Reading Questions “Public and Paid For”, in Naomi Klein (2014) This Changes Everything

What have German voters being doing in hundreds of cities and towns regarding private electric utilities?

Describe the three “persuasive arguments” for doing this, as summarized by Klein.

What is “Energiewende”?

What percentage of Germany’s electricity in 2013 came from renewables? In 2000?

What was the share of US electricity from renewables in 2013?

In Berlin, 2013, what did voters vote for?

What US city is trying to do a similar thing, as reviewed by Klein? What was the “sole”, purpose of this, according to a local engineer?

What “core ideological pillar” of the free market era was being challenged?

“There is a clear and compelling relationship between public ownership and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dirty energy”. (p. 99)

Generalize how, unsurprisingly, private utilities feel about the changes, and how they act.

What are two settings in which private utilities will voluntarily embrace renewables.

What was the basic finding of the 2013 University of Greenwich team paper?

What basic argument did Mark Delucchi’s paper and plan make?

What two biggest obstacles stand in the way of such large transformations, according to Mark Jacobson?

Where did “Katrina 2.0” happen? What was the largest unmet need focused on by Klein?

From an energy systems perspective, what danger was revealed by the storm? (what kind of energy system is particularly vulnerable?)

Why were the floods of the 2013-14 UK winter particularly awkward for the coalition government led by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ prime minister David Cameroon?

Summarize the quote from climate scientist Michael Mann.

While the trend of disasters from 1970s to the 2000s was (up or down), the trend in government investments in health and reliance in the public sphere has gone (up or down). (pp 107-8)

Describe the vicious cycle identified by Klein.

What sorts of public works projects does Klein mention to be instrumental in preventing and mitigating the worst effects of climate change?

How should such projects be funded, and why this way and not others?

Who primarily bears the costs of fossil fuel combustion at present, according to Klein?

Which oil companies have made some statements about their commitments to the transition to renewables? To what extent do their actions back up there rhetoric?

What are recent (last decade or so) trends in spending on renewable, of the fossil fuel giants? (up or down)

What would it take for fossil fuel companies to decide to help pay for the shift to renewable energy? Explain. (p. 112)

*Check back later for more questions!*