



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE

SOCIALISM OR EXTINCTION?



THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Climate change (often simplified as "global warming") is **a symptom of the destruction of ecological systems** which control the Earth's atmosphere and absorb carbon through soil. With soil losing its ability to sequester carbon, the overall temperature of the planet is rising, causing **temperature extremes (both hot and cold)** and **disruption of weather patterns.**

The 20 hottest years on record have occurred over the last 22 years, and natural disasters such as droughts and hurricanes continue to increase in frequency and intensity. The Ecological Threat Register has estimated that disasters induced by climate change **could force as many as 1.2 billion people to flee their homes in the next 30 years.**

Scientists and researchers continue to produce evidence that this ecological crisis will cause societal collapse. In spite of this, **capitalist governments are still driving the destruction of the planet.** We are hurtling towards a total climate breakdown, which will devastate all life. **The fate of the world is up to us.**



This environmental crisis is unprecedented in human history. The scale of the damage is so enormous that some scientists now consider the Earth to be entering a new era in its geological history. Waste dumping, mining, fracking and drilling for oil, industrial farming and fishing: all these kinds of human activity and more have severely affected the planet.

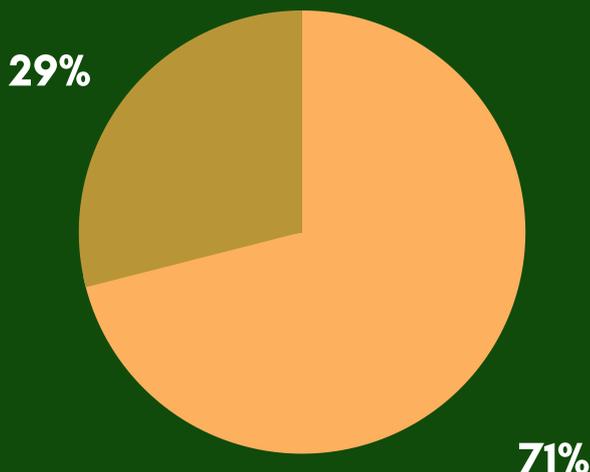
However, not all of humanity is equally to blame for this crisis. In fact, most ecological destruction supports the functioning of **developed capitalist nations like the UK, the US, and Japan.** Within such nations, the proposed solutions to climate change are individual acts of consumer choice, such as recycling, or buying only "green" and "organic" products. Not only are these individual actions too expensive or otherwise inaccessible to many people, but **focusing on individual "solutions" diverts attention from the systemic problem: capitalist-imperialism.**

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Historically, capitalism was forged through the bloody violence of European colonialism and the slave trade. The binary division between "human" and "nature" was conceived by colonial nations, who treated nature as a resource for extraction rather than a living system which all people are a part of. Colonisation brought on deforestation, commodification of land, and the extraction of precious metals by slave labour.

This violence continues today with the construction of ecologically destructive projects such as oil pipelines. Indigenous communities around the world must battle colonising governments and corporations for clean water, freedom from industrial development, and stewardship of their own ancestral lands.

Capitalist-imperialist nations and industrial monopolies have contributed massively to climate change. Companies like Exxon knew about the devastating impact of their activities as early as 1977 and actively misled the public – disregarding the future of life on Earth in favour of continued profits for the rich.



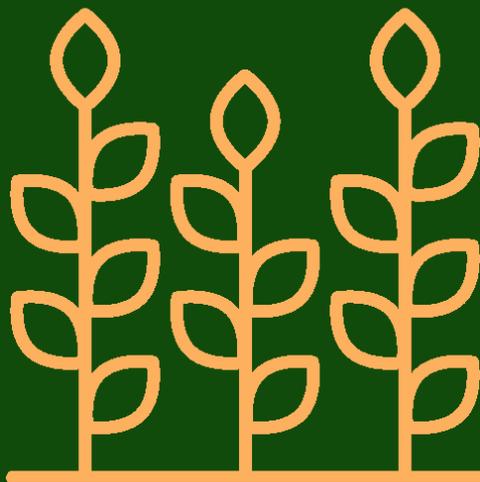
Since 1988, 100 companies have been responsible for more than 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

WHOSE BURDEN?

The developed world's disproportionate contribution to climate change affects and endangers people across developing nations.

Today, British agri-business and Euro-American companies are situated throughout developing countries, where they systematically undermine food sovereignty and cause the mass displacement of peasant communities.

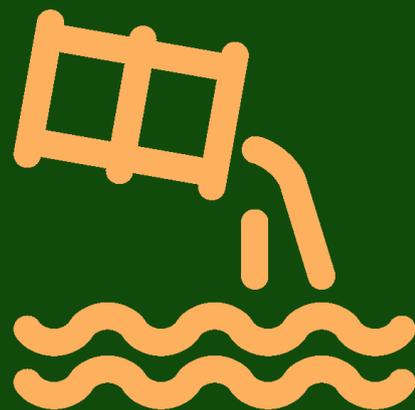
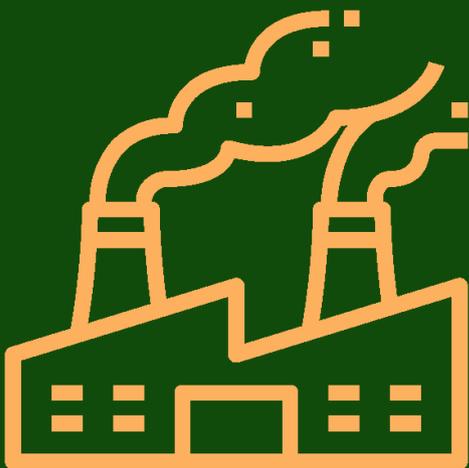
The theft of land and communally owned resources is felt by entire communities, but in particular by rural women, who have been subject to population control policies including forcible sterilisation.



ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

The climate crisis is intrinsically racist, disproportionately affecting Black and Indigenous people globally as well as colonised people within Britain.

Studies have shown that the average Black or British African person in Britain is exposed to higher levels of air pollution than the average urban white person. Research has also found that people of colour are more likely to live in urban areas, where emissions are higher. Meanwhile, British firms illegally export toxic electronic waste to nations across West Africa, where it poisons the environment and endangers human life.



SOCIALISM OR EXTINCTION

Information about the environmental crisis is everywhere, and it can be overwhelming. Our lives are besieged by the threat of impending disaster, and it seems as if there is nothing we can do about it. Understandably, some people react by floundering in anxiety and hopelessness, while others resign themselves to detachment and indifference.

But although the threat is very real, *it is also solvable.*

The only solution to climate change, the only response to the threat of extinction, is the **overthrow of capitalism**. The rich will do anything to keep getting richer, even destroy the planet; the entire system that enables them must itself be stopped.

Capitalism cannot continue if life on Earth is to survive. Socialism gives us a way forward. The only way to counteract the apocalyptic consequences of climate change is an end to capitalist-imperialism, and a centralised economy reoriented towards the satisfaction of human needs rather than the pursuit of endless growth.

ABOUT RED FIGHTBACK

We are working to prepare our communities materially to face the realities of climate breakdown. We support transitioning toward renewable energy sources, sustainable land practices, and restoration of Indigenous sovereignty globally.

To learn more or get involved:



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