

SOLARSTEADING IN MARIELANDIA

Intro

Narrator: The most dismal predictions of the climate catastrophe began to unravel in the 2040's after unpredictable weather coupled with an extreme rise in temperature led to widespread social unrest. The existing structural regime slowly imploded and formerly democratic systems of governance that were founded on slow, instrumental change could not keep up. The rational basis for modernity had ended; the myth of progress becoming untenable as the inescapable reality of our impact on the planet increasingly required collaboration on platforms that had long since disempowered what was once known as society. In the 2050's, a deus ex machina came in the form of scale-able carbon sequestration technology and countries all over the world began to engage in an arms race for reigning in carbon emissions and rapidly scaled up their efforts to combat the forces of nature already at their doorstep. By 2062 the efforts paid off in official global carbon neutrality. What might have seemed like a pipedream to anyone alive in the early 2000's was a reality; no longer was humanity reliant on fossil fuels and outdated modes of production. Many countries began to decouple themselves from the seemingly inescapable religion of permanent growth in the political and economic arena, beginning a new era of degrowth in a post-scarcity world. Moreover, we realized as a species that our primate intelligence and capability was merely a strata within the planet; not a layer above and beyond its grasp. Our best interests were inextricably fused to the planet itself; gaia was becoming self-aware.

Despite humanity's efforts, a large portion of the planet had become virtually uninhabitable around the entire equator; from Africa to Central America. Everywhere from Kisumu to Quito, mass exit was unavoidable. A 3°C rise in temperature by the 2030's had produced over 100 million climate refugees. From the accelerationist perspective, the polemical silver lining of global warming meant that regions that had never been available for permanent human settlement now harbored a mild climate- the most notable region being West Antarctica.

Historically, Antarctica was an unclaimed continent that hosted small groups of international scientists year-round on

fortified micro-settlements operating exclusively for research purposes. Nowadays, nearly 100 million people hailing from all corners of the planet call the bustling urban metropolis of Marielandia, West Antarctica home. Unlike other cities that had undergone hundreds to thousands of years of territorial disputes and culture building, Marielandia was a tabula rasa for an entirely new model of what human civilisation could be. The oldest Marielandia-born citizens are in their forties, meaning that nearly everyone originally came from somewhere else; it is a truly global city wherein the ideologies that defined cultural and political strife in the early 21st century, i.e., nationalism, liberalism, etc., are outdated and obsolete in the Marielandian ecosystem.

Large groups of displaced climate migrants continue to flock to Marielandia to partake in the post-catastrophe worldbuilding. Over the coming weeks, as many as 1.2 million newcomers will be trickling in as a significant portion of the Midwest region of the North Atlantic Union begins a large-scale rewilding project in order to restore equilibrium and continue to stabilize the planet.