief, medical and legal assistance and legal accountability which in their current forms have failed both to adequately prevent occupational and environmental hazards and to bring to account those responsible for world-wide deaths and injuries;

Noting that urgent action is needed to prevent future degradation to human life, animal life and the environment, and to adequately remedy the harms caused by industrial hazards;

Recognising that the personal experience and repeated demands of community members and workers affected by hazards provide the most sound basis for the enunciation of rights;

Cognizant of the inherent limitations of national and international law, as well as the vital role of community organisations and people's movements in preventing and ameliorating industrial hazards;

Convinced that new national and international systems of prevention, relief and legal accountability must be formulated and established;

Declares the following:

Part I

Rights of General Application

Article 1:

Non-discrimination

1. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Charter without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion nationality, political opinion or affiliation, ethnic or social origin, disability, age, property, sexual orientation, birth, income, caste or any other status.
2. On account of the particular discrimination faced by women, both as waged and unwaged workers, attention should be given to the specific application of the rights stated below where women may be affected.
3. On account of their vulnerability and exploitation in the labour market, special protection should be accorded to children exposed to industrial hazards.
4. On account of the connection between low wages and hazardous working environments and the disproportionate impact of industrial hazards on racial and ethnic minorities, special protection should be afforded low-income groups and all minorities.

Article 2:

Relation to Other Rights

The rights in this charter and other human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, are universal, interdependent and indivisible. In particular, freedom from hazards, including the right to refuse hazardous employment and the right to organise against hazards, depends upon the full implementation of social and economic rights, including the rights to education, health and an adequate standard of living.

Article 3:

Right to Accountability

All persons have the right to hold accountable any individual, company or government agency for actions resulting in industrial hazards. In particular, parent companies, including transnational corporations, shall be liable for the actions of their subsidiaries.

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Article 4:

Right to Organise

1. All community members and workers have the right to organise with other local communities and workers for the purpose of seeking to ensure a working environment free from hazard.
2. In particular, the right to organise includes:
 - (a) the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly;
 - (b) the right to form local, national and international organisations;
 - (c) the right to campaign, lobby, educate and exchange information;
 - (d) the right to form trade unions;
 - (e) the right to strike or take other forms of industrial action.

Article 5:

Right to Appropriate Health Care

1. All persons have the right to appropriate health care.
2. In particular, the right to appropriate health care includes:
 - (a) the right of individuals and groups to participate in the planning and implementation of health care;
 - (b) the right of equal access of individuals and families to health care the community can afford;
 - (c) the right to relevant health care services, including where appropriate access to hospitals, neighbourhood clinics, specialist clinics, as well as the services of general practitioners, other medical professionals and health care workers drawn from the affected community;
 - (d) the right to independent information on the relevance and reliability of health care services and treatments including allopathic, homeopathic, nutritional, physiotherapeutic, psychotherapeutic, indigenous and other approaches;
 - (e) the right to health care systems which recognise and take account of the different ways in which hazards affect women, men and children;
 - (f) the right to health education;
 - (g) the development of national, regional and international networks to facilitate sharing of information and experience.

Article 6:

Right of Refusal

1. All communities have the right to refuse the introduction, expansion or continuation of hazardous activities in their living environment.

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2. All workers have the right to refuse to work in a hazardous working environment without fear of retaliatory action by the employer.
3. The right to reject inappropriate legal, medical or scientific advice shall not be infringed.

Article 7:

Permanent Sovereignty Over Living Environments

1. Each state retains the right of permanent sovereignty over the living environments within its national jurisdiction. No state shall exercise this right so as to injure the health or living environments of its people, nor to cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
2. Each state has the right and the obligation to regulate and exercise authority over hazardous and potentially hazardous enterprises in conformity with the interests and well-being of its people and their environment.
3. No state shall be:
 - (a) refused external finance or assistance on the grounds of its refusal to import or establish hazardous products or processes;
 - (b) compelled to grant preferential treatment to foreign investments;
 - (c) made subject to external threats or coercive measures, whether military, diplomatic, social or economic, intended to affect regulations or policies regarding hazardous production;
4. Transnational corporations and multi-national enterprises shall not intervene in the internal affairs of a host state.
4. Transnational corporations and multinationals may not interfere in the internal affairs of the host country itself.

Part II

Community

Article 8:

Right to Living Environment Free from Hazards

1. All persons have the right to a living environment free from hazards. In particular, this right applies where hazards arise from:
 - (a) the manufacture, sale, transport, distribution, use and disposal of hazardous materials;
 - (b) any military or weapons application, regardless of national security.
2. Any person has the right to raise a bona fide complaint to the owner or occupier of an economic enterprise regarding activities of the enterprise which he or she believes are hazardous to the living environment.

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3. Any person living in an environment from which it is impossible to eliminate a hazard shall have the right to protective safety systems necessary to eliminate any such hazard as far as possible. The owners or occupiers of the concerned hazardous enterprise may not refuse to provide the most effective systems available on the grounds of cost or inconvenience.

Article 9:

Right to Environmental Information

1. All persons have the right to be given reasonable notice of any proposal to establish, expand or modify a hazardous industry in such location or in such a manner as may put at risk public health or the living environment. To achieve the full realization of this right, the following steps shall be taken:
 - (a) All states shall ensure that communities, individuals and non-governmental organisations have the right of access to full information regarding the proposal. This right shall be effective well in advance of official authorization and shall not be abridged by claims of commercial secrecy.
 - (b) All states shall ensure that prior to official approval of any hazardous enterprise, independent and thorough assessments of the impact upon the environment and public health be conducted in consultation with the community. The methods and conclusions of such impact assessments shall be made available for public debate.
2. All persons have the right to be informed, in their own language and in a manner which they are able to comprehend, of any possible hazards or risks associated with any product or process used by any enterprise with which they may come into contact.
3. All persons have the right to be informed of the safety record of any economic enterprises whose manufacturing or industrial processes could affect their living environment, including the number of accidents, the types of accidents that have occurred, the extent of injuries resulting from such accidents and any possible long-term adverse health effects.
4. All persons have the right to be informed of types and quantities of hazardous substances used and stored at the facility and emitted from the facility and contained in any final products. In particular, the right to information includes the right to regular toxic release inventories where appropriate. All persons living in the neighbourhood of hazardous facilities have the right to inspection of factory premises and to physical verification of hazardous substances and processes.
5. All persons who live in environments in which they may come into contact with materials or processes that are known to be seriously hazardous, and which emanate from the activities of an economic enterprise, have the right to be examined regularly by an independent medical expert provided by the owner or occupier of the enterprise.

Article 10:

Right to Community Participation

1. All persons have the right to participate in planning and decision-making processes affecting their living environment.
2. All persons have the right to planning and decision-making proceedings which are:
 - (a) public and open;
 - (b) accessible to all in timing and location;
 - (c) widely advertised in advance;
 - (d) not restricted by literacy, language or format of contributions.
3. All persons have the right to express their concerns and objections relating to hazards associated with establishing, modifying or expanding any economic enterprise.
4. All persons have the right to participate in the design and execution of on-going studies to determine the nature of any hazards to the living environment resulting from an economic enterprise.

Article 11:

Right to Environmental Monitoring

1. All persons have the right to regular and effective monitoring of their health and the living environment for possible immediate and long-term effects caused by hazardous or potentially hazardous economic enterprise.
2. All persons have the right to be consulted on the frequency, character and objectives of environmental monitoring. The right to organise nonprofessional monitoring strategies, such as lay epidemiology, shall be protected. The rights of women, whose experience in providing health care may reveal otherwise unidentified consequences of hazards, are particularly affirmed.
3. Any person, who bona fide believes that his or her community environment is endangered by the actions of any economic enterprise, has the right to an immediate and thorough investigation, to be carried out by an independent agency at no cost to the person acting bona fide.

Article 12:

Right to Community Education

1. All persons have the right to the effective dissemination of information regarding hazards in the community. This right extends to instruction based upon the best available information and standards, drawn from both national and international sources.
2. States shall take effective steps to provide for:
 - (a) clear and systematic labeling of hazardous substances;



(b) appropriate education of the community, including children, on hazardous products and processes;

(c) training of police, medical professionals and other service providers on hazardous products and processes.

Article 13:

Right to Community Emergency Preparedness Procedure

1. All persons have the right to an appropriate emergency preparedness procedure. Such procedure shall include warning systems for impending dangers and systems for immediate relief efforts.
2. All states shall take steps to provide communities with adequate emergency services, including the provision of police, fire fighting, medical and paramedical facilities and disaster management services,

Article 14:

Right to Enforcement of Environmental Laws

1. All persons have the right to have their local environment adequately and frequently inspected by a trained environmental inspector who will rigorously enforce the law and take punitive legal action when serious breaches have taken place.
2. All persons have the right to environmental management legislation in compliance with the precautionary principle, so that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason to postpone cost-effective measures to prevent hazards and environmental degradation.

Article 15:

Rights of Indigenous Peoples

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to protect their habitat, economy, society and culture from industrial hazards and environmentally destructive practices by economic enterprises.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to control over their land and to resource management of their land, which includes the right to assess potential environmental impacts and the right to refuse to allow environmentally destructive or hazardous industries to be set up on their land.

Part III

Rights of Workers

Article 16:

Specific Rights of Workers

In addition to their rights as members of the community, workers have specific rights applicable to their working environments.

Article 17:

Right to Working Environment Free from Hazards

1. All workers, both waged and unwaged, have the right to a working environment free from any existing or potential hazard arising directly or indirectly from the activities of any economic enterprise in particular from manufacturing or other industrial processes.
2. Any worker has the right to raise bona fide complaints to the employer or any outside parties regarding conditions or practices in the working environment that he or she believes are harmful or hazardous without fear of retaliatory action or other discriminatory action by the employer.
3. Any individual working in an environment from which it is impossible to eliminate any hazard, shall have the right to have provided, fitted free of charge and maintained in fully effective order, protective safety devices, including personal protective equipment necessary to eliminate any such hazard as far as is possible. Employers may not refuse to provide the most effective equipment available on the grounds of cost or inconvenience.
4. All workers have the right to safe systems of work. All employers have the duty to devise, provide, maintain and regularly update safe systems of work based on the best available information at all times.
5. No worker shall be subjected to exposure to a chemical, product or process when a less hazardous one could be substituted.
6. Governments and employers are responsible for ensuring hazard-free working environments. The inaction by either employer or government shall not be an adequate excuse for a derogation of duty by the other.

Article 18:

Right to Health and Safety Information

1. All workers have the right to be given reasonable notice of any proposed changes to their working environments which may pose a threat to worker health and safety.

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2. All workers have the right to be informed in their own language, and in a manner they are able to comprehend, of any known health hazard associated with any substance, material or process with which they come into contact during the course of their employment.
3. All workers have the right to be informed of the safety record of the work environment in which they are employed, including the number and type of accidents that have occurred, the extent of the injuries resulting therefrom and any known long-term adverse health risks that result from the substances, materials and processes used by the employer. Workers have the right to be regularly informed of the safety records of any economic enterprise affiliated by common ownership to the economic enterprise in which they work, and which uses any similar substance, material or process to that used in their work environment.
4. All workers employed in hazardous work environments have the right to be examined by an independent medical expert provided by the employer at the commencement of employment, and thereafter at periodic intervals defined on the basis of the most conservative estimate of potential risks, but in any case not exceeding one year and to be furnished with the resulting medical information.

Article 19:

Right to Worker Participation

1. All workers have the right to participate effectively in management decision-making affecting health and safety.
2. All workers have the right to elect safety representatives. Such representatives have the right to participate in joint committees, composed of worker and management representatives in equal number, which meet regularly to address health and safety matters.
3. All workers have the right to participate in the design and execution of ongoing health and safety studies in their working environments to determine the nature of any risks to health and safety.
4. All workers have the right to establish and associate with community hazards centres and information networks. Governments and employers have a responsibility to support such organisations and programmes.

Article 20:

Right to Health and Safety Monitoring

1. All workers have the right to a work environment that is regularly and effectively monitored for possible harmful effects to the health and safety of the workers employed therein.
2. Notwithstanding the duty of employers to monitor working environments, the right of workers to seek independent or worker-based monitoring shall not be infringed. This right includes the right to regular monitoring for possible adverse, long-term effects which may result from contact with the substances, materials or processes used in the working environment.

3. Any worker who bona fide believes that his or her health and safety is being or will be endangered by any substance, material or process used in the work environment has the right to an immediate and thorough investigation, to be carried out by the employer, an independent agency or by other means, at no cost to the worker.

Article 21:

Right to Instruction and Practical Training

1. All workers in contact with hazardous or potentially hazardous substances, materials or processes have the right to ongoing instruction and practical training regarding management of the hazard. The right to instruction and practical training based on the best available information, drawn from both national and international sources, is affirmed.
2. All workers and supervisors have the right to know and be fully instructed about the proper use and handling of any hazardous materials, the proper execution of any processes, the precautions necessary to protect health, safety and the living environment, and any procedures which should be followed in the event of an emergency.

Article 22:

Right to Workplace Emergency Preparedness Procedure

1. All workers have the right to an emergency preparedness procedure appropriate for the conditions or practices in their work environment which shall include warning systems for impending dangers and systems for immediate relief efforts, with full scale emergency preparedness rehearsals and desk top exercises to be held frequently.
2. Emergency preparedness procedures shall take account of the particular needs of individual workers, including those with visual, hearing or mobility impairments.
3. All workers have the right to adequate emergency services, including police, fire fighting, medical and paramedical facilities and disaster management.

Article 23:

Right to Enforcement of Health and Safety Laws

1. All workers have the right to have their work environments adequately and frequently inspected by a trained health and safety inspector who will rigorously enforce the law and take punitive legal action when serious breaches have occurred.
2. All workers have the right to adequate planning control legislation in compliance with the precautionary principle, so that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason to postpone cost-effective measures to prevent hazards and environmental degradation.



Part IV

Common Rights to Relief

Article 24: Right to Relief and Compensation

1. All persons injured or otherwise detrimentally affected by any hazardous economic activity have the right to swift comprehensive and effective relief. This right applies to all persons affected by hazards or potential hazards including persons not yet born at the time of injury or exposure, and those injured, bereaved or economically and socially disadvantaged, whether affected directly or indirectly.
2. This right includes the right to fair and adequate monetary compensation, paid to cover all costs associated with hazardous or potentially hazardous activities, including the costs of:
 - (a) drugs, tests, therapies, hospitalisation and other medical treatments;
 - (b) travel and other incidental costs;
 - (c) lost wages, bridging loans and other pecuniary loss;
 - (d) redundancy and unemployment in the case of plant shutdown;
 - (e) additional unwaged work including health care, born by family and community;
 - (f) any purchase, measure or lost opportunity caused directly or indirectly by hazardous processes or products;
 - (g) environmental rehabilitation.
3. All persons affected by hazards have the right to effective and innovative policies to reduce, abate or compensate for hazardous activities. To achieve the realization of this right, the steps taken by states and businesses shall include:
 - (a) plant shutdown;
 - (b) pollution abatements or cessation;
 - (c) guarantee by liable defendants to keep assets unencumbered;
 - (d) forced liquidation of the assets of a corporation whose liability is equal to or greater than its measurable assets;
 - (e) placement of corporate assets in annuity funds controlled by the persons affected or their representatives for the interests of persons affected;
 - (f) fair and adequate compensation for the costs of the medical monitoring of symptoms;
 - (g) other remedies that may be deemed to be necessary for the benefits of persons affected.
4. Funds shall be established adequately to satisfy the claims for the persons affected and of those affected in future.

Article 25: Right to Immediate Interim Relief

1. All persons adversely affected by any hazardous economic activity have the right to immediate and adequate interim relief to alleviate their injuries and suffering during the time that liability and compensatory damages are being determined. States shall ensure that all hazardous or potentially hazardous enterprises provide financial resources, through insurance or other means, adequate to cover potential interim relief costs.
2. Where an economic enterprise fails to provide interim relief, it shall be the duty of the state to do so. Interim relief so provided will not be set-off against any final compensation allowed by the court.

Article 26: Right to Medical Information

All persons immediately or subsequently affected by hazardous activities, including persons unborn at the time of the exposure to hazard, have the right to obtain relevant documents pertaining to injuries, including medical records, test results and other information.

This right may be exercised at the earliest opportunity and may not be made subject to delay or non-compliance by either government or industry. Such disclosure shall not be made in a manner so as to prejudice the affected person's right of access to any service, insurance, employment or any social or welfare opportunities.

Article 27: Right to Professional Services

1. All persons adversely affected by hazardous activity have the right of access to effective professional services, including the services of lawyers, journalists, scientific experts and medical professionals.
2. Where questions of a scientific or medical nature are in dispute, all affected persons, or their representatives, have the right to genuinely independent advice, free from fear or favour. The right to seek independent or multiple advice is affirmed.
3. Professionals and experts shall refrain from:
 - (a) giving advice on the basis of inadequate information or expertise;
 - (b) obstructing the efforts of workers and communities to seek information, conduct research or gather data through lay epidemiology or other means;
 - (c) acting in concert against the interests of workers and communities.
4. All professionals having control of any information concerning the health of any injured or hazard-affected person shall have a primary duty of care towards the well being of that person. This duty shall at all times take precedence over any allegiance to any third party, including any government, professional organisation or commercial enterprise.



Article 28:

Right to Effective Legal Representation

1. All persons adversely affected by hazardous activities shall have the right to employ Independent legal counsel.
2. All states shall provide free legal representation and legal assistance by an independent legal expert, in any case where the interests of justice so require.
3. In the determination of any suit, the persons affected shall be entitled to consolidate the claims under:
 - (a) the auspices of a workers' or community organisation; or
 - (b) class action laws in which the rights of any persons affected are determined in one action.
4. All persons bringing or attempting to bring legal action have the right to inspect any relevant legal files held by their legal representative.

Article 29:

Right to Choice of Forum

1. All persons adversely affected by hazardous activities have the right to bring law suit in the forum of their choice against alleged wrongdoers, including individuals, governments, corporations or other organisations. No state shall discriminate against such persons on the basis of nationality or domicile.
2. All states shall ensure that in the specific case of any legal claims arising from the effects of hazardous activities, any legal rule otherwise impeding the pursuit of such claims, including legislative measures and judicial doctrines, shall not prevent affected persons from bringing suit for full and effective remedies. In particular, states shall review and remove where necessary, legal restrictions relating to inconvenient forum, statutory limitations, limited liability of parent corporations, enforcement of foreign money judgments and excessive fees for civil suits.

Article 30: Right to Pre-trial Documentation

All persons adversely affected by a hazardous activity and their representatives, have the right to seek and receive relevant documents, records or other information for submission in court or other independent tribunal or forum, for establishing individual, corporate, organisational or governmental liability during litigation.

Article 31: Right to Fair Procedure

All persons adversely affected by hazardous activities shall have the right to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Included in this right is the right to the due process of law, including;

- (a) the right to opt out of class actions;

- (b) the right to a reasonable notice and communication before an out-of-court settlement in a civil suit is reached;
- (c) the right to bring lawsuit notwithstanding the period of limitation set by administrative, legislative or judicial or any other means.

Article 32:

Right to Freedom from Fraud and Delay

All persons adversely by hazardous activities shall have the right to be protected against fraud by corporations, government or other organisations. Also prohibited is intentional delay or obstruction of the legal process, including:

- (a) declaration of bankruptcy;
- (b) abuse of the legal process to prolong adjudication;
- (c) fabrication of evidence.

Article 33:

Right to Enforcement of Judgments or Settlements

All persons adversely affected by hazardous activities and their representatives, shall have the right to enforce any judgment or settlement against the assets of the liable or settling party in any other countries and it shall be the duty of each state to provide under domestic law such comprehensive instruments as assist any of its citizens so affected.

Article 34:

Right to Shift the Burden of Proof

1. Where there is prima facie evidence that death or injury was caused by an industrial hazard, the hazardous economic enterprise has the burden of proving that it was not negligent.
2. No person adversely affected by hazardous activity shall be subjected to excessive documentation requirements or strict standards of proof in establishing that the hazardous activity caused their illness or symptoms. The link between hazards and illness shall be presumed if the affected persons establish
 - (a) they suffer from symptoms commonly associated with any harmful substance, or any component thereof, which contaminated the environment; and
 - (b) either
 - (i) they were present within the geographical area of contamination during the period of contamination; or
 - (ii) they belong to a group of persons commonly identified as secondary victims, including the siblings, partners, children or close associates of the original victims of the hazard.



Article 35:

Right to Corporate or State Criminal Accountability

1. All persons, who have suffered injury or death from industrial hazards, have the right to a full criminal investigation into the conduct of the economic enterprise, any concerned government officials and any other concerned individual or organisation. The investigation shall be both immediate and rigorous and shall include an assessment of whether potential criminal offenses, including homicide or manslaughter, have been committed. Where sufficient evidence exists prosecution shall be pursued promptly and vigorously.
2. Where criminal liability of a company and or individual is proved, such fines and or prison sentencing are to be imposed as to have a punitive, exemplary and deterrent effect.

Article 36:

Right to Secure Extradition

Where a person accused of a criminal offense in connection with hazardous activities resides or is located in a state other than that in which the trial is being or will be conducted, the right to demand and secure the extradition of the accused to the trial state is hereby affirmed.

Part V

Implementation

Article 37:

Corresponding Duties

All persons, individually and in association with others, have a duty to protect the rights set out in this Charter. Employers and government officers are under a strict duty of care in vigilant application of the rights. Special responsibility for the realization of the provisions of this Charter lie with trade unions, community groups and non-governmental organisations.

Article 38:

State Responsibilities

All states shall respect and protect the rights of workers and communities to live free from industrial hazards. Accordingly, they shall adopt legislative, administrative and other measures necessary to implement the rights contained in this Charter.

Article 39:

Non-State Action

The absence of state action to protect and enforce the rights set out in this Charter does not extinguish the duties of employers, trade unions, non-governmental organisations and individuals to protect and assert these rights.

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of (among others) the world's largest cloud- and retail-company AMAZON (USA)



At the G 20 summit in
Hamburg/Germany -
For a world without exploitation
and without oppression!

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Hall of Fame / Hall of Shame

The international ethecon awards

Both International ethecon Awards are given only to persons and not to institutions in order to counteract the anonymisation of decisions which has been increasingly and systematically practised in the realm of social processes. In both the positive and negative ways it is always humans who bear responsibility. Especially when it comes to negative developments, the responsible love to hide behind the facade of some institution, to blame (alleged) "practical constraints" and "(unavoidable) inherent necessities" for (forcing) their decision.

Both International ethecon Awards have been assigned since 2006. Each year, in spring, an international call is sent out to up to 10,000 organisations and people all over the globe, in which ethecon - foundation for ethics and economy - asks for submission of proposals for the recipients of the two awards. From all the proposals received the prize-winners are then determined in a well-defined procedure.

ethecon's international Blue Planet Award is presented within (the framework of) a festive celebration and handed over to the award winner, who is invited and usually (if possible) present in person or takes part in the ceremony.

ethecon's international Dead Planet Award is accorded in the same ceremonial act, but handed over at a later point in time. For this purpose, shareholders' meetings, corporate headquarters or the residences of those vilified are paid a visit; always accompanied by public protests by international social movements and wide-ranging media work. It is quite symptomatic that until now not a single one of those vilified by the International ethecon Dead Planet Award has accepted the prize in person and publicly faced the critique.

International ethecon Blue Planet Award

Hall of Fame

2020

Phyllis Omidio (environmentalist and human rights activist, Kenya)

2019

Rachna Dhingra (environmentalist and human rights activist, India)

2018

Mary Ann Wright (human rights and peace activist/ USA)

2017

Hanna Poddig (environmentalist and peace activist / Germany)

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2016

Huberto Juárez Núñez (activist of the trade union and workers movement / Mexico)

2014/2015

Tomo Križnar (human rights and peace activist / Slovenia)

2013

Esther Bejarano (survivor of the fascist extermination camp Auschwitz, musician anti-fascist and peace activist / Germany)

2012

Jean Ziegler (anti-globalisation activist / Switzerland)

2011

Angela Davis (civil and human rights activist / USA)

2010

Elias Bierdel (refugee- and human rights activist / Austria)

2009

Uri Avnery (peace and human rights activist / Israel)

2008

José Abreu (engineer / Venezuela) and Hugo Chavez (revolutionary / Venezuela) – under the name of "El Sistema" they set up a worldwide unique and widely publicized program against poverty, drugs, social negligence and crime that guarantees every child in Venezuela the right to learn to play a musical instrument

2007

Vandana Shiva (peace and environmental activist / India)

2006

Diane Wilson (environmental and peace activist / USA)

International ethecon Dead Planet Award
Hall of Shame
2020

Jeff Bezos (Major Shareholder, CEO and founder of the Cloud- and retail-company AMAZON (USA))

2019

Wesley Mendonça Batista and Joesley Mendonça Batista (Major Shareholders) as well as José Batista Sobrinho (CEO and founder) of the Meatpacker JBS (Brazil)

2018

Herbert Diess (Chairman of the Administrative Board and CEO), Hans Dieter Pötsch (Chairman of the

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Supervisory board) as well as the major shareholders Wolfgang Porsche (PORSCHE HOLDING SE) and Stephan Weil (prime minister of lower saxony) of the world's largest carmaker VOLKSWAGEN (Germany)

2017

Armin Papperger (Chairman of the Administrative Board and CEO), Ulrich Grillo (Chairman of the Supervisory Board) as well as the major shareholders Larry Fink (BLACKROCK) and Paul Manduca of arms manufacturer RHEINMETALL (Germany)

2016

Muhtar Kent (Chairman of the Board and CEO), James Quincy (President and COO) as well as Warren Buffett and Herbert A. Allen (major shareholders) of the beverage corporation COCA COLA (USA)

2014/2015

Andrew N. Liveris (CEO) and James M. Ringler (member of board) as well as the major shareholders of the chemical group DOW CHEMICAL (USA)

2013

Anshu Jain and Jürgen Fitschen (CEOs) as well as the major shareholders of the finance company DEUTSCHE BANK (Germany)

2012

Ivan Glasenberg (CEO), Simon Murray (Chairman), Tony Hayward (Senior Independent Non-Executive Director; Environment, Health and Safety Committee) and major shareholders of the commodity trading company DEUTSCHE BANK (Germany)

2011

Tsunehisa Katsumata (chairman), Masataka Shimizu (former president), Toshio Nishizawa (president) and other accountable executives and major shareholders of the energy company TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company / Japan)

2010

Tony Hayward (CEO), Bob Dudley (CEO-designate), Carl-Henric Svanberg (chairman of the board) and major shareholders of the oil- and energy company BP (Great Britain)

2009

Owner family Wang and Lee Chih-tsuen (CEO) of the chemical, genetic engineering and electronics company FORMOSA PLASTICS GROUP (Taiwan)

2008

Erik Prince (owner) , Gary Jackson (president) and Chris Bertelli (spokesman) and other accountable

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executives of the service provider for the military BLACKWATER (for reasons of public reputation re-named to Xe Services LLC) / (USA)⁹⁴

2007

Peter Brabeck-Letmathe (CEO) and Liliane Bettencourt (major shareholder) and other responsible managers and major shareholders of the food and GE-company NESTLÉ (Switzerland)

2006

Shareholders and the management of the agriculture, genetic engineering company and producer of chemical warfare agents MONSANTO (USA)

⁹⁴ After negative headlines in 2008 the company changed its name to XE. Since then, it has changed its name several times.

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Act now!

The ethecon Foundation

Our blue planet is in serious danger. This is no longer denied, not even by politics and science.

But the underlying cause continues to be ignored: the greed for profit connected with the worldwide dominant economic system.

This profit-based system is responsible for injustice, exploitation and ecological destruction. The lust for profit is becoming more and more the sole motivational force in our society and in our management of the environment. The devastating consequences of this development may no longer be overlooked: massive unemployment, the breakdown of the health-, education- and social security systems, destitution, poverty and homelessness, egoism, crime and ruthlessness, weapons production and war, climate change and the collapse of ecological systems.

A different world, a just world, may only be achieved through the development and the implementation of ecologically-sound and humane economic and social models not based on profit maximization. To reach this goal, we must start at the roots, that is, within the competing interests of ethics and economics. We must stand up against those who profit from the globalization process and social decay. For the good of ecology and society, the primacy of ethical principles over economics must be asserted. The rescue of our planet will only be possible when the supremacy of the profit principle is replaced by an economic system based on ethical principles.

The transformation of our society in the direction of a just and fair social system with an intact environment and the overcoming of the profit principle cannot be achieved overnight. This requires perseverance and endurance. In order to achieve this necessary change, broad social movements must be established and fragmented forces united. However, good ideas and voluntary commitment alone are not enough. They must be backed by sufficient financial means.

This is where "ethecon - Foundation Ethics & Economics" comes in. Whereas other groups and organizations – in a historical context – are active for a short time only, ethecon follows the insight, that successful work for the implementation of ethical principles in the interest of ecology and society must be designed to operate on a long-term basis, continuing past the current generation. The legal form as a foundation was deliberately chosen in order to ensure the necessary on-going financial basis for the securing and defence of the principle of solidarity as opposed to the principle of profit.

In order to bequeath future generations with a strong foundation, ethecon needs further endowment contributions, donations and sustaining members. Founded in 2004, the foundation was able to in-



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crease its initial capital of 85,000 Euros fourfold through the aid of subsequent endowment contributions (the latest figures may be found in the foundation's brochure "For a World without Exploitation and Oppression" or on <http://www.ethecon.org>).

ethecon seeks people who, in light of the current devastating ecological and social developments, wish to use their financial resources in a responsible way. Many people want not only to talk about a just world, but to find ways to realize it, always with the goal of a sound environment, peace and humane working conditions for coming generations.

Act now

Here is where you can help. If you agree that the prevailing profit-defined conditions must be opposed on a long-range basis, beyond the current generation, then please support ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economy. If an endowment contribution (from 5.000 Euros) is not possible, your donation or, even better, your sustaining membership (from 60 Euros per year) would be greatly appreciated. It is now possible to make an endowment contribution over a longer period of time, with monthly payments starting at 20 Euros.

All contributions are tax-deductible (national laws may differ on this point). In Germany, the tax-exemption limit is much higher than for regular donations and also more advantageous than for donations to political parties.

Please act now! ethecon needs you, as an endowment contributor, donor or sustaining member.

You may reach ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy on the internet at www.ethecon.org or here:

Axel Köhler-Schnura (Board of directors)

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