



## Professor Marian Radetzki (1936–2022) in memoriam

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Marian Radetzki has been a stalwart supporter of *Mineral Economics* under its present and earlier titles serving as a director and member of its Editorial Advisory Board since 1995. His contacts with the journal however go further back than that. In 1989, he published a paper on “State ownership in developing country mineral industries” which had been presented at a UN sponsored seminar in Budapest. This brief

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As has been announced elsewhere, Professor Marian Radetzki Stockholm, Sweden, has passed away.

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paper has later been followed by a range of other articles in our journal (*Raw Materials Report* 1989).

Marian was born in Warsaw, Poland, to a Jewish father and Catholic mother. Miraculously he survived the Nazi terror reign but his mother was killed during the Uprising in 1944. In 1946, his father, who also survived the war, sent Marian alone to Sweden hoping for a better life. Already during the very first days in Stockholm, Marian, who had just turned 10, decided to learn the Swedish language and customs and become a Swede (*Dialogos Stockholm* 2005).

Soon he mastered both the language and Swedish culture but he kept open the option to be an outside observer all his life. That gave him the opportunity to take controversial stand points such as suggesting that Swedish should be abolished and English chosen as the first language in Sweden. He reasoned that after an awkward period during a generation, the economic gains would be great. This proposal did, not surprisingly, create a storm of protests in Sweden. Marian was amused.

His line was always that of the rational economist: dig out the facts, estimate the consequences/costs for the possible alternatives and go for the logical conclusion irrespective of the prevailing political and public discourse. It is possible that sometimes his main objective was to provoke and shake up the debate.

Within his scientific area of natural resource economics, Marian Radetzki became an undisputed expert both in Sweden and globally. His life and career span almost the whole gamut of resource economics and all corners of the world. His first engagement with the cooperative movement in India and South East Asia in the early 1960s gave him solid hands-on experiences from the developing world. Later he was appointed chief-economist for the copper exporting countries organisation (CIPEC, *Conseil intergouvernemental des pays exportateurs de cuivre* in English *Intergovernmental council of copper exporting countries*). His knowledge, both theoretical and practical, about the importance of mineral resources for the economic growth and social development in both developing countries such as Zambia, Papua New Guinea and Chile and industrialised countries such as Sweden was unique and had both depth and width: Economics

of natural resources; Emerging economies; Copper and iron ore, two metals which even in these days of speciality metals and rare earths remain of key strategic importance; Energy minerals, from coal and oil to uranium. In a special issue of *Mineral Economics* in 2018, friends and colleagues from all over the world demonstrated Marian's deep importance on a wide range of topics (*Mineral Economics Raw Materials Report* 2018).

In 1990, Marian was appointed professor in economics at the Luleå University of Technology, Sweden. With the benefit of his global network of friends and colleagues, he soon established a group of economists that have now matured into experts in various fields of natural resource economics. They are well prepared to guide Sweden, and in particular its northern parts Norrland, through the testing times of the green energy transition. With huge investments into fossil-free iron ore mining and steel production and electric battery plants, these skills are in high demand and come at the right moment. Two of us had the benefit of working with Marian since his early days in Luleå. One of the many things he taught us, is that a clear and concise use of the English language is a key to academic success.

Marian remained the rational economist to the end. Already in 2017, he posted on his webpage a text with the heading "Ultimate activities," that forebode his decision

to end his life together with his loved wife Elsie. When we last spoke in January 2022, he was content with his life but expressed great worries about the future of the Earth. Grievous words from someone who survived the horrors of war in Warsaw.

Luleå and Stockholm, September 2022.

Magnus Ericsson, Patrik Söderholm and Linda Wårell.

Luleå University of Technology, present and past Editors-in-Chief of *Mineral Economics/Raw Materials Report*.

## References

- In his autobiography, *Sverige, Sverige! Fosterland?* (in English "Sweden, Sweden! My native country?") Dialogos Stockholm 2005, Marian gives many examples of his strong will and capacity to enforce it.
- Mineral Economics Raw Materials Report* (2018) 31 1–2 1–268
- State ownership in developing country mineral industries, *Raw Materials Report* vol 6 no 2 1989 pp. 13–16. For a full list of his many books and scientific papers please visit his web page [www.rade-tzki.biz](http://www.rade-tzki.biz)

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