"Energy Utopia or Dystopia? A Historical Perspective on Nuclear Energy"


Horace Herring reveals that there are more than just environmental and health issues at play where the reception of nuclear energy is concerned. He argues that a deep-rooted ambivalence to new technologies in general along with the complex social and economic roots of opposition to nuclear energy all have to be taken into account. This provides the basis for a nuanced treatment of scientific and public perceptions of nuclear energy drawing on a diverse range of sources. It is shown that utopian and dystopian aspects of nuclear technologies have often been simultaneously close at hand and not only during the moment in which the promise of a panacea to deal with global warming was all but shattered by sudden disaster revealing hidden risks.

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Music credit: “Loveless” by Caster Seven

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