

Peninsula Europe: The Force Majeure

The research appears to be right
And in the next hundred years or so
drought will move across Europe
from Portugal, across Spain and France
even the edge of Germany
and of 2.3 million square kilometers of European farmland
half becomes unproductive
imagine the waters rise as predicted
at about 5 meters
an extreme but nonetheless possible prediction
and 95,000 sq kilometers of land disappear
so 23 million people will have to move upwards
as the world ocean reshapes the Peninsula.
And food, land and monies become scarce

How will the twenty republics
six kingdoms and one duchy
that presently are the European Union
surrender enough autonomy
surrender closely held powers
to create collectively
the new form of governance
that is able to meet a force majeure of this magnitude.

Again, imagine the predictions are right
and temperatures continue to rise at $.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ per decade
and glacial melt continues accelerating
while river flow that depends on glacial melt
becomes intermittent
flooding increases from sudden rains
The half-million sq km
of mostly monocultural high ground forest
succumbs in the main
to drought and disease.

Imagine the European Union
surrendering power and autonomy
and collectively agreeing to the creation
of a trans-regional watershed authority
empowered to act for the forest and rivers
from Portugal
across the Pyrenees, the Central Massif
the various Alps to the Carpathians
and charged with

enacting the paleobotanical
and trans-latitudinal research
that would draw from prehistory
the very different forest types
that could live and evolve
in the new climate conditions
that are the leading edge of this force majeure.

Understanding the work of the forests
Is to create the sponge phenomena in the earth
is to hold and release slowly the waters
that were once the work of the now disappearing glaciers.

A work of over 100 years
the rising of waters, the warming of lands