

FROM THE SERIES: LANDSCAPES AND BODIES

KÖTTER/ISRAEL/LIMBERG

GOLD & COAL

RADIO VERSION COMPOSED AND PRODUCED BY DANIEL KÖTTER AND MARCIN LENARCZYK

LIBRETTO RADIO VERSION

[GOLD] Papua Rainforest



[1'-12']

Location: rainforest between Nemangkawi peak (4884m, Indonesian name: Puncak Jaya, colonial name: Carstensz Pyramide) and Arafura Sea, Province Papua, Indonesia

Voice: Mama Yosepha Alomang, member of the indigenous population of Amungme, Activist and Resistance Fighter in Papua, 2019

I was brought from the mountains to Timika in 1973. Timika belongs to Freeport.
Freeport had gathered influential people that intimidated us. The cooperation between Freeport and Indonesia had started 1966.
Back then, I had no clue that all those soldiers were Indonesians.
We saw their camps in the forest. That is how they started building up Timika.
Our population was afraid of Indonesia, so they fled into the jungle.
They fled and were hiding in the jungle.
I am still alive and I can testify how hard our struggle was.

We fled to the “river of refugees”, where we built our new huts. We settled there but then the soldiers came, armed to the teeth.

In the morning we were picked up at the river by them. They forced us to resettle, so we would live close to their camps.
They told us to live there, as if we were prisoners.

They came with a flag which they flew. The flag was red and white. That is not our flag, it is the flag of Indonesia! Our children were shocked.
Myself, I experienced it how we were brought to Timika where we have to lead this hard life ever since.

Mulkinom is extinct, Wakinom is extinct,
Sikinom is extinct, Wakinogom is extinct
Everything is extinct.
Those places were renamed.
But I don't know the new names.

[GOLD] Kuala Kencana, Papua, Indonesia



Location: Kuala Kencana, American New Town, built for employees of PT Freeport Indonesia, Timika, Provacez Papua, Indonesia

Voice: George H. Mealey, former director Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold, 1996

I can remember quite clearly the first time I heard of Ertzberg mining district in Papua, Indonesia. The year was 1968 but I had no way then knowing that the world of copper would soon turn upside down.

In retrospect, I count it a blessing that I made the trip. In the shadow of abrupt limestone ridges rising more than a thousand meters above the tropical vegetation of southwest New Guinea lies an ore deposit with a future sales of \$77 billion.

As each day passed, my interest in the Freeport operation grew. The potential here indeed was tremendous. I saw a capacity for great growth - in the mine operation, in the ore reserves, and in my own responsibilities as well.

Freeport became the custodian of the third largest copper reserves and the single largest gold reserves of any mine in the world. And we are perhaps the lowest cost operator in the world. Where once there were indigenous people living in poverty, now there are the same people, neatly

clothed and living in solid houses they built themselves, either employed by our company or earning wages in one of the many cottage industries that have sprung up around Timika.

When we started to build Kuala Kencana, we had visions of a model Indonesian community, sandwiched organically into the natural rain forest. Kuala is a river mouth, estuary, or confluence; kencana is a literary word for „Gold“. It was designed to be an Indonesian town, not an American town. Our New Town would be an Indonesian town, through and through. We had invited President Suharto to Irian Jaya to christen our new town, and to our delight, he accepted. On December 10, 1995 the president of Indonesia dubbed our New Town „Kuala Kencana“.

[COAL] Bergbautechnikpark, near Leipzig, Germany



[12'-22']

Location: Bergbau Technik Park, open air museum,
Leipziger Neuseenland, Germany

Voice: Wolf Dietrich Chmielecki, former miner,
today member of BergbauTechnikPark e. V. Leipziger
Neuseenland, 2019

You see the sun now. You wouldn't see it at the time.
There used to be an incredible haze in the southern part
of Leipzig.
Dirt, stink without end. It was very blatant during autumn.
The B95 road direction Borna was secured at the
roadside You see the sun now. You wouldn't see it at the
time.
There used to be an incredible haze in the southern part
of Leipzig.
Dirt, stink without end. It was very blatant during autumn.
The B95 road direction Borna was secured at the
roadside with torches, so that the drivers could see
where the road ends at all. Such a mess it was.
I used to have the front of my company car decorated
with hammers and mallets, so the miner's emblem. I

still have that thing. But I would not dare to put that on
the car, because otherwise they'd break my windshield.
"This is a miner, that must go!" That's the hysteria right
now. Everything that has to do with mining is badly talked
about.

[COAL] Opencast mine Profen-Döbris, near Leipzig, Germany



Location: Lignite-opencast mine Profen-Döbris,
Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany

Voice: Prof. Dr. Andreas Berkner, Regionaler
Planungsverband LeipzigWest Sachsen, 2019

During the GDR era, there was no debate as to whether or not something had to be.
In terms of energy policy, the former GDR had only one alternative to brown coal, which was nuclear energy. It was to be substantially expanded, here too in the Leipzig region. Put the other way around: Without brown coal, the lights would have gone out in many places. That is why brown coal had the reputation to be indispensable.

Through mining we have dug up 500 square km of land in Central Germany. We produced nearly 9 billion tons of brown coal. So mining had a geological dimension. There has been nothing in the last 250 million years that shaped and changed the space in a similar way. We had to deal with the basic shapes of landscapes we could not change that.

Location: Eythra, Saxony, today: Lake Zwenkau,
Leipziger Neuseenland, Germany

Voice: voice from „Erinnerung an eine Landschaft
— für Manuela“, director: Kurt Tetzlaff, DEFASstudio für
Dokumentarfilme, 1983 (license: Progress.Film)

We said goodbye today because we will soon be dredged away. We stay in a ruin.

- Do you know when that will happen?
- Bösdorf, where my sister lives, will disappear in 1981. And Eythra then in 1982 or 1983. Everything around here will disappear. Also some of those nice houses. Have a look! That hurts. Even if you get a new apartment. This is not the same as having your own house. What you have put into such a house, you'll never get back.
- But it has to be!
- Yes, the coal is needed. My son is a crane operator in mining. He says: ‚Mother, we need the coal and it needs to be extracted. You can't do anything, mother. If need be, it has to be.‘ But until then I will no longer be alive. It hurts. If you got used to an old house. If you have to move, go somewhere else. You should not transplant an older tree. Do you understand me? You understand me, right?

[COAL] Lake Zwenkau, near Leipzig, Germany



Location: Lake Zwenkau See, former opencast mine Zwenkau, Leipziger Neuseenland, Germany

Voice: Prof. Dr. Andreas Berkner, Regionaler Planungsverband LeipzigWest Sachsen, 2019

One question that I am always asked is: 'Do they all have to become lakes?' Theoretically not. But it is a fact that when you mine brown coal, you first of all have a so-called mass deficit. The brown coal that was mined is simply gone. A quarter or a third of the opencast mine areas here are just a hole. That's the missing coal. We could theoretically mine the Erzgebirge and fill the holes with it. That's nonsense, of course. The holes are a fact.

Location: Waterfront Lake Zwenkau, Leipziger Neuseenland, Germany

Voice: Herbert Ehme, Honorary Mayor of Zwenkau, 2019

The open cast mine has changed the landscape the last 75 years, but we use all our strength to create a beautiful and livable nature for the coming generations. Much has been created in the last 20 years. Anyone who wants to see them will see them, those „prospering landscapes“. But we are only at the beginning of a huge transformation, to be created by humans. There's a lot to do. The plans are already made.
Good luck!

[**GOLD**] Mount Nemangkawi, Freeport Opencast mine, Papua, Indonesia



[22'-32']

amongst their groups. The locals knew about my verdict. That's why they did not do panning.

Location: Nemangkawi (4884m), Province Papua, Indonesia

Voice: Mama Yosepha Alomang, member of the indigenous population of Amungme, Activist and Resistance Fighter in Papua, 2019

Nemangkawi is the white mother. That is how the mountain is called. Nemangkawi.
Nemangkawi was not only known in Indonesia or Papua, even the Dutch knew about it.
That's why they came here. The Dutch took it and then Indonesia sold it to the USA.
If you control Nemangkawi, you control all of Papua.

The water from the mountains is like our mother's milk. But the mountains are gone. They are destroyed. The mother is crying, the tears are running. That's why there is flood. We don't think of gold. It is part of the mountain. The gold is like our bone marrow. It is not the Amungme, who do gold panning. The panners come to Timika from other islands and of Indonesia. They divided the area

Location: Camp of the artisanal Gold diggers in the tailings from Freeport Copper and Gold mine, near Timika, Province Papua, Indonesia

Voice: Mangun and Oles, Gold diggers from Java, since 10 years in Timika, 2019

- Did someone drown this year?

It just happened few days ago. The ghost of that Javanese is still howling.

My brother here found him.

- He drowned at night?

Yeah, he was on night shift at Mile 37. Then he was washed away by the flood. He was found after few days. After 11 days. My brother found him, he was screaming: "there is a body here!" There are many casualties, especially at Jerni river.

- Ah, it is so dangerous over there.

The flood comes suddenly. According to my experience, one should always look up when crossing the river. You always have to be careful. In most cases, people underestimated the flood. They crossed without paying attention. And in the middle of the river the flood catches them.

- Do you fear the ghosts?

No, ghosts aren't a problem, as long as we make money.

There are people here from Makassar, Bugis and

Java. But further down the river you would find people from the Molucca Islands. That's like the sugar and ants. When an area is good for making money, that is where we go! Even though there might be obstacles.

- When you arrived here first, did you get in touch with the locals?

The Meno people come four times a day to collect taxes from us. We are working so hard, but they just come and collect. We are just human beings, you know.

When we lose the patience, well, then we fight back! We defend our work to the marrow. For our wives and children. Why do they come to take it from us? In the beginning I was still smiling at it. But believe me, once I started laughing, I am ready to kill.

[GOLD] Gold Panner's camp, tailings, Papua, Indonesia



Location: Tembagapura, Mining Town near the Freeport-Line, Province Papua, Indonesia

Voice: Mama Yosepha Alomang, member of the indigenous population of Amungme, Activist and Resistance Fighter in Papua, 2019

I brought my child to the hospital in Tembagapura. They asked where it was born. I told the doctor, I am from Timika. The doctor said: Mama, the river here belongs to the mine. It is poisonous. That is how I learned about it, that you shouldn't drink the water from that river. We always could drink the water from that river. The doctor said: the guys up there are using chemicals nowadays. The chemical river will kill everyone. The doctor only told me when my daughter was already sick. My child was born in Timika. At the age of 14 she was dead! To date 2000 people died. Two thousand since the 1990s. That is the number!

[32'-40']

Location: Hohenmölsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, compensation settlement for people from former Großgrimma, today opencast mine Profen-Döbris, Germany

Voice: Dietmar Martin, former inhabitant of Großgrimma, today inhabitant of Hohenmölsen, 2019

My older son, Mark, is a worker in the foundry's steel mill, three shifts, Monday through Friday around the clock. He earns 1800 € net. My little son went „over there“ to Wuppertal 11 years ago to work as an unskilled laborer at the city cleaning. He had learned everything in the GDR, forklift driving and such. He then became a foreman after a few years, finishes Fridays at 1 pm, and he earns double. That's not fair. And they will not come back here. If they have 5000€ a month, a nice apartment, family, children, they will not come back to live here.

I think the resettlement started when they put signs on the houses: “You take our home away from us! You are scoundrels!” But then the coal company, well I suspect

that a few people were „fed“. They were offered more compensation than others. And then those were the first to move out. Those were the ones who had signs hanging outside.

And once that starts rolling, no dice! If 5 or 6 people already moved from your street, the others think they're missing out. And the old woman may have thought that she can do a lot with 100,000 marks and agreed immediately. But that's not enough money to do anything with, that's a fact. We were just naive.

Location: Hohenmölsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, compensation set Pödelwitz, Saxony, near open cast mine Vereinigte Schleenhain, Saxony, Germany

Voice: Jens Hausner, inhabitant of Pödelwitz and Activist, 2019

They bought out this village without even having a legal mining permit. They wanted to examine, within a sociological survey, the future perspectives of this location. If a mining company first produces a vacancy and the buildings are decaying, then this village of course is assigned a negative future in the sociological survey. So now they tell everyone: „Yes, the fact is, actually, the village is empty, there are only a few people living in the place and it already falls apart. So it is anyway better to demolish it. The few remaining people do not count.“ Like this the mining company takes the scenario that it created itself, as a legitimation for demolishing the village.

Location: City port Cape Zwenkau, Leipziger Neuseenland, Germany

Voice: Herbert Ehme, Honorary Mayor of Zwenkau, 2019

In order to acquire everything ourselves, the budget was too limited. So there was no other hope than finding a reputable, financially strong investor. It was like finding a needle in a haystack. But here, too, as in many other projects, coincidence played a not insignificant role. Our offensive, early advertising for the lake, the high level of restructuring and personal relationships eventually led to success.

On January 28, 2009, the inauguration for the construction of the city harbor was held.

As always, it took place before the eyes of many interested citizens. Also the trumpet was not missing on this occasion. With a full heart we blew it out into the world:

“The mining town becomes harbor town.”

[COAL] Pödelwitz and Opencast mine Schleenhain, near Leipzig, Germany



Location: New development area Cape Zwenkau,
Leipziger Neuseenland, Germany

Voice: Monika Groß, inhabitant of Cape Zwenkau, 2019

We have often experienced people from Zwenkau, who couldn't understand how one would build such houses. „They have no saddle roofs and such big windows. They have no curtains, how can one live like that.“ I thought about it. It happens when so much alienation comes in. It's as if suddenly someone is building an extension to your own house. We are happy here that we can live on the lake and we always think: they must be happy, too, because the opencast mine is gone. But at the same time everything seems so strange for them. These houses that are here now. That must alienate them indeed. They all live since long in Zwenkau in completely different houses. They think: „Who are these people? They all have a lot more money.“ It is like the counter narrative to the asylum seeker: „They are poor and take everything from us.“ And now the rich are coming, taking something away from us. We finally got a nice lake, but it is them who build on it.” There you have the prejudice.

Location: East Germany

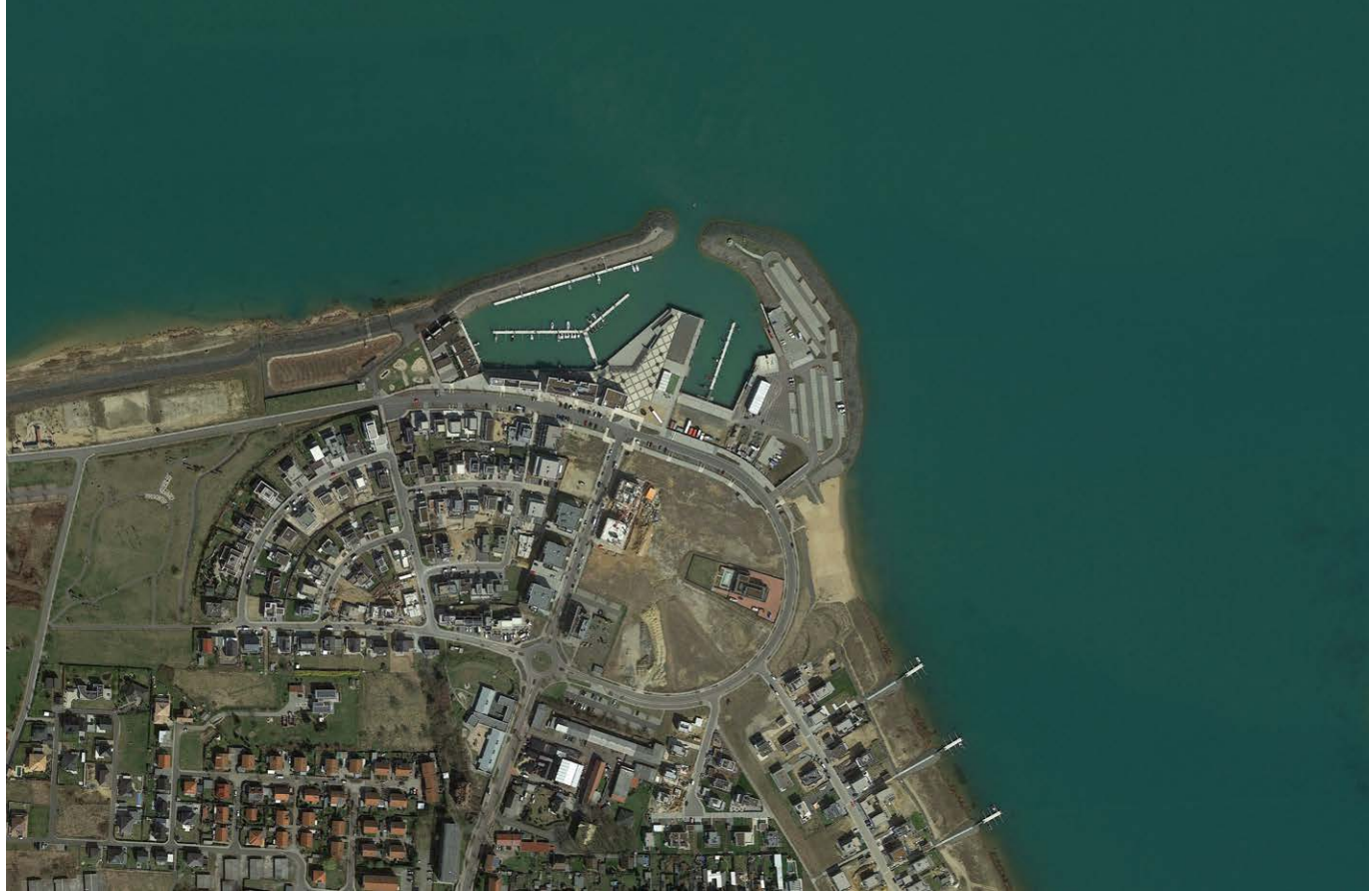
Voice: Ernst Busch, singing: Hanns Eisler/Anna Gmeyner,
Miner's song, 1930

We are digging our graves,
and bury ourselves.
We have to be gravediggers
and corpse in one.

Happily enter the mine,
go away, who does not like it,
many others are waiting,
it's a matter of money, of money.

The time is filling up,
the dead become undead.
But we won't raise in white linen,
black clothed we'll resurrect!

[COAL] Cape Zwenkau, near Leipzig, Germany



Location: Leipzig, Saxony,
German Democratic Republic

Voice: voice from „Leipzig im Herbst“, director: Gerd Kroske, Andreas Voigt, DEFASstudio für Dokumentarfilme, 1989 (license: Progress.Film)

Everyone has assumed that if you do not do something extraordinary to make it clear to the police and the combat groups, and probably the army that was in action, that there can be peace at any price, and really at any price, then socialism is over in the country. And not just in the city but in the whole country.

And I think that's why on the 9th, in the afternoon, we did not ask each other: What do we know, what is prepared and what do we expect? But we have assumed: Expect a confrontation, where the people are rushing and are shot together.

[40'-53']

Location: Amamapare Freeport-Port, Province
Papua, Indonesia

Voice: George H. Mealey, former director
Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold, 1996

As we move into the 21st century, the future looks bright for
PT Freeport Indonesia.

The nature of the metals market produces cyclical prices,
which follow the ups and downs of the world economy.
Because it is such a low cost producer, Freeport Indonesia
will be able to weather the low periods better than other
copper producers, and will be able to maintain a steady
course of planned growth.

The cash generated by our mine sends ripples flowing
outward - first through Irian Jaya, and then through the rest
of Indonesia.

The continuing health of Freeport's Indonesia operations will
provide long term growth opportunities for its employees

and their children.

The diverse group of people living and working in our
mining district will all refer to themselves as natives of Irian
Jaya, although their ancestors will have come from all parts
of Indonesia.

One hundred years from now, the group of people living
around the Freeport Indonesia operations will be well-
educated, maybe even world leaders in the art and science
of the mining industry. Their home will be Kuala Kencana
and its surroundings, including Timika and Tembagapura.

[GOLD] Arafura Sea, Papua, Indonesia



Location: Camp of the artisanal Gold diggers in the tailings from Freeport Copper and Gold mine, near Timika, Province Papua, Indonesia

Voice: Mangun and Oles, Gold diggers from Java, since 10 years in Timika, 2019

- If Freeport closes in the future
what would you do as independent panners?

- Closing?

What do you mean?

- Yes, what would the panners do,
when Freeport closes?

- If they close.

No idea, how Timika would look like.

- There would most probably be war!

- I would not guarantee anything
if the mine closes.

- But what if there is no more gold?

- This will take a while.

The rubble from 2003 isn't not even panned yet.

Only if the rubble from 2003 stops delivering,
the gold panning will be over.

But that will be long.

Location: Karaka Island, opposite the Freeport-Port Facility, near Timika, Province Papua, Indonesia

Voice: inhabitants of Karaka Island village, singing: Pak Titus, Tembapapura, 2019

Look here!

This high and beautiful mountain.

Look at it!

We have such a beautiful mountain.

Our land is growing and is golden!

How beautiful the mountain is shining on us!

They call it Tembapapura

[Copper Temple].

How beautiful the mountain is shining on us!

They call it Tembapapura

[Copper Temple].

Location: clandestine abode of Mama Yosepha Alomang, Papua, Indonesia

Voice: Mama Yosepha Alomang, member of the indigenous population of Amungme, Activist and Resistance Fighter in Papua, 2019

We want to close that mine. This is what our population wants. Despite the war, the mine still exists. Is it wrong to try and save our lives? I don't know.

They ignite the conflicts between the tribes. This is so dangerous!

Every year, every month, every day, even every hour, I asked Freeport to close the mine. No one heard what I asked for.

Look at the water. It was furious. The river was furious, the jungle was furious. The mountain was furious aswell. But the humans did not even notice it.

God has given us a sign, nature has given us a sign, culture gave a sign aswell.

That is how it is in Papua.

Location: University Timika, Region Mimika, Province Papua, Indonesia

Voice: Police-Commander, Timika, October 2019

This meeting was approved by the local government. Now we are worried that people are taking advantage of the situation. We assume that there will be disquieters. We want to prevent the mess. So again, there are now thirteen people we arrested. That's why we urge everyone to go home. It's not possible that they all gather here now. That's why I politely ask you to leave this place. I'll give you two minutes.

The question is, who will take responsibility if you are arrested now?

Nobody. Then later you regret having done that. No one will be released so quickly, so that peace and order can reign in the Mimika region. So again, we give you two minutes to leave this place.

They are all members of the Commission. They are all highly educated, including their parents. We reiterate that you are not allowed to mobilize people. Such a thing is not allowed in Timika. That's how our society works. The others must also remain peaceful. We urge everyone to go home. I repeat again, please leave this place. This place is now encircled. I'm counting to ten, please leave the place. Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two... Arrest them! Do not resist! [shooting and screaming]

[GOLD] Karaka Island, Papua, Indonesia



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- Research-Interview with Jens Hausner, inhabitant of Pödelwitz and Activist
- Research-Interview with Monika Groß, inhabitant of Cape Zwenkau
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(license: Progress.Film)

- „Lied der Bergarbeiter“, Music: Hanns Eisler, Voice: Ernst Busch, Text: Anna Gmeyner
- „Tembagapura Song“ by Komoro musician Pak Titus, Karaka Island
- voice of a Police Commander during student protests in Timika, Papua, Indonesia, recorded by Yonri Revolt, october 2019