The End of the Megamachine provides a uniquely comprehensive picture of the roots of the destructive forces that are threatening the future of humankind today. Spanning 5000 years of history, the book shows how a system based on militarized states, endless capital accumulation and ideological power has been steering both ecosystems and societies to the brink of collapse. With the growing instability of the Megamachine in the 21st century, new dangers open up as well as new possibilities for systemic change, to which everyone can contribute. The book includes an afterword about pandemics, the destruction of the biosphere and the limits to economic expansion. A French version will be published by Le Seuil in October 2020.

Further endorsements and reviews

“A fascinating new take on the parts of human history that got us where we are today.” —BILL MCKIBBEN, founder of 350.org

“This book, a sensation in Germany when it was first published, challenges us to seek a new path for our and the planet’s survival.” —MAUDE BARLOW, Chairperson of the Council of the Canadians

“A brilliant book, that couldn’t be more topical. We owe gratitude, solidarity and a lot of admiration to the author.” —JEAN ZIEGLER, Advisory Committee to the UN Human Rights Council

“You can’t be a serious activist committed to creating a new world if you haven’t read this.” —FIROZE MANJI, Carleton University, founder of Pambazuka News

“A fascinating book, delightful to read in spite of the grim topic. This is an excellent reflection on the terror/hope that we are living.” —JOHN HOLLOWAY, Autonomous University of Puebla, Mexico

“An extremely good read!” —The German daily “Taz. Die Tageszeitung”


Fabian Scheidler is an award-winning writer based in Berlin, Germany. In 2009 he co-founded the independent newscast Kontext TV. Other books include: Chaos. Das neue Zeitalter der Revolutionen (“Chaos. The New Age of Revolutions”, 2017) and, as an editor, Der Kampf um globale Gerechtigkeit („The Struggle for Global Justice“, 2019), a collection of interviews featuring Immanuel Wallerstein, Noam Chomsky, Vandana Shiva, George Monbiot, Jeremy Scahill, Amy Goodman and many others. Fabian Scheidler has been on extensive lecture tours across Europe. He also writes for several journals, including the German daily “Taz. Die Tageszeitung”, “Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik” (edited by Jürgen Habermas, Saskia Sassen et al.) and ZNet. As a playwright and dramaturge, he worked for the renowned Grips Theater in Berlin for several years.