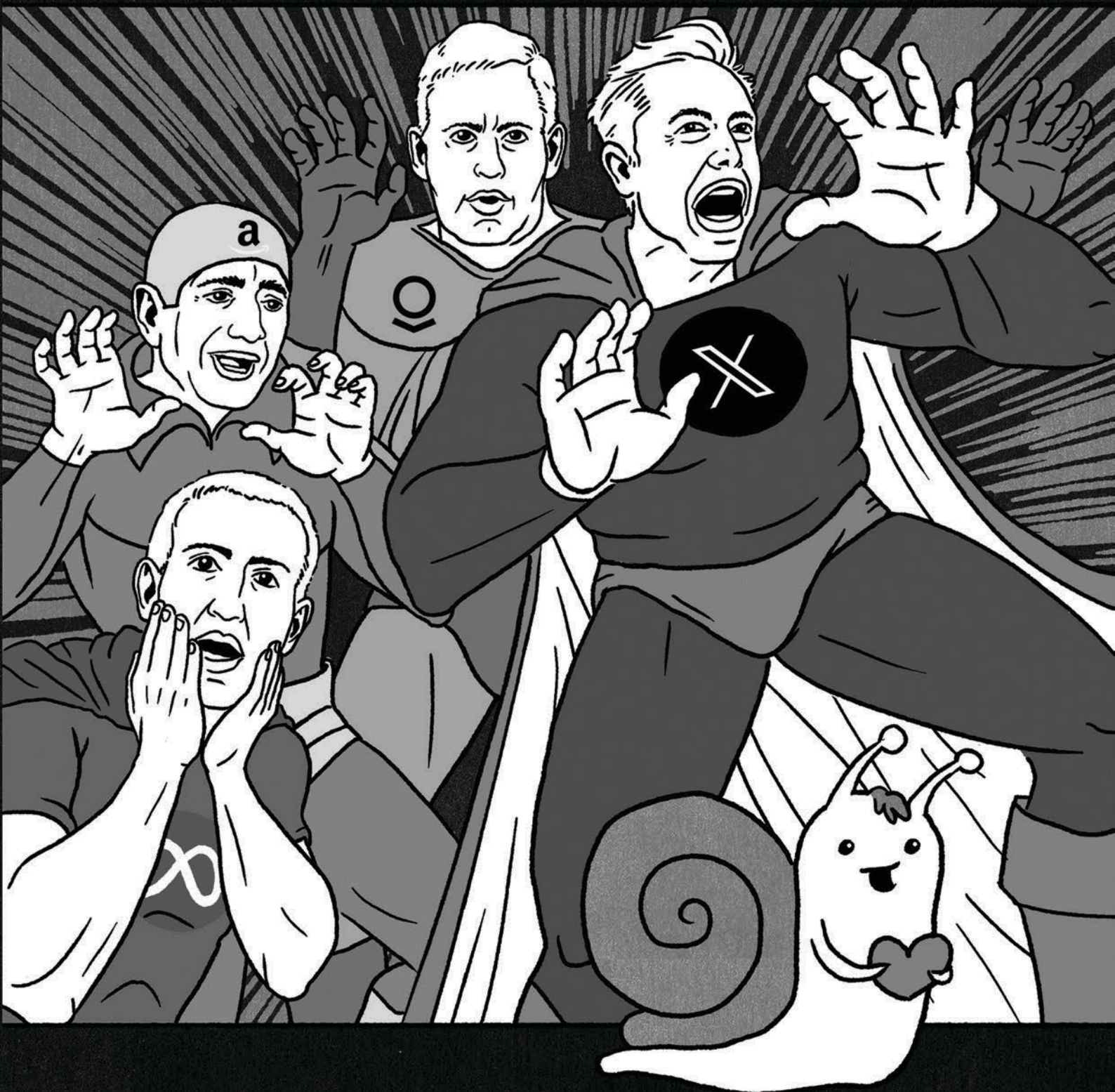


WHO IS AFRAID OF DEGROWTH?



A DIFFERENT KIND OF GRAPHIC NOVEL BY CÉLINE KELLER

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Who Is Afraid Of Degrowth?

Content

Misunderstanding #1 page 01-04

Degrowth is not recession. It is not the antithesis of growth but its nemesis, a concept whose *raison d'être* is to dethrone a mode of thinking that sees everything as either a rise or a fall in GDP.

Sources: page 160

Misunderstanding #2 page 05-09

Degrowth is not miniature capitalism with tiny corporations, tiny speculative financial instruments, and tiny free trade agreements. It is an alternative system of provision - not just smaller and slower, but different.

Sources: page 160-161

Misunderstanding #3 page 10-14

Degrowth is not the end of INNOVATION but a shifting of innovative efforts from commodity problems (e.g. faster trading algorithms, ads, and drilling techniques) to community problems (e.g. local currencies, labour commons, and object-sharing networks).

Sources: page 162-163

Misunderstanding #4 page 15-20

Degrowth is not against human nature. Perhaps we are hard-wired to struggle for progress, but what constitutes "progress" is socially defined. More money is not a universal recipe to improve the human condition.

Sources: page 163-164

Misunderstanding #5 page 21-30

Degrowth is not deprivation. The reduction in consumption are not applicable in communities where the great majority of needs remain unmet. Downshifting mainly concerns the abnormal lifestyle of the polluter elite.

Sources: page 164-165

Misunderstanding #6 page 31-46

Degrowth doesn't reject technology but suggests that it must be democratically managed/controlled. Technology should be fit for a purpose determined outside of itself - tool, not master. Not everything that is technically possible is culturally desirable.

Sources: page 166-170

Misunderstanding #7 page 47-58

Degrowth is not reactionary. It just rejects a linear idea of Progress which holds that the future is always more desirable than the past. Degrowth is an active research for new forms of betterment.

Sources: page 171-174

Misunderstanding #8 page 59-80

Degrowth is not capitalism saving itself. Degrowth is anti-capitalist. Degrowth is a temporary phase to dismantle capitalism and reverse uneconomic growth. A transition at the end of which stands a well-being postgrowth economy that is smaller and slower but fits within its biocapacity.

Sources: page 174-178

Misunderstanding #9 page 81-122

Degrowth is not malthusian or authoritarian. Degrowth's core thrust – is a focus on global justice, criticises Malthusianism and rejects any kind of 'climate apartheid'. And if one understands degrowth as an emancipation from hierarchy and as a utopian aspiration for autonomy, then the term "authoritarian degrowth" is an oxymoron. Degrowth cannot be done to people but only by people.

Sources: page 178-193

Misunderstanding #10 page 123-158

Utopias are not blueprints or destinations but a compass. They are tools for criticism, opening doors to debates about problems that often didn't even have a name before. And seen in this light, it becomes clear that Utopia has always been the driving force of human development and history. The fact that it is haunted by reversals into its dark side or Dystopia, only helps to underscore that the utopian impulse is a process, a self correcting, critical mechanism, that aims for a better rather than a perfect world. Degrowth is utopian, and that's a good thing.

Sources: page 193-202

WHO IS AFRAID OF DEGROWTH?

IN 2023, THE NUMBER OF DEADLY HEATWAVES, WILDFIRES, DROUGHTS, AND FLOODS THAT RAGED ACROSS THE PLANET AMOUNTED TO A LIST OF UNFATHOMABLE SCOPE. ON ABOUT A SHOCKING THIRD OF DAYS THIS YEAR, THE AVERAGE GLOBAL TEMPERATURE WAS AT LEAST 1.5 °C HIGHER THAN PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVELS. SEPTEMBER 2023 WAS THE WARMEST SEPTEMBER SINCE DIRECTLY MEASURED INSTRUMENTAL RECORDS BEGAN, AND EXCEEDED THE PREVIOUS RECORD BY 0.50 °C. A TEMPERATURE SPIKE SO ENORMOUS THAT CLIMATE SCIENTIST ZEKE HAUSFATHER DESCRIBED IT AS "ABSOLUTELY GOBSMACKINGLY BANANAS". THE ALARM BELLS WARNING OF CLIMATE BREAKDOWN SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE. YET, NO DISASTER, NO BROKEN RECORD, AND NO DEATH COUNT HAVE YET CAUSED OUR GOVERNMENTS TO ACT LIKE WE ARE ACTUALLY LIVING IN TIMES OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY.

INSTEAD, ADDING TO THE ALREADY MURDEROUS TREATMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS BY THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY AND AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH, WE NOW ALSO SEE A SHARP RISE IN THE CRIMINALIZATION OF CLIMATE ACTIVISTS IN WESTERN AND SELF-PROCLAIMED DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES. ACTIVISTS, WHO WARN THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS IN THE GLOBAL NORTH OF CLIMATE BREAKDOWN AND DEMAND THAT GOVERNMENTS ACT ON THEIR COUNTRIES RESPONSIBILITY BASED ON HISTORICAL EMISSIONS, ARE NOW FRAMED IN THE MEDIA AS 'TERRORISTS' FOR NON-VIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AND PUNISHED TO HIGH FINES OR TO SPEND MONTHS, EVEN YEARS, ROTTING IN JAIL.

MEANWHILE, THE SCIENTISTS AND ACADEMICS ADVOCATING FOR A NECESSARY ECONOMIC TRANSITION BACK INTO SAFE PLANETARY BOUNDARIES BASED ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND A DECENT LIVING FOR ALL AREN'T AFRAID TO IDENTIFY THE RACIST ROOTS OF THE CURRENT GROWTH-OBSSESSED ECONOMIC IDEOLOGY WRECKING HUMANITY'S ONLY LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM, PLANET EARTH. DRAWING THE IRE OF EVERYONE WHOSE BUSINESS MODEL IS BASED ON UNJUST EXTRACTION, LIKE THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY PUTTING PROFITS OVER PEOPLE OR TECH BRO BILLIONAIRES READY TO TURN THE WHOLE EARTH INTO A SACRIFICE ZONE FOR THEIR DELUSIONAL DREAMS OF COLONIZING MARS.

I STARTED 'WHO IS AFRAID OF DEGROWTH?' TWO YEARS AGO PLANNING TO CREATE A SHORT FACT-CHECKING COMIC, BASED ON A SERIES OF DEBUNKING TWITTER POSTS BY TIMOTHÉE PARRIQUE, TO HELP PEOPLE COUNTER THE MOST COMMON 'MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF DEGROWTH'. FINISHING UP DRAWING 158 PAGES LATER, I HAVE NO DOUBT LEFT THAT THE STUBBORN PERSISTENCE OF SOME OF THESE 'MISUNDERSTANDINGS' ARE PART OF AN INFORMATION WAR THAT INCLUDES DECADES OF CLIMATE DENIAL SPREAD BY THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY AND WHICH ACCELERATED INTO THE UNPRECEDENTED EXPLOSION OF DISINFORMATION THAT CAME ALONG WITH THE PANDEMIC AND RUSSIA WAGING A WAR AGAINST UKRAINE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE LAST YEARS ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT FACT-CHECKING, THOUGH ESSENTIAL, ON ITS OWN, CANNOT WIN AGAINST INSTRUMENTALIZED FEAR.

SOME SAY THAT IF FACTS WILL NOT DO, THEN WHAT WE NEED IS BETTER STORIES. BUT I WOULD ARGUE THAT THE STORIES ARE ALREADY THERE, AND WHAT WE URGENTLY NEED IS MORE AND BETTER LISTENING. LISTENING TO LEARN TO IDENTIFY WHEN FEARS ARE WEAPONIZED BY THE GUYS WHO SIT AT THE VOLUME KNOBS OF PUBLIC DEBATES. LISTENING TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH UNCERTAINTY AND STILL TAKE ACTION. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, LISTENING BECAUSE LISTENING IS THE FUNDAMENTAL PREREQUISITE FOR THE RADICAL TRANSFORMATION NECESSARY TO ENSURE A FUTURE WORTH LIVING FOR ALL. A FUTURE THAT RIGHT NOW MIGHT SEEM UNLIKELY BUT IS STILL POSSIBLE, IF WE, THE PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE, DECIDE TO STOP FIGHTING EACH OTHER AND INSTEAD FIGHT AGAINST THOSE WHO DENY ANYONE OF US THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS.

THIS BOOK IS ALMOST ENTIRELY BUILT OUT OF QUOTES FROM PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOM DO NOT IDENTIFY AS DE-GROWTHERS, THAT I COLLECTED FROM BOOKS, NEWS ARTICLES, ACADEMIC PAPERS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS. THESE QUOTES ARE MARKED THROUGHOUT WITH QUOTATION MARKS (""). IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK, YOU WILL FIND LINKS TO ALL OF THEIR SOURCES.

MANY OF THE QUOTES USED ARE TWEETS AND WERE WRITTEN ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM TWITTER, WHICH WAS TAKEN OVER BY ELON MUSK IN LATE 2022 AND IMMEDIATELY TURNED INTO A DISINFORMATION WEAPON (NOW CALLED 'X'), AGGRESSIVELY PROMOTING CLIMATE DENIAL, CONSPIRACY THEORIES, RACISM, ANTI-SEMITISM, MISOGYNY, TRANSPHOBIA, AND HATE GENERALLY. PETER THIEL, ANOTHER BILLIONAIRE PICTURED ON THIS BOOK'S COVER AND FAMOUS FOR BEING THE FIRST SILICON VALLEY LEADER OPENLY TO SUPPORT TRUMP, ALREADY SAID MORE THAN A DECADE AGO THAT HE NO LONGER BELIEVES THAT 'FREEDOM' AND DEMOCRACY ARE COMPATIBLE AND THAT GROWTH IS ESSENTIALLY A RELIGIOUS OBLIGATION.

SCIENCE TELLS US THAT HUMANITY CAN NEITHER AFFORD FOSSIL FUELS NOR GROWTH-OBSSESSED BILLIONAIRES, IF WE WANT TO REACH A SAFE POST-GROWTH FUTURE. BOTH ARE NOT ONLY MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR POLLUTING THE ATMOSPHERE BUT POLLUTING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW WE GOT HERE. AS NANCY MCLEAN WRITES IN "SINCE WE ARE GREATLY OUTNUMBERED" CHARLES KOCH AND THE PEOPLE IN THE DARK MONEY NETWORKS FUNDING CLIMATE DENIAL UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR HARD-CORE LIBERTARIAN AGENDA IS EXTREMELY UNPOPULAR, AND THEREFORE REQUIRES STEALTH TACTICS TO SUCCEED. THE SILICON VALLEY BILLIONAIRES KNOW THAT TOO. DEGROWTH INSISTS THAT ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE, IF THOSE WHO OUTNUMBER THEM GREATLY STAND TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY. NO WONDER THOSE GUYS ARE AFRAID.

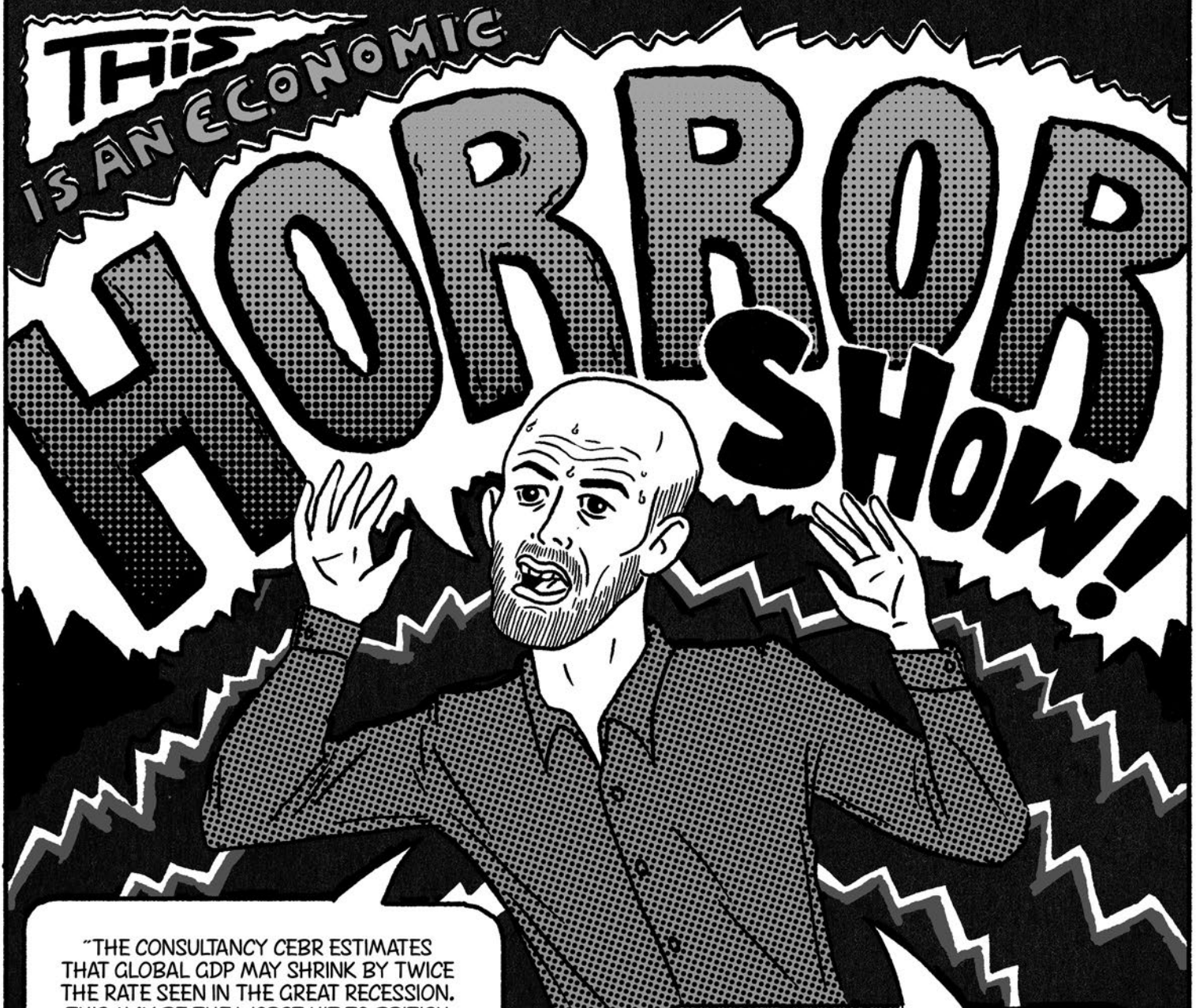
CÉLINE KELLER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE I LEARNED FROM DURING MY RESEARCH AND WHO PUT THEIR TIME AND ENERGY INTO THE STRUGGLE FOR CLIMATE, ECOLOGICAL, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. THE COURAGEOUS CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS DOING NON-VIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, THE PEOPLE ORGANISING MUTUAL AID, THE PSYCHOLOGISTS, THE ARTISTS, THE KNOWLEDGE WORKERS, SCIENTISTS, AND JOURNALISTS WHO WORK ON CHANGE IN OUR SOCIETIES AND RISK REPERCUSSIONS FOR STANDING UP TO THEIR VALUES AGAINST ALL HARASSMENT. THANK YOU, TO EVERYONE DEFENDING AND KEEPING LIFE PRECIOUS IN ANY WAY THEY CAN. A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO MY LOVE, LOUISA BECK, FOR BELIEVING IN ME AND HER TIRELESS SUPPORT. THANK YOU, TO TIMOTHÉE PARRIQUE AND JACK GRAHAM FOR WRITING TEXTS ESPECIALLY FOR THIS PROJECT, AND FARHANA SULTANA AND TATJANA SOEDING FOR HELPING ME WITH QUESTIONS. AND FINALLY, I AM IMMENSELY GRATEFUL TO JULIA STEINBERGER AND THE LILI PROJECT (LIVING WELL WITHIN LIMITS), FUNDED BY THE LEVERHULME TRUST, FOR MAKING THIS WORK POSSIBLE.

MISUNDERSTANDING #1:

DEGROWTH IS NOT RECESSION. IT IS NOT THE ANTITHESIS OF GROWTH BUT ITS NEMESIS, A CONCEPT WHOSE RAISON D'ÊTRE IS TO DETHRONE A MODE OF THINKING THAT SEES EVERYTHING AS EITHER A RISE OR A FALL IN GDP.



"THE CONSULTANCY CEBR ESTIMATES THAT GLOBAL GDP MAY SHRINK BY TWICE THE RATE SEEN IN THE GREAT RECESSION. THIS MAY BE THE WORST HIT TO BRITISH PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF THE 1930S."

"THAT PUTS IT INTO A MORE MODERN CATEGORY:"

"DEGROWTH!"

"EXCEPT ONE THING IS DIFFERENT: THIS IS A DELIBERATE ECONOMIC SHUTDOWN, MADE NECESSARY TO AVOID A DEEPER, MORE HUMAN ONE. WE ARE ACTIVELY CONTRACTING PRODUCTIVE WORK IN ORDER TO LIMIT A TRAGEDY. A RECESSION IT WILL BE, BUT IT IS OUR CHOICE IN A TIME OF ACUTE CRISIS, DEMANDING HERCULEAN LIFTING AND LEADERSHIP BY THE STATE."

"THE CURRENT CRISIS IS DEGROWTH IN PRACTICE, CRIPPLING OUR ECONOMY UNTIL THE THREAT PASSES. LET'S ENSURE IT IS TEMPORARY. IN A LONG-TERM DEGROWTH ECONOMY, THE RECESSION WOULD BE PERMANENT. THAT IS A RECIPE FOR MISERY AND DISASTER. WE SHOULD LEARN THIS LESSON TODAY AND REJECT DEGROWTH FOREVER."

BENEDICT MCALEENAN

THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS REVEALS THE MISERY OF 'DEGROWTH' (THE SPECTATOR, MARCH 2020)

MCALEENAN IS A FORMER UK CIVIL SERVANTS NOW LOBBYING GOVERNMENT FOR OIL AND GAS. HE IS THE SENIOR ADVISER AT THE UK'S LEADING THINK TANK, POLICY EXCHANGE, THE CURRENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER AT CENTRICA (BRITISH GAS), HE WORKED FOR EDELMAN (WORLD'S LARGEST PR FIRM FAMOUS FOR HYPOCRISY AND GREENWASHING), AND HIS PRIVAT SECTOR CLIENTS INCLUDED SHELL.



"JUST TO BE CLEAR: THE ECONOMIC CONTRACTION THAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW IS *NOT* DEGROWTH. IF YOU'RE EVER CONFUSED, YOU CAN CONSULT THIS HANDY LIST OF QUESTIONS:

1. IS IT PART OF A COHERENT POLICY TO REDUCE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT AND IMPROVE WELL-BEING?

IF NOT, THEN IT'S NOT DEGROWTH.

2. DOES IT TARGET ECOLOGICALLY DESTRUCTIVE AND SOCIALLY LESS NECESSARY PRODUCTION (I.E., OF SUVs, ARMS, BEEF, ADVERTISING, PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE)?

IF NOT (I.E., IF IT CLOSES SOCIALLY VITAL SECTORS LIKE EDUCATION, GYMS, CAFES, PLACES FOR CONVIVIALITY), THEN IT'S NOT DEGROWTH.

3. DOES IT INTRODUCE POLICIES TO PREVENT MASS UNEMPLOYMENT? SAY, A SHORTER WORKING WEEK, A JOB GUARANTEE, AND RE-TRAINING PROGRAMS?

IF NOT (I.E., IF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVELIHOODS), THEN IT'S NOT DEGROWTH.

4. DOES IT COME ALONG WITH POLICIES TO REDUCE INEQUALITY AND SHARE NATIONAL INCOME MORE FAIRLY? IF NOT (I.E., IF IT MAKES RICH PEOPLE RICHER AND MAKES INEQUALITY WORSE), THEN IT'S NOT DEGROWTH.

5. IS THERE INVESTMENT IN UNIVERSAL PUBLIC SERVICES, TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND EDUCATION AND ENSURE EVERYONE CAN ACCESS THE GOODS THEY NEED TO FLOURISH?

IF NOT (I.E., IF THERE ARE AUSTERITY MEASURES STILL IN PLACE), THEN IT'S NOT DEGROWTH.

6. IS IT PART OF A SHIFT TOWARD COMMUNITY, CONVIVIALITY, COMMONS AND CARE?

IF NOT (I.E., IF THERE IS A LOCKDOWN THAT PREVENTS PEOPLE FROM WORKING AND PLAYING TOGETHER), THEN IT'S PROBABLY NOT DEGROWTH.

7. IS IT PART OF A PLAN TO ACHIEVE A RAPID TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY, RESTORE SOILS AND BIODIVERSITY, AND REVERSE ECOLOGICAL BREAKDOWN?

IF NOT (I.E., IF THE GOVERNMENT IS BAILING OUT FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES AND AIRLINES), THEN IT'S NOT DEGROWTH."

"WE HAVE A WORD FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW:

RECESSION!

RECESSIONS HAPPEN WHEN GROWTH-DEPENDENT ECONOMIES STOP GROWING. WHAT WE NEED IS TO BUILD A DIFFERENT KIND OF ECONOMY ALTOGETHER: AN ECONOMY ORGANIZED AROUND HUMAN WELL-BEING RATHER THAN AROUND PERPETUAL GROWTH."

TWITTER, APRIL 2020

JASON HICKEL

HICKEL IS AN ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGIST WHOSE RESEARCH FOCUSES ON GLOBAL INEQUALITY AND POLITICAL ECOLOGY. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF THE DIVIDE: A BRIEF GUIDE TO GLOBAL INEQUALITY AND ITS SOLUTIONS (2017) AND LESS IS MORE: HOW DEGROWTH WILL SAVE THE WORLD (2020).

"DEGROWTH, AT ITS ESSENCE, IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CAPITALISM. BUT WHAT IT ABSOLUTELY IS NOT, IS A PLANNED RECESSION ON PURPOSE. NOT ONLY DOES PAUSING ECONOMIES FOR A MOMENT DO PRETTY LITTLE FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS (LOOK HOW INEFFECTIVE COVID-19 WAS AT REDUCING EMISSIONS LONG-TERM), BUT IT ALSO HITS THE POOREST AND MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE FIRST."

"THINK OF ECONOMIES LIKE PEOPLE WITH METABOLISMS."

"WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG, YOU NEED TO EAT LOTS OF FOOD, AND AS A RESULT, PRODUCE LOTS OF WASTE, TO GET BIG AND STRONG."

"BUT IF YOU KEEP EATING LIKE A RAPIDLY-GROWING HUMAN WELL INTO ADULthood, THAT'S PROBABLY NOT THE HEALTHIEST WAY TO BE. AS AN ADULT, IT MAKES MORE SENSE TO BALANCE OUT YOUR DIET FOR SUSTAINING YOUR BODY'S CURRENT NEEDS."

TIMOTHÉE PARRIQUE

"FOR BIG ECONOMIES LIKE THE US, THE ECONOMY HAS BEEN A GROWN-UP FOR QUITE SOME TIME, AND YET IT'S STILL EATING A WHOLE LOT. SO NOT ONLY ARE THERE SOME SERIOUS ISSUES WITH THE ECONOMY (INCOME INEQUALITY, AN OVER-WORKED WORKFORCE, RISING COSTS-OF-LIVING WITHOUT RISING PAY), IT'S EATING INTO RESOURCES WAY MORE THAN NECESSARY AND LITERALLY RUNNING OUT OF PLACES TO PUT THE WASTE."

TIMOTHÉE PARRIQUE

WHAT IS 'DEGROWTH' AND HOW CAN IT FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE? (POPULAR SCIENCE, JULY 2021)



"BUT A RECESSION WON'T SOLVE THESE ISSUES, AND MIGHT EVEN CREATE NEW ONES. A RECESSION IS LIKE A CRASH DIET—TRYING TO EAT SO FEW CALORIES THAT THE SECOND IT'S OVER, YOU'RE BACK TO UNHEALTHY HABITS, SOMETIMES AT AN EVEN MORE INTENSE LEVEL THAN BEFORE. DEGROWTH, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS LIKE FINDING THAT SUSTAINABLE, HEALTHY DIET, AND STICKING TO IT."

MISUNDERSTANDING #2:

DEGROWTH IS NOT MINIATURE CAPITALISM WITH TINY CORPORATIONS, TINY SPECULATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, AND TINY FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS. IT IS AN ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM OF PROVISION - NOT JUST SMALLER AND SLOWER, BUT DIFFERENT.

"A GREAT MANY ENVIRONMENTALISTS CRITIQUE ECONOMIC GROWTH BUT ONLY A TINY NUMBER ARE ANTI-CAPITALIST, PREFERRING INSTEAD A SORT OF SMALL-SCALE STEADY-STATE CAPITALISM, A NON-GROWING, PROUDHONIAN, LOCALIST PARADISE OF SHOPKEEPERS AND FARMERS."

"THIS SMALL-IS-BEAUTIFUL LOCALISM IS A REMARKABLY PESSIMISTIC POSITION, AND CERTAINLY AT ODDS WITH THE LONG-CHERISHED, OPTIMISTIC GOAL OF SOCIALISTS OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY."

"SOCIALISM MEANS PLENTY FOR ALL. WE DO NOT PREACH A GOSPEL OF WANT AND SCARCITY, BUT OF ABUNDANCE. OUR DESIRE IS NOT TO MAKE POOR THOSE WHO TO-DAY ARE RICH, IN ORDER TO PUT THE POOR IN THE PLACE WHERE THE RICH NOW ARE. OUR DESIRE IS NOT TO PULL DOWN THE PRESENT RULERS TO PUT OTHER RULERS IN THEIR PLACES. WE WISH TO ABOLISH POVERTY AND TO PROVIDE ABUNDANCE FOR ALL. WE DO NOT CALL FOR LIMITATION OF BIRTHS, FOR PENURIOUS THRIFT, AND SELF-DENIAL. WE CALL FOR A GREAT PRODUCTION THAT WILL SUPPLY ALL, AND MORE THAN ALL THE PEOPLE CAN CONSUME."

"... A DESIRE FOR ALL OF SOCIETY TO ADVANCE TOGETHER EVER FORWARD WITHOUT LIMIT... IS NOT AN EXPRESSION OF GREED AT ALL, BUT THE NOBLEST OF YEARNINGS."

"I ARGUE FOR A 'PRINCIPLE OF AUDACITY!'
"GROWTH IS FREEDOM!"

"AND COAL ... STILL IS A GREAT BOON IN EMERGING ECONOMIES. WE SHOULDN'T DEMONIZE THIS WONDER-ROCK." WHAT WE NEED IS LOADS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND PRO-TECHNOLOGY GLOBAL DEMOCRATIC ECONOMIC PLANNING!

LEIGH PHILLIPS

LEIGH PHILLIPS IS A SCIENCE WRITER AND EU AFFAIRS JOURNALIST. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF AUSTERITY ECOLOGY & THE COLLAPSE-PORN ADDICTS (2015).



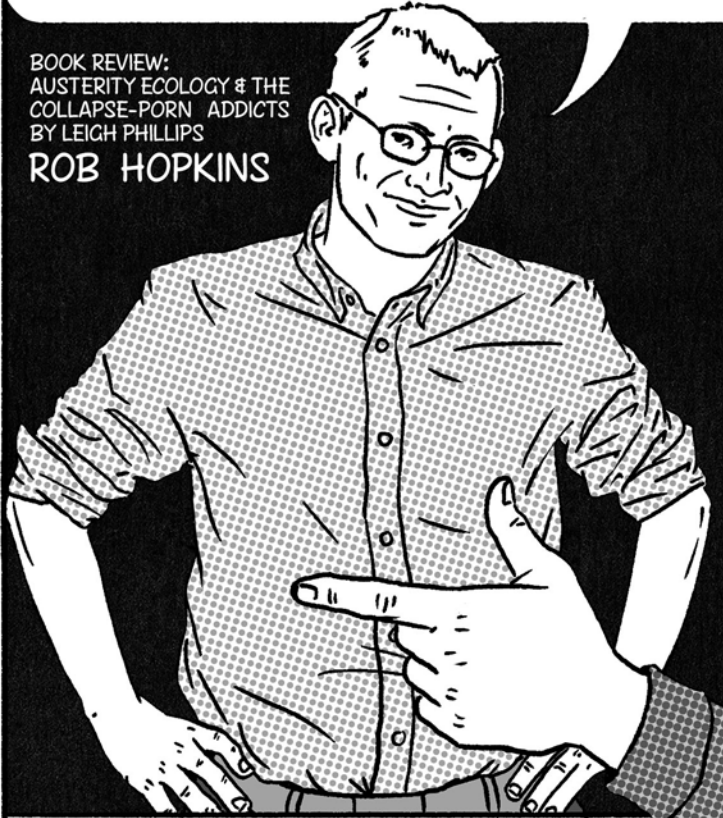
WE MUST: "... CONTINUE TO GROW ECONOMICALLY SO THAT WE CAN, FOR EXAMPLE, BUILD AND MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE NEAR-EARTH ASTEROID DEFLECTION SYSTEMS TO PROTECT THE EARTH; SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY SO AS TO ASSURE THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE SPECIES IN THE LIFE-VITIATING EVENT OF A LOCAL SUPERNOVA; AND ULTIMATELY ADVANCE TO A LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY AND UNDERSTANDING OF REALITY THAT PERHAPS WE CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO PERMIT INTELLIGENCE TO ESCAPE THE HEAT DEATH OF THE UNIVERSE."



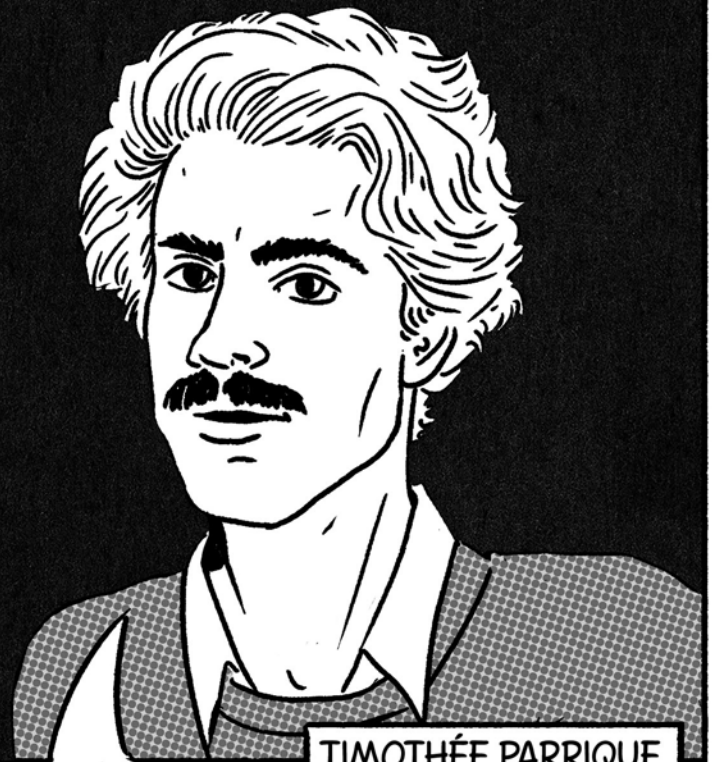
"BLIMEY. ON A SERIOUS NOTE THOUGH, THE REAL CHALLENGE IS NOT OUR NEED TO ESCAPE THE 'HEAT DEATH' OF THE UNIVERSE IN SEVERAL BILLION YEARS TIME, BUT RATHER THE 'HEAT DEATHS' ALREADY OCCURRING IN EVER GREATER NUMBERS AS THE WORLD MOVES ABOVE A ONE DEGREE RISE IN TEMPERATURE."

BOOK REVIEW:
AUSTERITY ECOLOGY & THE
COLLAPSE-PORN ADDICTS
BY LEIGH PHILLIPS

ROB HOPKINS



ROB HOPKINS IS A CO-FOUNDER OF TRANSITION TOWN TOTNES AND HIS LATEST BOOK IS 'FROM WHAT IS TO WHAT IF: UNLEASHING THE POWER OF IMAGINATION TO CREATE THE FUTURE WE WANT'.



TIMOTHÉE PARRIQUE

"ONE WOULD BE WRONG TO THINK OF THE FILM DOWNSIZING (2017) AS EMBODYING THE POST-GROWTH UTOPIA. 'A SOCIAL SATIRE IN WHICH A MAN REALIZES HE WOULD HAVE A BETTER LIFE IF HE WERE TO SHRINK HIMSELF TO FIVE INCHES TALL, ALLOWING HIM TO LIVE IN WEALTH AND SPLENDOUR' (IMDB, 2018). AS THIS SYNOPSIS CLEARLY INDICATES, THE FILM IS DEPICTING MORE OF A TECHNO-SCIENTIFIC MEAN OF MAINTAINING THE GROWTH SOCIETY THAN A UTOPIA OF FRUGALITY. THIS MISUNDERSTANDING OF DEGROWTH AS A 'HONEY, I SHRUNK THE ECONOMY' NONETHELESS EXISTS."

"LEADING MARXIST THEORIST DAVID HARVEY CALLS THE IDEA OF COMPOUND GROWTH THE MADNESS OF ECONOMIC REASON, AND THE MOST LETHAL OF CAPITALISM'S LETHAL CONTRADICTIONS (WHICH MAKES US WONDER WHY WOULD SOCIALISTS SPEND THEIR TIME TRYING TO SALVAGE THIS MADNESS).

TO SEE HOW MAD IT IS, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING. AN INNOCENT 3% GROWTH EACH YEAR, MEANS A DOUBLING OF THE ECONOMY EVERY 24 YEARS, SOME TEN TIMES BIGGER BY THE END OF THE CENTURY, QUICKLY GROWING TO AN INFINITE SIZE. SUBSTITUTE THE ECONOMY WITH WHATEVER YOU LIKE ('ENERGY', 'WATER', 'BICYCLES', 'MASSAGES'). THE IDEA OF INFINITY IS PURE MADNESS, FULL STOP. IT IS THE GENERALISATION OF THE LOGIC OF INDIVIDUAL CAPITALISTS WHO EXPECT TO POCKET THEIR 3-5% RETURN EVERY YEAR, RAIN OR SHINE. BUT IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT A SOCIETY CAN SUSTAIN FOR LONG."



GIORGOS KALLIS

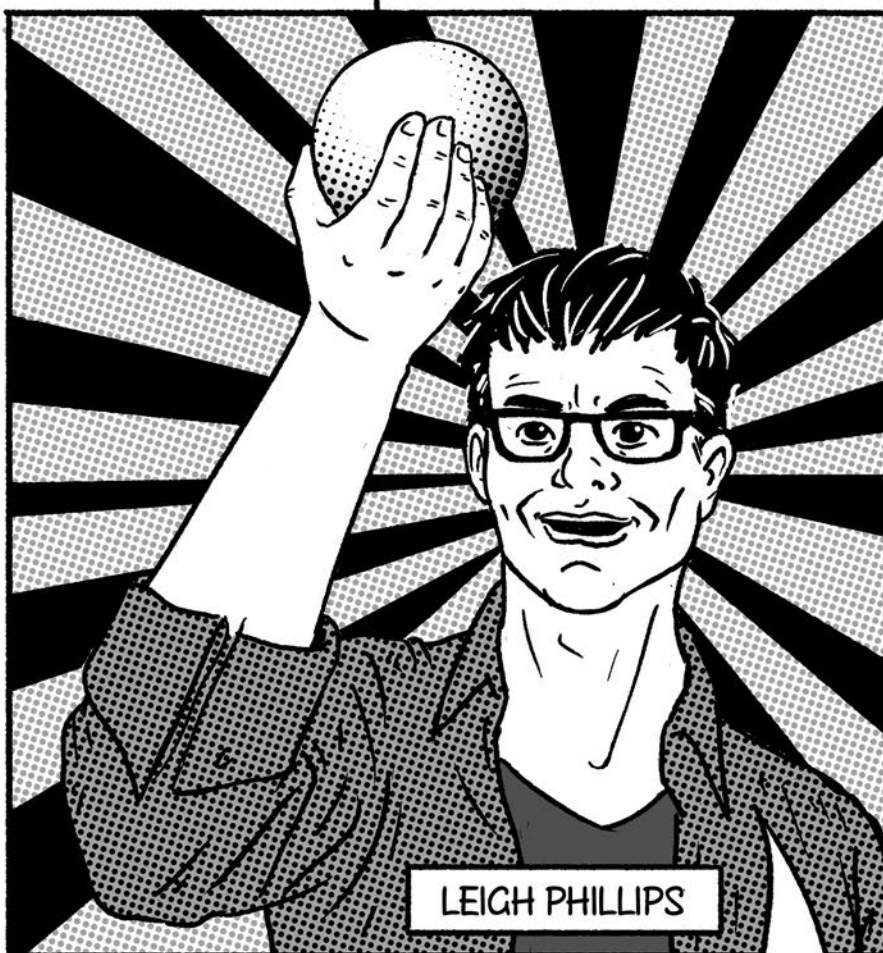
DEGROWTH: SOCIALISM WITHOUT GROWTH



"PHILLIPS COUNTERS THE NECESSITY TO DEGROW WITH A VARIATION OF ZENO'S PARADOX, HOPING TO SHOW THAT, THEORETICALLY, INFINITE GROWTH IS POSSIBLE ON A FINITE PLANET, AS LONG AS IT DECREASES AT A NEGATIVE EXPONENTIAL RATE. BASICALLY, IN A FINITE WORLD, YOU CAN KEEP ON GROWING INFINITELY AS LONG AS YOU GROW LESS AND LESS, ALL THE WAY TO INFINITY. BUT THIS ALSO INVOLVES ACKNOWLEDGING THAT POSITIVE EXPONENTIAL GROWTH (E.G. A 3-5% GROWTH RATE) IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. FUNNILY ENOUGH, IN TRYING TO PROVE THE POSSIBILITY OF INFINITE GROWTH ON A FINITE PLANET, HE TRAPPED HIMSELF IN AN ARGUMENT THAT LOOKS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE DEGROWTHERS."

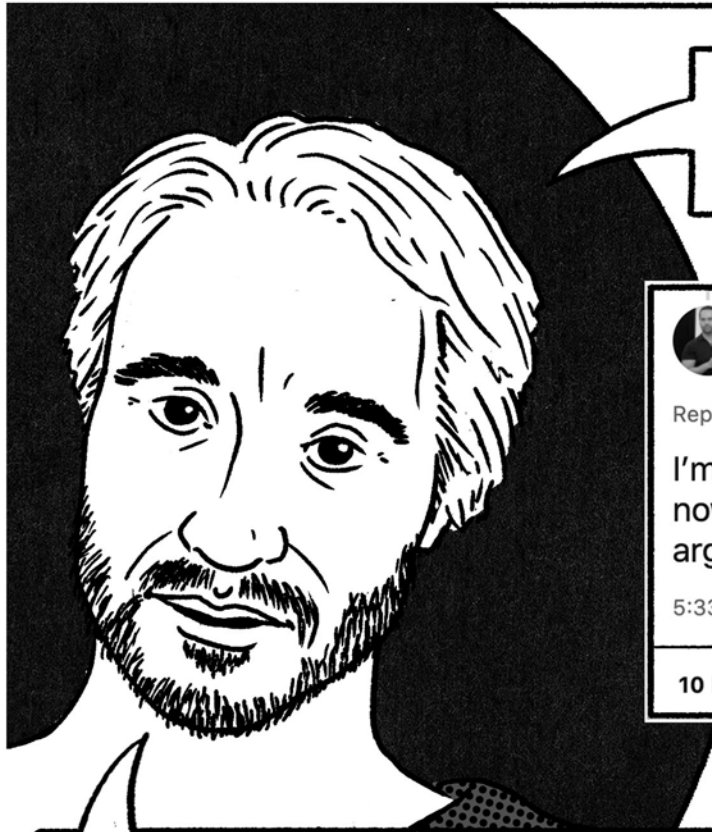
AARON VANSINTJAN

LET'S DEFINE DEGROWTH BEFORE WE DISMISS IT



LEIGH PHILLIPS

"THINK OF A SINGLE RUBBER BALL. LIKE THE EARTH, IT IS BOUNDED IN THE SENSE THAT VERY CLEARLY THERE IS AN EDGE TO THE BALL AND THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH OF IT. IT DOESN'T GO ON FOREVER. IT IS NOT BOUNDLESS. AND THERE IS ONLY ONE OF THEM. BUT IT IS INFINITELY DIVISIBLE IN THE SENSE THAT YOU CAN CUT IT IN HALF, THEN CUT THAT HALF IN HALF AGAIN, THEN CUT THAT QUARTER IN HALF, THEN THAT EIGHT IN HALF, AND SO ON. IN PRINCIPLE, WITH THIS IMAGINARY BALL, YOU CAN KEEP CUTTING IT UP FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, INFINITELY EXTRACTING FROM THIS FINITE OBJECT."



"STILL, SOME SOCIALISTS DREAM OF A FULLY AUTOMATED LUXURY COMMUNISM WHERE NEW TECHNOLOGIES ENABLE THE ABSOLUTE DECOUPLING OF ECONOMIC OUTPUT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT."



Aaron Bastani
@AaronBastani

Replying to @Noahpinion

I'm a big fan of capitalism from 1800-1980. It's just now that record is facing serious, sustained, and arguably secular challenges.

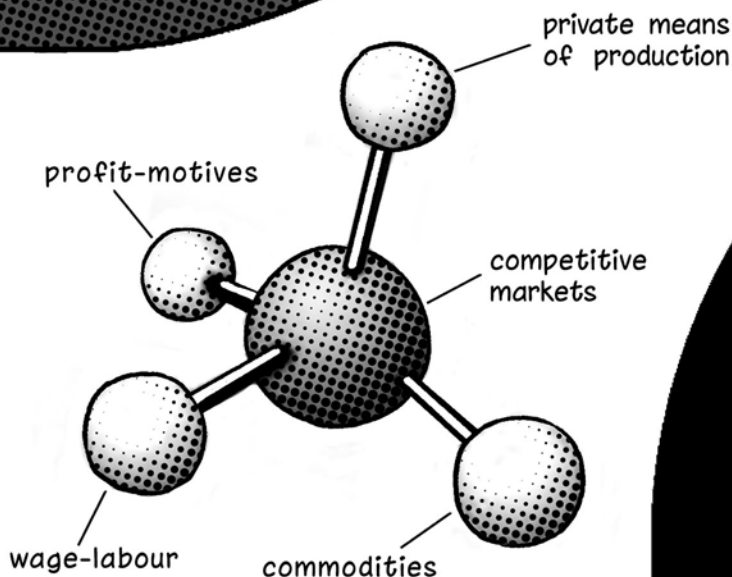
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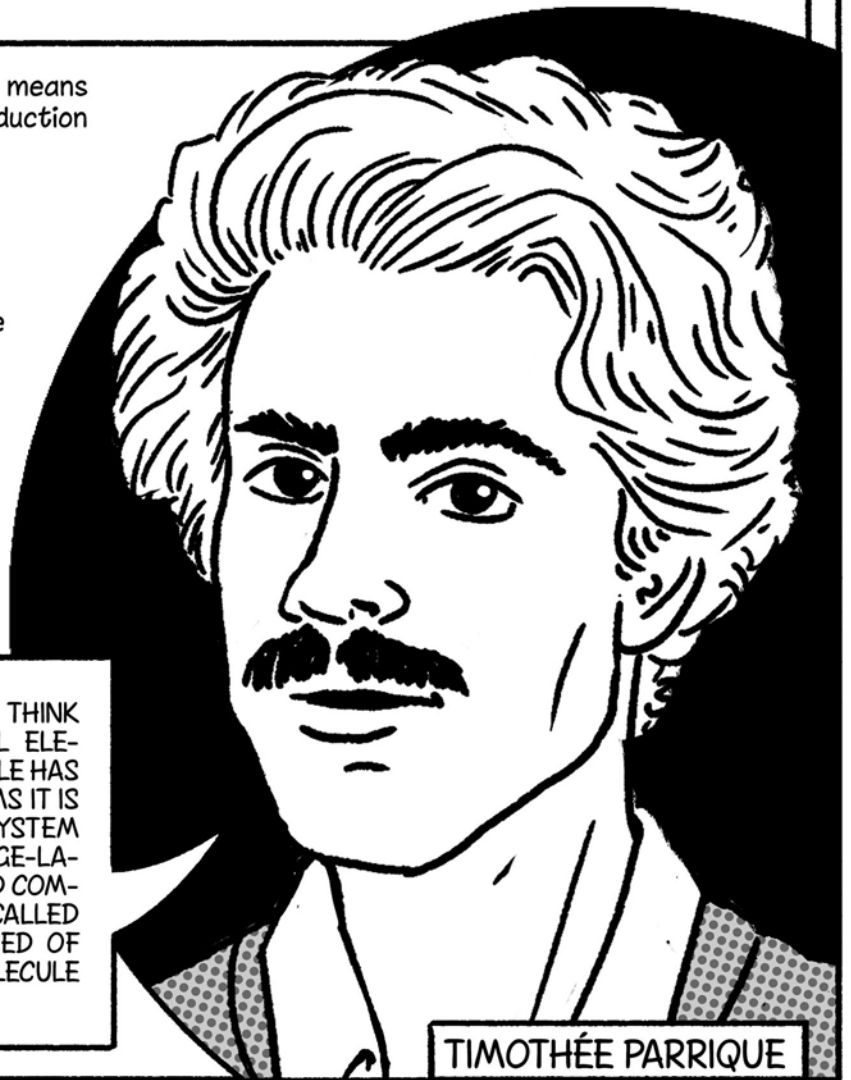
AARON BASTANI

AUTHOR OF 'FULLY AUTOMATED LUXURY COMMUNISM'

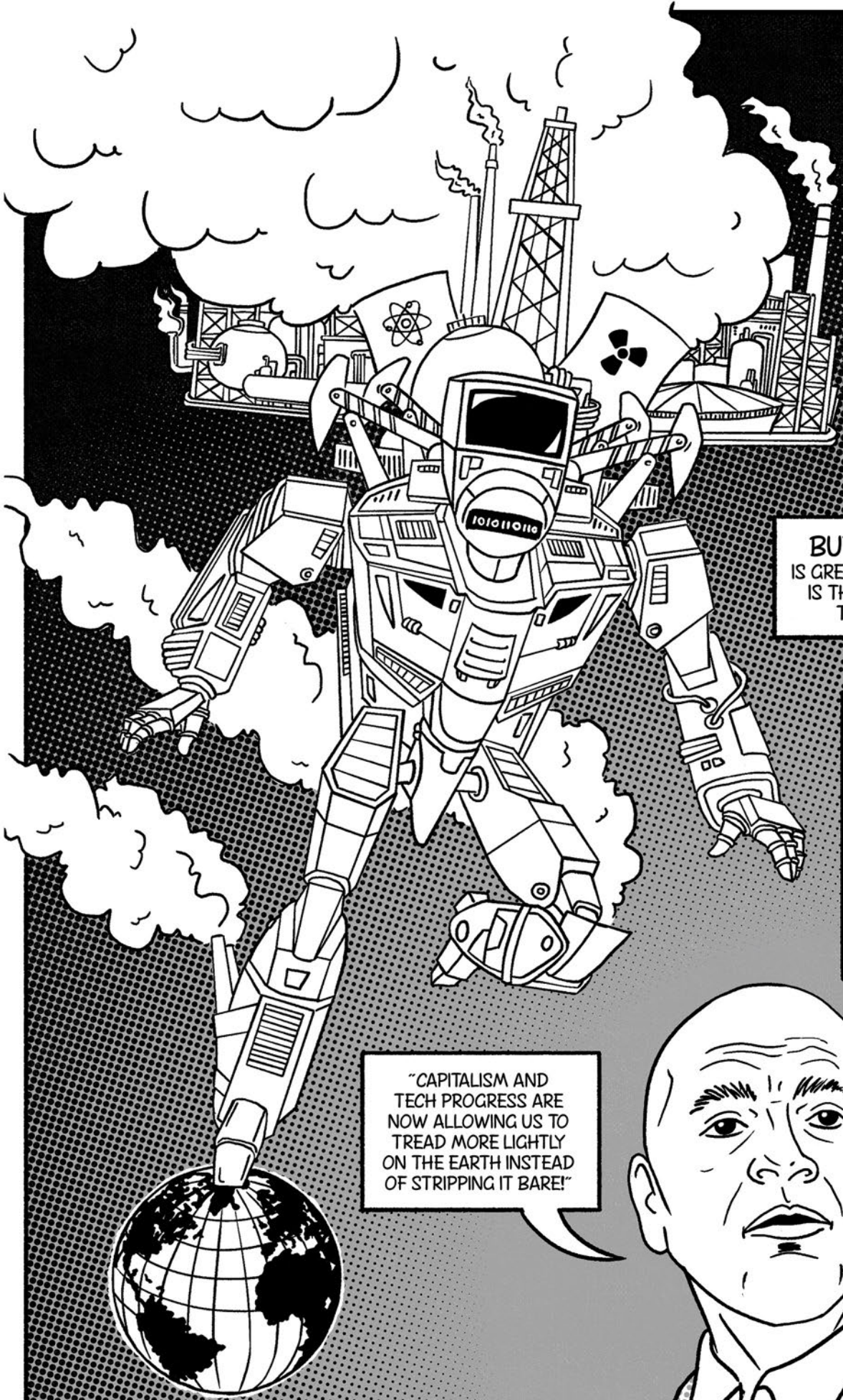
FROM 1800-1980?! REALLY? ANYWAY, "SO FAR, THIS (DECOUPLING) HAS NOT HAPPENED, NOT EVEN CLOSE, AND THERE ARE DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER THE FUTURE HOLDS BETTER PROSPECTS. LIKE IT OR NOT, ECONOMIES TOO HAVE TO OBEY THE LAWS OF PHYSICS. FOR EXAMPLE, THERMODYNAMICS TELLS US THAT ENERGY CAN NEITHER BE CREATED NOR DESTROYED BUT ONLY TRANSFORMED, AND THAT ITS QUALITY MOVES INEXORABLY TOWARDS A LESS USABLE OR USEFUL STATE. THIS MEANS THERE IS NO SILVER-BULLET TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN MAKE AN INCREASE IN THE MATERIAL STANDARD OF LIVING IMMATERIAL - ECONOMY IS FUNDAMENTALLY EMBEDDED WITHIN ECOLOGY. IN OTHER WORDS, NOTHING MATERIAL CAN BE INFINITE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE ECONOMY IS CAPITALIST, SOCIALIST, OR ANYTHING ELSE IN BETWEEN."



"DEGROWTH IS ANYTHING BUT CAPITALIST. THINK ABOUT IT USING THE LOGIC OF CHEMICAL ELEMENTS. IN THE SAME WAY THAT IF A MOLECULE HAS ONE CARBON ATOM AND TWO OXYGEN ATOMS IT IS CALLED CARBON DIOXIDE; IF AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM HAS PRIVATE MEANS OF PRODUCTION, WAGE-LABOUR, COMMODITIES, PROFIT-MOTIVES, AND COMPETITIVE MARKETS, THEN IT SHOULD BE CALLED CAPITALISM. SINCE DEGROWTH IS COMPOSED OF DIFFERENT ELEMENTS; IT IS ANOTHER MOLECULE (ECONOMIC SYSTEM) ALTOGETHER!"



TIMOTHÉE PARRIQUE



BUT CAPITALISM IS GREAT AND "DEGROWTH IS THE WORST IDEA ON THE PLANET!" !!!

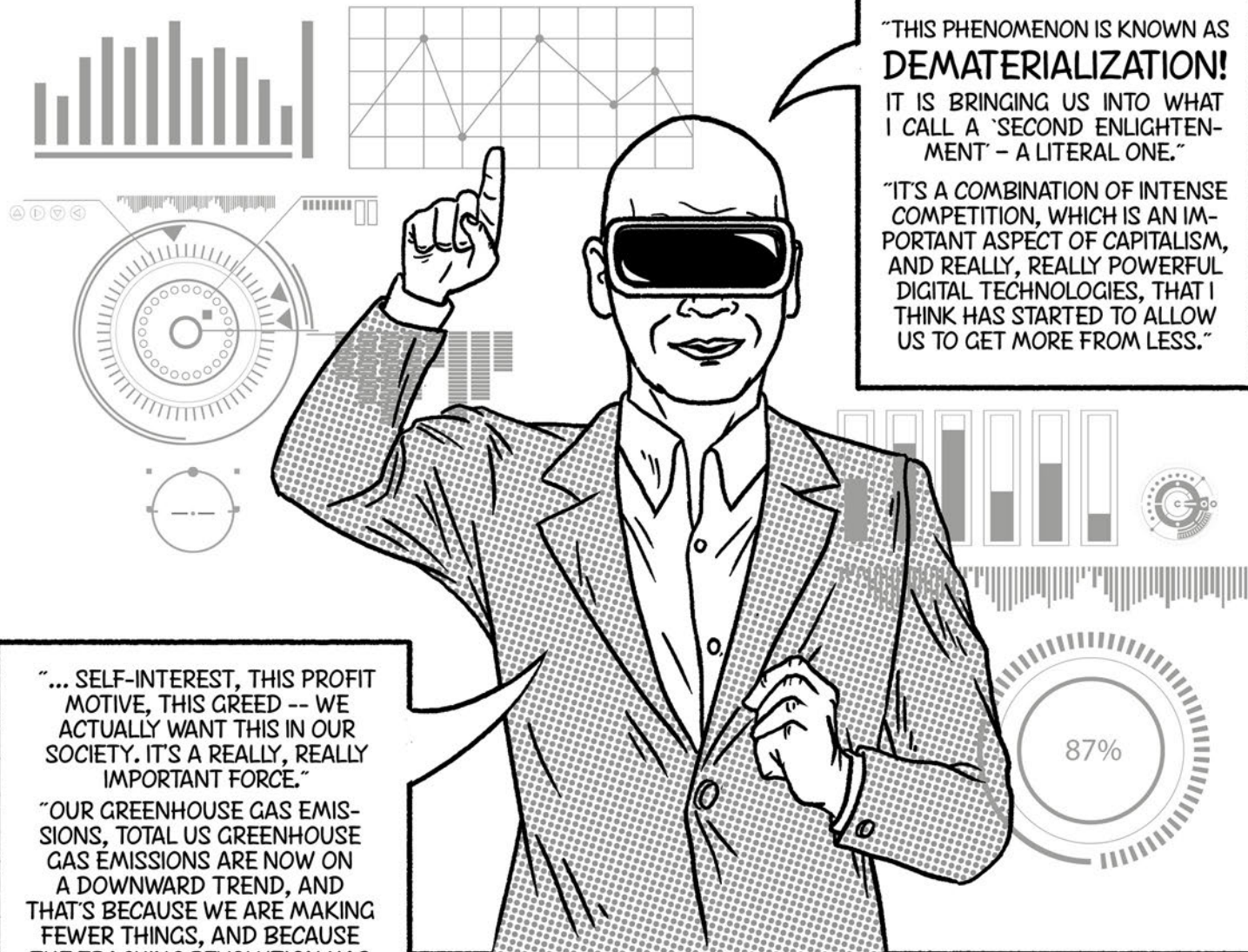
"WE INVENTED THE COMPUTER AND THE NETWORK AND ALL THESE DIGITAL TOOLS, AND WHAT THIS AMAZING DIGITAL TOOLBOX HAS GIVEN US IS, ESSENTIALLY, THE ABILITY TO SWAP OUT BITS FOR ATOMS, TO SWAP OUT ATOMS AND PUT IN BITS."

"CAPITALISM AND TECH PROGRESS ARE NOW ALLOWING US TO TREAD MORE LIGHTLY ON THE EARTH INSTEAD OF STRIPPING IT BARE!"

ANDREW MCAFEE

MCAFEE IS A PRINCIPAL RESEARCH SCIENTIST AT MIT AND STUDIES HOW DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ARE CHANGING BUSINESS, THE ECONOMY, AND SOCIETY. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF 'THE SECOND MACHINE AGE' & 'MORE FROM LESS'.





"THIS PHENOMENON IS KNOWN AS
DEMATERIALIZATION!

IT IS BRINGING US INTO WHAT
I CALL A 'SECOND ENLIGHTEN-
MENT' - A LITERAL ONE."

"IT'S A COMBINATION OF INTENSE
COMPETITION, WHICH IS AN IM-
PORTANT ASPECT OF CAPITALISM,
AND REALLY, REALLY POWERFUL
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, THAT I
THINK HAS STARTED TO ALLOW
US TO GET MORE FROM LESS."

"... SELF-INTEREST, THIS PROFIT
MOTIVE, THIS GREED -- WE
ACTUALLY WANT THIS IN OUR
SOCIETY. IT'S A REALLY, REALLY
IMPORTANT FORCE."

"OUR GREENHOUSE GAS EMIS-
SIONS, TOTAL US GREENHOUSE
GAS EMISSIONS ARE NOW ON
A DOWNWARD TREND, AND
THAT'S BECAUSE WE ARE MAKING
FEWER THINGS, AND BECAUSE
THE FRACKING REVOLUTION HAS
HELPED SWAP OUT NATURAL GAS
FOR COAL, AT LEAST IN ELECTRICI-
TY GENERATION, AND COAL IS A
VERY, VERY GREENHOUSE GAS
INTENSIVE ENERGY SOURCE."

"WE DON'T NEED TO MAKE
RADICAL CHANGES; WE DON'T
NEED TO YANK THE STEERING
WHEEL OF OUR ECONOMIES AND
SOCIETIES IN A DIFFERENT
DIRECTION; WE JUST NEED TO
STEP ON THE ACCELERATOR!"

WAIT A MINUTE...

THE FRACKING REVOLUTION
CAUSED WHAT?
DEMATERIALIZATION?!

AMY WESTERVELT

AMY WESTERVELT IS AN AWARD-WINNING INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST
AND FOUNDER OF THE CRITICAL FREQUENCY PODCAST NETWORK.
'DRILLED' IS HER TRUE-CRIME PODCAST ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.

MISUNDERSTANDING #3:

DEGROWTH IS NOT THE END OF INNOVATION BUT A SHIFTING OF INNOVATIVE EFFORTS FROM COMMODITY PROBLEMS (E.G. FASTER TRADING ALGORITHMS, ADS, AND DRILLING TECHNIQUES) TO COMMUNITY PROBLEMS (E.G. LOCAL CURRENCIES, LABOUR COMMONS, AND OBJECT-SHARING NETWORKS).

DOES THIS LOOK LIKE DEMATERIALIZATION?

PLASTIC / FRACKING NEWS

SINCE 1950, THE WORLD HAS CREATED 6.3 TRILLION KILOGRAMS OF PLASTIC WASTE - AND 91% HAS NEVER BEEN RECYCLED EVEN ONCE. MORE THAN HALF OF IT HAS BEEN CREATED SINCE 2002.

PLASTIC MAY SOON OVERTAKE COAL AS A CLIMATE KILLER, JEFF GOODALL, ROLLING STONE 20221

THE EXPANSION OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, OR FRACKING, IN THE UNITED STATES HAS CREATED A PLENTIFUL SUPPLY OF ETHANE, AN INGREDIENT FOR MAKING PLASTIC WHICH FLOWS AS A BY-PRODUCT OF FRACKING FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS.

EUROPE'S PLASTICS INDUSTRY IS ABOUT TO BOOM. U.S. FRACKING IS DRIVING IT, BETH GARDINER, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 2021

BETWEEN 2008 AND 2017, ETHANE PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES MORE THAN DOUBLED, FROM AROUND 700,000 BARRELS A DAY OF ETHANE TO ALMOST 1.5 MILLION. BY 2021, IT IS EXPECTED TO REACH 2 MILLION BARRELS A DAY.

THE HIDDEN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY AND FRACKING IN THE US, SARAH SAX, GREENBIZ, 2021

"DEMAND FOR FOSSIL FUELS IN THE TRANSPORT AND RESIDENTIAL SECTORS ARE DECLINING. OIL COMPANIES NEED TO MAKE THAT PROFIT UP SOMEWHERE AND THEY'VE CHOSEN TO DO IT IN PETROCHEMICALS ... SO, PLASTIC. IT'S A TWO-FER BECAUSE THEY CAN MAKE IT WITH EXCESS FRACKING CRAP." I MADE A WHOLE PODCAST SEASON ABOUT IT CALLED 'PLASTIC PIPELINE' ...

AMY WESTERVELT



AMY WESTERVELT

"PLASTIC IS MADE WITH PETROLEUM AND THE WASTE PRODUCTS OF THE FRACKING PROCESS. IT GENERATES MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF GHG EMISSIONS, AND IT IS WHERE THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY IS INVESTING."

"PLASTIC IS THE NEW COAL!"

"EXCEPT WORSE BECAUSE IT'S NOT GOING TO STOP GROWING. BECAUSE IT IS BIG OIL'S ESCAPE HATCH!"

EXACTLY! EXPANDING INTO PLASTICS IS THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY'S PLAN B!

"PLASTICS IS THE NEW COAL AND IT IS A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERN ... THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF THE EMISSIONS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY BORNE BY LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR." READ OUR BRAND NEW BEYOND PLASTICS REPORT. HERE ARE JUST SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

THE U.S. PLASTICS INDUSTRY RELEASES AT LEAST 232 MILLION TONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES EACH YEAR, THE EQUIVALENT OF 116 AVERAGE-SIZED COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS.

IN 2020, THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY'S REPORTED EMISSIONS INCREASED BY 10 MILLION TONS OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS OVER 2019. CONSTRUCTION IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN THE U.S. ON ANOTHER 12 PLASTICS FACILITIES, AND 15 MORE ARE PLANNED. ALTOGETHER THESE EXPANSIONS MAY EMIT MORE THAN 40 MILLION MORE TONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES ANNUALLY BY 2025.

PLASTICS ARE ON TRACK TO CONTRIBUTE MORE CLIMATE CHANGE EMISSIONS THAN COAL PLANTS BY 2030...



JUDITH ENCK

PRESIDENT, BEYOND PLASTICS PROGRAM AND FORMER EPA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

"PLASTICS ARE ALSO MANUFACTURED AND OFTEN INCINERATED IN COMMUNITIES WHERE POOR PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE RARELY CONSULTED OR ALERTED TO THOSE RISKS. OUR COMMUNITIES ARE LIVING THIS POLLUTION EVERY DAY ... THE CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE ESTIMATES THAT 1.8 MILLION LATINX PEOPLE IN THE U.S. LIVE WITHIN HALF A MILE OF AN OIL AND GAS FACILITY, INCREASING ODDS OF PRETERM BIRTH AND RESPIRATORY ILLNESS. THE PRODUCTION OF PLASTIC FEEDSTOCKS AND THE RAW FOSSIL FUELS USED TO MAKE MOST PLASTICS AFFECT COMMUNITIES' IMMUNE, REPRODUCTIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, AND RESPIRATORY SYSTEMS, STARTING RIGHT OUTSIDE FACTORY FENCE LINES."

"PLASTIC FUELS THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND CONTRIBUTES TO CLIMATE CHANGE AT EVERY STEP OF ITS LIFE CYCLE, FROM EXTRACTION TO REFINEMENT, MANUFACTURE, TRANSPORTATION, DISPOSAL, AND WASTE. IF PLASTIC PRODUCTION AND USE GROW AS CURRENTLY PLANNED, EMISSIONS FROM (GLOBAL) PLASTIC PRODUCTION COULD REACH 1.34 GIGATONS PER YEAR BY 2030, EQUIVALENT TO THE EMISSIONS RELEASED BY MORE THAN 295 NEW 500-MEGAWATT COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS."

"IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN HIT THE HARDEST BY COVID-19, AS OUR IMMUNE SYSTEMS ARE ALREADY COMPROMISED. PLASTIC POLLUTION VIOLATES OUR HUMAN RIGHT TO BREATHE WITHOUT FEAR."

**99% OF PLASTIC IS DERIVED
FROM FOSSIL FUELS!**



"AND THE DIRECT IMPACT ITS PRODUCTION HAS IN OUR COMMUNITIES IS THE REAL GLOBAL CRISIS. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN HOW RAMPANT THE PLASTIC CRISIS IS, FINDING MICROPLASTICS IN DEEP SEA ANIMALS, IN FISH, IN OUR BODIES, AND EVEN IN RAIN."

YVETTE ARELLANO

YVETTE ARELLANO (THEY/THEM) IS A GULF COAST ORGANIZER FROM HOUSTON, TEXAS, DEDICATED TO THE CAUSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE. THEY SERVE AS A POLICY RESEARCH AND GRASSROOTS ADVOCATE WITH TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY SERVICES.



"EACH OF US IS SWALLOWING A CREDIT CARD'S WORTH OF PLASTIC EACH WEEK. IT'S POLLUTING OUR OCEANS AND COMMUNITIES, COSTING TAXPAYERS BILLIONS, AND WORSENING CLIMATE CHANGE."

BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION

THOMAS STEWART UDALL IS AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, LAWYER, AND POLITICIAN WHO SERVED AS A UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR NEW MEXICO FROM 2009 TO 2021

TOM UDALL

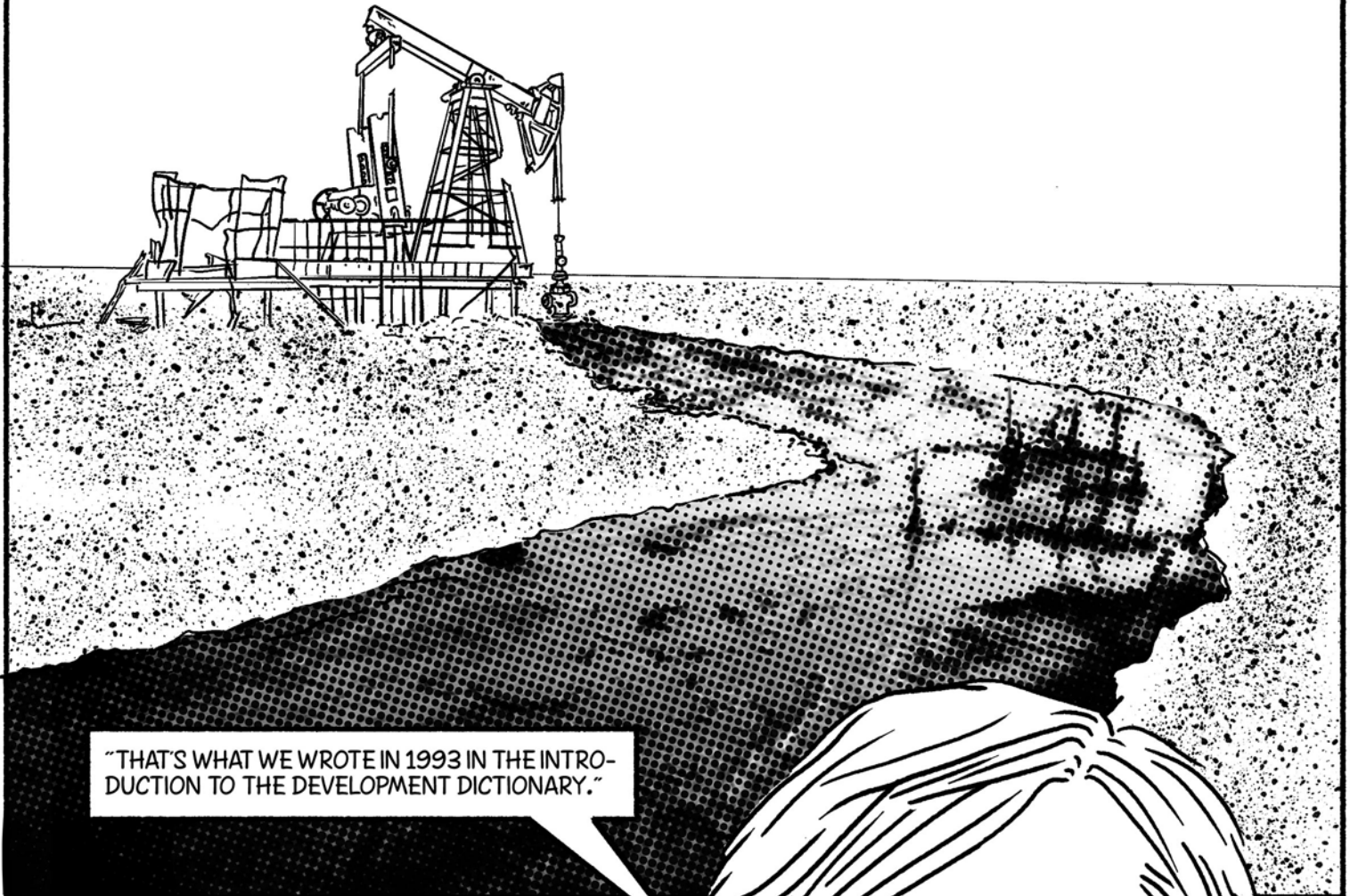


SO, JUST TO RECAP:
THE FRACKING REVOLUTION IS
ANYTHING BUT DEMATERIALIZA-
TION. OR AT LEAST NOT WHAT AN
AVERAGE PERSON WOULD ASSO-
CIATE WITH SUCH A TERM.

OH, ALMOST FORGOT,
RADIOACTIVITY! GUESS, WHAT
INNOVATION THE FRACKING
INDUSTRY CAME UP WITH TO
DEAL WITH NEARLY A TRILLION
GALLONS OF TOXIC WASTE
OIL-AND-GAS WELLS PRODUCE
EACH YEAR? A NEW MARKET!
FOR SELLING RADIOACTIVE
WASTE BRINE TO THE PUBLIC
AS A ROAD DEICER AND POOL
TREATMENT...

AMY WESTERVELT

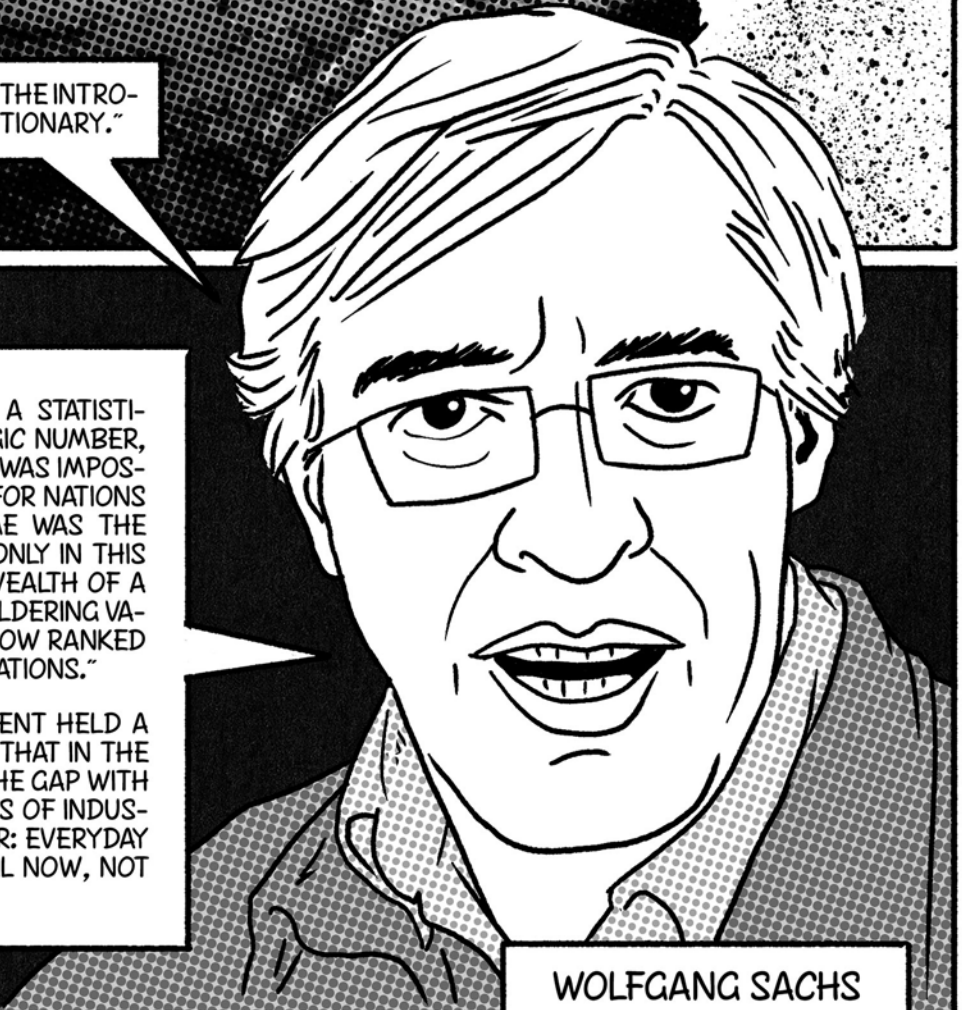
THE IDEA OF DEVELOPMENT STANDS LIKE A RUIN IN THE INTELLECTUAL LANDSCAPE.



"THAT'S WHAT WE WROTE IN 1993 IN THE INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT DICTIONARY."

"DEVELOPMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STATISTICAL CONSTRUCT. WITHOUT THE MAGIC NUMBER, GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP), IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO COME UP WITH A RANKING FOR NATIONS OF THE WORLD. COMPARING INCOME WAS THE POINT OF DEVELOPMENT THINKING. ONLY IN THIS WAY COULD RELATIVE POVERTY OR WEALTH OF A COUNTRY BE DETERMINED. THE BEWILDERING VARIETY OF PEOPLES IN THE WORLD IS NOW RANKED SIMPLISTICALLY AS RICH AND POOR NATIONS."

"BUT THE DISCOURSE OF DEVELOPMENT HELD A MONUMENTAL HISTORICAL PROMISE: THAT IN THE END, ALL SOCIETIES WOULD CLOSE THE GAP WITH THE RICH AND PARTAKE IN THE FRUITS OF INDUSTRIAL CIVILIZATION. THAT ERA IS OVER: EVERYDAY LIFE IS MORE OFTEN ABOUT SURVIVAL NOW, NOT PROGRESS."



WOLFGANG SACHS

AUTHOR AND RESEARCHER. FORMER HEAD OF RESEARCH AT THE WUPPERTAL INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY.

MISUNDERSTANDING #4:

DEGROWTH IS NOT AGAINST HUMAN NATURE. PERHAPS WE ARE HARD-WIRED TO STRUGGLE FOR PROGRESS, BUT WHAT CONSTITUTES "PROGRESS" IS SOCIALLY DEFINED. MORE MONEY IS NOT A UNIVERSAL RECIPE TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN CONDITION.

"THE DOWNFALL OF THE DEVELOPMENT IDEA IS NOW OBVIOUS IN THE UN AGENDA 2030 PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS). LONG GONE IS THE TIME WHEN DEVELOPMENT MEANT 'PROMISE'."

"PROGRESS HAS TURNED OUT TO BE REGRESS, AS THE CAPITALIST LOGIC OF THE GLOBAL NORTH CANNOT BUT EXPLOIT NATURE. FROM THE 'LIMITS TO GROWTH' IN 1972 TO 'PLANETARY BOUNDARIES' IN 2009, THE ANALYSIS IS CLEAR: DEVELOPMENT AS-GROWTH LEADS TO UNSUSTAINABILITY OF THE PLANET EARTH FOR HUMANS."

"THE SDGS - CARRYING DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR TITLE - ARE A SEMANTIC DECEPTION. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SHOULD REALLY BE CALLED SSGS - SUSTAINABLE SURVIVAL GOALS."

"JUST AS THE COLD WAR ERA FADED IN 1989, THE MYTH OF CATCHING UP EVAPORATED IN 2015. RARELY HAS A MYTH BEEN BURIED SO QUIETLY."

"WHAT POINT IS THERE IN DEVELOPMENT, IF THERE IS NO COUNTRY THAT CAN BE CALLED 'SUSTAINABLY DEVELOPED'?"

"IT IS WORTHWHILE QUOTING A PASSAGE FROM THE DOCUMENT THAT ANNOUNCED THE SDGS: 'THIS IS AN AGENDA OF UNPRECEDENTED SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE... THESE ARE UNIVERSAL GOALS AND TARGETS WHICH INVOLVE THE ENTIRE WORLD, DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALIKE.'"



"YOU CANNOT EXPRESS THE MIND SHIFT MORE CLEARLY: 'THE GEOPOLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT', ACCORDING TO WHICH INDUSTRIAL NATIONS WOULD BE THE SHINING EXAMPLE FOR POORER COUNTRIES, HAS BEEN DISPOSED OF."

"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE IMPERATIVE OF 'CATCHING UP', SO FUNDAMENTAL TO THE IDEA OF DEVELOPMENT?" *

Brands bigger than entire countries: which countries is Amazon worth more than?

Comparing the GDP of countries around the world against Amazon's net worth (\$1.6 trillion)

● - worth less than Amazon
● - worth more than Amazon

Countries closest to Amazon's net worth

Amazon	\$1.6 trillion
South Korea	\$1.6 trillion
Australia	\$1.3 trillion
Spain	\$1.3 trillion
Mexico	\$1.2 trillion
Indonesia	\$1.1 trillion
Netherlands	\$907 billion
Saudi Arabia	\$792 billion
Turkey	\$761 billion
Switzerland	\$703 billion
Poland	\$595 billion



"WHILE HIS POSITION AS THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN INTERCHANGES WITH TESLA FOUNDER, ELON MUSK – THE CEO OF AMAZON; JEFF BEZOS, WHO IS WORTH \$193 BILLION, HAS BUILT A COMPANY NOW WEALTHIER THAN 92% OF THE WORLD'S COUNTRIES."

WE NOW LIVE IN TIMES WHERE BILLIONAIRES EXIST, WHO'S BUSINESS IS DEEMED WORTH MORE THAN ENTIRE COUNTRIES. DOES THIS IMPROVE THE HUMAN CONDITION? CAN AND SHOULD WE NOW ALL PLAY CATCH UP WITH BILLIONAIRES? IF SUCH UNIMAGINABLE GROWTH AND HAVING THAT MUCH WEALTH DOES NOT IMPROVE THE HUMAN CONDITION, WHY DO WE STILL RELY ON GDP AS A 'DEVELOPMENT' OR 'PROGRESS' INDICATOR?

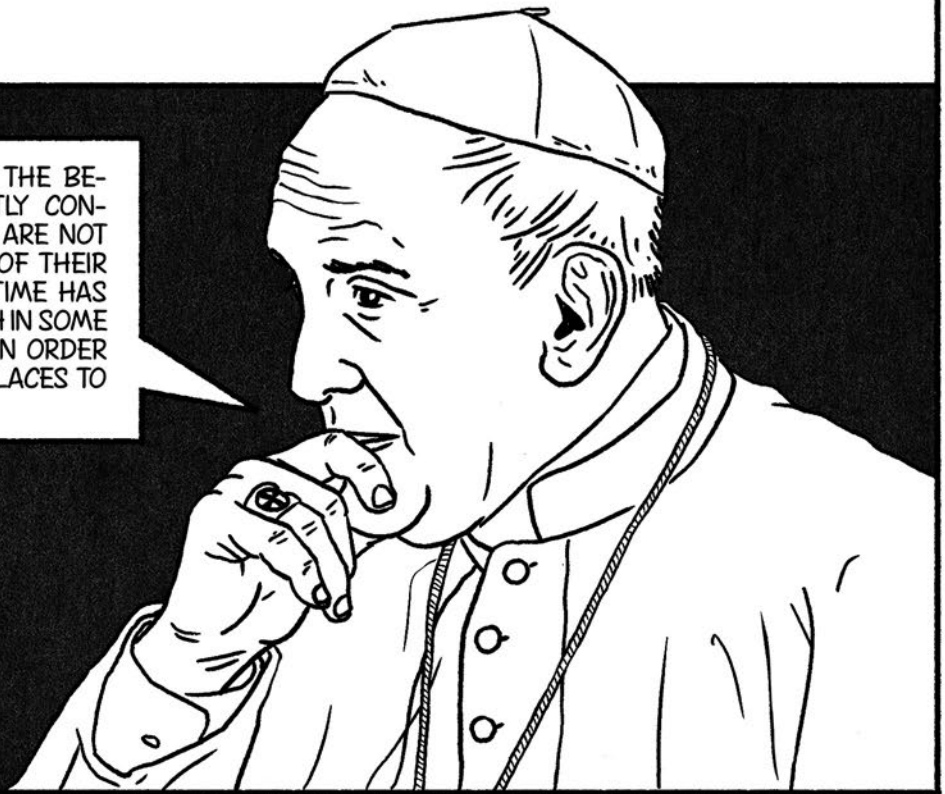
HOW LARGE WOULD TECH COMPANIES BE IF THEY WERE COUNTRIES? RUSLANA LISHCHUK



"THIS IS A MAN WHO MAKES ABOUT \$149,000 WITH EVERY PASSING MINUTE. THIS IS A MAN WHO, LAST JULY, IN THE MIDST OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND A DEVASTATING ECONOMIC CRISIS, INCREASED HIS PERSONAL WEALTH BY \$13BN IN THE COURSE OF A SINGLE DAY. THIS IS A MAN WHO, DESPITE LIVING ON A PLANET WHERE ONE THIRD OF HUMAN BEINGS DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER, TOLD BUSINESS INSIDER MAGAZINE THAT "THE ONLY WAY I CAN SEE TO DEPLOY THIS MUCH FINANCIAL RESOURCE IS BY CONVERTING MY AMAZON WINNINGS INTO SPACE TRAVEL." - A MANAGERIAL MEPHISTOPHELES: INSIDE THE MIND OF JEFF BEZOS

"WE KNOW HOW UNSUSTAINABLE IS THE BEHAVIOUR OF THOSE WHO CONSTANTLY CONSUME AND DESTROY, WHILE OTHERS ARE NOT YET ABLE TO LIVE IN A WAY WORTHY OF THEIR HUMAN DIGNITY. THAT IS WHY THE TIME HAS COME TO ACCEPT DECREASED GROWTH IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD (DEGROWTH), IN ORDER TO PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR OTHER PLACES TO EXPERIENCE HEALTHY GROWTH."

NO, NO,
NOO !!!



"TWO THINGS. FIRST, ECONOMIC GROWTH SAVES CHILDREN'S LIVES. THAT IS ONE OF THE MOST BASIC, STARKEST FACTS ABOUT THE MODERN WORLD."

"SECOND, THERE IS A THING CALLED THE 'DEGROWTH MOVEMENT', WHICH WANTS TO STOP ECONOMIC GROWTH. AND, YES, THIS WOULD LEAD ALMOST INEVITABLY TO THE UNNECESSARY DEATHS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN A DAY."

FUN FACT!

"ECONOMIC GROWTH CANNOT FULLY ACCOUNT FOR EITHER LIFE EXPECTANCY IMPROVEMENTS (OR CHILD MORTALITY DECREASES)."

TOM CHIVERS

WHO WOULD KILL CHILDREN TO SAVE THE PLANET? A NEW ECO-MOVEMENT WOULD SACRIFICE MILLIONS OF LIVES - UNHERD, AUGUST 2021 (UNHERD IS FUNDED BY A TRUST FROM BREXIT BACKING HEDGE FUND OWNER PAUL MARSHALL)



JULIA STEINBERGER

PROFESSOR OF ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS
TWITTER RESPONSE THREAD TO TOM CHIVERS

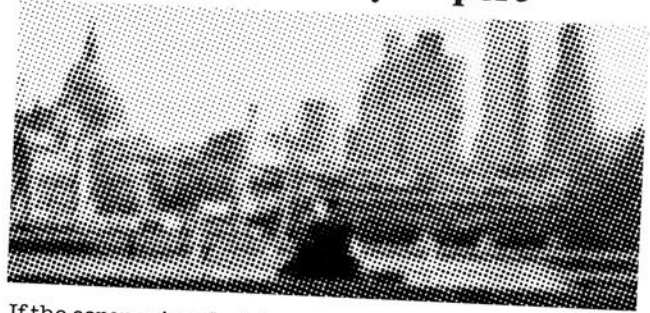
"THE PAPER THAT DISPROVED, FOREVER, THE CORE ASSUMPTION FROM TOM AND STUDIES REFERENCED HERE IN THE TIMES

WAS PUBLISHED IN 1975 ONE YEAR AFTER I WAS BORN."

THE TIMES

CORONAVIRUS

Economic crash could cost more life than coronavirus, says expert



If the coronavirus lockdown leads to a fall in GDP of more than 6.4 per cent more years of life will be lost due to recession than will be gained through beating the virus, a study suggests.

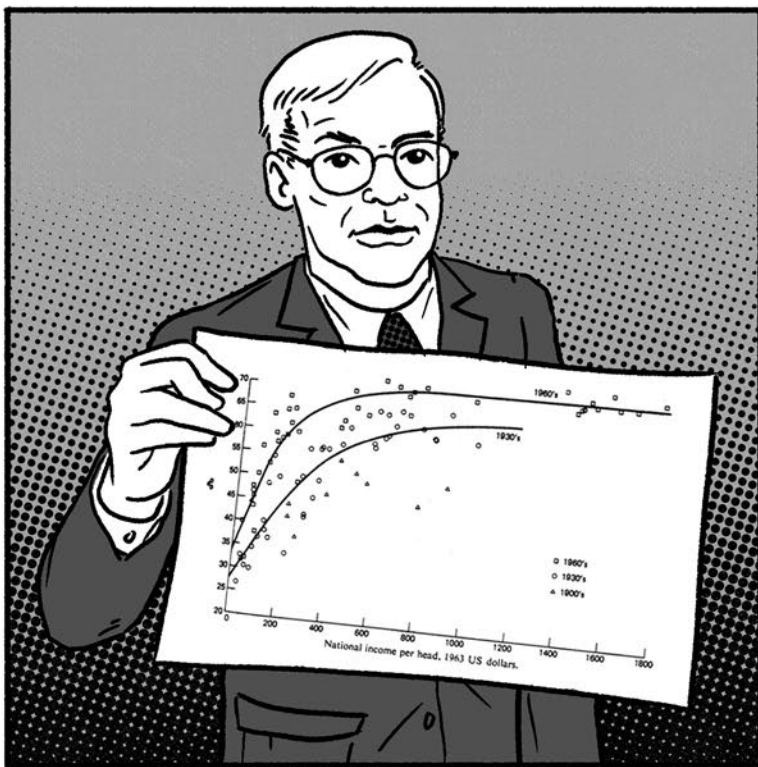
"THAT'S RIGHT: NOT ONLY TOM CHIVERS BUT ALSO THIS TIMES ARTICLE, PUBLISHED IN 2020, HAVE BEEN WRONG FOR SINCE I WORE DIAPERS."

"LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO PROFESSOR SAMUEL PRESTON, ECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHER. IN 1975, AS A YOUNG FACULTY MEMBER, HE WROTE A PAPER THAT ALMOST ENDED HIS CAREER, BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATED A RESULT THAT ALMOST NO ONE WANTED TO HEAR. BUT HE WAS RIGHT."

"THE PAPER IS CALLED 'THE CHANGING RELATION BETWEEN MORTALITY AND LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.' IN IT, PRESTON INTRODUCES THE CURVES THAT BEAR HIS NAME, 'PRESTON CURVES.' THESE CURVES SHOW THAT INCOME & LIFE EXPECTANCY ARE CORRELATED."



"BUT THEY ARE NOT CORRELATED UNIFORMLY: SMALL INCREASES AT LOW INCOMES HAVE A LARGER EFFECT THAN LARGER INCREASES AT LARGE INCOMES. THEN PRESTON USED THESE CURVES TO SEE IF INCREASES IN INCOME COULD ACCOUNT FOR INCREASES IN LIFE EXPECTANCY."



"AND HE FOUND, QUITE SIMPLY, THAT ECONOMIC GROWTH CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR INCREASES IN LIFE EXPECTANCY. AT ALL. AS WE LEARN IN STATISTICS CLASSES, CORRELATION $\neq$ CAUSATION. AND THIS RESULT, SUPER SOLID AS IT WAS, ALMOST ENDED HIS CAREER, BECAUSE IT WENT AGAINST COMMON WISDOM."

"THE STRENGTH OF PRESTON'S RESULTS LED TO HIS ARTICLE BEING REPUBLISHED OVER THE YEARS. HOWEVER, HIS FUNDAMENTAL CONCLUSION, THAT INCOME CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD TO BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE INCREASING LIFE EXPECTANCY, IS FORGOTTEN OVER AND OVER IN A GROWTH-CRAZED WORLD."



JULIA STEINBERGER

"AND THE TIMES ARTICLE AS WELL AS TOM CHIVERS CLAIMS ARE BASED ON FORGETTING, YET AGAIN, RESULTS THAT ARE ALMOST 1/2 A CENTURY OLD. LIKE ME."

"YOU KNOW WHO ELSE WROTE AN ARTICLE, WHICH NAILS YET ANOTHER BIG-ASS EMPIRICAL NAIL IN THE COFFIN OF THIS ARGUMENT?"

THAT'S RIGHT. ME. BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO RELY ON ME HERE: GOOD OLD PROFESSOR SAM PRESTON WILL DO YOU JUST FINE.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LETTERS

LETTER • OPEN ACCESS

Your money or your life? The carbon-development paradox

Julia K Steinberger¹ , William F Lamb²  and Marco Sakai³ 

Published 27 March 2020 • © 2020 The Author(s). Published by IOP Publishing Ltd

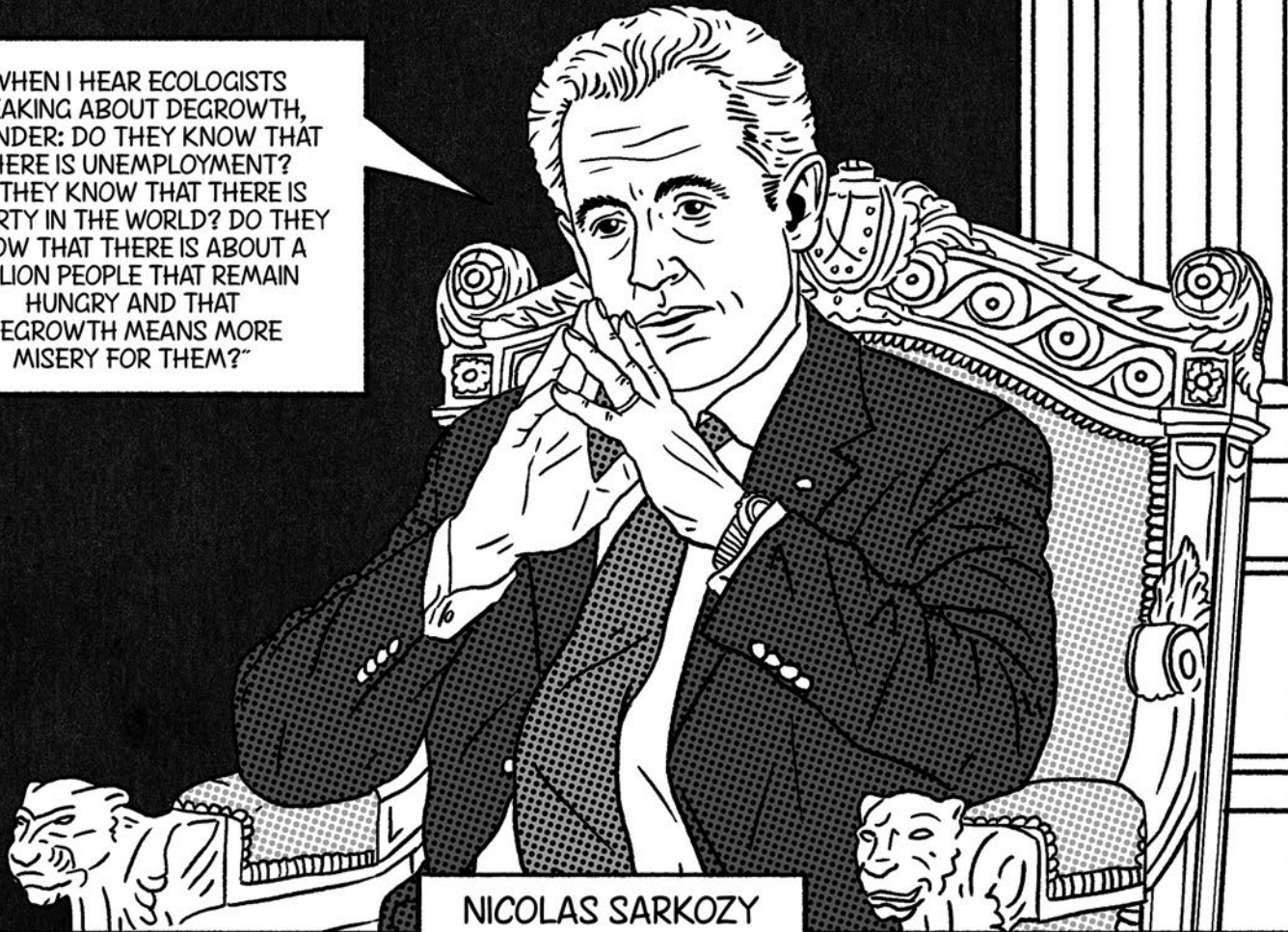
[Environmental Research Letters](#), Volume 15, Number 4

Citation Julia K Steinberger et al 2020 *Environ. Res. Lett.* 15 044016

MISUNDERSTANDING #5:

DEGROWTH IS NOT DEPRIVATION. THE REDUCTION IN CONSUMPTION ARE NOT APPLICABLE IN COMMUNITIES WHERE THE GREAT MAJORITY OF NEEDS REMAIN UNMET. DOWNSHIFTING MAINLY CONCERNS THE ABNORMAL LIFESTYLE OF THE POLLUTER ELITE.

"WHEN I HEAR ECOLOGISTS SPEAKING ABOUT DEGROWTH, I WONDER: DO THEY KNOW THAT THERE IS UNEMPLOYMENT? DO THEY KNOW THAT THERE IS POVERTY IN THE WORLD? DO THEY KNOW THAT THERE IS ABOUT A BILLION PEOPLE THAT REMAIN HUNGRY AND THAT DEGROWTH MEANS MORE MISERY FOR THEM?"



NICOLAS SARKOZY

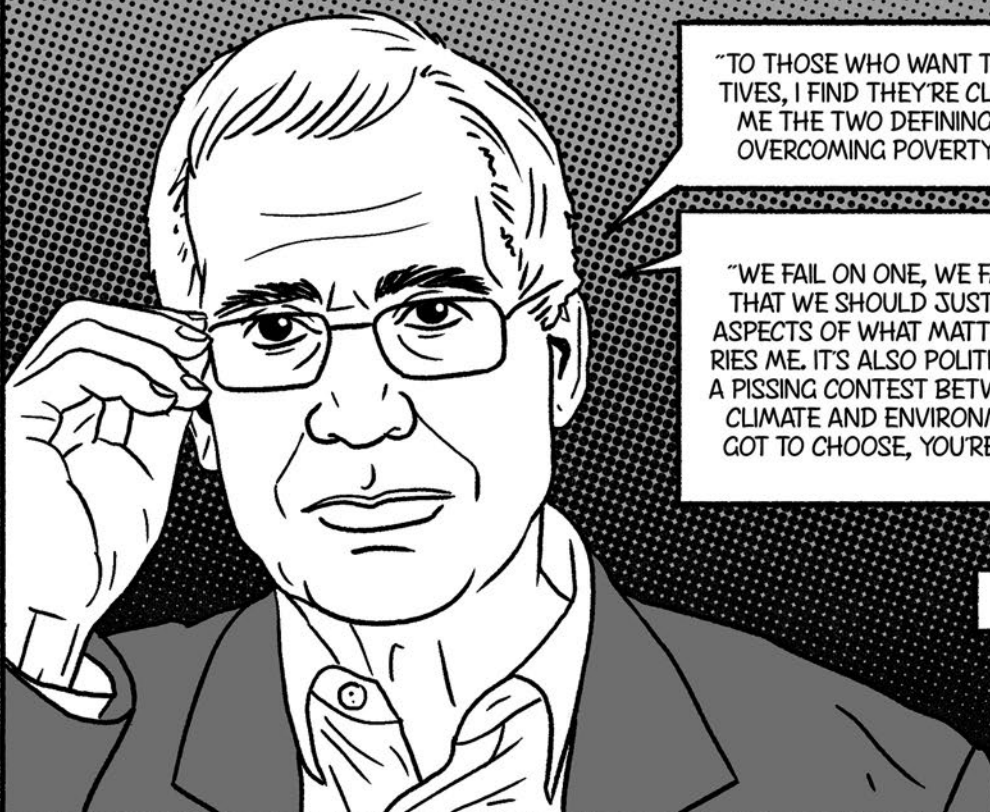
FORMER FRENCH PRESIDENT IN A SPEECH IN 2009 (*2021 SARKOZY WAS FOUND GUILTY OF ILLEGALLY FINANCING HIS 2012 RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN. CANDIDATES WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SPEND MORE THAN \$25 MILLION EACH, BUT SARKOZY SPENT \$50 MILLION. DESPITE THE MASSIVE IMPLICATIONS OF TRYING TO STEAL A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, SARKOZY WAS SENTENCED TO JUST ONE YEAR IN PRISON—WHICH HE WILL LIKELY SPEND IN LUXURIOUS HOUSE ARREST.)

"TO THOSE WHO WANT TO KNOCK OUT GROWTH FROM OBJECTIVES, I FIND THEY'RE CLOSE TO REPREHENSIBLE BECAUSE FOR ME THE TWO DEFINING CHALLENGES OF THIS CENTURY ARE OVERCOMING POVERTY AND MANAGING CLIMATE CHANGE."

"WE FAIL ON ONE, WE FAIL ON THE OTHER. SO I THINK TO SAY THAT WE SHOULD JUST SWITCH OFF GROWTH IS TO MISS BIG ASPECTS OF WHAT MATTERS ABOUT POVERTY. AND SO IT WORRIES ME. IT'S ALSO POLITICALLY VERY NAIVE. IF YOU TURN IT INTO A PISSING CONTEST BETWEEN GROWTH ON THE ONE HAND AND CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT ON THE OTHER AND SAY YOU'VE GOT TO CHOOSE, YOU'RE SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR FAILURE."

LORD NICHOLAS STERN

"ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL VOICES ON CLIMATE ECONOMICS" GUARDIAN INTERVIEW 2014



"ALTHOUGH THE CONCEPT OF DEGROWTH SHOULD URGENTLY BE APPLIED TO HIGHINCOME COUNTRIES, DE-TRACTORS PRETEND TO BE ARGUING FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH. THEY SAY THAT IT IS NOT FAIR THAT POOR COUNTRIES ARE BEING TOLD TO SLOW DOWN WHEN THESE COUNTRIES HAVE NOT YET EXPERIENCED SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH. YET, THEY CONTINUE TO IGNORE THE FACT THAT THE GLOBAL SOUTH IS POOR BECAUSE OF PLUNDER BY THE GROWTHOBSESSED GLOBAL NORTH."

ROSARIO GUZMAN

'WHO IS AFRAID OF DEGROWTH? A GLOBAL SOUTH ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE' 2021 - ROSARIO GUZMAN IS THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR AT IBON FOUNDATION



"IN INDIA, WITH RESPECT TO TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES IN THE FORM OF IMPROVED SEEDS AND PESTICIDES HAVE DESTROYED SOIL QUALITY AND CAUSED EXTREME DISTRESS TO FARMERS. CONVERSION OF FARMS INTO MONOCULTURES HAS NOT ONLY DESTROYED BIODIVERSITY BUT HAS WIPED OUT VARIETY IN FOOD CONSUMPTION IN PEASANT HOUSEHOLDS, MAKING THEM SUSCEPTIBLE TO MALNUTRITION; A PROBLEM THAT INDIA HAS SADLY BEEN CONFRONTED WITH. THIS DEVELOPMENTAL MODEL HAS CREATED CONDITIONS OF POVERTY AND PRECARIY."

GABRIELA CABAÑA

'CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM OF DEGROWTH IS NOT SUPPORT FOR GROWTH' 2020 - GABRIELA CABAÑA IS A PHD STUDENT AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

FROM 1995 TO 2014 ABOUT 300,000 FARMERS IN INDIA HAVE TAKEN THEIR LIVES. IN 2019 THE NUMBER WAS MORE THAN 10,000, AMOUNTING TO AN AVERAGE OF 28 SUICIDES IN INDIA'S FARMING COMMUNITY EVERY DAY.



"IN CHILE, AGRIBUSINESSES HAVE DESTROYED FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS WITH EXPORT-LED MONOCULTURES SUCH AS AVOCADOS, WHILE SALMON FARMING HAS KILLED MARINE LIFE IN THE SOUTHERN CHANNELS. BOTH ARE PRESENTED AS SUCCESSES OF GROWTH-ORIENTED POLICIES, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE DISMANTLED LOCAL ECONOMIC CIRCUITS AND IMPOVERISHED THEIR INHABITANTS. EXPERIENCES LIKE THESE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD MAKE A STRONG CASE FOR DEGROWTH."

*GREENPEACE ANDINO CAMPAIGN PHOTO 2019
"WATER FOR THE FEW = MORE DROUGHT"



WHAT YOU SEE HERE IS WHAT USED TO BE A HUGE LAKE CALLED LA LAGUNA ACULEO. CHILE'S PROVINCE OF PETORCA IS FACING A WATER CRISIS DUE TO A RECORD-BREAKING DROUGHT AND EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF AVOCADO FARMING. MUCH OF THE SCARCE WATER THAT REMAINS UNDERGROUND HAS BEEN TAKEN, A LOT OF IT ILLEGALLY, BY AVOCADO-GROWERS. TO GROW ONE AVOCADO ABOUT 320 LITERS OF APPLIED WATER IS NEEDED, FOR ONE TOMATO IT IS 5 LITERS. LOCAL WATER DEFENDERS RECEIVE DEATH THREATS AND USE THE SLOGAN: THIS ISN'T DROUGHT, THIS IS THEFT!



ROSARIO GUZMAN

"GROWTH IS A PAINFUL WORD
FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH."

"THE REALITY OF GROWTH FROM THE PERSPECTIVE
OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH IS THAT IT CAN BE ACHIEVED
SIMPLY BY BEING OPEN AND ATTRACTIVE TO FOREIGN
CAPITAL."

"THE REALITY OF GROWTH FROM THE PERSPECTIVE
OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH IS THAT IT CAN BE ACHIEVED
BY INCREASING DEBT."

"THE REALITY OF GROWTH IS THAT THE GLOBAL
SOUTH IS RELEGATED TO BEING AN EXPORTER OF
CHEAP RAW MATERIALS AND LABOR, A PRODUCTION
ASSEMBLY LINE, A SWEATSHOP, A SERVICE ECONOMY
OF THE NORTH, WHILE THE NORTH IS THE ONE
INDUSTRIALIZING, PRODUCING A WIDER RANGE OF
COMMODITIES, CONSUMING MORE MATERIALS, AND
INCREASING ENERGY DEMAND."

"THIS IS THE REALITY OF GROWTH FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVE. THE EXCESSIVE RESOURCE AND ENERGY USE BY THE NORTH IS HEAVILY RELIANT ON THE PLUNDER OF THE ECOSYSTEMS OF THE SOUTH, ON THE CHEAPENING OF THEIR LABOR-POWER AND RAW MATERIALS, AND ON THE EROSION OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT ASPIRATIONS."

"THE CALL FOR DEGROWTH THUS MUST BE COUPLED WITH THE CALL FOR THE END OF EXPLOITATIVE RELATIONS – THE UNDERPRICING OF LABOR-POWER, THE OVERPRICING OF THE PRODUCTS OF HUMAN LABOR, AND THE COMMODIFICATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ECOLOGY. THE CALL FOR DEGROWTH, FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVE, IS A CALL FOR SOVEREIGNTY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEOPLE'S WELFARE."



"THE CALL FOR DEGROWTH THUS MUST BE COUPLED WITH THE CALL FOR DECOLONIZATION IN THE SOUTH, AND THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO START BUT THROUGH THE OPEN REJECTION OF THE PARADIGM OF NEOLIBERAL ECONOMICS AND ALL ITS OBSESSION WITH FALLACIOUS GROWTH METRICS."

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY POSTED 7.1% YEAR-ON-YEAR GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) GROWTH IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2021, EMPLOYMENT IN THE SAME PERIOD HOWEVER DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY WHILE INFORMAL WORK HAS BECOME MORE PREVALENT. POSITIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN MANY SECTORS DID NOT TRANSLATE TO GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT.

"DEGROWTH IS A VISION OF A DIFFERENT ECONOMY, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE IN RESPONSE TO THE ONGOING VIOLATION OF JUSTICE AND ECOLOGICAL DEGRADATION THAT THE WORLD IS CONFRONTED WITH. IT IS A PHILOSOPHY THAT REQUIRES CHANGING THE RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAVE WITH SOCIETY, ECOLOGY, AND EVEN WITH OUR OURSELVES. UNDERSTANDING DEGROWTH SIMPLY AS AN ABSENCE OF GROWTH IS FUTILE, DANGEROUS, AND PHILISTINE."



GABRIELA CABAÑA

DEFENDING THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE OF THE CURRENT SO CALLED "POOR," FOR EXAMPLE TO MAINTAIN A NON-MONETARY GIFT-BASED LIFESTYLE, IS NOT AKIN TO MAKING A PLEA FOR POVERTY AS INVOLUNTARY DEPRIVATION OR "VOLUNTARY IMPOV-ERISHMENT". IT IS PRECISELY THE OPPOSITE: PROTECTING THE ABILITY FOR COMMUNITIES TO SATISFY THEIR HUMAN NEEDS IN THE WAY THEY CONSIDER MOST APPROPRIATE, WITH OR WITHOUT THE USE OF MARKETS AND COMMODITIES. DEGROWTH IS NOTHING TO BE IMPOSED ON TO THE GLOBAL SOUTH BY THE GLOBAL NORTH! - TIMOTHEE PARRIQUE

"I AM NOT SPEAKING TO THE GLOBAL SOUTH. DEGROWTH IS A CORRECTIVE PRESCRIPTION FOR THE GLOBAL NORTH, NOT THE GLOBAL SOUTH."

"SYLVIA WYNTER, AS I ALUDE TO IN MY PAPER DOES SAY THAT A LOT OF THE CARBON EMISSIONS STARTING FROM THE 1960S ARE COMING FROM THE NEWLY, INDEPENDENT FORMERLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BUT IT'S ONLY BECAUSE THERE IS THIS GLOBAL SYSTEM OF CAPITALISM THAT THEY ARE FORCED TO SUCCUMB TO, AND FORCED TO RISE UP TO THE LEVEL OF EXTRACTION THAT THE GLOBAL NORTH HAS SET."

"SO, REALLY, I AM NOT SPEAKING TO THE GLOBAL SOUTH. IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO TELL THEM HOW TO ORGANISE THEIR SOCIETIES OR HOW TO MEET CLIMATE GOALS AND WHAT NOT. I MEAN IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR WHO IS RESPONSIBLE AND WHO NEEDS TO ACT FIRST."

"THE DEGROWTH MOVEMENT IS, IN MY OPINION, DESIGNED FOR SETTLERS, AS WELL AS "ARRIVANTS". JODI BYRD, A CHICKASAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA CITIZEN, DEFINES ARRIVANTS IN THE TRANSIT OF THE EMPIRE, BORROWING FROM BARBADIAN POET KAMAU BRATHWAITE, AS "THOSE PEOPLE FORCED INTO THE AMERICAS THROUGH THE VIOLENCE OF EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-AMERICAN COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM AROUND THE GLOBE." AS A YELLOW ARRIVANT LIVING ON STOLEN LAND, I MADE DEGROWTH MY DUTY, AN INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL AGITATION TOOL TOWARDS DECOLONIZATION."

JAMIE TYBERG

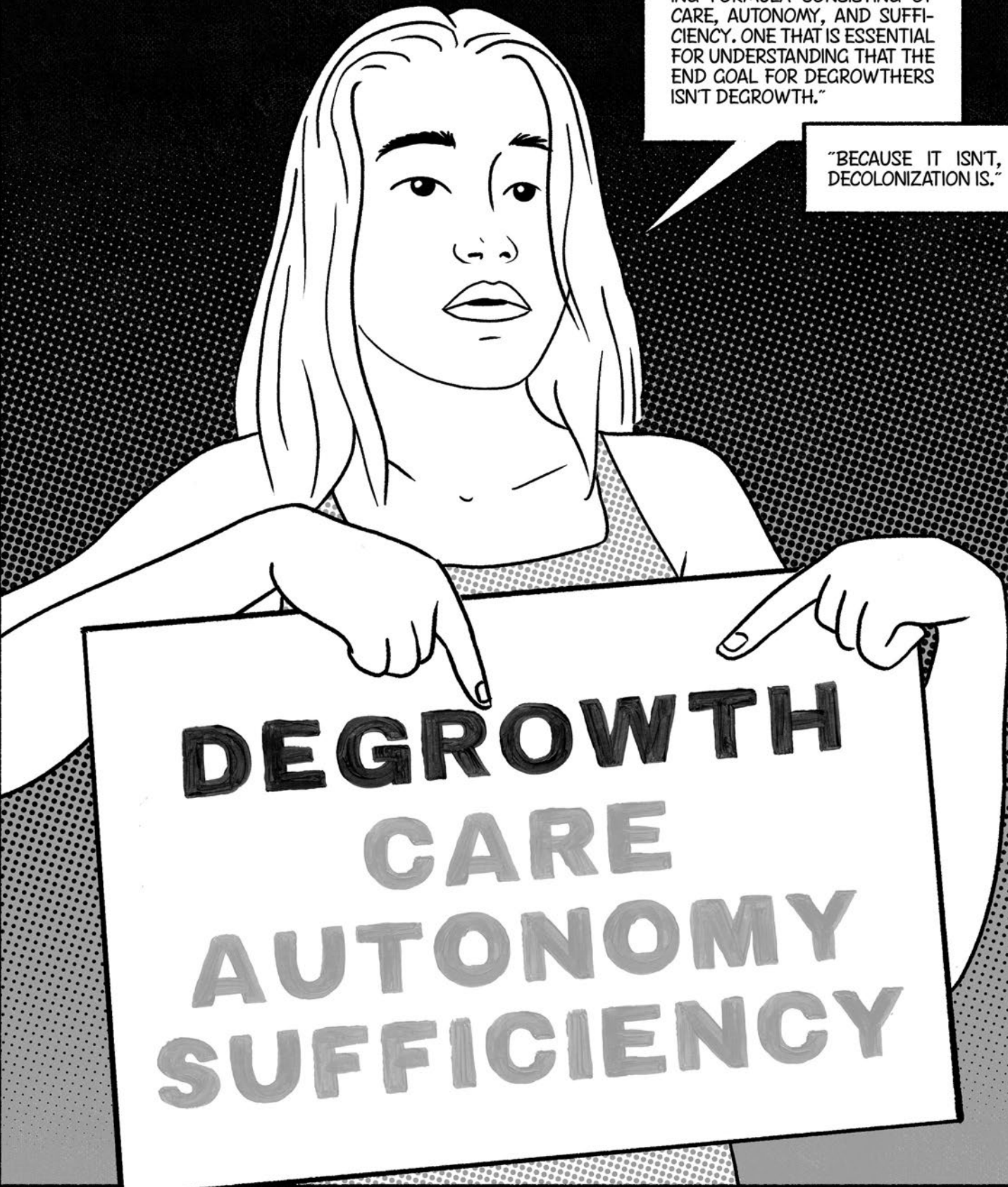
JAMIE TYBERG IS A KOREAN MOVEMENT ORGANIZER IN NEW YORK CITY AND A DEGROWTH ADVOCATE WHOSE WORK CENTERS AROUND DECOLONIZATION. AUTHOR OF 'UNLEARNING: FROM DEGROWTH TO DECOLONIZATION' AND OF 'DE-GROWTH AND REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZING' TOGETHER WITH ERICA JUNG.

"IN A LOT OF DEGROWTH LITERATURE AND DEGROWTH DIALOGUE THE PROCESS OF MATERIALLY DEGROWING OUR RESOURCE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IS SET AS THE END GOAL AS OPPOSED TO HOW WE GET TO A BETTER WORLD."

"I WANT TO RE-SITUATE DEGROWTH AS A TACTIC WITHIN THE LARGER STRATEGY OF DECOLONISATION. LOOKING AT DEGROWTH NOT AS THE END GOAL BUT THE MEANS HOW WE GET TO OUR END GOAL, WHICH IS A DECOLONIZED WORLD AND ABOLITION (*OF COLONIALISM, PRISONS AND CAPITALISM). THE SAME WAY AS I WOULD THINK OF DIVESTMENT AS A TACTIC FOR THE LARGER STRATEGY OF ABOLITION."

"DEGROWTH IS THE UNLEARNING FORMULA CONSISTING OF CARE, AUTONOMY, AND SUFFICIENCY. ONE THAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE END GOAL FOR DEGROWTHERS ISN'T DEGROWTH."

"BECAUSE IT ISN'T, DECOLONIZATION IS."



DEGROWTH
CARE
AUTONOMY
SUFFICIENCY

"WHILE A NEW TERM, DEGROWTH IS NOT A NEW CONCEPT BY ANY MEANS. ITS EXAMPLES SPAN CULTURES, CONTINENTS, AND CIVILIZATIONS. IN LATIN AMERICA, DEGROWTH PRINCIPLES HAVE BEEN PROMOTED BY PEASANT MOVEMENTS LIKE VIA CAMPESINA, AND BY INDIGENOUS LAND-USE PRACTICES. FOR EXAMPLE, SUMAC KAWSAY OF THE ANDES' QUECHUA PEOPLE RECOGNIZES THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF ECOSYSTEMS TO EXIST AND FLOURISH. WITHIN THE INTERNAL COLONIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BLACK-LED ORGANIZATIONS LIKE MOVE AND SEEDS OF WISDOM "CALLED FOR THE RADICAL CESSATION OF GROWTH AND AN END TO CAPITALIST AND SOCIAL PARADIGMS THAT DEPENDED ON THE EXPLOITATION OF HUMAN LIFE AND ALL THE CREATURES INHABITING THE BIOSPHERE."

"FOR JAMAICAN PHILOSOPHER SYLVIA WYNTER, RECOMMENDATIONS PUT FORTH BY THE IPCC, WHICH ABIDE BY THE "SINGLE ABSOLUTE MODEL OF FREE-MARKET CAPITALISM," WILL BRING ABOUT "DEVASTATING RESULTS," AND INSTEAD SHE OFFERS THE "STILL EXTANT NOMADIC OR SEDENTARY INDIGENOUS TRADITIONALLY STATELESS SOCIETIES—FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE OF THE MASAI, THE SAN, OR THE PYGMY IN AFRICA." THROUGHOUT THE HILL COMMUNITIES OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN EVADING STATE CAPTURE AND PRACTICING SOVEREIGNTIES LONG BEFORE WESTERNERS INTRODUCED THE CONCEPT. THESE COMMUNITIES AND THEIR WAYS OF LIVING HAVE PERSISTED IN RESISTING STATE VIOLENCE WHILE PROTECTING AND PRESERVING 80% OF EXISTING GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY."



"TO REPAIR AND HEAL FROM THIS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ASSAULT, THOSE OF US LOCATED IN THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD MUST PRACTICE THE DEGROWTH PRINCIPLES OF CARE, AUTONOMY, AND SUFFICIENCY NOW."

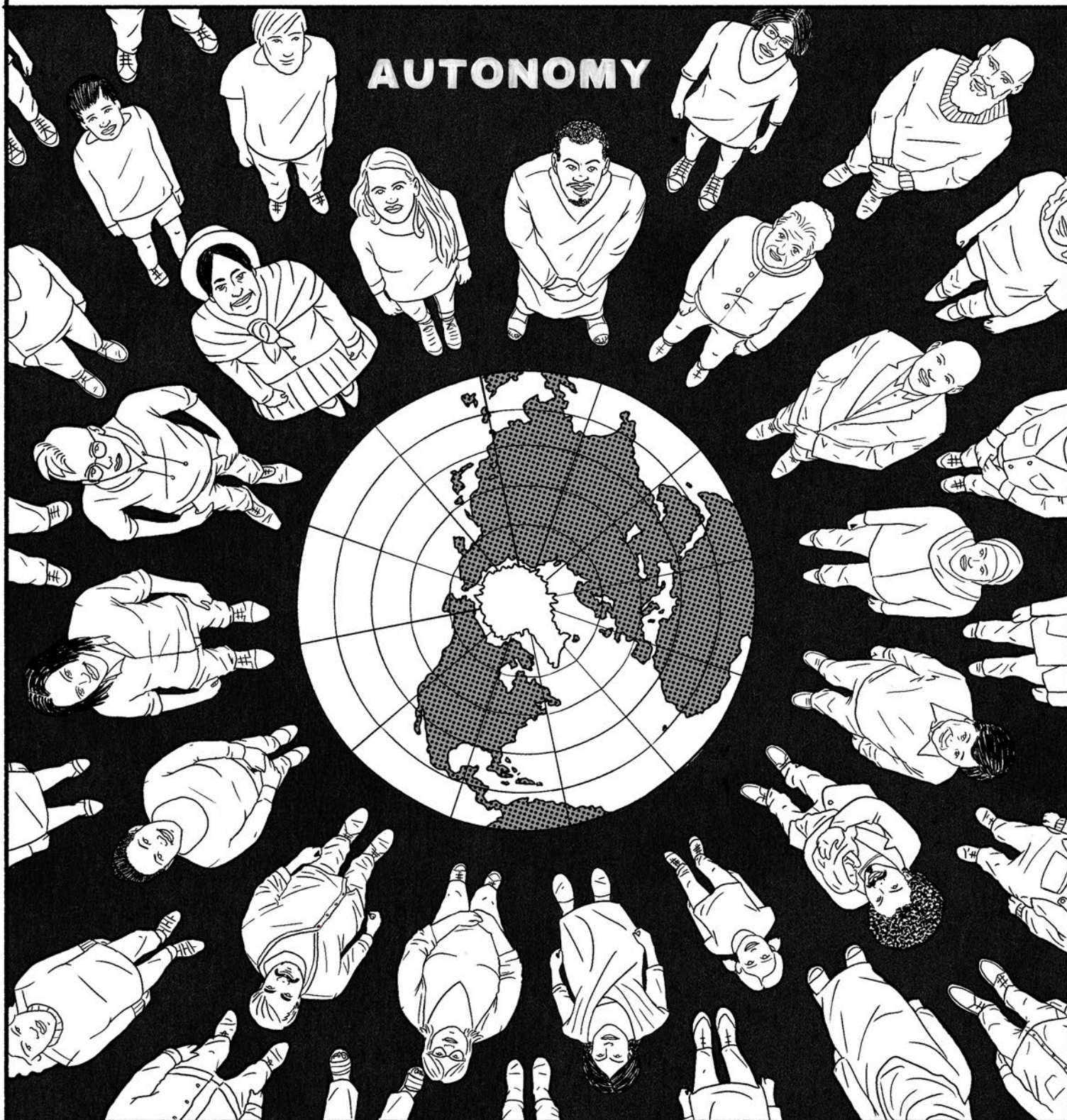
"CARE, BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, IS PROTECTING THOSE VULNERABLE AND BEING PREPARED TO DO SO AT A PERSONAL COST. IT IS A PRINCIPLE OF NON-EXPLOITATION THAT PROMOTES SOLIDARITY, AND THAT MEANS, AS THE MÉTIS AND CREE WRITER M. GOULD-HAWKE SAYS, "STRUGGLING ALONGSIDE OTHERS, NOT PRETENDING TO BE THEM...HAVING YOUR OWN STRUGGLE AND LINKING IT TO THAT OF OTHERS, NOT APPROPRIATING THE STRUGGLES OF OTHERS."

CARE



"INTERPERSONALLY, CARE IS BOTH AN ACTIVITY AND AN ATTITUDE. AN IMPORTANT GOAL FOR DEGROWTH IS REJECTING THE WESTERN BINARY IMPLICATIONS OF CARE WORK SO THAT "CARING ABOUT" AND "TAKING CARE OF" ARE NO LONGER MASCULINE, AND THAT "CARE-GIVING" AND "CARE-RECEIVING" ARE NO LONGER FEMININE. CARE IS FUNDAMENTAL IN SUPPORTING THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND RELATIONAL INTEGRITY OF EACH AND EVERY HUMAN BEING AND OUR ECOSYSTEMS. STRUCTURALLY, THEN, UNLIKE TODAY'S ECONOMY WHICH SYSTEMATICALLY WASTES LIFE, DEGROWTH WOULD ESTABLISH A CARE-BASED ECONOMY PREDICATED ON RESTORING LIFE. THIS WORLD WOULD BE ONE WHERE THE VALUE OF LABOR COMES FROM TIME DEDICATED TO ONESELF, TO FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND TO ACTIVITIES IN WHICH ONE'S HUMANITY IS AFFIRMED AND CONFIRMED."

"AUTONOMY IS THE ABILITY TO GIVE LAWS AND RULES TO OURSELVES, NOT IMPOSED ON BY OTHERS, BUT BY AND FOR US, COLLECTIVELY AND CONSCIOUSLY. DIFFERENT FROM INDEPENDENCE, AUTONOMY CAN ONLY BE CONCEIVED OF AS A COLLECTIVE PROJECT, BECAUSE AUTONOMY REQUIRES SELF-LIMITATION, A COLLECTIVE RESTRAINT FROM PURSUING ALL THAT COULD BE PURSUED. IT WOULD MEAN LIVING BY NATURE'S LIMITS AND DESIGNING INTO EVERY LAYER OF SOCIETY A COMMUNITY-CENTRIC, ECOLOGICALLY-BALANCED, AND CULTURALLY-RESPONSIVE PROCESS TO PROMISE FUTURE GENERATIONS CLEAN AIR, WATER, AND SOIL. THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTONOMY ALSO ARGUES AGAINST TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE CRISIS, SO AS TO VEEER US AWAY FROM ECO-APARTHEID. AS ITALIAN SOCIOLOGIST MARCO DERIU ALERTS US IN DE-GROWTH: A VOCABULARY FOR A NEW ERA, "THE MORE WE RELY ON EXTERNAL TOOLS FOR SOLUTIONS, THE LESS WE TRUST CHANGES WE IMPLEMENT INDEPENDENTLY AS PART OF OUR SUBJECTIVE CHOICES ADHERENT TO OUR VALUES." HE WRITES THAT "PERSONAL RESPONSES AND PERSONAL PRODUCTION ARE SYSTEMATICALLY BEING REPLACED WITH STANDARDIZED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS ... EVEN THE SIMPLEST NEEDS CANNOT BE MET OUTSIDE OF THE MARKET," THAT WHICH IS THE ONLY ENTITY IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD PROGRAMMED TO GROW INDEFINITELY."



"DEGROWTH CALLS FOR A WIDER STRUGGLE WHERE REVOLUTIONARY AGENTS ARE NOT MERELY FIGHTING FOR A PIECE OF THE CAKE BUT FOR AUTONOMY OVER ITS RECIPE AND IN DEFENCE OF THE SOCIAL ECOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS THAT ALLOWS ITS EXISTENCE." - TIMOTHEE PARRIQUE

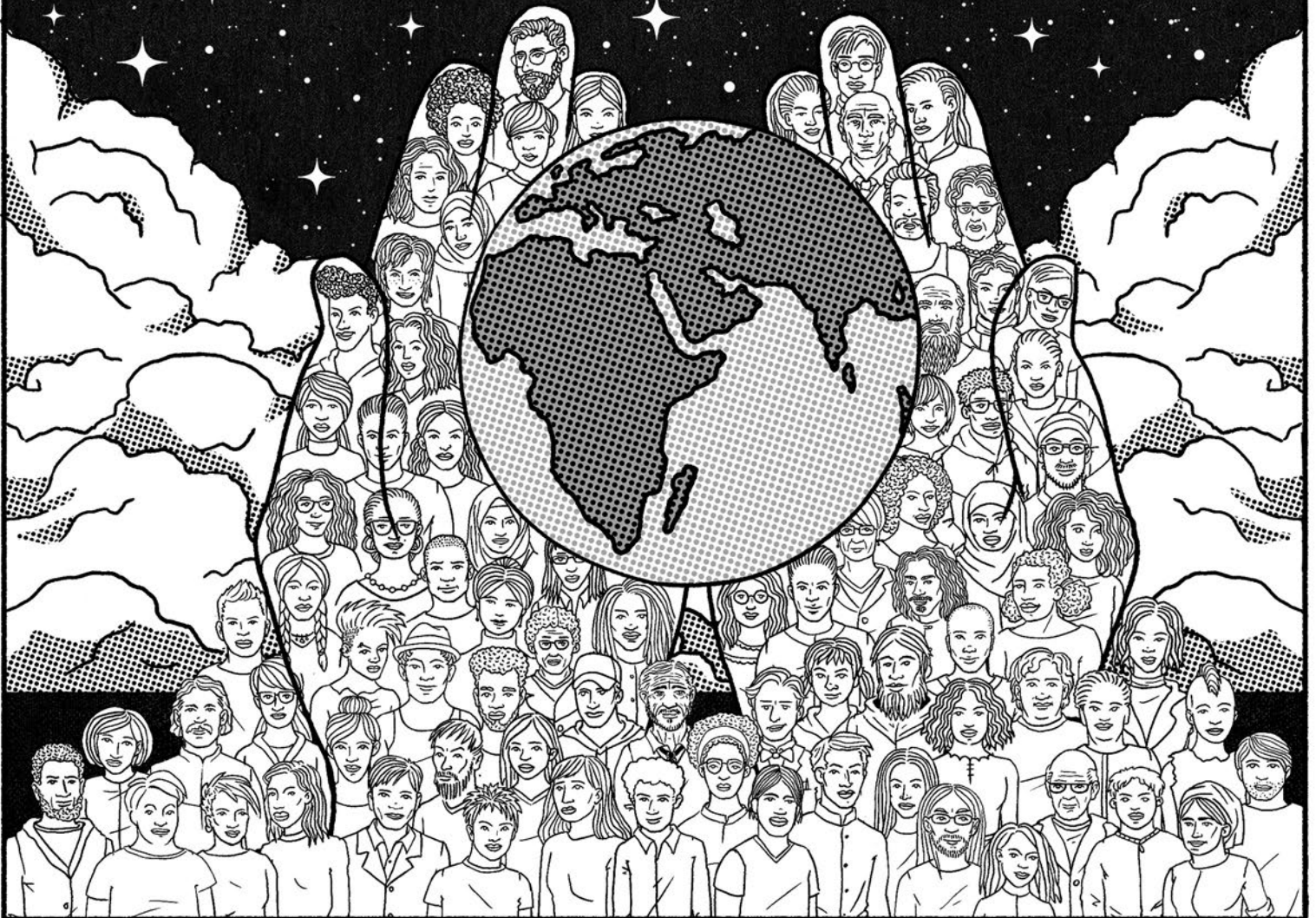
"LIKEWISE, AUTONOMY AND CARE ALONE DO NOT GET US TO DEGROWTH. WE NEED ALL THREE, WE NEED SUFFICIENCY."

"SUFFICIENCY IS A RULE OF DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE STATING THAT EVERYONE TODAY AND TOMORROW SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH TO SATISFY THEIR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN NEEDS, AND THAT NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TOO MUCH IN RELATION TO PLANETARY BOUNDARIES."

"IN OTHER WORDS, SUFFICIENCY WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SELF-RESTRAINT REQUIRED BY AUTONOMY OR THE CULTURE OF CARE THAT FOSTERS THOSE SELF-LIMITATIONS."



SUFFICIENCY



"THE PRINCIPLE OF SUFFICIENCY RESEMBLES THE SEVENTH GENERATION PRINCIPLE, AN ANCIENT IROQUOIS PHILOSOPHY, WHICH TEACHES THAT THE DECISIONS WE MAKE TODAY SHOULD RESULT IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD SEVEN GENERATIONS INTO THE FUTURE. THIS IS POSSIBLE THROUGH DÉPENSE, WHICH REFERS TO A SOCIETY USING ITS SURPLUS ENERGY IN A WAY SO THAT ALL CITIZENS, OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES, MAY DEVISE NEW, NON-HARMFUL WAYS TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND COLLECTIVE MEANING. OUR CURRENT INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY DEPRIVES COMMUNITIES OF THEIR ABILITY TO MANAGE THE SURPLUS ENERGY THEY PRODUCE BY EMPHASIZING THE INDIVIDUAL ABOVE THE COLLECTIVE. THIS CONDITIONING PROCESS OF INDIVIDUALIZATION HAS ORIENTED US SO FAR FROM THE SYSTEMIC LEVEL THAT WE ARE LEFT UNABLE TO COLLECTIVELY CONSTRUCT MEANING IN LIFE OR RESTORE OUR POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY. DÉPENSE, AND OUR SHARED DUTY TO LEAVE THIS EARTH IN A BETTER CONDITION THAN WE FOUND IT, THEREFORE IS SIGNIFICANT TO OUR UNLEARNING PROCESS, AND TO TRANSITIONING OUT OF THE GROWTH SOCIETY."

MISUNDERSTANDING #6:

DEGROWTH DOESN'T REJECT TECHNOLOGY BUT SUGGESTS THAT IT MUST BE DEMOCRATICALLY MANAGED/CONTROLLED. TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE FIT FOR A PURPOSE DETERMINED OUTSIDE OF ITSELF - TOOL, NOT MASTER. NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE IS CULTURALLY DESIRABLE.

"BE OPEN TO IDEAS THAT SEEM WILD TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE!"

BILL GATES

"PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT INNOVATION AND CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL LITERALLY FOR DECADES, SO I ASSUME THAT GATES IS TALKING HERE ABOUT DEGROWTH, AM I RIGHT?"

DEGROWTH?!

GENEVIEVE GUENTHER

AUTHOR AND CLIMATE ACTIVIST

"THIS IDEA IS QUIXOTIC. THE ONLY REAL SOLUTION, IS TO INNOVATE BETTER AND CHEAPER ALTERNATIVES."

"IN OCTOBER 2022 BILL GATES SAID HE PAYS \$9 MILLION PER YEAR TO OFFSET HIS CARBON FOOTPRINT. APPARENTLY CLIMEWORKS IS DOING PERSONAL CDR (CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL) FOR BILL GATES. ITS LARGEST PLANT CAPTURES ABOUT 3 SECONDS OF ANNUAL EMISSIONS. WHAT FRACTION OF THAT IS FOR GATES' PERSONAL EMISSIONS ALONE?"

"THE CURRENT GLOBAL CAPACITY FOR CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL FROM THE AIR IS ~8,000 TONNES/YEAR.

COINCIDENTALLY, ~8,000 TONNES/YEAR IS ALSO ESTIMATED FOR THE PERSONAL CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS OF THE AVERAGE BILLIONAIRE.

THE WORLD HAS ENOUGH CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL FOR ~1 BILLIONAIRE.

THE IEA'S NET-ZERO ENERGY PROPOSAL CALLS FOR DIRECT AIR CAPTURE TO GROW FROM ~8,000 TONNES/YEAR TODAY TO 59,000,000 TONNES/YEAR BY 2030.

A 7,400-FOLD INCREASE IN THE NEXT 8 YEARS.

IT WOULD BE AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT AND STILL ONLY A TINY FRACTION OF GLOBAL EMISSIONS (<0.2%)."

ROBERT ROHDE

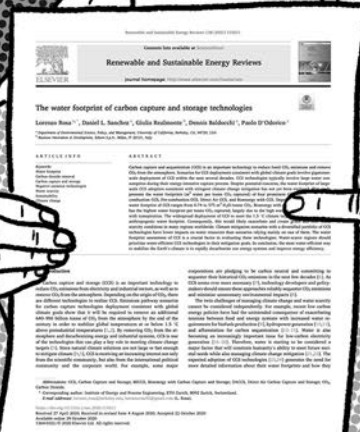
PHYSICIST

BY THE WAY, ACCORDING TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY RESEARCHERS*: "OPERATING ENOUGH CARBON CAPTURE TO KEEP THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN CHECK WOULD DOUBLE HUMANITY'S WATER USE. REGARDLESS OF THE METHOD BEING USED - ON A POWER PLANT OR CAPTURING CARBON DIRECTLY FROM THE AIR - MORE POWER AND MORE WATER WILL BE NEEDED."

* THE WATER FOOTPRINT OF CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES - "THE MOST WATER-EFFICIENT WAY TO STABILIZE THE EARTH'S CLIMATE IS TO RAPIDLY DECARBONIZE OUR ENERGY SYSTEMS AND IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY."

SARA SNEATH

CLIMATE JOURNALIST





"I AM DONATING \$100M TOWARDS A PRIZE FOR
BEST CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY!"

"GREEN REAL DEAL!"

ELON MUSK

MATT GAETZ

MATT GAETZ IS ONE OF DONALD TRUMP'S MOST LOYAL ALLIES, ENDORSES THE GREAT REPLACEMENT THEORY (A WHITE NATIONALIST, FAR-RIGHT CONSPIRACY THEORY) AND, IN 2020, DURING THE NATIONWIDE GEORGE FLOYD PROTESTS, HE TWEETED, "NOW THAT WE CLEARLY SEE ANTIFA AS TERRORISTS, CAN WE HUNT THEM DOWN LIKE WE DO THOSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?"

"ANY DISCOURSE REITERATING THE CLAIM THAT "WE NEED CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL" WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING THAT, AS THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC) SAYS, THE TECH IS "UNPROVEN" AND "RISKY" IS IN EFFECT GIVING AID AND COMFORT TO THE ENEMY. FULL STOP."

GENEVIEVE GUENTHER

WHATEVER! "EARTH'S ECONOMY IS EXTREMELY FAR FROM PHYSICAL LIMITS!" AND "POPULATION COLLAPSE DUE TO LOW BIRTH RATES IS A MUCH BIGGER RISK TO CIVILIZATION THAN GLOBAL WARMING."

OH, AND "I AM INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT CORPORATE ESG IS THE DEVIL INCARNATE."



"THE ANTI-ESG OR ANTI-"WOKE INVESTING" MOVEMENT, ELON MUSK AND PETER THIEL ARE SUPPORTING, WAS CREATED BY TWO OF THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY'S MOST NOTORIOUS CLIMATE DISINFORMERS."



"THIS ..."

MATTHIAS SCHMELZER

ECONOMIC HISTORIAN & SOCIAL THEORIST



EMILY ATKIN

JOURNALIST

ADOPTING ESG PRINCIPLES MEANS THAT CORPORATE STRATEGY FOCUSES ON THE THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE INVESTING: ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE, AND GOVERNANCE. THIS MEANS TAKING MEASURES TO LOWER POLLUTION, CO2 OUTPUT, AND REDUCE WASTE. IT ALSO MEANS HAVING A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE, AT THE ENTRY-LEVEL AND ALL THE WAY UP TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

"... IS WHITE SUPREMACIST,
LONGTERMIST DENIALISM OF THE RICH."

PLEASE READ ONE OF THE MANY ARTICLES I WROTE ABOUT THIS, BUT TO MAKE IT SHORT: "LONGTERMISM IS NOT ABOUT LONG-TERM THINKING BUT A QUASI-RELIGIOUS WORLDVIEW, INFLUENCED BY TRANSHUMANISM AND UTILITARIAN ETHICS, WHICH ASSERTS THAT THERE COULD BE SO MANY DIGITAL PEOPLE LIVING IN VAST COMPUTER SIMULATIONS MILLIONS OR BILLIONS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE THAT ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT MORAL OBLIGATIONS TODAY IS TO TAKE ACTIONS THAT ENSURE AS MANY OF THESE DIGITAL PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE COME INTO EXISTENCE. MOST LONGTERMISTS CONSIDER THE SINGULARITY ('ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE' BECOMING CONSCIOUS) AN 'EXISTENTIAL RISK' BUT NOT CLIMATE BREAKDOWN."

"THE MOST PROMINENT FACE OF LONGTERMISM / EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM WILLIAM MACASKILL GOT \$10 MILLION FROM TECH BILLIONAIRES TO PROMOTE HIS BOOK 'WHAT WE OWE THE FUTURE' IN WHICH HE ENDORSES 'EFFECTIVE' THINGS LIKE 'GETTING FILTHY RICH, FOR CHARITY'S SAKE' AS IN E.G. TAKING A HIGH PAYING JOB FOR PETROCHEMICALS TO THEN BE ABLE DONATE TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE."

"IN THIS BOOK MACASKILL ALSO NOTES THAT THERE IS A LOT OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF EXTREME WARMING OF 7 TO 10 DEGREES CELSIUS BUT SAYS 'IT'S HARD TO SEE HOW EVEN THIS COULD LEAD DIRECTLY TO CIVILISATIONAL COLLAPSE.' MACASKILL ARGUES THAT ALTHOUGH 'CLIMATIC INSTABILITY IS GENERALLY BAD FOR AGRICULTURE,' HIS 'BEST GUESS' IS THAT 'EVEN WITH 15 DEGREES OF WARMING, THE HEAT WOULD NOT PASS LETHAL LIMITS FOR CROPS IN MOST REGIONS,' AND GLOBAL AGRICULTURE WOULD SURVIVE."

ÉMILE P. TORRES

PHILOSOPHER AND HISTORIAN

THE LAST TIME THE TEMPERATURE WAS JUST 6 DEGREES HIGHER THAN PREINDUSTRIAL LEVELS WAS 251 MILLION YEARS AGO, IN THE PERMIAN-TRIASSIC EXTINCTION, THE MOST DEVASTATING OF THE 5 GREAT EXTINCTIONS.

"A DATA NERD AFTER MY OWN HEART."

WILLIAM MACASKILL

PHILOSOPHER AND AUTHOR

"WHAT WE OWE THE FUTURE IS WORTH READING. THIS IS 'A CLOSE MATCH FOR MY PHILOSOPHY.'"

AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY'S "FUTURE OF HUMANITY INSTITUTE" (LARGEST FUNDERS INCLUDE MUSK), MACASKILL, THE POSTER BOY OF LONGTERMISM, WORKS NEXT TO HIS "RESEARCH ASSOCIATE" ROBIN HANSON. HANSON, AN ECONOMICS PROFESSOR, ONCE ARGUED THAT "THE MAIN PROBLEM" WITH THE HOLOCAUST WAS THAT THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH NAZIS! AFTER ALL, IF THERE HAD BEEN SIX TRILLION NAZIS WILLING TO PAY \$1 EACH TO MAKE THE HOLOCAUST HAPPEN, AND A MERE SIX MILLION JEWS WILLING TO PAY \$100,000 EACH TO PREVENT IT, THE HOLOCAUST WOULD HAVE GENERATED \$5.4 TRILLION WORTH OF CONSUMERS SURPLUS."

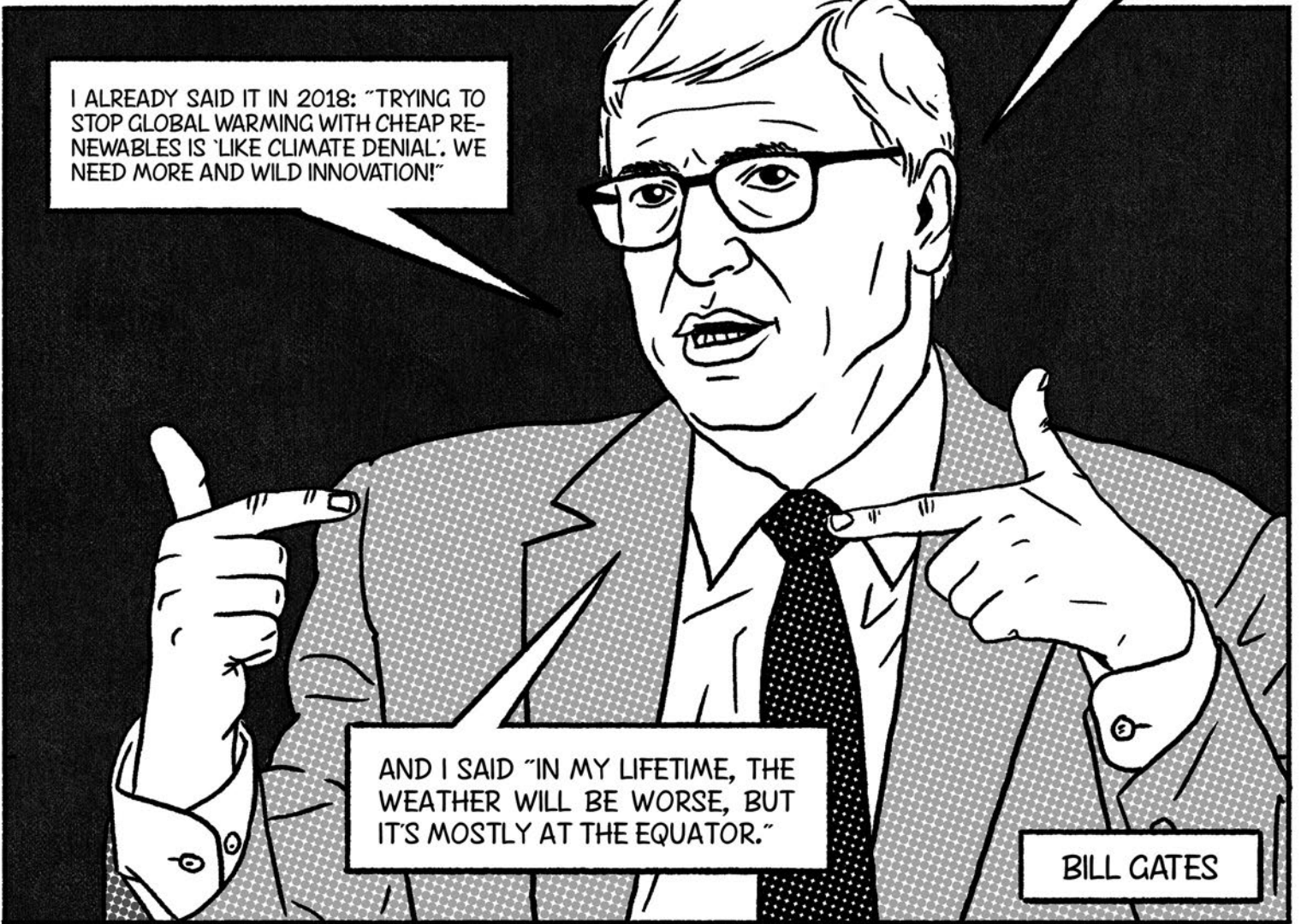


"OUR GOAL IS TO TREAT CLIMATE CHANGE LIKE THE SERIOUS, EXISTENTIAL THREAT IT IS BY DRAFTING AN AMBITIOUS SOLUTION ON THE SCALE NECESSARY - AKA A GREEN NEW DEAL - TO GET IT DONE. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO SIT ON OUR HANDS AS OUR PLANET BURNS. WE'RE TRYING TO GO CARBON-NEUTRAL IN 10 YEARS."

POLITICIAN AND ACTIVIST

ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

"REACHING CARBON NEUTRALITY IN A DECADE THAT'S A FAIRYTALE! IT'S LIKE SAYING VACCINES DON'T WORK - THAT'S A FORM OF SCIENCE DENIALISM. WHY PEDDLE FANTASIES TO PEOPLE?"



I ALREADY SAID IT IN 2018: "TRYING TO STOP GLOBAL WARMING WITH CHEAP RENEWABLES IS 'LIKE CLIMATE DENIAL'. WE NEED MORE AND WILD INNOVATION!"

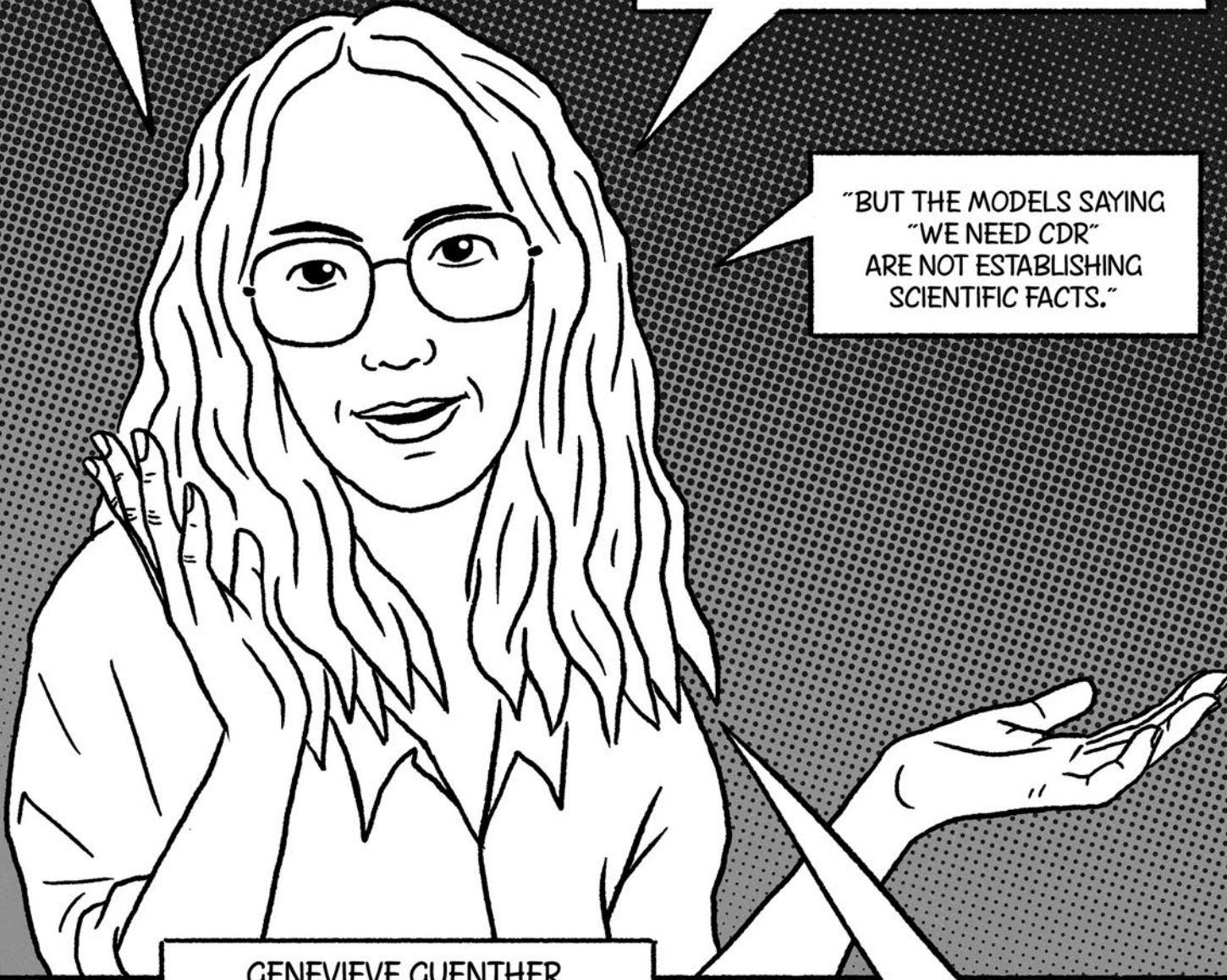
AND I SAID "IN MY LIFETIME, THE WEATHER WILL BE WORSE, BUT IT'S MOSTLY AT THE EQUATOR."

BILL GATES

WELL, IF YOU FOLLOWED THE NEWS ABOUT DROUGHTS AND FLOODS AROUND THE WORLD IN THE LAST YEARS, YOU KNOW THAT CAN'T BE TRUE. WHAT IS TRUE THOUGH, IS "THAT, HAVING CONTINUED TO USE FOSSIL FUELS, THE WORLD IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF GLOBAL WARMING OF 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS. IT SEEMS LIKELY WE WILL CROSS THIS THRESHOLD SOMETIME BETWEEN 2025 AND 2044. IF THIS HAPPENS, THE ONLY WAY TO COOL THE PLANET BACK DOWN WOULD BE TO PERMANENTLY REMOVE HUNDREDS OF GIGATONS OF CARBON FROM THE ATMOSPHERE. THIS IS WHY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTED, IN THE THIRD PART OF ITS SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT, THAT CDR "IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF SCENARIOS THAT LIMIT WARMING TO 1.5° C."

"BUT PART OF THE REASON WE ARE ABOUT TO EXCEED 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS IS THAT THESE SCENARIOS HAVE ACTED AS SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECIES. THE SCENARIOS HAVE CREATED THE WHOLE IDEA OF CARBON REMOVAL TO SHOW POLICYMAKERS HOW WE COULD CONTINUE TO USE FOSSIL FUELS AND, SUPPOSEDLY, STILL HIT OUR CLIMATE TARGETS BY "REVERSING" GLOBAL HEATING WITH MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF CDR TECHNOLOGY. INSTEAD OF MODELING HOW TO STOP USING COAL, OIL, AND GAS IN TIME TO HALT WARMING DIRECTLY, THEY HAVE TOLD POLICYMAKERS "WE NEED CDR," OFFERING MAPS THAT HAVE LED US RIGHT TO THE LEVELS OF WARMING WE WILL SEE IN THE COMING DECADES."

"BUT THE MODELS SAYING
"WE NEED CDR"
ARE NOT ESTABLISHING
SCIENTIFIC FACTS."



GENEVIEVE GUENTHER

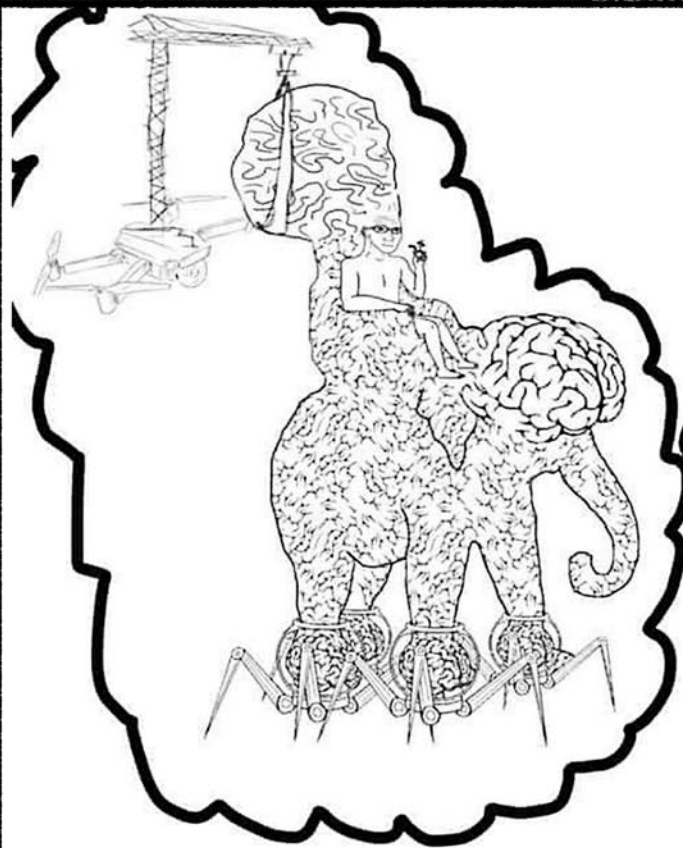
"THEY ARE POSITING POLITICAL FUTURES. KNOWN AS 'INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT MODELS,' OR IAMs, THEY COMBINE PHYSICAL SCIENCE WITH ECONOMIC INPUTS IN ORDER TO FIND THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE, OPTIMIZED PATHWAY TO A TEMPERATURE TARGET. IAMs ARE RELATED TO THE COST-BENEFIT 'DYNAMIC INTEGRATED CLIMATE ECONOMY,' OR DICE, MODEL CREATED BY THE ECONOMIST WILLIAM NORDHAUS. NORDHAUS NOTORIOUSLY USES DICE TO FIND THAT DELAYING THE END OF THE FOSSIL FUEL SYSTEM LONG ENOUGH TO ALLOW OUR PLANET TO HEAT THREE DEGREES CELSIUS CREATES AN 'OPTIMAL' BALANCE BETWEEN THE COSTS OF CLIMATE POLICY AND THE COSTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ITSELF. (I SAY 'NOTORIOUSLY' BECAUSE THE MANY PEOPLE LIKELY TO DIE WITH THREE DEGREES OF WARMING MIGHT DISAGREE WITH NORDHAUS'S IDEA OF WHAT IS 'OPTIMAL'.)"

"WHOEVER MADE THIS MEME DESERVES
THE 'NOBEL' FOR ECONOMICS."



AARON VANSINTJAN

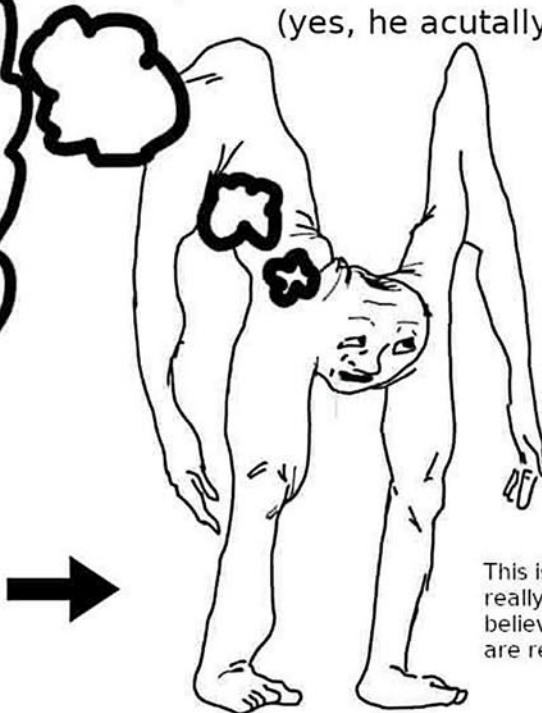
ECOLOGICAL ECONOMIST



80% of the economy
won't suffer from climate
meltdown because the
labor and commerce
takes place indoors!

(yes, he actually says this)

(and won a
nobel prize
for it too)



Nobel economist
William Nordhaus



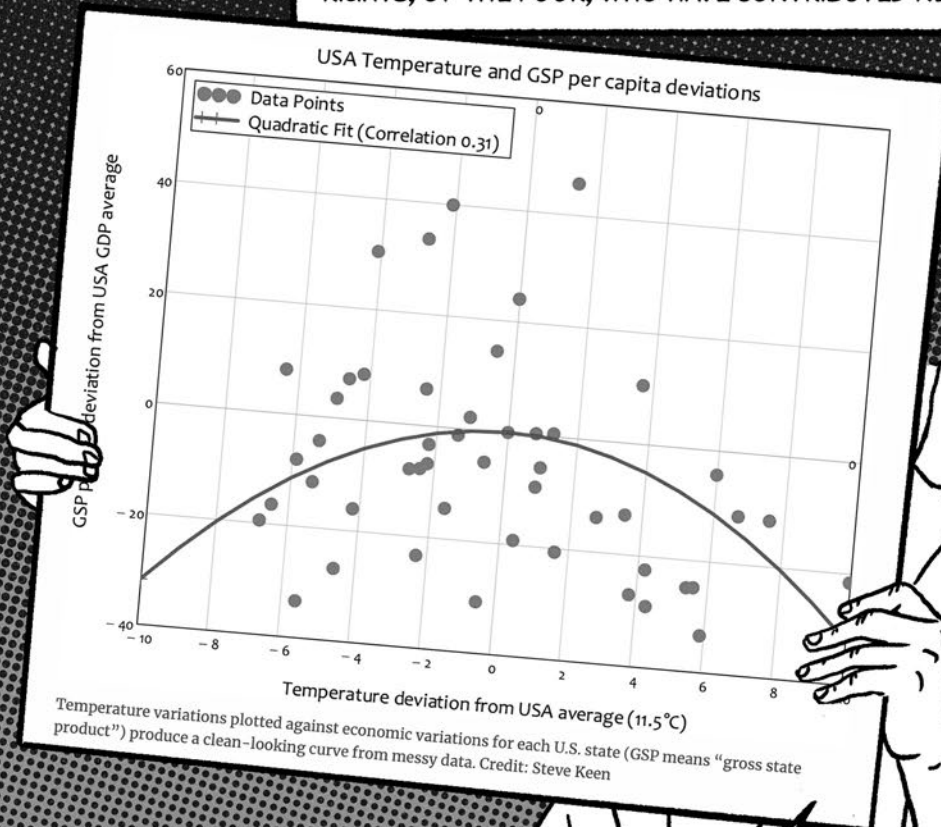
This is what the ruling class
really tricks themselves into
believing. The choices left
are revolution or extinction.

"AT THE HEART OF NORDHAUS-STYLE MODELS IS A TECHNIQUE KNOWN AS CURVE FITTING. PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, IT MEANS LITTLE MORE THAN DRAWING A NICE-LOOKING LINE THROUGH THE DATA. USING THIS THEORY-FREE WAY OF DESCRIBING DATA, NORDHAUS COOKS UP A FORMULA INTENDED TO SHOW HOW ECONOMIC ACTIVITY VARIES IN RESPONSE TO CHANGES IN TEMPERATURE. WHAT HE'S REALLY DOING IS COOKING THE BOOKS."

"THE FIGURE BELOW IS A RE-CREATION OF NORDHAUS'S CURVE-FITTING CALCULATION, TAKEN FROM A PAPER TITLED 'THE APPALLINGLY BAD NEOCLASSICAL ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.' IT WAS AUTHORED BY AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIST STEVE KEEN, A PROMINENT CRITIC OF MAINSTREAM ECONOMICS."

"MATHEMATICIAN CATHY O'NEIL HAS CRITICIZED CURVE-FITTING MODELS FOR GENERATING 'SPECULACULARLY STUPID PROJECTIONS' BASED ON THE FAULTY ASSUMPTION THAT THE FUTURE WILL BE LIKE THE PAST. SHE POINTS IN PARTICULAR TO A TRUMP WHITE HOUSE ECONOMIST WHO REPORTEDLY USED CURVE FITTING TO PREDICT THAT COVID-19 DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD FALL TO ZERO BY MAY 15, 2020. WHAT THE CURVE FITTERS TEND TO OVERLOOK IS THAT MANY DIFFERENT LINES CAN BE FIT TO THE SAME MESSY DATA, MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO GENERATE WIDELY DIVERGENT PROJECTIONS. KEEN DESCRIBES NORDHAUS' CURVE FITTING AS 'THE MOST UNREALISTIC AND DANGEROUS SIMPLIFYING ASSUMPTION' IN THE HISTORY OF ECONOMICS."

"IN ABSTRACTLY PONDERING COST-BENEFIT TRADE-OFFS, IT'S TOO EASY TO IGNORE OUR MORAL COMPASS AND LOSE TRACK OF WHO IS HARMED. PHYSICS TELLS US THAT THE CARBON WE EMIT TODAY WILL CAUSE SUFFERING FOR CENTURIES – AND DISPROPORTIONATELY, THE PAIN WILL BE FELT BY POORER COUNTRIES. BY USING CASH AS A UNIVERSAL YARDSTICK, ECONOMISTS INTRINSICALLY UNDERREPRESENT THE NEEDS, AND EVEN THE RIGHTS, OF THE POOR, WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED NEGLIGIBLY TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS."



"AS LEGAL SCHOLAR LISA HEINZERLING WRITES, AN 'UNDERLYING PREMISE OF COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS IS THAT THERE ARE NO RIGHTS, ONLY PREFERENCES.' UNTIL THE HIDDEN PREFERENCES AND BIASES BAKED INTO ECONOMIC METHODS ARE CHANGED TO REFLECT MORE EQUITABLE AND JUST VALUES, THEY SHOULDN'T BE OUR MAIN GUIDE ON MORALLY COMPLEX MATTERS."

JAG BHALLA

"MOST OF THE IAM MODELLERS ARE BASED IN THE GLOBAL NORTH. IT'S A VERY WESTERN VISION OF THE WORLD - NEO-COLONIAL, AS JASON HICKEL WROTE. I UNDERSTAND THAT, TODAY, THINGS ARE LIKE THAT. THIS IS THE WORLD WE INHERITED. BUT WHAT'S REALLY SHOCKING FOR ME AS AN EUROPEAN-AFRICAN CITIZEN, WHO IS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, IS TO SEE THAT THEY PROJECT A WORLD FOR MY SON IN 2050 THAT IS SIMILARLY UNEQUAL TO MY WORLD TODAY."

"ALL THESE MODELS ANTICIPATE A CONTINUATION OF GROWTH."

YAMINA SAHEB



"I'LL GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE FROM MY AREA OF EXPERTISE, BUILDINGS. TODAY, THE FLOOR AREA PER CAPITA IN NORTH AMERICA IS AROUND 60 SQUARE METRES, WHILE IT'S BELOW 10 SQUARE METRES IN WHOLE OF AFRICA. IN SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES IT IS EVEN BELOW FIVE, THEY DON'T HAVE PROPER HOUSING AT ALL. BUT THESE SCENARIOS USUALLY EXPECT CONTINUOUS GROWTH, SO IN SOME SCENARIOS, BY 2050 THEY REACH 65 SQUARE METRES PER CAPITA IN NORTH AMERICA, AND THE AFRICANS REACH 10 SQUARE METRES PER CAPITA. WHY THE HELL WOULD I ACCEPT THIS AS AN AFRICAN? IT'S JUST NOT ACCEPTABLE."

"WE HAVE 2 OPTIONS: OPTION 1 WITH #IPCC SCENARIOS ASSESSED IS THE IAMs (INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT MODELS)- WE DO NEED NEGATIVE EMISSIONS. WITH OPTION 2, WITH MODELS LIKE THE SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION SCENARIO DEVELOPED BY KAI KUHNHENN AND HIS COLLEAGUES, OR THE ONE DEVELOPED BY JULIA STEINBERGER AND HER TEAM IN LEEDS CALLED 'PROVIDING DECENT LIVING WITH MINIMUM ENERGY: A GLOBAL SCENARIO', WE DON'T NEED NEGATIVE EMISSIONS. MORE YET, PUTTING SUFFICIENCY FIRST, A JUST TRANSITION BECOMES POSSIBLE."

"THESE 2 SCENARIOS, HOWEVER, DIDN'T MAKE IT TO THE IPCC DATABASE, BECAUSE TO BE ABLE TO SUBMIT ... YOU NEED TO HAVE RESOURCES. REALISTIC SCENARIOS FOR A LIVEABLE PLANET LIKE THE ONES DEVELOPED BY KAI AND JULIA ARE OFTEN DEVELOPED BY VERY SMALL TEAMS, SOMETIMES ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS?"

IF WE COULD DECIDE DEMOCRATICALLY WHICH OF THESE SCENARIOS AND RESEARCH SHOULD BE FUNDED AND TAKEN AS FOUNDATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER?





"IN A WORLD WHERE PROFIT IS CONSISTENTLY PUT BEFORE BOTH PEOPLE AND THE PLANET, CLIMATE ECONOMICS HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH ETHICS AND MORALITY. BECAUSE IF WE AGREE THAT ENDANGERING LIFE ON EARTH IS A MORAL CRISIS, THEN IT IS INCUMBENT ON US TO ACT LIKE IT."

"WE CAN CONFRONT [THE NEOLIBERAL] ECONOMIC ORDER AND TRY TO REPLACE IT WITH SOMETHING THAT IS ROOTED IN BOTH HUMAN AND PLANETARY SECURITY, ONE THAT DOES NOT PLACE THE QUEST FOR GROWTH AND PROFIT AT ALL COSTS AT ITS CENTER."

"WE NEED ECONOMICALLY RADICAL ALTERNATIVES LIKE TAKING FAR LARGER SHARES OF THE PROFITS FROM THE ROGUE CORPORATIONS MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR WAGING WAR ON THE CLIMATE."

NAOMI KLEIN

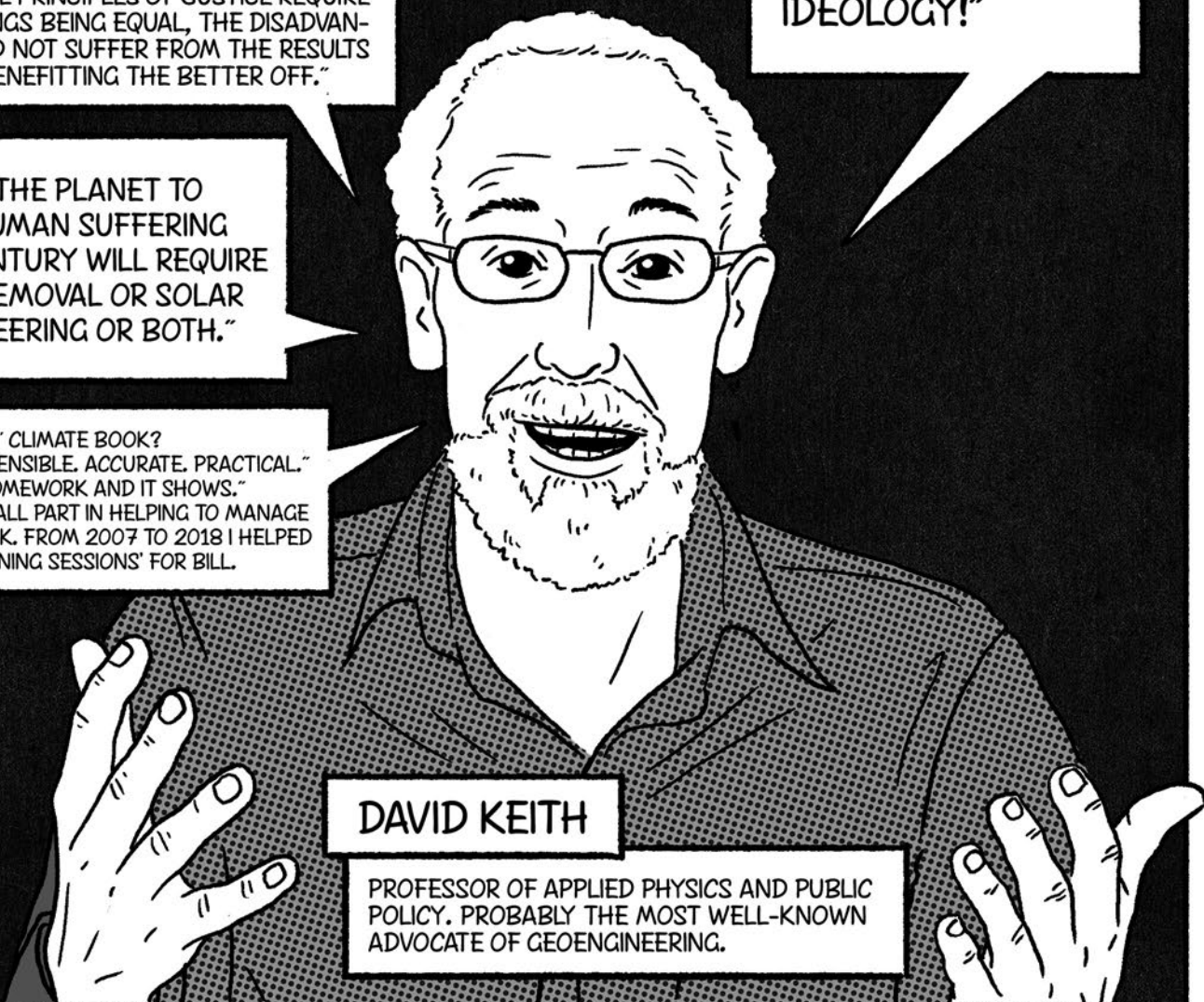
AUTHOR, FILMMAKER, SOCIAL
ACTIVIST AND PROFESSOR OF
CLIMATE JUSTICE

THIS ! THIS IS ...
"ANTI-CORPORATE
IDEOLOGY!"

"FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE REQUIRE THAT, ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL, THE DISADVANTAGED SHOULD NOT SUFFER FROM THE RESULTS OF ACTIONS BENEFITTING THE BETTER OFF."

"COOLING THE PLANET TO
REDUCE HUMAN SUFFERING
IN THIS CENTURY WILL REQUIRE
CARBON REMOVAL OR SOLAR
GEOENGINEERING OR BOTH."

BTW BILL GATES' CLIMATE BOOK?
"IT'S TERRIFIC: SENSIBLE. ACCURATE. PRACTICAL."
"BILL DID HIS HOMEWORK AND IT SHOWS."
*I PLAYED A SMALL PART IN HELPING TO MANAGE
THAT HOMEWORK. FROM 2007 TO 2018 I HELPED
ORGANIZE 'LEARNING SESSIONS' FOR BILL.



DAVID KEITH

PROFESSOR OF APPLIED PHYSICS AND PUBLIC
POLICY. PROBABLY THE MOST WELL-KNOWN
ADVOCATE OF GEOENGINEERING.



DAVE VETTER

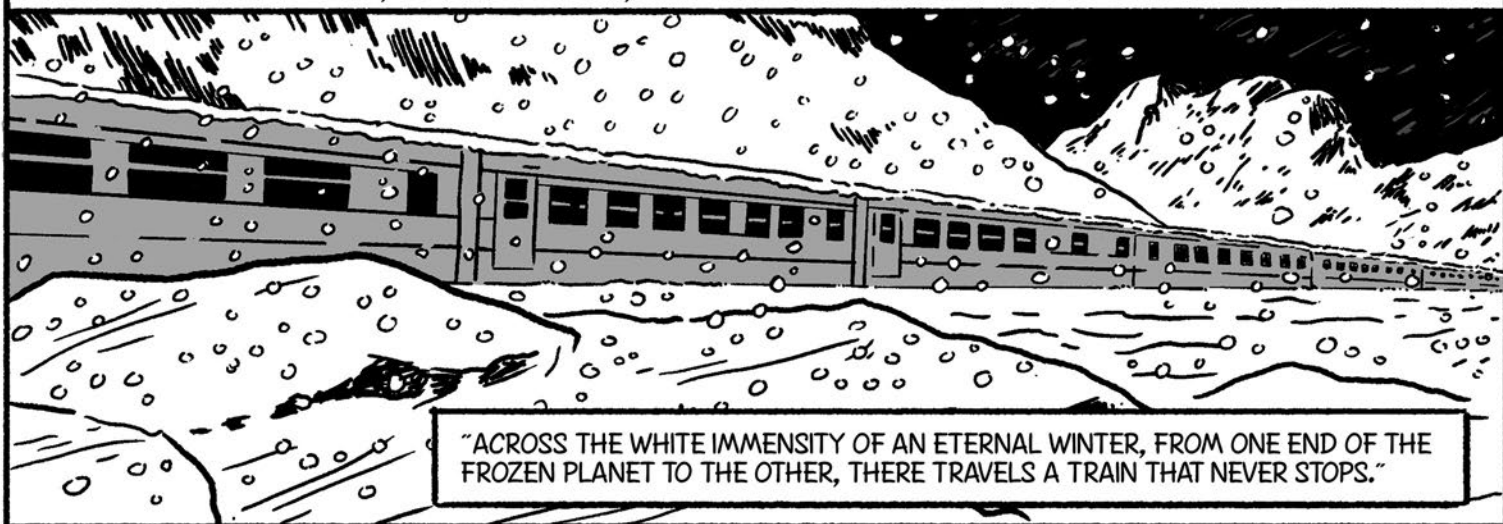
CLIMATE JOURNALIST

"THE EARTH IS WARMING RAPIDLY AS A RESULT OF HUMAN-CAUSED EMISSIONS. SO WHAT SHOULD HUMANITY DO ABOUT IT?"

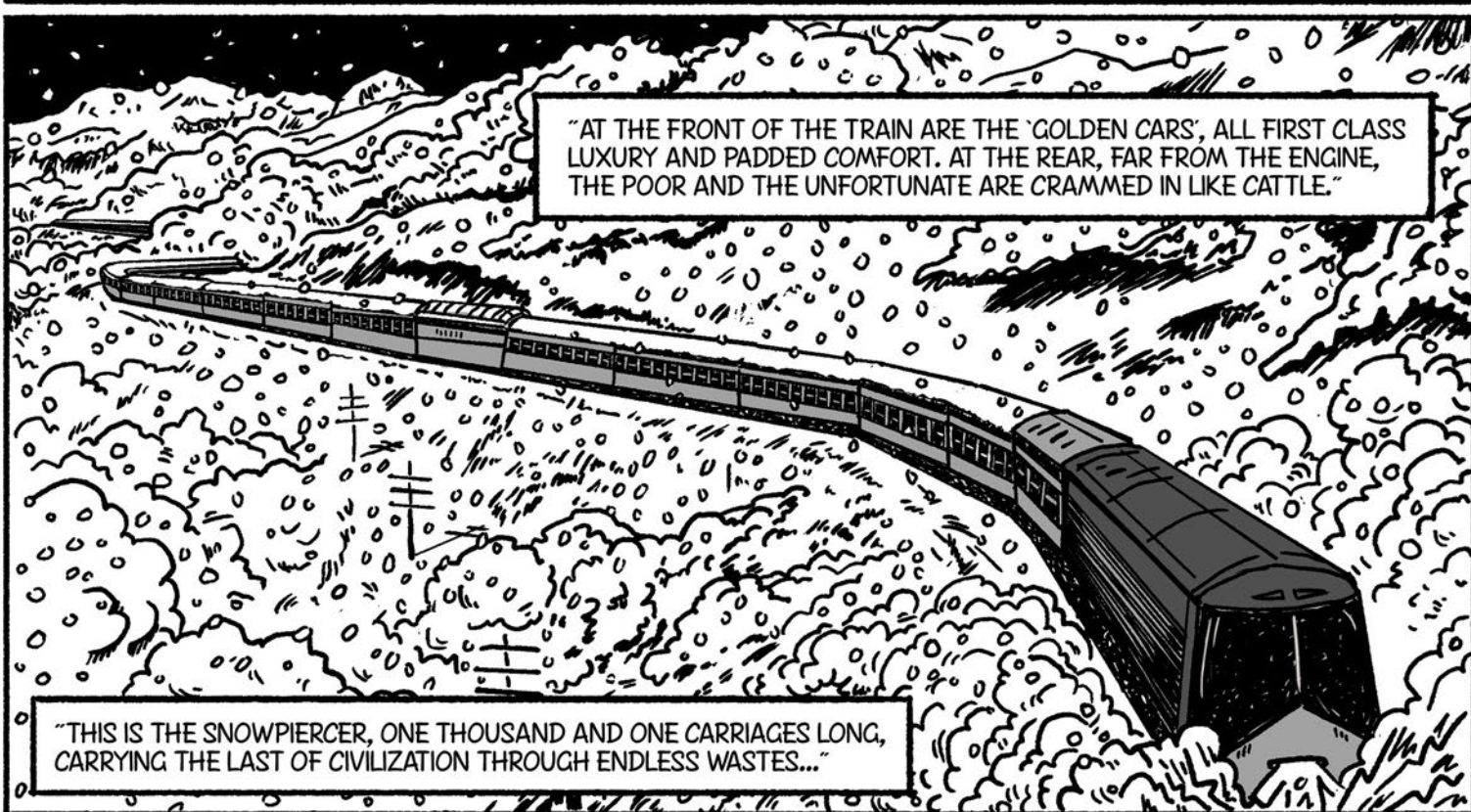
"ONE OF THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL SUGGESTIONS IS THAT WE SHOULD SIMPLY PREVENT SO MUCH HEAT REACHING EARTH IN THE FIRST PLACE. PROPONENTS OF SO-CALLED SOLAR GEOENGINEERING, SUCH AS TECH BILLIONAIRE BILL GATES, SAY TECHNIQUES INTENDED TO BLOCK A PORTION OF THE SOLAR RADIATION REACHING THE PLANET OUGHT TO BE CONSIDERED. GATES HIMSELF HAS PUT HIS MONEY WHERE HIS MOUTH IS, BACKING A HARVARD UNIVERSITY EXPERIMENT (LEAD BY DAVID KEITH) TO LOOK AT THE EFFECT OF SPRAYING PARTICLES INTO THE STRATOSPHERE TO, IN THEORY, CREATE A GLOBAL COOLING EFFECT.

IT SOUNDS VERY MUCH LIKE THE PLOT OF ONE SCIENCE FICTION MOVIE IN PARTICULAR—NAMELY BONG JOON-HO'S 2013 FILM SNOWPIERCER, IN WHICH SCIENTISTS RELEASE AEROSOLS INTO THE SKY IN A DESPERATE BID TO STOP RAMPANT GLOBAL WARMING. LET'S JUST SAY THE PLAN DOESN'T WORK OUT AS INTENDED."

BASED ON A GRAPHIC NOVEL BY JACQUES LOB AND JEAN-MARC ROCHETTE THE FILM TAKES PLACE IN 2031. 17 YEARS AFTER AN ATTEMPT TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE VIA STRATOSPHERIC AEROSOL INJECTION CATASTROPHICALLY BACKFIRED AND CREATED A NEW ICE AGE AND CAUSED ECOCIDE. THE REMNANTS OF HUMANITY HAVE TAKEN TO A SELF-SUSTAINING CIRCUMNAVIGATIONAL TRAIN, THE SNOWPIERCER, RUN BY RECLUSIVE TRANSPORTATION MAGNATE WILFORD.



"ACROSS THE WHITE IMMENSITY OF AN ETERNAL WINTER, FROM ONE END OF THE FROZEN PLANET TO THE OTHER, THERE TRAVELS A TRAIN THAT NEVER STOPS."



"AT THE FRONT OF THE TRAIN ARE THE 'GOLDEN CARS', ALL FIRST CLASS LUXURY AND PADDED COMFORT. AT THE REAR, FAR FROM THE ENGINE, THE POOR AND THE UNFORTUNATE ARE CRAMMED IN LIKE CATTLE."

"THIS IS THE SNOWPIERCER, ONE THOUSAND AND ONE CARRIAGES LONG, CARRYING THE LAST OF CIVILIZATION THROUGH ENDLESS WASTES..."

"WHICH IS BETTER? CARBON REMOVAL IS DOUBTLESS THE SAFEST PATH TO PERMANENT COOLING, BUT SOLAR GEOENGINEERING MAY WELL BE ABLE TO COOL THE WORLD THIS CENTURY WITH FEWER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND LESS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISRUPTION. YET NO ONE KNOWS, BECAUSE THE QUESTION IS NOT BEING ASKED. GEOENGINEERING RESEARCH BUDGETS ARE MINUSCULE, AND MUCH OF THE WORK IS ACCOMPLISHED AFTER HOURS BY SCIENTISTS ACTING OUTSIDE THEIR INSTITUTIONS' PRIORITIES."

"THE PROBLEM WITH ... CARBON REMOVAL TECHNOLOGIES IS THAT THEY ARE INHERENTLY SLOW BECAUSE THE CARBON THAT HAS ACCUMULATED IN THE ATMOSPHERE SINCE THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION MUST BE REMOVED TON BY TON. STILL, THE TECHNOLOGY PROVIDES A LONG-TERM CURE. GEOENGINEERING, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS CHEAP AND ACTS FAST, BUT IT CANNOT DEFLATE THE CARBON BUBBLE. IT IS A BAND-AID, NOT A CURE."

"EMISSIONS CUTS ARE NECESSARY. BUT PRETENDING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE CAN BE SOLVED WITH EMISSIONS CUTS ALONE IS A DANGEROUS FANTASY."

"I SEE A STRONG CASE FOR THE RICH REDUCING HIGH-CARBON ACTIVITIES, BUT GIVEN JOINT IMPERATIVE OF:

A: EMISSIONS --> 0

B: DEVELOPMENT FOR THE POOR

DEGROWTH SEEMS A HIGH-RISK PATH TO CLIMATE SAFETY."



DAVID KEITH

"THE PURPOSE OF EMISSIONS REDUCTION IS TO LOWER EMISSIONS WITHOUT REDUCING ECONOMIC GROWTH." AND SOLAR RADIATION MANAGEMENT (SRM) CAN BUY THE NECESSARY TIME.



HARVARD IS HOME TO THE LEADING SOLAR GEOENGINEERING RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE WORLD, WITH MILLIONS IN FUNDING (MUCH OF IT FROM TECH AND FINANCE BILLIONAIRES). DAVID KEITH IS DIRECTOR OF THE HARVARD GEOENGINEERING PROGRAM, WHICH RECEIVED \$4.5 MILLION (2016-17) FROM OPEN PHILANTHROPY, AND \$7.65 MILLION (2013-18) FROM FICER, BILL GATES' PERSONAL FUND FOR INNOVATIVE ENERGY AND GEOENGINEERING RESEARCH. OPEN PHILANTHROPY IS ONE OF THE LEADING EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM (EA) BASED RESEARCH GRANT MAKING ORGANISATIONS. ITS FUNDING IS BASICALLY SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS. ONE INCLUDES "TRADITIONAL" EA CAUSES LIKE PUBLIC HEALTH, ANIMAL RIGHTS AND AID TO THE WORLD'S POOR, THE SECOND FUNDS LONGTERMIST CAUSES: BIOSECURITY, PROGRAMS AGAINST PANDEMICS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PROMOTING EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM (TO GET AN IDEA OF ITS POWER: SINCE FOUNDING IN 2014 UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2020 OPEN PHILANTHROPY GAVE OUT 998 GRANTS WORTH \$1,171,866,584).

APART FROM HIS ADVOCACY FOR SOLAR GEOENGINEERING, KEITH ALSO FOUNDED CARBON ENGINEERING WHICH HOLDS MULTIPLE PATENTS FOR TECHNOLOGIES TO CAPTURE CO₂ FROM THE AIR AND CONVERT CAPTURED CO₂ TO SYNTHETIC FUELS OR OTHER PRODUCTS. THE COMPANY IS PRIVATELY FUNDED, ALTHOUGH KNOWN INVESTORS INCLUDE BILL GATES AND CANADIAN TAR SANDS MAGNATE MURRAY EDWARDS. IN JANUARY 2019, CHEVRON AND OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM ANNOUNCED MAJOR INVESTMENTS INTO CARBON ENGINEERING. OCCIDENTAL MADE CLEAR IN A PRESS RELEASE THAT ITS INTEREST IN DIRECT AIR CAPTURE IS THE USE OF CARBON DIOXIDE IN ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY.

DAVID KEITH WAS ALSO ONE OF THE 18 AUTHORS WHO PUBLISHED THE ECOMODERNISM MANIFESTO, TOGETHER WITH MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER AND TED NORDHAUS (WILLIAM NORDHAUS NEPHEW) AT THE BREAKTHROUGH INSTITUTE. AND IN 2018 HE PUBLISHED TWO PAPERS ARGUING AGAINST WIND ENERGY. IN ONE HE ARGUES THAT "IF YOUR PERSPECTIVE IS THE NEXT 10 YEARS, WIND POWER ACTUALLY HAS-IN SOME RESPECTS-MORE CLIMATE IMPACT THAN COAL OR GAS." THEY WERE QUICKLY DEBUNKED. ONE OUTLET THAT INITIALLY PUBLISHED AND THEN REVISED ITS STORY ON THE RESEARCH, CHANGED ITS HEADLINE TO READ: "A NEW STUDY ON THE SIDE EFFECTS OF WIND ENERGY IS ALMOST BEGGING TO BE MISUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE DENIERS."



"A COMMON BUT MISGUIDED CRITIQUE OF SOLAR GEOENGINEERING LINKS IT TO THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY. WHILE IT MAY ULTIMATELY PROVIDE A BOON TO FOSSIL CAPITAL, THE CORE FUNDERS AND RESEARCHERS ARE UNITED BY AN IDEOLOGY BEST LABELED "GREEN-CAPITALIST ECOMODERNISM." THAT IS, THE BELIEF THAT CAPITALISM CAN PROFITABLY MANAGE CLIMATE CHANGE VIA TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, MARKET MECHANISMS, AND MINOR TWEAKS IN POLICY (E.G. CARBON TAXES). THE 'DYNAMISM' OF TECHNO-ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPITALISM WILL SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS - IT MIGHT JUST NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME."

KEVIN SURPRISE

LECTURER IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

IN 'SOLAR GEOENGINEERING AND OBLIGATIONS TO THE GLOBAL POOR' TOGETHER WITH JOSHUA HORTON "DAVID KEITH ... ARGUES THAT 'A PRIMA FACIE MORAL OBLIGATION EXISTS TO RESEARCH SRM IN THE INTEREST OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BECAUSE SRM APPEARS TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND PRACTICABLE OPTION AVAILABLE TO ALLEVIATE A RANGE OF NEAR-TERM CLIMATE DAMAGES THAT ARE CERTAIN TO HURT THE GLOBAL SOUTH MOST OF ALL."

MARION HOURDEQUIN

PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY



"THERE ARE TWO PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF HORTON'S AND KEITH'S ARGUMENT THAT I BELIEVE REFLECT PAROCHIAL ASSUMPTIONS THAT DESERVE FURTHER SCRUTINY. FIRST, HORTON AND KEITH ASSUME A CONSEQUENTIALIST FRAMEWORK IN WHICH RISKS AND BENEFITS CAN BE TRADED OFF AGAINST ONE ANOTHER. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY ASSESS MITIGATION, ADAPTATION, AND SRM IN TERMS OF THEIR EFFECTS ON CLIMATE RISK AND CLIMATE PROTECTION, FOCUSING ON THE PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN VARIOUS REGIONS. THEY FAVOR SRM OVER THE OTHER OPTIONS BECAUSE IT IS (THEY ARGUE) THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE WAY OF REDUCING CLIMATE RISK IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE LANGUAGE, THROUGHOUT, REFLECTS A CONSEQUENTIALIST, COST-BENEFIT FRAME. ALTHOUGH THIS FRAME IS WIDELY DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, IT IS ARGUABLY A CULTURALLY PAROCHIAL ONE THAT ENCODES CERTAIN DOMINANT WESTERN PRESUPPOSITIONS ABOUT THE NATURE AND FUNCIBILITY OF VALUE.

A SECOND ASPECT OF HORTON AND KEITH'S ARGUMENT THAT EMBEDS PAROCHIAL ASSUMPTIONS HAS TO DO WITH WHAT THEY TAKE AS 'FIXED' AND WHAT THEY SEE AS CHANGEABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, HORTON AND KEITH ARGUE THAT IN THE NEAR-TERM, THE COSTS OF BOTH MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION WILL FALL DISPROPORTIONATELY ON THE POOR, AND THEREFORE SRM - WHICH IS CHEAPER AND WHOSE (MODEST) COSTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE BORNE BY THOSE IN WEALTHIER PARTS OF THE WORLD - IS A MORE JUST RESPONSE TO THE NEAR-TERM IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THEY FURTHER NOTE THAT 'LOCAL ACTORS PURSUING LOCAL INTERESTS THROUGH THE USE OF SRM MIGHT, IF THE INTERVENTION WAS PROPERLY DESIGNED, BENEFIT THE REST OF THE WORLD (ESPECIALLY THE GLOBAL POOR) AS A VIRTUAL BY-PRODUCT OF THEIR OTHERWISE SELF-INTERESTED USE OF SOLAR GEOENGINEERING. THERE'S A FAIR BIT TO UNPACK HERE."

"CLEARLY, THE COSTS OF ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO FALL ON THE WORLD'S POOREST PEOPLE: WHAT HORTON AND KEITH TAKE AS FIXED NEED NOT BE SO. IF NATIONS SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES TRULY CARED ABOUT THE WELL BEING OF 'THE GLOBAL POOR,' THEY COULD TRANSFER RESOURCES TO POORER COUNTRIES BURDENED WITH THE COSTS OF ADAPTATION OR COULD SHOULDER A LARGER PROPORTION OF THE GLOBAL BURDENS OF MITIGATION. HORTON AND KEITH SEEM TO ASSUME THAT NEITHER IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN, THUS SRM IS A BETTER OPTION. BUT UNDER A SCENARIO IN WHICH THE WEALTHY COUNTRIES CARE TOO LITTLE ABOUT THE POOR TO DO THEIR FAIR SHARE WITH RESPECT TO MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION, HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF SRM WILL PRIORITIZE THE INTERESTS OF 'THE GLOBAL POOR'?"



KEVIN SURPRISE



"SOLAR GEOENGINEERING IS NOT A HUMANITARIAN ENDEAVOR: IT WOULD CONSTITUTE MASSIVE, POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS, LIKELY CENTURIES-LONG INTERVENTION INTO THE CLIMATE SYSTEM IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM AT THE ROOT OF THE CRISIS."

"CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE MOST GLARING OMISSION FROM THE PRIORITY LIST," WROTE MARC GUNTHER IN AN ARTICLE ON EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM AND OPEN PHILANTHROPY IN 2018. NICK BECKSTEAD (WHO HELPED LAUNCH THE CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM AND A FORMER PROGRAM OFFICER FOR OPEN PHILANTHROPY), LITERALLY ARGUED IN HIS WIDELY-CITED-AMONG-LONGTERMISTS PHD DISSERTATION THAT FROM A "STRONG" LONGTERMIST VIEW, WE SHOULD *PRIORITIZE SAVING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN RICH COUNTRIES*."

"SILICON VALLEY ETHOS AND MONEY ARE A FEATURE OF THE SRM WORLD NOT A BUG."

NICK BECKSTEAD
ON THE OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE OF
SHAPING THE FAR FUTURE. 2013. PHD THESIS

"TO TAKE ANOTHER EXAMPLE, SAVING LIVES IN POOR COUNTRIES MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER RIPPLE EFFECTS THAN SAVING AND IMPROVING LIVES IN RICH COUNTRIES. WHY? RICHER COUNTRIES HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE INNOVATION, AND THEIR WORKERS ARE MUCH MORE ECONOMICALLY PRODUCTIVE. BY ORDINARY STANDARDS—AT LEAST BY ORDINARY ENLIGHTENED HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS—SAVING AND IMPROVING LIVES IN RICH COUNTRIES IS ABOUT EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS SAVING AND IMPROVING LIVES IN POOR COUNTRIES, PROVIDED LIVES ARE IMPROVED BY ROUGHLY COMPARABLE AMOUNTS. BUT IT NOW SEEMS MORE PLAUSIBLE TO ME THAT SAVING A LIFE IN A RICH COUNTRY IS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN SAVING A LIFE IN A POOR COUNTRY, OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL."

ÉMILE P. TORRES

PHILOSOPHER AND HISTORIAN

DAVID KEITH AS WELL AS THE THE DEGREES INITIATIVE TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EVALUATE SRM AND THE RECENT OVERSHOOT COMMISSION HAVE RECEIVED FUNDS FROM OPEN PHILANTHROPY. THE FIRST OLDER TWO AND MUCH BIGGER GRANTS ARE STILL (JANUARY 2023) FILED UNDER LONGTERMISM.



"IF YOU HAVE A 3 PERCENT RATE OF GROWTH, IN 100 YEARS, YOU'LL HAVE A WORLD ECONOMY 16 TIMES BIGGER THAN THE PRESENT, IN 200 YEARS 250 TIMES BIGGER THAN THE PRESENT, IN 300 YEARS 4000 TIMES, AND SO FORTH. BUT WE'RE ALREADY REACHING THE LIMITS OF HOW WE CAN LIVE ON THE PLANET. WE HAVE TO REORGANIZE, DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY. THERE ARE NO EXISTING TECHNOLOGIES THEMSELVES THAT CAN SOLVE THE PLANETARY EMERGENCY WE NOW FACE, WHICH REQUIRES A CHANGE IN SOCIAL RELATIONS."

JOHN BELLAMY FOSTER

PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY



GRETA THUNBERG

CLIMATE ACTIVIST

"THERE IS A PERFECT METAPHOR FOR SOLAR GEOENGINEERING: WHEN YOU'RE IN A HOLE, STOP DIGGING. WE CANNOT MOVE OUT OF THIS CRISIS WITH THE SAME MINDSET THAT GOT US INTO THIS."



ANDREA VETTER

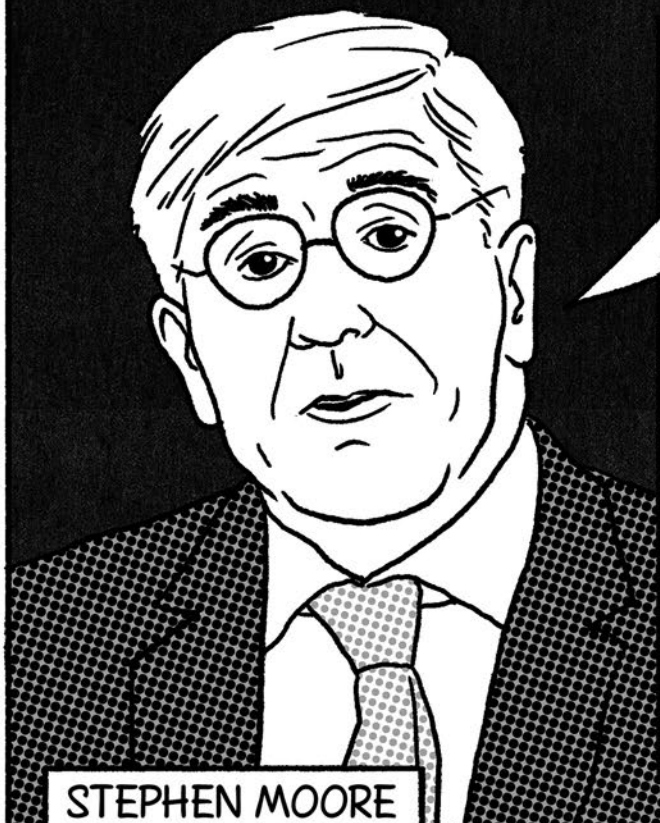
JOURNALIST AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGIST

"FROM THE DEGROWTH PERSPECTIVE, THE SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION MEANS NOT ONLY THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE ECONOMY AND A RADICAL REDISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES, BUT ALSO A PROFOUND RESTRUCTURING OF THE MATERIAL-TECHNICAL BASIS OF SOCIETY, AS CALLED FOR BY THE CRITIQUE OF INDUSTRIALISM AND TECHNOLOGY. A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE PRODUCTIVE FORCES OF MODERN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES REQUIRES BOTH DIFFERENT TECHNICAL MODELS AND CHANGED OWNERSHIP STRUCTURES: AS LONG AS THE PRIMACY OF ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY – RATHER THAN CRITERIA OF SUSTAINABILITY AND UTILITY – DOMINATES DESIGN PROCESSES AND INVESTMENTS IN TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURES, THIS TRANSFORMATION WILL NOT SUCCEED.

INSTEAD OF THE GENERAL HOSTILITY TO TECHNOLOGY THAT IS OFTEN ASSUMED TO BE A HALLMARK OF DEGROWTH, DEGROWTH IS CHARACTERIZED BY A DIFFERENTIATED VIEW OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. THE QUESTION DEGROWTH PUTS AT THE CENTRE IS: WHICH TECHNOLOGY SHOULD SOCIETY USE? AND FOR WHAT, BY WHOM, HOW, AND HOW MUCH OF IT? AND WHO DECIDES? IT IS ALSO A MATTER OF OPPOSING THE MYTH OF UNSTOPPABLE AND INDEPENDENT TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS, THE CONTINUOUS INCREASE OF PRODUCTIVITY, AND THE CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIAL PRODUCTIVE FORCES (AS IT ALSO PREVAILS IN LARGE PARTS OF THE TECHNO-FUTURISTIC LEFT) AND ABOUT OFFERING A DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE."

MISUNDERSTANDING #7:

DEGROWTH IS NOT REACTIONARY IT JUST REJECTS A LINEAR IDEA OF PROGRESS WHICH HOLDS THAT THE FUTURE IS ALWAYS MORE DESIRABLE THAN THE PAST. DEGROWTH IS AN ACTIVE RESEARCH FOR NEW FORMS OF BETTERMENT.



STEPHEN MOORE

"WHAT IS SCARY IS THAT MANY WHO SUBSCRIBE TO CLIMATE CHANGE HYSTERIA, AS WELL AS THE DONORS WHO PROVIDE THE TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF RESOURCES TO CLIMATE ISSUES, HAVE COME TO AGREE THAT GROWTH IS THE ENEMY AND THAT WE WOULD ALL BE BETTER OFF IF WE WERE A LITTLE POORER.

IT IS WRONG ON SO MANY LEVELS ONE HARDLY KNOWS WHERE TO START. FIRST, ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND GROWTH GO HAND IN HAND AND HAVE INARGUABLY POSITIVE BENEFITS TO THE POOREST CITIZENS OF THE WORLD AND TO HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. NATIONS THAT HAVE 'DEGROWTH' ARE MUCH MORE POLLUTED AND HAVE MUCH HIGHER DEATH RATES THAN THE UNITED STATES. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS THE ULTIMATE 'SUPERIOR GOOD.' THE RICHER A SOCIETY BECOMES, THE MORE IT SPENDS ON CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, AND NATURE PRESERVATION.

THE DEGROWTH FAD - HOPEFULLY IT IS JUST THAT - ALSO REVEALS THE MODERN LEFT MOVEMENT FOR WHAT IT IS AT ITS CORE. IT IS ANTI-GROWTH, ANTI-PEOPLE, ANTI-FREE ENTERPRISE AND ANTI-PROSPERITY. THE ENTIRE CLIMATE CHANGE MOVEMENT IS AN ASSAULT AGAINST CHEAP AND ABUNDANT ENERGY AND RISING LIVING STANDARDS. THIS RAISES THE QUESTION OF HOW WE COULD EVER RELY ON THE LEFT TO FIX OUR ECONOMY, HELP THE POOR, AND MAKE US ALL MORE PROSPEROUS IF ITS GOAL IS TO SHRINK THE ECONOMY, NOT GROW IT?"

IS A SENIOR FELLOW AT FREEDOM WORKS AND A CO-FOUNDER OF THE COMMITTEE TO UNLEASH PROSPERITY. HE SERVED ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE.

"THERE IS NO WAY TO LIFT LIVING STANDARDS FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE - INCLUDING THE LARGE NUMBER OF POOR AND WORKING-CLASS PEOPLE IN RICH COUNTRIES WHO WOULD HAPPILY ENJOY BETTER FOOD, LARGER HOMES, A WIDER ARRAY OF GADGETS, AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAVEL, IF PROVIDED WITH THE NECESSARY SPENDING POWER - IF HUMANITY AS A WHOLE MUST CONSUME FAR LESS. VASTLY INCREASING GLOBAL PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES IS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO GLOBAL POVERTY, AND IT'S THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE WAY TO REDUCE INEQUALITY."

MATTHEW C. KLEIN



ECONOMICS JOURNALIST AND CO-AUTHOR OF 'TRADE WARS ARE CLASS WARS'

"I THINK THERE ARE DANGERS TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, BUT THERE ARE ALSO GREAT DANGERS IN STAGNATION."

"WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE PALEOLITHIC ERA, WE CAN'T GO BACK TO AN AGRARIAN ECONOMY, WE CAN'T EVEN GO BACK TO A 19TH CENTURY INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY. AND THEN IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE A ZERO-GROWTH SOCIETY WORK."

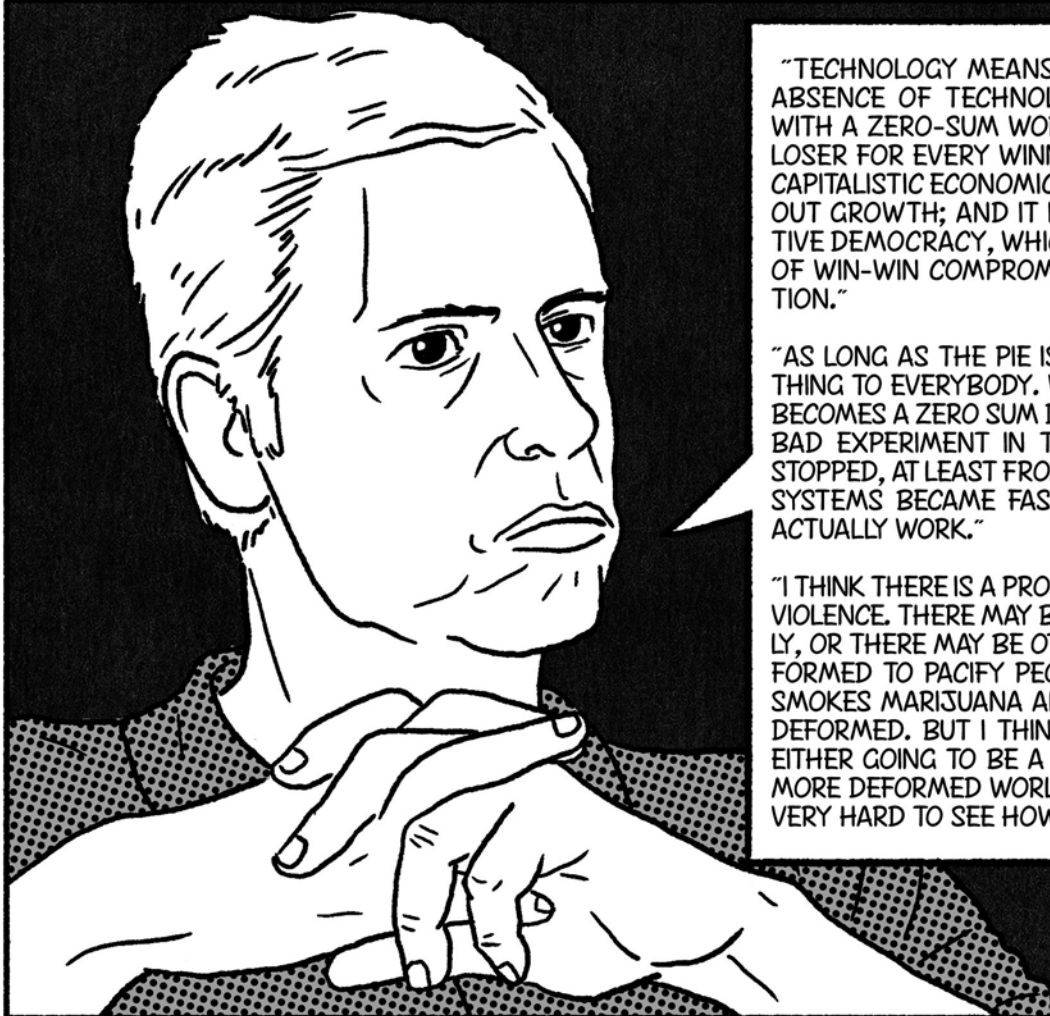
PETER THIEL



"TECHNOLOGY MEANS DOING MORE WITH LESS. IN THE ABSENCE OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS, WE END UP WITH A ZERO-SUM WORLD, IN WHICH THERE MUST BE A LOSER FOR EVERY WINNER. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER A CAPITALISTIC ECONOMIC SYSTEM COULD FUNCTION WITHOUT GROWTH; AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, WHICH REQUIRES THE GIVE-AND-TAKE OF WIN-WIN COMPROMISE, WOULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION."

"AS LONG AS THE PIE IS GROWING, YOU CAN GIVE SOMETHING TO EVERYBODY. WHEN THE PIE STOPS GROWING, IT BECOMES A ZERO SUM DYNAMIC. WE HAD SORT OF A VERY BAD EXPERIMENT IN THE 1930S WHERE THE GROWTH STOPPED, AT LEAST FROM THE ECONOMIC SENSE, AND THE SYSTEMS BECAME FASCIST OR COMMUNIST. IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY WORK."

"I THINK THERE IS A PROSPECT OF ALL SORTS OF FORMS OF VIOLENCE. THERE MAY BE MORE ZERO SUM WARS GLOBALLY, OR THERE MAY BE OTHER WAYS THINGS ARE SUPER DEFORMED TO PACIFY PEOPLE. SO, MAYBE EVERYONE JUST SMOKES MARIJUANA ALL DAY, BUT THAT'S ALSO KIND OF DEFORMED. BUT I THINK A WORLD WITHOUT GROWTH IS EITHER GOING TO BE A MUCH MORE VIOLENT OR A MUCH MORE DEFORMED WORLD. WITHOUT GROWTH, I THINK IT'S VERY HARD TO SEE HOW YOU HAVE A GOOD FUTURE."



TECH BILLIONAIRE PETER THIEL RUNS THE MOST TERRIFYING SURVEILLANCE COMPANY ON EARTH. HE WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST DONORS TO DONALD TRUMP'S 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, BELIEVES HE BELONGS TO A GROUP OF "HIGH-IQ" LEADERS AND THAT COMPANIES ARE BETTER RUN THAN GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE THEY HAVE A SINGLE DECISION MAKER - A DICTATOR, BASICALLY.

HE IS NOT A LIBERTARIAN BUT A FASCIST, AS JOHN GANZ HAS CONCLUSIVELY ARGUED. HE IS ALSO MARK ZUCKERBERG'S MAYBE CLOSEST CONFIDANT AND SAID "NEVER BET AGAINST ELON MUSK." THIEL ALSO WROTE THE PREFACE TO THE 2020 EDITION OF 'THE SOVEREIGN INDIVIDUAL' ("THE NEW SOVEREIGN INDIVIDUAL WILL OPERATE LIKE THE GODS OF MYTH IN THE SAME PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT AS THE ORDINARY, SUBJECT CITIZEN, BUT IN A SEPARATE REALM POLITICALLY.") AND HIS 'COURT PHILOSOPHER' IS THE DARK ENLIGHTENMENT'S (NRX) CURTIS YARVIN. THIEL ALSO GAVE A MILLION TO ECONOMIST TYLER COWEN, LOCATED AT THE ATLAS NETWORK'S HEADQUARTER (GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY), TO FUND YOUNG TECH BROS SPREADING HIS MESSAGE.

IN 2020 HE SAID: "I'LL TAKE ALL THE QANON AND PIZZAGATE CONSPIRACY THEORIES EVERYDAY OVER THE MINISTRY OF TRUTH."

"JUST YOUR REGULAR REMINDER THAT THOSE WHO CLAIM WE NEED NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS ARE *REALLY*

SAYING THAT THE OVERCONSUMPTION OF THE RICHEST IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE REST OF LIFE ON EARTH. WE HAVE THE TECH WE NEED FOR DECENT LIVES FOR ALL."

AND ON THE AVOIDING VIOLENT HELL PART:

"THERE'S NO OPPOSITION POSSIBLE BETWEEN ACTING TO PREVENT THE WORST AND ACTING TO ENABLE GOOD THINGS. BECAUSE IF WE FAIL ON EITHER COUNT, WE BASICALLY ENTER THE ZONE WHERE WE FAIL ALONG THE BOARD."



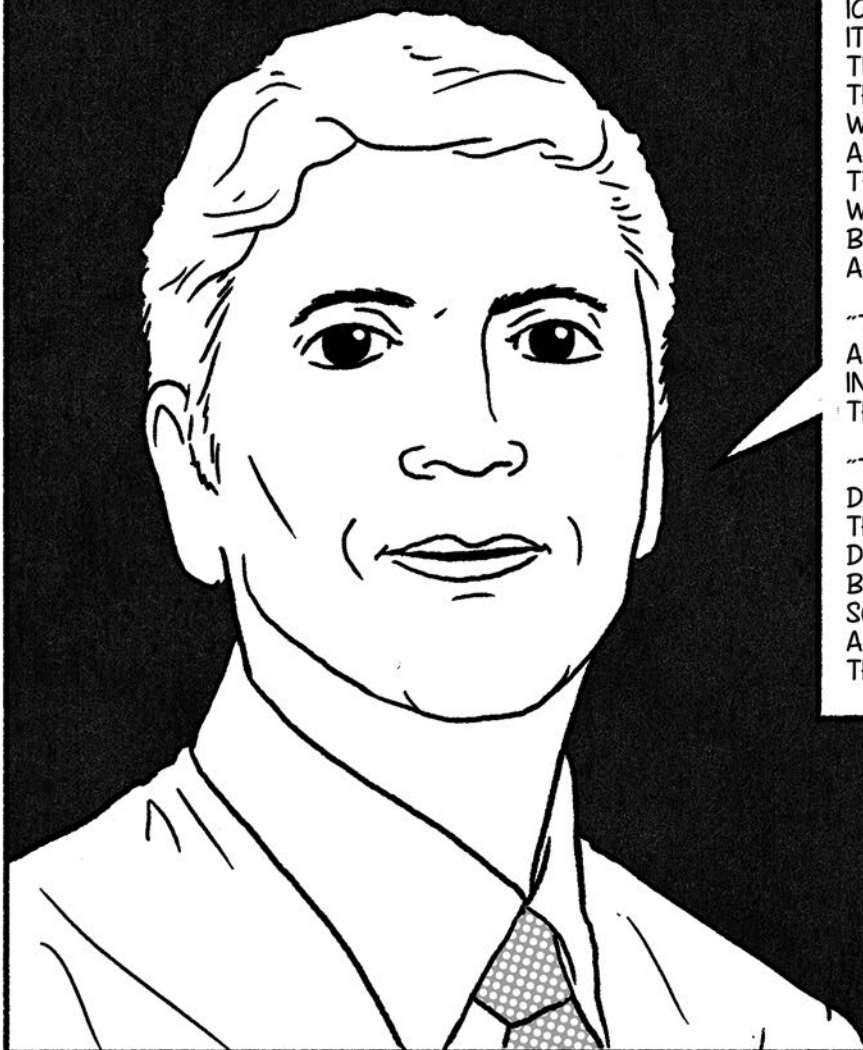
I'm a climate scientist
who supports
 **extinction
rebellion**
Ask me a question!



"YOU CAN ONLY CREATE SAFETY BY CREATING GOOD LIVING CONDITIONS, BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T DO THAT, YOUR EFFORTS TO TRY TO KEEP THE FOSSIL FUELS IN THE GROUND ARE GOING TO FALL APART. BASICALLY, BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES. WE NEED TO CREATE THE GOOD CONDITIONS THAT ALLOW PEOPLE TO MAKE IT THROUGH WITHOUT FOSSIL FUELS."

JULIA STEINBERGER

PROFESSOR OF ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS



"IF WE ARE TO REALLY GET TO THE LEVEL OF MITIGATION THAT THE PARIS AGREEMENT CALLS FOR, IT CAN ONLY HAPPEN WITH INCREASED ATTENTION TO EQUITY. WE ARE NOT GOING TO PURSUE THESE COMPLETELY TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT SHARING EFFORTS, AND I SEE THAT REQUIRING CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE.

WE NEED TO LOOK MORE RIGOROUSLY AT THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF HUMAN WELL-BEING AND HUMAN PROGRESS."

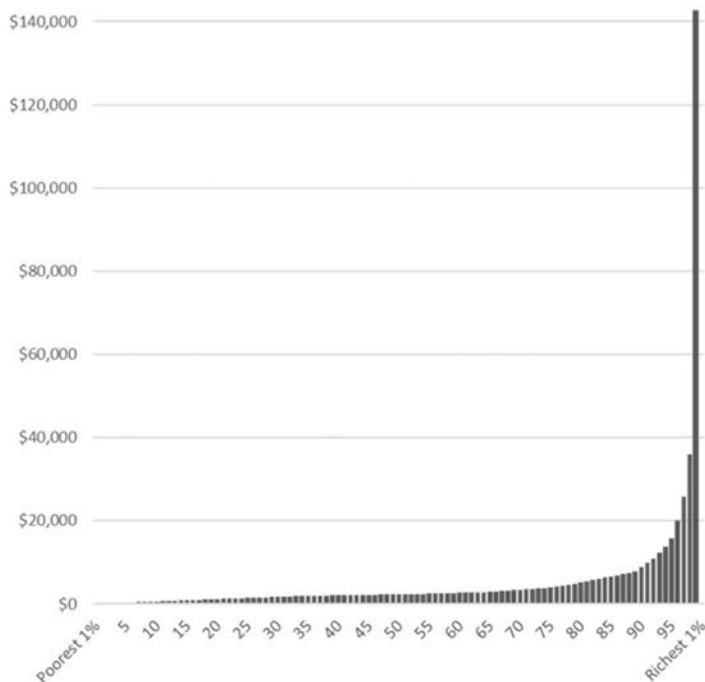
"THE DOMINANT DISCOURSE IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY TRANSITIONS EQUATES WELL-BEING TO G.D.P., AND WE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND THAT."

"THE MODELS PRESUME THAT WELFARE IS DRIVEN BY G.D.P. GROWTH, FOR EXAMPLE, AND THAT'S AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE THAT'S EMBEDDED WITHIN THEM. THEY RARELY MODEL DISTRIBUTIONS OR HETEROGENEITY OF POPULATIONS, SO YOU'RE LOOKING AT AGGREGATE OUTCOMES AND IGNORING INEQUALITIES IN SOCIETY, AND THAT IGNORES A LOT OF THE PROBLEM."

NARASIMHA D. RAO

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENERGY SYSTEMS

WHO BENEFITS FROM GLOBAL GDP GROWTH?
(CHANGE IN ANNUAL INCOME FROM 1980 TO 2016)



"JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR ON WHO THIS SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO BENEFIT."



JASON HICKEL

ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGIST AND AUTHOR

"THERE'S MANY ISSUES WITH THE PARADIGM OF GREEN GROWTH. I THINK FUNDAMENTALLY IT'S INCREMENTALIST AND WE NEED DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE."

"WHAT WE FIND WHEN WE LOOK AT GROWTH TODAY IS THAT IT TENDS TO BE BENEFITING A MINORITY AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR MAJORITY IN MANY WAYS. AND SO WHEN WE START TO THINK DIRECTLY ABOUT HOW CAN WE MEASURE WELLBEING DIRECTLY, AND HOW DO OUR ENERGY SERVICES SUPPORT WELLBEING, IT OPENS UP A WHOLE SLATE OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND WAYS TO TRY UTILIZE RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE THAT END."

"IN SOME WAYS, THE COSTS OF REDUCING CLIMATE CHANGE ARE OVERSTATED. WE HAVEN'T REALLY EXPLORED ENOUGH THE BENEFITS TO OUR WELL-BEING OF A LOW-CARBON LIFESTYLE, AND THIS IS ONE OF THE BIASES I SEE IN THE RESEARCH: THAT RISKY TECHNOLOGIES ARE THE ONLY WAYS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE."

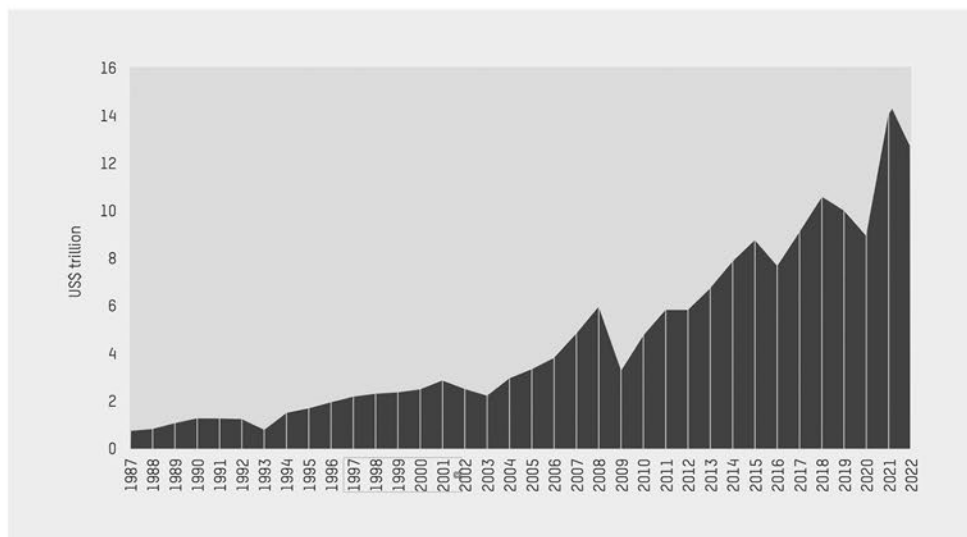
"IF YOU THINK ABOUT MORE PUBLIC TRANSIT, MORE SUSTAINABLE DIETS, MORE HIGH-TECH COMMUNITIES WITH PERHAPS MORE MODEST HOMES, THESE ARE THINGS THAT CAN BENEFIT PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE, AND LIKEWISE, I THINK IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IT WILL ALSO REQUIRE A SHIFT AWAY FROM PRESENT TRENDS."

"MY VIEW IS THAT TECHNOLOGY IS ESSENTIAL, BUT NOT THE PRIMARY BARRIER TO THE ENERGY TRANSITION. WE NEED THE RIGHT INCENTIVES TO GUIDE ITS DEVELOPMENT WITH A SENSE OF PURPOSE, AND THAT PURPOSE NEEDS TO BE THE PUBLIC GOOD."



NARASIMHA D. RAO

FIGURE 2 INCREASE IN BILLIONAIRE WEALTH 1987-2022 IN US\$ TRILLION (REAL TERMS)



Source: Forbes World's Billionaires list.²⁶



JASON HICKEL

"ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK, POOR PEOPLE'S DAILY INCOMES HAVE INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT TWO CENTS PER YEAR SINCE 1981, OUTSIDE EAST ASIA. AT THIS RATE, IT WILL TAKE ABOUT 200 YEARS TO GET EVERYONE ABOVE THE POVERTY LINE OF \$7.40 PER DAY."

"THE REASON IT'S SO SLOW IS NOT BECAUSE WE LIVE IN A POOR WORLD, WHERE POVERTY IS A NATURAL AND INEVITABLE CONDITION. ON THE CONTRARY, WE LIVE IN AN EXTRAORDINARILY RICH WORLD. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE GLOBAL ECONOMY HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO FUNNEL THE VAST MAJORITY OF INCOME INTO THE POCKETS OF THE RICH. REMARKABLY, ONLY ABOUT FIVE PER CENT OF ALL NEW INCOME FROM GLOBAL GROWTH GOES TO THE POOREST 60 PER CENT OF HUMANITY. THIS IS AN ASTONISHING FIGURE, WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE THE MAJORITY OF THE RESOURCES AND LABOUR. WHAT THEY GET IN RETURN IS LITERALLY PENNIES."

"IT STRETCHES CREDULITY TO CAST THIS AS 'PROGRESS', BY ANY DEFINITION, PARTICULARLY WHEN WE HAVE THE RESOURCES TO END GLOBAL POVERTY MANY TIMES OVER. BRINGING EVERYONE IN THE WORLD ABOVE THE \$7.40 POVERTY LINE WOULD REQUIRE SHIFTING LESS THAN 5% OF EXISTING GLOBAL INCOME FROM THE RICHEST TO THE POOR. THIS WOULD END GLOBAL POVERTY AT THAT LEVEL FOREVER. BUT WE CAN DO MUCH BETTER THAN THIS: WE CAN PROVISION GOOD LIVES FOR EVERYONE ON THE PLANET -- INCLUDING MODERN HOUSING, REFRIGERATORS, STOVES, COMPUTERS, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, SANITATION SYSTEMS, PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS -- RIGHT NOW, WITH A MODEST SHARE OF OUR EXISTING PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY, IF THAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ECONOMY."

STOP WITH THIS PROGRESSPHOBIA!

"INTELLECTUALS HATE PROGRESS. INTELLECTUALS WHO CALL THEMSELVES 'PROGRESSIVE' REALLY HATE PROGRESS."

"INCOME INEQUALITY IS NOT A FUNDAMENTAL (MEASUREMENT) OF WELL-BEING!"

STEVEN PINKER

COGNITIVE SCIENTIST - PINKER IS NOT ONLY A CLOSE FRIEND OF BILL GATES, WHO DESCRIBES PINKER'S 'ENLIGHTENMENT NOW' AS HIS FAVORITE BOOK. HE ALSO ENDORSES JASON CRAWFORD (THE MAYBE BIGGEST FAN OF RACIST EUGENICS SUPPORTER SLATE STAR CODEX) AND THE ONLY PERSON HE SUBSCRIBES TO ON TWITTER/X IS RICHARD HANANIA - WHO HAS REFERRED TO BLACK PEOPLE AS 'ANIMALS'.

"PROGRESS IS NOT A MIRACLE. PROGRESS IS USING KNOWLEDGE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. PROGRESS IS NOT PERFECTION. PROGRESS IS UNNATURAL. PROGRESS CAN CONTINUE IF WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO REASON, SCIENCE AND HUMANISM."

JASON CRAWFORD AND HIS ROOTS OF PROGRESS PROGRAM THAT'S "AN EXCITING NEW VENTURE, *TRULY* PROGRESSIVE (AND A CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO "PROGRESSIVE" PROGRAMS THAT DENY AND DENIGRATE PROGRESS)."

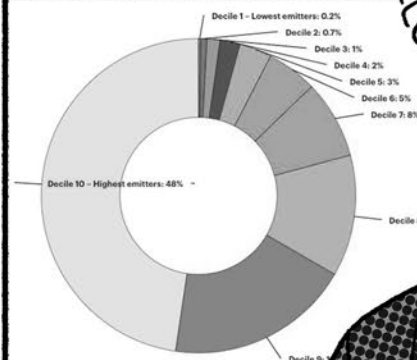
"NO, EXTREME POVERTY ISN'T NATURAL, IT'S CREATED."

"THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH CELEBRATING PROGRESS. HUMANITY HAS MADE SOME EXTRAORDINARY GAINS IN RECENT HISTORY THAT DESERVE OUR ATTENTION. BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT NEW OPTIMISM IS ABOUT. THE MOVEMENT'S CORE ARGUMENT ISN'T JUST THAT THINGS HAVE IMPROVED, BUT RATHER THAT THE PROGRESS WE'VE SEEN HAS BEEN FUELLED BY THE SPREAD OF CAPITALISM AROUND THE WORLD. AS PINKER PUTS IT: 'INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM LAUNCHED THE GREAT ESCAPE FROM UNIVERSAL POVERTY IN THE 19TH CENTURY AND IS RESCUING THE REST OF HUMANKIND IN A GREAT CONVERGENCE IN THE 21ST.' SOME PROMINENT VOICES WITHIN THE MOVEMENT TAKE THIS FURTHER, AND ARGUE THAT IT'S NOT JUST CAPITALISM THAT WE HAVE TO THANK, BUT SPECIFICALLY THE NEOLIBERAL VARIETY THAT HAS DOMINATED THE WORLD ECONOMY SINCE THE 1980S."

"CLIMATE CHANGE, AT ITS MOST ESSENTIAL, IS A JUSTICE ISSUE."

"SHOCKING NEW ANALYSIS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY ON THE GIGANTIC INEQUALITIES IN GLOBAL CO2 OUTPUT!"

THE WORLD'S TOP 10% RELEASE NEARLY HALF THE GLOBAL TOTAL ... WHILE THE BOTTOM HALF (SOME 4BN PEOPLE) MAKE UP <7%



"IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT AVERTING ECOLOGICAL BREAKDOWN WILL REQUIRE DRASTIC CHANGES TO CONTEMPORARY HUMAN SOCIETY AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY EMBEDDED WITHIN IT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BASIC MATERIAL NEEDS OF BILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE PLANET REMAIN UNMET."

SIMON EVANS

SENIOR POLICY EDITOR AT CARBON BRIEF

GREEN INVESTMENT

Needed



STOP FUNDING FOSSILS

FOSSIL INVESTMENT

DIVEST NOW

"AFRICA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ONLY 3% OF GLOBAL EMISSIONS. IT'S IMPORTANT TO RECOGNISE THAT THE CLIMATE CRISIS WAS CAUSED BY THE GLOBAL NORTH AND IT IS THE GLOBAL SOUTH THAT IS SUFFERING."

IN SUBSAHARAN AFRICA AROUND 600 MILLION PEOPLE STILL DON'T HAVE BASIC ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY. BUT I WANT TO BE CLEAR ABOUT THIS: BIG OIL AND GAS COMPANIES HAVE BEEN PROMISING TO LIFT PEOPLE OUT OF ENERGY POVERTY FOR DECADES. IT'S A LIE. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A LIE."

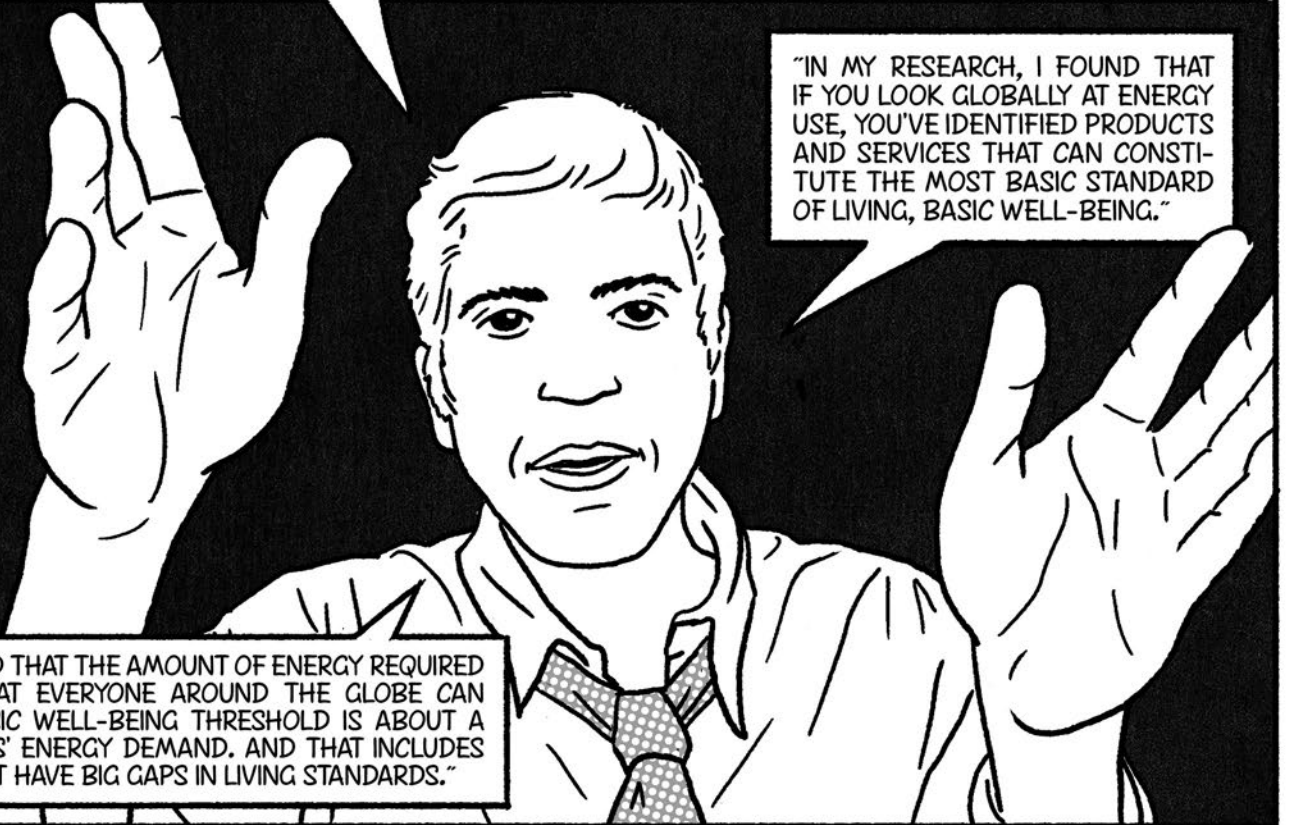
VANESSA NAKATE

CLIMATE ACTIVIST AND UNICEF GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

"WE CAN'T HAVE CLIMATE JUSTICE WITHOUT POVERTY ERADICATION, WE CAN'T HAVE CLIMATE JUSTICE WITHOUT ACHIEVING ZERO HUNGER. WE CAN'T HAVE CLIMATE JUSTICE WITHOUT GENDER EQUALITY."



"WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT THE FACT THAT GROWTH IS A MEANS TOWARDS AN END, AND THAT END IS IMPROVING OUR WELLBEING AND IMPROVING OUR COLLECTIVE WELLBEING."



"IN MY RESEARCH, I FOUND THAT IF YOU LOOK GLOBALLY AT ENERGY USE, YOU'VE IDENTIFIED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THAT CAN CONSTITUTE THE MOST BASIC STANDARD OF LIVING, BASIC WELL-BEING."

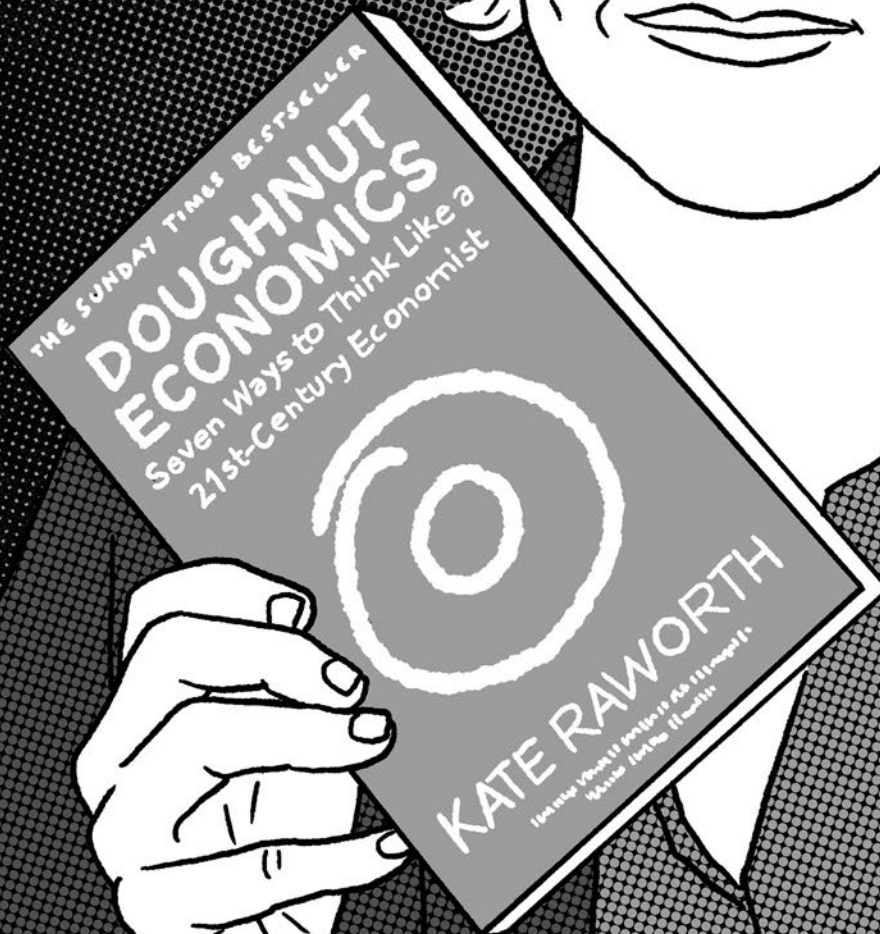
"AND WE FOUND THAT THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE AROUND THE GLOBE CAN MEET THIS BASIC WELL-BEING THRESHOLD IS ABOUT A 10TH OF THE US' ENERGY DEMAND. AND THAT INCLUDES COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BIG GAPS IN LIVING STANDARDS."

"SO ESSENTIALLY THE GROWTH IN OUR ENERGY SYSTEM IS SUPPORTING THE AFFLUENCE IN LUXURY CONSUMPTION, OFTEN MINORITY, WHILE THE BASIC LIVING STANDARDS OF A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE PERSISTENTLY BEEN SUBPAR FOR A LONG, LONG TIME. AND SO WHEN WE THINK ABOUT DEMAND-SIDE SOLUTIONS, THE IDEA, FIRST OF ALL, IS THAT WE CHOOSE A DIFFERENT METRIC FOR WHAT WE DEFINE AS OUR ULTIMATE GOAL, AND THAT'S (GLOBAL) WELLBEING. AND WE WANT TO TRY AND LINK OUR ENERGY SERVICES, BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT, TO WELLBEING."

KATE RAWORTH

KATE RAWORTH IS A RENEGADE ECONOMIST, CREATOR OF "DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS" IN WHICH THE WORLD ECONOMY MUST STAY IN THE "DOUGH" BETWEEN THE OUTER EDGE OF THE DOUGHNUT, REPRESENTING CRITICAL ECOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES, AND THE HOLE, WHICH REPRESENTS DEPRIVATION, THE LACK OF BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR A GOOD LIFE.

"IF HUMANITY IS EVER TO LIVE IN THE DOUGHNUT, THERE MUST BE AN ENOUGH."



"WHAT IS ENOUGH? PUT THAT QUESTION TO ANY ECONOMIST OR POLITICIAN, AND YOU ARE LIKELY TO GET A BLANK STARE IN RETURN. IN A SOCIETY DEVOTED TO CONTINUOUS ECONOMIC GROWTH, THERE IS NO WAY TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, 'HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?' BECAUSE CONTINUOUS GROWTH IMPLIES THERE IS NEVER ENOUGH."



STAN COX

RESEARCH FELLOW FOR ECOSPHERE STUDIES AND AUTHOR OF 'THE PATH TO A LIVABLE FUTURE: A NEW POLITICS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE, RACISM, AND THE NEXT PANDEMIC'

"THREE DECADES AGO, THE LATE CHILEAN ECONOMIST AND 'RIGHT LIVELIHOOD AWARD'-WINNER MANFRED MAX-NEEF ARGUED THAT THE BASIC NEEDS OF HUMAN BEINGS GO DEEPER THAN THE LIST OF GOODS AND SERVICES THAT USUALLY COMES TO MIND. HE IDENTIFIED NINE UNDERLYING UNIVERSAL NEEDS, AMONG THEM SUBSISTENCE, PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION, CREATION, AND FREEDOM. OUR NEED FOR SUBSISTENCE, THE MEANS OF SUSTAINING LIFE, MUST OF COURSE BE SATISFIED BEFORE THE OTHER NEEDS CAN BE MET. THAT'S WHY LISTS OF BASIC REQUIREMENTS ALWAYS INCLUDE FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE, ETC.—WHAT MAX-NEEF TERMED 'SATISFIERS' OF NEEDS. THE NEEDS ARE THE SAME AMONG HUMANS EVERYWHERE. THE SATISFIERS VARY AND SHIFT OVER TIME AND FROM PLACE TO PLACE, BUT EACH SOCIETY'S GOAL, HE WROTE, MUST BE UNIVERSAL SATISFACTION OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS. BASED ON WHAT WE NOW KNOW IN 2021, WE SHOULD ADD THAT THOSE NEEDS MUST BE SATISFIED WITHOUT VIOLATING THE EARTH'S ECOLOGICAL LIMITS."



"NO ECONOMIC INTEREST UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, CAN BE ABOVE REVERENCE FOR LIFE".

MANFRED MAX NEEF

"WELL, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT CONVENTIONAL AND TRADITIONAL ECONOMICS HAS NOT RESPONDED TO WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE RESPONDED TO. THAT THERE IS TREMENDOUS STUBBORNNESS ON THE PART OF THOSE IN THE MAINSTREAM DOES NOT DETRACT FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS AND REMAINS A TREMENDOUSLY DANGEROUS AND BRUTAL FAILURE. THIS NEO-LIBERAL ECONOMY KILLS MORE PEOPLE THAN ALL THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD PUT TOGETHER, AND THERE IS NOT ONE ACCUSED, THERE IS NOT ONE PRISONER, THERE IS NOT ONE CONVICTED. ALL THE HORRORS WE ARE SEEING IN THE WORLD, MUCH OF IT, HAVE AN UNDERCURRENT THAT IS ANCHORED IN THIS VISION OF ECONOMIC TREATMENT AND PRACTICE.

THE OBSESSION WITH GROWTH, TO BEGIN WITH, IS NONSENSE. BECAUSE AN ELEMENTARY LAW OF NATURE, WHICH EVERYONE KNOWS, IS THAT ALL LIVING SYSTEMS GROW UP TO A CERTAIN POINT WHERE THEY STOP GROWING. YOU STOP GROWING, I STOP GROWING, THE BIG TREE STOPS GROWING, BUT IT DOESN'T STOP DEVELOPING. TO CONTINUE FORCING GROWTH IN ORDER TO CONSUME MORE AND CONTINUE PRODUCING AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF UNNECESSARY THINGS, GENERATING ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL INSTITUTIONS IN THE WORLD, ADVERTISING, WHOSE FUNCTION IS ONE AND VERY CLEAR: TO MAKE YOU BUY WHAT YOU DON'T NEED, WITH MONEY YOU DON'T HAVE, IN ORDER TO IMPRESS THOSE YOU DON'T KNOW. THAT CLEARLY CANNOT BE SUSTAINABLE."

"NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT ENERGY CONSUMPTION IS ESSENTIAL FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING, THE GROUND-REALITY IS THAT THERE IS ENORMOUS INEQUALITY IN ENERGY USE WORLDWIDE. IT IS TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THE TOP 10 PER CENT OF GLOBAL ENERGY CONSUMERS USE ROUGHLY 30 TIMES MORE ENERGY THAN THE BOTTOM 10 PER CENT."

"IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT OUR ENERGY USE DRIVES CLIMATE CHANGE."

"LOW-ENERGY SCENARIOS ARE A RESPONSE TO THE ONGOING PLANETARY CRISIS THAT SHOW THAT WITH LESS GLOBAL ENERGY DEMAND THE CLIMATE CAN MORE LIKELY BE STABILIZED. GIVEN THE ADDITIONAL CONSTRAINT THAT NO ONE IS TO LIVE BELOW A THRESHOLD FOR DECENT LIVING ENERGY, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ENERGY INEQUALITIES NEED TO FALL DRASTICALLY."

"WE FOUND THAT UNPRECEDENTED REDUCTIONS IN INCOME AND ENERGY INEQUALITIES ARE LIKELY TO BE NECESSARY TO SIMULTANEOUSLY SECURE A CLIMATE-SAFE FUTURE AND DECENT LIVING STANDARDS FOR ALL. IF GLOBAL ENERGY USE IS REDUCED ENOUGH TO ENSURE CLIMATE SAFETY, BUT IF THE EXTENT OF ENERGY INEQUALITY REMAINS AS IT IS TODAY, MORE THAN 4 BILLION PEOPLE WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS TO DECENT LIVING ENERGY."



YANNICK OSWALD

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMIST

"MEETING INTERNATIONALLY AGREED GOALS FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MIGHT THUS REQUIRE REDUCTIONS IN ECONOMIC INEQUALITY THAT ARE ALIEN TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY OF THE PAST CENTURY AND A HALF OF CAPITALISM AND, INDEED, ALIEN TO MANY OTHER LARGE PREINDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES. BUT THE CHALLENGES ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE; GLOBALLY, THERE IS WIDESPREAD DESIRE FOR LOWER INEQUALITY. FURTHERMORE, THE ANTHROPOLOGY LITERATURE SHOWS THAT EXTREMELY HIGH AMOUNTS OF EQUALITY ARE ENTIRELY COMPATIBLE WITH HUMAN NATURE."

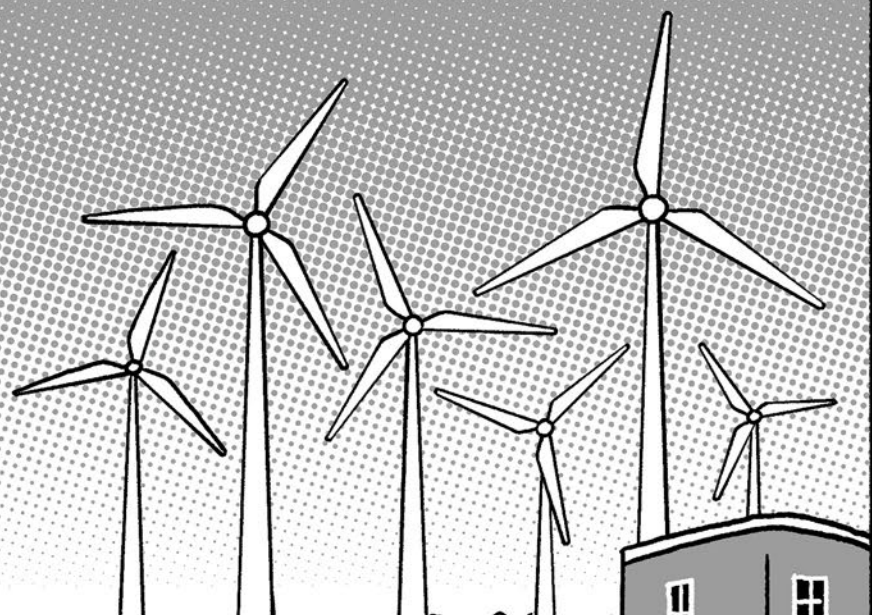
"RESOLVING THE CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE CURRENT GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM (WITH ITS INHERENT INEQUALITIES) AND THE NEED FOR PLANETARY AND HUMAN HEALTH NECESSITATES TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE."



JOEL MILLWARD-HOPKINS

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMIST

WE "DEVELOPED A SIMPLE, BOTTOM-UP MODEL TO ESTIMATE A PRACTICAL MINIMAL THRESHOLD FOR THE FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION REQUIRED TO PROVIDE DECENT MATERIAL LIVINGS TO THE ENTIRE GLOBAL POPULATION. WE FIND THAT GLOBAL FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN 2050 COULD BE REDUCED TO THE LEVELS OF THE 1960S, DESPITE A POPULATION THREE TIMES LARGER. HOWEVER, SUCH A WORLD REQUIRES A MASSIVE ROLLOUT OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES ACROSS ALL SECTORS, AS WELL AS RADICAL DEMAND-SIDE CHANGES TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION – REGARDLESS OF INCOME – TO LEVELS OF SUFFICIENCY. SUFFICIENCY IS, HOWEVER, FAR MORE MATERIALLY GENEROUS IN OUR MODEL THAN WHAT THOSE OPPOSED TO STRONG REDUCTIONS IN CONSUMPTION OFTEN ASSUME."



NARASIMHA D. RAO

JULIA STEINBERGER

"OUR CURRENT WORK OFFERS A RESPONSE TO THE CLICHÉD POPULIST OBJECTION THAT ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE PROPOSING THAT WE RETURN TO LIVING IN CAVES. WITH TONGUE FIRMLY IN CHEEK, THE RESPONSE ROUGHLY GOES 'YES, PERHAPS, BUT THESE CAVES HAVE HIGHLY-EFFICIENT FACILITIES FOR COOKING, STORING FOOD AND WASHING CLOTHES; LOW-ENERGY LIGHTING THROUGHOUT; 50 L OF CLEAN WATER SUPPLIED PER DAY PER PERSON, WITH 15 L HEATED TO A COMFORTABLE BATHING TEMPERATURE; THEY MAINTAIN AN AIR TEMPERATURE OF AROUND 20 °C THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, IRRESPECTIVE OF GEOGRAPHY; HAVE A COMPUTER WITH ACCESS TO GLOBAL ICT NETWORKS; ARE LINKED TO EXTENSIVE TRANSPORT NETWORKS PROVIDING ~5000–15,000 KM OF MOBILITY PER PERSON EACH YEAR VIA VARIOUS MODES; AND ARE ALSO SERVED BY SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER CAVES WHERE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE IS AVAILABLE AND OTHERS THAT PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE BETWEEN 5 AND 19 YEARS OLD. AND AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE'S LIVES THAT MUST BE SPENT WORKING WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED."

MISUNDERSTANDING #8:

DEGROWTH IS NOT CAPITALISM SAVING ITSELF. DEGROWTH IS ANTI-CAPITALIST. DEGROWTH IS A TEMPORARY PHASE TO DISMANTLE CAPITALISM AND REVERSE UNECONOMIC GROWTH. A TRANSITION AT THE END OF WHICH STANDS A WELL-BEING POSTGROWTH ECONOMY THAT IS SMALLER AND SLOWER BUT FITS WITHIN ITS BIOCAPACITY.

"DEGROWTH DOES NOT UNDO CAPITALISM, BUT HELPS PERPETUATE IT!"

"... DEGROWTH IS CAPITALISM'S OWN METHOD OF DEALING WITH OVER-ACCUMULATION. IT REPRESENTS A RETRENCHMENT OF THE CAPITALIST MODE OF PRODUCTION, NOT AN OVERCOMING OF IT."

"I AM NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST 'GROWTH.' JUST AGAINST CAPITALISM AND PEOPLE'S UNFREEDOM."

JUSTIN AUKEMA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT OSAKA METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

"DEGROWTH IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH CAPITALISM, AND IT IS ESSENTIALLY AN ANTI-CAPITALIST PROJECT."

"ALTHOUGH IT WAS NEVER RECOGNISED DURING THE 20TH CENTURY, MARX'S IDEA OF DEGROWTH COMMUNISM IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TODAY BECAUSE IT INCREASES THE CHANCE OF HUMAN SURVIVAL IN THE ANTHROPOCENE."

"I ADVOCATE FOR DEGROWTH AND GOING BEYOND CAPITALISM."

KOHEI SAITO

JAPANESE PHILOSOPHER AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO. AUTHOR OF 'MARX IN THE ANTHROPOCENE: TOWARDS THE IDEA OF DEGROWTH COMMUNISM'





"ECONOMIC GROWTH IS A COLONIAL IDEA. IT'S THE WAY THE WEST FOUND TO EXPORT ITS IDEOLOGY AND INDIRECTLY CONTROL THE REST OF THE WORLD. DEGROWTH WANTS AN END TO ALL THAT CRAP."

GIORGOS KALLIS

POLITICAL ECOLOGIST/ ECOLOGICAL ECONOMIST



"MY NAME IS NEMONTE NENQUIMO. I AM A WAORANI WOMAN, A MOTHER, AND A LEADER OF MY PEOPLE. WE ARE FIGHTING TO PROTECT WHAT WE LOVE – OUR WAY OF LIFE, OUR RIVERS, THE ANIMALS, OUR FORESTS, LIFE ON EARTH – AND IT'S TIME THAT YOU LISTENED TO US."

"YOU ARE PROBABLY NOT USED TO AN INDIGENOUS WOMAN CALLING YOU IGNORANT. BUT IT IS CLEAR: THE LESS YOU KNOW ABOUT SOMETHING, THE LESS VALUE IT HAS TO YOU, AND THE EASIER IT IS TO DESTROY. AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO OUR PLANET."

"IT TOOK US THOUSANDS OF YEARS TO GET TO KNOW THE AMAZON RAINFOREST. TO UNDERSTAND HER WAYS, HER SECRETS, TO LEARN HOW TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE WITH HER. WE HAVE ONLY KNOWN YOU FOR 70 YEARS, BUT WE ARE FAST LEARNERS, AND YOU ARE NOT AS COMPLEX AS THE RAINFOREST."

"WHEN YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE URGENTLY LOOKING FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, YET CONTINUE TO BUILD A WORLD ECONOMY BASED ON EXTRACTION AND POLLUTION, WE KNOW YOU ARE LYING BECAUSE WE ARE THE CLOSEST TO THE LAND, AND THE FIRST TO HEAR HER CRIES."

NEMONTE NENQUIMO



"YOU FORCED YOUR CIVILISATION UPON US AND NOW LOOK WHERE WE ARE: PANDEMIC, CLIMATE CRISIS, SPECIES EXTINCTION AND, DRIVING IT ALL, WIDESPREAD SPIRITUAL POVERTY. IN ALL THESE YEARS OF TAKING, TAKING, TAKING, YOU HAVE NOT BOTHERED TO LEARN WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT LIFE ON THIS EARTH."

"I CAN SAY, ALONG WITH MY INDIGENOUS BROTHERS AND SISTERS ACROSS THE WORLD, THAT YOU HAVE LOST YOUR WAY, AND THAT YOU ARE IN TROUBLE (THOUGH YOU DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND IT YET) AND THAT YOUR TROUBLE IS A THREAT TO EVERY FORM OF LIFE ON EARTH."

"THIS FOREST HAS TAUGHT US HOW TO WALK LIGHTLY, AND BECAUSE WE HAVE LISTENED, LEARNED AND DEFENDED HER, SHE HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING: WATER, CLEAN AIR, NOURISHMENT, SHELTER, MEDICINES, HAPPINESS, MEANING. AND YOU ARE TAKING ALL THIS AWAY, NOT JUST FROM US, BUT FROM EVERYONE."

"... THE EARTH DOES NOT EXPECT YOU TO SAVE HER, SHE EXPECTS YOU TO RESPECT HER. AND WE, AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, EXPECT THE SAME."

"CAPITALISM WILL ALWAYS BE RACIST AND SEXIST, BECAUSE IT HAS TO MYSTIFY ITS CORE CONTRADICTION - THE PROMISE OF PROSPERITY VS THE REALITY OF WIDESPREAD POVERTY - BY DENIGRATING THE 'NATURE' OF THOSE IT EXPLOITS: COLONIAL SUBJECTS, WOMEN AND THE DISPOSSESSED."

"CAPITAL IS NOT A NEW CLASS. IT IS A NEW CLASS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF SOCIAL RELATIONS, BUT IT IS BASICALLY THE FEUDAL LORD IN ENGLAND WHO RECYCLES HIMSELF. HE IS THE MERCHANT."



WRITING CALIBAN AND THE WITCH "I WAS CONCERNED WITH DEMYSTIFYING & REJECTING THE ASSUMPTION THAT CAPITALISM WAS A KIND OF EVOLUTION OUT OF ECONOMIC STRUCTURES THAT HAD DEVELOPED IN THE MIDDLE AGES, AND SHOWING THAT CAPITALISM WAS A COUNTER-REVOLUTION, THAT CAPITALISM WAS THE RESPONSE TO A WHOLE SET OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS OF STRUGGLE ... IT GAVE ME AN INSIGHT INTO THE STRUGGLE THAT WOMEN HAD BEEN WAGING AGAINST FEUDAL POWER ... AND WHY THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITALISM HAD TO START WITH THIS MASSIVE ATTACK ON WOMEN."

"YOU HAVE THE SLAVE TRADE, YOU HAVE THE CONQUEST OF THE AMERICAS, YOU HAVE THE PERSECUTION OF THE WITCHES ... THE PERSECUTION OF WITCHES IS NOT PURELY A EUROPEAN PHENOMENA, BUT ACTUALLY STARTING FROM THE LAST PART OF THE 16TH CENTURY, IT IS EXPORTED TO THE SO-CALLED NEW WORLD."

"THE ACCUSATION OF WITCHCRAFT CARRIED OUT A FUNCTION SIMILAR TO THAT OF 'TREASON' - WHICH, SIGNIFICANTLY, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE ENGLISH LEGAL CODE AT AROUND THE SAME TIME - AND THE ACCUSATION OF 'TERRORISM' IN OUR AGE."

SILVIA FEDERICI

FEMINIST ACTIVIST, AUTHOR AND A RENOWNED POLITICAL THEORIST. IN 1972, SHE CO-FOUNDED THE INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST COLLECTIVE, WHICH LAUNCHED THE CAMPAIGN WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK INTERNATIONALLY.

"TORTUGITA, BELOVED ACTIVIST+DEFENDER OF THE SACRED NATIVE ATLANTA FOREST MARKED FOR DESTRUCTION TO BUILD GIGANTIC #COPCITY WAS MURDERED BY POLICE YESTERDAY. RECENTLY RAIDED, FRAMED WITH TERRORISM CHARGES, THE FOREST DEFENDERS ENDURE UNDER POLICE ATTACK." -(POST ON TWITTER) JANUARY 19, 2023

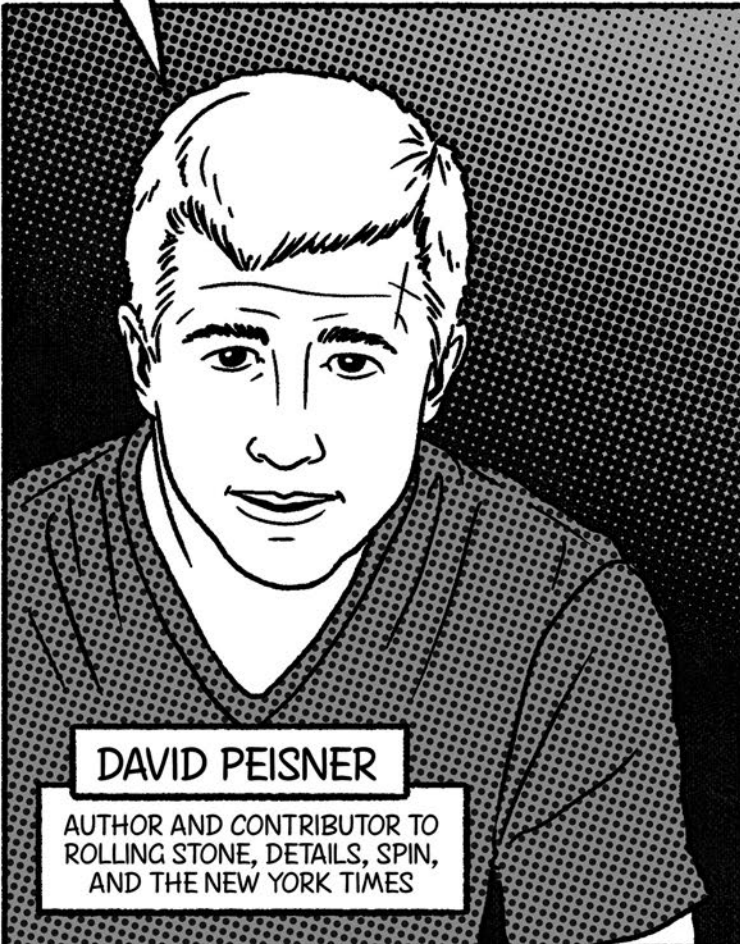
"I DIDN'T KNOW MANUEL TERAN AS MANUEL TERAN. TO ME, MANUEL WAS TORTUGUITA. LIKE PRETTY MUCH ALL THE FOREST DEFENDERS I MET WHILE REPORTING ON THE PROTEST MOVEMENT THAT HAS EMERGED IN OPPOSITION TO THE CITY'S PLAN TO BUILD A POLICE TRAINING FACILITY (COPCITY) IN A FOREST IN SOUTH ATLANTA, TERAN WENT BY A FOREST NAME IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ANONYMITY. AT ONE POINT, TERAN - WHO PREFERRED THEY/THEM PRONOUNS BUT WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WHEN AN EARLY DRAFT OF MY STORY, 'THE FOREST FOR THE TREES,' FAILED TO USE THEM - WANTED ME TO REFER TO THEM IN THE STORY AS 'TREDACTED,' MOSTLY, IT SEEMED, BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY."

"BUT 'TORTUGUITA,' AS TERAN EXPLAINED THE FIRST TIME WE MET, WAS NOT JUST A CUTE NAME CHOSEN AT RANDOM. SPANISH FOR 'LITTLE TURTLE,' IT WAS A NOD TO THE COLONIAL-ERA INDIGENOUS MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE SAME NAME WHO LED NATIVE AMERICAN FORCES TO ONE OF THEIR MOST DECISIVE VICTORIES AGAINST THE THEN-NASCENT U.S. ARMY IN 1791. TERAN WAS RELUCTANT TO PUBLICIZE THIS BACKSTORY BECAUSE, AS THEY TOLD ME: THAT DOES NOT MAKE US LOOK LIKE PEACEFUL PROTESTERS. WE ARE VERY PEACEFUL PEOPLE, I PROMISE."



"WE WIN THROUGH NONVIOLENCE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT THEM AT VIOLENCE. BUT WE CAN BEAT THEM IN PUBLIC OPINION, IN COURTS EVEN."

TORTUGUITA



DAVID PEISNER

AUTHOR AND CONTRIBUTOR TO ROLLING STONE, DETAILS, SPIN, AND THE NEW YORK TIMES

Andy Ngô
@MrAndyNgo · Follow

Not sure why @CNN would accept commentary from a "journalist" whose social media @DavidPeisner is filled with support for the domestic terrorist gunman who tried to kill a Georgia state trooper. In addition, he knew him personally & is helping raise cash for the gunman's family.

David Peisner
1,159 Tweets

Follow

David Peisner Retweeted



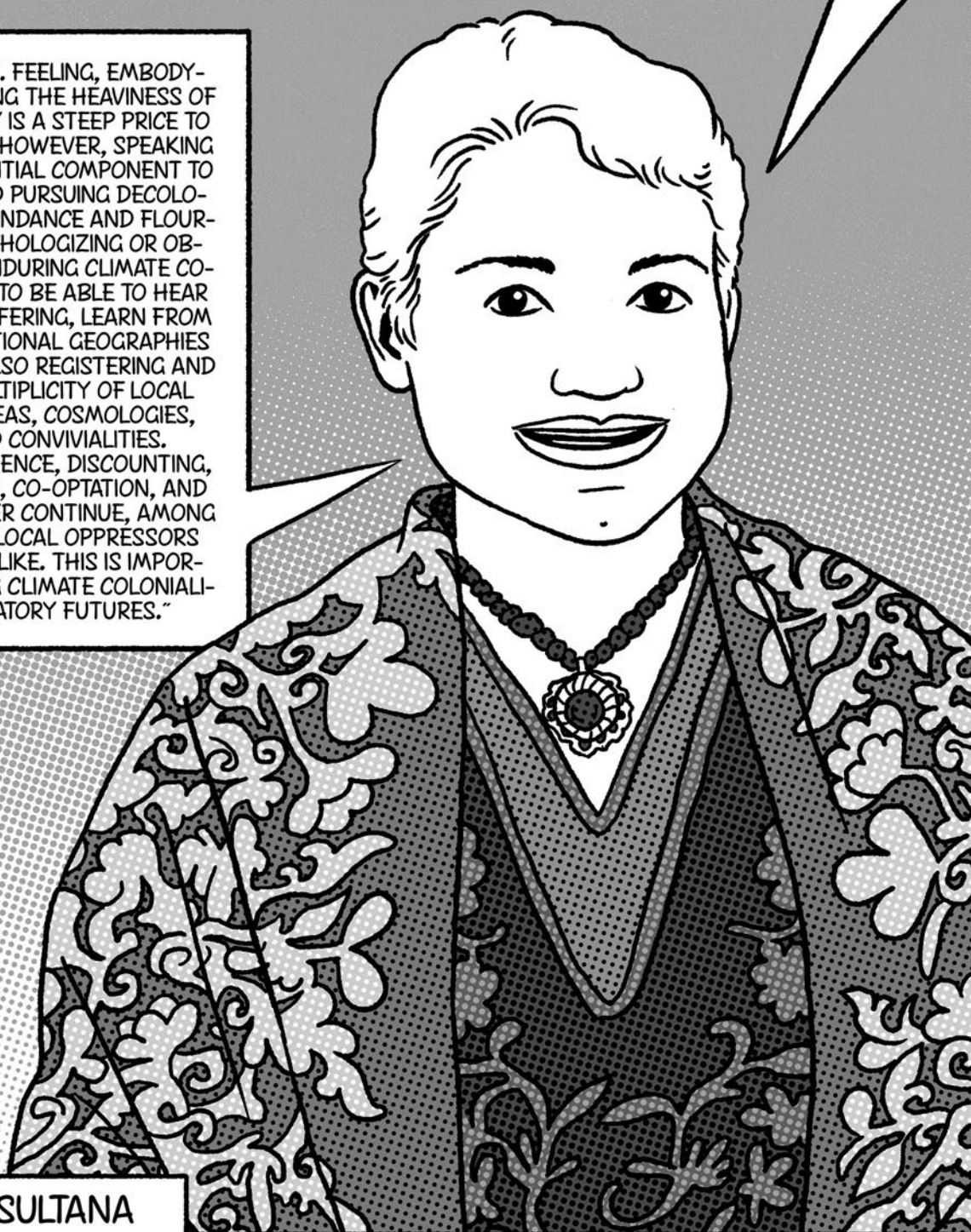
Defend the Atlanta F... @defendATLf... · 7h ...
Please donate to the family of Tortugita, murdered by GSP for defending the Weelaunee Forest and fighting to #StopCopCity

*ANDY NGÔ FITS INTO THE CATEGORY OF RIGHT-WING SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS. HE HELPED SHAPE THE RIGHT-WING MEDIA NARRATIVE THAT ANTIFA POSES THE REAL THREAT OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE WHILE DOWNPLAYING THE THREAT THE FAR RIGHT PRESENTS. THIS NARRATIVE CONTRIBUTED TO FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S ATTEMPT TO LABEL ANTIFA A DOMESTIC TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND FUELED UNFOUNDED CONSPIRACY THEORIES THAT ANTIFA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRO-TRUMP JAN. 6 INSURRECTION AT THE U.S. CAPITOL.
- SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

"COLONIALISM HAUNTS THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE THROUGH CLIMATE. IMPERIALISM CONTINUES THROUGH NEOLIBERALISM, RACIAL CAPITALISM, DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS, EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND THE MEDIA. CLIMATE COLONIALITY IS EXPRESSED IN VARIOUS FORMS, SUCH AS THROUGH FOSSIL FUEL CAPITALISM, NEOLIBERAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT MODELS, AND HYPERCONSUMPTIVE AND WASTEFUL LIFESTYLES, BUT ALSO THROUGH STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS, AND EPISTEMOLOGIES BUILT AND HELD IN PLACE BY POWERFUL ALLIANCES GLOBALLY. INSTITUTIONAL UNACCOUNTABILITY, ANTHROPOGENIC HEGEMONY, NEOCOLONIAL APPROACHES TO 'RESOURCES', COLONIALITY OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES – ALL COMBINE TO CREATE COLONIALITIES OF CLIMATE. CLIMATE COLONIALITY SEEPS THROUGH EVERYDAY LIFE ACROSS SPACE AND TIME, WEIGHING DOWN AND CURTAILING OPPORTUNITIES AND POSSIBILITIES THROUGH A TOXIC MIX OF GLOBAL RACISMS, RAPACIOUS EXTRACTIVISM, COLONIAL-CAPITAL DISPOSSESSIONS, CLIMATE DEBTS, PATRIARCHY, AND IMPERIALISM.

DOMINANT DISCUSSIONS AROUND CLIMATE CHANGE TEND TO MAKE IT SEEM APOLITICAL, AS A PHYSICAL PHENOMENON TO BE FIXED WITH TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCE, INSTEAD OF A RESTRUCTURING OF RELATIONSHIPS TO ECOLOGIES, WATERS, LANDS, AND COMMUNITIES WE ARE INTIMATELY, MATERIALLY, AND POLITICALLY CONNECTED TO. TO DECOLONIZE IS TO REVEAL, REASSESS, AND DISMANTLE COLONIAL STRUCTURES AND DISCOURSES, TO MAKE THEM NON-UNIVERSAL AND DEMONSTRATE THE HEGEMONY DEPLOYED HISTORICALLY AND THROUGH PARTICULAR RACIALIZED COLONIAL PRACTICES, AND EXPOSE THE EVERYDAY TACTICS OF OPPRESSION AND EMPIREBUILDING. DECOLONIZING CLIMATE, THEREFORE, NEEDS TO TACKLE WITH THE COMPLEXITIES OF COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, CAPITALISM, AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPRODUCTION OF ONGOING COLONIALITIES THROUGH EXISTING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES, DISCURSIVE FRAMINGS, MATERIAL OUTCOMES, AND IMAGINED FUTURES."

"ONE THING IS CLEAR. FEELING, EMBODYING, AND EXPERIENCING THE HEAVINESS OF CLIMATE COLONIALITY IS A STEEP PRICE TO PAY FOR KNOWING IT. HOWEVER, SPEAKING ABOUT IT IS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT TO CONFRONTING IT AND PURSUING DECOLONIAL FUTURES OF ABUNDANCE AND FLOURISHING. WITHOUT PATHOLOGIZING OR OBJECTIFYING THOSE ENDURING CLIMATE COLONIALITY, WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO HEAR AND HEED THEIR SUFFERING, LEARN FROM THE EMBODIED EMOTIONAL GEOGRAPHIES OF CLIMATE, WHILE ALSO REGISTERING AND CELEBRATING A MULTIPLICITY OF LOCAL VOICES, STORIES, IDEAS, COSMOLOGIES, STRENGTHS, AND CONVIVIALITIES. POLITICS OF INDIFFERENCE, DISCOUNTING, SILENCING, IGNORING, CO-OPTATION, AND THEFT CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE, AMONG BOTH GLOBAL AND LOCAL OPPRESSORS AND IMPERIALISTS ALIKE. THIS IS IMPORTANT IN DISMANTLING CLIMATE COLONIALITY FOR EMANCIPATORY FUTURES."



FARHANA SULTANA

PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE MAXWELL SCHOOL OF CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, WHERE SHE IS ALSO THE RESEARCH DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATION AND CONFLICTS AT THE PROGRAM FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF RESEARCH ON CONFLICTS AND COLLABORATION.



SAIDIYA HARTMAN

"SAIDIYA HARTMAN SAID, 'CARE IS THE ANTIDOTE TO VIOLENCE.' IF WE WANT TO MOVE AWAY FROM SYSTEMS OF VIOLENCE, WE HAVE TO REIMAGINE A WORLD THAT CENTRES CARE."

"INTERSECTIONALITY IS A FRAMEWORK WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO CENTRE THE MOST MARGINALISED. IT ALLOWS US TO LOOK AT THINGS FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, AND SEE THE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE MOST IMPACTED, AND START TO CARE FOR THEM FIRST THEN MOVE OUTWARDS."



SONYA RENEE TAYLOR

"THERE'S A QUOTE BY SONYA RENEE TAYLOR: 'IF YOU WANT TO FIND THE PATH TO FREEDOM, FOLLOW A BLACK WOMAN.' THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY BLACK WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN VISIONARY IN SHOWING US WHAT A FUTURE COULD LOOK LIKE, WHAT WE SHOULD BE STRIVING FOR. THAT WE CAN IMAGINE BETTER, AND THEN CALL THAT INTO BEING."



"WE HAVE A LOT OF LEARNING TO DO FROM INDIGENOUS LEADERS, BUT ALSO FROM BLACK, TRANS AND QUEER COMMUNITIES. BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN PRACTICING COMMUNITY CARE LIKE NO OTHER, FOREVER."

MEERA GHANI

SCIENTIST AND A SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANISER WHO HAS WORKED ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY IN THE EU AND PAKISTAN FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS.



"NOW, THERE'S A LOT OF NONSENSE CIRCULATING AROUND ABOUT WHAT INTERSECTIONALITY IS, PARTICULARLY FROM ITS CRITICS. THEY SAY IT'S A RELIGION. IT'S AN IDENTITY POLITICS ON STEROIDS. MY NEW FAVOURITE, IT'S AN ASSAULT ON STRAIGHT WHITE MEN. [...] ALL OF THESE IDEAS ABOUT WHAT INTERSECTIONALITY IS ARE COMPLETELY OFF THE MARK. WHAT INTERSECTIONALITY IS, IS A PRISM, IT'S A FRAMEWORK, IT'S A TEMPLATE FOR SEEING AND TELLING DIFFERENT KINDS OF STORIES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR WORKPLACES, WHAT HAPPENS IN SOCIETY, AND TO WHOM IT HAPPENS. NOW SOME PART ON WHY WE ARE NOT DONE, IS PREDICATED ON WHAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SEE, WHAT'S NOT REMEMBERED, THE STORIES THAT ARE NOT TOLD. SO, INTERSECTIONALITY IS LIKE A TRAINING WHEEL TO GET US TO WHERE WE NEED TO GO. IT'S GLASSES, HIGH INDEX GLASSES, TO HELP US SEE THE THINGS WE NEED TO SEE."

"INTERSECTIONALITY IS A UNITING FRAMEWORK."

"WHEN FEMINISM DOES NOT EXPLICITLY OPPOSE RACISM, AND WHEN ANTI-RACISM DOES NOT INCORPORATE OPPOSITION TO PATRIARCHY, RACE AND GENDER POLITICS OFTEN END UP BEING ANTAGONISTIC TO EACH OTHER, AND BOTH INTERESTS LOSE."

"CULTURAL PATTERNS OF OPPRESSION ARE NOT ONLY INTERRELATED BUT ARE BOUND TOGETHER AND INFLUENCED BY THE INTERSECTIONAL SYSTEMS OF SOCIETY. EXAMPLES OF THIS INCLUDE RACE, GENDER, CLASS, ABILITY, AND ETHNICITY."

"THROUGH AN AWARENESS OF INTERSECTIONALITY, WE CAN BETTER ACKNOWLEDGE AND GROUND THE DIFFERENCES AMONG US AND NEGOTIATE THE MEANS BY WHICH THESE DIFFERENCES WILL FIND EXPRESSION IN CONSTRUCTING GROUP POLITICS."

KIMBERLÉ W. CRENSHAW

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF LAW AND PIONEERING SCHOLAR ON CIVIL RIGHTS, CRITICAL RACE THEORY, BLACK FEMINIST LEGAL THEORY, AND RACE, RACISM AND THE LAW.



HINDOU OUMAROU IBRAHIM

COORDINATOR OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND PEOPLES ASSOCIATION OF CHAD AND
CO-CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

"INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR HUMANITY. CENTURIES OF KNOWLEDGE, PASSED THROUGH GENERATIONS, HELPING US TO CO-OPERATE WITH EACH OTHER AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE, NEED TO BE RECOGNISED. FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES NEED TO BE RESPECTED FIRST. GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD MUST RESPECT OUR RIGHTS, OUR VALUE TO SOCIETY AND OUR TIME-TESTED KNOWLEDGE. SECONDLY, WE WANT TO SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE SO THAT IT INFORMS POLICY DECISIONS THAT IMPACT OUR LIVES. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S KNOWLEDGE IS EVOLVING EVERY SINGLE DAY BECAUSE IT'S BASED ON THE OBSERVATION OF NATURE. SO, WHEN NATURE CHANGES, MANY THINGS CHANGE AT THE SAME TIME, AND WE KNOW WHY IT'S CHANGING. FROM THAT, WE LEARN AND ADAPT OUR LIFE. IT'S NOT 'SLEEPING' KNOWLEDGE - IT'S INNOVATIVE KNOWLEDGE. IT'S CRUCIAL FOR HELPING US TO FIND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS."

"WE HAVE GOTTEN TO THE POINT OF POTENTIAL HUMAN EXTINCTION BECAUSE OF THE COLONIAL PATRIARCHAL FRAMEWORK. IT HAS FAILED = SO WE HAVE TO TRY THE OPPOSITE. GIVE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SURVIVED EXTINCTION AFTER EXTINCTION THE MEANS TO PROVIDE A SOLUTION."



AYISHA SIDDIQA

PAKISTANI ENVIRONMENTALIST AND THE CO-FOUNDER OF
POLLUTERS OUT AND FOSSIL FREE UNIVERSITY

"COLONIALISM DID NOT END WITH COLONIALISED COUNTRIES GAINING THEIR FREEDOM. IT LIVES ON IN OUR GLOBAL CULTURE, ECONOMY, SOCIAL PROCESSES & OUR PERCEPTION OF SELF-WORTH. SCIENCE IS NO EXCEPTION."



BROTOTI ROY

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMIST AND POLITICAL ECOLOGIST
CO-PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH AND DEGROWTH (R&D)
AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE DEGROWTH INDIA INITIATIVE.

"DEGROWTH AIMS TO RE-POLITICIZE THE DEBATE ON SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE BY PUTTING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING AT THE CENTRE OF ECONOMIC DECISION MAKING. IT CALLS FOR A FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT KIND OF SOCIETY – NOT LESS OF THE SAME. A SOCIETY THAT IS BASED ON THE CONCEPTS OF DEMOCRACY, EQUALITY AND SIMPLICITY, FREE OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON CLASS, RACE, GENDER, CASTE OR RELIGION."



BROTOTI ROY

"I WAS (ONCE) IN A PUBLIC DEBATE ON DEGROWTH IN ANTWERP, BELGIUM. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT THE NON-FEASIBILITY OF DEGROWTH WAS "WHAT ABOUT THE POOR GARMENT WORKERS IN BANGLADESH? WILL YOU ASK THEM TO DEGROW?" IN THE AUDIENCE, THERE WERE QUITE A FEW OF US WHO HAVE BEEN A PART OF VARIOUS DEGROWTH INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS OVER THE YEARS, AND WE SHARED OUR FRUSTRATIONS ABOUT THIS, AND MANY OTHER SIMILAR QUESTIONS OFTEN BEING ASKED ABOUT DEGROWTH AND HOW IT HARMS THE POOR IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH. SOME GO SO FAR AS TO CLAIM THAT PEOPLE IN THE GLOBAL NORTH SHOULD CONTINUE CONSUMING FAST FASHION BECAUSE OF THESE GARMENT WORKERS, WHO ARE BEING DONE A FAVOUR AND ARE KEPT IN JOBS BECAUSE OF THIS."

"BUT HAS ANYONE ASKED THE GARMENT WORKERS IF THIS IS WHAT THEY REALLY WANT, INSTEAD OF JUST ASSUMING AND SPEAKING ON THEIR BEHALF? IS THIS THEIR IDEA OF MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT? WHAT LED THEM TO WORK IN THESE EXPLOITATIVE POSITIONS? AND WHAT WOULD THEY CONSIDER A MEANINGFUL TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS? FOR ME, A RADICAL SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED WHEN IT IS ANTI-COLONIAL AND FEMINIST. A DEGROWTH STRATEGY FOR ME IS TO ALLOW FOR THE GARMENT WORKERS TO SPEAK THEIR TRUTHS, COLLECTIVELY FIND SOLUTIONS TOGETHER, AND NEVER ASSUME WE KNOW BETTER."

93% OF BRANDS AREN'T PAYING GARMENT WORKERS A LIVING WAGE - THE FASHION INDUSTRY IS THE SECOND LARGEST CONSUMER OF WATER (IT TAKES 2,700 LITRES TO MAKE A SINGLE COTTON T-SHIRT) AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 8-10% OF ALL CARBON EMISSIONS - IT REQUIRES 70 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL TO PRODUCE THE POLYESTER USED IN 63% OF OUR CLOTHING EVERY YEAR - FAST FASHION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 20-35% OF OCEAN MICROPLASTICS - FAST FASHION RELIES ON PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 18.6 MILLION TONNES OF YEARLY CLOTHING WASTE.



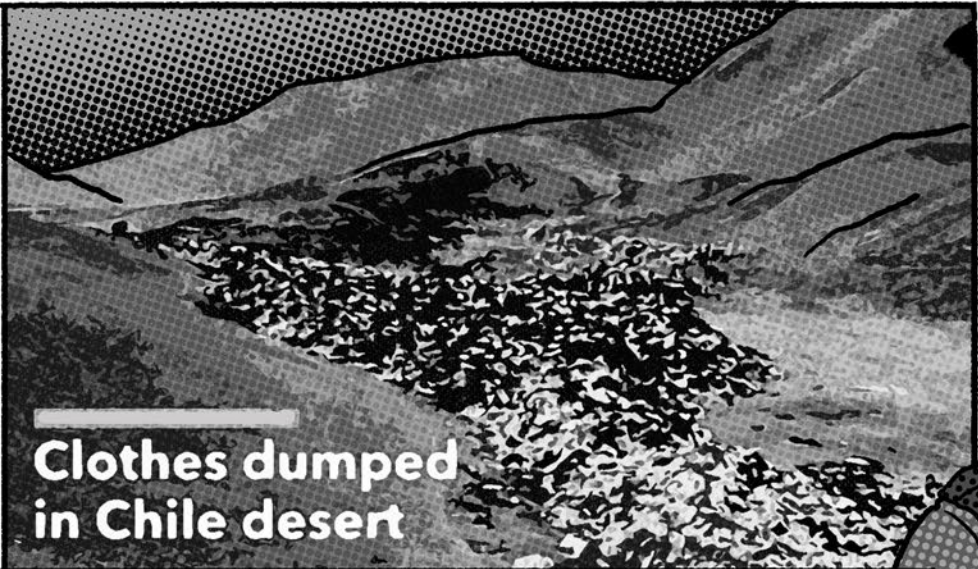
ON THE DAY OF THE FACTORY COLLAPSE IN 2013, THE WORKERS IN RANA PLAZA IN DHAKA HAD SEEN THE CRACKS IN THE WALLS AND RUSHED OUTSIDE YET WERE ORDERED BACK TO WORK. HOURS LATER, AT LEAST 1134 WORKERS, MOSTLY YOUNG WOMEN WERE DEAD, BURIED IN RUBBLE AND MANY MORE INJURED.

"BANGLADESH IS THE WORLD'S TOP GLOBAL SOURCING LOCATION FOR INTERNATIONAL FASHION BRANDS. SUFFERING FROM EXCESSIVE HEAT HAS BECOME PERVERSIVE IN FACTORIES DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, ESPECIALLY IN THE HOT SUMMER SEASON, WHERE LACK OF VENTILATION INCREASES WORKERS' RISK OF BEING INFECTED WITH COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, INCLUDING COVID-19."



'THE FACTORY IS GREEN, THE JOB IS NOT'—BANGLADESH GARMENT WORKER

USED CLOTHES CHOKE GHANA'S MARKETS - EACH WEEK, GHANA RECEIVES 15 MILLION ITEMS OF USED CLOTHING SENT FROM THE WEST. BUT 40% OF THE PRODUCTS ARE DISCARDED DUE TO POOR QUALITY. THEY END UP AT LANDFILLS AND IN BODIES OF WATER, POLLUTING ENTIRE ECOSYSTEMS. IN CHILE, WHERE CLOTHING IS BANNED FROM LANDFILLS, IT IS DUMPED IN THE ATACAMA DESERT.



Clothes dumped in Chile desert

"THE TERM WASTE COLONIALISM WAS FIRST RECORDED IN FEBRUARY 1989 AT THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME BASEL CONVENTION WORKING GROUP WHEN AFRICAN NATIONS ARTICULATED CONCERNS ABOUT THE DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTES BY HIGH GDP COUNTRIES INTO LOW GDP COUNTRIES. THAT IS, HIGH GDP COUNTRIES LIKE THOSE IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA WERE ACCESSING AFRICAN LAND FOR INEXPENSIVE DISPOSAL OF WASTE. THEY WERE USING AFRICA AS A SINK."

JEAN PALUTIKOF

FOUNDING DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR, NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION RESEARCH FACILITY (NCCARF). AS THE HEAD OF THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT OF WORKING GROUP II OF THE IPCC SHE WAS AWARDED A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2007.



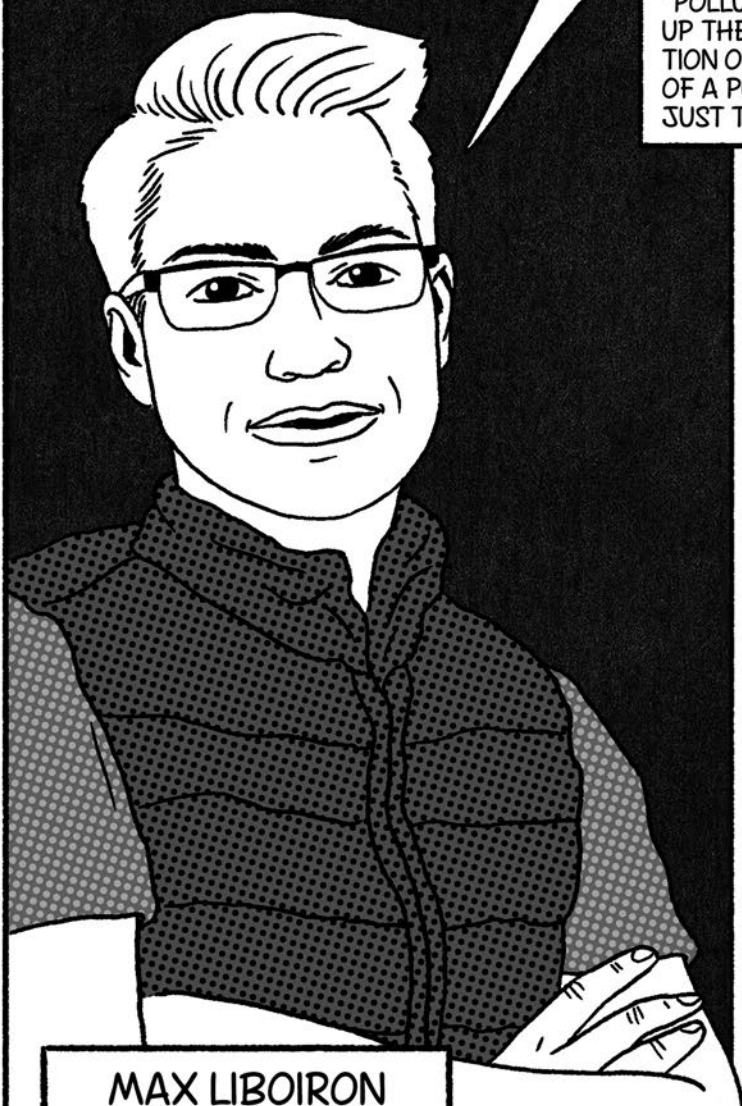
"A WORKER'S NATURAL DEFENCE AGAINST THERMAL DISCOMFORT AND HEAT STRESS IS TO SLOW DOWN, WHICH CAN AFFECT WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY. THE ILO ESTIMATES THAT THE BANGLADESH MANUFACTURING SECTOR CURRENTLY LOSES 2.59% WORKING HOURS DUE TO HEAT STRESS/THERMAL DISCOMFORT, SET TO RISE TO 4.96% IN 2030 BECAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE. IF THE READY-MADE GARMENT INDUSTRY COMES TO RELY HEAVILY ON AIR-CONDITIONING IN THE FUTURE FOR COOLING, THIS WILL INCREASE BANGLADESH EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES, SINCE ELECTRICITY IS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY GENERATED FROM FOSSIL FUELS."



MAX LIBOIRON

"PLASTIC ISN'T JUST A POLLUTANT - IT'S THE ULTIMATE METAPHOR FOR COLONIZATION."

"IT DOESN'T GO AWAY. ONCE IT'S THERE, YOU CAN'T GET RID OF IT. YOU CAN BURN IT, AND THAT'S BAD. YOU CAN BURY IT, AND THAT'S BAD. YOU CAN STORE IT, AND THAT'S BAD. THAT'S WHY PLASTIC IS SUCH A GOOD CASE STUDY TO THINK ABOUT ETHICAL MANOEUVRING OF REALLY FRAUGHT RELATIONSHIPS, BECAUSE THERE'S NO OBVIOUS, PERFECT ANSWER."



MAX LIBOIRON

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN GEOGRAPHY AND AUTHOR OF 'POLLUTION IS COLONIALISM'. LIBOIRON IS RED RIVE MÉTIS/MICHIF RAISED IN LAC LA BICHE, TREATY 6 TERRITORY. GENDER PRONOUNS: THEY/THEM.

"POLLUTION IS BY DESIGN - WE CANNOT SIMPLY INVEST IN CLEANING UP THE MESS. WE NEED TO CLOSE THE TAP ON THE OVERPRODUCTION OF ITEMS AND THE SHEER AMOUNT THAT ENDS UP AT THE END OF A POORLY DESIGNED LINEAR SYSTEM. WASTE-LED DESIGN DOES JUST THAT: TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR WASTE!"



CÉLINE SEMAAN

CÉLINE SEMAAN HAS, FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS OF HER LIFE, APPLIED DESIGN, SOCIOLOGY, MATERIAL & ACCESSIBILITY SCIENCE IN ORDER TO ADDRESS COMPOUNDING EXISTENTIAL CRISES SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN INJUSTICES.



KATE ARONOFF

"PART OF WHY I WRITE AND TALK ABOUT CAPITALISM IS THAT IT HELPS FRAME THAT QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY. THE SUPERVILLAIN NARRATIVE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS, THAT THIS TINY GROUP OF ACTORS PLOTTED AND SCHEMED IN ORDER TO DELAY PROGRESS, IS IN SOME SENSE VERY TRUE. BUT WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN THE WORST ACTORS ARE PART OF AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND A BELIEF SYSTEM THAT MAKES THIS WHOLE THING WORK. WE HAVE TO LOOK AT THE FACT THAT CAPITALISM IS THE PROBLEM. IT MAKES THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY POSSIBLE, AND THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY, IN TURN, MAKES CAPITALISM POSSIBLE. WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THAT RELATIONSHIP, IT'S HARD TO MAKE MUCH PROGRESS."

CLIMATE JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR OF 'OVERHEATED: HOW CAPITALISM BROKE THE PLANET--AND HOW WE FIGHT BACK'

"GROWTH IS NOW A PROFITABLE BUSINESS ONLY IF THE COSTS ARE BORNE BY NATURE, FUTURE GENERATIONS, CONSUMERS' HEALTH, WAGE-EARNERS' WORKING CONDITIONS AND, ABOVE ALL, THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH."



SERGE LATOUCHE

ECONOMIST AND PHILOSOPHER CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PIONEERS OF THE FRENCH CONCEPT OF DEGROWTH 'DÉCROISSANCE'.

"THE THESIS OF THE 'ENVIRONMENTALISM OF THE POOR' DOES NOT ASSERT THAT AS A RULE POOR PEOPLE FEEL, THINK AND BEHAVE AS ENVIRONMENTALISTS. THIS IS NOT SO. THE THESIS IS THAT IN THE MANY RESOURCE EXTRACTION AND WASTE DISPOSAL CONFLICTS IN HISTORY AND TODAY, THE POOR ARE OFTEN ON THE SIDE OF THE PRESERVATION OF NATURE AGAINST BUSINESS FIRMS AND THE STATE. THIS BEHAVIOUR IS CONSISTENT WITH THEIR INTERESTS AND WITH THEIR VALUES. THE ENVIRONMENTALISM OF THE POOR CENTRES THEN ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, INCLUDING CLAIMS TO RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION AND BUILDS ON THE PREMISE THAT THE FIGHTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT ARE INSEPARABLE. FROM THE RESISTANCE, NEW INSTITUTIONS ARISE."



JOAN MARTINEZ-ALIER

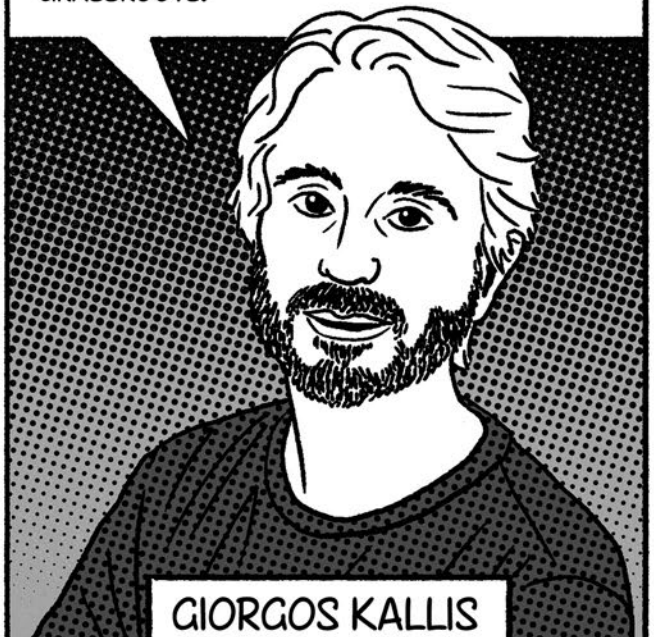
ECOLOGICAL ECONOMIST WHO DEVOTED HIS ENTIRE SCHOLARLY LIFE TO DEVELOPING AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES.

"FOR LATOUCHE, THE 'DE' OF DEGROWTH DE-COLONIZES A CULTURAL IMAGINARY IN THE WEST SATURATED BY THE IDEA OF CONSTANT EXPANSION AND A SINGULAR WAY OF MARKET ORGANIZATION. DEGROWTH CAN THEN BE UNDERSTOOD AS THE PRIORITIZATION OF DIFFERENT VALUES AND LANGUAGES OF VALUATION OVER THOSE OF MARKET ECONOMIES, NOT LEAST GDP - A 'RE-VALUATION' THAT IS PART AND PARCEL OF SLOWING DOWN GLOBAL SOCIAL METABOLISM."

"THE LIMITS TO GROWTH DEBATE, AND TO AN EXTENT ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS WERE SILENT ON THE QUESTION OF CAPITALISM, BUT ALSO FOCUSSED TOO MUCH, IN MY VIEW AT LEAST, ON THE PROPHETIC, 'WARNING OF DOOM' SIDE, AND LESS SO ON THE AFFIRMATION OF ALTERNATIVES, AND THE POLITICS THAT CAN BRING THEM ABOUT."



"THIS IS THE MAIN LEGACY OF JOAN MARTINEZ-ALIER AND THE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT HE HELPED BUILD IN BARCELONA: AN ACTIVISM-ORIENTED RESEARCH THAT SEEKS ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AND WHICH PUTS FIRST AND FOREMOST THE IDEAS AND THE ALTERNATIVES THAT EMERGE FROM THE GRASSROOTS."



GIORGOS KALLIS

POLITICAL ECOLOGIST/ ECOLOGICAL ECONOMIST

BUT WHAT IS 'DECOLONIZATION'?

"AFTER WORLD WAR I, EUROPEAN COLONIAL ADMINISTRATORS VIEWED DECOLONIZATION AS THE PROCESS IN WHICH THEY WOULD ALLOW THEIR IMPERIAL CHARGES TO GRADUATE TO INDEPENDENCE BY MODELING THEMSELVES ON EUROPEAN STATES. BUT IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY, ANTICOLONIAL ACTIVISTS AND INTELLECTUALS DEMANDED IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE AND REFUSED TO MODEL THEIR SOCIETIES ON THE TERMS SET BY IMPERIALISTS. BETWEEN 1945 AND 1975, AS STRUGGLES FOR INDEPENDENCE WERE WON IN AFRICA AND ASIA, UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP GREW FROM 51 TO 144 COUNTRIES. IN THAT PERIOD, DECOLONIZATION WAS PRIMARILY POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC."

"AS MORE COLONIES GAINED INDEPENDENCE, HOWEVER, CULTURAL DECOLONIZATION BECAME MORE SIGNIFICANT. EUROPEAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DOMINATION COINCIDED WITH A EUROCENTRISM THAT VALORIZED EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION AS THE APEX OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT. INDIGENOUS CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE WERE DENIGRATED AS BACKWARD AND UNCIVILIZED. THE COLONIZED WERE TREATED AS PEOPLE WITHOUT HISTORY. THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THIS HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY CENTRAL IN SETTLER COLONIES IN WHICH THE DISPLACEMENT OF INDIGENOUS INSTITUTIONS WAS MOST VIOLENT."

"NOW, PARTLY RIDING THE GLOBAL SURGE OF BLACK LIVES MATTER MOBILIZATIONS, CALLS FOR DECOLONIZATION HAVE SWEEPED EUROPE'S FORMER IMPERIAL METROPOLES."



ADOM GETACHEW

ETHIOPIAN-AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENTIST AND AUTHOR OF 'WORLDMAKING AFTER EMPIRE: THE RISE AND FALL OF SELF-DETERMINATION'



THREE WORDS. 70 CASES. THE TRAGIC HISTORY OF 'I CAN'T BREATHE.' THE DEATHS OF ERIC GARNER IN NEW YORK AND GEORGE FLOYD IN MINNESOTA CREATED NATIONAL OUTRAGE OVER THE USE OF DEADLY POLICE RESTRAINTS. THERE WERE MANY OTHERS YOU DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT. - NYT JUNE 29, 2020

"COLONIALISM, THE PROTESTERS INSIST, DID NOT JUST SHAPE THE GLOBAL SOUTH. IT MADE EUROPE AND THE MODERN WORLD. PROFITS FROM THE SLAVE TRADE FUELED THE RISE OF PORT CITIES LIKE BRISTOL, LIVERPOOL AND LONDON WHILE THE ATLANTIC ECONOMY THAT SLAVERY CREATED HELPED TO FUEL THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. KING LEOPOLD AMASSED A FORTUNE OF WELL OVER \$1.1 BILLION IN TODAY'S DOLLARS FROM CONGO (HIS BRUTAL REGIME CAUSED THE DEATH OF 10 MILLION PEOPLE)."



"LAYING A FLAG OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO ON THE STATUE OF KING LEOPOLD OR HAULING THE COLSTON STATUE INTO THE SEA, WHERE THOUSANDS OF ENSLAVED WOMEN AND MEN LOST THEIR LIVES, TEARS APART THE BLINDERS AND BOUNDARIES BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT, "INSISTING ON THE PRESENCE OF THE PAST, THE PROTESTS REVEAL EUROPE'S ROMANCE WITH ITSELF, UNMASKING ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AS THE PRODUCT OF ENSLAVEMENT AND COLONIAL EXPLOITATION."

"THIS HISTORICAL RECKONING IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT COLONIAL HISTORY SHAPES THE CURRENT INEQUALITIES AND HIERARCHIES THAT STRUCTURE THE WORLD SETS THE STAGE FOR THE NEXT ONE: REPARATIONS AND RESTITUTION."

"IF COLONIALISM MADE THE MODERN WORLD, DECOLONIZATION CANNOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL THE WORLD - INCLUDING EUROPE - IS REMADE."



"A KEY QUESTION FOR US WAS: HOW CAN WE ORGANISE A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST DEBT? BY THE TIME OF THE STRIKE IN 2020 THE COMMON SLOGAN WE WERE USING WAS, 'THE DEBT IS OWED TO US' ('LA DEUDA ES CON NOSOTRES'). IT WAS A WAY TO CHANGE OR TO SHIFT THE SENSE OF WHAT DEBT IS. WE CONDUCTED DIFFERENT KINDS OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF THE CENTRAL BANK, AND IN A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL SPACES, TO CONNECT THE ISSUE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT WITH DOMESTIC DEBT. WE WERE CAMPAIGNING TO RECLAIM PUBLIC SERVICES, AND ALSO TO RECLAIM PUBLIC BUDGETS - TO RECLAIM THEM AGAINST THE CORPORATE EXPLOITATION OF, FOR EXAMPLE, FOOD AND MEDICINE DURING THE PANDEMIC. OVER THE LAST YEAR OR SO WE HAVE ALSO BEEN RECONNECTING THE ISSUE OF DEBT WITH THE QUESTION OF HOUSING, ESPECIALLY AGAINST EVICTION."



"THE SLOGAN 'THE DEBT IS OWED TO US' HAS BEEN A DEVICE TO RETHINK ECONOMIC AND ESPECIALLY FINANCIAL VIOLENCE AND TO SHOW HOW THIS VIOLENCE IS PRACTISED AGAINST CERTAIN BODIES AND PARTICULAR TERRITORIES. ANOTHER KEY ASPECT OF THIS POLITICAL AND CONCEPTUAL WORK IS TO SHOW HOW THESE FORMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXTRACTION AGAINST COMMON RESOURCES AND TERRITORIES ARE ALSO BOUND UP WITH WHAT I CALL FINANCIAL EXTRACTIVISM. THE HOUSEHOLD DEBT IS A POLITICAL DEVICE, AS ARE NEW FORMS OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION. THE SLOGAN ENABLES ALL THESE THINGS - WHICH ARE NOT ALWAYS OBVIOUS - TO BE SHOWN AS ISSUES THAT ARE ON THE FEMINIST AGENDA, AND TRANSLATES THESE PROBLEMS INTO A DEMAND OF THE MOVEMENT. THE DEBT IS OWED TO US."

"I THINK THAT HERE IN LATIN AMERICA WE HAVE A VERY STRONG ARCHIVE OF THE ORIGINS OF NEOLIBERALISM AS A FASCIST REGIME, BECAUSE THE DIFFERENT DICTATORSHIPS - ESPECIALLY IN CHILE AND ARGENTINA - HAVE BEEN INTIMATELY LINKED TO NEOLIBERALISM. WE DO NOT HAVE THE EXPERIENCE OF A 'LIBERAL' OR A 'PROGRESSIVE' NEOLIBERALISM. WE INTIMATELY UNDERSTAND WHAT VIOLENCE, CONSERVATISM AND FASCISM HAS TO DO WITH NEOLIBERALISM, BECAUSE, FROM THE BEGINNING, OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE REGION HAS BEEN AN EXPERIENCE OF NEOLIBERALISM COMBINED WITH STATE TERRORISM. NEOLIBERAL VIOLENCE IS NOT SOMETHING THAT COMES LATER, AS A SORT OF DIVIATION FROM 'ORIGINAL' NEOLIBERALISM."



VERÓNICA GAGO

PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND AUTHOR (WITH LUCÍ CAVALLERO) OF 'A FEMINIST THEORY OF DEBT'



"WE HAVE FOUND A WAY TO CONNECT THE WORKERS WITH THE CLIMATE AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS OF THE WORLD. IT'S UP TO US TO LEAD THE TRANSITION. THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK - THEY ARE KEEPING OUR COUNTRIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH IN SO MUCH DEBT THAT WE ARE FORCED TO KEEP EXPANDING THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY. JUST TO KEEP UP PAYING THE INTEREST ON THE LOANS."

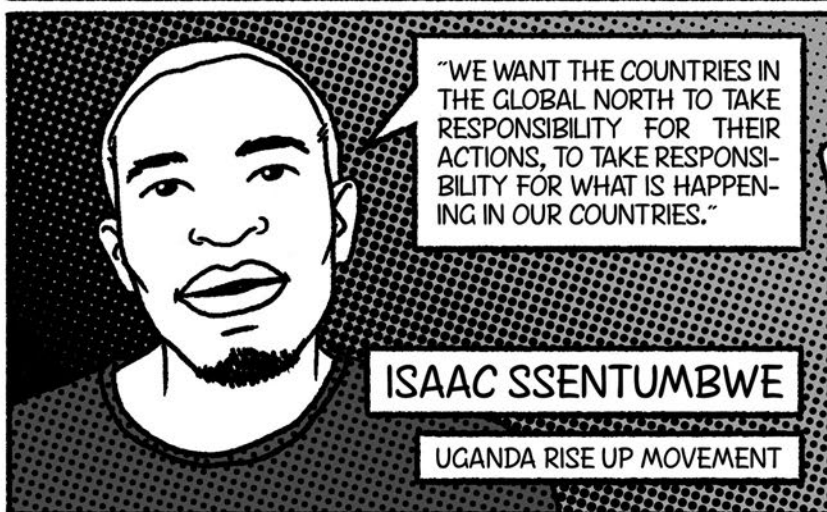
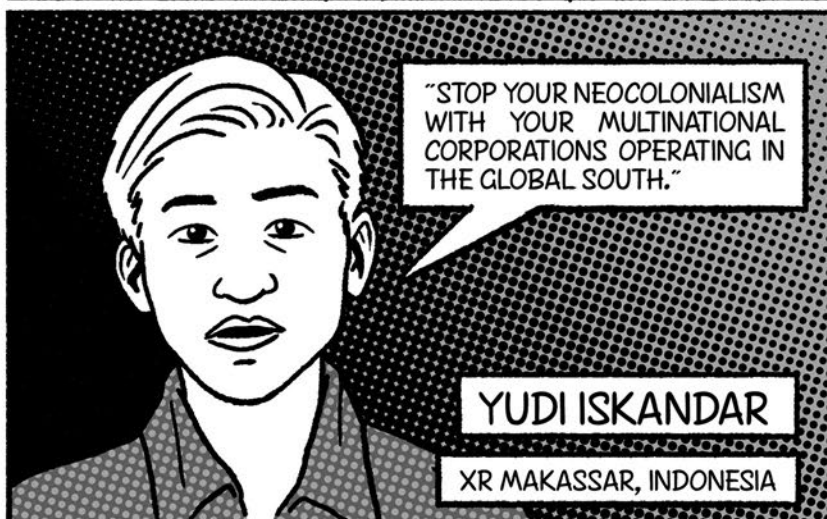
ESTEBAN SERVAT

ARGENTINIAN CLIMATE ACTIVIST AND BIOLOGIST ESTEBAN SERVAT RECEIVED DEATH THREATS AFTER DEMONSTRATING AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF FRACKING IN THE VACA MUERTA OIL FIELD, OPERATED BY YPF AND CHEVRON.



"ROMANIA IS ONE OF THE MOST AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN EUROPE BY THE LOANS THAT THE CAPITALIST GOVERNMENTS OVER TIME HAVE TAKEN FROM IMF AND THE WORLD BANK, THAT WERE SUPPOSED TO HELP RAISE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, BUT INSTEAD HELPED THE BANKS, THE BANK ACCOUNTS OF THE RICH TO CASH IN SOME MORE MONEY FROM THE WORKING CLASS."

FFF ROMANIA



"SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNITE IN ORGANIZATIONS WITH WORKERS AS PROTAGONISTS, IN THIS ENVIRONMENTAL STRUGGLE. FROM LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, EUROPE, USA, SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH A SINGLE CRY: THE DEBT IS OWED TO THE PEOPLES AND TO NATURE!" - JUAN PABLO OLSSON

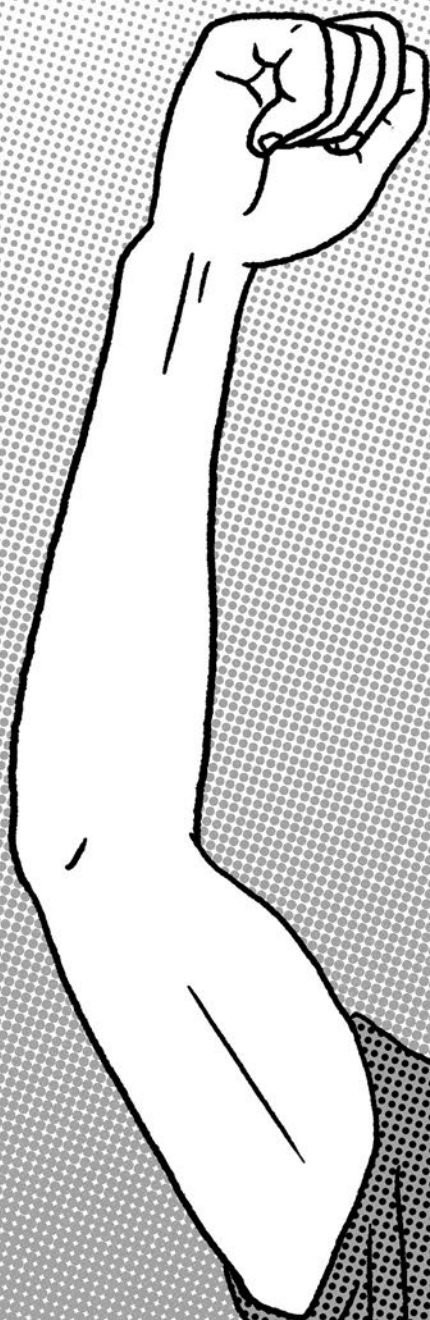
"EXPLOITATION AND EXTRACTION ARE BAKED INTO THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM – WHICH IS A GLOBAL SYSTEM. THE GLOBAL NORTH MUST ENSURE A FLOW OF RESOURCES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE CHEAP RAW MATERIALS THAT KEEP THIS SYSTEM GOING. THIS REQUIRES COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, THE HYPER-EXPLOITATION OF WORKERS, THE DISPLACEMENT AND SOMETIMES GENOCIDE OF INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS, AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT."

"AS THOMAS SANKARA, THE MARXIST REVOLUTIONARY FROM BURKINA FASO, SAID IN THE 1980S, 'DEBT IS A FORM OF NEOCOLONIAL CONTROL OVER THE GLOBAL SOUTH. IT'S A TOOL CREATED TO MAINTAIN THE GLOBAL NORTH'S HEGEMONY AND TO ENSURE A STEADY FLOW OF RESOURCES FROM THE SOUTH. IT'S A NECESSARY COMPONENT IN KEEPING THE GLOBAL CAPITALIST IMPERIAL MACHINE INTACT.'"



DELLA DUNCAN

RENEGADE ECONOMIST AND
HOST OF UPSTREAM PODCAST



"THE REVOLUTION AND WOMEN'S LIBERATION GO TOGETHER. WE DO NOT TALK OF WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION AS AN ACT OF CHARITY OR OUT OF A SURGE OF HUMAN COMPASSION. IT IS A BASIC NECESSITY FOR THE REVOLUTION TO TRIUMPH. WOMEN HOLD UP THE OTHER HALF OF THE SKY."

THOMAS SANKARA

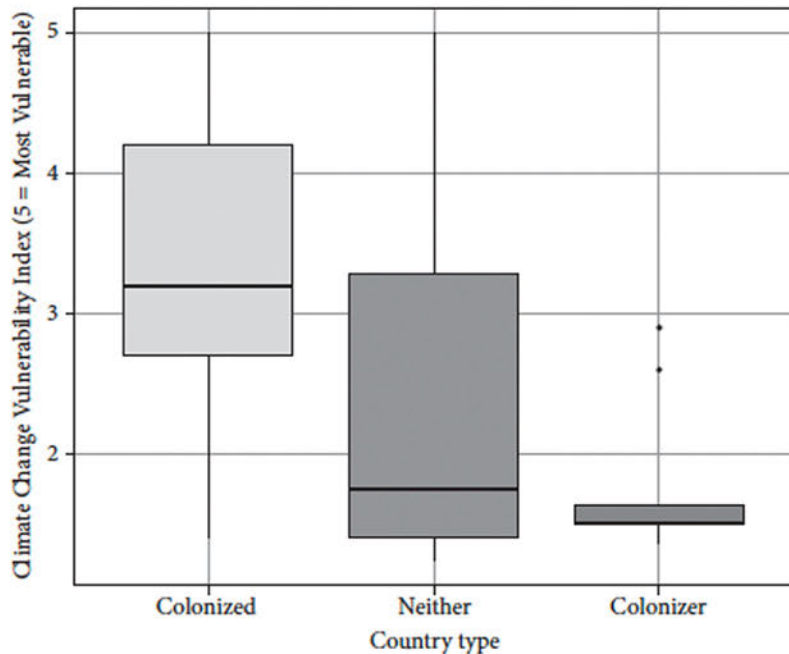


Figure 5.2 How climate vulnerability is distributed.

"EVERYONE SHOULD SEE THIS GRAPH FROM OLÚFÉMI O. TÁÍWÒ'S 'RECONSIDERING REPARATIONS' CORRELATING CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY AND COLONIALISM. 'THE COLONIZING PARTS OF THE WORLD ARE NOW MUCH LESS VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE THAN THE REGIONS THEY COLONIZED.' IT'S TIME FOR REPARATIONS."



MATTHIAS SCHMELZER

ECONOMIC HISTORIAN & SOCIAL THEORIST

"WHAT IF BUILDING THE JUST WORLD WAS REPARATIONS?"

"IT IS NOT THAT EVERY ASPECT OF TODAY'S GLOBAL RACIAL EMPIRE IS ROOTED IN THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. BUT EVERY ASPECT OF TOMORROW'S GLOBAL RACIAL EMPIRE WILL BE. CLIMATE CHANGE IS SET NOT JUST TO REDISTRIBUTE SOCIAL ADVANTAGES, BUT TO DO SO IN A WAY THAT COMPOUNDS AND LOCKS IN THE DISTRIBUTIONAL INJUSTICES WE'VE INHERITED FROM HISTORY. IF WE DON'T INTERVENE POWERFULLY, IT WILL REVERSE THE GAINS TOWARD JUSTICE THAT OUR ANCESTORS FOUGHT SO BITTERLY FOR, USHERING IN AN ERA OF WHAT THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAP- PORTEUR ON EXTREME POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS CALLS CLIMATE APARTHEID."

OLÚFÉMI O. TÁÍWÒ

PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND AUTHOR OF 'ELITE CAPTURE' AND 'RECONSIDERING REPARATIONS'. GRIST.ORG DESCRIBED HIM AS 'ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST PROMINENT PHILOSOPHERS.'

"EUROPE NOW LIVES AT SUCH MAD, RECKLESS PACE THAT SHE HAS SHAKEN OFF ALL GUIDANCE AND REASON, AND SHE IS RUNNING HEADLONG INTO THE ABYSS; WE WOULD DO WELL TO AVOID IT WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED ... LET US DECIDE NOT TO IMITATE EUROPE; LET US COMBINE OUR MUSCLES AND OUR BRAINS IN A NEW DIRECTION ... HUMANITY IS WAITING FOR SOMETHING OTHER FROM US THAN SUCH IMITATION, WHICH WOULD BE ALMOST AN OBSCENE CARICATURE."



FRANZ FANON

THE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH - 1961 / FRANTZ OMAR FANON WAS A FRANCHOPHONE AFRO-CARIBBEAN PSYCHIATRIST, POLITICAL PHILOSOPHER, AND MARXIST FROM THE FRENCH COLONY OF MARTINIQUE.



"DEGROWTH IS NOT JUST A CRITIQUE OF EXCESS THROUGHPUT IN THE GLOBAL NORTH; IT IS A CRITIQUE OF THE MECHANISMS OF COLONIAL APPROPRIATION, ENCLOSURE AND CHEAPENING THAT UNDERPIN CAPITALIST GROWTH ITSELF. IF GROWTHISM SEEKS TO ORGANIZE THE ECONOMY AROUND THE INTERESTS OF CAPITAL (EXCHANGE-VALUE) THROUGH ACCUMULATION, ENCLOSURE, AND COMMODIFICATION, DEGROWTH CALLS FOR THE ECONOMY TO BE ORGANIZED INSTEAD AROUND PROVISIONING FOR HUMAN NEEDS (USE-VALUE) THROUGH DE-ACCUMULATION, DE-ENCLOSURE AND DE-COMMODIFICATION. DEGROWTH ALSO REJECTS THE CHEAPENING OF LABOUR AND RESOURCES, AND THE RACIST IDEOLOGIES THAT ARE DEPLOYED TOWARD THAT END. IN ALL OF THESE WAYS, DEGROWTH IS ABOUT DECOLONIZATION."

"THE CRITIQUE OF GROWTH WAS IN LARGE PART PIONEERED BY THINKERS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH, INCLUDING RABINDRANATH TAGORE, ANANDA COOMARASWAMY, AND THE ECONOMISTS RADHAKAMAL MUKURSEE AND J.C KUMARAPPA. THESE PERSPECTIVES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED FURTHER BY FIGURES SUCH AS SAMIR AMIN, ABDULLAH ÖCALAN, ASEEM SHRIVASTAVA AND ASHISH KOTHARI. CRITIQUES OF GROWTH ARE REPRESENTED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT, WITHIN MOVEMENTS SUCH AS THE ZAPATISTAS AND IN ROJAVA, IN THE BUEN VIVIR MOVEMENT, IN THE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY MOVEMENT (E.G. LA VIA CAMPESINA), AND IN THE BROADER POST-DEVELOPMENT LITERATURE, ALL OF WHICH HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH. DEGROWTH SCHOLARSHIP AND ACTIVISM IS ALIGNED WITH THESE MOVEMENTS, WITH DEMANDS DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AT THE NORTH. IT IS THE SHARP EDGE OF ANTI-COLONIAL STRUGGLE WITHIN THE METROPOLE."

JASON HICKEL

"GOOD AFTERNOON COMPAS FROM GERMANY. WE SEND GREETINGS FROM CARACOL 11 KULAN KA'U, THE GOOD GOVERNMENT COUNCIL. A SEED BLOSSOMS IN THE CONSCIENCE OF THOSE WHO FIGHT AND THAT IS FOREVER. WE SEND A BIG HUG!"



ZAPATISTAS SEND A MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY TO THE PEACEFUL PROTESTERS AGAINST THE EXPANSION OF A COAL MINE IN LUTZERATH (JANUARY 2023) THAT WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN DOWN BY POLICE.

"SO WHAT ABOUT THE CLASS POLITICS OF DEGROWTH IN THE NORTH? HOW DO WE RECONCILE DEGROWTH WITH THE REALITY OF WORKING-CLASS POVERTY? DEGROWTH SCHOLARSHIP POINTS OUT THAT ENERGY AND RESOURCE USE IN HIGH-INCOME NATIONS IS VASTLY IN EXCESS OF WHAT IS REQUIRED TO END POVERTY AND TO DELIVER HIGH LEVELS OF WELLBEING FOR ALL, INCLUDING UNIVERSAL PUBLIC HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION, COMPUTING, COMMUNICATION, HOUSING, AND HEALTHY FOOD. IN OTHER WORDS, HIGH-INCOME NATIONS COULD SCALE DOWN AGGREGATE THROUGHPUT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME IMPROVING PEOPLE'S LIVES BY ORGANIZING THE ECONOMY AROUND HUMAN NEEDS RATHER THAN AROUND CAPITAL ACCUMULATION - THAT IS, BY DISTRIBUTING INCOME AND WEALTH MORE FAIRLY, WHILE DECOMMODIFYING AND EXPANDING PUBLIC GOODS."

"THESE ARE CORE DEGROWTH DEMANDS. AFTER ALL, DEGROWTH IS PART OF THE BROADER ECOSOCIALIST MOVEMENT. WHAT DEGROWTH ADDS IS THE ASSERTION THAT GROWTH IN HIGH-INCOME NATIONS IS NOT REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A FLOURISHING SOCIETY. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS JUSTICE. RECOGNIZING THIS IS PART OF BUILDING CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS AGAINST THE IDEOLOGY OF CAPITAL. BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT IS THE POINT OF A PROGRESSIVE POLITICS IN THE NORTH THAT IS NOT ALIGNED WITH THE STRUGGLE FOR DECOLONIZATION IN THE SOUTH?"

"ECOSOCIALISM WITHOUT ANTI-IMPERIALISM IS NOT AN ECOSOCIALISM WORTH HAVING. AND IN THE FACE OF ECOLOGICAL BREAKDOWN, SOLIDARITY WITH THE SOUTH REQUIRES DEGROWTH IN THE NORTH."



MISUNDERSTANDING #9:

DEGROWTH IS NOT MALTHUSIAN OR AUTHORITARIAN. DEGROWTH'S CORE THRUST IS A FOCUS ON GLOBAL JUSTICE. IT CRITICISES MALTHUSIANISM AND REJECTS ANY KIND OF 'CLIMATE APARTHEID'. AND IF ONE UNDERSTANDS DEGROWTH AS AN EMANCIPATION FROM HIERARCHY AND AS A UTOPIAN ASPIRATION FOR AUTONOMY, THEN THE TERM "AUTHORITARIAN DEGROWTH" IS AN OXYMORON. DEGROWTH CANNOT BE DONE TO PEOPLE BUT ONLY BY PEOPLE.

1970

"SOME TIME IN THE NEXT 15 YEARS THE END WILL COME, AND BY THE END I MEAN AN UTTER BREAKDOWN OF THE CAPACITY OF THE PLANET TO SUPPORT HUMANITY."

PAUL "DOCTOR DOOM" EHRLICH

STANFORD BIOLOGIST PAUL EHRLICH AND HIS WIFE ANNE WROTE THE BOOK THAT INCITED A WORLDWIDE FEAR OF OVERPOPULATION: 'THE POPULATION BOMB'

JANUARY 1ST, 2023

"LAST NIGHT, CBS' 60 MINUTES ATTEMPTED TO RESURRECT THE 1960S BOGEYMAN OF OVERPOPULATION BY INTERVIEWING - WAIT FOR IT - PAUL EHRLICH (90)!"

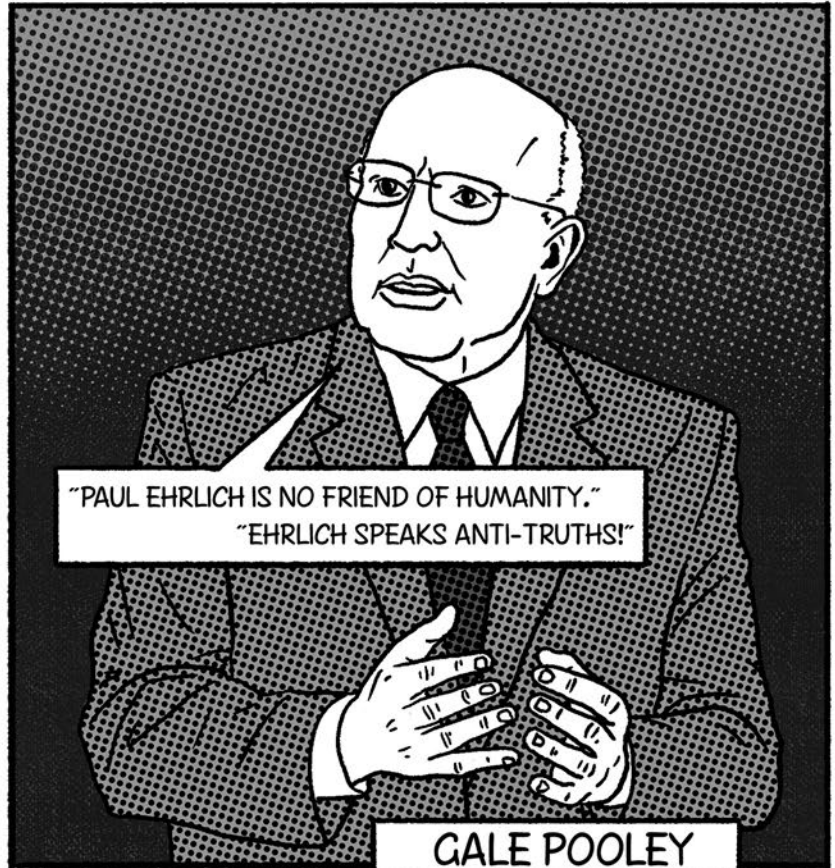
"ASIDE FROM HELPING TO HARM MILLIONS OF CHINESE AND INDIANS, WHO WERE FORCIBLY STERILIZED, LET'S NOT FORGET THAT EHRLICH HAS BEEN PROPHESSING DOOM FOR OVER HALF A HALF-CENTURY. IN HIS 1968 BOOK, THE POPULATION BOMB, HE CLAIMED 100S OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WOULD STARVE TO DEATH IN THE 1970S AND 1980S, AS RESOURCES RUN OUT. NEVER HAPPENED! RESOURCES ARE CHEAPER AND THEREFORE MORE ABUNDANT. WHY GIVE SUCH A PROMINENT PLATFORM TO SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN SO WRONG FOR SO LONG? WHY NOT INTERVIEW 1000S OF ECONOMISTS WHO DISAGREE WITH EHRLICH, INCLUDING SMART DEMOCRATS LIKE LARRY SUMMERS."

MARIAN L TUPY

EDITOR OF CATO INSTITUTE'S HUMAN PROGRESS AND A SENIOR FELLOW AT ITS CENTER FOR GLOBAL LIBERTY AND PROSPERITY. HUMAN PROGRESS IS BASICALLY A "NEW OPTIMISTS" THINK TANK THAT WORKS TO "RECTIFY THE WIDELY HELD MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE STATE OF HUMANITY."



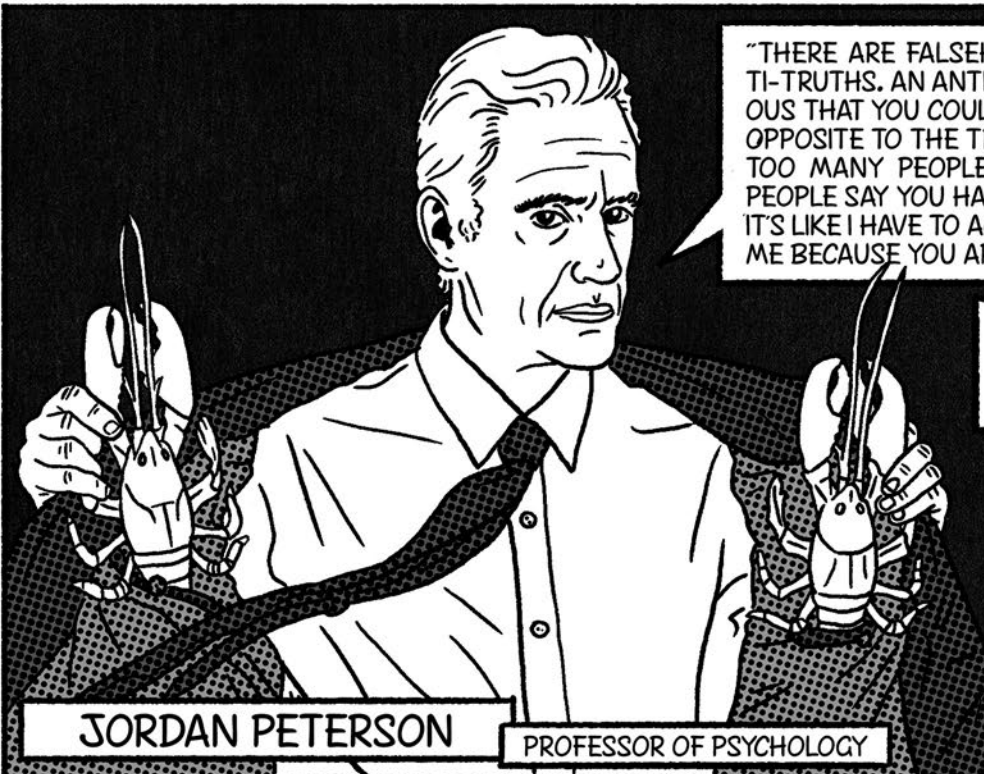
LARRY "WE NEED TO BRING CLIMATE IDEALISM DOWN TO EARTH," SUMMERS IS A LONGTIME FRIEND OF CONVICTED PREDATOR JEFFREY EPSTEIN. JUST LIKE BILL GATES, WHO STARTED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH EPSTEIN AFTER HE WAS CONVICTED OF SEX CRIMES. STEVEN PINKER HELPED WITH LEGAL AID AND FLEW IN HIS PRIVATE JET AFTER HE WAS FOUND GUILTY OF CHILD PROSTITUTION. SUMMERS DEREGULATED THE BANKING SECTOR AS BILL CLINTON'S TREASURY SECRETARY, HELPING TO SET THE STAGE FOR THE 2008 FINANCIAL CRISIS. WHILE SERVING AS CHIEF ECONOMIST OF THE WORLD BANK, HE PUT HIS NAME TO A MEMO SUGGESTING INDUSTRIES DUMP TOXIC WASTE IN AFRICA BECAUSE IT WAS "UNDERPOLLUTED." IN 2005, WHILE PRESIDENT OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, HE POSITED THAT WOMEN'S BRAINS WEREN'T WELL SUITED FOR MATH AND SCIENCE. WHEN SUMMERS HAS SPOKEN UP IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE POLICY, IT'S BEEN TO BACK POLICIES SPONSORED BY EXXONMOBIL.



"PAUL EHRLICH IS NO FRIEND OF HUMANITY."
"EHRLICH SPEAKS ANTI-TRUTHS!"

GALE POOLEY

SENIOR FELLOW AT THE DISCOVERY INSTITUTE AND A BOARD MEMBER AT HUMAN PROGRESS. THE DISCOVERY INSTITUTE HAS ARGUED THAT AMERICAN SCHOOLS SHOULD "TEACH THE CONTROVERSY" (INTELLIGENT DESIGN) AND PRESENT THE "STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF EVOLUTION". THE INSTITUTE IS KNOWN FOR SPREADING CLIMATE DENIAL AND MORAL PANIC ABOUT CRITICAL RACE THEORY.



JORDAN PETERSON

PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

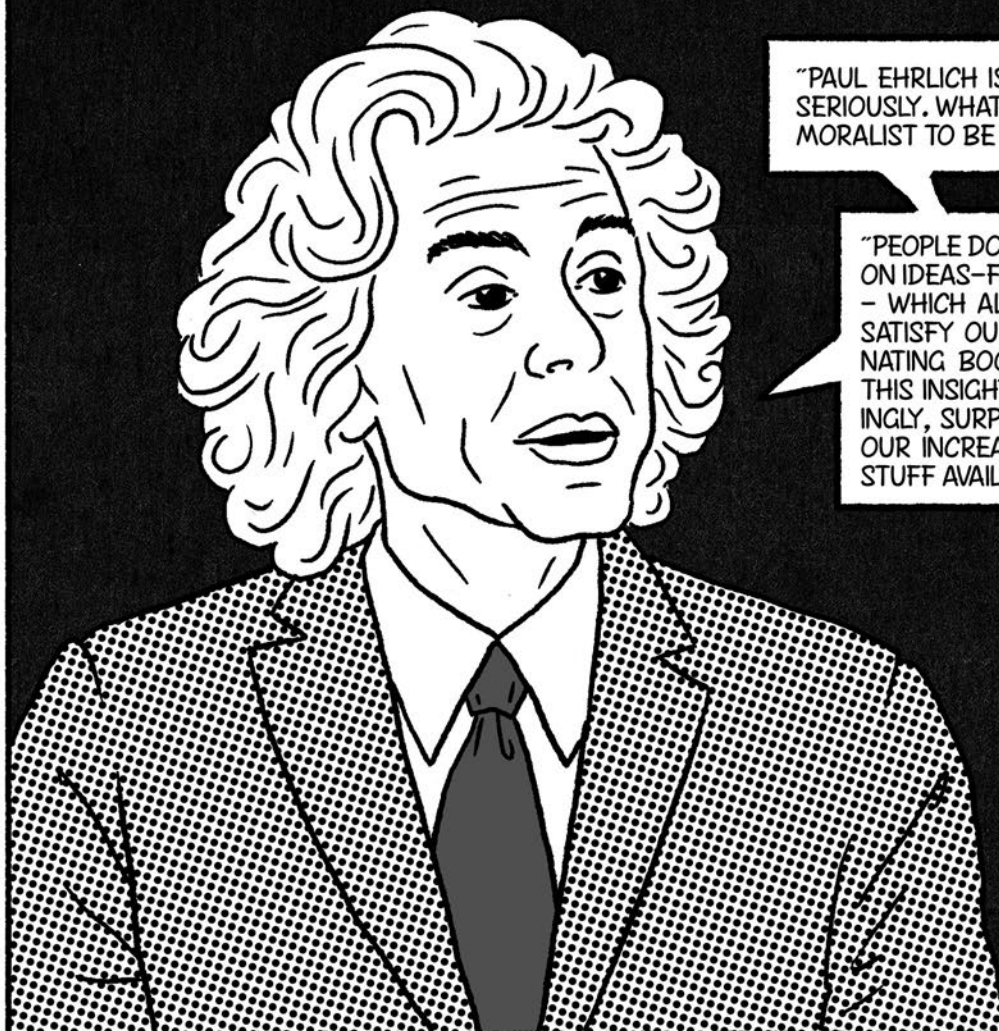
"THERE ARE FALSEHOODS AND LIES AND THERE ARE ANTI-TRUTHS. AN ANTI-TRUTH IS SOMETHING SO PROPOSTEROUS THAT YOU COULDN'T MAKE A CLAIM THAT IS MORE THE OPPOSITE TO THE TRUTH! AND THE CLAIM THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE ON THE PLANET IS AN ANTI-TRUTH. PEOPLE SAY YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT LIMITS TO GROWTH, AND IT'S LIKE I HAVE TO ACCEPT THE LIMITS THAT YOU IMPOSE ON ME BECAUSE YOU ARE FRIGHTENED OF THE FUTURE."

"MALTHUSIANS HAVE DONE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF DAMAGE APPLYING THE WRONG METAPHOR TO THE HUMAN ENDEAVOUR. RIGHT PAUL EHRLICH?"

"PAUL EHRLICH HAS BEEN FAMOUSLY WRONG ABOUT EVERYTHING HE HAS PREDICTED FOR SIX DECADES."

"BUY MARIAN L TUPY AND GALE POOLEY'S BOOK 'SUPERABUNDANCE' AND BECOME AN INFORMED REALIST. ENOUGH MALTHUSIAN CATASTROPHIZING. IT'S LITERALLY ANTI-HUMAN."

IN HIS BOOK '12 RULES OF LIFE' PETERSON EXPLAINS HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY REFERRING TO LOBSTER HIERARCHY. IN 2021 TA-NEHISI COATES ALLEGEDLY WROTE A PARODY OF HIS IDEAS AS PART OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE ARCH VILLAIN RED SKULL FOR A CAPTAIN AMERICA COMIC. PETERSON RESPONDED WITH 'HAIL LOBSTER' AND JOKED HE'S BEING TURNED INTO A 'MAGIC NAZI'. AND EVEN BEFORE 2018, WHEN BARI WEISS WROTE THE CONTROVERSIAL ARTICLE IN THE NYT BRINGING THE INTELLECTUAL DARK WEB AND ITS MEMBERS (OF WHICH JORDAN PETERSON AND STEVEN PINKER ARE PROBABLY THE MOST WELL KNOWN) WHINING ABOUT BEING CANCELED, INTO MAINSTREAM AWARENESS, PETERSON WAS HANGING OUT WITH STEFAN MOLINEUX ON HIS PODCAST. MOLINEUX IS CANADIAN FAR-RIGHT WHITE NATIONALIST AND SUPREMACIST, WHO PROMOTES CONSPIRACY THEORIES, 'SCIENTIFIC RACISM' AND THE MEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT.



"PAUL EHRLICH IS UNREPENTANT & STILL TAKEN SERIOUSLY. WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR A MISGUIDED MORALIST TO BE DISCREDITED?"

"PEOPLE DON'T DEPEND ON STUFF; THEY DEPEND ON IDEAS—FORMULAS, ALGORITHMS, KNOWLEDGE — WHICH ALLOW STUFF, USELESS BY ITSELF, TO SATISFY OUR WANTS. IN THIS LUCID AND ILLUMINATING BOOK, TUPY AND POOLEY LUCIDLY USE THIS INSIGHT TO EXPLAIN A FACT THAT, SURPRISINGLY, SURPRISES PEOPLE: OVER THE CENTURIES, OUR INCREASING KNOWLEDGE HAS MADE MORE STUFF AVAILABLE TO US."

STEVEN PINKER

PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

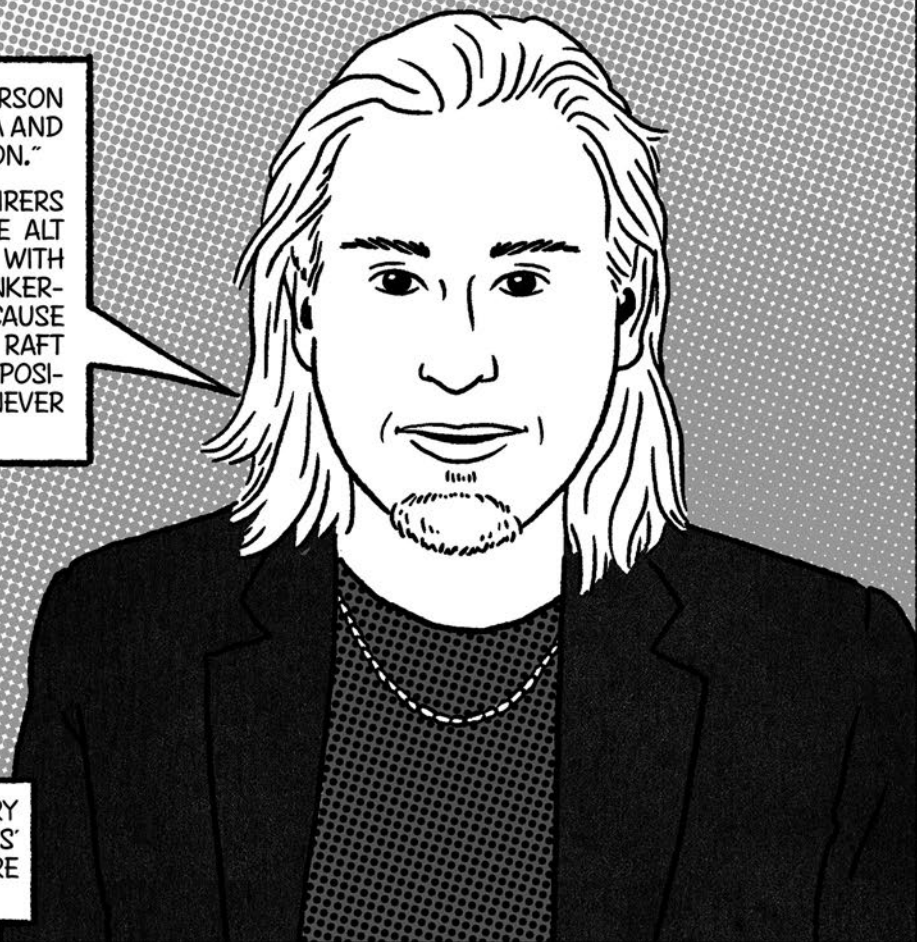
WHEN PINKER WAS CALLED OUT FOR SOURCING FROM STEVE SAILER, WHO FOUNDED A NEO-EUGENICS ORGANIZATION CALLED THE HUMAN BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE AND "IS PERHAPS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS BELIEF THAT BLACK PEOPLE ARE INTELLECTUALLY INFERIOR TO WHITE PEOPLE", HE CALLED IT THE FALLACY OF "GUILT BY ASSOCIATION".

"I CALL STEVEN PINKER AND JORDAN PETERSON THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN NEOLIBERALISM AND THE RADICAL RIGHT". I CALL THEM PINKERSON."

"I'M NOT SAYING PINKERSON AND HIS ADMIRERS ARE FASCISTS. I'M NOT DENYING THAT THE ALT RIGHT AND PINKERSON EVEN HAVE BEEF WITH EACH OTHER. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT PINKERSON IS WORTH ARGUING WITH, PRECISELY BECAUSE HE OFFERS LONG-TERM VALIDATION TO A RAFT OF INTERRELATED REACTIONARY POLITICAL POSITIONS, IN A WAY THAT THE ALT RIGHT COULD NEVER DREAM OF DOING."

JAMES A. SMITH

SENIOR LECTURER IN LITERATURE AND THEORY AND THE AUTHOR OF 'OTHER PEOPLE'S POLITICS' AND 'WORK WANT WORK: LABOUR AND DESIRE AT THE END OF CAPITALISM'



"THE STANDARD OF LIVING HAS RISEN ALONG WITH THE SIZE OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION SINCE THE BEGINNING OF RECORDED TIME. THERE IS NO CONVINCING ECONOMIC REASON WHY THESE TRENDS TOWARD A BETTER LIFE SHOULD NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY."

"BECAUSE WE CAN EXPECT FUTURE GENERATIONS TO BE RICHER THAN WE ARE, NO MATTER WHAT WE DO ABOUT RESOURCES, ASKING US TO REFRAIN FROM USING RESOURCES NOW SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN HAVE THEM LATER IS LIKE ASKING THE POOR TO MAKE GIFTS TO THE RICH."



JULIAN SIMON

SIMON WAS AN PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, A SENIOR FELLOW AT THE CATO INSTITUTE AND A ARDENT FAN OF FRIEDRICH HAYEK, WHO IN TURN HIMSELF WAS A FAN OF NOTORIOUS CHILEAN GENERAL AUGUSTO PINOCHET, THE PUTSCHIST, TYRANT, TORTURER, MASS MURDERER, AND HATER OF ALL THINGS SOCIALIST, WHO RULED CHILE FROM 1973 TO 1990.



"THE PROCESS OF SUSTAINED INNOVATION IS CHIEFLY DRIVEN BY POPULATION GROWTH AND FREEDOM. JULIAN SIMON WON THE SIMON-EHRlich WAGER BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THAT THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE IS THE MINDS OF FREE THINKING PEOPLE. MORE MINDS GENERATE MORE IDEAS!"

"THE MORE PEOPLE WE HAVE, THE MORE ABUNDANCE WE HAVE! THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION GROWTH AND ABUNDANCE MAY SEEM COUNTERINTUITIVE, BUT IT'S TRUE."

MARIAN L TUPY

DR. PAUL R. EHRLICH
ANNE H. EHRLICH

5667

October 11 1990

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Julian Simon

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Five hundred seventy-six ⁰⁷/₁₀₀ DOLLARS

WELLS FARGO BANK

MEMO

Anne H. Ehrlich

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"MARIAN L. TUPY AND GALE POOLEY TELL THE STORY OF THE SIMON-EHRLICH WAGER THAT SIMON WON BECAUSE METALS GOT-AND KEPT GETTING-CHEAPER. THERE IS LITTLE TO DISAGREE WITH - JUST THREE RESERVATIONS. FIRST, AS MY BERKELEY MENTOR RICHARD NORGAARD (ECONOMICS PHD AT CHICAGO, WITH MILTON FRIEDMAN CURIOUSLY) SHOWED, PRICES SAY MORE ABOUT THE BELIEFS OF THE INVESTORS WHO BUY COMMODITIES THAN ABOUT LONG-TERM PHYSICAL SCARCITY. SECOND, PRICES ALSO DEPEND ON (UN)FAIR TRADE, LABOUR/ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS, MILITARY/GEOPOLITICAL POWER, AND PAYING, OR NOT, THE SOCIAL/ECOLOGICAL COSTS OF EXTRACTION. THIRD, AND TO JOKE, A BIGGER POPULATION MEANS MORE INNOVATORS SOLVING OLD PROBLEMS, BUT ALSO MORE EVILDOERS CREATING NEW ONES."

EB A Sierra Club-Ballantine Book

95¢

POPULATION CONTROL OR
RACE TO OBLIVION?

THE POPULATION BOMB

WHILE YOU ARE READING THESE WORDS
FOUR PEOPLE WILL HAVE DIED FROM
STARVATION. MOST OF THEM CHILDREN.

DR. PAUL R. EHRLICH



Foreword by David Brower

"IT WAS PAUL EHRLICH'S THE POPULATION BOMB THAT BROUGHT MALTHUS BACK TO CURRENT DEBATES. BASICALLY EHRLICH ARGUED THAT SOONER OF LATER YOU WOULD HAVE A FAMINE, OR COLLAPSE OF THE SYSTEM. AND THEN AFTER THAT, IN 1972 THERE IS THE LIMITS TO GROWTH REPORT, WHICH IS THE ONE THAT BRINGS THIS IDEA OF LIMITS TO SORT OF POPULAR, I WOULD SAY, AWARENESS. THE REPORT IS ARGUING THAT THE WAY THE ECONOMY WAS GROWING, AND GIVEN LIMITS TO MATERIALS AND ENERGY, BY AROUND 2030 OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, THE GLOBAL ECONOMY WOULD CRASH, BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO KEEP GOING."

"BUT YES, EHRLICH WAS WRONG ABOUT LOOMING SHORTAGES AND FAMINES. THE QUESTION IS: IS THIS RELEVANT TODAY? I AM NOT SURE."



"MALTHUS (THOUGH) WAS A CLERIC AND DID NOT PUT BETS, BUT HIS PREDICTION WAS CORRECT. WELL, HIS WAS NOT A DIFFICULT PREDICTION. MALTHUS PREDICTED THAT POPULATION CANNOT GROW GEOMETRICALLY-SOMETHING WILL CHECK IT. INDEED IF GLOBAL POPULATION DOUBLED EVERY 25 YEARS FROM 1 BILLION IN 1800, IT WOULD BE 500 BILLION TODAY. BUT VOLUNTARY CONTROLS DID CHECK IT, AND MALTHUS WAS AWARE THAT PEOPLE COULD CONTROL THEIR NUMBERS. WHAT MALTHUS GOT TOTALLY WRONG INSTEAD WAS THAT HE REGARDED SUCH VOLUNTARY CONTROLS AS UNNATURAL AND REPUGNANT. VOLUNTARY LIMITATIONS ARE AS PAINFUL AS FAMINES AND PLAGUES, MALTHUS WROTE, BECAUSE GOD WANTS US TO WORK AND POPULATE THE EARTH, NOT IDLY ENJOY ITS FRUITS (HENCE HIS OPPOSITION TO BIRTH CONTROL)."

"NO LIMITS WHATEVER ARE PLACED TO THE PRODUCTIONS OF THE EARTH; THEY MAY INCREASE FOREVER."



THOMAS ROBERT MALTHUS

"MALTHUS DISCOVERED UNLIMITED WANTS RATHER THAN LIMITED RESOURCES." AND HE INVOKED THE SPECTER OF SCARCITY TO CALL FOR GROWTH!



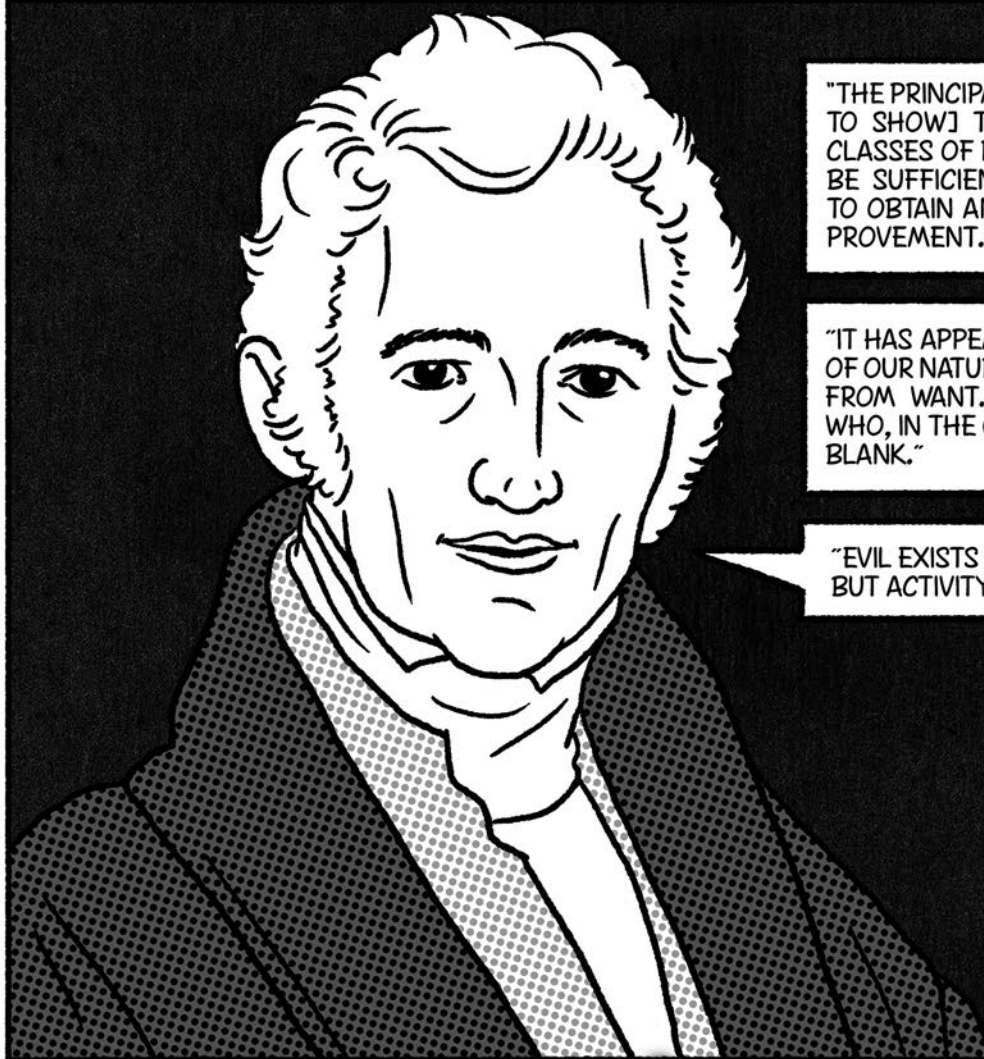
"HE DID NOT PREDICT, MUCH LESS CALL FOR LIMITS. MALTHUS INVOKED THE SPECTER OF LIMITS TO ADVOCATE FOR GROWTH. AND IN THE NAME OF GROWTH, HE REJECTED REDISTRIBUTION, DEFENDING CLASS SOCIETY AGAINST REVOLUTIONARIES."



L'INTERNATIONALE



"THE SECRET TO UNDERSTANDING MALTHUS IS TO REMEMBER THAT HE WAS BOTH A PRIEST AND AN ECONOMIST, THE FIRST PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL ECONOMY. MALTHUS WAS A STUDENT OF THE THEOLOGIAN WILLIAM PALEY AT CAMBRIDGE. FOR THOSE PRIESTS, THE GREATNESS OF A NATION WAS MEASURED BY ITS NUMBERS. POPULATION GROWTH WAS GOOD, NOT BAD. MALTHUS DOES NOT PREDICT OVERPOPULATION AND FAMINES IN THE FUTURE. IN HIS ESSAY ON THE PRINCIPLE OF POPULATION, HE ARGUES AGAINST REDISTRIBUTION, POSITING THAT IF WE TAKE CARE OF THE POOR THEY WILL BECOME LAZY AND NOT WORK HARD ENOUGH TO PRODUCE FOOD AND SUPPORT THEMSELVES. KEEP THEM HUNGRY SO THAT THEY ARE INDUSTRIOUS, AND SO THE POPULATION KEEPS GROWING."



"THE PRINCIPAL ARGUMENT OF THIS ESSAY ... [TENDS TO SHOW] THE IMPROBABILITY THAT THE LOWER CLASSES OF PEOPLE IN ANY COUNTRY SHOULD EVER BE SUFFICIENTLY FREE FROM WANT AND LABOUR TO OBTAIN ANY HIGH DEGREE OF INTELLECTUAL IMPROVEMENT."

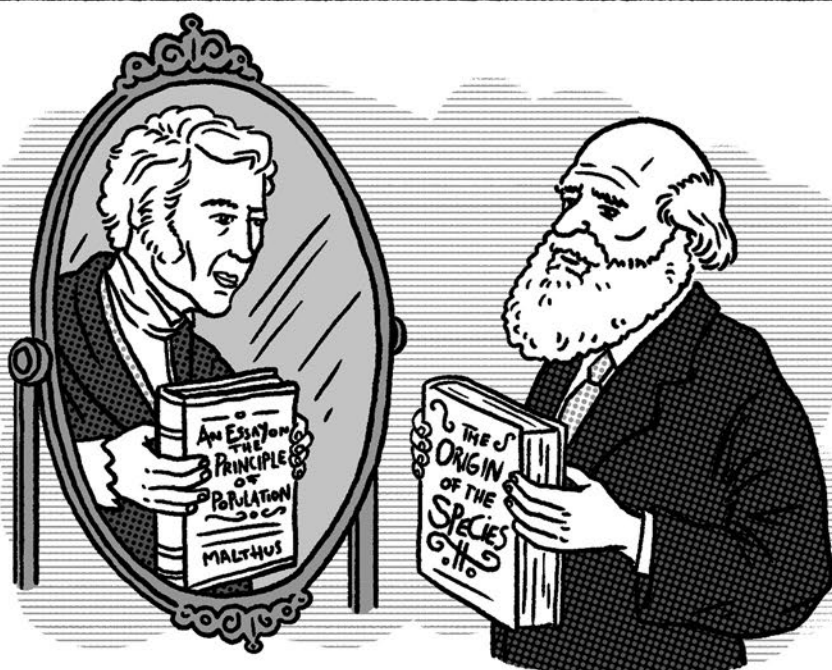
"IT HAS APPEARED THAT FROM THE INEVITABLE LAWS OF OUR NATURE, SOME HUMAN BEINGS MUST SUFFER FROM WANT. THESE ARE THE UNHAPPY PERSONS WHO, IN THE GREAT LOTTERY OF LIFE, HAVE DRAWN A BLANK."

"EVIL EXISTS IN THE WORLD NOT TO CREATE DESPAIR BUT ACTIVITY."

AN ESSAY ON THE PRINCIPLE OF POPULATION, AS IT AFFECTS THE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIETY WITH REMARKS ON THE SPECULATIONS OF MR. GODWIN, M. CONDORCET, AND OTHER WRITERS.



MALTHUS EXPLAINED INEQUALITY AWAY AS A NATURAL PHENOMENON, AND PURPORTED TO PROVE WITH MATHEMATICAL LOGIC THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO REDUCE IT WILL BACKFIRE - GROWTH WILL SLOW DOWN, LESS FOOD WILL BE PRODUCED, AND MORE PEOPLE WILL DIE AS A RESULT.



(DID YOU KNOW DARWIN WAS INSPIRED BY MALTHUS?)



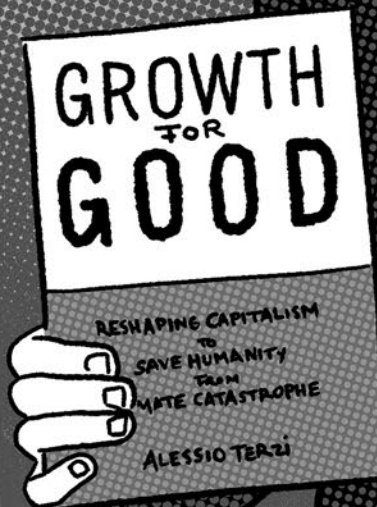
GIORGOS KALLIS

"HIS POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS SOUND LIKE A LOT OF WHAT WE HEAR FROM LIBERAL ECONOMISTS EVER SINCE. AND MALTHUS' VERY MODEL OF SCARCITY, WHERE WANTS ARE UNLIMITED AND MEANS ARE LIMITED IS THE CORNERSTONE OF ECONOMICS."

"ECONOMISTS SUBSTITUTED CONSUMPTION AND THEN UTILITY, FOR POPULATION. BUT THE MODEL IS THE SAME AS IN MALTHUS. IF WHAT WE WANT HAS NO LIMIT, THEN WHAT HAVE IS BY DEFINITION LIMITED. ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS KEEP GROWING WHAT WE HAVE TO SATISFY EVERMORE OF WHAT WE WANT."

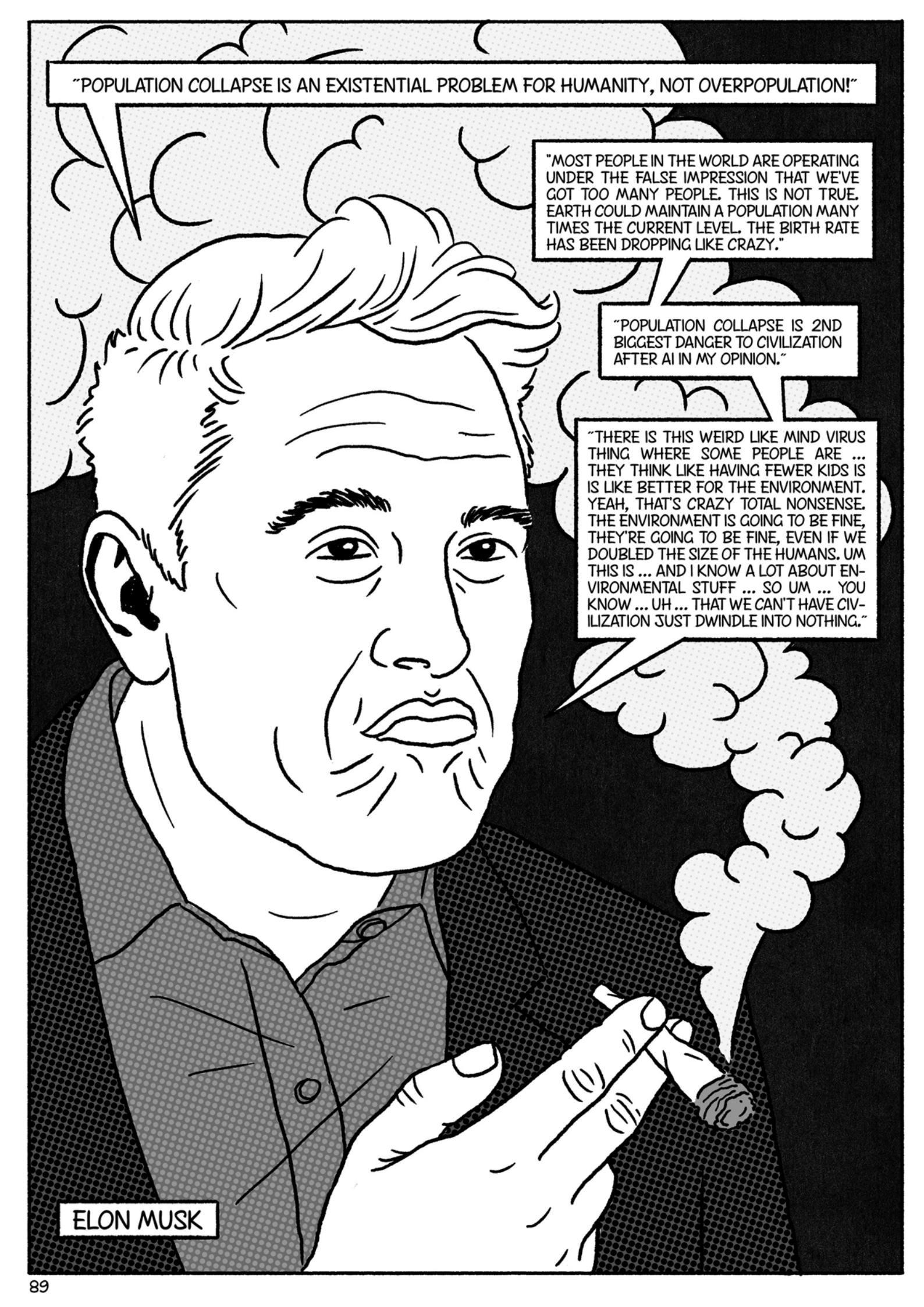
"MALTHUS' INFLUENCE ON SUBSEQUENT ECONOMISTS AND ECONOMICS IS MUCH STRONGER THAN WE OFTEN REALISE. HE TURNED THE CHRISTIAN MANTRA TO GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY INTO AN ECONOMIC PRINCIPLE. POPULATION GROWTH IN HIS MODEL WAS THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD FOR HUMANITY, ITS GOD-GIVEN MISSION."

"BETWEEN BASIC ARITHMETIC AND FORESEEABLE UNPOPULARITY, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT VERY FEW MAINSTREAM PARTIES WORLD-WIDE HAVE SO FAR EMBRACED A FULL-BLOWN DEGROWTH AGENDA. 'MAKE AMERICA SMALL AGAIN' JUST DOESN'T WORK AS A CAMPAIGN SLOGAN - AND NOR DOES SHRINKING HOLD APPEAL IN OTHER NATIONS"



ALESSIO TERZI

ECONOMIST AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS



"POPULATION COLLAPSE IS AN EXISTENTIAL PROBLEM FOR HUMANITY, NOT OVERPOPULATION!"

"MOST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE OPERATING UNDER THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT WE'VE GOT TOO MANY PEOPLE. THIS IS NOT TRUE. EARTH COULD MAINTAIN A POPULATION MANY TIMES THE CURRENT LEVEL. THE BIRTH RATE HAS BEEN DROPPING LIKE CRAZY."

"POPULATION COLLAPSE IS 2ND BIGGEST DANGER TO CIVILIZATION AFTER AI IN MY OPINION."

"THERE IS THIS WEIRD LIKE MIND VIRUS THING WHERE SOME PEOPLE ARE ... THEY THINK LIKE HAVING FEWER KIDS IS LIKE BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. YEAH, THAT'S CRAZY TOTAL NONSENSE. THE ENVIRONMENT IS GOING TO BE FINE, THEY'RE GOING TO BE FINE, EVEN IF WE DOUBLED THE SIZE OF THE HUMANS. UM THIS IS ... AND I KNOW A LOT ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL STUFF ... SO UM ... YOU KNOW ... UH ... THAT WE CAN'T HAVE CIVILIZATION JUST DWINDLE INTO NOTHING."

ELON MUSK

MEET THE 'ELITE' COUPLE BREEDING TO SAVE MANKIND

"WE ARE THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD OF 'GATTACA' BABIES AND PEOPLE WHO WANT TO DO GENETIC STUFF WITH THEIR KIDS"

OUR NEW BOOK IS CALLED 'THE PRAGMATIST'S GUIDE TO CRAFTING RELIGION: A PLAYBOOK FOR SCULPTING CULTURES THAT OVERCOME DEMOGRAPHIC COLLAPSE & FACILITATE LONG-TERM HUMAN FLOURISHING.' AND WHEREAS OUR OTHER BOOKS ARM READERS WITH EVIDENCE AND URGE THEM TO DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS, THIS GUIDE TAKES A STRONG STANCE: "OUR SPECIES IS DYING AND THE DOMINANT CULTURE HAS NO REAL SOLUTION, SO HERE IS OURS."

"WHAT WE ADVOCATE FOR IS FAIRLY VANILLA – IF AGGRESSIVE – TRANSHUMANISM: IMPROVING AND TRANSFORMING THE HUMAN CONDITION WITH TECHNOLOGY. BE AGAINST TRANSHUMANISM ALL YOU WANT, BUT DON'T CALL IT EUGENICS."

SIMONE & MALCOLM COLLINS

ENTREPRENEURS, AUTHORS OF A SERIES OF 'PRAGMATIST'S GUIDES' AND FOUNDERS OF PRONATALIST.ORG. SIMONE COLLINS WAS ALSO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AT DIALOG, A SECRET SOCIETY CO-FOUNDED BY PETER THIEL. REGARDING THEIR COMMENTS ON THEIR TRANSHUMANISM NOT BEING EUGENICS ONE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE PERSON WHO COINED THE TERM 'TRANSHUMANISM' WAS JULIAN HUXLEY, THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH EUGENICS SOCIETY (NEW BOTTLES FOR NEW WINE, 1957), WHO ALSO WROTE SOME HORRIBLE STUFF ABOUT 'WEAKLINGS, FOOLS AND MORAL DEFICIENTS' INTO THE FOUNDING PAPER OF UNESCO.

AFTER WORLD WAR II NAZI GERMANY'S 'SCIENTIFIC RACISM' HAD GIVEN EUGENICS A BAD NAME AND DARWIN METAMORPHOSED FROM A NOTABLE BIOLOGIST WHO POSITED AN IMPORTANT BUT SOMEWHAT OUT OF DATE THEORY TO, IN THE WORDS OF JOHN GREENE, "A PURE SCIENTIST UNCONTAMINATED BY ... 'SOCIAL DARWINISM' AND COMPLETELY EMANCIPATED FROM BOTH NATURAL AND REVEALED THEOLOGY – AN ATHEIST OR AT BEST AN AGNOSTIC."

JULIAN HUXLEY (WHO'S 'SOCIAL AGENDA OF EUGENICS' ALREADY IN THE 1930S URGED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TO BE MADE CONDITIONAL ON BENEFIT-RECIPIENTS HAVING NO MORE CHILDREN AND FOR ALLOWANCES TO ENCOURAGE PROFESSIONAL MIDDLE CLASSES TO HAVE CHILDREN OF GOOD EUGENIC QUALITY) SOUGHT TO EXPLOIT THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THIS 'DARWIN-FEVER' TO ESTABLISH THE CLAIM THAT THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WAS WELL UNDERSTOOD AND THAT IT COULD BE MANAGED, INDEED MUST BE MANAGED, IF WESTERN INDUSTRIAL CULTURE, THE MOST PROGRESSED YET MOST VULNERABLE PRODUCT OF THE PROCESS, WAS TO BE KEPT FROM REGRESSION AND COLLAPSE.

HUXLEY'S POST-SECOND WORLD WAR CONCEPT OF 'EVOLUTIONARY HUMANISM' REPRESENTED A CONTINUITY OF EUGENIC COMMITMENT FROM THE FOUNDING YEARS OF THE EUGENICS MOVEMENT. FROM NOW ON THEY JUST DISCRIMINATED ON THE GROUNDS OF INTELLIGENCE, NOT RACE.

"THE BILLIONAIRE TWITTER OWNER IS PERHAPS THE HIGHEST PROFILE FIGURE ASSOCIATED WITH A RESURGENCE OF PRONATALISM, A NEW GENERATION OF 'PRO-BIRTH' ACTIVISTS AND ANXIOUS GOVERNMENTS SPOOKED BY DECLINING BIRTH RATES. PRONATALISTS FEAR THE WORLD IS ON THE VERGE OF 'DEMOGRAPHIC COLLAPSE' AND THAT IF SOMETHING DRAMATIC ISN'T DONE, THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE DIRE. AMONG THEM, A RAPIDLY AGING WORLD WITH FEWER WORKING-AGE BODIES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND GROWING POPULATIONS OF PENSIONERS; INNOVATION WILL SUFFER, ECONOMIES AND LIVING STANDARDS WILL STAGNATE OR COLLAPSE. CIVILIZATION, MUSK HAS WARNED, 'WILL CRUMBLE'."

"ACCORDING TO THE COLLINSES, 'HUMANITY HAS A VERY REAL CHANCE OF EXPERIENCING AN EXTINCTION EVENT.' LIFE-EXTENSION THERAPIES LIKELY WON'T SAVE US, THE COUPLE SAYS, DESPITE THE VAST SUMS POURED INTO 'REJUVENATION' TUNE-UPS AND YOUNG BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS BY SILICON VALLEY TYPES. WHAT COULD SAVE US, THEY SAY, ARE ARTIFICIAL WOMBS THAT WOULD MAKE CHILDBEARING TRULY EGALITARIAN, OR A REPRODUCTIVE PROCESS, CURRENTLY BEING TESTED IN MICE, THAT COULD PERMIT THE CREATION OF HUMAN EMBRYOS USING SKIN, MUSCLE, LIVER OR BLOOD CELLS THAT HAVE BEEN COAXED INTO BEHAVING LIKE EGG AND SPERM CELLS. EMBRYO SCREENING AND SELECTION ALSO FIGURE INTO THEIR PLANS."

"OTHERS ALSO SEE THE FERTILITY RATE HAND-WRINGING AND PRONATALISM RESURGENCE AS PART OF A MORE TROUBLING TREND IN RIGHT-WING POPULISM, ONE THAT EXALTS MASCULINITY WHILE OPPRESSING WOMEN, AND THAT ISN'T SO MUCH ABOUT HAVING MORE KIDS AS IT IS THE 'RIGHT' KIDS."



SHARON KIRKEY

JOURNALIST WHO HAS BEEN REPORTING ON HEALTH AND MEDICAL ISSUES FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.

"WE DO NOT NEED NUMBERS. WE NEED HUNGARIAN CHILDREN. MIGRATION FOR US IS SURRENDER."



VIKTOR ORBAN

POPULIST AND ANTI-IMMIGRATION PRIME MINISTER OF HUNGARY, 2019. IN HUNGARY, WOMEN WITH FOUR OR MORE CHILDREN ARE EXEMPT FROM PAYING INCOME TAX, FOR LIFE.

"OUR HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT ONLY TO GET OUT OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRAP BUT ALSO TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE NATURAL POPULATION GROWTH BY THE MIDDLE OF THE COMING DECADE."



VLADIMIR PUTIN

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA AND GENOCIDAL MURDERER RESPONSIBLE FOR VARIOUS HORRIFIC WAR CRIMES AND VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, CURRENTLY IN UKRAINE. RUSSIA RECENTLY REVIVED ITS "MOTHER HEROINE" AWARD, WHICH DELIVERS A PAYMENT OF ONE MILLION RUBLES (ABOUT \$21,600) TO WOMEN WHO BIRTH AND RAISE 10 RUSSIAN BABIES (THE LUMP SUM IS PAID ON THE 10TH BABY'S FIRST BIRTHDAY).



"DON'T THINK I HAVE EVER SHARED SO MUCH PUBLICLY ABOUT OUR IVF (IN VITRO FERTILISATION) EXPERIENCES! HOPE THE CONVERSATION MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO THE IVF-CURIOUS. THOUGH MAN, EVERY CONVERSATION WITH STEVE IS FASCINATING. LOVE HIS PODCAST."

AND I'M "THRILLED THAT CAREY GOLDBERG IS COVERING THE AMAZING WORK BEING DONE BY COMPANIES LIKE GENOM PREDICTION AND STEPHEN HSU ON BLOOMBERG-AND ELATED TO HAVE ACCESS TO THIS TECH."

STEVE HSU

"IN 2013, NICK BOSTROM, AN OXFORD UNIVERSITY PHILOSOPHER AND HEAD OF THE MUSK-FUNDED FUTURE OF HUMANITY INSTITUTE CO-AUTHORED A PAPER ('EMBRYO SELECTION FOR COGNITIVE ENHANCEMENT') WITH FHI RESEARCH ASSOCIATE CARL SHULMAN ESSENTIALLY RECOMMENDING EUGENICS TO INCREASE INTELLIGENCE ACROSS SOCIETY."

"AMONG BOSTROM'S CITED SOURCES IN HIS 2013 PAPER IS THEORETICAL PHYSICIST STEPHEN HSU, WHO RESIGNED FROM HIS DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH POST AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU) AFTER HE WAS ACCUSED OF BEING 'A VOCAL SCIENTIFIC RACIST AND EUGENICIST'. HSU ALSO HAS A LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP AND CONNECTION WITH THE FAR-RIGHT FIGURE, ANTISEMITE AND HOLOCAUST DENIER RONALD UNZ AND APPROVINGLY QUOTED LATE BRITISH EUGENICIST RONALD FISHER, WHO IS WELL-KNOWN FOR HAVING SUPPORTED VOLUNTARY STERILISATION FOR THE 'FEEBLE-MINDED'."



NAFEEZ AHMED

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST, AUTHOR AND ACADEMIC

"MACASKILL'S COLLEAGUE, NICK BOSTROM, LITERALLY IDENTIFIES 'DYSGENIC PRESSURES' (TOO MANY NOT-SMART PEOPLE BREEDING) AS AN *EXISTENTIAL RISK* ALONGSIDE NUCLEAR CONFLICT AND ASTEROID STRIKES. LONGTERMISM IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE IDEOLOGY OF EUGENICS."

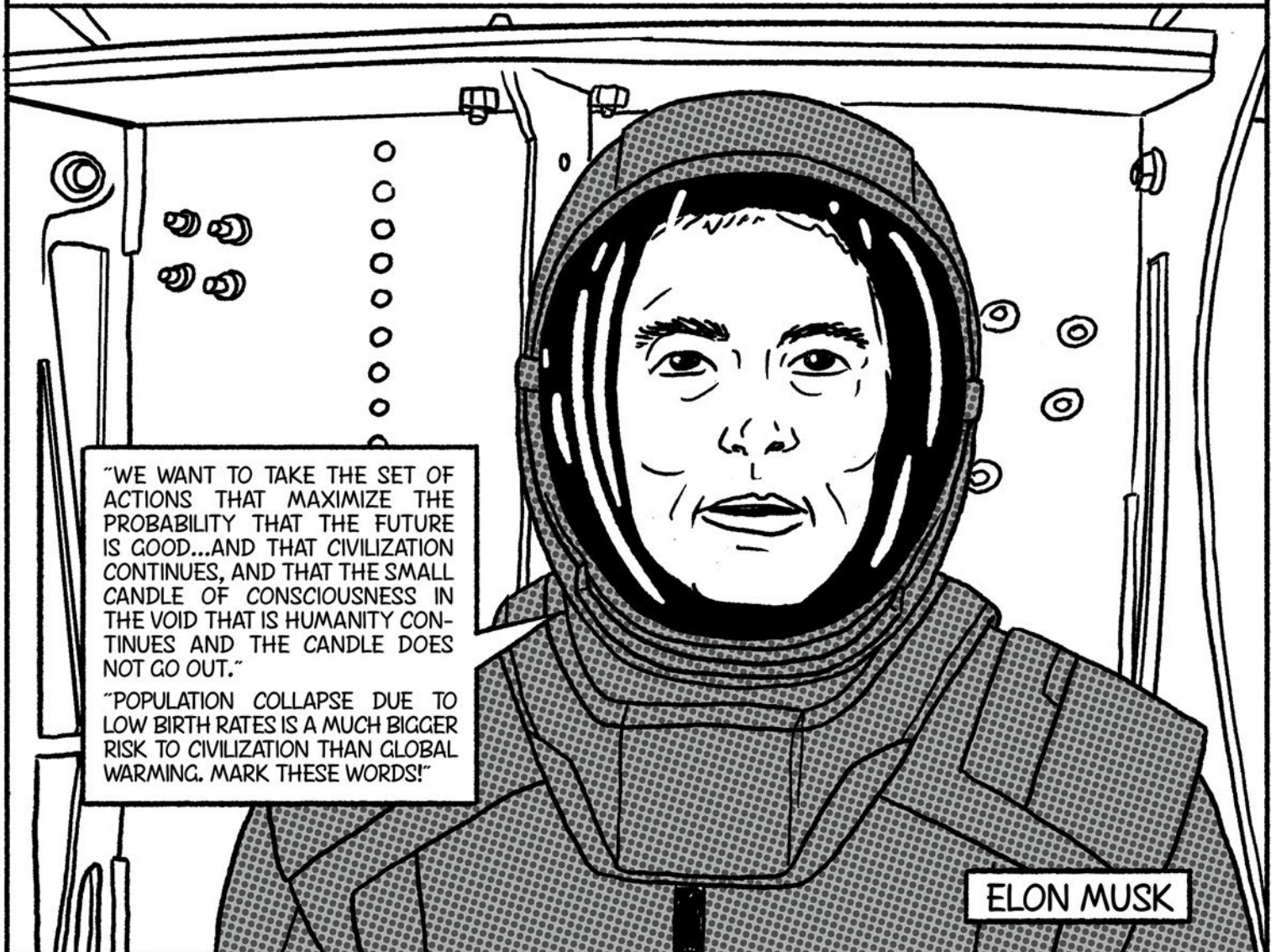
"BOSTROM ALSO BELIEVES THAT A TECHNO-UTOPIAN WORLD OF IMMORTALITY 'SURPASSING BLISS AND DELIGHT' (QUOTING BOSTROM) AWAITS US. THESE PEOPLE OFTEN USE THE LANGUAGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE TO DESCRIBE WHAT THEY'RE DOING: IT'S ABOUT 'BENEFITTING HUMANITY,' THEY SAY..."



ÉMILE P. TORRES



ÉMILE P. TORRES IS A PHILOSOPHER WHOSE RESEARCH FOCUSES ON EXISTENTIAL THREATS TO CIVILIZATION AND HUMANITY.



"WE WANT TO TAKE THE SET OF ACTIONS THAT MAXIMIZE THE PROBABILITY THAT THE FUTURE IS GOOD...AND THAT CIVILIZATION CONTINUES, AND THAT THE SMALL CANDLE OF CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE VOID THAT IS HUMANITY CONTINUES AND THE CANDLE DOES NOT GO OUT."

"POPULATION COLLAPSE DUE TO LOW BIRTH RATES IS A MUCH BIGGER RISK TO CIVILIZATION THAN GLOBAL WARMING. MARK THESE WORDS!"

ELON MUSK

MUSK IS AN ADMIRER OF BOSTROM, WHO COINED THE TERM 'EXISTENTIAL RISK' IN 2002 AND IS 'THE FATHER OF THE LONGTERMISM CULT'. HE ALSO DONATED \$10 MILLION IN 2015 TO THE FUTURE OF LIFE INSTITUTE, WHICH BOSTROM FOUNDED.

"TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS TEXT HERE WRITTEN BY NON OTHER THAN NICK BOSTROM IN 1996:"

BLACKS ARE MORE STUPID THAN WHITES.

I LIKE THAT SENTENCE AND THINK IT IS TRUE. BUT RECENTLY I HAVE BEGUN TO BELIEVE THAT I WON'T HAVE MUCH SUCCESS WITH MOST PEOPLE IF I SPEAK LIKE THAT. THEY WOULD THINK THAT I WERE [SIC] A 'RACIST': THAT I DISLIKED BLACK PEOPLE AND THOUGHT THAT IT IS FAIR IF BLACKS ARE TREATED BADLY. I DON'T. IT'S JUST THAT BASED ON WHAT I HAVE READ, I THINK IT IS PROBABLE THAT BLACK PEOPLE HAVE A LOWER AVERAGE IQ THAN MANKIND IN GENERAL, AND I THINK THAT IQ IS HIGHLY CORRELATED WITH WHAT WE NORMALLY MEAN BY 'SMART' AND 'STUPID' [SIC]. I MAY BE WRONG ABOUT THE FACTS, BUT THAT IS WHAT THE SENTENCE MEANS FOR ME. FOR MOST PEOPLE, HOWEVER, THE SENTENCE SEEMS TO BE SYNONYMOUS WITH: I HATE THOSE BLOODY [THE N-WORD, INCLUDED IN BOSTROM'S ORIGINAL EMAIL, HAS BEEN REDACTED]!!!! MY POINT IS THAT WHILE SPEAKING WITH THE PROVOCATIVENESS [SIC] OF UNABASHED OBJECTIVITY WOULD BE APPRECIATED BY ME AND MANY OTHER PERSONS ON THIS LIST, IT MAY BE A LESS EFFECTIVE STRATEGY IN COMMUNICATING WITH SOME OF THE PEOPLE 'OUT THERE'.

NICK BOSTROM'S 2023 'APOLOGY' FOR THIS EMAIL DID NOT ADDRESS THE INITIAL STATEMENT OF HIS FALSE AND RACIST BELIEF.

TIMNIT GEBRU

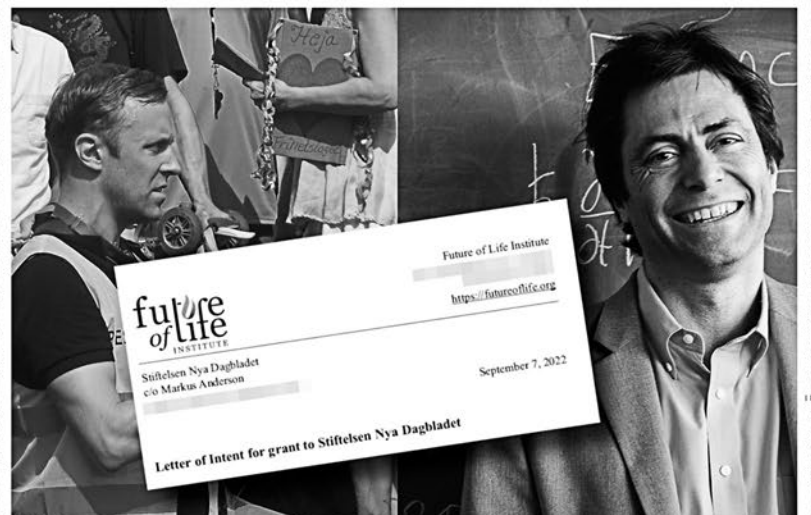
TIMNIT GEBRU IS THE FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DISTRIBUTED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (DAIR). PRIOR TO THAT SHE WAS FIRED BY GOOGLE IN DECEMBER 2020 FOR RAISING ISSUES OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE, WHERE SHE WAS SERVING AS CO-LEAD OF THE ETHICAL AI RESEARCH TEAM.

AND THIS A HEADLINE FROM JANUARY 2023. "LONGTERMISM IS EUGENICS UNDER A DIFFERENT NAME."

Elon Musk-funded nonprofit run by MIT professor offered to finance Swedish pro-nazi group

Publicerad 2023-01-13 09:46

Anders Dalsbro Jonathan Leman



The far-right media profile Markus Andersson's foundation was granted 100,000 dollars by the organization that Max Tegmark leads. A decision that was later revoked.

"A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF THE FUTURE IS NEEDED. I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE CURIOSITY ABOUT THE UNIVERSE - EXPAND HUMANITY TO BECOME A MULTIPLANET, THEN INTERSTELLAR, SPECIES TO SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE. THIS IS COMPATIBLE WITH EXISTING RELIGIONS - SURELY GOD WOULD WANT US TO SEE CREATION?"



"TO HEIR IS HUMAN,
TO PROCREATE DIVINE."

ELON MUSK

"DOING MY BEST TO HELP THE UNDERPOPULATION CRISIS. A COLLAPSING BIRTH RATE IS THE BIGGEST DANGER CIVILIZATION FACES BY FAR. MARK MY WORDS, THEY ARE SADLY TRUE."



THIS IS "GENOCIDE BY INACTION"! PROGRESSIVES SHOULD CARE ABOUT BIRTH RATES - UNLESS THEY WANT TO GO EXTINCT!

"BIRTH RATE IS FALLING BELOW SUSTAINABLE LEVELS FOR DISTINCT GROUPS (TYPICALLY ONCE THEY 'MODERNIZE'), MEANING THEIR UNIQUE CULTURES AND WORLD-VIEWS ARE AT RISK OF GOING EXTINCT. WE AREN'T ARGUING FOR ENDLESSLY GROWING POPULATIONS; WE'RE FIGHTING FOR A PLURALISTIC FUTURE."

"CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT CULTURES AND RELIGIONS EMERGE ONCE FAMILIES CAN LITERALLY CREATE AI-ENABLED ANCESTRAL GODS EMBODYING THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF DECEASED ANCESTORS-GODS THAT WILL BE ABLE TO ACT AS AGENTS IN THE REAL WORLD (E.G., CONTROLLING FAMILY FINANCES)."

SIMONE & MALCOM COLLINS

"THE COLLINSES ARGUE THAT CULTURES THAT DON'T HAVE STRONG RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS AND THAT TREAT WOMEN AS EQUALS ARE BEING SYSTEMATICALLY DELETED."

"ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL FRONT, MALCOLM BELIEVES CURRENT BIRTH RATES ARE SELECTING AGAINST A PREDILECTION FOR CARING ABOUT THE PLANET."

"THEY ALSO POSITION THE BREEDING OF LARGE FAMILIES AS A WAY TO ACHIEVE A KIND OF IMMORTALITY. IF HAVING KIDS IS NO LONGER ABOUT HAVING AN EXTRA FARMHAND, PEOPLE NEED SOME OTHER 'EXOGENOUS' MOTIVATOR TO BREED ABOVE THE REPLACEMENT RATE, THE COUPLE SAID."

"FOR CULTURES THAT SEEM ABLE TO MAINTAIN A STABLE BIRTH RATE, THAT MOTIVATION IS USUALLY A RELIGIOUS ONE. 'AND THE PROMISE OF MOST RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IS A FORM OF IMMORTALITY,'" MALCOM SAID."



SHARON KIRKEY



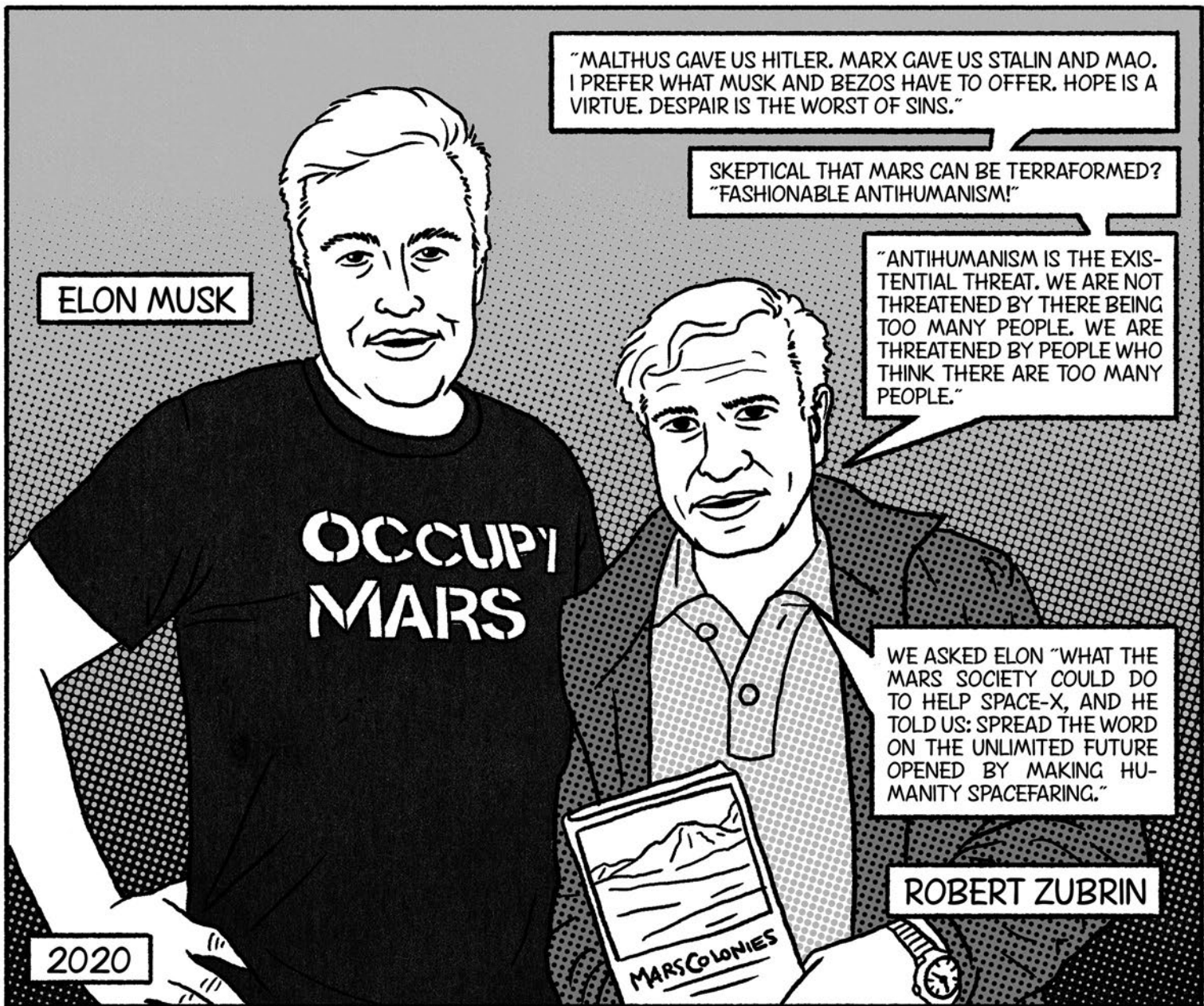
JULIAN HUXLEY

"WE SHALL START FROM NEW PREMISES. ... THE HUMAN SPECIES CAN, IF IT WISHES, TRANSCEND ITSELF - NOT JUST SPORADICALLY, AN INDIVIDUAL HERE IN ONE WAY, AN INDIVIDUAL THERE IN ANOTHER WAY, BUT IN ITS ENTIRETY, AS HUMANITY. WE NEED A NAME FOR THIS NEW BELIEF. PERHAPS TRANSHUMANISM WILL SERVE: MAN REMAINING MAN, BUT TRANSCENDING HIMSELF, BY REALIZING NEW POSSIBILITIES OF AND FOR HIS HUMAN NATURE."
TRANSHUMANISM, 1957

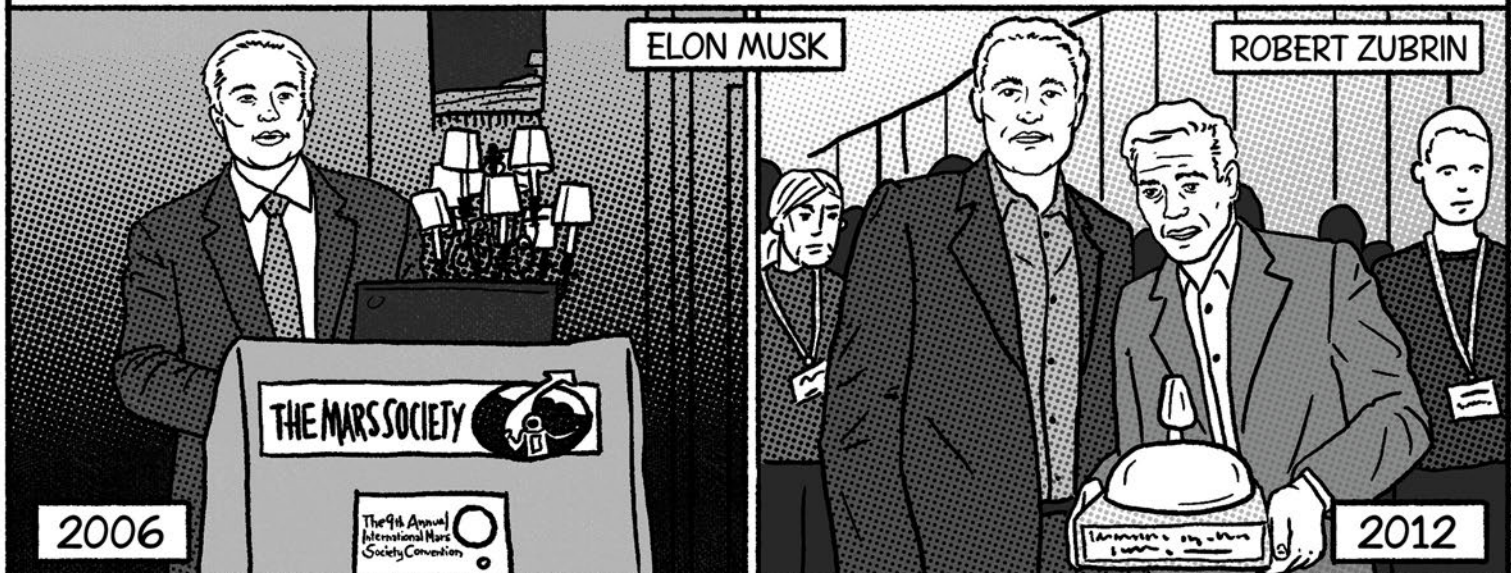
"THE SCIENTIFIC DOCTRINE OF PROGRESS IS DESTINED TO REPLACE NOT ONLY THE MYTH OF PROGRESS, BUT ALL OTHER MYTHS OF HUMAN EARTHLY DESTINY. IT WILL INEVITABLY BECOME ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF MAN'S THEOLOGY, OR WHATEVER MAY BE THE FUTURE SUBSTITUTE FOR THEOLOGY, AND THE MOST IMPORTANT EXTERNAL SUPPORT FOR HUMAN ETHICS."
NEW BOTTLES FOR NEW WINE, 1957

"AT THE MOMENT, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE INDIRECT EFFECT OF CIVILISATION IS DYSGENIC INSTEAD OF EUGENIC ; AND IN ANY CASE IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE DEAD WEIGHT OF GENETIC STUPIDITY, PHYSICAL WEAKNESS, MENTAL INSTABILITY, AND DISEASE-PRONENESS, WHICH ALREADY EXIST IN THE HUMAN SPECIES, WILL PROVE TOO GREAT A BURDEN FOR REAL PROGRESS TO BE ACHIEVED. THUS EVEN THOUGH IT IS QUITE TRUE THAT ANY RADICAL EUGENIC POLICY WILL BE FOR MANY YEARS POLITICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMPOSSIBLE, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR UNESCO TO SEE THAT THE EUGENIC PROBLEM IS EXAMINED WITH THE GREATEST CARE, AND THAT THE PUBLIC MIND IS INFORMED OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE SO THAT MUCH THAT NOW IS UNTHINKABLE MAY AT LEAST BECOME THINKABLE."
UNESCO: ITS PURPOSE AND ITS PHILOSOPHY, 1946

"IT IS WORTH PROBING THE DEVELOPMENT OF JULIAN HUXLEY'S (THE FATHER OF TRANSHUMANISM) VIEWS ON SCIENCE AND RELIGION, AND HOW HE SOUGHT TO UNDERPIN HIS SOCIAL AGENDA THROUGH RELIGIOUS UNDERPINNINGS. HIS VIEWS ON A SCIENTIFICALLY BASED RELIGION WERE VOICED AS EARLY AS 1916. IN HIS ESSAYS OF A BIOLOGIST, PUBLISHED IN 1923, HUXLEY WAS DEVELOPING A BIOLOGICALLY BASED THEORY OF SOCIAL AND MORAL PROGRESS. INDEED, THE PROGRESSIVE PRINCIPLE WAS COSMIC IN NATURE ... IN 1940 HUXLEY VIEWED COMMUNISM AND NAZISM AS 'SOCIAL MOVEMENTS OF A RELIGIOUS NATURE', WHICH WERE DESTRUCTIVE OF LIFE. IN 1941 HUXLEY PUBLISHED A TRACT RELIGION WITHOUT REVELATION, A WORK REPRINTED IN 1945. THIS MANIFESTO FOR 'A SOCIALLY FOUNDED HUMANIST RELIGION' APPEARED IN A SECULARIST SERIES, THE THINKER'S LIBRARY, THE FIRST VOLUMES IN THE SERIES BEING WORKS BY DARWIN, HAECKEL AND HERBERT SPENCER." - PROFESSOR PAUL WEINDLING



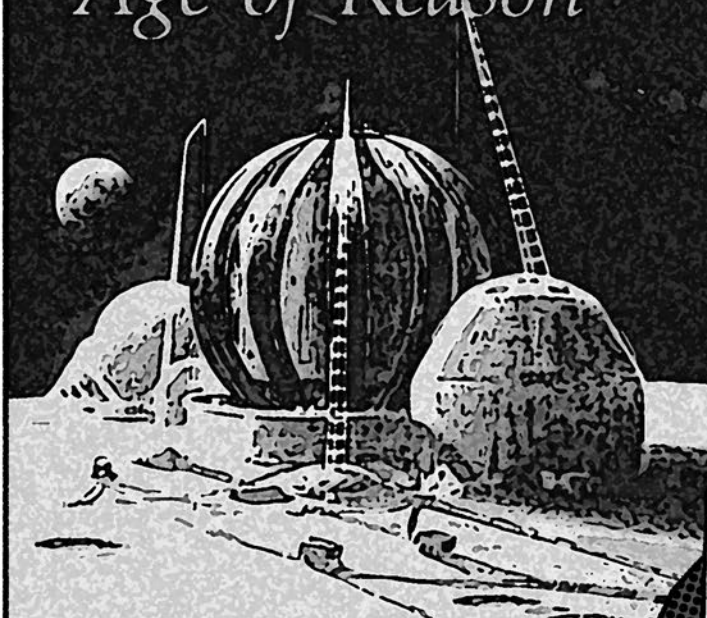
IN 2016 THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE REPRINTED ROBERT ZUBRIN'S BOOK 'MERCHANTS OF DESPAIR' ABOUT "THE HISTORY OF THE DEEPLY ANTI-HUMAN IDEOLOGY THAT UNDERPINS TODAY'S ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT." THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE (PART OF THE ATLAS NETWORK) IS A FREE MARKET THINK TANK THAT HAS BEEN AGGRESSIVELY PROMOTING CLIMATE DENIAL SINCE 1984. TODAY NON-VIOLENT CLIMATE ACTIVISTS ARE BEING FRAMED AS TERRORISTS IN THE MEDIA BUT A HEADLINE IN 2012 ALREADY READ: "HEARTLAND INSTITUTE COMPARES BELIEF IN GLOBAL WARMING TO MASS MURDER - US THINKTANK LAUNCHES POSTER CAMPAIGN COMPARING UNABOMBER AND OSAMA BIN LADEN TO THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING."



ROBERT ZUBRIN FOUNDED THE MARS SOCIETY IN 1998. ELON MUSK FOR THE FIRST TIME DONATED MONEY TO MSC IN 2001. HERE HE IS IN 2006 GIVING A SPEECH AT THE MARS SOCIETY AND IN 2012 RECEIVING THE MSC MARS PIONEER AWARD.

COLONIZE SPACE!

*Open the
Age of Reason*



**There Are
No
Limits to
Growth**



Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.



"THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO GROWTH!"
"COLONIZE SPACE! OPEN THE AGE OF REASON!"



LYNDON LAROUCHE

BACK COVER NO LIMITS TO GROWTH 1983:

"IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO LET MILLIONS OF BABIES DIE OR TO MURDER YOUR OWN AUNT IN ORDER TO SAVE THE TREES! LYNDON LAROUCHE REFUTES THE CLUB OF ROME'S LIMIT TO GROWTH HOAX AND SHOWS THAT HUMAN CREATIVITY EXPRESSED AS CONTINUOUS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS IS THE SINGLE PREREQUISITE TO BOTH SECURE THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY AND TO SPREAD THE PRINCIPLE OF LIFE THROUGH MORE AND MORE OF THE UNIVERSE."

IN 1985, WHEN ELON MUSK WAS STILL A TEENAGER, LYNDON LAROUCHE ANNOUNCED HIS OWN 40-YEAR PLAN FOR PLANTING A COLONY ON MARS, BUT WHAT HE IS REALLY FAMOUS FOR IS BEING THE ARCHITECT OF THE MAYBE LARGEST DOMESTIC FASCIST POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN U.S. HISTORY. HE STARTED HIS POLITICAL CAREER INSIDE THE MARXIST SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY WHILE ALSO WORKING AS A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT AND THEN BUILT A CULT-LIKE FOLLOWING MAKING LURID ACCUSATIONS ABOUT OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS. HIS LAROUCHE NETWORK GROUPS HAVE ATTACKED ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZING FOR DECADES AND EVEN THE ANTISEMITIC CONSPIRACY MYTH OF 'CULTURAL MARXISM' HAS ROOTS IN THE LAROUCHE MOVEMENT. HIS POLITICAL SHIFT FROM FAR-LEFT TO FAR-RIGHT WAS UNDENIABLE AFTER 'OPERATION MOP-UP' IN 1973, DURING WHICH LAROUCHIES PHYSICALLY ATTACKED MEMBERS OF LEFTIST GROUPS THAT LAROUCHE CLASSIFIED AS 'LEFT-PROTOFASCISTS'. NEVERTHELESS ROBERT ZUBRIN WROTE AN ARTICLE FOR LAROUCHE'S 'EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE REVIEW' (EIR) IN 1981.

SPACE COMMUNE

PRO-GROWTH • ANTI-MALTHUSIAN • MULTIPOLAR WORLD



"DEGROWTH IS NAZI POLICY!"

"LAROUCHE WAS MORE COMMUNIST THAN 99% OF WESTERN LEFTISTS THAT CAME OUT OF THE CIA NEW LEFT CULTURAL PROGRAM WHICH STARTED IN THE 1950S AND STILL EXISTS IN FULL FORCE TODAY!"



"THIS IS LAROUCHE ON MARXISM:"

"IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE POSSIBLE A CAPITALIST SOLUTION, NOT BECAUSE I'M PRO-CAPITALIST BUT BECAUSE THAT IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN ENSURE THE HUMAN RACE'S SURVIVAL. THEREFORE I'M IN THE SAME POSITION AS MARX."

FOX GREEN

SPACECOMMUNE PODCAST HOST & FAKE MARXIST

DESTROYING DEGROWTH

WITH FACTS AND LOGIC

Feat. Matt Huber



"LOL THAT TITLE ... THIS WAS A FUN CONVERSATION."

MATT HUBER

PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY AND AUTHOR OF 'CLIMATE CHANGE AS CLASS WAR: BUILDING SOCIALISM ON A WARMING PLANET'

"MR SPACE FOX THE GREEN COMMUNIST IS PRETTY COOL."

LEIGH PHILLIPS

MATT HUBER AND LEIGH PHILLIPS (CHAPTER 2) OFTEN APPEAR TOGETHER ATTACKING DEGROWTH ONLINE, CLAIMING THAT DEGROWTH IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH SOCIALISM AND THE DEMANDS OF THE WESTERN (WHITE AND MALE) 'WORKING CLASS'. BOTH WRITE FOR UNHERD, A 'CONTRARIAN' MAGAZINE THAT PUBLISHES CLIMATE DENIAL FROM PEOPLE LIKE MICHAEL SHELLINGER AND HAS BEEN AGGRESSIVELY FUELING THE 'BRITISH WAR ON WOKE'. ONE EXAMPLE OF THIS IS UNHERD'S EDITOR, MARY HARRINGTON, CELEBRATING THE 'GENIUS' OF THE MANOSPHERE'S SELF-IDENTIFIED NAZI AND VICIOUS ANTI-SEMITIC 'BRONZE AGE PERVERT', WHO COMPLAINS THAT SOCIETY HAS BECOME "SOMETHING APPROACHING [A] MASS CONCENTRATION CAMP". SINCE 2022, HARRINGTON HAS ALSO EDITED THE NEW REACTIONARY MAGAZINE COMPACT, FOR WHICH LEIGH PHILLIPS NOW WRITES TOO. LEIGH NOT ONLY INTERACTS WITH THE SPACECOMMUNE BROS ON TWITTER BUT ALSO SOMETIMES WITH RAZIB KAHN. KAHN ONCE WROTE A LETTER TO VDARE, A WHITE-NATIONALIST WEBSITE, SUGGESTING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT BLACK PEOPLE ARE INNATELY LESS INTELLIGENT THAN WHITE PEOPLE.

MATT, ON THE OTHER HAND, IN 2022, EVEN ONE YEAR AFTER APPEARING ON THE LAROCHE AND MAGA COMMUNISM PROMOTING SPACECOMMUNE PODCAST, STILL HAD NO PROBLEM SHARING THEIR 'MARXISM & ENERGY' YOUTUBE MOVIE ON TWITTER. IN THE MOVIE, MATT APPEARS ALONGSIDE CALEB MAUPIN, WHOM YOU WILL GET TO KNOW ON THE NEXT PAGE.



CPI OPENING CEREMONY "UNITE AGAINST THE IMPERIALISTS" WITH SOVIET AND AMERICAN FLAGS WITH THE INTERNATIONALE AND THE STAR-SPANGLLED BANNER PLAYING IN THE BACKGROUND BEFORE THE UNVAILING OF THE DONETSK PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC FLAG. CHICAGO, SUMMER 2022 - "THE CENTER FOR POLITICAL INNOVATION IS AN EDUCATIONAL THINK TANK FOCUSED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN SOCIALISM"

"YOU CANNOT BELIEVE IN DEGROWTH AND BE A MARXIST."

"THE BASIS OF THE HIGHER STAGE OF COMMUNISM IS VAST ABUNDANCE. ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH MARXIST ECONOMICS KNOWS THIS."

CALEB MAUPIN



AMERICAN JOURNALIST FOR RUSSIAN STATE-OWNED MEDIA RT, FOUNDER OF THE POLITICAL THINKTANK CENTER FOR POLITICAL INNOVATION (CPI USA) AND PROLIFIC YOUTUBER. HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF AS A MARXIST-LENINIST.

IN 2018, CALEB MAUPIN WAS INVITED TO AN ANTI-GLOBALIZATION CONFERENCE WITH RUSSIAN NEO-EURASIANIST AND FORMER NATIONAL BOLSHEVIK ALEKSANDR DUGIN ALONG WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN NEW RIGHT, INCLUDING JULIEN ROCHEDY FROM GÉNÉRATION IDENTITAIRE AND THE RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL (FRANCE), FORMERLY FRONT NATIONAL, MARINE LE PEN'S ADVISOR, EMMANUEL LEROY, AND VÄVRA SUK FROM THE NATIONALDEMOKRATERNA (SWEDEN) ON THE PANEL. SHORTLY AFTER, HE STARTED CORRESPONDING PUBLICLY WITH NEO-FASCIST PUBLISHING HOUSE ARKTOS MEDIA, A NEO-FASCIST PUBLISHING HOUSE OWNED BY MILLIONAIRE SWEDISH MINING TYCOON DANIEL FRIBERG, WHO ESTABLISHED THE NEO-NAZI WIKI METAPEDIA AND RICHARD SPENCER'S ALTRIGHT CORPORATION. 2022 MAUPIN WAS ACCUSED BY FORMER MEMBERS OF CPI AS AN ABUSER WHO FINANCIALLY AND SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUNGER, INEXPERIENCED ORGANIZERS.

"AS I ONCE SAID ON MY PODCAST 'THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM IS TO CALL THINGS BY THEIR PROPER NAMES, SO... CALEB MAUPIN IS A REACTIONARY CONSERVATIVE ANTISEMITIC CONSPIRACY THEORIST WHO LARPS AS A COMMUNIST'. ASKED TODAY, I'D BE SIMPLER; I'D JUST CALL HIM A FASCIST. CALEB IS AN EXAMPLE OF A SMALL BUT GROWING ONLINE TREND OF COMMUNISTS (OR LEFTISTS GENERALLY) WHO OVERWHELMINGLY DEFINE AS 'ANTI-IMPERIALISTS' WHO, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, BY ONE ROUTE OR ANOTHER, SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME RUNNING INTERFERENCE FOR PUTIN AND RUSSIA. (THEY PRACTICED BY DOING THE SAME FOR ASSAD IN SYRIA, ASSAD BEING PUTIN'S CLIENT.)"

"THIS IS HARDLY SURPRISING IN CALEB'S CASE SINCE HE LITERALLY WORKS FOR RT (TECHNICALLY HE'S A JOURNALIST), THE RUSSIAN AUTOCRACY'S PROPAGANDA OUTLET. BUT THE AFFINITY IS ALSO ELECTIVE AND IDEOLOGICAL, BECAUSE CALEB'S GURU IS ALEXANDER DUGIN, THE FOUNDER OF 'NATIONAL BOLSHEVISM' (I.E. NAZISM WITH SOVIET AESTHETICS) WHO CAN BE SAID WITH SOME FAIRNESS TO BE THE PUTIN REGIME'S INTELLECTUAL EMINENCE GRISE (TO THE EXTENT THAT PUTIN HAS AN INTELLECT).

DUGIN'S 'THEORIES' ARE ECCENTRICALLY COUCHED BUT HAVE LITTLE CLAIM TO ORIGINALITY. HIS POLITICS AMOUNTS TO LITTLE MORE THAN OLD FASHIONED REACTION AND REVANCHISM, COMPLETE WITH ALL THE BIGOTRIES; HE REPEATS ALL THE STANDARD MAUNDERING WAFFLE ABOUT THE DECADENCE OF THE WEST, AND COMBINES IT WITH EXTREME, IMPERIALISTIC, RACIALISED RUSSIAN IRREDENTIST NATIONALISM. WHAT LENIN CALLED 'GREAT RUSSIAN CHAUVINISM'. THE COMPATIBILITY OF THIS WITH PUTIN'S AGENDA IS OBVIOUS."

"AS A RESULT, DUGIN CAN BE SEEN LURKING BEHIND THE POLITICS OF MANY OF THE SO-CALLED 'ANTI-IMPERIALIST LEFT'. THE SAME LOOSE AGGLOMERATION OF PEOPLE TEND TO ALSO PROMOTE CONSPIRACY THEORIES ABOUT COVID, VACCINES, YOU NAME IT.

THEY TEND TO BE SUSPICIOUSLY SYMPATHETIC TO TRUMP AND ANTI-WOKISM, THEIR OWN VERSION OF SAME BEING COUCHED AS CLASSIC CLASS REDUCTIONISM (IDENTITY POLITICS DIVIDES THE WORKING CLASS, ETC) THUS MAKING THEM CRYPTICALLY COMPATIBLE WITH TED CRUZ, TIM POOL, ETC. SOMETIMES CALLED 'STRASSERITES' (AFTER THE SUPPOSED LEFT-WING NAZI GREGOR STRASSER) OR 'RED-BROWNS'."

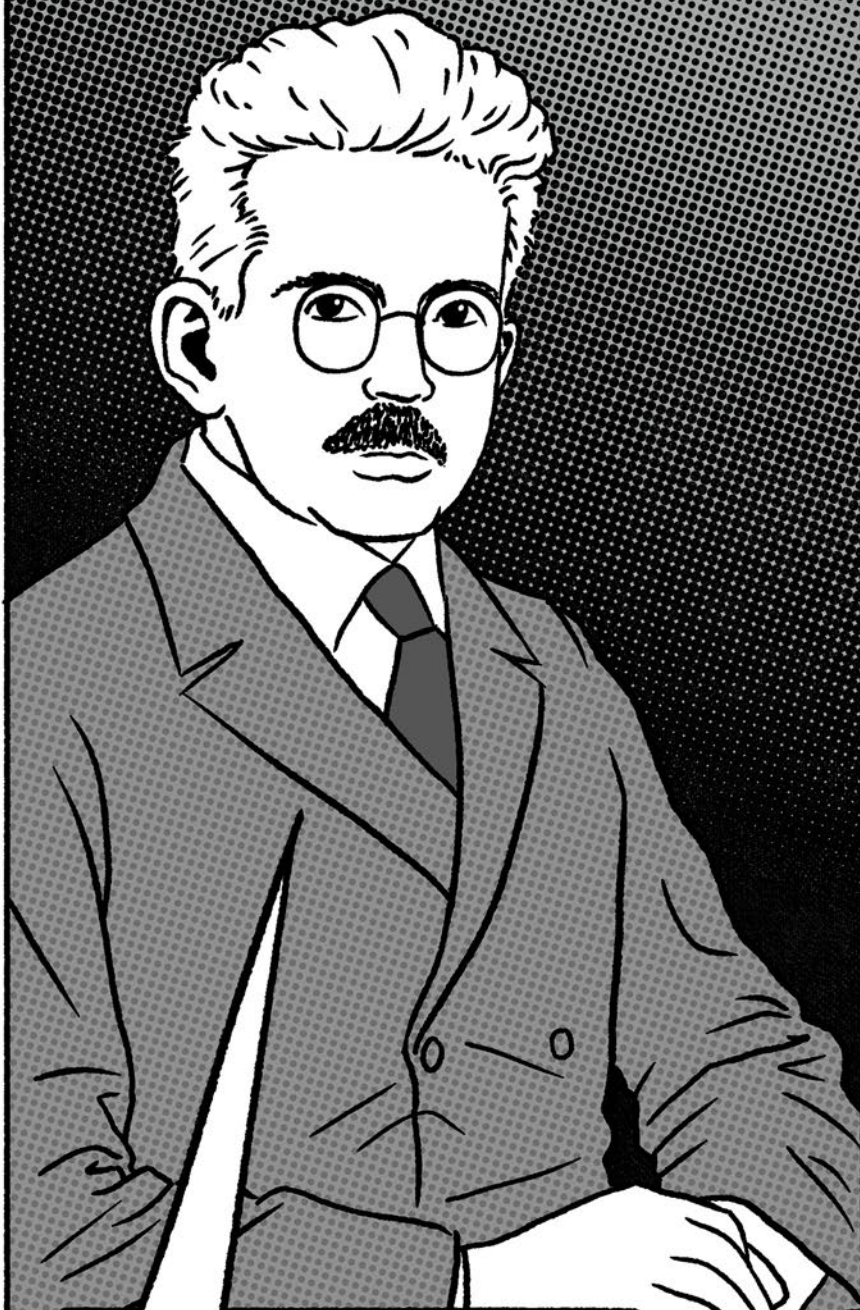
"A MORE ACCURATE WAY TO DESCRIBE THEM WOULD BE AS FASCISTS WITH COMMUNIST RHETORIC AND AESTHETICS. THERE IS NOT AS YET AN AGREED-UPON, OVERALL NAME FOR THESE PEOPLE, CERTAINLY NOT ONE THAT THEY AGREE UPON, THOUGH SOME OF THEM (INCLUDING PEOPLE STILL IN OR COMING OUT OF CALEB'S GROUP) HAVE MADE AN ATTEMPT AT DEFINING THEIR MILIEU WITH THE PHRASE #MAGACOMMUNISM. I DON'T KNOW IF CALEB WOULD USE THIS PHRASE, BUT IT SUITS HIM AS WELL AS ANYONE."

JACK GRAHAM

CO-HOST WITH DANIEL HARPER OF 'I DON'T SPEAK GERMAN'
"A PODCAST CONFRONTING WHITE NATIONALISM ONE ASSHOLE AT A TIME"

"WALTER BENJAMIN POINTED OUT THAT FASCISM IS THE COMPLETE AESTHETICIZATION OF POLITICS; LEON TROTSKY CALLED FASCISM A 'SCAVENGER IDEOLOGY'. FASCISM, WHEREVER IT ARISES, IS ALWAYS A FORM OF RADICAL NATIONALISM, SO IT HAS ALWAYS DECORATED ITSELF IN DIFFERENT FLAGS AND NATIONAL PARAPHERNALIA. IT HAS A SET OF INVARIABLE TRAITS WHICH ARE NOT REALLY ANYTHING TO DO WITH IDEOLOGY; DIFFERENT IDEOLOGIES ARE THE MEANS BY WHICH IT GIVES ITSELF FORM. IN THE FORM OF MAUPIN, FASCISM LOOKS LIKE AMERICAN 'COMMUNISM' AS CONCEIVED BY LYNDON LAROUCHE. CALEB'S POLITICS DERIVES DIRECTLY - VIA HIS EARLY POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH WORKERS WORLD - FROM LYNDON LAROUCHE."

WALTER BENJAMIN



"FASCISM SEES ITS SALVATION IN GIVING THE MASSES NOT THEIR RIGHTS, BUT INSTEAD A CHANCE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES. THE MASSES HAVE A RIGHT TO CHANGE PROPERTY RELATIONS; FASCISM SEEKS TO GIVE THEM AN EXPRESSION WHILE PRESERVING PROPERTY."



"LAROUCHE, WHO IS MAKING ONE OF THE MORE UNEXPECTED COMEBACKS IN POLITICS, WAS THE LEADER OF THE NATIONAL CAUCUS OF LABOR COMMITTEES (NCLC). A SPLIT OFF FROM THE STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY (SDS), THE NCLC COMBINED AN AESTHETIC OF SERIOUS SOBRIETY AND A LARGELY BOURGEOIS 'PROFESSIONAL' LEADERSHIP, WITH ULTRA-LEFT RHETORIC, CONSERVATIVE WORKERISM, TAILISM OF THE RIGHT OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT, AND STRIDENT ECONOMISM. RACIST STRIKES AGAINST EQUAL-RIGHTS LEGISLATION WERE CHAMPIONED, AND THE REST OF THE LEFT WAS CRITIQUED AS OBSESSED WITH RACE AND OTHER SUCH IDENTITY STRUGGLES AT THE EXPENSE OF SUPPORTING WORKERS' ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

LAROUCHE WENT BEYOND THE HEALTHY ANTI-STALINIST POLITICS OF TROTSKYISM INTO PARANOID ANTI-SOVIETISM THAT EFFECTIVELY BECAME A LEFT VERSION OF RIGHT-WING 'ANTI-COMMUNISM'. HIS 'OPERATION MOP-UP' SAW THE NCLC BECOME, ESSENTIALLY, A FASCIST PARAMILITARY GROUP WHICH ATTACKED GROUPS ACROSS THE LEFT.

ADAPTING PSYCHOANALYSIS AS HE ADAPTED TROTSKYISM, LAROUCHE CAME UP WITH TRAINING PLANS FOR CADRES THAT AMOUNT TO CULTISH BRAINWASHING TECHNIQUES. THROUGH COMPLEX INTERNAL IDEOLOGICAL RATIONALISATION LAROUCHE, WHILE ALWAYS CLAIMING SOCIALISM, BECAME AN ADVOCATE OF REBUILDING AMERICAN PRODUCTIVE CAPITAL, OPPOSING DE-INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FINANCIALISATION. WITH THE EMPHASIS ON THE EVILS OF FINANCE CAPITALISM CAME ANTISEMITISM.

THE OVERARCHING WORLDVIEW WHICH ENABLED HIM TO RECONCILE THE CONTRADICTIONS OF HIS VARIOUS STANCES, FROM SUPPOSED MARXIAN ECONOMICS TO A HOST OF REACTIONARY SOCIAL POSITIONS, WAS CONSPIRACISM. HE DEVELOPED A MESS OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES ABOUT EVERYTHING FROM AIDS TO THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY, WHICH AMOUNTED TO LITTLE MORE THAN THE STANDARD FARE OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY DRESSED UP IN INTELLECTUALISM AND SOCIALIST RHETORIC."

"THE POINT HERE IS NOT REALLY TO THRASH OUT THE QUESTION OF GROWTH OR DEGROWTH IN TERMS OF MARXISM, OR IN TERMS OF THE POLICIES OF A PUTATIVE FUTURE SOCIALIST MODE OF PRODUCTION, SINCE THESE QUESTIONS ARE MUCH DEBATED ON THE MARXIST LEFT. INDEED, THAT OBSERVATION ALL BY ITSELF IS ENOUGH TO PUFF AWAY THE CLOUD OF MAUPIN'S CLAIMS. HE DECLARES DEGROWTH TO BE ANATHEMA AND INIMICAL TO MARXISM, YET WE SEE SOPHISTICATED MARXIST THINKERS CONSIDERING THE IDEA, TRENCHANT MARXIST SCHOLARS DEBATING MARX'S OWN PERSPECTIVE ON SUCH ISSUES. MAUPIN, WHATEVER HIS OPINIONS ON DEGROWTH, DOES NOT GET TO DECLARE IT A VERBOTEN SUBJECT WITHIN THE ENTIRE REALM OF MARXIST THOUGHT WHEN IT CLEARLY, IN ACTUAL MATERIAL TERMS, IS NOT."

"THE KEY TAKEAWAY IS THAT, THE MERITS OF DEGROWTH THEORY ASIDE, MAUPIN IS SIMPLY NOT ENGAGED IN A GOOD FAITH OR SERIOUS CRITIQUE OF DEGROWTH: HE IS USING DEGROWTH AS A BOGEYMAN. HAVING READ AN ARTICLE FROM SOMEONE HE CONSIDERS IDEOLOGICALLY ACCEPTABLE WHICH SAYS DEGROWTH IS MALTHUSIAN, HE 'KNOWS' HE DOES NOT LIKE DEGROWTH. OR RATHER, HE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE LINGO OF AN IDEOLOGICALLY MARXIAN CRITIQUE OF SOMETHING HE ALREADY INSTINCTIVELY DIDN'T LIKE BECAUSE, BEING A FASCIST, HE IS ALSO IN FAVOUR OF A FETISHIZED IDEA OF INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM VERSUS FINANCE CAPITAL."

IN MY OPINION, AN ACTUAL MARXIAN VERSION OF DEGROWTH WOULD BE A HIGH INEVITABLE EFFECT OF COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP AND/OR CONTROL OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND COMMUNAL, DEMOCRATIC ECONOMIC PLANNING, SINCE SUCH A NEW FORM OF SOCIETY WOULD ELIMINATE THE LAW OF VALUE, THE QUEST FOR PROFIT, AND THUS THE RUNAWAY GROWTH OF PRODUCTION FOR PRODUCTION'S SAKE."

"REGISTER TODAY FOR THE LAROUCHE SCHILLER INSTITUTE CONFERENCE 2022 : 'BUILD THE NEW PARADIGM, DEFEAT GREEN FASCISM' ON OCTOBER 15 IN NEW YORK CITY. JOIN US IN A SHARED MISSION TO END COLONIALISM IN ALL ITS FORMS AND ERADICATE POVERTY AND HUNGER FROM THIS WORLD."



IN THIS HOUSE, WE BELIEVE:
Stalin did nothing wrong
NUCLEAR ENERGY IS THE FUTURE
FREE CARS FOR EVERYONE
There are no limits to growth
NATO is a Hitlerite organization
Join China's Belt & Road Initiative
Holodomor is a Nazi myth
SOCIALISM IS INHERENTLY PATRIOTIC

"BUT THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT MAUPIN DOES NOT WANT, SINCE HIS POLITICS IS FAR FROM ALIGNING WITH THE ACTUAL MARXIAN GOAL OF ELIMINATING THE SEPARATION OF HUMANS FROM THEIR PRODUCTIVE WORK, THE EXPANSION OF DEMOCRACY, THE TRANSCENDENCE OF THE LAW OF VALUE. MAUPIN'S CONCEPTION OF SOCIALISM DOES NOT MAP ONTO THIS, NOR EVEN ONTO THE MARXIAN CONCEPTION OF THE 'DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT', A PHASE THAT MARX SEES AS HAPPENING BETWEEN THE WORKING CLASS' CONQUEST OF POWER AND THEIR CONSTRUCTION OF A SOCIALIST SOCIETY."

MAUPIN'S CONCEPTION OF 'SOCIALISM', AS BEST WE CAN INFER IT FROM HIS GARBLED AND PROFOUNDLY DREARY PSEUDO-INTELLECTUAL BURBLINGS, IS A FORM OF REACTIONARY, STATIST, NATIONALIST, AUTHORITARIAN-COLLECTIVIST, HYPER PRODUCTIVIST INDUSTRIALISM - VERY MUCH LIKE LAROUCHE'S. TO THE EXTENT THAT THIS IS RECOGNISABLE AS 'SOCIALISM' AT ALL, IT IS SOCIALISM AS DEFINED BY STALIN'S RUSSIA AND THE STALINISTS OF THE ERA; IN OTHER WORDS, A KIND OF AUTHORITARIAN STATE CAPITALISM, BUTTRESSED BY AGGRESSIVE NATIONALISM. A KIND OF... WHAT COULD WE SAY... 'NATIONAL SOCIALISM', MAYBE? I JOKE, BUT HIS PICTURE OF SOCIALISM REALLY IS BETTER UNDERSTOOD AS FASCISM."

"IT'S WORTH POINTING OUT THAT, WHILE THE 'CULTURAL MARXISM' CONSPIRACY THEORY, NOW OMNIPRESENT IN PRESENT-DAY REACTION, BEGAN WITH THE NAZIS AND THEIR IDEA OF KULTURBOLSCHEWISMUS (I.E. THE JEWISH-BOLSHEVIKS WERE TRYING TO UNDERMINE GERMAN SOCIETY BY MARCHING THROUGH ITS INSTITUTIONS, FROM GOVERNMENT AND ACADEMIA TO MEDIA AND ART, INJECTING EVIL, DEGENERATE, PERVERTED, COMMUNIST IDEAS INTO ALL), THE IDEA AS PRESENT IN POST-WAR EURO-AMERICAN CULTURE COMES FROM LAROCHE. THIS IS THE REAL TELL. BECAUSE CALEB MAUPIN, THOUGH HE FIERCELY DENIES IT, IS A THOROUGHGOING ANTISEMITE. HE HAS LEARNED TO BE A BIT SNEAKIER ABOUT IT THESE DAYS BUT HIS BOOK SATAN AT THE FOUNTAINHEAD IS LARDED WITH ANTISEMITIC TROPES, INSINUATIONS, AND LANGUAGE. IT IS, BASICALLY, NOT VERY FAR UNDER THE SURFACE, A RECITATION OF THE CULTURAL MARXISM CONSPIRACY THEORY COMBINED WITH THE 'INTERNATIONAL JEWISH BANKERS' CONSPIRACY THEORY."

"IT IS PARTICULARLY GALLING, IN LIGHT OF ALL THIS, THAT HE CHOOSES TO TRY TO DISCREDIT DEGROWTH BY ASSOCIATING IT WITH NAZISM. BY THE WAY, THE IDEA THAT THE NAZIS PRACTISED ANYTHING LIKE DEGROWTH AS THEORY OR POLICY IS, FRANKLY, LUDICROUS. IF CALEB REALLY THINKS THIS THEN HE EITHER HAS NO IDEA OF WHAT DEGROWTH ACTUALLY IS, OR THE NATURE OF THE NAZI ECONOMY. IT'S PROBABLY BOTH. HE LIKES TO CITE... SORRY, I MEAN MENTION... HE LIKES TO MENTION R. PALME DUTT AS THE ULTIMATE MARXIST AUTHORITY ON FASCISM. THIS IS ALL TOO PREDICTABLE GIVEN THAT PALME DUTT WAS A STALINIST INTELLECTUAL OF ASTONISHINGLY VERSATILE CONSCIENCE WHOSE THEORY OF FASCISM IS EXTREMELY REDUCTIVE AND OUTDATED, AND CAN BE EASILY MERGED WITH ANTISEMITIC CONSPIRACISM. CALEB NEVER MENTIONS BETTER, SUBTLER, NON-STALINIST MARXIST THEORISTS OF FASCISM LIKE TROTSKY (HE HOLDS TO A VERSION OF THE STALINIST SLANDER OF TROTSKY), OR CLARA ZETKIN, OR IGNAZIO SILONE, OR FRANZ NEUMANN, OR ALFRED SOHN-RETHEL, OR THE ANARCHIST DANIEL GUERIN."

"FASCISM HAD RAISED THE DEMAND THAT WORKERS TAKE PART IN THE TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE FACTORY-IN OTHER WORDS, CONTROL OF PRODUCTION. IT WAS PROMISED THAT FASCISM WOULD SUBJECT PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO THE TECHNICAL SUPERVISION OF FACTORY COUNCILS. NOW A LAW IS BEING CONSIDERED THAT SIMPLY ABOLISHES THE FACTORY COUNCILS. FURTHER, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES ARE TO BE HANDED OVER TO BE OPERATED BY PRIVATE EMPLOYERS, AND THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE IN PART.

THE MANUFACTURE OF MATCHES, PREVIOUSLY A STATE MONOPOLY, HAS NOW WOUND UP IN THE HANDS OF PRIVATE PROFITEERS. SO TOO HAVE THE POSTAL PACKAGE BUSINESS, THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY, THE RADIO-TELEGRAM BUSINESS, AND ALSO THE RAILWAYS. MUSSOLINI HAS STATED THAT THE FASCISTS ARE "LIBERALS IN THE CLASSIC MEANING OF THE WORD."

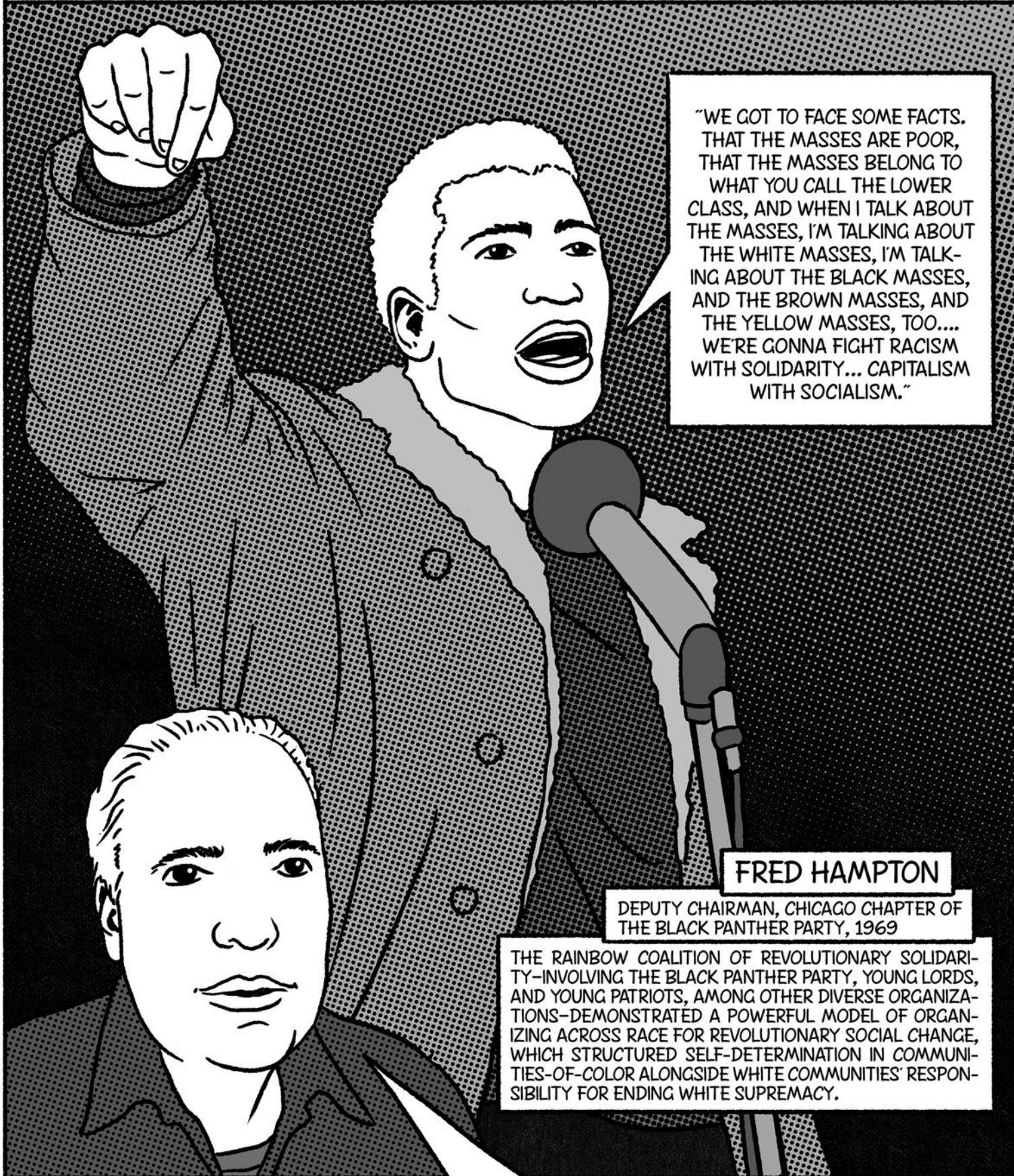
CLARA ZETKIN

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM -
EXCERPTS OF REPORT GIVEN TO THE
THIRD PLENUM OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST
INTERNATIONAL, JUNE 20, 1923

"IT IS EVIDENT THAT FASCISM HAS DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS IN EVERY COUNTRY, BASED ON SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES. NONETHELESS, IN EVERY COUNTRY IT HAS TWO ESSENTIAL FEATURES: A SHAM REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAM, WHICH LINKS UP IN EXTREMELY CLEVER FASHION WITH THE MOODS, INTERESTS, AND DEMANDS OF BROAD SOCIAL MASSES; AND THE USE OF BRUTAL AND VIOLENT TERROR."

"BUT TO TRY TO COMBAT CALEB ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF IDEAS IS POINTLESS BECAUSE, LIKE THE FASCIST HE IS, CALEB REALLY DEALS IN AESTHETICS ONLY. CALEB'S TACTIC, HIS STANDARD PRACTICE, IS THE AESTHETIC MANOEUVRE OF ELIDING DEGROWTH WITH MALTHUSIANISM. HE THEN CLAIMS TO HAVE DISCREDITED ANYONE WHO ADVOCATES ANYTHING BUT HIS OWN INNATELY FASCIST AGENDA BY ASSOCIATING THEM WITH, ESSENTIALLY, EUGENICS. HE ALSO LIKES TO MENTION THAT KARL MARX DEBUNKED MALTHUSIANISM, GIVING HIS SLANDER THE SURFACE APPEARANCE OF A THEORETICAL OBJECTION BASED IN MARXIAN THEORY. IT IS PERFECTLY TRUE THAT MARX COMBATED MALTHUSIANISM, BUT CALEB CLEARLY HAS LITTLE REAL IDEA WHERE OR HOW MARX DID THIS. BUT AGAIN, WE'RE GETTING IT BACK TO FRONT. CALEB IS NOT AGAINST DEGROWTH. HE'S AGAINST GENUINE SOCIALISM. HE USES HIS DISTORTED, FUN-HOUSE MIRROR VERSION OF DEGROWTH AS A WAY TO ATTACK SOCIALISTS."

"THIS WOULD ALL BE LITTLE MORE THAN AN AMUSING SIDE-SHOW IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE FACT THAT WE LIVE IN A MOMENT WHEN WE NEED A MASS SYSTEMIC CHALLENGE FROM THE LEFT MORE THAN EVER, AND WHEN MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AROUND FOR ANSWERS AND A WAY TO GET ACTIVE. CALEB AND PEOPLE LIKE HIM ARE VERY DANGEROUS, NOT SIMPLY FOR THE INSIDIOUSNESS OF THEIR IDEAS, BUT FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WILL DISORIENT AND MISLEAD PEOPLE JUST STARTING OUT ON THEIR POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL JOURNEY. CALEB HAS A HIGHER PROFILE THAN HE DESERVES, ESPECIALLY AFTER BEING PLATFORMED BY JIMMY DORE, CLAIMING THAT YOUTUBE LEFTISTS WHO HAVE CRITICISED HIM WERE PAID BY THE CIA, AND SPOUTING THE LIE THAT FRED HAMPTON BELIEVED IN ALLYING WITH THE KLAN."



"WE GOT TO FACE SOME FACTS. THAT THE MASSES ARE POOR, THAT THE MASSES BELONG TO WHAT YOU CALL THE LOWER CLASS, AND WHEN I TALK ABOUT THE MASSES, I'M TALKING ABOUT THE WHITE MASSES, I'M TALKING ABOUT THE BLACK MASSES, AND THE BROWN MASSES, AND THE YELLOW MASSES, TOO.... WE'RE GONNA FIGHT RACISM WITH SOLIDARITY... CAPITALISM WITH SOCIALISM."

FRED HAMPTON

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, CHICAGO CHAPTER OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, 1969

THE RAINBOW COALITION OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLIDARITY—INVOLVING THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, YOUNG LORDS, AND YOUNG PATRIOTS, AMONG OTHER DIVERSE ORGANIZATIONS—DEMONSTRATED A POWERFUL MODEL OF ORGANIZING ACROSS RACE FOR REVOLUTIONARY SOCIAL CHANGE, WHICH STRUCTURED SELF-DETERMINATION IN COMMUNITIES-OF-COLOR ALONGSIDE WHITE COMMUNITIES' RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENDING WHITE SUPREMACY.

"LOOKING TO THE RADICAL LEFT, LED TOWARDS CALEB PERHAPS BY A GENUINE HATRED OF WESTERN IMPERIALISM, PEOPLE MIGHT STUMBLE INTO SOMETHING THAT SEEMS RADICAL, THAT LOOKS LIKE MARXISM OR COMMUNISM, BUT WHICH IS ACTUALLY NOT ONLY A CULT RUN BY A DEEPLY SILLY BUT ALSO DEEPLY NASTY AND DANGEROUS LITTLE MAN, BUT ALSO A REPACKAGING OF THE VERY THING THEY MOST NEED TO FIGHT."

NICE! MATT HUBER AND LEIGH PHILLIPS LIKED IT. JUST SHARED THE CALEB MAUPIN ON THE SPACECOMMUNE PODCAST EPISODE ON TWITTER! "CONCISE ON POINT HISTORY OF THE DEFORMED NON-WORKER STATE OF THE NEW LEFT. EXCELLENT PODCAST!"

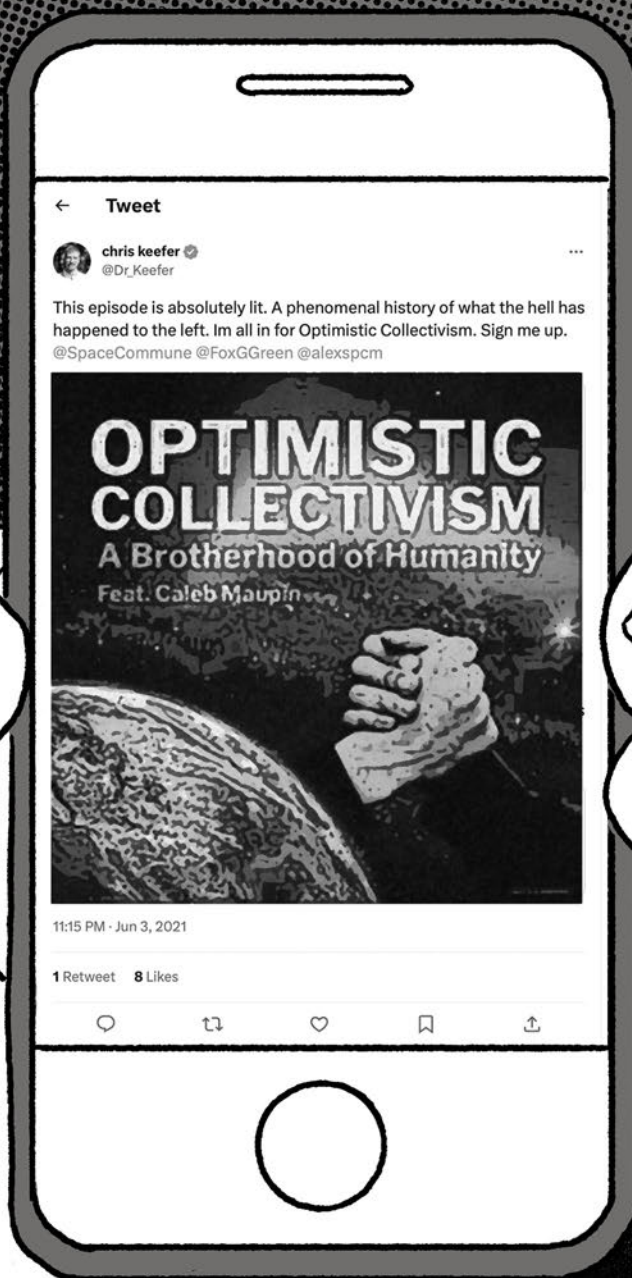
"THE 'DEGROWTH' ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT'S INFILTRATION OF THE LEFT IS THE #1 REASON WHY THEY'VE LOST THEIR SOUL: THEIR WORKING CLASS BASE."

"I'M ALL IN FOR OPTIMISTIC COLLECTIVISM. SIGN ME UP."



CHRIS KEEFER

EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN, PRESIDENT OF CANADIANS FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY AND HOST OF THE DECOUPLE PODCAST



KEEFER NAMED HIS PODCAST AFTER THE ECOMODERNIST MANIFESTO AND TOLD SHELLENBERGER ON HIS PODCAST IN FEBRUARY 2022: "I ACTUALLY WROTE HIM (JOE ROGAN) WHEN I FIRST DISCOVERED YOUR WORK. AND I WAS LIKE, YOU HAVE TO HAVE THIS GUY ON." IN 2020 DURING HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN BERNIE SANDERS LOST A LOT OF TRUST FROM LEFT AND LIBERALS, BECAUSE OF ROGAN'S HISTORY OF MAKING RACIST, HOMOPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC COMMENTS, WHEN HE ACCEPTED HIS ENDORSEMENT. IN 2023 ROGAN ADDED OPEN ANTISEMITISM: "THE IDEA THAT JEWISH PEOPLE ARE NOT INTO MONEY IS RIDICULOUS. THAT'S LIKE SAYING ITALIANS AREN'T INTO PIZZA".

"POPULATION BOMB! THAT WAS THE NAME OF THE BIG MALTHUSIAN POPULATION SCARE IN 1968 AND NOW CLIMATE CHANGE. AND IF I WOULD POINT OUT THE AMAZON HAS BEEN TALKED ABOUT LIKE A BOMB GOING OFF. SO THE BOMB BECAME KIND OF THE ULTIMATE SYMBOL OF HUMAN-KIND'S APOCALYPTIC POWER. AND THEN YOU CAN SEE THAT IT BECOMES THE DEVIL AND THEN YOU'RE TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM IT. YOU'RE GOING TO THE ANGELS, WHICH IS JUST RENEWABLES.

I MEAN, THE OVERALL COSMOLOGY OF APOCALYPTIC ENVIRONMENTALISM IS KIND OF SO BASIC AND DUMB. IT'S ALMOST EMBARRASSING WHEN YOU DESCRIBE IT, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE KIND OF LIKE GOD. I CAN'T BELIEVE PEOPLE REALLY BELIEVE THIS, BUT THAT IS WHAT'S GOING ON. IT'S ULTIMATELY THIS IDEA THAT WITH RENEWABLES, WE'RE GOING TO HARMONIZE OURSELVES WITH THE NEW GOD OF NATURE. AND THEY KEEP DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT IN ORDER TO SAVE IT WHILE DOING THAT."

"I THINK YOU SAW THAT ON THE ECO MODERNIST MANIFESTO. I MEAN, MOSTLY THE PEOPLE WHO ATTACKED WERE THE DEEP GREENS. YOU KNOW, NOT THE MAINSTREAM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS OR MAINSTREAM ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS OR THINKERS. AND THAT'S BECAUSE THE DEEP GREENS ARE ACTUALLY QUITE HAPPY TO COME OUT AND ADMIT THAT THEY WANT THIS COMPLETELY RADICAL CHANGE IN SOCIETY. THEY WANT, YOU KNOW, DEGROWTH, YOU KNOW, THEY WANT LESS, THEY WANT AND THEY DON'T WANT LESS ECONOMIC GROWTH. THEY WANT REVERSAL OF GROWTH."

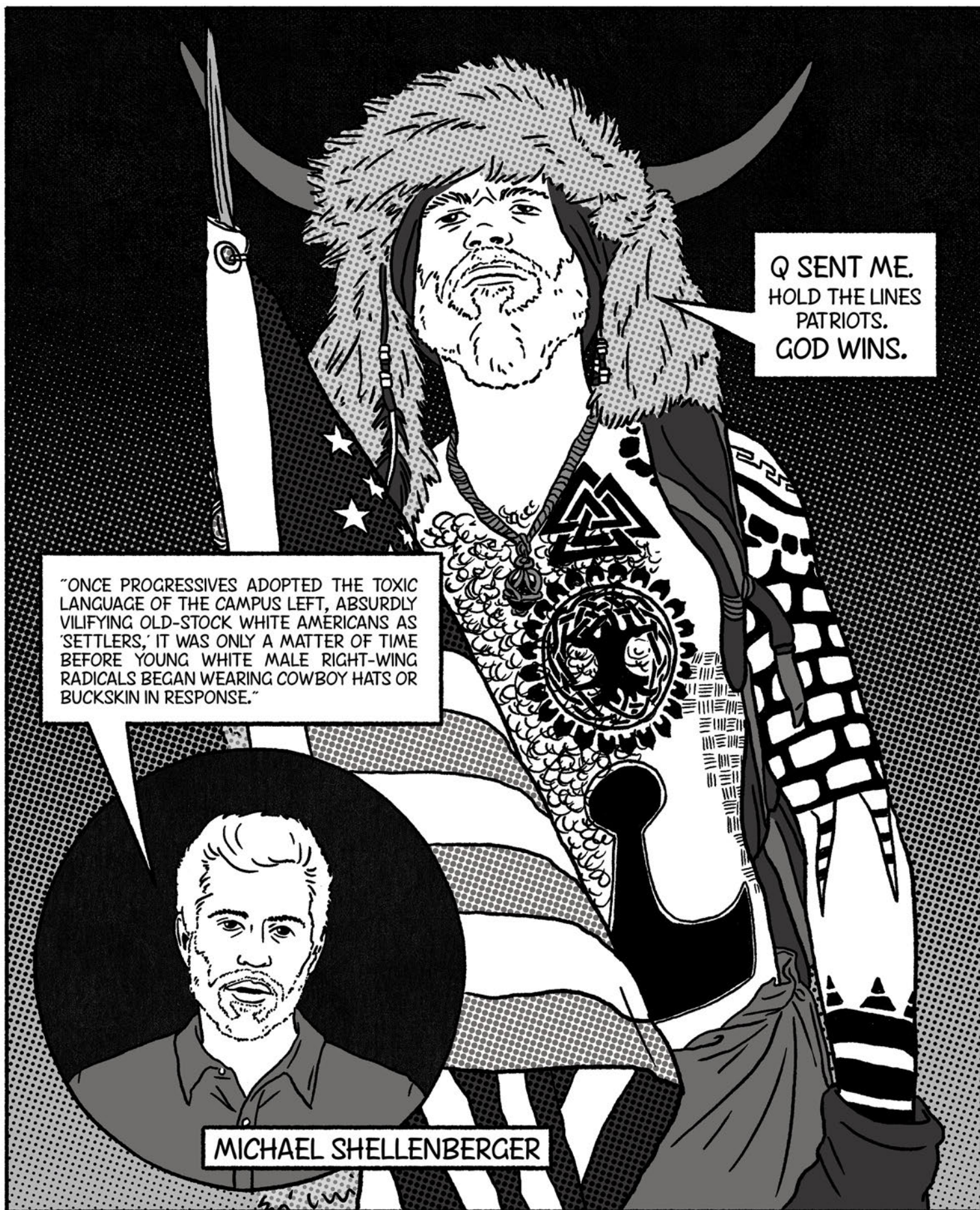
BY THE WAY "I JUST CAME BACK TO MY FAITH IN THE PROCESS OF WRITING APOCALYPSE NEVER." I NOW CALL MYSELF A CHRISTIAN EXISTENTIALIST.

MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER

EX-PR GUY, AUTHOR OF 'APOCALYPSE NEVER' AND THE ULTIMATE NUCLEAR BRO

SHELLENBERGER BELIEVES ENVIRONMENTALISM IS 'TERROR MANAGEMENT' AND WE SHOULD INSTEAD EMBRACE THE ATOMIC BOMB AS OUR MEMENTO MORI, A REMINDER OF DEATH THAT MAKES US CHERISH OUR FLEETING LIVES. "I BOUGHT A MEMENTO MORI. I HAVE A BEAUTIFUL GERMAN-MADE SKULL AND IT SITS BY MY BED AND IT HAD A VERY POWERFUL IMPACT ON ME. IT SITS RIGHT NEXT TO THE PIECE OF ... THE FIRST NUCLEAR REACTOR EVER BUILT. A GIFT FROM DICK RHODES, AUTHOR OF 'THE MAKING OF THE ATOMIC BOMB'. HE IS LIKE, I'M PASSING THE BATON ON NUCLEAR TO YOU."

IN AN INTERVIEW FOR ALEX EPSTEIN'S ('THE MORAL CASE FOR FOSSIL FUELS') PODCAST IN 2020, SHELLENBERGER DESCRIBED HOW HE BELIEVED CLIMATE CHANGE WOULD BE SOLVED, AND ALSO GAVE EPSTEIN CREDIT FOR THE TERM 'UNRELIABLES' IN RELATION TO WIND AND SOLAR - A TERM SHELLENBERGER SAID HE USED IN HIS RECENT BOOK.



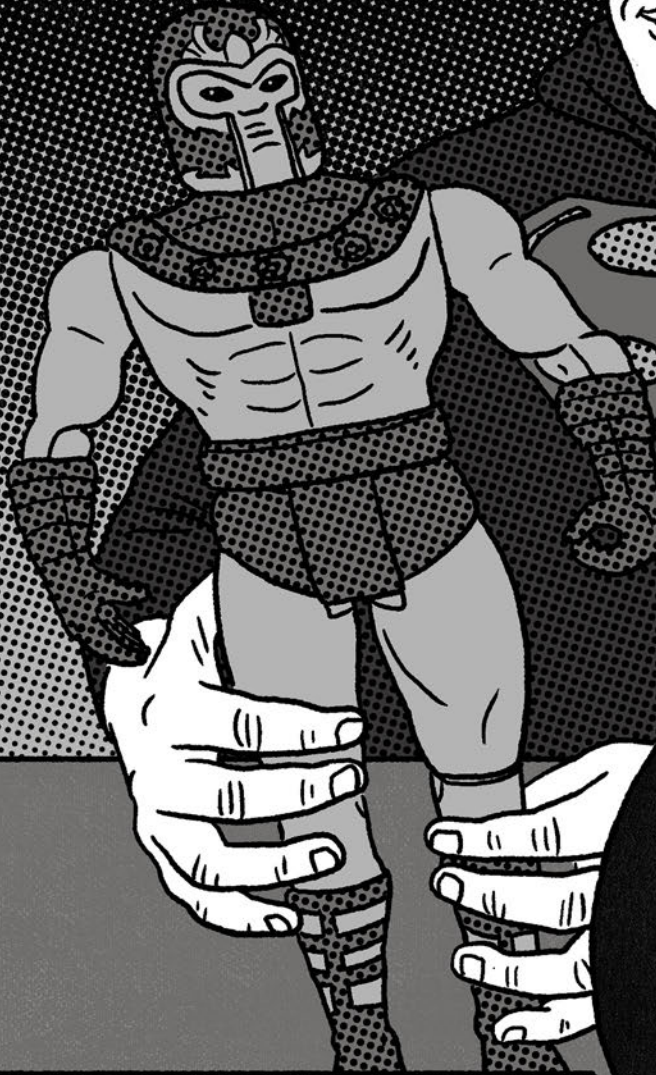
Q SENT ME.
HOLD THE LINES
PATRIOTS.
GOD WINS.

"ONCE PROGRESSIVES ADOPTED THE TOXIC LANGUAGE OF THE CAMPUS LEFT, ABSURDLY VILIFYING OLD-STOCK WHITE AMERICANS AS 'SETTLERS,' IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOUNG WHITE MALE RIGHT-WING RADICALS BEGAN WEARING COWBOY HATS OR BUCKSKIN IN RESPONSE."

MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER

DURING THE 2021 JANUARY 6TH UNITED STATES CAPITOL ATTACK, MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER 'FOX NEWS'S FAVOURITE SELF-STYLED LAPSED ENVIRONMENTALIST' (CO-AUTHOR OF THE 'ECOMODERNIST MANIFESTO' AS WELL AS 'WOKE RELIGION: A TAXONOMY') PRAISED A MAN WITH HORNS. IT WAS THE 'Q-ANON SHAMAN', HIS BARE CHEST COVERED IN NAZI TATTOOS. WHEN RIGHT-WING YOUTUBER CARI KELEMEN SHARED PHOTOS OF ANGELI ('Q-ANON SHAMAN') ATTENDING A CLIMATE RALLY AND A BLACK LIVES MATTER RALLY, SHELLENBERGER SUGGESTED ANGELI IS A 'PAID ACTOR' WHO MIGHT ALSO BE A SECRET LEFTY CLIMATE ACTIVIST. TODAY MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER WORKS WITH ELON MUSK PUBLISHING 'TWITTER FILES' AND USING HIS OWN PLATFORM 'ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS' TRYING TO UNITE THE LEFT AND RIGHT FOR 'FREEDOM' THROUGH SPREADING 'ANTI-WOKEENESS' AND CONSPIRACY MYTHS ABOUT 'THE CENSORSHIP-INDUSTRIAL-COMPLEX.'

"SOROS REMINDS ME
OF MAGNETO."
SORRY, I'D LIKE APOLOGIZE.
"IT WAS REALLY UNFAIR
TO MAGNETO."



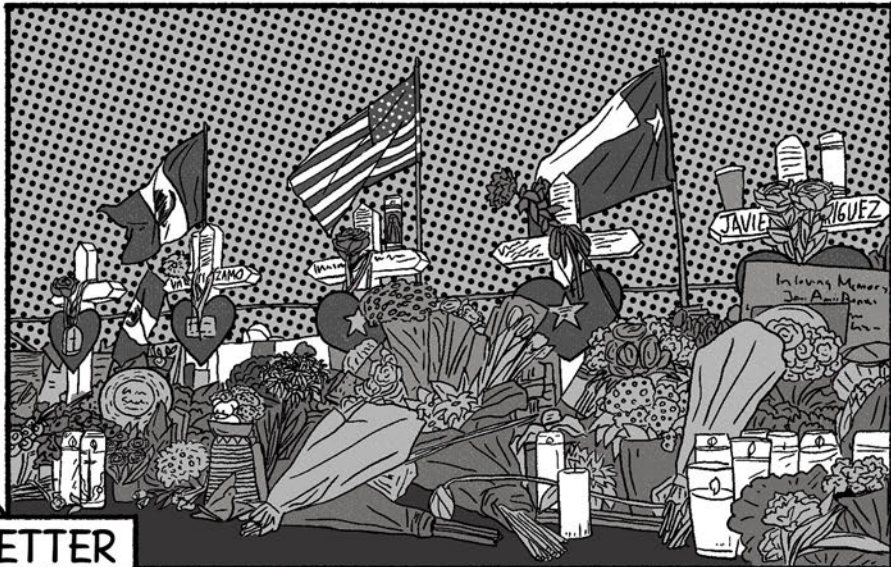
SOROS "WANTS TO ERODE THE VERY
FABRIC OF CIVILIZATION. SOROS
HATES HUMANITY!"



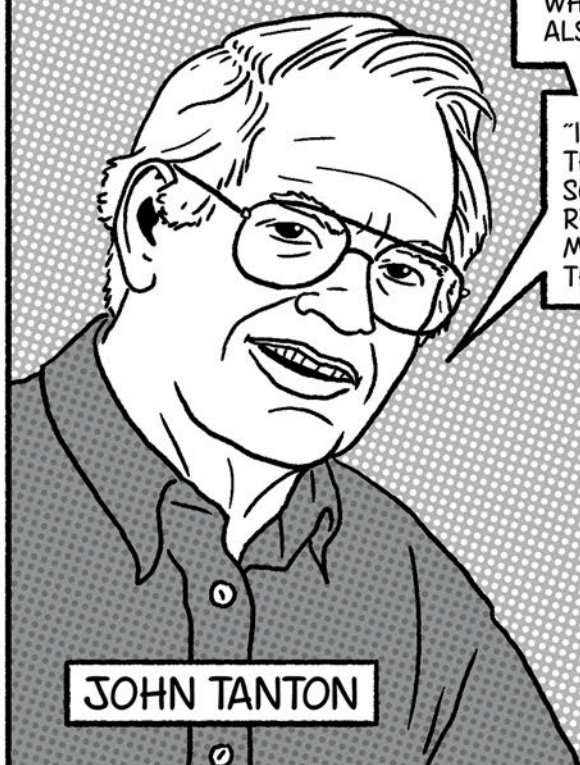
IN 2023 ON MAY 17 ONE DAY AFTER MUSK ATTACKED SOROS ON TWITTER, SHELLENBERGER DENFENDED MUSK AGAINST A NEWS ARTICLE ON THE RISE OF ANTISEMITISM SINCE MUSK'S TAKE OVER AND CLAIMED THE 'MEDIA ELITES' ARE ATTACKING TWITTER. GEORGE SOROS IS A PHILANTHROPIST AND A JEWISH BILLIONAIRE, WHO RIGHT BEFORE ELON'S ATTACK DROPPED ALL HIS TESLA SHARES. SOROS SUPPORTS PROGRESSIVE AND LIBERAL POLITICAL CAUSES AND HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS 'THE PERFECT CODE WORD' FOR CONSPIRACY THEORIES THAT UNITE ANTISEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA. ONE PROMINENT SOROS-RELATED CONSPIRACY MYTH IS THAT HE IS BEHIND THE EUROPEAN MIGRANT CRISIS OR IMPORTING MIGRANTS TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT SPENT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON A POSTER CAMPAIGN DEMONIZING SOROS. HIS NET WORTH IS 6.7 BILLION COMPARED TO ELON'S SHRINKING 184.7 BILLION, AND THE 240 BILLION OF THE NEW (AFTER ELON'S TWITTER TAKE OVER FIASKO) RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD, BERNARD ARNAULT .



ANDREA VETTER



"IN AUGUST 2019, A GUNMAN IN EL PASO, TEXAS, SHOT FORTY-SIX PEOPLE, KILLING TWENTY-THREE, MOST OF THEM PEOPLE OF COLOUR. AS WITH THE CHRISTCHURCH SHOOTER IN NEW ZEALAND IN MARCH 2019 AND OTHER ECO-FASCIST STATEMENTS, HIS MANIFESTO WAS REplete WITH REFERENCES TO BLOOD-AND-SOIL ENVIRONMENTALISM, IN WHICH HE OPPOSED IMMIGRATION AND CULTURAL MIXING ON THE GROUNDS THAT 'WHITE' LAND SHOULD BE PROTECTED AND SAVED FROM OVER-EXPLOITATION BY IMMIGRANTS. THIS WHITE SUPREMACIST BELIEF PROVIDES THE BASIC IDEOLOGICAL PILLAR FOR MUCH OF THE NEW RIGHT AND 'ALT RIGHT' TODAY. AND IN THIS CONTEXT OF THE REGIONALIST, ETHNOPLURALIST STRAND OF THE NEW RIGHT, SOME CROSSOVER BETWEEN DEGROWTH IDEAS AND GREEN FASCISM HAS BEEN DOCUMENTED. THE INTELLECTUAL LEADER OF THE NEW RIGHT IN FRANCE, ALAIN DE BENOIST, PUBLISHED A BOOK AS EARLY AS 2007 WHOSE TITLE, *DEMAIN, LA DÉCROISSANCE!*, WAS IDENTICAL TO THE TITLE OF THE GROUND-BREAKING EDITION OF GEORGESCU-ROEGEN'S WORKS IN THE 1970S. DE BENOIST ARTICULATED HIS ETHNO-PLURALISTIC BIOREGIONALISM WITH TERMS SIMILAR TO DEGROWTH NOTIONS SUCH AS 'DECOLONIZATION OF THE IMAGINARY', FIRST COINED BY ONE OF THE DOYENS OF THE EARLY FRENCH *DÉCROISSANCE* MOVEMENT, SERGE LATOUCHE, WHOM HE BEFRIENDED AND PUBLISHED, OR 'PLURIVERSE', 'RELOCALIZATION OF PRODUCTION', OR 'AUTONOMOUS MICRO-SOCIETIES'. THE VISION, HOWEVER, WAS ONE OF BIOREGIONALIST GREEN FASCISM – AS SUMMARIZED BY ANDREAS MALM AND THE ZETKIN COLLECTIVE, 'EACH RACE IN ITS OWN HABITAT; NO MIXING AND DILUTION; CONSERVATION OF DIFFERENCES AS AGAINST THE HOMOGENISING FORCES OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM.'"



JOHN TANTON

"DO WE LEAVE IT TO INDIVIDUALS TO DECIDE THAT THEY ARE THE INTELLIGENT ONES WHO SHOULD HAVE MORE KIDS? AND MORE TROUBLESOME, WHAT ABOUT THE LESS INTELLIGENT, WHO LOGICALLY SHOULD HAVE LESS? WHO IS GOING TO BREAK THE BAD NEWS [TO LESS INTELLIGENT INDIVIDUALS], AND HOW WILL IT BE IMPLEMENTED?"

"I'VE COME TO THE POINT OF VIEW THAT FOR EUROPEAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE TO PERSIST REQUIRES A EUROPEAN-AMERICAN MAJORITY, AND A CLEAR ONE AT THAT."



SUSIE CAGLE

JOURNALIST AND EDITORIAL CARTOONIST

"THE ENVIRONMENTALIST, WHITE NATIONALIST, AND INFLUENTIAL ANTI-IMMIGRATION ACTIVIST JOHN TANTON DIED LESS THAN THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE EL PASO SHOOTING. TANTON LIVED TO SEE HIS MOVEMENT SHAPE MUCH OF MODERN US IMMIGRATION POLICY, BUT NOT THIS LATEST VIOLENT TURN."

"LONG BEFORE THIS VIOLENCE, RESEARCHERS WARNED OF 'THE GREENING OF HATE'. FROM TANTON'S ANTI-IMMIGRATION NONPROFIT NETWORK TO SOME OF TODAY'S AVOWED ENVIRONMENTALISTS, ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, OVERPOPULATION AND IMMIGRATION IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN BLAMED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COLLAPSE FOR OVER 50 YEARS."

"JOHN TANTON, DISCOVERED THE SPECTRE OF OVERPOPULATION, COURTESY OF PAUL R. EHRLICH'S 1968 BOOK 'THE POPULATION BOMB', WHICH USHERED IN DECADES OF POLICIES OF COERCIVE STERILIZATION AND WORSE, WORLDWIDE."



"TANTON PREACHED FOR EFFORTS SUCH AS CONTRACEPTION AND ABORTION IN ORDER TO BRING PROGRESSIVES AROUND TO WHAT HE PERCEIVED AS A HUGE NEED FOR POPULATION CONTROL. TANTON QUICKLY DECIDED ONLY SOME POPULATIONS MIGHT NEED CONTROLLING - THOSE HE PERSONALLY FOUND THE MOST QUESTIONABLE."

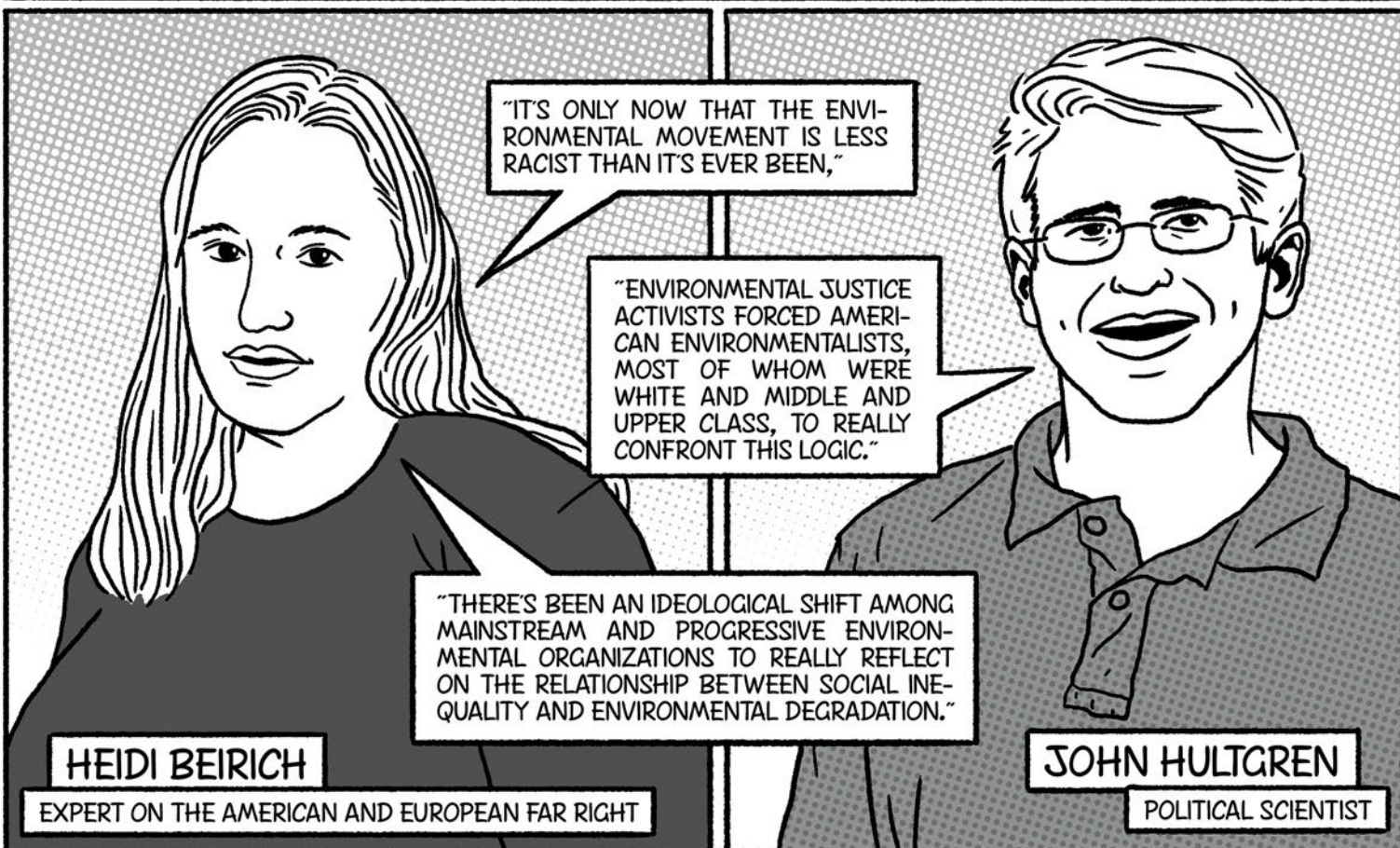
HE LATER "CHANGED TACTICS TO SETTLE ON IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION AFTER REALIZING THAT EUGENICS MIGHT NOT BE PALATABLE TO MOST AMERICANS IN THE DECADES FOLLOWING THE REVELATIONS ABOUT NAZI ATROCITIES DURING WORLD WAR II."

"TANTON ULTIMATELY ADVOCATED FOR A 'EURO-AMERICAN MAJORITY, AND A CLEAR ONE AT THAT.' AND THUS WAS THE EUGENICS MOVEMENT REBORN, COINED AS 'IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION.'"

"PAUL R. EHRLICH WENT ON TO SIT ON THE ADVISORY BOARD OF TANTON'S FLAGSHIP ORGANIZATION, THE FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM (FAIR), FOR MANY YEARS; HE WAS ALSO A FOUNDER OF ANOTHER TANTON-LINKED GROUP, ZERO POPULATION GROWTH."

BROOKE BINKOWSKI

JOURNALIST COVERING BORDERS, THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, MIGRATION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS



"IT'S ONLY NOW THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT IS LESS RACIST THAN IT'S EVER BEEN,"

"ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTIVISTS FORCED AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTALISTS, MOST OF WHOM WERE WHITE AND MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASS, TO REALLY CONFRONT THIS LOGIC."

"THERE'S BEEN AN IDEOLOGICAL SHIFT AMONG MAINSTREAM AND PROGRESSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO REALLY REFLECT ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION."

HEIDI BEIRICH

EXPERT ON THE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN FAR RIGHT

JOHN HULTGREN

POLITICAL SCIENTIST

IN 2013, THE SIERRA CLUB AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST GROUP 350.ORG THREW THEIR SUPPORT BEHIND IMMIGRATION. EARTH FIRST! HAS GONE A STEP FURTHER, CALLING NATIONAL BORDERS "SCARIES ON THE EARTH".

"RATHER WORRYING THAT THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA SEE 'BORDERS' - HENCE NATION-STATES, HENCE THE ONLY VEHICLES FOR DEMOCRACY AND CLASS STRUGGLE WE'VE EVER KNOWN - AS THEIR MAIN ENEMY. ERODING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY - AND HENCE DEMOCRACY - IS THE ESSENCE OF THE NEOLIBERAL PROJECT."

"AS FOR 'NO BINARIES', LUCKILY 99.9% OF PEOPLE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT MEANS."

"AS FOR 'TRADITIONAL WORKING CLASS VALUES': IT SIMPLY MEANS RESPECTING PEOPLE'S NEED FOR COMMUNITY, BELONGING, ROOTEDNESS, TRADITION, IDENTITY, MANAGED MIGRATION ETC. AND NOT CALLING THEM RACIST/FASCISTS/BACKWARD FOR NOT SHARING LIBERAL-COSMOPOLITAN VIEWS ABOUT OPEN BORDERS ETC."

NO BORDERS · NO BOSSES · NO BINARIES
SOCIALISM2019

JULY 4-7 CHICAGO

THOMAS FAZI

JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR OF
THE BATTLE FOR EUROPE



"INTERESTING USE OF 'WE' AS IT CLEARLY DOES NOT INCLUDE WORKING CLASS MIGRANTS WHO ARE BORDERS' VICTIMS. WE ALREADY LIVE IN AN BORDERLESS WORLD - FOR THE RICH. THE 'WE' IS THEREFORE 'WE, THE GATEKEEPING LEFTISTS WHO DECIDE'. I REPEAT: RACISM IS STILL COMMON ON THE LEFT."

SAYING 'NO BORDERS' IS THE ESSENCE OF THE NEOLIBERAL PROJECT IS ALREADY HALFWAY TO SAYING SOROS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REFUGEES. WHAT THE FAR RIGHT HEAR WHEN THEY READ THIS DE FACTO NATIONAL BOLSHEVISM IS "JEWS WILL NOT REPLACE US!"

ADNAN DELALIC
BOSNIAN-GERMAN
SOCIOLOGIST AND WRITER

JOEY AYOUB

JOURNALIST AND PODCAST HOST
OF 'THE FIRE THESE TIMES'

THOMAS FAZI TODAY IS A CONTRIBUTOR TO COMPACT MAGAZINE WHICH SARAH JONES FROM THE INTELLIGENCER DESCRIBES AS 'RED BROWN ALLIANCE' AND 'REACTIONARY TO THE CORE'. IN A NYT PIECE THE THREE EDITORS AND FOUNDERS (TWO RELIGIOUS CONSERVATIVES AND A MARXIST PROPONENT OF 'LABOR POPULISM') DESCRIBED THEIR MISSION AS "WE'RE HERE TO START A TWO-FRONT WAR ON THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT." COMPACT RECENTLY GAVE STEVE SAILER 'POSITIVE COVERAGE', WHO "IS PERHAPS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS BELIEF THAT BLACK PEOPLE ARE INTELLECTUALLY INFERIOR TO WHITE PEOPLE", PROMOTING 'HUMAN BIODIVERSITY' AND THAT HIS 'SCIENTIFIC RACISM' WAS BEING USED AS SOURCE BY STEVEN PINKER. COMPACT IS ALSO THE MAGAZIN LEIGH PHILLIPS WROTE HIS FIRST PRONATALIST PIECE FOR: HURRAH FOR 8 BILLION PEOPLE!

"RADICAL DEGROWTHERS SAY TO WANT TO OVERTHROW CAPITALISM. BUT THEIR 'DOOMERISM' IS A BOON TO GLOBALIST CAPITALIST ELITES THAT STAND TO GAIN EVEN MORE POWER IN THE NAME OF THE MOTHER OF ALL EMERGENCIES: 'SAVING THE PLANET'."

"BY CONSTANTLY ENGAGING IN 'DOOMERISM' - THE IDEA THAT EITHER WE FIX EVERYTHING OR WE'RE ALL SCREWED - THEY'RE EFFECTIVELY SAYING THAT ANYTHING IS JUSTIFIED IN ORDER TO 'SAVE THE PLANET', INCLUDING ALL MANNER OF AUTHORITARIAN INTERVENTION."

"... ONE CAN BE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE STATE OF THE PLANET WHILE STILL BEING SCEPTICAL OF THE IDEA THAT THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED THROUGH TOP-DOWN SOLUTIONS IMPOSED ON NATIONS BY THE DAVOS-ATTENDING, PRIVATE JET-FLYING, CORPORATE-BACKED (IF NOT CORPORATION-OWNING) POLICY-BUILDING ELITES OF THE WORLD - PEOPLE AT THE ABSOLUTE PEAK OF THE GLOBAL CAPITALIST POWER PYRAMID. YET REMARKABLY, THESE VERY ELITES HAVE FOUND AN UNLIKELY ALLY IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EVILS OF ANTHROPOGENIC ACTIVITIES: RADICAL ANTI-CAPITALISTS KNOWN AS 'DEGROWTHERS'."

THE PARADOX OF DEGROWTH COMMUNISM -
LEFT-WING DOOMERISTS ARE EMPOWERING
GLOBAL ELITES / THOMAS FAZI FOR UNHERD,
DECEMBER 2022



'FIVE STARS' = FIVE CORE VALUES:
PUBLIC WATER ACCESS,
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION,
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
A RIGHT TO INTERNET ACCESS,
AND ENVIRONMENTALISM.

THOMAS FAZI

PICTURE, MAY 2019

ALESSANDRO DI BATTISTA

ALESSANDRO DI BATTISTA WAS PART OF THE FIVE STARS MOVEMENT FROM 2009 TO 2021. ON 22 FEBRUARY 2022, DI BATTISTA DECLARED "RUSSIA IS NOT INVADING UKRAINE" AND "THAT PUTIN WANTS EVERYTHING BUT A WAR."

IN ITALY, PARTS OF THE DECRESCITA MOVEMENT HAVE COOPERATED WITH THE GROWTH-CRITICAL FIVE-STAR MOVEMENT (MS5), WHICH CLAIMS TO BE NEITHER RIGHT NOR LEFT. THE MOVEMENT'S NAME OSTENSIBLY REFERS TO ITS FIRST FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES: SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC WATER, UNIVERSAL INTERNET ACCESS, AND ENVIRONMENTALISM.

BUT IN 2018 BECAME COALITION PARTNER OF THE RIGHT WING EXTREMIST AND RACIST LEGA. IN 2019 THOMAS FAZI ASSOCIATED HIS OWN FAZI EDITORE PUBLISHING HOUSE WITH MS5.

BEPPE GRILLO

COMEDIAN, ACTOR, BLOGGER, POLITICIAN AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE ITALIAN FIVE STAR MOVEMENT POLITICAL PARTY. GRILLO BECAME ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT EXAMPLES OF THE POPULIST SURGE IN EUROPE DURING THE 2010S.

I'M THE FOUNDER OF MS5, THE WHOLE MOVEMENT EXISTS BECAUSE OF MY BLOG! MANY WORDS WERE WRITTEN ON THAT BLOG AMONG THEM "HAPPY DEGROWTH!". BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I NEVER WROTE A SINGLE WORD ON THAT BLOG, THE GUY BEHIND ME DID.

GIANROBERTO CASALEGGIO

CYBERGURU, CO-FOUNDER OF CASALEGGIO ASSOCIATI SRL, AN INTERNET AND PUBLISHING COMPANY THAT ADVISES ON NETWORK STRATEGIES AND OF THE ITALIAN FIVE STAR MOVEMENT "AN ONLINE PHENOMENON WHOSE EXPLOSIVE, ORGANIC RISE WAS SHOCKING EVEN TO THOSE IT HAD JUST SWEEPED INTO POWER."

THIS IS MY DREAM COME TRUE: A LEFT-RIGHT, ANTIESTABLISHMENT COALITION! "A POPULIST PARTY WITH NATIONALIST TENDENCIES LIKE THE FIVE STARS, AND A NATIONALIST PARTY WITH POPULIST TENDENCIES LIKE THE LEAGUE. IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT THIS WORKS, BECAUSE THIS SHOWS A MODEL FOR INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES FROM THE US TO ASIA."

"FLOOD THE ZONE WITH SHIT!" IT WORKS!

STEVE BANNON

BANNON'S 'FLOOD THE ZONE WITH SHIT' PHILOSOPHY (SATURATING THE MEDIA ECOSYSTEM WITH MISINFORMATION AND OVERWHELM THE MEDIA'S ABILITY TO SIFT FACT FROM FICTION) TO DISRUPT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, IN OUR TIME, WAS PIONEERED BY VLADIMIR PUTIN.

"WHEN ITALY'S 2018 NATIONAL ELECTIONS CAME AROUND, FIVE STAR MOVEMENT—WHOSE EMPHASIS ON POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY HAD, AT TIMES, COME TO SOUND SYMPATICO WITH ANTI-EU, ANTI-IMMIGRANT SENTIMENT—WON SO MANY SEATS THAT IT BECAME THE LARGEST PARTY IN ITALY. WHILE BANNON CUSHED, (SOME) MEMBERS OF FIVE STAR ... REELED AT WHERE THEIR MOVEMENT HAD ENDED UP: TIED TO A PARTY LED BY A MAN MANY OF THEM REGARDED AS A FASCIST. THEY WERE ALSO BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT FIVE STAR'S EVOLUTION HAD NEVER BEEN AS ORGANIC AS IT SEEMED. AT EVERY STEP ALONG THE WAY—FROM THE CREATION OF GRILLO'S BLOG AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MOVEMENT'S FIRST MASS PROTESTS TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF ITS DIRECT-DEMOCRACY PLATFORM, ALL THE WAY TO ITS RECENT TURN TOWARD NATIVIST POLITICS—FIVE STAR'S COURSE HAD BEEN METICULOUSLY DIRECTED BY A CAMERA-SHY CYBER-UTOPIAN NAMED GIANROBERTO CASALEGGIO, THE MOVEMENT'S COFOUNDER."

DIRECT DEMOCRACY! UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME! ... FASCISM?
THE INSIDE STORY OF ITALY'S FIVE STAR MOVEMENT AND THE CYBERGURU WHO DREAMED IT UP.
WIRED, FEBRUARY 14, 2019

The Future Is Degrowth

A Guide to a World beyond Capitalism



MATTHIAS SCHMELZER | ANDREA VETTER | AARON VANSINTJAN

"AS SHOULD BE CLEAR, DEGROWTH IS FUNDAMENTALLY AT ODDS WITH THESE IDEAS AND MOVEMENTS – IN FACT, THEY STAND FOR THE VERY OPPOSITE OF WHAT DEGROWTH STRIVES TO ACHIEVE. WHILE IDEALS OF LOCALISM, ECOLOGICAL LIVING, AND CRITICISM OF GLOBALIZATION AND GROWTH ARE SHARED ACROSS THE DEGROWTH SPECTRUM, DEGROWTH'S CORE THRUST – ITS FOCUS ON GLOBAL JUSTICE – RUNS DIRECTLY COUNTER TO GREEN FASCISM, AND MOST DEGROWTH ADVOCATES REJECT ALL SOCIAL HIERARCHIES, ARE COMMITTED TO OPEN BORDERS AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, AND REJECT ANY KIND OF FUTURE OF 'CLIMATE APARTHEID'. DEGROWTH IS A PROPOSAL FOR A SOCIETY THAT ENDS THE PRIVILEGES GREEN FASCISM VIOLENTLY DEFENDS IN THE NAME OF THE NATION.

AS THE POPULIST RIGHT GAINS MORE POWER, AND AS CLIMATE CHANGE DENIALISM BECOMES LESS VIABLE AS A POLITICAL STRATEGY, THERE IS A DANGER THAT DIFFERENT CRITIQUES OF GROWTH BECOME FURTHER ABSORBED BY THE RIGHT. FOR THIS REASON, DEGROWTH PROPONENTS MUST BE CLEAR IN THEIR PRINCIPLES, OPPOSE ALL EFFORTS (ALSO FROM WITHIN THE DEGROWTH SPECTRUM) TO CREATE LINKS TO GREEN FASCIST ARGUMENTS AND MOVEMENTS, AND REJECT ANY FORM OF BLOOD-AND-SOIL POLITICS – JUST AS IT REJECTS ANY CAPITALIST GROWTH-DRIVEN IDEOLOGY."

"ECOLOGY MEANS TRUE FREEDOM, AS ANDRÉ GORZ FIRST CLAIMED. IT IS COMMONPLACE TO CARICATURE GREENS AS ENEMIES OF FREEDOM, THOSE WHO WANT TO TAKE YOUR CAR AND YOUR STEAK AWAY, TELLING YOU HOW AND HOW NOT TO LIVE. THIS MYTH RESTS ON AN IDEA OF FREEDOM AS FREEDOM TO DO AS YOU PLEASE, WHICH MEANS FREEDOM FOR THE STRONG."

"PEOPLE RELATE TO THE DESIRE FOR AUTONOMY, FOR FREEDOM. AUTONOMY IS ABOUT THE CAPACITY OF PEOPLE TO MANAGE THEIR LIVES COLLECTIVELY AND THEIR PLACE IN A WORLD WHERE GLOBALIZATION IS TAKING EVERYTHING AWAY. IT CLAIMS A REAL DEMOCRACY. THIS YEARNING FOR MORE FREEDOM AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IS WHAT RIGHT-WING OPPORTUNISTS ARE CYNICALLY EXPLOITING WITH NATIONALISM AND XENOPHOBIA."

"THERE IS AN INHERENT POLITICAL DANGER IN INVOKING EXTERNAL LIMITS: THE IDEA OF LIMITED, SHRINKING SPACE EASILY MORPHS INTO AN ARGUMENT FOR KEEPING OTHERS OUT OR EXPANDING INTO THEIR TERRITORY. WHEN HITLER READ MALTHUS'S ESSAY, HE DIDN'T THINK OF BIRTH CONTROL BUT ABOUT HOW TO EXPAND AND SECURE LEBENSRAUM (LIVING SPACE) FOR THE ARYAN RACE. AS THE MARXIST POLITICAL ECONOMIST DAVID HARVEY WROTE IN HIS CRITICAL RESPONSE TO LIMITS TO GROWTH, IF THERE IS SCARCITY THEN THERE IS NOT ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE. AND IF THERE IS NOT ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE, THEN SOMEONE MUST BE IN EXCESS. THIS SOMEONE CANNOT BE 'ME OR YOU'; IT WILL BE 'THE OTHER,' THE FOREIGNER, THE IMMIGRANT, OR THE POOR PERSON FOR WHOM THERE IS NO ROOM IN 'OUR LIFEBOAT' (THE TERRIBLE METAPHOR USED BY GARRETT HARDIN)."



GIORGOS KALLIS



"RUIN IS THE DESTINATION TOWARD WHICH ALL MEN RUSH, EACH PURSUING HIS OWN BEST INTEREST IN A SOCIETY THAT BELIEVES IN THE FREEDOM OF THE COMMONS."

"IF THE WORLD IS ONE GREAT COMMONS, IN WHICH ALL FOOD IS SHARED EQUALLY, THEN WE ARE LOST. THOSE WHO BREED FASTER WILL REPLACE THE REST. SHARING THE FOOD FROM NATIONAL TERRITORIES IS OPERATIONALLY EQUIVALENT TO SHARING TERRITORY; IN BOTH CASES A COMMONS IS ESTABLISHED, AND TRAGEDY IS THE ULTIMATE RESULT."

"A COMMUNITY THAT RENOUNCES WAR AS A MEANS OF SETTling INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES STILL CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT THAT DISCRIMINATING FORM OF ALTRUISM WE CALL PATRIOTISM. IT MUST DEFEND THE INTEGRITY OF ITS BORDERS OR SUCCUMB INTO CHAOS."

GARRETT HARDIN

ECOLOGIST WHO IN 1968 WROTE 'THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS'

"IT'S HARD TO OVERSTATE HARDIN'S IMPACT ON MODERN ENVIRONMENTALISM. HIS VIEWS ARE TAUGHT ACROSS ECOLOGY, ECONOMICS, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES. HIS ESSAY REMAINS AN ACADEMIC BLOCKBUSTER, WITH ALMOST 40,000 CITATIONS. IT STILL GETS REPUBLISHED IN PROMINENT ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHOLOGIES.

BUT HERE ARE SOME INCONVENIENT TRUTHS: HARDIN WAS A RACIST, EUGENICIST, NATIVIST AND ISLAMOPHOBIC. HE IS LISTED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER AS A KNOWN WHITE NATIONALIST. HIS WRITINGS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM HELPED INSPIRE THE ANTI-IMMIGRANT HATRED SPILLING ACROSS AMERICA TODAY.

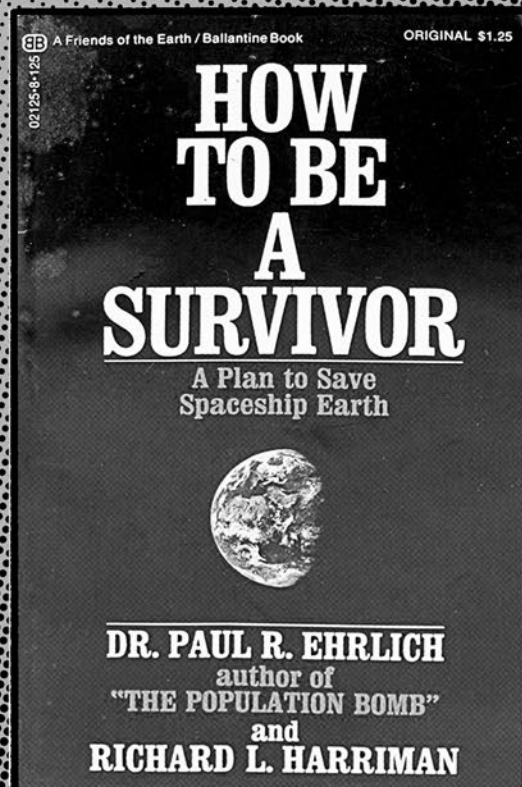
AND HE PROMOTED AN IDEA HE CALLED 'LIFEBOAT ETHICS': SINCE GLOBAL RESOURCES ARE FINITE, HARDIN BELIEVED THE RICH SHOULD THROW POOR PEOPLE OVERBOARD TO KEEP THEIR BOAT ABOVE WATER. TO CREATE A JUST AND VIBRANT CLIMATE FUTURE, WE NEED TO INSTEAD CAST HARDIN AND HIS FLAWED METAPHOR OVERBOARD."

MATTO MILDENBERGER

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
STUDYING CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLITICS AND
DIRECTOR OF THE 2035 INITIATIVE.



AFTER WORLD WAR II, THE CONCERN OF EUGENICISTS WITH "RACE BETTERMENT" AND WITH HALTING MULTIPLICATION OF THE "UNFIT" WAS REPLACED BY CLAIMS THAT THE WORLD WAS GRAVELY MENACED BY A "POPULATION EXPLOSION." THIS THEMATIC SHIFT WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AIMS OF AMERICAN FINANCIERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS AFTER 1945, AND MANY OF THEM, AS INDICATED IN THIS PAPER, BECAME LEADING FIGURES OF THE POPULATION ESTABLISHMENT. - AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE AMERICAN POPULATION CONTROL MOVEMENT (1974) BONNIE MASS



"ENVIRONMENTALISTS USE THE METAPHOR OF THE EARTH AS A "SPACE-SHIP" IN TRYING TO PERSUADE COUNTRIES, INDUSTRIES AND PEOPLE TO STOP WASTING AND POLLUTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. SINCE WE ALL SHARE LIFE ON THIS PLANET, THEY ARGUE, NO SINGLE PERSON OR INSTITUTION HAS THE RIGHT TO DESTROY, WASTE, OR USE MORE THAN A FAIR SHARE OF ITS RESOURCES."

"BUT DOES EVERYONE ON EARTH HAVE AN EQUAL RIGHT TO AN EQUAL SHARE OF ITS RESOURCES? THE SPACESHIP METAPHOR CAN BE DANGEROUS WHEN USED BY MISGUIDED IDEALISTS TO JUSTIFY SUICIDAL POLICIES FOR SHARING OUR RESOURCES THROUGH UNCONTROLLED IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGN AID. IN THEIR ENTHUSIASTIC BUT UNREALISTIC GENEROSITY ...

THEY CO FUSE THE ETHICS OF A SPACESHIP WITH THOSE OF A LIFEBOAT."



GARRETT HARDIN

"TRUE, UNLIKE HARDIN, OTHER NEO-MALTHUSIANS SUCH AS PAUL EHRLICH EMPHASIZED WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND VOLUNTARY BIRTH CONTROL AND ARGUED FOR FREER IMMIGRATION OR FOR REDISTRIBUTION AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH IN THE NAME OF PLANETARY LIMITS. THE WORLD IS LIMITED, AND THIS IS A REASON FOR SHARING IT, THEY ARGUED, NOT FOR PROTECTING OUR OWN SPOILS. BUT THE CASE FOR SHARING, I THINK, IS MUCH STRONGER IF WE AGREE THAT WE WANT THE WORLD TO BE LIMITED, RATHER THAN IMAGINING THAT LIMITS COME TO US FROM THE OUTSIDE, LIKE A STORM THAT PROVOKES A SHIPWRECK, MAKING VICTIMS OF US ALL, ONE SURVIVING AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER."

"THE IDEA OF SCARCITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR CAPITALISM. IF SOMETHING IS LIMITLESS (SAY THE AIR WE BREATHE), THEN NO ONE CAN BE ITS PROPRIETOR AND TRADE IT FOR PROFIT; CAPITALISM CANNOT OPERATE UNDER ABUNDANCE."

"FOR CAPITALISM FRAMING NATURE AS A LIMIT THAT LIMITS OUR DESIRES AND POSSIBILITIES HAS BEEN CENTRAL FOR MOBILIZING ECONOMIC GROWTH. FOR THE DOMINANT LOGIC IN CAPITALISM IDENTIFYING A LIMIT IS PRECISELY THE WAY IT ORGANIZES THE FORCES TO GET INTO WAR WITH THIS LIMIT, TO COLONIZE IT, TO OVERCOME IT, TO DEMOLISH IT, TO FLY TO THE MOON, TO COLONIZE MARS, WHATEVER YOU SAY IS THE LIMIT. IT'S ALWAYS THE COUNTER REACTION OF CAPITALISM TO OVER COME IT."

GIORGOS KALLIS



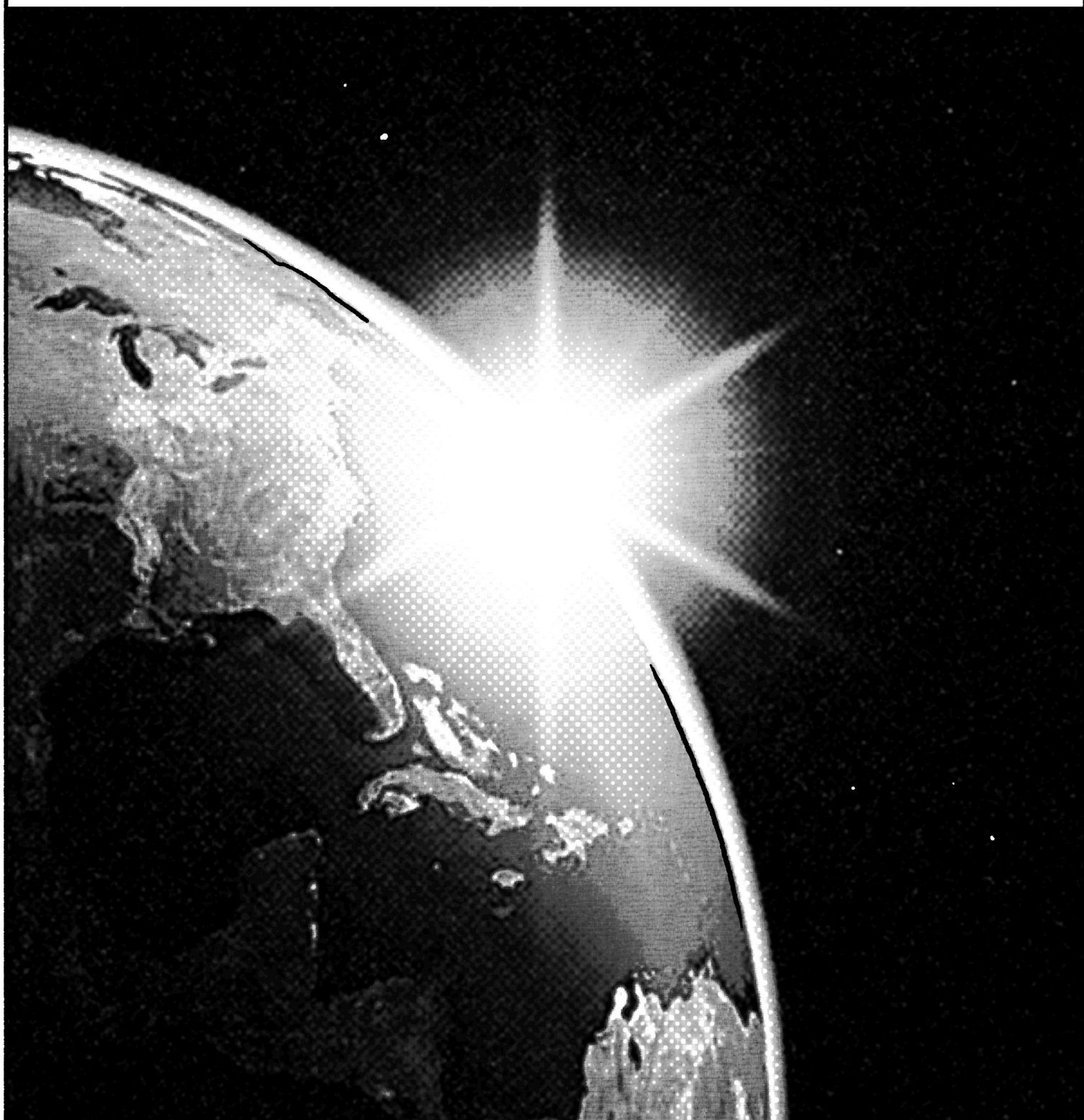
"BY PUTTING THE LIMIT OUTSIDE OF US, MUCH LIKE A RELIGION DOES, WHICH PUTS THE LIMITS NOT WITHIN US, BUT IN AN OUTSIDE GOD THAT ASKS US TO LIMIT OURSELVES, OR GIVES US THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, WOULD TAKE AWAY A BIG PART OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO LIMIT OURSELVES AND FIND OUR DESIRES."

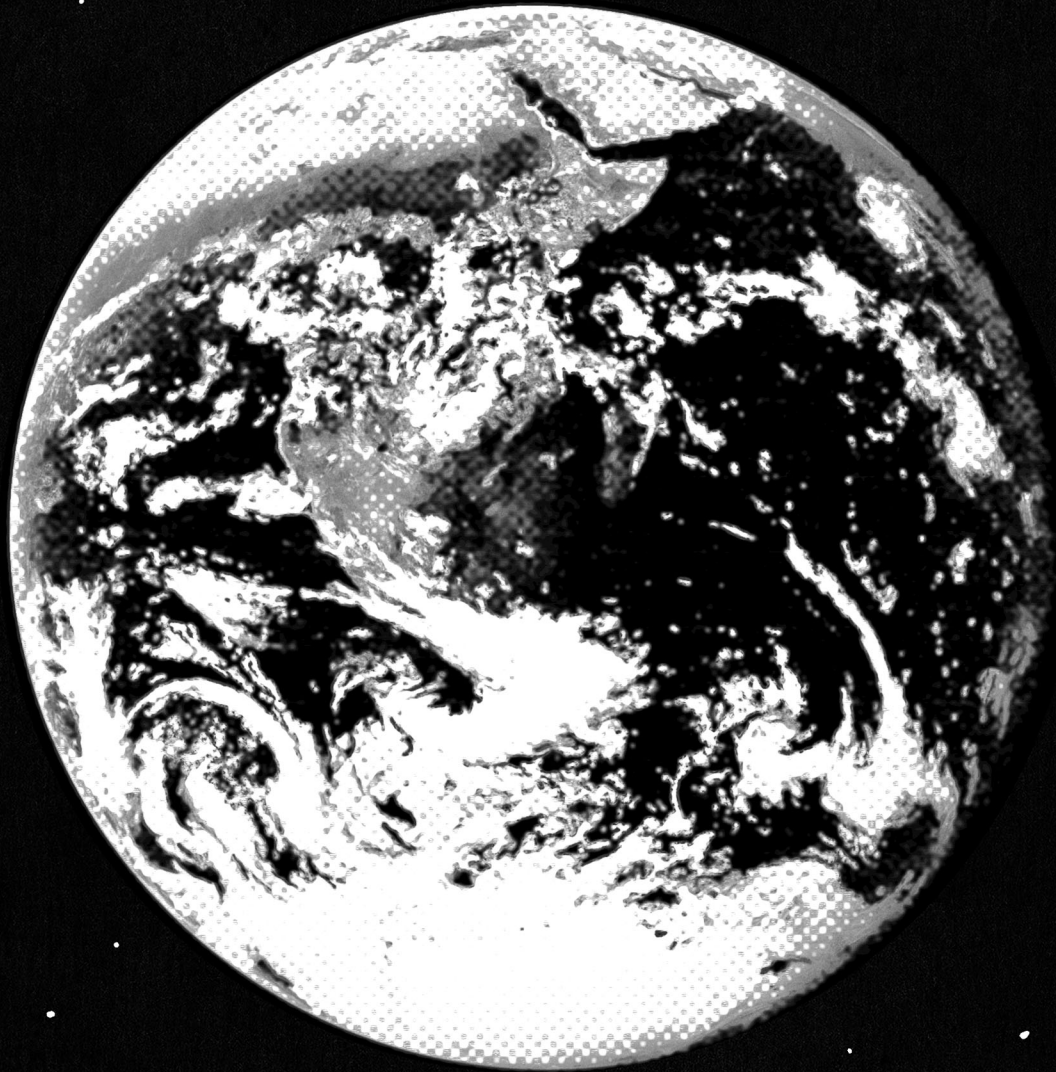
"LET'S THINK OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESASTERS AND CATASTROPHES ... IN A DIFFERENT WAY, WHICH IS NOT THAT THERE IS AN EXTERNAL LIMIT THAT WE'RE TRANSCENDING, BUT THAT WE ARE DESTROYING A BEAUTIFUL PLANET THAT WE HAVE INHERITED. I THINK OF IT MORE IN TERMS OF POLLUTION THAN SCARCITY. THAT WE HAVE A BOUNTIFUL PLANET WITH A STABLE CLIMATE THAT COULD SUPPORT US FOR CENTURIES, AND WE ARE DESTROYING THIS RIGHT NOW. YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK OF IT AS A LIMIT, IN TERMS OF THE CLIMATE OR A CARBON BUDGET, ALL THOSE ECONOMISTIC WAYS OF THINKING."

"ONLY BY LIMITING OURSELVES THE WORLD BECOMES ABUNDANT. AND WE LIMIT BY SHARING THE COMMONS, IN COMMON. FELLOW ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE KEPT THE QUESTION OF LIMITS ALIVE. BUT WE SHOULD OWN OUR CHOICE OF LIMITS AND STOP ATTRIBUTING LIMITS TO A STINGY NATURE."

"UNLIKE WHAT HOLLYWOOD WITH ITS MYTH OF THE FAR WEST FRONTIER WANTS US TO THINK, THERE ISN'T ALWAYS A HAPPY END - WITHOUT THE LIMIT OF DEATH, THERE WOULDN'T BE LIFE."

"LIMITS ARE NOT A CONSTRAINT ON FREEDOM. LIMITS ARE A CONDITION FOR FREEDOM."





"REAL FREEDOM CAN BE EXERCISED ONLY WITHIN LIMITS. THINK OF A PIANO PLAYER WHO NEEDS A LIMITED KEYBOARD TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC OR THE PAINTER WHO NEEDS A CANVAS. LIMITS LIBERATE BECAUSE THEY REDUCE THE DEBILITATING WEIGHT OF LIMITLESS CHOICE. LIMITING ONESELF LEAVES SPACE FOR OTHERS TO LIVE TOO. ECOLOGY IS FIRST AND FOREMOST ABOUT LIMITS, ABOUT AUTONOMY, ABOUT FREEDOM."

"THE FACT THAT WE AS A SOCIETY DETERMINE OUR LIMITS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE ARE NO LIMITS. YOU CANNOT JUMP FROM A SKYSCRAPER AND LAND INTACT. BUT ULTIMATELY THE DECISION WHETHER TO JUMP OR NOT OUT OF THE SKYSCRAPER IS YOURS, NO MATTER HOW CATASTROPHIC THE RESULT MAY BE. AS LONG AS WE FRAME THIS CHOICE AS "DAMN, THE LAW OF GRAVITY LIMITS ME AND I CAN'T JUMP OFF THE SKYSCRAPER!", WE WILL BE SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO JUMP. THE POINT IS TO STOP AND ASK, "WHY JUMP?"

"NOW, MORE THAN EVER, AND IN THE FACE OF PLANETARY BREAKDOWN, WE NEED WHAT POLITICAL PHILOSOPHERS HAVE STARTED CALLING LIMITARIANISM: SETTING LIMITS ON HOW MUCH RESOURCES AND FOSSIL FUELS WE CAN EXTRACT; HOW MUCH WEALTH AND INCOME ONE CAN CONCENTRATE; HOW MUCH INEQUALITY WE CAN ACCEPT."

"LEARNING TO LIVE SIMPLY SO THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE."

YES TO LIMITS TO GROWTH!

A MORAL COMPASS FOR #DEGROWTH:

AUTONOMY, SUFFICIENCY, AND CARE. THREE VALUES TO END DOMINATION AND DISCRIMINATION, EXCESS AND DEPRIVATION, AND ALL FORMS OF EXPLOITATION.

AUTONOMY

A principle of freedom both at the individual level (existentialist self-institution) and at the collective level (directly democratic self-management).

SUFFICIENCY

A rule of distributive justice stating that everyone today and tomorrow should have enough to satisfy their fundamental needs and that no one should have too much in regards to planetary boundaries.

CARE

A principle of non-exploitation and non-violence that promotes solidarity towards humans and non-humans.

Principles of Degrowth



Sustainability

Never deteriorate supporting ecosystems



Circularity

Waste not, want not



Cooperation

People and planet, not profit



Useful Production

What is not needed should not be made



Sharing

Sufficiency for all, excess for none



Local Production

Produce local, consume local



Work-Life Balance

Work less, play more



Relational Goods

Less stuff, more relationships



Joie De Vivre

If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your economy!

Parrique, 2019. *The political economy of degrowth*
Graphics by Climate Science

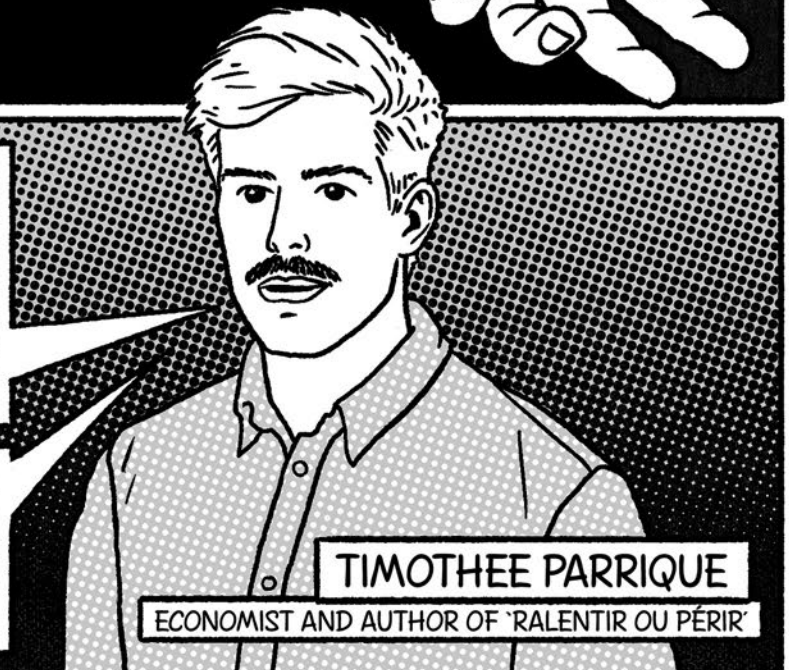
MISUNDERSTANDING #10:

UTOPIAS ARE NOT BLUEPRINTS OR DESTINATIONS BUT A COMPASS. THEY ARE TOOLS FOR CRITICISM, OPENING DOORS TO DEBATES ABOUT PROBLEMS THAT OFTEN DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A NAME BEFORE. AND SEEN IN THIS LIGHT, IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT UTOPIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HISTORY. THE FACT THAT IT IS HAUNTED BY REVERSALS INTO ITS DARK SIDE OR DYSTOPIA, ONLY HELPS TO UNDERSCORE THAT THE UTOPIAN IMPULSE IS A PROCESS, A SELF-CORRECTING, CRITICAL MECHANISM, THAT AIMS FOR A BETTER RATHER THAN A PERFECT WORLD. DEGROWTH IS UTOPIAN, AND THAT'S A GOOD THING.



"IN THE FILM THE MATRIX (1999), MORPHEUS, LEADER OF THE REBELLION, IS PRESENTING NEO WITH A CHOICE: BLUE PILL OR RED PILL. NEO'S CHOICE HERE PERFECTLY CAPTURES A CRUCIAL ASSUMPTION AT THE HEART OF MY THESIS: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO TYPES OF POLITICAL IMAGINARIES, IDEOLOGY AND UTOPIA. THE BLUE PILL IS IDEOLOGICAL FOR THAT IT REINFORCES THE STATUS QUO AND THE RED PILL IS UTOPIAN BECAUSE IT ASPIRES TO CHANGE IT."

"WHAT DIFFERENTIATES AN IDEOLOGY FROM A UTOPIA IS THE ROLE A WORLDVIEW PLAYS IN A SPECIFIC CULTURAL CONTEXT: IDEOLOGY REINFORCES THE PREVAILING COMMON SENSE WHEREAS UTOPIA SUBVERTS IT. UTOPIA IS COUNTER-IDEOLOGY; IT IS THE HETERODOXY THAT ASPIRES TO BECOME ORTHODOXY."



TIMOTHEE PARRIQUE

ECONOMIST AND AUTHOR OF 'RALENTIR OU PÉRIR'

"THE WORD 'UTOPIA' WAS COINED BY THOMAS MORE IN A 1516 BOOK THAT IS REMEMBERED AS UTOPIA, WHERE HE DESCRIBES A FICTIONAL ISLAND COMMUNITY OF NEAR PERFECT QUALITIES LOCATED SOMEWHERE IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN."

"BY CONJOINING THE GREEK 'U' FROM THE PREFIX 'OU' MEANING NO OR NOT AND THE NOUNS 'TOPOS' (PLACE OR WHERE), MORE CREATED A 'NOWHERE' OR 'NOPLACE,' WHICH HE ALSO INTENDED AS A PUN, THE PRONUNCIATION OF 'UTOPIA' BEING CLOSE FROM 'EUTOPIA' (HAPPY PLACE)."



"MORE WANTS US TO IMAGINE OUR OWN UTOPIAS. THE PROBLEM WITH MOST UTOPIAS, BE THEY PROPHESIED BY HOLY MEN, IMPOSED BY POLITICAL DICTATORS, OR ENVISIONED BY SCIENTISTS ON THE PAGES OF POPULAR MECHANICS, IS THAT THE UTOPIAS THEY PROPOSE ARE PRESENTED AS THE ANSWER. ALL THE IMAGINING AND PLANNING IS DONE BY THE ENLIGHTENED FEW AND THE JOB OF THE REST OF US IS TO GET USED TO IT. AND, WHAT IF WE DO NOT? WELL, THEN THE PROBLEM IS WITH THE PEOPLE, NEVER THE PLAN. OFF TO THE GULAG WITH THOSE WHO DISAGREE!"

"MORE SOLVES THIS PROBLEM BY REFUSING TO ALLOW US TO BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS UTOPIA. HE TAKES US THERE - LETS US SEE IT AND FEEL IT - BUT THEN REMINDS US THAT THIS PLACE IS JUST IMAGINARY. HE DOES NOT WANT US TO SIMPLY SWAP OUR WORLD FOR HIS ALTERNATIVE, SO HE MAKES HIS ALTERNATIVE IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO INHABIT. BUT IT IS TOO LATE FOR US TO GO HOME; WE HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE IDEA OF AN ALTERNATIVE. WE HAVE BEEN TO UTOPIA, AND ONCE WE CAN IMAGINE SOMEPLACE ELSE, THEN WE KNOW THAT THE WORLD WE LIVE IN TODAY IS NOT THE ONLY ONE POSSIBLE. WE CAN IMAGINE ANOTHER WORLD."

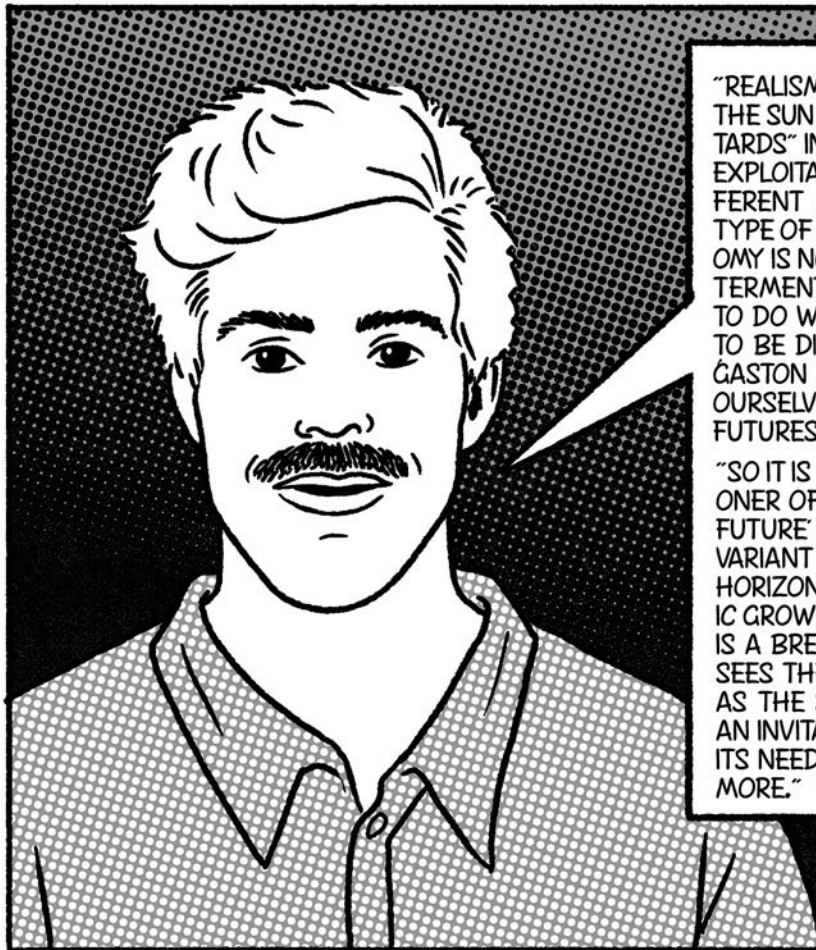


"UTOPIA IS NOT A PLACE WE WILL EVER REACH; IT IS SPACE THAT HELPS US THINK ABOUT WHERE WE WANT TO GO. IT IS NOT A REALISTIC PLAN OF A NEW SOCIETY, NOR IS IT A CYNIC'S PRANK, IT IS A PROMPT TO HELP US IMAGINE FOR OURSELVES."



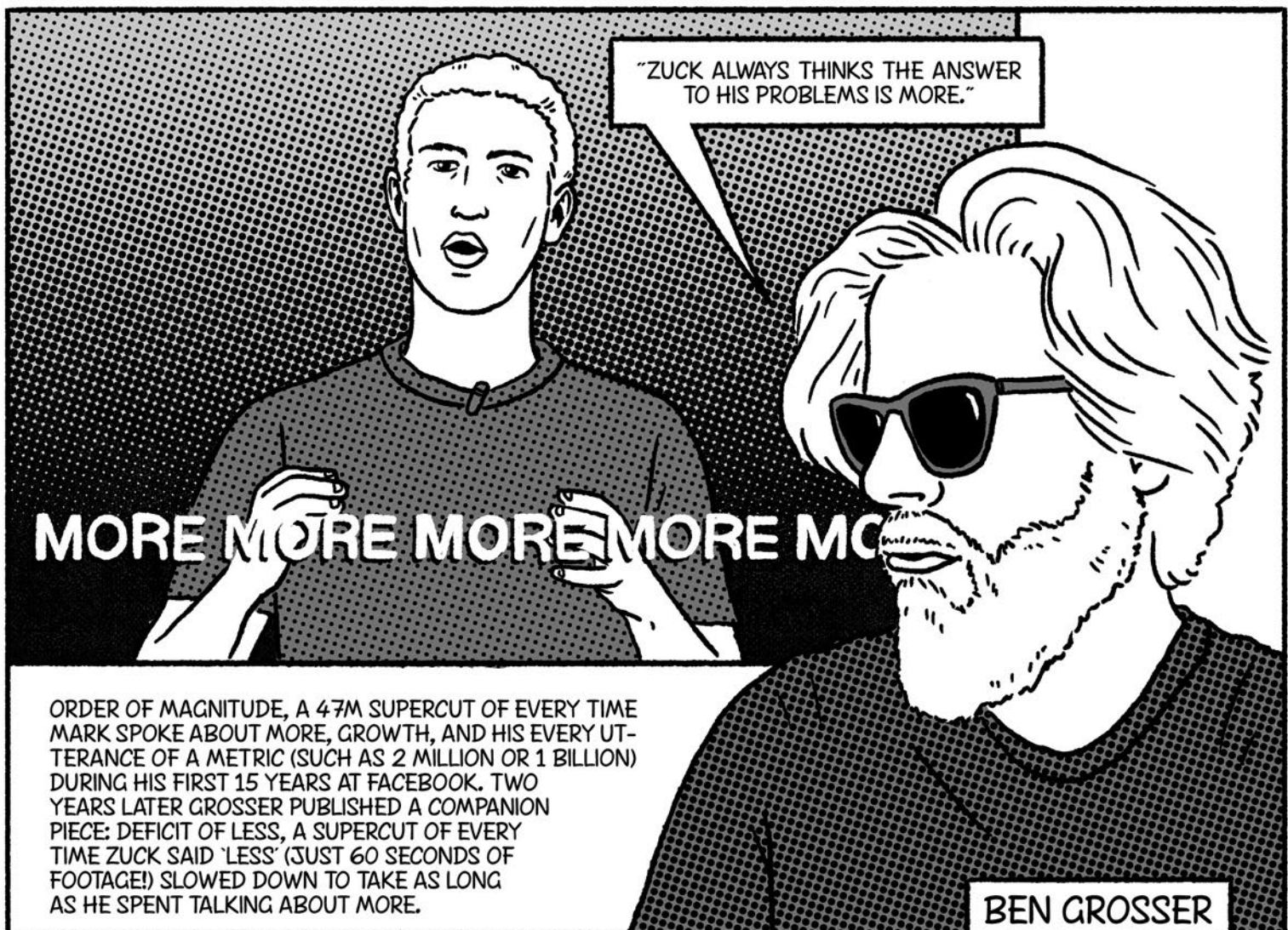
"500 YEARS AGO MORE GAVE US THE KEY TO UNLOCK THE SECRET OF UTOPIA; IT IS NOT A PLACE, IT IS A TOOL FOR IMAGINING."

STEPHEN DUNCOMBE & STEVE LAMBERT
THE CENTER FOR ARTISTIC ACTIVISM



"REALISM, AS BERNANOS WROTE IN THE PROLOGUE OF UNDER THE SUN OF SATAN (1926), 'IS THE GOOD CONSCIENCE OF BAS-TARDS' IN A SYSTEM WHERE BUSINESS AS USUAL RHYMES WITH EXPLOITATION. BEFORE BEING ABLE TO MAKE A RADICALLY DIFFERENT CHOICE, WE MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT TYPE OF ECONOMY WE HAVE IS ITSELF A CHOICE. TODAY'S ECONOMY IS NOT THE RESULT OF CENTURIES OF EVOLUTIONARY BETTERMENT, AND SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL INJUSTICE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HUMAN NATURE OR DESTINY. THE FUTURE IS NOT TO BE DISCOVERED BUT TO BE INVENTED, SAID PHILOSOPHER GASTON BERGER (1896-1960), AND SO WE MUST EMPOWER OURSELVES TO BECOME THE DESIGNERS OF MORE DESIRABLE FUTURES."

"SO IT IS TIME TO DREAM UP INSTEAD! IF THE FUTURE IS A PRISONER OF THE PRESENT, IT MEANS WE SHOULD 'LIBERATE THE FUTURE' (ILLICH, 1971). INSTEAD OF SQUABBLING ABOUT WHICH VARIANT OF CAPITALISM TO ADOPT, WE MUST BROADEN OUR HORIZON OF POSSIBILITIES BEYOND THE PURSUIT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND BEYOND ECONOMIC RATIONALITY ITSELF. THIS IS A BREAKOUT FROM THE PREVAILING COMMON SENSE THAT SEES THE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF COMMODITIES AS THE SUPREME ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RACE. IT IS AN INVITATION TO IMAGINE HOW SOCIETY COULD PROVIDE FOR ITS NEEDS WITHOUT ABIDING TO THE MAD LOGIC OF FOREVER MORE."



"ZUCK ALWAYS THINKS THE ANSWER TO HIS PROBLEMS IS MORE."

MORE MORE MORE MORE MORE

ORDER OF MAGNITUDE, A 47M SUPERCUT OF EVERY TIME MARK SPOKE ABOUT MORE, GROWTH, AND HIS EVERY UTTERANCE OF A METRIC (SUCH AS 2 MILLION OR 1 BILLION) DURING HIS FIRST 15 YEARS AT FACEBOOK. TWO YEARS LATER GROSSER PUBLISHED A COMPANION PIECE: DEFICIT OF LESS, A SUPERCUT OF EVERY TIME ZUCK SAID 'LESS' (JUST 60 SECONDS OF FOOTAGE!) SLOWED DOWN TO TAKE AS LONG AS HE SPENT TALKING ABOUT MORE.

BEN GROSSER

ARTIST CREATING INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES, MACHINES, AND SYSTEMS THAT EXAMINE THE CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL EFFECTS OF SOFTWARE. HIS LATEST EXPERIMENT 'MINUS' HAS BEEN CALLED: SOCIAL MEDIA MEETS DEGROWTH.

2022

THE METAVERSE!

"I BELIEVE TECHNOLOGY CAN MAKE OUR LIVES BETTER. THE FUTURE WILL BE BUILT BY THOSE WILLING TO STAND UP AND SAY THIS IS THE FUTURE WE WANT."

"I STAN ZUCKERBERG, HAVE YOU SEEN THAT COUNTRY ROADS WAKE-BOARDING VIDEO? THAT WAS LIT!"

"GROWTH IS GOOD, DEGROWTH IS PSYCHOTIC, AND YET WE SHOULD BE A LOT MORE WORRIED ABOUT WILDLIFE LOSS."

"ACTUALLY, IF YOU TRAVEL FOR WORK AND WORKING IN THE METAVERSE MEANS THAT YOU JUST TAKE ONE LESS FLIGHT EACH YEAR, THAT'S PROBABLY BETTER THAN ALMOST ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE ENVIRONMENT."

MARK ZUCKERBERG

NOAH SMITH

BLOGGER, JOURNALIST, AND COMMENTATOR ON ECONOMICS AND CURRENT EVENTS

THE CONSULTING FIRM GARTNER CLAIMED THAT 25% OF PEOPLE WOULD SPEND AT LEAST ONE HOUR A DAY IN THE METAVERSE BY 2026. THE WALL STREET JOURNAL SAID THE METAVERSE WOULD CHANGE THE WAY WE WORK FOREVER. THE GLOBAL CONSULTING FIRM MCKINSEY PREDICTED THAT THE METAVERSE COULD GENERATE UP TO "\$5 TRILLION IN VALUE," ADDING THAT AROUND 95% OF BUSINESS LEADERS EXPECTED THE METAVERSE TO "POSITIVELY IMPACT THEIR INDUSTRY" WITHIN FIVE TO 10 YEARS. NOT TO BE OUTDONE, CITI PUT OUT A MASSIVE REPORT THAT DECLARED THE METAVERSE WOULD BE A \$13 TRILLION OPPORTUNITY. (ED ZITRON)

I WROTE AN ARTICLE CALLED THE METAVERSE AND (NEAR-)INFINITE ECONOMIC GROWTH WHERE I EXPLAIN HOW THINGS LIKE THE METAVERSE WILL ENABLE (NEAR-)INFINITE ECONOMIC GROWTH ON A FINITE PLANET. "DEGROWTH IS TOTAL SNAKE OIL. AN INTELLECTUAL SCAM."

"SO AS SOON AS HUMANS COMPLETELY SATISFY OURSELVES, ECONOMIC GROWTH WILL STOP. THIS PROBABLY WON'T MEAN 'GETTING ALL THE STUFF WE WANT'. IT'LL MEAN CHANGING OUR DESIRES DIRECTLY, THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF DESIRE MODIFICATION TECHNOLOGY.

THIS IS FAR EASIER THAN CREATING A VIRTUAL WORLD TO GIVE US EVER-INCREASING AMOUNTS OF VIRTUAL STUFF. INSTEAD, WE JUST CHANGE OURSELVES TO LIKE THE WORLD WE HAVE, MORE AND MORE. WHEN WE LIKE THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO CHANGE, THEN WE WILL HAVE NO MORE REASON TO GROW THE ECONOMY."

"WE USE DESIRE MODIFICATION TECHNOLOGY TO ACHIEVE NIRVANA."

"BRAVE NEW WORLD IS NOT A DYSTOPIAN NOVEL AT ALL."

WHAT? WHY DO I SAY ONLY NEAR INFINITE ECONOMIC GROWTH?

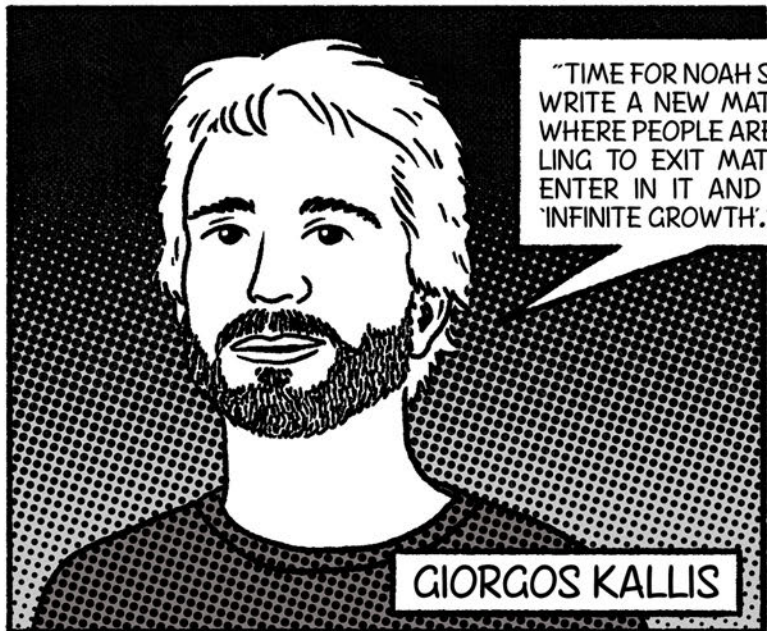
HI, I'M ALDOUS, JULIAN'S BROTHER. JUST LIKE HIM I WAS INTO TRANSHUMANISM, EUGENICS AND THE OVERPOPULATION SCARE. BUT I DID WRITE BRAVE NEW WORLD AS A WARNING. IN AN 1958 INTERVIEW ABOUT BRAVE NEW WORLD (FIRST WRITTEN UNDER THE TITLE OF 'ENEMIES OF FREEDOM'), WHERE MIKE WALLACE WAS SKEPTICAL THAT "IT COULD HAPPEN HERE", I SAID: - MODERN DICTATORSHIP WOULD GAIN POWER "BY BYPASSING THE ... RATIONAL SIDE OF MAN AND APPEALING TO HIS SUBCONSCIOUS AND HIS DEEPER EMOTIONS AND HIS PHYSIOLOGY EVEN, AND SO MAKING HIM ACTUALLY LOVE HIS SLAVERY. THIS IS THE DANGER: THAT ACTUALLY PEOPLE MAY BE ... HAPPY UNDER THE NEW REGIME, BUT ... THEY WILL BE HAPPY IN SITUATIONS WHERE THEY OUGHTN'T TO BE HAPPY."

THE CONFUSION MIGHT ARISE OUT OF THE FACT THAT I LATER WROTE THE UTOPIAN NOVEL 'ISLAND' WHICH AIMED TO USE THE SAME TOOLS (E.G. THE DRUGS! OR AS NOAH CALLS IT 'DESIRE MODIFICATION TECHNOLOGY'), USED IN MY DYSTOPIA TO TURN A DEMOCRACY INTO A TOTALITARIAN WORLD, TO PREVENT EXACTLY THAT FROM HAPPENING. ONE COULD SAY I WAS A KIND OF A POSTER BOY FOR LONGTERMISM WHEN LONGTERMISM DIDN'T EXIST YET. THOUGH WITH NIRVANA AS THE FINAL DESTINATION NOT MARS OR THE SINGULARITY.

ALDOUS HUXLEY

"RELIGION WOULD BE THE CONSCIOUS AND INTELLIGENT PURSUIT OF MAN'S FINAL END, THE UNITIVE KNOWLEDGE OF IMMANENT TAO OR LOGOS, THE TRANSCENDENT GODHEAD OR BRAHMAN. AND THE PREVAILING PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE WOULD BE A KIND OF HIGHER UTILITARIANISM, IN WHICH THE GREATEST HAPPINESS PRINCIPLE WOULD BE SECONDARY TO THE FINAL END PRINCIPLE-THE FIRST QUESTION TO BE ASKED AND ANSWERED IN EVERY CONTINGENCY OF LIFE BEING: "HOW WILL THIS THOUGHT OR ACTION CONTRIBUTE TO, OR INTERFERE WITH, THE ACHIEVEMENT, BY ME AND THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS, OF MAN'S FINAL END?"

"THE PURPOSE OF HUMAN LIFE IS THE DISCOVERY OF TRUTH, THE UNITIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GODHEAD." BRAVE NEW WORLD REVISITED



"TIME FOR NOAH SMITH TO TRY WRITE A NEW MATRIX SEQUEL. WHERE PEOPLE ARE NOT REBEL- LING TO EXIT MATRIX, BUT TO ENTER IN IT AND EXPERIENCE 'INFINITE GROWTH'."

GIORGOS KALLIS

"IN SPITE OF ALL THIS HYPE, THE METAVERSE DID NOT LEAD A HEALTHY LIFE. EVERY SINGLE BUSINESS IDEA OR ROSY MARKET PROJECTION WAS BUILT ON THE VAGUE PROMISES OF A SINGLE CEO. AND WHEN PEOPLE WERE ACTUALLY OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY IT OUT, NOBODY ACTUALLY USED THE METAVERSE."

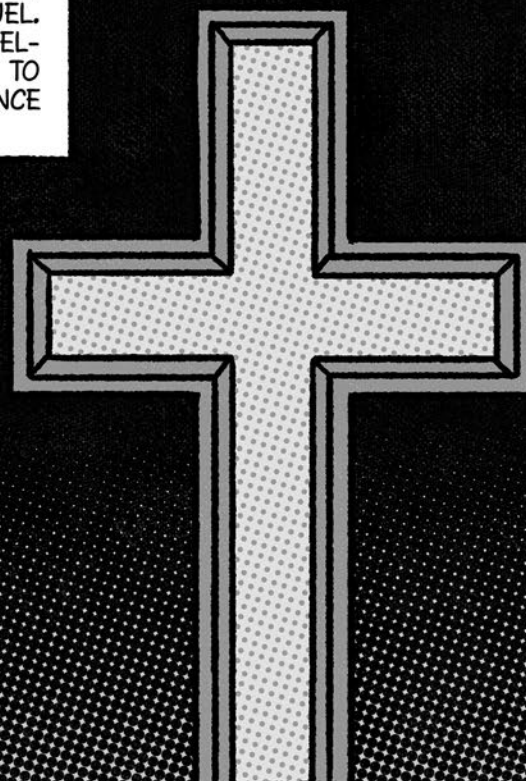
"ZUCKERBERG MISLED EVERYONE, BURNED TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, CONVINCED AN INDUSTRY OF FOLLOWERS TO SUBMIT TO HIS QUIXOTIC OBSESSION, AND THEN KILLED IT THE SECOND THAT ANOTHER IDEA STARTED TO INTEREST WALL STREET. THERE IS NO REASON THAT A MAN WHO HAS OVERSEEN THE LAYOFFS OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE SHOULD RUN A MAJOR COMPANY."

"THE DEATH OF THE METAVERSE SHOULD BE REMEMBERED AS ARGUABLY ONE OF THE MOST HISTORIC FAILURES IN TECH HISTORY."

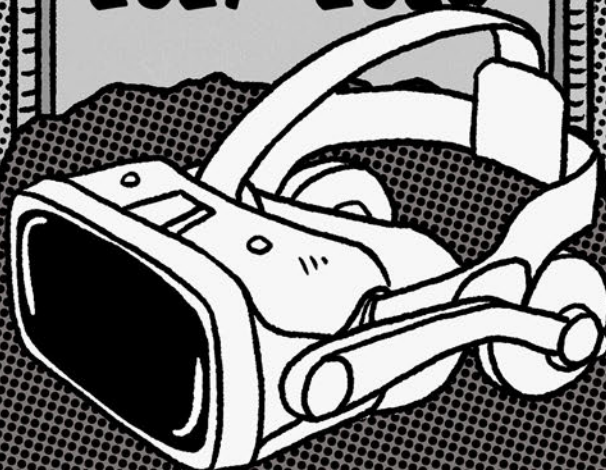


ED ZITRON

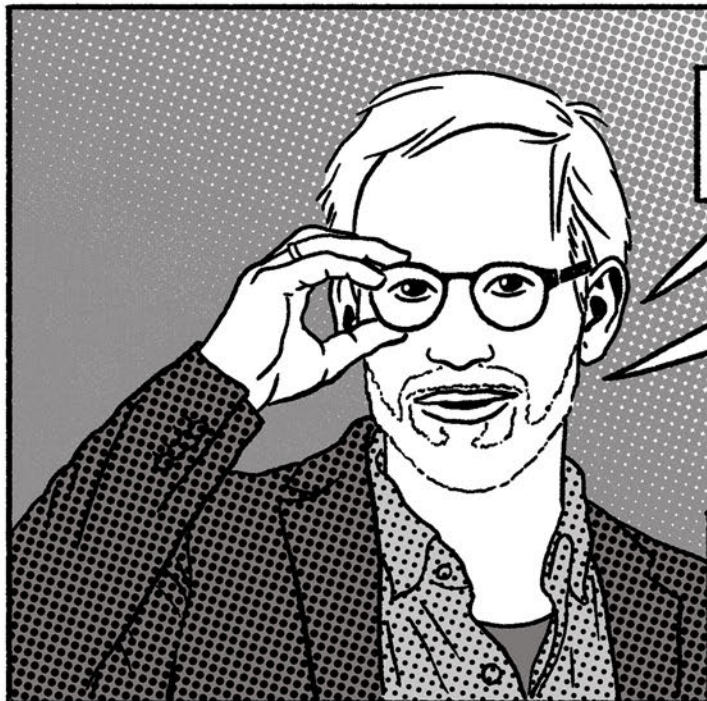
AUTHOR AND CEO OF EZPR, A TECH AND BUSINESS PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENCY.



**R.I.P.
METAVERSE
2021 - 2023**



"I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT MARK ZUCKERBERG EVER HAD ANY REAL INTEREST IN 'THE METAVERSE,' BECAUSE HE NEVER SEEMED TO DEFINE IT BEYOND A SLIGHTLY TWEAKED FACEBOOK WITH AVATARS AND CUMBERSOME HARDWARE. IT WAS THE MEANS TO AN INCREASED SHARE PRICE, RATHER THAN ANY REAL VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMAN INTERACTION. AND ZUCKERBERG USED HIS OUTSIZE WEALTH AND POWER TO GET THE WHOLE OF THE TECH INDUSTRY AND A GOOD PORTION OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WORLD INTO LINE BEHIND THIS HALF-BAKED IDEA."



"PREDICTION: WILL MACASKILL'S UPCOMING BOOK WILL BE TO PHILOSOPHY WHAT THOMAS PIKETTY'S 'CAPITAL' HAS BEEN TO ECONOMICS."

"OR PERHAPS A BETTER COMPARISON: IT WILL MEAN FOR THE LONGTERMISM MOVEMENT WHAT PETER SINGER'S 'ANIMAL LIBERATION' MEANT FOR THE ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT."

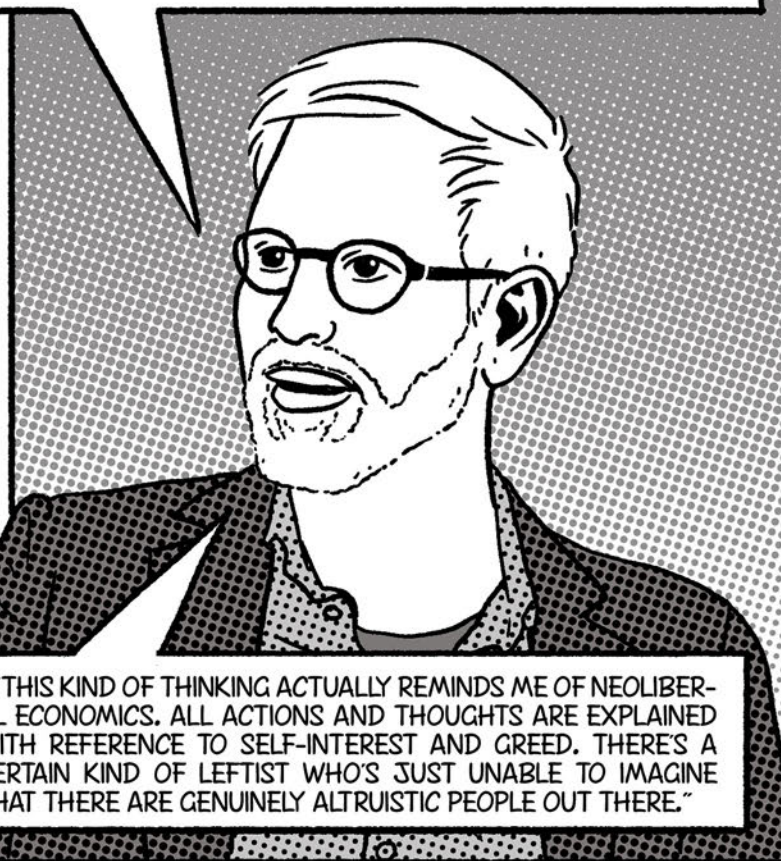
"I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT I FIND SO TIRESOME AND FRUSTRATING ABOUT SOME (NOT ALL!) PUNDITS ON THE LEFT THESE DAYS. I GUESS THIS TWEET IS A GOOD EXAMPLE."

"HOWEVER YOU LEAN POLITICALLY, READ IT AND YOU'LL HAVE TO AGREE THAT IT'S VERY WELL RESEARCHED AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING. READ A LITTLE ABOUT WILL HIMSELF, AND YOU'LL HAVE TO AGREE THAT HE'S A PRETTY INSPIRING PERSON."

I MEAN, HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU KNOW WHO HAVE BEEN GIVING AWAY MOST OF THEIR INCOME FOR YEARS? HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU KNOW WHO CO-FOUNDED A MOVEMENT THAT RAISED AROUND \$460 MILLION FOR ANTI-MALARIA BED NETS THAT SAVED AROUND A 100,000 LIVES SO FAR?

AND DO YOU KNOW OF ANY OTHER MOVEMENT WITH SO MANY MEMBERS WHO DONATED ONE OF THEIR KIDNEYS TO A STRANGER? PEOPLE WHO WORRIED ABOUT PANDEMICS BEFORE COVID AND WHO DEEPLY CARE ABOUT ANIMAL SUFFERING? (I WAS AT AN EA-EVENT AND I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN SO MANY VEGANS).

BUT WHAT'S THE KNEE-JERK RESPONSE OF SOME LEFTISTS TO ALL OF THIS? 'THEY MUST BE IN IT FOR THE MONEY.' ONE OF THE NEW IDEAS WITHIN EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM - LONGTERMISM - GETS IMMEDIATELY WRITTEN OFF AS 'AN EXCUSE FOR GREEDY RICH ASSHOLES TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES.'"



"THIS KIND OF THINKING ACTUALLY REMINDS ME OF NEOLIBERAL ECONOMICS. ALL ACTIONS AND THOUGHTS ARE EXPLAINED WITH REFERENCE TO SELF-INTEREST AND GREED. THERE'S A CERTAIN KIND OF LEFTIST WHO'S JUST UNABLE TO IMAGINE THAT THERE ARE GENUINELY ALTRUISTIC PEOPLE OUT THERE."



Paris Marx
@parismarx

Today Elon Musk explicitly endorsed a book that advocates longtermism.

It's a harmful ideology that justifies the detachment of billionaires by saying they're actually thinking about the far future of humanity, not just ignoring serious problems to indulge their self-importance.



Elon Musk ✓ @elonmusk · 19h

Worth reading. This is a close match for my philosophy.



William MacAskill · 2022-04-29

My new book, What We Owe The Future, is now available for pre-order!

It makes the case for longtermism, the view that positively affecting the long-run future is a key moral priority of our time.

Here's a thread about it...

🌐 oneworld-publications.com/what-we-owe-th...

📖 basicbooks.com/titles/william...

Show this thread



US version: August 16th

2:34 AM · Aug 3, 2022

RUTGER BREGMAN

POPULAR HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR, WHO PUBLISHED FOUR BOOKS ON HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND ECONOMICS, INCLUDING 'UTOPIA FOR REALISTS: HOW WE CAN BUILD THE IDEAL WORLD' AND 'HUMANKIND'.

"IT IS A CHILLY MONDAY IN LATE MARCH, JUST LESS THAN A YEAR AGO. I AM AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY. MY HOST IS PROF. PETER SINGER, OFTEN CALLED -- AND NOT JUST BY HIS BOOK PUBLICIST -- THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PHILOSOPHER OF OUR TIME. HE IS THE MAN WHO WANTS ME DEAD. NO, THAT'S NOT AT ALL FAIR. HE WANTS TO LEGALIZE THE KILLING OF CERTAIN BABIES WHO MIGHT COME TO BE LIKE ME IF ALLOWED TO LIVE. HE ALSO SAYS HE BELIEVES THAT IT SHOULD BE LAWFUL UNDER SOME CIRCUMSTANCES TO KILL, AT ANY AGE, INDIVIDUALS WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS SO SEVERE THAT HE DOESN'T CONSIDER THEM "PERSONS." WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A PERSON? AWARENESS OF YOUR OWN EXISTENCE IN TIME. THE CAPACITY TO HARBOR PREFERENCES AS TO THE FUTURE, INCLUDING THE PREFERENCE FOR CONTINUING TO LIVE."

"HE INSISTS HE DOESN'T WANT TO KILL ME. HE SIMPLY THINKS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, TO HAVE GIVEN MY PARENTS THE OPTION OF KILLING THE BABY I ONCE WAS, AND TO LET OTHER PARENTS KILL SIMILAR BABIES AS THEY COME ALONG AND THEREBY AVOID THE SUFFERING THAT COMES WITH LIVES LIKE MINE AND SATISFY THE REASONABLE PREFERENCES OF PARENTS FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHILD. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME. I SHOULD NOT FEEL THREATENED."

"IT IS AN INTERESTING EXCHANGE. IN THE LECTURE HALL THAT AFTERNOON, SINGER LAYS IT ALL OUT. THE "ILLOGIC" OF ALLOWING ABORTION BUT NOT INFANTICIDE, OF ALLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF LIFE SUPPORT BUT NOT ACTIVE KILLING."

"I PROCEED TO THE HEART OF MY ARGUMENT: THAT THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF A DISABILITY DOESN'T PREDICT QUALITY OF LIFE. I QUESTION HIS REPLACEMENT-BABY THEORY, WITH ITS ASSUMPTION OF 'OTHER THINGS EQUAL,' ARGUING THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT FUNGIBLE."

"IN THE DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWS, I ARGUE THAT CHOICE IS ILLUSORY IN A CONTEXT OF PERVERSIVE INEQUALITY. CHOICES ARE STRUCTURED BY OPPRESSION. WE SHOULDN'T OFFER ASSISTANCE WITH SUICIDE UNTIL WE ALL HAVE THE ASSISTANCE WE NEED TO GET OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING AND LIVE A GOOD LIFE. COMMON CAUSES OF SUICIDALITY -- DEPENDENCE, INSTITUTIONAL CONFINEMENT, BEING A BURDEN -- ARE ENTIRELY CURABLE."

"SINGER IS EASY TO TALK TO, GOOD COMPANY. TOO BAD HE SEES LIVES LIKE MINE AS AVOIDABLE MISTAKES."

HARRIET MCBRYDE JOHNSON

DIED IN 2008. SHE WAS AN AUTHOR, ATTORNEY AND DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVIST.

I LIKE TO QUOTE THIS FROM MY ADMIRER FRIEND DEREK PARFIT:

"WHAT NOW MATTERS MOST IS HOW WE RESPOND TO VARIOUS RISKS TO THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANITY. WE ARE CREATING SOME OF THESE RISKS, AND DISCOVERING HOW WE COULD RESPOND TO THESE AND OTHER RISKS. IF WE REDUCE THESE RISKS, AND HUMANITY SURVIVES THE NEXT FEW CENTURIES, OUR DESCENDANTS OR SUCCESSORS COULD END THESE RISKS BY SPREADING THROUGH THIS GALAXY.

LIFE CAN BE WONDERFUL AS WELL AS TERRIBLE, AND WE SHALL INCREASINGLY HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE LIFE GOOD. SINCE HUMAN HISTORY MAY BE ONLY JUST BEGINNING, WE CAN EXPECT THAT FUTURE HUMANS, OR SUPRA-HUMANS, MAY ACHIEVE SOME GREAT GOODS THAT WE CANNOT NOW EVEN IMAGINE. IN NIETZSCHE'S WORDS, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH A NEW DAWN AND CLEAR HORIZON, AND SUCH AN OPEN SEA."

* IN MY BOOK "THE MOST GOOD YOU CAN DO" (2015) I ARGUED THAT GOING INTO FINANCE WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT CAREER CHOICE FOR THE ASPIRING EFFECTIVE ALTRUIST. THERE WOULD BE RISKS FOR HARM, BUT I DEEM THEM WORTH IT. CHANCES ARE, IF YOU DON'T BECOME A CHARITY WORKER, SOMEONE ELSE WILL ABLY DO THE JOB; WHEREAS IF YOU DON'T BECOME A FINANCIER WHO GIVES HIS MONEY AWAY, WHO'S TO SAY THAT THE PERSON WHO DOES BECOME A FINANCIER WON'T HOARD ALL HIS RICHES FOR HIMSELF?



PETER SINGER

MORAL PHILOSOPHER AND PROFESSOR OF BIOETHICS AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

WHILE MORAL PHILOSOPHER SINGER HAS BEEN CALLED THE INTELLECTUAL FATHER OF EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM AND EARNING TO GIVE, THE MOVEMENT ITSELF WAS CO-FOUNDED BY TOBY ORD AND WILLIAM MACASKILL (CHAPTER 6). WILLIAM MACASKILL WAS INSPIRED BY PETER SINGER'S INFLUENTIAL 1971 ESSAY "FAMINE, AFFLUENCE AND MORALITY" AND THE WORKS OF DEREK PARFIT. WILLIAM THEN INSPIRED SAM BANKMAN-FRIED. SAM BECAME A BILLIONAIRE FOUNDING THE FTX CRYPTOCURRENCY EXCHANGE AND ONE OF THE EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM PHILANTHROPY MOVEMENT'S LARGEST DONORS. IN OCTOBER 2021 FORBES DESCRIBED HIM AS WORLD'S RICHEST 29-YEAR-OLD 'EARNING TO GIVE'. ON 11 NOVEMBER 2022 HE DECLARED BANKRUPTCY AND THE FTX CRYPTO COLLAPSE EXPOSED AN \$8 BILLION HOLE IN FTX'S ACCOUNTS. PEOPLE'S LIFE SAVINGS WERE LOST.

JUST A COUPLE DAYS EARLIER A HEADLINE READ: "TEXT MESSAGES REVEAL SAM BANKMAN-FRIED'S GURU TOLD ELON MUSK THE CRYPTO BILLIONAIRE WAS 'POTENTIALLY INTERESTED' IN BUYING TWITTER." THE GURU? WILLIAM MACASKILL. PETER SINGER COMMENTED THAT HE SEES NO "DIRECT RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN WHAT BANKMAN-FRIED IS ACCUSED OF AND EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM AND THAT THE SCANDAL WILL CAUSE NO LONG-TERM REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE. HE SAID HE BELIEVES THE EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM MOVEMENT HAS DONE A LOT OF GOOD AND HE IS HOPEFUL THAT IT IS GOING TO GO ON TO DO CONSIDERABLY MORE.

"I BELIEVE THAT IF WE DESTROY MANKIND, AS WE NOW CAN, THIS OUTCOME WILL BE MUCH WORSE THAN MOST PEOPLE THINK. COMPARE THREE OUTCOMES:

(1) PEACE.

(2) A NUCLEAR WAR THAT KILLS 99% OF THE WORLD'S EXISTING POPULATION.

(3) A NUCLEAR WAR THAT KILLS 100%.

(2) WOULD BE WORSE THAN (1), AND (3) WOULD BE WORSE THAN (2). WHICH IS THE GREATER OF THESE TWO DIFFERENCES? MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THE GREATER DIFFERENCE IS BETWEEN (1) AND (2). I BELIEVE THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN (2) AND (3) IS VERY MUCH GREATER."

DEREK PARFIT

PARFIT WAS A PHILOSOPHER WHO SPECIALISED IN PERSONAL IDENTITY, RATIONALITY, AND ETHICS. PARFIT BELIEVED THAT THERE ARE TRUE ANSWERS TO MORAL QUESTIONS, JUST AS THERE ARE TO MATHEMATICAL ONES.

"IF WE ARE THE ONLY RATIONAL BEINGS IN THE UNIVERSE, AS SOME RECENT EVIDENCE SUGGESTS, IT MATTERS EVEN MORE WHETHER WE SHALL HAVE DESCENDANTS OR SUCCESSORS DURING THE BILLIONS OF YEARS IN WHICH THAT WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

SOME OF OUR SUCCESSORS MIGHT LIVE LIVES AND CREATE WORLDS THAT, THOUGH FAILING TO JUSTIFY PAST SUFFERING, WOULD GIVE US ALL, INCLUDING SOME OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED, REASONS TO BE GLAD THAT THE UNIVERSE EXISTS."

"WE COULD CALL HIM THE 'GRANDFATHER OF LONGTERMISM.' AT THE END OF HIS 1984 BOOK 'REASONS AND PERSONS,' PARFIT ARGUED THAT COMPLETE HUMAN EXTINCTION WOULD BE *MUCH MUCH MUCH WORSE* THAN A CATASTROPHE THAT KILLS 'ONLY' 99 PERCENT OF HUMANITY. IF 'ONLY' 99 PERCENT DIED, HUMANITY MIGHT RECOVER, BUT IF 100 PERCENT DIED, THIS WOULD PREVENT A POTENTIALLY ENORMOUS NUMBER OF FUTURE PEOPLE FROM EVER COMING INTO EXISTENCE, AND KEEP US FROM PERFECTING SO-CALLED 'IDEAL GOODS' LIKE THE ARTS, SCIENCE, AND MORALITY (PARFIT THOUGHT MORAL PROGRESS HAD ONLY JUST BEGUN)."

ÉMILE P. TORRES

PHILOSOPHER AND AUTHOR OF 'HUMAN EXTINCTION: A HISTORY OF THE SCIENCE AND ETHICS OF ANNIHILATION'

"'TOTAL VIEW' THE VIEW THAT MACASKILL DEFENDS IN HIS BOOK, WAS NAMED THAT WAY BY THE PHILOSOPHER, DEREK PARFIT, WHO IS SORT OF THE GRANDFATHER OF THE WHOLE LONGTERMIST MOVEMENT; HE WAS THE SUPERVISOR OF TOBY ORD. ON THE TOTAL VIEW, THERE IS NO INTRINSIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DIES AND A POSSIBLE PERSON WHO IS NOT BORN.

SO MAYBE THERE ARE OTHER REASONS WHY THE DEATH OF SOMEBODY MIGHT BE WORSE, IT MIGHT AFFECT THE LOVED ONES, AND SO ON. BUT IF YOU BRACKET THOSE, THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE DEATH ITSELF, AND THE NON BIRTH OF SOME PERSON WHO COULD POSSIBLY EXIST. THE EASIEST WAY TO UNDERSTAND THAT IS THAT ON THIS VIEW, PEOPLE ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE CONTAINERS OF VALUE. SO WE'RE JUST THESE VESSELS, WE CAN BE FILLED WITH VALUE, WHICH YOU MIGHT TAKE TO BE HAPPINESS, A CERTAIN QUANTITY OF HAPPINESS, OR MAYBE EVEN A NEGATIVE QUANTITY OF HAPPINESS. AND THE TOTAL VIEW SAYS THAT A UNIVERSE THAT CONTAINS MORE NET TOTAL VALUE OR HAPPINESS IS BETTER THAN A UNIVERSE THAT CONTAINS LESS. AND IF YOU THEN DERIVE AN OBLIGATION FROM THAT, AS THE UTILITARIANS WOULD DO, THEY WOULD SAY, WELL, THEN WE HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO CREATE A UNIVERSE WITH AS MUCH VALUE AS MUCH HAPPINESS AS POSSIBLE."

"ONE WAY TO DO THAT IS TO INCREASE THE HAPPINESS THAT'S EXPERIENCED BY ALL THE PEOPLE WHO CURRENTLY EXIST. BUT ANOTHER WAY TO DO THAT IS TO CREATE NEW PEOPLE, I.E. VALUE CONTAINERS THAT CONTAIN NET POSITIVE AMOUNTS OF VALUE. SO IF YOU DOUBLE YOUR POPULATION, AND IF EVERYBODY HAS THE EXACT SAME AMOUNT OF VALUE, SAY, HAPPINESS LEVEL OF 10, YOU DOUBLE THE POPULATION, YOU GET TWICE AS MUCH VALUE. AND SO THE UNIVERSE THEN BECOMES TWICE AS GOOD. IF YOU TRIPLE IT, IT BECOMES THREE TIMES AS GOOD, AND SO ON AND SO ON. SO, BEHIND IT, THERE'S THIS REALLY CONTROVERSIAL IDEA ABOUT THE INTRINSIC BADNESS OF DEATH VERSUS NON BIRTH. AND CONSEQUENTLY, THIS KIND OF MORAL DUTY, WHICH MAY NOT BE ABSOLUTE, BUT THERE'S STILL A KIND OF LIKE MORAL, YOU KNOW, PUSH THEN TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE OR TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES THAT WILL MAXIMIZE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE."

"SO ALL OF THAT SAID, MAYBE IT'S USEFUL THEN TO ACTUALLY DEFINE LONGTERMISM. IT'S BASICALLY JUST THE IDEA (TO MAKE SURE THAT THE LONG TERM FUTURE OF HUMANITY GOES WELL) - THERE'S A WEAK AND A STRONG VERSION - A LOT OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, ARE MOST SYMPATHETIC WITH THE STRONG VERSION. SOME OF THEM LIKE MACASKILL AND HAVE EXPLICITLY DEFENDED THE STRONG VERSION."

"BUT NONETHELESS, MACASKILL DISCUSSES IN AN ARTICLE THAT HE POSTED ON THE EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM FORUM THAT FOR MARKETING REASONS, THEY SHOULD GO WITH THE WEAKER DEFINITION. THE WEAKER DEFINITION IS JUST THAT ENSURING THAT THE LONG TERM FUTURE OF HUMANITY GOES WELL IS A KEY PRIORITY. AND THE STRONGER VERSION IS THAT THIS IS THE KEY PRIORITY. IT TOPS THE LIST; IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAN ANYTHING ELSE, GLOBAL POVERTY, NO, ANIMAL WELFARE, NO. ANY KIND OF PROBLEM, A CONTEMPORARY PROBLEM THAT'S FACING HUMANITY THAT ISN'T GOING TO SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE HOW MUCH VALUE COMES TO EXIST IN THE VERY FAR FUTURE IS JUST NOT ONE OF OUR TOP PRIORITIES. NICK BOSTROM, WHO IS SORT OF THE FATHER OF LONGTERMISM, HAS MADE THIS MORE EXPLICIT SAID: FOR UTILITARIANS, OUR TOP FOUR PRIORITIES SHOULD BE MITIGATING EXISTENTIAL RISK. AND ON THIS VIEW, EXISTENTIAL RISK IS BASICALLY ANYTHING THAT WILL PREVENT US FROM CREATING ASTRONOMICAL AMOUNTS OF VALUE IN THE FUTURE."



"IT'S THIS PERSPECTIVE - THE COSMIC VANTAGE POINT - THAT YIELDS A PROFOUNDLY CALLOUS VIEW OF CURRENT-DAY SUFFERING. SURE, GLOBAL POVERTY IS BAD, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO PREVENT OUR DESCENDANTS FROM BECOMING RADICALLY ENHANCED POSTHUMANS, COLONIZING SPACE AND SIMULATING ENORMOUS NUMBERS OF DIGITAL PEOPLE, WHICH IS WHAT REALLY MATTERS. OR CONSIDER CLIMATE CHANGE, WHICH THE LONGTERMIST JAAN TALLINN, WHO CO-FOUNDED THE FUTURE OF LIFE INSTITUTE, SAYS 'IS NOT GOING TO BE AN EXISTENTIAL RISK UNLESS THERE'S A RUNAWAY SCENARIO.' A RUNAWAY SCENARIO, WHICH WOULD CAUSE OUR EXTINCTION, IS VERY UNLIKELY."

ÉMILE P. TORRES

"IF YOU DIG A LITTLE DEEPER, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT ENSURING THAT THE LONG RUN FUTURE OF HUMANITY GOES WELL? WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT MEAN? AND THE MEANING IS, AT LEAST ONE WAY TO UNDERSTAND IT, DRAWS FROM THE TOTAL VIEW. SO THE FUTURE WILL GO BETTER IF WE NOT JUST SURVIVE FOR A REALLY LONG TIME, AT LEAST WE HAVE ANOTHER BILLION YEARS OR 800 MILLION YEARS ON EARTH, BEFORE EARTH BECOMES UNINHABITABLE AS THE SUN TURNS INTO A RED GIANT, AND ITS LUMINOSITY INCREASES, THE OCEANS BOIL, AND SO ON. BUT IF WE COLONIZE SPACE, WE COULD POTENTIALLY INCREASE THE HUMAN POPULATION BY MANY ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE. THERE COULD BE 10 TO THE 23 BIOLOGICAL HUMANS IN THE VIRGO SUPERCLUSTER, OUR LOCAL GROUP OF GALAXIES. EVEN MORE, IF WE CREATE PLANET SIZED COMPUTERS, IN WHICH WE SIMULATE DIGITAL PEOPLE, THESE WOULD BE BASICALLY DIGITAL VALUE CONTAINERS, DIGITAL VESSELS THAT WOULD REALIZE SOME KIND OF HAPPINESS, THEN WE COULD EVEN MORE VASTLY INCREASE THE FUTURE POPULATION."

"SO BEHIND THE LONG TERM VIEW IS THIS VISION OF WHAT COULD BE THAT INVOLVES SPACE COLONIZATION, THE CREATION OF COMPUTER SIMULATIONS, AND THE SIMULATION OF ENORMOUS NUMBERS OF DIGITAL PEOPLE, ALL FOR THE AIM OF MAXIMIZING THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF HAPPINESS THAT EXISTS IN THE FUTURE, WITHIN OUR FUTURE LIGHT CONE, THAT'S THE REGION OF THE UNIVERSE THAT'S ACCESSIBLE TO US, IN PRINCIPLE. AND THERE ARE ALSO OTHER REASONS, TOO.

THEY MIGHT SAY: WELL, THERE ARE GREAT WORKS OF ART THAT WILL BE CREATED IN THE FUTURE; THERE'S EVERMORE JUST SOCIETIES THAT WE COULD CREATE. BUT A LOT OF THIS IS JUST THE FOUNDATION IS MAXIMIZATION, MORE IS BETTER. I MEAN, MACASKILL ACTUALLY HAS A SECTION IN HIS BOOK CALLED BIGGER IS BETTER, WE SHOULD MAKE THIS CIVILIZATION AS BIG AS POSSIBLE."

"THE FUTURE SHOULD BE BIG."

"THE FUTURE SHOULD BE AS BIG AS POSSIBLE."

PARIS MARX

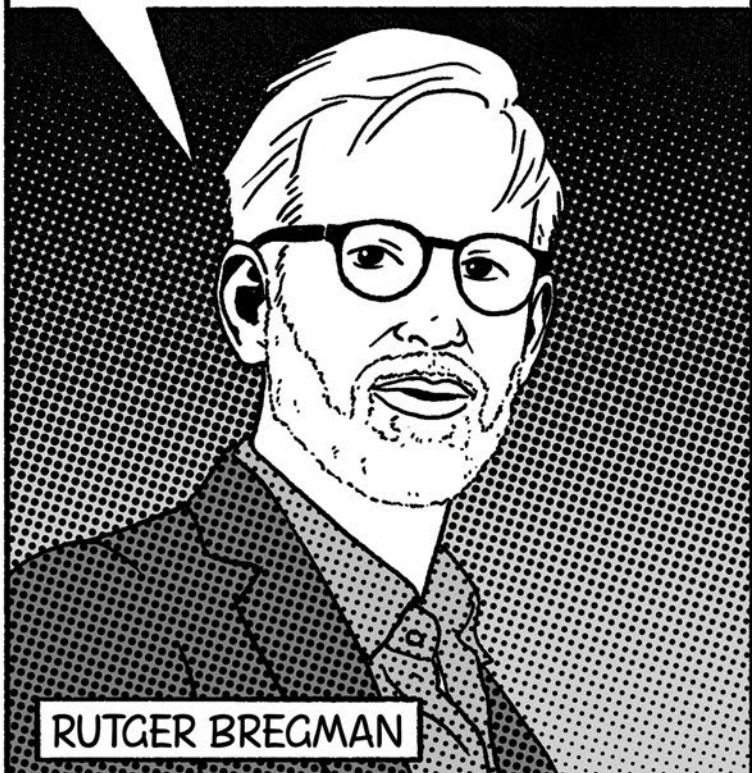
TECH CRITIC, AUTHOR, AND
HOST OF TECH WON'T SAVE US

SPACEX

MARS & BEYOND

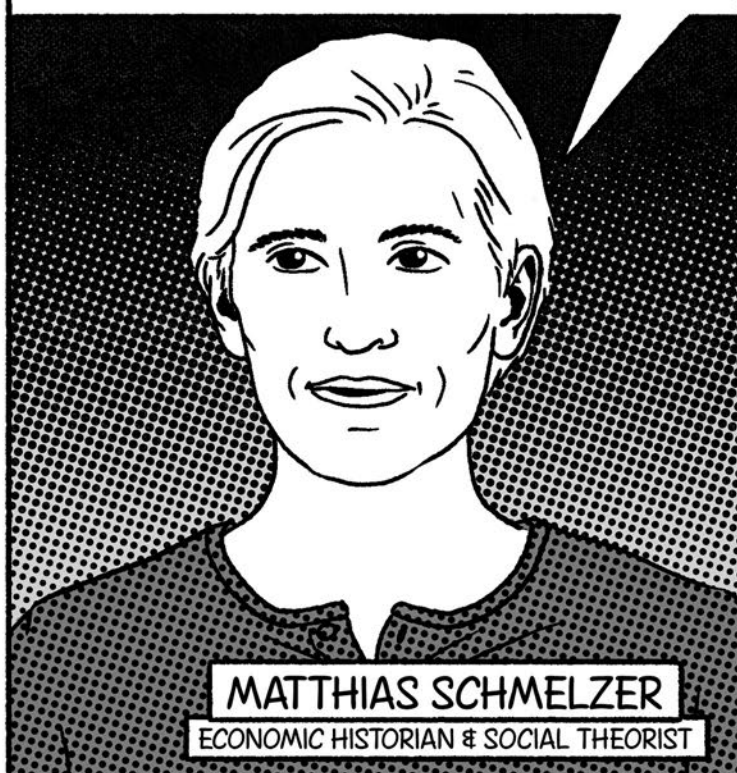
THE ROAD TO MAKING HUMANITY MULTIPLANETARY

"BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT DEGROWTH IS THE WORST THING TO HAVE HAPPENED TO THE LEFT IN YEARS. IT'S A TERRIBLE SLOGAN. AND SMALL ISN'T BEAUTIFUL. WE NEED ABUNDANT CLEAN ENERGY, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION. PROGRESS AND PLENTY SHOULD BE OUR RALLYING CRY."



RUTGER BREGMAN

"HAVE YOU EVEN READ WHAT DEGROWTH IS ABOUT?"
"IT *IS* ABOUT RADICAL ABUNDANCE IN WHAT PEOPLE NEED, ENERGY, HOUSING, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION ETC., WHILE REDUCING ENERGY AND RESOURCE USE IN GLOBAL NORTH TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE."



MATTHIAS SCHMELZER

ECONOMIC HISTORIAN & SOCIAL THEORIST

"SO SOME FOLKS WHO ARE IN THE EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM MOVEMENT, & HORRIFIED BY ITS RECENT BEHAVIOR, WROTE A PIECE ABOUT HOW EA CAN FIX IT SELF.

READING THROUGH IT, ALL I CAN THINK IS "OHHHH YEAH. I REMEMBER THIS STAGE OF TRYING TO BREAK OUT OF A CULT.

FOLKS, IF A GROUP YOU'RE IN:

- PROMISES THAT ONLY IT CAN SAVE YOU FROM EXISTENTIAL THREATS (HELL, EXTINCTION, ETC)
- HAS A FEW PROMINENT LEADERS AT THE TOP WHO CONTROL LARGE FLOWS OF CASH & BEHAVE BADLY,
- SHUNS YOU FOR POINTING OUT THOSE LEADERS' BAD BEHAVIOR,
- THAT'S A CULT.

IF YOU FEEL SO DISGUSTED BY THIS GROUP'S BEHAVIOR THAT

- YOU FEEL COMPELLED TO WRITE GIANT THINKPIECES ABOUT FIXING IT FROM THE INSIDE,
- BUT YOU ALSO WRITE IT ANONYMOUSLY BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE GROUP'S LEADERSHIP WILL DESTROY YOUR CAREER OVER IT,
- THAT'S A CULT."



DR SARAH TABER

CROP SCIENTIST, EX-FARMWORKER, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PRO

"AND I SAY THIS WILL ALL THE LOVE & SYMPATHY. IT'S A VERY RARE CULT THAT ACTUALLY MEETS THE POP CULTURE STEREOTYPE OF CHANTING PEOPLE IN ROBES.

(I SAY THIS AS SOMEONE WHO WAS BORN INTO A POP CULTURE STEREOTYPE CULT WITH CHANTING & ROBES- THAT'S WEIRD BEHAVIOR EVEN FOR A CULT LOL)

EA IS ALSO GOOD AT REDIRECTING ALL CRITICISM INTO ENDLESS PHILOSOPHICAL DEBATES RE: UTILITARIANISM.

THAT'S A KEY CULT-LEADER TACTIC: CONFINING CONFLICT INTO ARENAS THAT LEADERS CAN CONTROL & WIN. IT'S NOT HARD TO KEEP AN INACCESSIBLE NICHE HIGH GROUND.

WHY DOES EA CONTROL ARGUMENTS? AGAIN, THE BEST WAY TO GUARANTEE WE'RE TRAPPED IN SHORT-TERM DECISION-MAKING IS TO HAVE SOCIETY RUN BY A FEW WEALTHY PEOPLE AT THE TOP.

IN OTHER WORDS,
THE TOP EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO HUMANITY IS
BILLIONAIRES.

THE VERY PEOPLE EA PROPS UP AS SAVIORS.

EA IS AN IDEOLOGY CREATED BY & FOR WEALTHY PEOPLE TO POSITION THEMSELVES AS THE SOLUTION TO HUMANITY'S PROBLEMS. WHEN THEY ARE, IN FACT, THE PROBLEM.

THAT'S WHY EA BEHAVES LIKE A CULT.

THE WHOLE POINT OF IT IS TO CONTROL INFO & RESOURCES. IT WILL NEVER CHANGE."



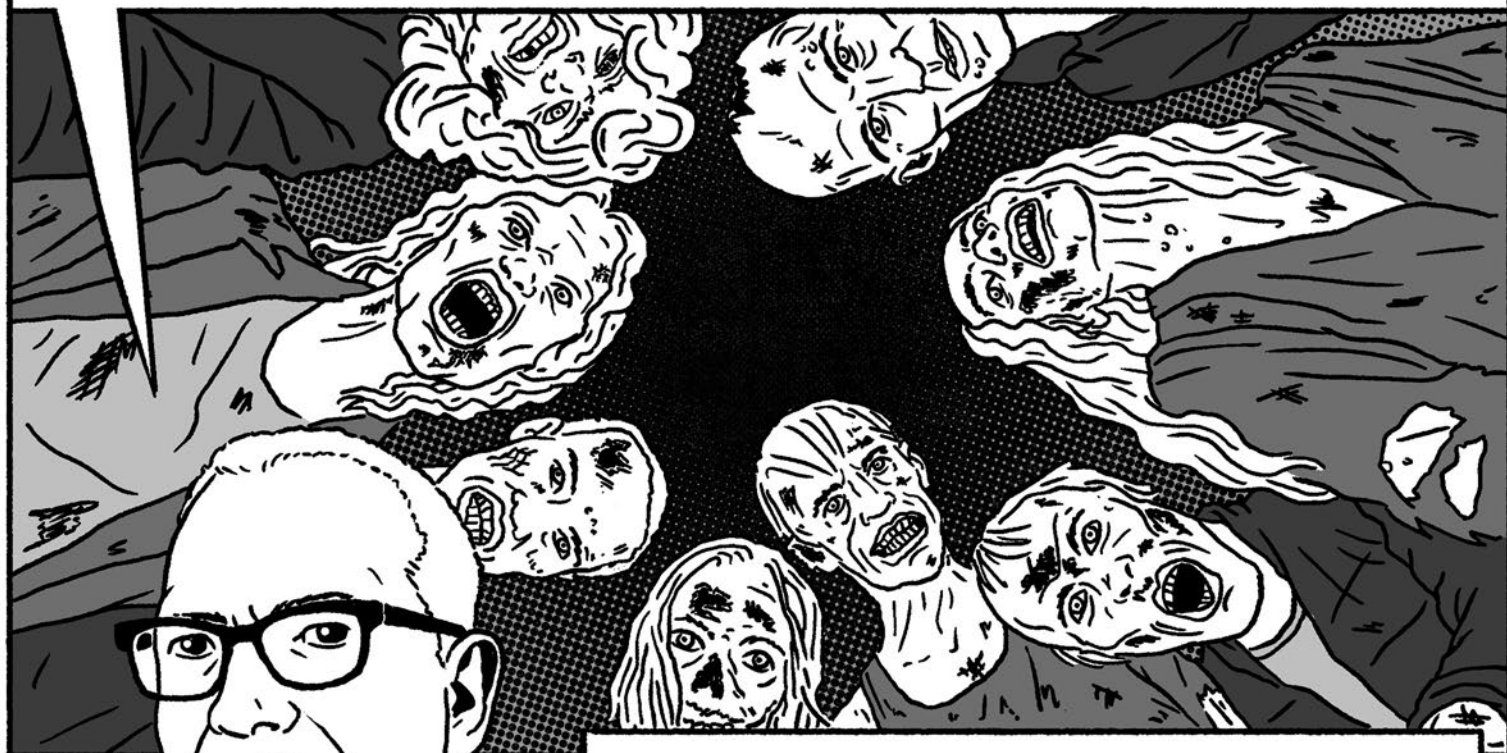
"WE LIVE IN CAPITALISM, ITS POWER SEEMS INESCAPABLE - BUT THEN, SO DID THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS.

"ANY HUMAN POWER CAN BE RESISTED AND CHANGED BY HUMAN BEINGS. RESISTANCE AND CHANGE OFTEN BEGIN IN ART. VERY OFTEN IN OUR ART, THE ART OF WORDS."



URSULA K. LE GUIN

"HERE'S HOW YOU MAKE A DYSTOPIA: CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, THEIR NEIGHBORS ARE THEIR ENEMIES, NOT THEIR MUTUAL SAVIORS AND RESPONSIBILITIES."



"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN UTOPIA AND DYSTOPIA ISN'T HOW WELL EVERYTHING RUNS. IT'S ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN EVERYTHING FAILS."

"WHETHER DISASTERS TURN INTO DYSTOPIAS ... THAT'S FOR US TO DECIDE, AND THE DECIDING FACTOR MIGHT JUST BE THE STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES."

CORY DOCTOROW

SCIENCE FICTION AUTHOR, ACTIVIST & JOURNALIST

"PROPHECIES ARE ALWAYS PARTLY SELF-FULFILLING; BY PROMOTING WHATEVER OUTCOME THEY DESCRIBE, THEY MAKE IT MORE LIKELY. IN THIS WE CAN DISTINGUISH THEM FROM WARNINGS, WHICH ASSUME THE OUTCOME IS AS YET UNDECIDED, AND URGE US AWAY FROM THE WORST VERSION."

REBECCA SOLNIT

WRITER, HISTORIAN, AND ACTIVIST





"CHANGING THE FUTURE IS A LOT MORE AMBITIOUS THAN PREDICTING THE FUTURE. SO I LIKE TO THINK OF WHERE WE'RE AT RIGHT NOW IN TERMS OF OUR MULTIPLE LOOMING WICKED CRISES: CLIMATE, ECONOMICS, WAR, AND SO ON AS BEING LIKE PRISONERS ON A BUS. AND THAT BUS IS BARRELING TOWARD THE EDGE OF A CLIFF. AND THE THING THAT IS DYSTOPIAN ABOUT THAT BUS, IS NOT THAT IT'S BARRELING TOWARD THE EDGE OF A CLIFF, CAUSE THE HUMAN CONDITION SINCE TIME HAS BEEN BARRELING TOWARDS THE EDGE OF A CLIFF, AND WHATEVER KIND OF VEHICLE WE COULD CONCEIVE OF WHETHER THAT WAS A CHARIOT OR A BUS."

"THE THING THAT IS DYSTOPIAN IS THERE'S A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WHO ARE LIKE WE CAN'T TURN THE WHEEL. IF WE TURN THE WHEEL SOMETHING BAD MIGHT HAPPEN TO THE BUS."

"AND THERE'S A BUNCH OF US GOING BUT YOU SEE THE CLIFF RIGHT. AND SO I DON'T THINK IT'S DYSTOPIAN TO SAY THAT WE'RE ON THIS BUS, AND THAT WE'RE HEADING TOWARDS THE CLIFF. I THINK IT'S UTOPIAN TO SAY, WE CAN ALL RUSH THE DRIVER AND YANK THE WHEEL. AND THAT MAYBE THE WORST THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, IS THAT SOME OF US WILL BREAK A ARM OR LEG. AND THAT'S THE KIND OF UTOPIANISM THAT I'M REALLY HERE FOR. AND IT'S A UTOPIANISM, NOT OF OPTIMISM, BUT A UTOPIANISM OF HOPE. HOPE IS THE NECESSARY BUT INSUFFICIENT PRE-CONDITION FOR A BETTER TOMORROW. AND HOPE IS GROUNDED IN THE IDEA THAT WHAT WE DO CAN CHANGE THE FUTURE."



"WHEN WE TALK ABOUT ANY MOVEMENT, INCLUDING THE PUSH FOR CLIMATE ACTION, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A 'ZEITGEIST, A CHANGE IN THE AIR,' WRITER, HISTORIAN, AND ACTIVIST REBECCA SOLNIT WRITES IN HER ESSAY-TURNED-BOOK *HOPE IN THE DARK*, WHICH FOCUSES ON THE INTERSECTION OF ACTIVISM, SOCIAL CHANGE, AND HOPE. IT'S THIS LAST ELEMENT, HOPE, THAT CAN BECOME 'AN ELECTRIFYING FORCE IN THE PRESENT,' SOLNIT WRITES, 'A SENSE THAT THERE MIGHT BE A DOOR AT SOME POINT, SOME WAY OUT OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE PRESENT MOMENT EVEN BEFORE IT IS FOUND OR FOLLOWED.'



STELLA LEVANTESI

CLIMATE JOURNALIST, PHOTOGRAPHER, AND AUTHOR

"I ALWAYS FEEL IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO CLEAR UP THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN HOPE AND OPTIMISM. FOR ME, OPTIMISM IS A FORM OF CERTAINTY: EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE, THEREFORE, NOTHING IS REQUIRED OF US, WHICH IS REALLY THE SAME AS CYNICISM AND PESSIMISM AND DESPAIR. HOPE, FOR ME, IS JUST RECOGNIZING THAT THE FUTURE IS BEING DECIDED TO SOME EXTENT IN THE PRESENT, AND WHAT WE DO MATTERS BECAUSE OF THAT REALITY."

"I THINK THE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE OF IMAGINATION AND HOPE IS JUST THE ABILITY TO IMAGINE A WORLD THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT IS NOW. [WRITER] ADRIENNE MAREE BROWN ONCE SAID THAT ALL ORGANIZING IS SCIENCE FICTION BECAUSE YOU'RE IMAGINING SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T EXIST YET. BUT OF COURSE, IT'S LIKE, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE IMAGINING? I FIND THAT SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND ME ARE VERY GOOD AT IMAGINING EVERYTHING FALLING APART, EVERYTHING GETTING WORSE; THEY'RE GOOD AT DYSTOPIA, THEY'RE BAD AT UTOPIA."

"EVERY CRISIS IS IN PART A STORYTELLING CRISIS. THIS IS AS TRUE OF CLIMATE CHAOS AS ANYTHING ELSE. WE ARE HEMMED IN BY STORIES THAT PREVENT US FROM SEEING, OR BELIEVING IN, OR ACTING ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR CHANGE. SOME ARE HABITS OF MIND, SOME ARE INDUSTRY PROPAGANDA. SOMETIMES, THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED BUT THE STORIES HAVEN'T, AND PEOPLE FOLLOW THE OLD VERSIONS, LIKE OUTDATED MAPS, INTO DEAD ENDS."



"THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS A PROBLEM WITH NO SINGLE SOLUTION, BUT MANY, JUST AS THERE IS NO ONE SAVIOUR, BUT MANY PROTAGONISTS IN THE STRUGGLE. IN 2019, SWEDISH CLIMATE ACTIVIST GRETA THUNBERG SAID WE MUST EMBRACE 'CATHEDRAL THINKING', ADDING: "WE MUST LAY THE FOUNDATION WHILE WE MAY NOT KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO BUILD THE CEILING."

THE SPECULATIVE FICTION WRITER OCTAVIA BUTLER INCLUDED THIS PASSAGE IN ONE OF HER ESSAYS:

"OK,"
THE YOUNG MAN CHALLENGED.
"SO WHAT'S THE ANSWER?"
"THERE ISN'T ONE," I TOLD HIM.
"NO ANSWER? YOU MEAN WE'RE JUST DOOMED?"
HE SMILED AS THOUGH HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE A JOKE.
"NO," I SAID. "I MEAN THERE'S NO SINGLE ANSWER THAT WILL SOLVE ALL OF OUR FUTURE PROBLEMS. THERE'S NO MAGIC BULLET. INSTEAD THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF ANSWERS - AT LEAST. YOU CAN BE ONE OF THEM IF YOU CHOOSE TO BE."

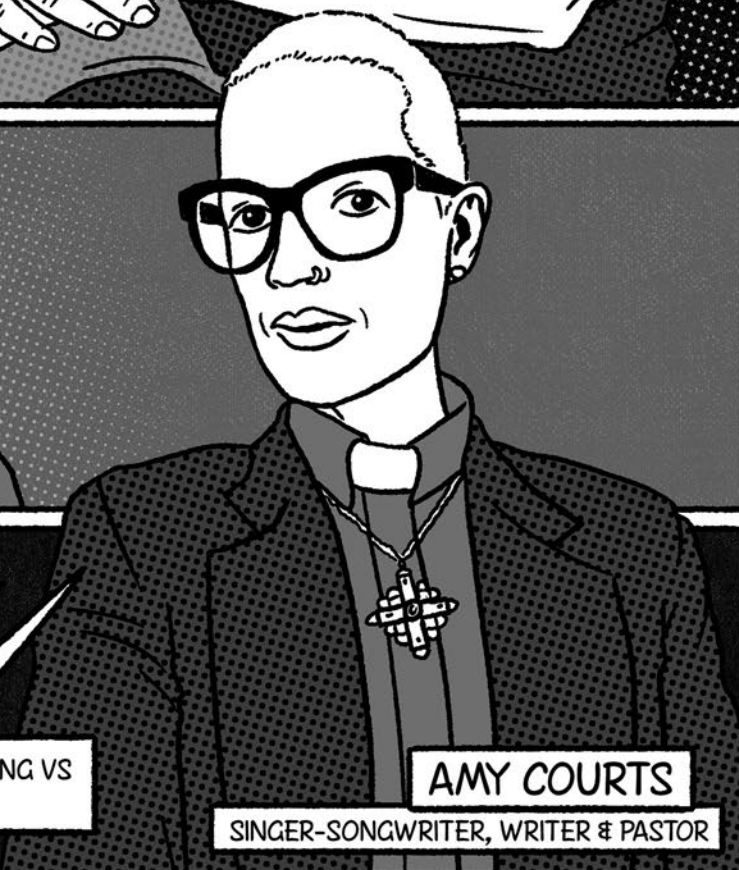
"I AM ACCUMULATING RESOURCES
TO HELP MAKE LIFE
MULTIPLANETARY & EXTEND THE
LIGHT OF CONSCIOUSNESS
TO THE STARS."



ELON MUSK

"THIS IS WILD BECAUSE OCTAVIA BUTLER DESCRIBED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME IDEA IN PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND YET YOU'RE CLEARLY NOT DOING THE SAME THINGS."

"SOMETHING ABOUT HOARDING VS
SHARING RESOURCES..."



AMY COURTS

SINGER-SONGWRITER, WRITER & PASTOR

"I WROTE THE TWO PARABLE BOOKS BACK IN THE '90S - PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND PARABLE OF THE TALENTS - AND THEY WERE WHAT I CALL CAUTIONARY TALES: IF WE KEEP MISBEHAVING OURSELVES, IGNORING WHAT WE'VE BEEN IGNORING, DOING WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING TO THE ENVIRONMENT, FOR INSTANCE, HERE'S WHAT WE'RE LIABLE TO WIND UP WITH."

"GLOBAL WARMING IS ONE OF THOSE PROBLEMS. AND I WAS AWARE OF IT BACK IN THE '80S. I WAS READING BOOKS ABOUT IT. AND A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE SEEING IT AS POLITICS, AS SOMETHING VERY IFFY, AS SOMETHING THEY COULD IGNORE BECAUSE NOTHING WAS GOING TO COME OF IT TOMORROW. THAT AND THE FACT THAT I ... WAS PAYING A LOT OF ATTENTION TO EDUCATION BECAUSE A LOT OF MY FRIENDS WERE TEACHERS, AND THE POLITICS OF EDUCATION WAS GETTING SCARIER, IT SEEMED TO ME. WE WERE GETTING TO THAT POINT WHERE WE WERE THINKING MORE ABOUT THE BUILDING OF PRISONS THAN OF SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES. AND I REMEMBER WHILE I WAS WORKING ON THE NOVELS, MY HOMETOWN, PASADENA, HAD A BOND ISSUE THAT THEY PASSED TO AID LIBRARIES, AND I WAS SO HAPPY THAT IT PASSED, BECAUSE SO OFTEN THESE THINGS DON'T. AND THEY HAD CLOSED A LOT OF BRANCH LIBRARIES AND WERE ABLE TO REOPEN THEM. SO, NOT EVERYBODY WAS GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, BUT A LOT OF THE COUNTRY STILL WAS. AND WHAT I WANTED TO WRITE WAS A NOVEL OF SOMEONE WHO WAS COMING UP WITH SOLUTIONS OF A SORT."

"MY MAIN CHARACTER'S SOLUTION IS - WELL, GROWS FROM ANOTHER RELIGION THAT SHE COMES UP WITH. RELIGION IS EVERYWHERE. THERE ARE NO HUMAN SOCIETIES WITHOUT IT, WHETHER THEY ACKNOWLEDGE IT AS A RELIGION OR NOT. SO I THOUGHT RELIGION MIGHT BE AN ANSWER, AS WELL AS, IN SOME CASES, A PROBLEM. AND IN, FOR INSTANCE, PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND PARABLE OF THE TALENTS, IT'S BOTH. SO I HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE BRINGING AMERICA TO A KIND OF FASCISM, BECAUSE THEIR RELIGION IS THE ONLY ONE THEY'RE WILLING TO TOLERATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, I HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE SAYING, "WELL, HERE IS ANOTHER RELIGION, AND HERE ARE SOME VERSES THAT CAN HELP US THINK IN A DIFFERENT WAY, AND HERE IS A DESTINATION THAT ISN'T SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR AFTER WE DIE."



OCTAVIA E. BUTLER

ALL THAT YOU TOUCH
YOU CHANGE.

ALL THAT YOU CHANGE
CHANGES YOU.

THE ONLY LASTING TRUTH
IS CHANGE.

GOD
IS CHANGE.

- PARABLE OF THE SOWER

OCTAVIA BUTLER DIED IN 2006. SHE WAS THE FIRST SCIENCE FICTION AUTHOR AWARDED A PRESTIGIOUS MACARTHUR 'GENIUS' FELLOWSHIP, CEMENTING HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LITERARY WORLD. BUTLER IS CONSIDERED THE "MOTHER OF AFROFUTURISM," AND HER VISION REMAINS RELEVANT AND CRITICAL IN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.



"THE MAIN CHARACTER IN PARABLE OF THE SOWER, LAUREN OLAMINA, IS A PERSON WHO HAS A MISSION. SHE HAS A RELIGION THAT SHE FEELS THAT SHE HAS DISCOVERED AS OPPOSED TO CREATED AND THAT SHE FEELS WOULD MAKE HUMANITY A LITTLE BIT MORE SURVIVABLE IF THEY PAID ATTENTION TO IT. I FELT THAT THERE ARE NO SOCIETIES THAT DON'T HAVE RELIGIONS. YOU KNOW WHETHER THEY'RE SECULAR OR WHATEVER THEY HAVE SOMETHING AND SO I THOUGHT SHE WOULD WIND UP USING RELIGION AS A TOOL. SHE HAS THIS DESTINY IN MIND FOR HUMANITY, THE DESTINY OF EARTH SEED, WHICH IS THE NAME OF HER RELIGION, IS TO TAKE ROOT AMONG THE STARS."

"AND WHETHER YOU TAKE THAT LITERALLY OR FIGURATIVELY YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE YOURSELF BETTER. SHE TAKES IT LITERALLY AND WHAT SHE WANTS TO DO IS KIND OF PUSH PEOPLE INTO GOING TO THE STARS SETTLING AWAY FROM EARTH. BECAUSE SHE FEELS THAT THIS IS SUCH A LONG TERM DIFFICULT EXPENSIVE PROJECT, YOU KNOW, THE CATHEDRAL OF ITS TIME."



"MY CHARACTER IS SAYING NOT ONLY IS IT GOING TO BE ADVANCING US TECHNOLOGICALLY BUT IT'S GOING TO GET US OFF EARTH. IT'S GOING TO GIVE US SOME SPECIES INSURANCE SO THAT WE'RE NOT JUST SMOOTH DINOSAURS WHO LIVE HERE AND DIE HERE AND THAT'S THE END OF THAT. SHE BELIEVES THAT IF WE FOCUS ON THIS LONG -TERM EXPENSIVE, JUST ENERGY CONSUMING, PROJECT FAMILY OF PROJECTS THAT IT'LL PROBABLY KEEP US FROM WIPING EACH OTHER OUT HERE ON EARTH AND IN THE END WE'LL GO SOMEPLACE ELSE DOES THIS."



"IN THOSE BOOKS, BUTLER GOES THROUGH THE WHOLE ISSUE OF TRYING TO LIVE WITHIN A SOCIETY THAT IS DISRESPECTFUL OF YOUR NEEDS, EVEN YOUR BODILY AUTONOMY. I'M NEEDING THAT HOPE, I'M NEEDING THAT ENCOURAGEMENT, THAT REMINDER THAT THESE THINGS GO IN CYCLES AND THAT THE CYCLE WILL AT SOME POINT END AND WE WILL PUSH BACK."

"I AM NOT A PRACTITIONER OF EARTHSEED MYSELF, BUT I SEE THE APPEAL OF IT. I SEE THE POWER OF IT. IT IS LESS A FAITH THAN IT IS A CODIFICATION OF THE THINGS THAT SURVIVORS NEED TO SURVIVE - THE BELIEFS THAT WILL KEEP YOU GOING, THE BELIEFS THAT WILL KEEP YOU FIGHTING."

N.K. JEMISIN

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY WRITER

"THE DESTINY OF EARTHSEED IS TO TAKE ROOT AMONG THE STARS."

"GOD IS TECHNOLOGICAL."

"I (ALWAYS) WANTED TO BE ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF HUMAN CIVILISATION IN SPACE."

"I BELIEVE SPACE IS A MESSAGE OF UNIFICATION. I BELIEVE SPACE IS SOMETHING THAT CREATES HUMAN NATIONALIZATION. SPACE IS THE THING THAT MAKES US FORGET ABOUT OUR DIFFERENCES AND FOCUS ON A COMMON GOAL."

"AS LONG AS WE FOCUS ON CHEAP, IT WILL NEVER BE CHEAP ENOUGH. IF WE PUT EVERYTHING ON THE MAYFLOWER AND TOOK IT BACK AND FORTH, IT WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN PROFITABLE TO COLONIZE THE AMERICAS. IT WAS ONLY PROFITABLE TO BUY A TICKET AND COME HERE ONCE WE ESTABLISHED CITIES. LET'S MAKE SETTLEMENT THE GOAL, AND THEN CHEAP ACCESS BECOMES A NECESSITY."



GABRIEL ROTHBLATT

IS A LONGTIME SPACE SETTLEMENT ADVOCATE AND THE SON OF MARTINE ROTHBLATT HE IS ALSO 'SWAMI G': THE PASTOR AND VP OF THE TERASEM MOVEMENT. IN 2014 GABRIEL RAN FOR CONGRESS IN FLORIDA:

"CONGRESS IS NOT MY GOAL. SPACE IS MY GOAL. TO GET TO CONGRESS TO STREAMLINE WHAT IS NECESSARY TO HAPPEN TO ENCOURAGE THE EXPLOSION OF AMERICAN COMMERCIAL SPACE DEVELOPMENT ... WHAT'S NEEDED IS SOME NEW BLOOD IN POLITICS TO LISTEN TO YOUNG INNOVATORS - LIKE MUSK - TO HELP SPUR THE INDUSTRY."



JESSICA ROY

WRITER, EDITOR AND DIGITAL STRATEGIST

"THE NAME TERASEM COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD FOR 'EARTHSEED,' WHICH IS ALSO THE NAME FOR THE FUTURISTIC RELIGION FOUND IN THE OCTAVIA BUTLER SCI-FI NOVEL PARABLE OF THE SOWER THAT HELPED INSPIRE GABRIEL'S PARENTS, BINA AND MARTINE ROTHBLATT, TO START THEIR NEW FAITH. MARTINE FOUNDED THE SUCCESSFUL SATELLITE RADIO COMPANY SIRIUS XM IN 1990. (MARTINE WAS ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS MARTIN. SHE HAD SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY 20 YEARS AGO.)"

"ORGANIZED AROUND FOUR CORE TENETS—LIFE IS PURPOSEFUL, DEATH IS OPTIONAL, GOD IS TECHNOLOGICAL AND LOVE IS ESSENTIAL—TERASEM IS A 'TRANSRELIGION,' MEANING THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE UP BEING CHRISTIAN OR JEWISH OR MUSLIM TO JOIN. IN FACT, MANY BELIEVERS EMBRACE TRADITIONAL POSITIONS HELD BY MAINSTREAM RELIGIONS—INCLUDING THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD AND THE EXISTENCE OF AN AFTERLIFE—BUT SAY THESE ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY INCREASING ADVANCEMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY."

"TERASEM'S FOLLOWERS ARE DEDICATED TO STUDYING AND RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT WHAT THEY CALL 'PERSONAL CYBERCONSCIOUSNESS'—THE CREATION OF MINDFILES. THEY BELIEVE THAT BY RITUALISTICALLY RECORDING YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS WITH GREAT DETAIL, YOU CAN ULTIMATELY ASSEMBLE A DIGITAL COPY OF YOURSELF, AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE USE."

"IT'S HARD FOR ME TO THINK OF ANY ASPECT OF LIFE THAT CANNOT BE REPLICATED IF ONE HAD SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY."

"BINA AND I WERE INSPIRED TO FIND A WAY FOR PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD CONSISTENT WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SO PEOPLE WOULD HAVE FAITH IN THE FUTURE."

"FOR US GOD IS IN-THE-MAKING BY OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO MAKE TECHNOLOGY EVER MORE OMNIPRESENT, OMNIPOTENT AND ETHICAL."

"WHEN WE CAN JOYFULLY ALL EXPERIENCE TECHNO IMMORTALITY, THEN GOD IS COMPLETE."

"I AM PART OF HUMAN EVOLUTION."

BINA & MARTINE ROTHBLATT

MARTINE ROTHBLATT IS A SPACE LAWYER, WHO CREATED THE SATELLITE RADIO STATION SIRIUS AND FOUNDED THE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY UNITED THERAPEUTICS. SHE HAS WRITTEN A BOOK ENTITLED "VIRTUALLY HUMAN: THE PROMISE - AND THE PERIL - OF DIGITAL IMMORTALITY" ON THE SUBJECT OF DOWNLOADING ONE'S ENTIRE ACTUAL/DIGITAL SELF AND LIVING IN PERPETUITY INSIDE COMPUTER SERVERS.

Bina48



BINA48 IS MODELED AFTER MARTINE'S WIFE, BINA. THE MACHINE WAS BUILT TO SEE JUST HOW PRECISELY A ROBOT LOADED WITH MINDFILES CAN RESEMBLE A LIVING, BREATHING HUMAN BEING.

"TERASEM IS PART OF WHAT IS CALLED TRANSHUMANISM. ÉMILE TORRES DESCRIBED TRANSHUMANISM IN AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE TESCREAL IDEOLOGIES (TRANSHUMANISM, EXTROPIANISM, SINGULARITARIANISM, COSMISM, RATIONALISM, EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM, AND LONGTERMISM) AS: 'ESSENTIALLY, A BUNCH OF 20TH-CENTURY ATHEISTS CONCLUDED THAT THEIR LIVES LACKED THE MEANING, PURPOSE AND HOPE PROVIDED BY TRADITIONAL RELIGION. IN RESPONSE TO THIS REALIZATION, THEY INVENTED A NEW, SECULAR RELIGION, IN WHICH 'HEAVEN' IS SOMETHING WE CREATE OURSELVES, IN THIS WORLD.'"

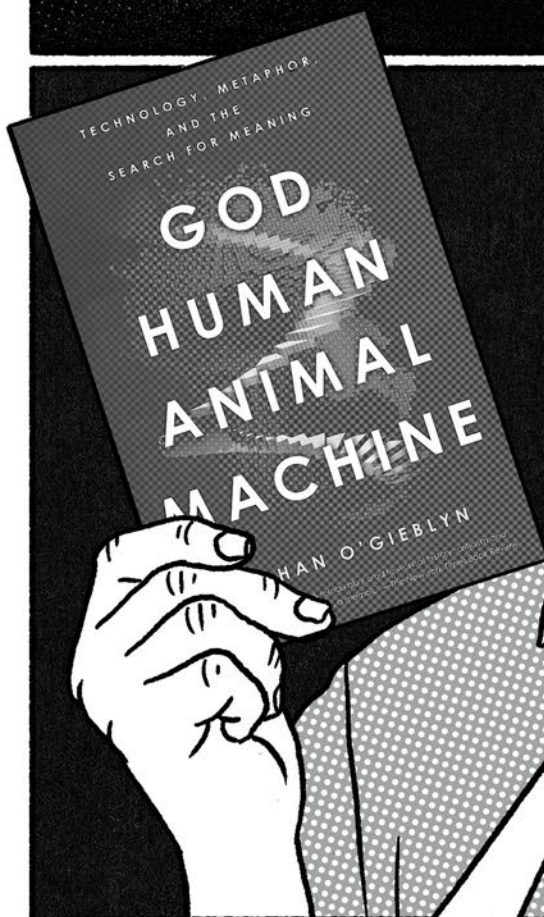
"TESCREALISTS DON'T GET WHAT UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA IS GOOD FOR NOR CAN TELL THEM APART. THAT'S WHY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE DYSTOPIAN NETFLIX TV-SERIES 'BLACK-MIRROR' INSPIRES SO MANY START-UPS."

"THE LITERARY CRITIC, PHILOSOPHER AND MARXIST POLITICAL THEORIST, FREDRIC JAMESON WRITES THAT THE REAL ENEMY IS NOT DYSTOPIA BUT ANTI-UTOPIA: TEXTS THAT ARGUE THAT SOCIAL LIFE CAN NEVER BE IMPROVED BECAUSE HUMANS ARE IRREDUCIBLY BROKEN. FOR ME TESCREALISTS ARE THE ULTIMATE ANTI-UTOPIANS. THEY EMBRACE THE UTOPIAN IMPULSE TO IMPROVE HUMAN RELATIONS BUT AT THE SAME TIME MAKE THEMSELVES AND OTHERS BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY WAY TO OVERCOME THE INHERENT 'BROKENNESS OF HUMANS' IS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY ELEVATED TO SOME KIND OF 'RATIONAL' RELIGION. THEY ALL ULTIMATELY AIM FOR IMMORTALITY AND SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS BY LEAVING EARTH, THEIR BODIES AND A LOT OF HUMANITY BEHIND."



CÉLINE KELLER

HI, IT'S ME MAKING THIS BOOK



"SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING ANALYSIS ON THIS UTOPIAN AND TECHNO-OPTIMIST THINKING COMES FROM MEGHAN O'GIEBLYN—WHO, LIKE ME, IS A CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALIST TURNED TRANSHUMANIST TURNED TECH CRITIC."

IN HER N+1 ESSAY 'GHOST IN THE CLOUD,' O'GIEBLYN CONNECTS CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY TO THE TRANSHUMANIST FAITH OF KURZWEIL AND A HOST OF INFLUENTIAL INVESTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS IN SILICON VALLEY."

EDWARD ONGWESO JR

JOURNALIST, CO-HOST OF THIS MACHINE KILLS

"SHE POINTS OUT THAT THE EARLIEST MENTION OF A 'TRANSHUMAN' APPEARS IN THE FIRST ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF DANTE'S PARADISO BACK IN 1814, FOLLOWING A RESURRECTION OF DANTE THAT ESCAPES DESCRIPTION: 'WORDS MAY NOT TELL OF THAT TRANSHUMAN CHANGE.' RESURRECTION AND THE MANNER OF IT HAS BEEN THE CENTER OF MUCH DEBATE IN CHRISTIANITY FOR MILLENNIA: HOW WILL OUR BODIES APPEAR? WHERE DO OUR SOULS GO? WHAT WILL OUR MENTAL EXPERIENCE BE? O'GIEBLYN HONES IN ON STRAINS OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT THAT HELD THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WOULD ALLOW HUMANS TO ACHIEVE IMMORTALITY. ALCHEMISTS CRAFTED IMMORTALITY POTIONS. RUSSIAN COSMISTS HOPED TO REVIVE EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER DIED AND THEN COLONIZE SPACE. A FRENCH JESUIT PRIEST 'BELIEVED THAT EVOLUTION WOULD LEAD TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD' AS MACHINES FORMED A LIVING GLOBAL NETWORK THAT WOULD MERGE WITH HUMAN MINDS, REACH A THRESHOLD (THE OMEGA POINT) THEN SURGE FORWARD TO MEET GOD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TIME AND SPACE."

"THERE'S ANOTHER GROUP OF ANTI-UTOPIANS WHO CAN SOUND VERY IDEALISTIC BUT BELIEVE HUMANS ARE INHERENTLY BROKEN. THEIR ONLY WAY TO 'FIX' HUMAN RELATIONS IS TO END CIVILIZATION."



"IN 2018, ANTI-TRANS FEMINIST PUNDIT JENNIFER BILEK WROTE A COLUMN FOR THE FEDERALIST IN WHICH SHE CLAIMED TO EXPOSE THE 'RICH, WHITE MEN INSTITUTIONALIZING TRANSGENDER IDEOLOGY.' BILEK'S ESSAY NAMED SEVERAL PROMINENT PROGRESSIVE JEWISH FUNDERS, INCLUDING GEORGE SOROS, JENNIFER PRITZKER, MARTINE ROTHBLATT, AND JON STRYKER. THIS ARTICLE AND SIMILAR ARTICLES BILEK HAS WRITTEN FOR OTHER RIGHTWING PUBLICATIONS HAVE SPREAD THE CONSPIRACY DEEP WITHIN ANTI-TRANS FEMINIST MOVEMENTS."

"FORMER NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST AND SUPPOSED ANTISEMITISM EXPERT BARI WEISS ECHOED THE ANTISEMITIC 'CULTURAL MARXISM' CONSPIRACY THEORY, CLAIMING THAT 'FEMINISTS WHO BELIEVE THERE ARE BIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN' ARE BEING OPPRESSED BY A 'ZEALOUS CABAL . . . THAT HAS CONTROL OF NEARLY ALL OF THE INSTITUTIONS THAT PRODUCE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL LIFE.'"

"DESPITE CLOAKING THEIR RHETORIC UNDER THE GUISE OF PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY AND FINGER-WAGGING AT THE SUPPOSED EXCESSES OF 'WOKENESS,' ANTI-TRANS ACTIVISTS ARE LIFTING THEIR CONSPIRACIES FROM A FAMILIAR FAR-RIGHT ARSENAL, AND ARE COMFORTABLY ALIGNED WITH WHITE NATIONALISTS IN THEIR CHOICE OF THE 'ENEMIES' THEY NAME."

THIS IS "A STORY IN WHICH 'ECO-FASCISTS' INFILTRATING LESBIAN FOLK FESTIVALS BUMP UP AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC CONSPIRACY BLOGGERS AND VLADIMIR PUTIN'S GLOBAL DARK MONEY OPERATIONS; STRANGE ENOUGH THAT IT'S HARD TO TAKE SERIOUSLY, BUT VERY SERIOUS, AND INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS TO US ALL. THIS IS HOW TRANS-ELIMINATIONIST THOUGHT BECAME MAINSTREAM POLITICS, AND IT HAS GRAVE IMPLICATIONS, NOT JUST FOR TRANS PEOPLE, BUT FOR DEMOCRACY ITSELF."



JUDE ELLISON S. DOYLE

AUTHOR, COLUMNIST, AND COMIC BOOK WRITER



BEN LORBER

RESEARCHER AT POLITICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, FOCUSING ON ANTISEMITISM AND WHITE NATIONALISM

"WHITE SUPREMACISTS HAVE FOUND ALLIES AMONG ANTI-TRANSGENDER FEMINISTS (ALSO KNOWN AS TERFS, OR TRANS-EXCLUSIONARY RADICAL FEMINISTS), WHO ARE SIMILARLY CONVINCED THAT TRANSGENDER ACTIVISM IS PART OF A JEWISH PLOT TO 'OVERRIDE' BIOLOGICAL SEX WITH THE AMORPHOUS CONCEPT OF GENDER IDENTITY."

"EVIDENCE OF ANTISEMITISM BY ANTI-TRANS 'FEMINISTS' IS PRESENT THROUGHOUT ITS ACADEMIC HISTORY. IN 1979, JANICE RAYMOND REFERRED TO TRANSGENDER MEN AS THE 'FINAL SOLUTION' OF WOMEN" IN HER BOOK THE TRANSSEXUAL EMPIRE, OFTEN CITED AS THE BASIS FOR ANTI-TRANS FEMINISM."



"JENNIFER BILEK CAME UP WITH THE WHOLE 'SYNTHETIC SEX IDENTITY' THING BECAUSE SHE THINKS CALLING TRANS PEOPLE TRANS 'PROMOTES GENDER IDEOLOGY' BUT BEING CALLED A 'SYNTHETIC SEX' JUST MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A CHARACTER IN CYBERPUNK STORY AND KINDA BADASS JUST FOR EXISTING."



KY SCHEVERS

KY SCHEVERS IS FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE ANTI-TRANS MOVEMENT SHE ONCE TOOK PART IN. SCHEVERS WAS ASSIGNED THE SEX OF FEMALE AT BIRTH AND LATER CHOSE TO START GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE BY TAKING TESTOSTERONE TO TRANSITION FROM FEMALE TO MALE IN HER MID-20S. SHE STOPPED TAKING TESTOSTERONE, THOUGH, IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED WHILE SHE CONTINUED TO EXPLORE AND QUESTION HER GENDER, LATER FALLING INTO AN ONLINE ANTI-TRANS GROUP OF 'DETRANSITIONERS' - PEOPLE WHO ONCE DID BUT NO LONGER IDENTIFY AS TRANSGENDER.

NOW, SCHEVERS SAYS SHE HAS 'RETRANSITIONED,' IDENTIFYING AS TRANSMASCULINE AND GENDER QUEER, WHICH MEANS SHE IDENTIFIES WITH BOTH GENDERS. SCHEVERS USES SHE AND HER PRONOUNS, BUT HEAVILY IDENTIFIES WITH MASCULINITY, AS DEFINED BY THE LGBTQIA+ HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER.

SHE SAYS SHE CONSIDERS HERSELF TO BE A PART OF THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY.



"SO HOW DID TERFS BECOME A GLOBAL THREAT? THE ANSWER, ACCORDING TO RESEARCHER KY SCHEVERS, IS THAT THEY'RE NOT THE SAME PEOPLE. IN THE MID-2010S, A SMALL GROUP OF ACTIVISTS WITH FASCIST SYMPATHIES - MOST OF THEM HAILING FROM THE ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUP DEEP GREEN RESISTANCE (DGR) - INFILTRATED THE OLDER MOVEMENT AND DRAGGED IT TO THE RIGHT, OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF SOME MEMBERS."

DEEP GREEN RESISTANCE (DGR) IS STILL ACTIVE AND IN 2021 DERRICK JENSEN PUBLISHED THE BOOK AND MOVIE 'BRIGHT GREEN LIES.' NEO-NAZI ANDREW ANGLIN'S ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR DERRICK JENSEN ON HIS SITE 'DAILY STORMER' EVIDENCES THE METHOD BY WHICH THE FAR-RIGHT MAKES IN-ROADS THROUGH REACTIONARY ENTRY-POINTS IN THE FAR LEFT.

"DGR MEMBERS WERE WHAT SCHEVERS CALLS 'ECO-FASCISTS'; THEY ARGUED FOR VIOLENT ACTION THAT WOULD CAUSE A MASS DIE-OFF OF HUMANITY IN ORDER TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT. THEY INITIALLY RECRUITED FROM ANARCHIST AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. DGR FRACTURED IN 2012 DUE TO A SERIES OF CONTROVERSIES INVOLVING THE TRANSPHOBIA OF ITS FOUNDERS, LIERRE KEITH AND DERRICK JENSEN. IN 2013, EARTH FIRST! JOINED WITH DGR CO-FOUNDER ARIC MCBAY IN DENOUNCING THEM."

"IT'S A GRIM IRONY THAT, BY INSISTING ON A 'FEMINISM' WITHOUT ANY TRANS WOMEN IN IT, TERFS HAVE WOUND UP CONSTRUCTING THE TOOL BY WHICH FASCISTS AIM TO DESTROY FEMINISM ALTOGETHER."



Ivanka Trump @IvankaTrump · May 17, 2020

Taken!



Elon Musk @elonmusk · May 17, 2020

Take the red pill

6,519

11.3K

56.1K



Lilly Wachowski
@lilly_wachowski

Fuck both of you

9:36 PM · May 17, 2020

41.3K Retweets 4,790 Quotes 224K Likes



"THE FACT THAT THE RED PILL WAS A REFERENCE TO TRANS WOMEN TAKING PREMARIN, A BRAND OF ESTROGEN IN THE 90'S, IS AN EXTRA LEVEL OF IRONY NOW THAT THE FAR RIGHT HAS APPROPRIATED IT."

ALEJANDRA CARABALLO

CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR, HARVARD LAW CYBERLAW CLINIC

"RED-PILLING THE NORMIES" IS A PRIMARY GOAL OF FAR-RIGHT MOVEMENTS. THEY WANT TO CONVERT PEOPLE – ESPECIALLY YOUNG MEN – TO THEIR WAY OF THINKING. WHAT THE RED PILL ACTUALLY REVEALS DEPENDS ON WHO'S OFFERING IT. TO MEN'S-RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, BEING RED-PILLED MEANS THROWING OFF THE YOKE OF POPULAR FEMINISM AND RECOGNIZING THAT MEN, NOT WOMEN, ARE THE OPPRESSED GROUP. TO THE ALT-RIGHT, IT MEANS REVEALING THE LIES BEHIND MULTICULTURALISM AND GLOBALISM, AND REALIZING THE TRUTH OF ISOLATIONIST NATIONALISM. TO CONSPIRACY THEORISTS, IT MAY MEAN ACCEPTING THE INFLUENCE OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER ON SOCIETY. TO WHITE SUPREMACISTS, IT MEANS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT JEWISH ELITES CONTROL THE CULTURE AND ARE ACCELERATING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WHITE RACE. RED-PILLING IS THE FAR-RIGHT EQUIVALENT OF CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING OR, IN TODAY'S LINGO, BECOMING 'WOKE'."



RESEARCHER,
WRITER,
TEACHER
STUDYING
SILICON
VALLEY
& THE
INTERNET

BECCA LEWIS



PULITZER PRIZE-
WINNING ESSAYIST
AND CRITIC

ANDREA LONG CHU

"TRANS WOMEN HAVE CLAIMED THE MATRIX AS AN ALLEGORY FOR GENDER TRANSITION SINCE AT LEAST 2012, WHEN LANA WACHOWSKI PUBLICLY CAME OUT AS A TRANS WOMAN WHILE DOING PRESS FOR THE FILM CLOUD ATLAS. (HER SISTER LILLY FOLLOWED SUIT IN 2016.) THE SYMBOLISM IS EASY TO FIND: THOMAS ANDERSON'S DOUBLE LIFE (HE'S A HACKER BY NIGHT), HIS CHOSEN NAME (NEO), HIS VAGUE BUT MADDENING SENSE THAT SOMETHING IS OFF ABOUT THE WORLD – 'A SPLINTER IN YOUR MIND,' MORPHEUS CALLS IT. NEO HAS DYSPHORIA. THE MATRIX IS THE GENDER BINARY. THE AGENTS ARE TRANSPHOBIA. YOU GET IT."

"IT'S NOT LIKE THESE WERE CONSCIOUS DECISIONS, BUT MORE LIKE WE'RE FINDING OUR WAY INSTINCTIVELY AS THESE TWO CLOSETED TRANS WOMEN. SO ALL THOSE THINGS THAT YOUR RECEPTORS ARE BUZZING ABOUT ARE COMPLETELY VALID. WHEN PEOPLE SAY, 'OH, IT'S A TRANS ALLEGORY,' IT'S LIKE, 'YEAH... IT IS, BUT WE WEREN'T LIKE, HEY, LET'S WRITE A TRANS ALLEGORY.' THAT'S NOT HOW IT STARTED. WE WERE LIKE, 'HEY, LET'S WRITE THIS ACTION FILM,' AND THEN WE GOT OUR TRANS ALL OVER IT."

"AS TRANS PEOPLE,
WE ARE WORLD
BUILDERS. WE ARE
ABLE TO IMAGINE
FUTURES THAT
DON'T YET EXIST."

"THE FIRST MATRIX IS THIS CHRIST MYTHOLOGY, AND THE SECOND ONE TEARS DOWN THE MYTHOLOGY AND YOU'RE LIKE, IS HE NOT THE ONE? HE'S NOT THE ONE. THEN THE THIRD ONE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT, BECAUSE WHAT THE THIRD ONE IS ACTUALLY SAYING IS THAT WE ARE ALL NEO – EVERYONE WORKS IN TANDEM TO SAVE THE COLLECTIVE. IT'S WITH ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE, EVEN LOCKE, THE GUY WHO IS THE NON-BELIEVER, PLAYING HIS PART IN THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANITY. OUR CONNECTIVITY IS HOW WE BEAT THE MACHINE."



LILLY WACHOWSKI

FILM AND TELEVISION DIRECTOR, WRITER AND PRODUCER

"MY POLITICAL IMAGINATION FOCUSED A LOT IN RECENT YEARS ON WHAT ALREADY ORGANIZED PEOPLE DO. WHETHER THEY CALL THEMSELVES ABOLITIONISTS OR NOT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME IF I CAN SEE IN THEIR PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAMS, SOMETHING THAT IS AT LEAST TENDING TOWARD NON-REFORMIST REFORM, THAT ALSO HAS THE STRETCH AND RESONANCE NECESSARY TO HELP ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE NOT BE OR FEEL ISOLATED IN THEIR STRUGGLES, SO THOSE THINGS."

"WHAT ABOLITION GIVES US IF WE TAKE IT SERIOUSLY, IS A WAY OF UNDERSTANDING THAT IF FREEDOM IS A PLACE, THEN ABOLITION IS LIFE IN REHEARSAL OF MAKING THAT PLACE."

"ABOLITION REQUIRES THAT WE CHANGE ONE THING: EVERYTHING."

"WHERE LIFE IS PRECIOUS, LIFE IS PRECIOUS."

"IN AN ESSAY CALLED RACE AND SPACE, RUTHIE WROTE, 'IF JUSTICE IS EMBODIED, IT IS THEN THEREFORE ALWAYS SPATIAL, WHICH IS TO SAY, PART OF THE PROCESS OF MAKING A PLACE.' I HAVE ALWAYS APPRECIATED RUTHIE'S ASSERTION THAT PRISON ABOLITION IS ABOUT MAKING THINGS. IN ABOLITIONIST ORGANIZING, WE FOSTER NEW RELATIONS, DEVELOPING NEW CONFIGURATIONS OF CARE AND JUSTICE-MAKING THAT DEMAND, REHEARSE AND MANIFEST THE WORLD WE WANT. PRISON ABOLITION IS ABOUT MAKING A WORLD COMPOSED OF EVERYTHING WE ARE DENIED WHEN 'SECURITY' IS PRESENTED AS THE SOLUTION TO ALL ILLS."



RUTH WILSON GILMORE

PRISON ABOLITIONIST, PRISON SCHOLAR
AND PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY

"INSTEAD OF ASKING HOW, IN A FUTURE WITHOUT PRISONS, WE WILL DEAL WITH SO-CALLED VIOLENT PEOPLE, ABOLITIONISTS ASK HOW WE RESOLVE INEQUALITIES + GET PEOPLE THE RESOURCES THEY NEED LONG BEFORE THE HYPOTHETICAL MOMENT WHEN, AS GILMORE PUTS IT, THEY 'MESS UP'."



KELLY HAYES

CO-AUTHOR WITH MARIAME KABA OF 'LET THIS RADICALIZE YOU -ORGANIZING AND THE REVOLUTION OF RECIPROCAL CARE.' SHE IS ALSO THE HOST OF THE PODCAST MOVEMENT MEMOS.



RACHEL KUSHNER

AUTHOR OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED NOVELS INCLUDING 'THE MARS ROOM' ABOUT PRISON LIFE

"THE BLACK RADICAL IMAGINATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SOURCE OF LIBERATION FOR BLACK FOLKS. THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF BLACK STRUGGLES PEOPLE HAVE ENVISIONED BLACK UTOPIAS. AND THEY USUALLY STARTED WITH LIBERATED ZONES, RE-IMAGINED PLACES, DE-COLONIZED SPACES. IN OUR METHODOLOGY, WE USE WORLD BUILDING. WORLD BUILDING IS A LITERARY FRAMING DEVICE USED BY WRITERS TO CREATE CONTEXT AND INCLUDES DEFINING HISTORY, LAWS, NATURE, GEOGRAPHY, MYTHS, VALUES, WITHIN WHICH STORIES TAKE PLACE.

HISTORICAL MOVEMENTS HAVE USED WORLD BUILDING, LIKE THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT. THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT WENT INTO DESCRIBING A WORLD WHERE THERE WAS NOT HUMAN BEINGS IN BONDAGE. AND AFTER HAVING EXPERIENCE OF WORKING IN A SYSTEM LIKE THAT FOR A COUPLE HUNDRED YEARS, THAT STARTS TO BECOME A UTOPIA, RIGHT? IF YOU TOLD PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN IN SLAVERY 200 YEARS AND TOLD THEM THIS COULD BE A WORLD WHERE, WE DON'T ENSLAVE PEOPLE. WE DON'T HAVE TO THINK PEOPLE ARE INFERIOR. YOU'RE DESCRIBING A UTOPIA."

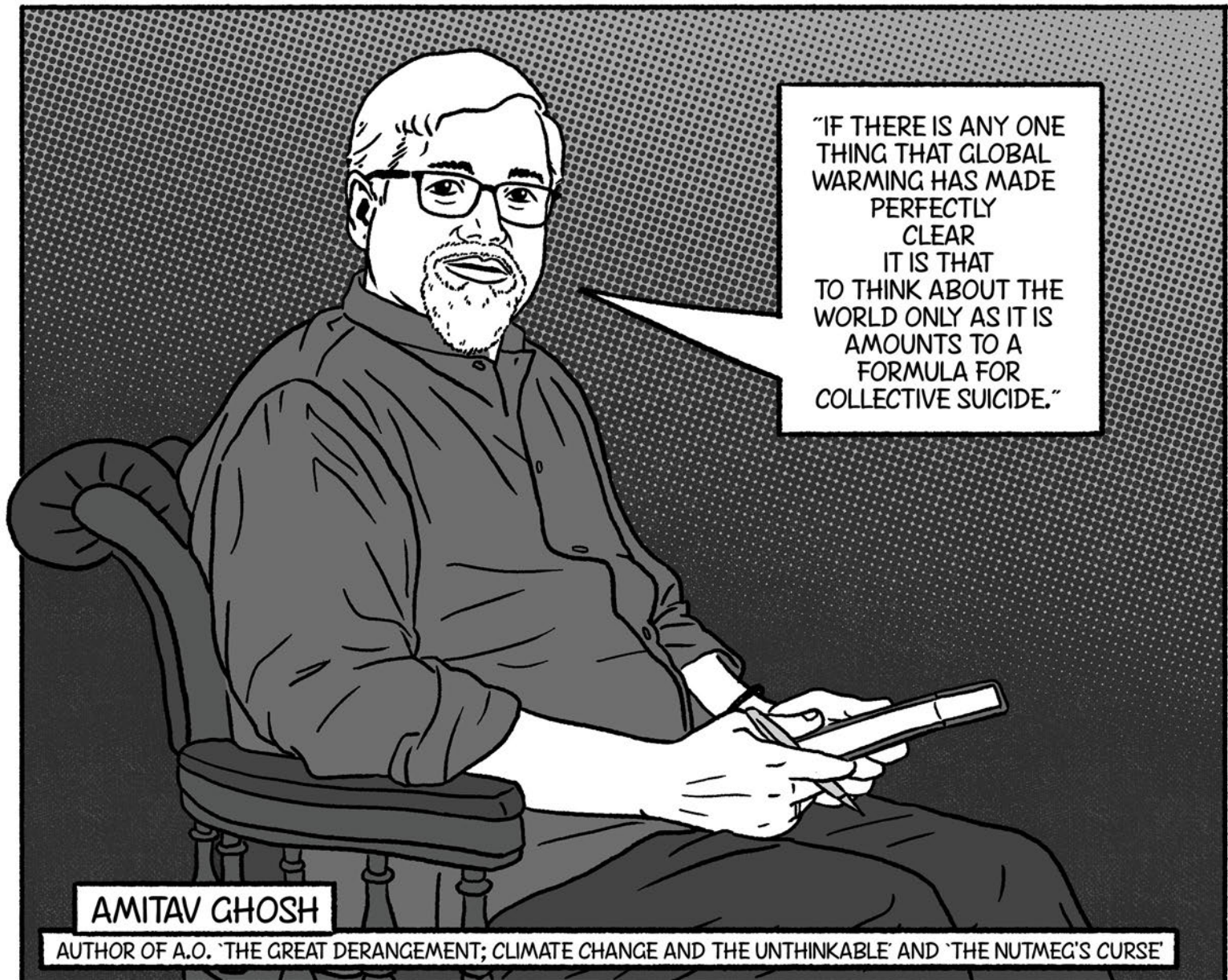
"ACTIVISM IS THE GAP BETWEEN THE NOW AND UTOPIA. BUT, UTOPIA IS NOT A DESTINATION; IT IS A GUIDE BY INSPIRING CRITIQUING, MOTIVATING, AND ORIENTING US."

"THE POINT OF UTOPIA IS HAVING A ROADMAP... AS MOVEMENTS, WE ARE GOOD AT DEVELOPING OPPRESSION NARRATIVES, BUT WE SOMETIMES STRUGGLE TO EXPRESS A VISION."



TERRY MARSHALL

ARTIST, WRITER, , CULTURAL INNOVATOR, CREATIVE STRATEGIST AND CULTURAL STUDIES SCHOLAR



"IF THERE IS ANY ONE THING THAT GLOBAL WARMING HAS MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR IT IS THAT TO THINK ABOUT THE WORLD ONLY AS IT IS AMOUNTS TO A FORMULA FOR COLLECTIVE SUICIDE."

AMITAV GHOSH

AUTHOR OF A.O. 'THE GREAT DERANGEMENT; CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE UNTHINKABLE' AND 'THE NUTMEG'S CURSE'



"BEFORE BEING INSTALLED ON ROOFS, SOLAR PANELS HAD TO BE INSTALLED IN MINDS. AND TO BE INSTALLED IN MINDS, THEY HAD TO BE DESCRIBED IN MORE PRECISE TERMS THAN A GENERAL DESIRE FOR 'CLEANER ENERGY.' THE PRODUCTION OF UTOPIAS IS NOTHING LESS BUT THE PROCESS BY WHICH SOCIETIES DREAM, AND WITHOUT THEM, THERE COULD BE NO REVOLUTIONS. TIME HAS COME TO STOP TRYING TO PREDICT THE FUTURE OF THE ECONOMY AND START INVENTING THE ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE."

TIMOTHÉE PARRIQUE

ECONOMIST AND AUTHOR OF *RALENTIR OU PÉRIR. L'ÉCONOMIE DE LA DÉCROISSANCE*

MEMORIES OF LIFE AFTER GROWTH

"THE TYPICAL DEGROWTH ARGUMENT RUNS LIKE THIS. EMPIRICAL RESEARCH SHOWS THAT OBSERVED DECOUPLING RATES BETWEEN GDP AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES ARE TOO SMALL OR TOO SLOW (MOST OF THE TIME BOTH) FOR HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES TO BE SUSTAINABLE. IF YOU CANNOT GREEN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, THEN YOU MUST SCALE IT DOWN. HENCE THE FOCUS ON DEGROWTH: TO GET BACK UNDER SAFE PLANETARY BOUNDARIES, RICH NATIONS MUST DOWNSCALE LEVELS OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

THE DECOUPLING QUESTION MATTERS BUT NOT AS MUCH AS WE THINK IT DOES. EXPLORING THE IDEA OF DEGROWTH BY DISCUSSING DECOUPLING WOULD BE LIKE VISITING A HOUSE AND SPENDING THE ENTIRE TIME DEBATING OVER THE COLOUR OF THE DOOR, AND THIS BEFORE CHECKING OUT THE REST OF THE PLACE. IT'S A SHAME BECAUSE THE HOUSE THAT DEGROWTH BUILT IS QUITE SPECTACULAR. SO, REGARDLESS WHETHER YOU BELIEVE THAT GREENING GROWTH IS A VIABLE SURVIVAL STRATEGY OR NOT, LET ME AT LEAST GIVE YOU A TOUR OF THE WHOLE PARADIGM.

IMAGINE A SOCIETY WHERE THE ECONOMY AND ITS WAY OF THINKING ARE NO LONGER AT THE CENTRE OF EVERYTHING. A DIFFERENT MODE OF EXISTENCE IN BALANCE WITH THE LIVING WORLD, WHICH PRIORITISES HUMAN FLOURISHING OVER THE ENDLESS ACCUMULATION OF CAPITAL. COMMUNITY BEFORE COMMERCE: INSTEAD OF OBSESSING OVER DIGITS ON A BANK ACCOUNT, WE TEND TO NEEDS AND CULTIVATE WELLBEING. LESS STUFF, MORE RELATIONSHIPS: ZOMBIE-LIKE CONSUMING ADDICTIONS HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY A NEW AESTHETIC BASED ON MINIMALISM, RESONANCE, AND COLLECTIVE PLENITUDE. LIFE AFTER GROWTH IS NOT POVERTY OR AUSTERITY – THIS IS A LIFE THAT IS OUTWARDLY SIMPLE AND INWARDLY RICH.

THE PROFIT MOTIVE HAS BECOME A RELIC OF THE PAST. NO MORE €0.99 BULLSHIT TO SWEETEN BUYERS INTO AN ARTIFICIAL SENSE OF CHEAPNESS. PRICES ARE CAREFULLY DELIBERATED WITHIN COOPERATIVES, REFLECTING ALL FACTORS OF PRODUCTION AND ACCOUNTING FOR DIFFERENT PURCHASING ABILITIES FOLLOWING A PAY-AS-YOU-CAN PHILOSOPHY. NO MORE MIND-NUMBING ADS EITHER. ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED IS AVAILABLE ON INDEPENDENT CONSUMER COOPERATIVE WEBSITES. WORKPLACES ARE RUN DEMOCRATICALLY AND EXTERNALLY EVALUATED BY MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ASSEMBLIES USING SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL SCORES. THIS IS WHAT ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE: WE DECIDE TOGETHER WHAT TO PRODUCE AND HOW TO PRODUCE IT, PUTTING QUALITY AND PLEASANTNESS OVER QUANTITY AND CHEAPNESS."

IMAGINE CAR-FREE, GARDEN CITIES WHERE KIDS RIDE THEIR BIKES TO SCHOOL TOGETHER. ORGANISED AROUND THE 15-MINUTE RULE, YOU CAN ACCESS ALL YOUR DAILY NECESSITIES BY FOOT, BIKE, OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT. PEDICABS EVERYWHERE, ALONGSIDE SHARED ELECTRIC VEHICLES, FREE BUSES AND TRAMS. BIRDSONGS IN THE STREETS, CLEAN AIR, AND SWIMMABLE RIVERS. THE RELOCALISATION OF PRODUCTION HAS ELIMINATED A LARGE PART OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. THE CIRCULATION OF GOODS IS ORGANISED WITHIN SELF-SUFFICIENT BIOREGIONS OF DIFFERENT SIZES AND FACILITATED BY COMMUNITY CURRENCIES. MOST COMMERCIAL FLYING HAS DISAPPEARED BECAUSE CITIES ARE ALL INTERCONNECTED VIA RAIL AND RIVERS, WITH LUXURIOUS (YET AFFORDABLE) SLEEPER TRAINS AND SAILING SHIPS.

THE EXTRACTION OF MATERIAL AND ENERGY IS CAPPED AT A LEVEL AT WHICH EVERYBODY CAN FLOURISH WITHOUT THREATENING THE HEALTH OF SUPPORTING ECOSYSTEMS. ENDLESS HUMAN PROSPERITY WITHIN A BIOPHYSICAL STEADY-STATE – THIS IS AN ECONOMY BUILT TO LAST. IMAGINE CROSSING PATHS WITH ANIMALS EVERY DAY, TREATING THEM AS TRUE MEMBERS OF A DIVERSE COMMUNITY, THE PAVEMENT BURSTING OPEN WITH FLOWERS, FRUIT TREES, AND ALL THE LIFE THAT COMES WITH IT. WASTE NOT, WANT NOT. FRUGAL HABITS ENABLED THE CLOSING OF MANY FACTORIES, WHICH THEN BECAME ECO-COMMUNES, LEARNING CENTRES, AND COMMUNITY GARDENS. WITHOUT THE NEED FOR FLYING AND SHIPPING, GROUNDED PLANES AND SHIPS BECAME MULTI-GENERATIONAL COLLECTIVE HOUSING, REFUGEE WELCOME CENTRES, AND PLAYGROUNDS.

IMAGINE ENJOYING GOING TO WORK. I'M A SCHOLAR TWO DAYS A WEEK BUT I ALSO TEACH CHESS AT THE LOCAL TIME BANK, EDIT WIKIPEDIA PAGES, STEWARD BEE HIVES, AND FACILITATE A CHILD CARE COOPERATIVE. LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, I ALSO HAVE MY FAIR SHARE OF THESE TASKS NO ONE WANTS TO DO, WHICH ARE EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED WITHIN AND ACROSS COMMUNITIES. NO MORE BULLSHIT JOBS, NO MORE NEEDLESS LABOUR, NO MORE RESERVE ARMY: ANYONE ABLE AND WILLING TO WORK IS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE INTO PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES. WE MIGHT ONLY WORK 15 HOURS PER WEEK BUT WE MANAGE TO DO MORE THINGS THAT WE EVER COULD IN THE CAPITALIST ECONOMY. LIFELONG EDUCATION, CARE, IDLENESS, PLAY, POLITICS, ARTS, AND CONTEMPLATION – WE MIGHT BE POORER IN MONEY BUT WE ARE RICH WITH TIME AND CONNECTION.

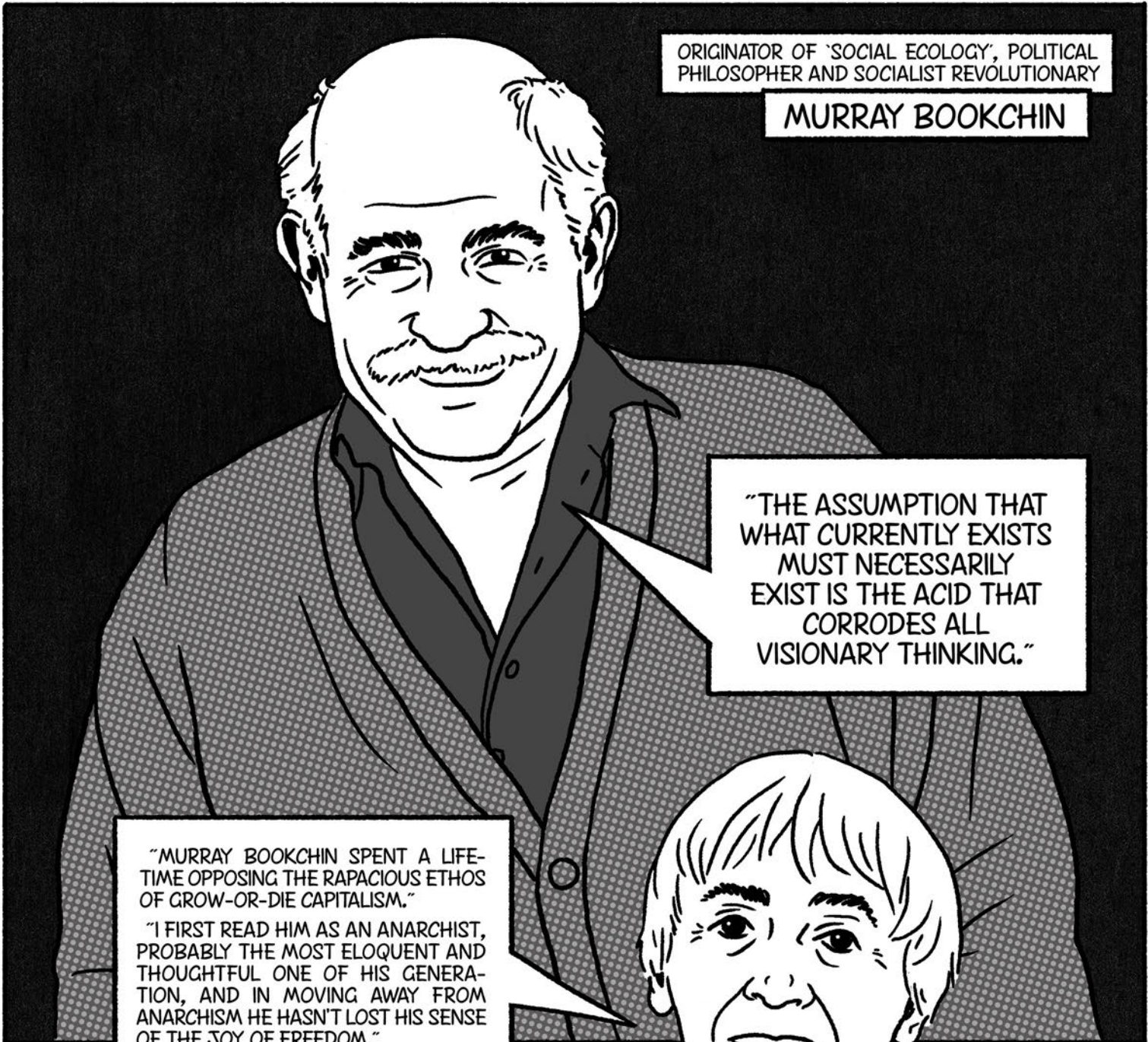
THIS IS THE TRUE MEANING OF ABUNDANCE. ANY SURPLUS IS EITHER REINVESTED TO INCREASE THE QUALITY OF WHAT WE PRODUCE OR GOES TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY. NEW WEALTH FEEDS A SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FACILITIES IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL AID AND SOLIDARITY THAT EXTENDS FAR BEYOND NATIONAL BORDERS. SHARE MORE, LACK LESS; SUFFICIENCY FOR ALL, EXCESS FOR NONE. EVERYONE IS GUARANTEED FREE ACCESS TO A DECENT LEVEL OF FOOD, EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AS WELL AS WATER AND ENERGY, EITHER VIA PUBLIC SERVICES OR BY THE GRANTING OF A BASIC INCOME. NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND JUST BECAUSE THEIR MONEY RUNS LOW. IT'S AN ECONOMY WHERE WE CAN AFFORD TO NAP EVERY DAY AND WHERE ECONOMIC PROGRESS MEANS FILLING THE CALENDAR WITH NEW HOLIDAYS.

IMAGINE A SOCIETY WHERE DECISIONS ARE TAKEN AT THE VERY BOTTOM WITH EVERYONE BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE. IT'S A SOCIOCRACY WHERE MONEY CANNOT VOTE. DIRECT DEMOCRACY IN COOPERATIVES WITH ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE; PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND MUNICIPALITIES; AND REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY AT THE BIOREGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL. POLITICS IS NOT A PROFESSION BUT A DAILY PRACTICE. WHEN SOME INEQUALITY BUILDS UP, WE CAN DISCUSS IT AND COLLECTIVELY FIND AN APPROPRIATE SOLUTION. WITH PUBLIC, DECENTRALISED CONTROL OVER MONETARY MATTERS, INVESTMENT DECISIONS BECOME A RECURRENT TOPIC OF DEMOCRATIC DELIBERATIONS.

HOUSING IS NO LONGER A COMMODITY. AFFORDABLE COMMUNAL HOMES WITH PLENTY OF SHARED SPACES FOR REPAIR CAFÉS, CLOTHES SWAP, ROOFTOP GARDENS, AND TOOL LIBRARIES ARE NOW THE NORM. PASSIVE BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED FROM USED MATERIALS BY CRAFT-ORIENTED ARCHITECTS WHO PUT BEAUTY AND FUNCTIONALITY BEFORE COSTS. IMAGINE NOT WORRYING ABOUT THE VALUE OF YOUR HOUSE BECAUSE PRICES ARE CONTROLLED AND ADJUSTED FOR AGE AND FAMILY SITUATIONS. THIS IS AN ECONOMY WHERE CRUCIAL SECTORS LIKE HEALTH, ENERGY, EDUCATION, AND CULTURE ARE PROTECTED FROM THE SPECULATIVE WHIMS OF RENTIERS. THE SPIRIT OF CAPITALISM HAS BEEN EXORCISED."



"THIS IS ONLY A SNAPSHOT OF THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD OF DEGROWTH. CALL IT A CONCRETE UTOPIA, A SUBVERSIVE CONCEPT TO EDUCATE OUR DESIRE FOR A FUTURE WE DIDN'T KNOW WAS POSSIBLE EVEN THOUGH IT ACTUALLY IS. IN A PRESENT OBSESSED WITH ENORMOUSNESS, THE ULTIMATE EXUBERANCE IS TO REINVENT SOMETHING SMALL BUT BEAUTIFUL. WE NEED THESE WILD AND EXTRAVAGANT LEAPS INTO MORE DESIRABLE TOMORROWS, AND WE NEED NOT ONLY TO DREAM UP BOLD UTOPIAS BUT ALSO DARE TO BELIEVE IN THEM AND TO MAKE THEM ACTIVE SHAPING FORCES IN THE PRESENT. LET'S DREAM YES, BUT LET'S DO SO WITHOUT HAVING TO WAKE UP AFTERWARDS."



ORIGINATOR OF 'SOCIAL ECOLOGY', POLITICAL
PHILOSOPHER AND SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY

MURRAY BOOKCHIN

"THE ASSUMPTION THAT
WHAT CURRENTLY EXISTS
MUST NECESSARILY
EXIST IS THE ACID THAT
CORRODES ALL
VISIONARY THINKING."

"MURRAY BOOKCHIN SPENT A LIFE-
TIME OPPOSING THE RAPACIOUS ETHOS
OF GROW-OR-DIE CAPITALISM."

"I FIRST READ HIM AS AN ANARCHIST,
PROBABLY THE MOST ELOQUENT AND
THOUGHTFUL ONE OF HIS GENERA-
TION, AND IN MOVING AWAY FROM
ANARCHISM HE HASN'T LOST HIS SENSE
OF THE JOY OF FREEDOM."



URSULA K. LE GUIN



NATHAN J. ROBINSON

JOURNALIST AND POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

"HE WAS REALLY ONE OF THE EARLIEST PEOPLE TO WARN,
NOT ONLY ABOUT THE THREAT OF THE CLIMATE CATASTRO-
PHE, BUT TYING THAT CATASTROPHE TO CAPITALISM."

"UTOPIAN THINKING DEMANDS A REVISION OF GRAMSCI'S FAMOUS SLOGAN, WHICH NOW MIGHT RUN: CYNICISM OF THE INTELLECT, UTOPIANISM OF THE WILL. A GENERALIZED CYNICISM IS INDEED ONE WAY OF CHARACTERIZING THE POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY OF CONTEMPORARY OR POSTMODERN SOCIETY, IN WHICH 'THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING BUT DO IT ANYWAY,' IN WHICH EVERYONE IS A MARXIST AND UNDERSTANDS THE DYNAMICS AND DEPREDATIONS OF CAPITALISM WITHOUT FEELING IT POSSIBLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THEM."

"UTOPIANISM MUST FIRST AND FOREMOST BE A DIAGNOSIS OF THE FEAR OF UTOPIA, OR OF ANTI-UTOPIANISM."



FREDRIC JAMESON

MORAL PHILOSOPHER AND PROFESSOR OF BIOETHICS AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

"WHAT JAMESON'S ANTI-ANTI-UTOPIANISM PROPOSES IS, THAT THE ANSWER TO OUR CONVICTION THAT NO ALTERNATIVE IS POSSIBLE, IS THE UTOPIAN FORM ITSELF. NOT BY OFFERING A BLUEPRINT OR A PLAN, BUT BY INSISTING THAT DIFFERENCE IS POSSIBLE AND THAT THE BREAK IS NECESSARY."

IN OUR TIMES WHERE WE ARE AT THE STAGE OF MASSIVE PROTESTS, BUT WITHOUT ANY CONCEPTION OF HOW A GLOBALIZED TRANSFORMATION MIGHT PROCEED. WHERE WE WANT TO ACT BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW. AND WHERE ANY POLITICAL PROGRAM CURRENTLY OFFERED ONLY FUELS OUR CYNICISM. OUR STATE OF MIND MIGHT BE BEST REFLECTED BY UTOPIA'S RADICAL BREAK FROM REALITY. ITS FORMER WEAKNESS, LACK OF AGENCY AND PLANS FOR A WORKING POLITICAL TRANSITION, PARADOXICALLY NOW TURN INTO A POWER. FORCING US, TO CONCENTRATE ON, AND TO THINK THE BREAK ITSELF.

ANTI-ANTI-UTOPIANISM DOES NOT OFFER IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS FOR THE PROBLEMS OF OUR GLOBALIZED WORLD, BUT IT ALSO ISN'T CYNICISM OR CAPITULATION AND HOPELESSNESS. INSTEAD MUCH STRONGER THAN ANY RHETORIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN EVER COULD, IT HELPS US SEE WHAT KEEPS US LOCKED IN THE PRESENT AND THROUGH IT DEVELOP A FEAR OF LOSING THE FUTURE BY LOCATING IT DIRECTLY WITHIN OURSELVES.

IT'S GRASPING AND RATTLING THE BARS OF OUR CAGE IN AN INTENSE SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR AN IMPOSSIBLE FUTURE THAT YET HAS TO ARRIVE."



"I'M A UTOPIAN. I WANT TO SEE THIS WORD REVIVED. I WANT TO SEE US USE IT. I WANT TO SEE US THINK UTOPIAN. NOT THINK FUTURISM."

"WHAT IS FUTURISM? FUTURISM IS THE PRESENT AS IT EXISTS TODAY, PROJECTED, ONE HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW. THAT'S WHAT FUTURISM IS. IF YOU HAVE A POPULATION OF X BILLIONS OF PEOPLE, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE FOOD, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THIS ... NOTHING HAS CHANGED. ALL THEY DO IS THEY MAKE EVERYTHING EITHER BIGGER, OR THEY CHANGE THE SIZE - YOU'LL LIVE IN THIRTY STORY BUILDINGS, YOU'LL LIVE IN SIXTY-STORY BUILDINGS. FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT WAS GOING TO BUILD AN OFFICE BUILDING THAT WAS ONE MILE HIGH. THAT WAS FUTURISM."

"THE SIMPLE FACT IS, I JUST DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO EXTEND THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE. WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE PRESENT SO THAT THE FUTURE LOOKS VERY, VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT IS TODAY.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE MUST GO BACK TO THE UTOPIAN TRADITION, IN THE RICHEST SENSE OF THE WORD. NOT TO THE ELECTRONIC TRADITION, NOT TO THE TRADITION OF NASA, NOT TO THE TRADITION OF SIR ISAAC NEWTON, IN WHICH THE WHOLE WORLD WAS A MACHINE OR A WATCH."

"'IMAGINATION TO POWER', AS THE FRENCH STUDENTS SAID. 'BE PRACTICAL, DO THE IMPOSSIBLE', BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T DO THE IMPOSSIBLE, AS I'VE CRIED OUT OVER AND OVER AGAIN, WE'RE GOING TO WIND UP WITH THE UNTHINKABLE - AND THAT WILL BE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET ITSELF. SO TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE IS THE MOST RATIONAL AND PRACTICAL THING WE CAN DO. AND THAT IMPOSSIBLE IS BOTH IN OUR OWN CONVICTION AND IN OUR SHARED CONVICTION WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TO BEGIN TO TRY TO CREATE, OR WORK TOWARD A VERY DISTINCT NOTION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A FINALLY TRULY LIBERATED AS WELL AS ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY. A UTOPIAN NOTION, NOT A FUTURISTIC NOTION."

"THAT IS THE IMPORTANT THING - TO RECOVER YOURSELF, TO BEGIN TO CREATE A COMMUNITY. AND WHAT KIND OF COMMUNITY IMAGINATION CAN BEGIN TO CREATE."

"DAYDREAMS ARE DANGEROUS. THEY ARE PIECES OF IMAGINATION, THEY ARE BITS OF POETRY. THEY ARE THE BALLOONS THAT FLY UP IN HISTORY."

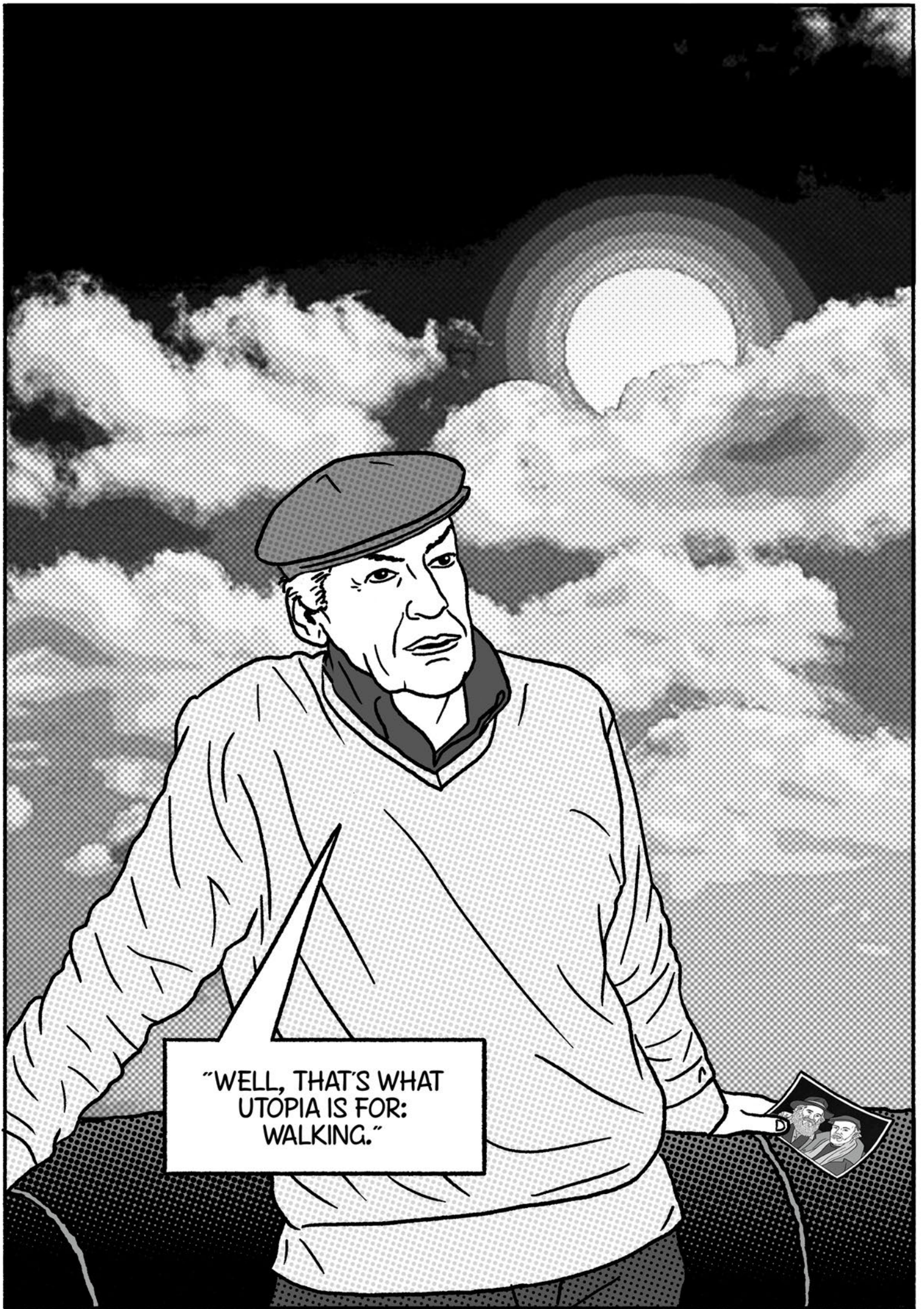


MURRAY BOOKCHIN (1978)

"HE SAID UTOPIA IS ON THE HORIZON.
AND HE SAID: I KNOW FULL WELL I WILL NEVER REACH IT.
THAT IF I WALK TEN STEPS, IT WILL MOVE TEN STEPS AWAY.
THE MORE I LOOK FOR IT, THE LESS CHANCES I HAVE TO FIND IT.
BECAUSE IT RETREATS AS I GET CLOSER TO IT.
GOOD QUESTION, RIGHT?
WHAT IS IT FOR?"



FERNANDO BIRRI / EDUARDO GALEANO



Who Is Afraid Of Degrowth

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Leigh Phillips @Leigh_Phillips · Mar 7

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*Leigh Phillips special relevant for the later pages of this book

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113-114**Thomas Fazi**

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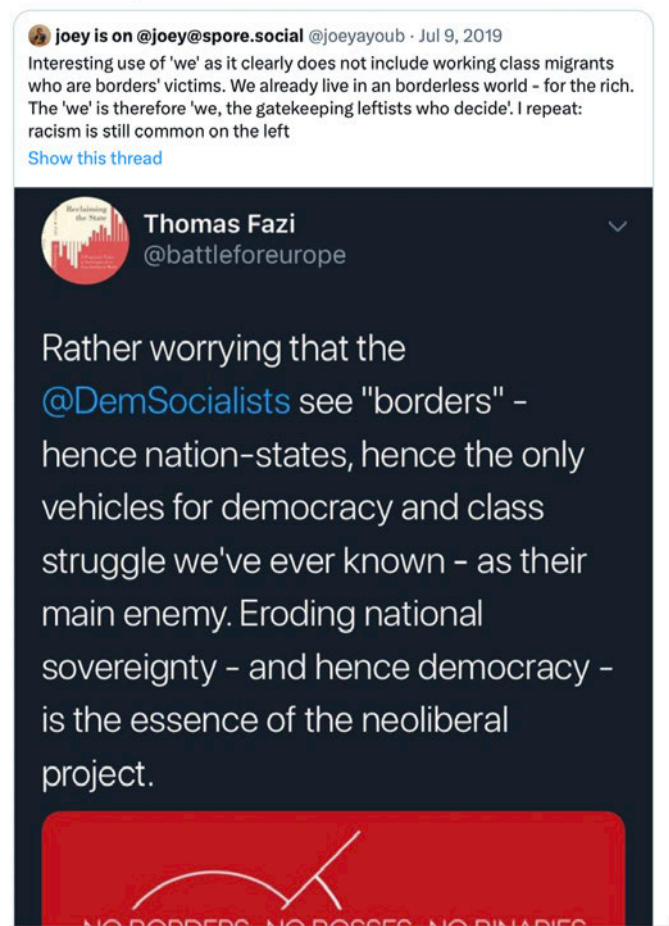
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* Joey deleted his Twitter account because of Elon turning twitter into 'X' before I could save this tweet, it was here:

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Somehow no tool would let me archive this glorious thread:

-  **Giorgos Kallis** @g_kallis · Nov 10, 2021 ...
I had written this thread some time ago that challenges @Noahpinion's Matrix thought experiment. Haven't got an answer (maybe there isn't one?)
-  **Giorgos Kallis** @g_kallis · Sep 25, 2020
Replying to @g_kallis
But let's focus on this as a thought experiment, which is more fun. The interesting feature of any model is its premises. So what does @Noahpinion's Matrix model assume? /8
- 2 3 25
-  **Noah Smith** 🇺🇸🇪🇺🇬🇧 @Noahpinion · Nov 10, 2021 ...
My thought experiment is just to show people the concept of how growth doesn't require increased resource use. That's an important concept to understand.
- In the real world, dematerialization (more than outsourcing) has been reducing resource use in rich countries.
- 2 1
-  **Giorgos Kallis** @g_kallis · Nov 10, 2021 ...
Yes, it is a fancy way to bring back Bentham's pleasure machine. Of course, if GDP counts pleasure, and if pleasure knows no limit, and needs no physical stimulus, then there is no limit to growth. But there are a couple of 'ifs' along the way.
- 1 1
-  **Giorgos Kallis** @g_kallis · Nov 10, 2021 ...
And I insist the strongest 'if' in the thought experiment is that growth in the virtual world does not translate into greater purchasing power in the material world. If you have an idea of how this separation/limitation could look like in the real world, I would appreciate it.
- 1 1
-  **Noah Smith** 🇺🇸🇪🇺🇬🇧 @Noahpinion · Nov 10, 2021 ...
Remember, I'm not predicting infinite virtual growth. I'm using virtual growth as a thought experiment to demonstrate decoupling.
- 2
-  **Noah Smith** 🇺🇸🇪🇺🇬🇧 @Noahpinion · Nov 10, 2021 ...
Why I actually predict will happen is for human population to peak, and for humans to use technology to reach a bliss point at which growth halts naturally without any need for restrictive measures.
- 1
-  **Sebastian Rowan** @SebastianRowan4 · Nov 10, 2021 ...
How do we achieve the "bliss point"? Won't corporations continue to push ads that make us feel bad about the things we have so we go buy the next best things? And are we actually seeing improvements in happiness from economic growth today?
- 1
-  **Noah Smith** 🇺🇸🇪🇺🇬🇧 @Noahpinion · Nov 11, 2021 ...
We use desire modification technology to achieve Nirvana.
- 2
-  **Sebastian Rowan** @SebastianRowan4 ...
So we all just start tripping on DMT to stop economic growth. Let's start today.
- I honestly don't know if that was your real answer or a joke, but either way you didn't answer my question.
- 4:08 PM · Nov 11, 2021

Aldous Huxley

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(written for this comic - Thank you Tim!)

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