

Václav Klaus, Presentation of the book *Blue Planet in Green Shackles*, National Press Club, Washington D.C., 27. May, 2008

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Notes for the Washington, D.C. Presentation of the Book *Blue Planet in Green Shackles*
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It is a great pleasure to be here. Let me translation and publication of my book **Blue Planet in Green Shackles** by Fred Smith and his Competitive Enterprise Institute presentation of it in this very prestigious place. I am really excited after the Czech, German and Dutch editions the English version of my book.

The authors often claim that their books speak for themselves. I cautiously agree and therefore, speak not about the book itself but about my motivations to write it.

To make my position and my message clear, I should say that my today's thinking is substantially influenced by the fact that I spent most of my life under a communist regime which ignored and brutally violated human freedom not only the people but also the nature. To command wind and rain is one of the slogans I remember since my childhood. This experience taught me that dealing with the environment are indivisible. The fragility and vulnerability of free society and which may endanger it.

I do not, however, live in the past and do not see the future. **from the old and old-fashioned communist idiom** will be undoubtedly different, but its substance will be very similar. There will be a great attractive, to a great extent pathetic and at first sight quasi-noble idea that an individual in the name of something above him, (of something supplemented by enormous self-confidence on the side of predecessors, they will be certain that they have the right to make their idea reality. **In the past it was in the name of the masses (the Proletariat), this time in the name of the Planet.** Structurally, it is very similar.

I see the current danger in environmentalism and especially in its strongest version, climate alarmism. Feeling very strongly about it. My book together, originally in Czech driving force behind my active involvement in the current Climate Change Debate, my being the only head of state who in September 2007 at the UN in New York City openly and explicitly challenged the undergoing global warming hysteria.

My central concern is in a condensed form **What is Endangered: Climate or Freedom?** My answer is: **it is also our prosperity**.

The book was written by an economist who happens to deny my basic paradigm, which is the **economic way of thinking**, because I, because I have an advantage, not a disadvantage. By stressing that, I want to have an advantage, not a disadvantage.

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