



SPEAK OUT NOW

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Climate Change? No! We Need a System Change!

There have been five major extinction events on earth where most of the larger plant and animal species were wiped out. The last extinction killed the dinosaurs. An asteroid crashing into earth and drastically changing the climate caused that extinction. Now we are living in what could be the sixth extinction. But this time, our species would be the cause of disaster as well as a victim.

Scientists have been documenting and alerting us to the dangers of climate change for decades. But those who are in control of society, politically and economically, have refused to act. And each year the situation has gotten worse. Severe weather is just the tip of the iceberg. Rivers are drying up; oceans are becoming more acidic; sea levels are rising; grasslands are turning into deserts – the ecology of the planet is in crisis.

Scientists explain that ongoing carbon emissions into the atmosphere are causing this worldwide change in climate patterns that threaten another extinction event. It's true that carbon emissions are the immediate source of this situation. But the real problem is what is behind this climate change.

Capitalism – A Deadly System

This drastic climate change is just one outcome of this deadly system known as capitalism, where the only goal is profit. This economic system is what's driving us down a path of mass extinction. And as long as the corporations and the politicians who serve them are left in charge, they will keep heading us in the same direction. Their system puts profits before all else, - the environment and those who do the work to produce those profits.

This disregard for the environment is nothing new. Rivers, lakes, oceans and the air have been dumping grounds for the poisons produced by their industries. Entire mountaintops are being blown up to get at coal, one of the deadliest polluting fuels.

Trying to regulate this destruction is not enough. We have seen laws imposed when people mobilized a large enough opposition. But, as the movements subside and the pressure is reduced, the laws are not

enforced or they're overturned. Or corporations just break the laws and risk the fines because their profits are so huge.

As a result, this system of capitalism has led to the misery of billions of people and destroyed vast areas of the earth. If we are to have a future, we must put a stop to the system that is destroying us.

We Must Look to Ourselves

People around the world know that something is deeply wrong. Our schools, our cities, our lives and our planet are being torn apart. We are working harder for less. We can't hope for change or look to the politicians with their false promises.

We can't leave our future in the hands of those who have put humanity on the endangered species list. They will continue to pollute and ravage the planet to get the profits that await them, even if it means destroying the precious possibility of humans and other species to live on the earth.

Our lives and our planet are worth more than their system of production and pollution for profit. It is in the interests of the majority of people to stop this environmental destruction. It's up to us to change it. The challenge we face today is one that will decide the fate of humanity.

We need a society that is organized to meet human needs, that develops scientific knowledge to understand the world and how we can live well. Working people make this society run, and together we can organize a society that truly puts our needs and the needs of the planet above all else – a truly socialist society. Only when we remove the drive for profit and put the needs of humanity front and center, will we be able to tackle the problem of climate change. Society will then be organized recognizing that our needs include a healthy planet.

That society is possible. It is the only possibility for our species to avoid extinction, and to provide all human beings with healthy, fulfilling lives. Either capitalism will lead to the extinction of our species, or we will carry out the extinction of capitalism. The choice is ours.

Their System Provides No Future!

Capitalist society can't provide a decent future for the majority of people. A tiny minority controls all of the resources and all of production – and they are the only ones served by the functioning of this society. The consequences of this system are plain for us to see.

Destroying Our Planet

Their Wars of Destruction

There are 14 major wars taking lives today, most involving the U.S. directly or indirectly including:

The Congo – Ten million killed in the past decade

Iraq – Iraqi deaths are estimated to be as high as 1.5 million with 4.5 million pushed from their homes. Over 4,300 Americans have been killed

Afghanistan – An estimated 750,000 civilians have been killed since 2001 and 783 U.S. troops have been killed

US Veterans – An estimated 320,000 have brain injuries that often result in Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. An estimated 14 percent of veteran deaths are due to suicides, averaging 18 per day.

Climate Change & Global Warming

Scientists around the world agree that the burning of fossil fuels is responsible for the climate change we see today, most visibly the melting glaciers and polar ice caps, and the powerful storms like Hurricane Katrina and typhoon, Morakot, and the floods and droughts that across the planet.

The United Nations estimates that increasingly severe heat waves, floods, storms and forest fires will be responsible for as many as 500,000 deaths per year by 2030.

Those in power refuse to act on this information. Their decisions are based on one thing – profit. If it is more profitable to produce cars than provide mass transit, they produce cars. If it is more profitable to burn coal than to use sustainable forms of energy production, they burn coal. We can't expect the to just give up the trillions of dollars of wealth represented by the fossil fuels they control.

From their shortsighted, profit-driven view, it is worth the risk. From humanity's view this is suicide.

Their Miserable System

Poverty in the World

- Almost half the world live on less than \$2.50 a day, and 80 percent live on less than \$10 a day.
- One billion children live in poverty.

Estimated cost to provide basic services per year for all:

- Basic education for all: \$6 billion
- Water and sanitation for all: \$9 billion
- Reproductive health for all women: \$12 billion
- Basic health and nutrition: \$13 billion

Life in the The U.S.

The U.S. has the widest gap between rich and poor of any industrialized nation.

Unemployment – Official unemployment is 9.4 percent, about 15 million workers without jobs. In reality it is probably double that.

Housing – 861,664 families lost their homes in 2008 and 1 in 54 households got a foreclosure notice. In June and July of this year, banks repossessed 164,000 homes. Every night in the U.S. 750,000 people are homeless.

Healthcare – 47 million people under age 65 are not covered by health insurance.

Education – Education expenses are only two percent of the federal budget.

Incarceration – 2.3 million people are in prison, the highest rate in the world

Their Wealth

Oil Profits – Exxon Mobil reported \$32.6 billion profit in 2013, and Chevron reported \$21.4 billion. CEO pay for the two companies over \$63 million!

Personal Wealth – The U.S. has 44 percent of the world's billionaires. San Francisco is home to 12 billionaires averaging \$2.6 billion each; Los Angeles, has 17, averaging \$2.4 billion each.

CEO Pay – In 1970 a CEO made 28 times what a typical worker earned. In 2005 a CEO made 465 times what a worker earned. In two hours, these top paid CEOs were paid as much as a minimum wage worker earns in a year.