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## Europe Goes Dark

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If you prevent countries from using the most reliable fuels for making the electricity that lights the lights, elevates the elevators, and powers all other powered things, what would be the likely consequence?

Not, I think, to make the power grids *more* reliable.

The power companies say they [don't know](#) why almost all the power went out recently in Spain and Portugal and in other parts of Europe.

No indication so far of cyberattack or other sabotage.

Red Electrica, Spain's state-run electricity network, points to a "very strong oscillation" in the network causing the Spanish system to disconnect from the

European system. Portugal's grid operator says that the oscillations had to do with extreme temperature variations.

Spain's electrical network now relies almost entirely on "renewable" sources of energy, "green" energy, anything but fossil fuels. (Actually, no energy is renewable; in usable form it's gone the instant you use it. And it all comes from nature, including gas and oil.)

On April 16, Red Electra, eager to "curb the climate crisis" (weather), reported meeting all electrical demand using "renewable" sources of energy, mostly solar (60 percent).

Some have pointed out that solar and wind power [don't provide](#) the inertia generated by the massive turbines of "traditional generators, like coal and hydroelectric plants or gas turbines." And so the power grid becomes much more vulnerable to disruptions and oscillations, no matter the cause.

My theory is that the more ways you hobble yourself, the more likely you are to become hobbled.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.