

Welcome to this week's presentation & conversation hosted by the **Canadian Association for the Club of Rome**, a Club dedicated to intelligent debate & action on global issues.

The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker & do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of CACOR.

CACOR Live Grassroots Alternatives to Bipartisan Extractivism & Ecocide: Strategies and Prospects

Biography: Max Wilbert is a writer & biocentric community organizer. He has been part of grassroots political work for 20 years & founder of Protect Thacker Pass. Max is the author of two books, most recently “Bright Green Lies: How The Environmental Movement Lost Its Way and What We Can Do About It” (Monkfish 2021). His work has been featured on CNN, The New York Times, NPR, Le Monde, BBC, & elsewhere.

Description: While much is made of the divide between conservatives & liberals in the west, on environmental policies, the ruling classes prioritize resource **extraction** in both democracies & dictatorships, resulting in bipartisan **ecocide**. The ebb & flow of politics matters little when it comes to environmental issues like climate change, overshoot, technological escalation, & growth. Mr. Wilbert advocates for the individual embrace of a biocentric orientation & the communal orientation towards a biodiverse movement of movements characterized by mutually supporting elements of deep ecology, degrowth, radical permaculture, social democracy, & revolutionary vanguardism. He explores strategies that appear to show promise & barriers to progress.

CACOR acknowledges that we all benefit from sharing the traditional territories of local Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, & Inuit in Canada) and their descendants.



Website: canadiancor.com
YouTube: [Canadian Association for the Club of Rome](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)
2025 Jul 16 Zoom #254

Collapse and Resistance: Navigating the End of Industrial Industrial Civilization

A presentation on the unsustainable nature of industrial civilization, the inevitability of collapse, and grassroots alternatives to failed systems.





”

I do not believe civilization as we know it will make it out of this century.

Resilient humans will survive, but our societies that have urbanized and are supported by rural agriculture will not.”

ANDREW WEAVER

CLIMATE SCIENTIST

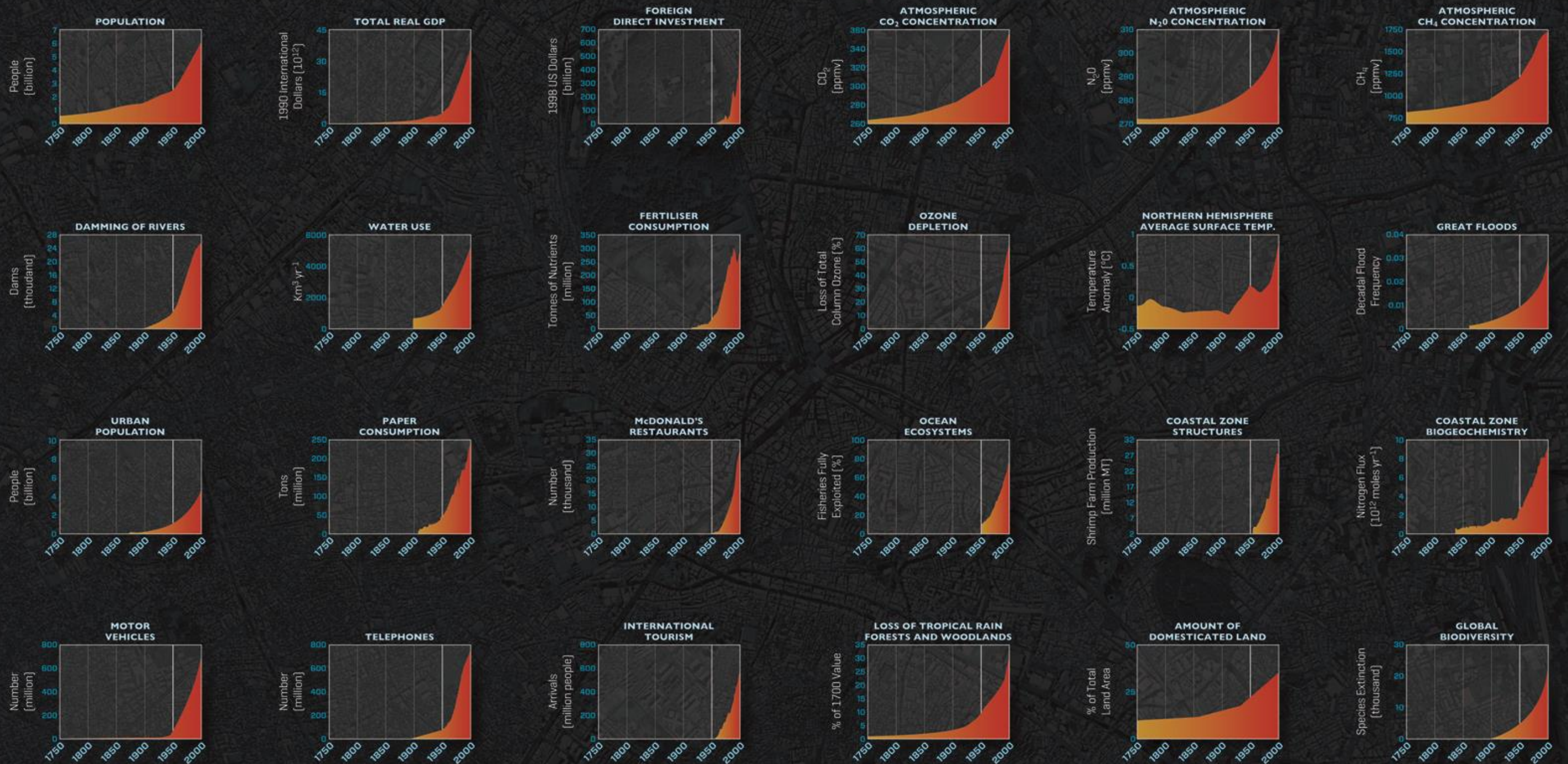
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Chances of climate catastrophe are ignored, scientists say





CODE GREEN

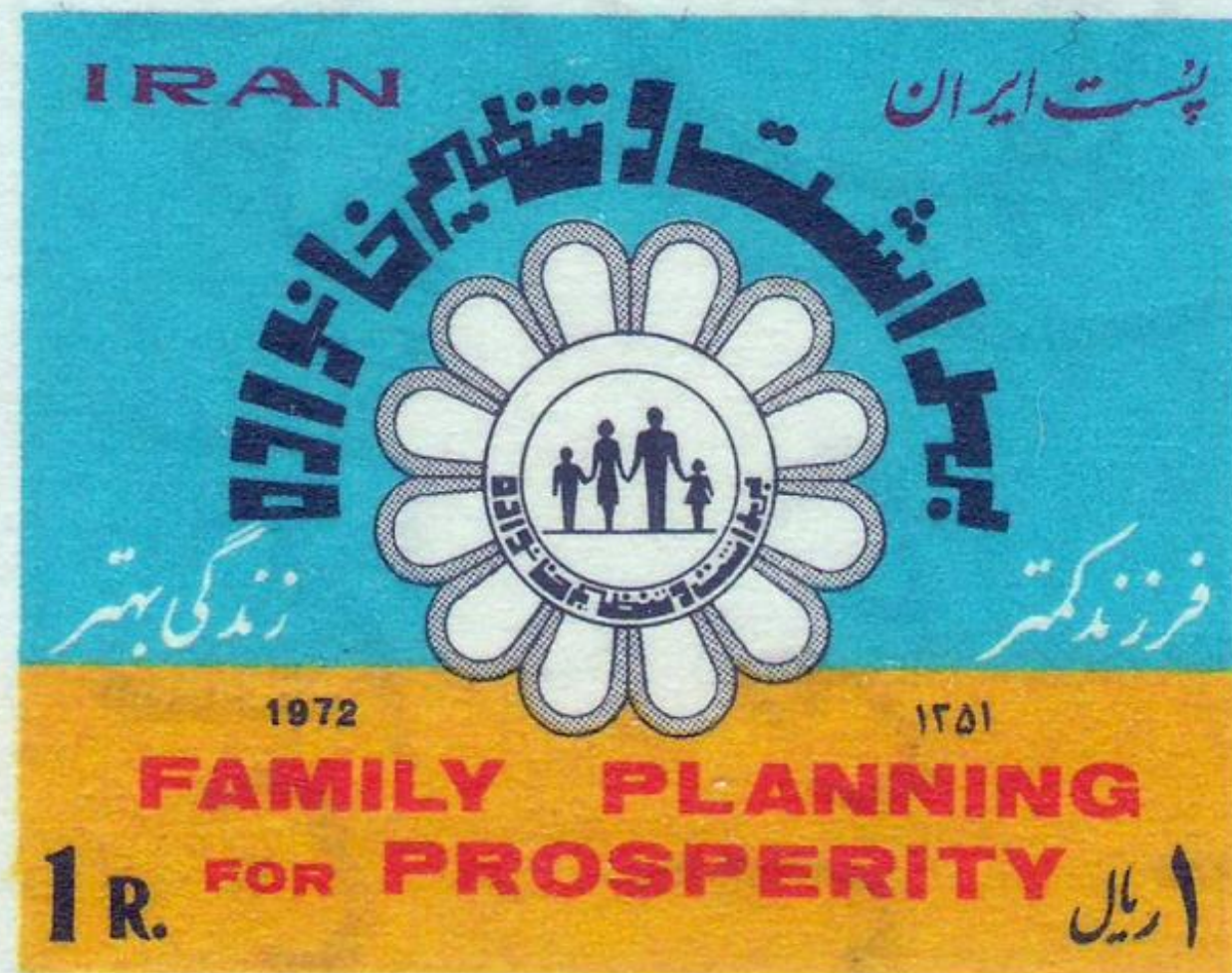
iΘ!

The indigenous way of life has worked for 200,000 years. You've trashed the planet in a tiny fraction of that.

Sure, but modern civilization also provides the solution: the Hoover Wind Tunnel S3639!







PERMACULTURE PRINCIPLES

- STACKING FUNCTIONS
- EVERYTHING GARDENS
- USER PAYS
- PROBLEM IS THE SOLUTION
- MULTIFUNCTION FOR EACH COMPONENT
- MULTI COMPONENTS FOR EACH FUNCTION
- DIVERSITY
- WORK WITH, NOT AGAINST NATURE
- OPPOSITE IS ALWAYS TRUE
- MAKE LOTS OF MISTAKES
- UNUSED RESOURCES ARE POLLUTION
- ALL POLLUTION IS UNUSED RESOURCES
- LEAST EFFORT FOR MOST EFFECT
- SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL
- FILL EVERY NICHE
- RELATIVE LOCATION
- PROTRACTED THOUGHT + OBSERVATION
- DO LESS WITH LESS
- DOWNWARDLY IMMOBILE
- IF IT AIN'T BROKE DON'T FIX IT
- BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
- EFFICIENT LAY-OUTS
- ENERGY RECYCLING ON SITE
- SIMPLIFY, SIMPLIFY



Premises

1-4: Unsustainability

- Industrial society is unsustainable at its core
- It will collapse
- Collapse is a reversion to sustainability
- The longer it exists, the more harm it causes

5-8: Our Predicament

- Billions depend on this unsustainable system
- This is an unsolvable predicament: "overshoot"
- Sustainable human societies have existed
- "Green" technology won't save us

9-12: The Path Forward

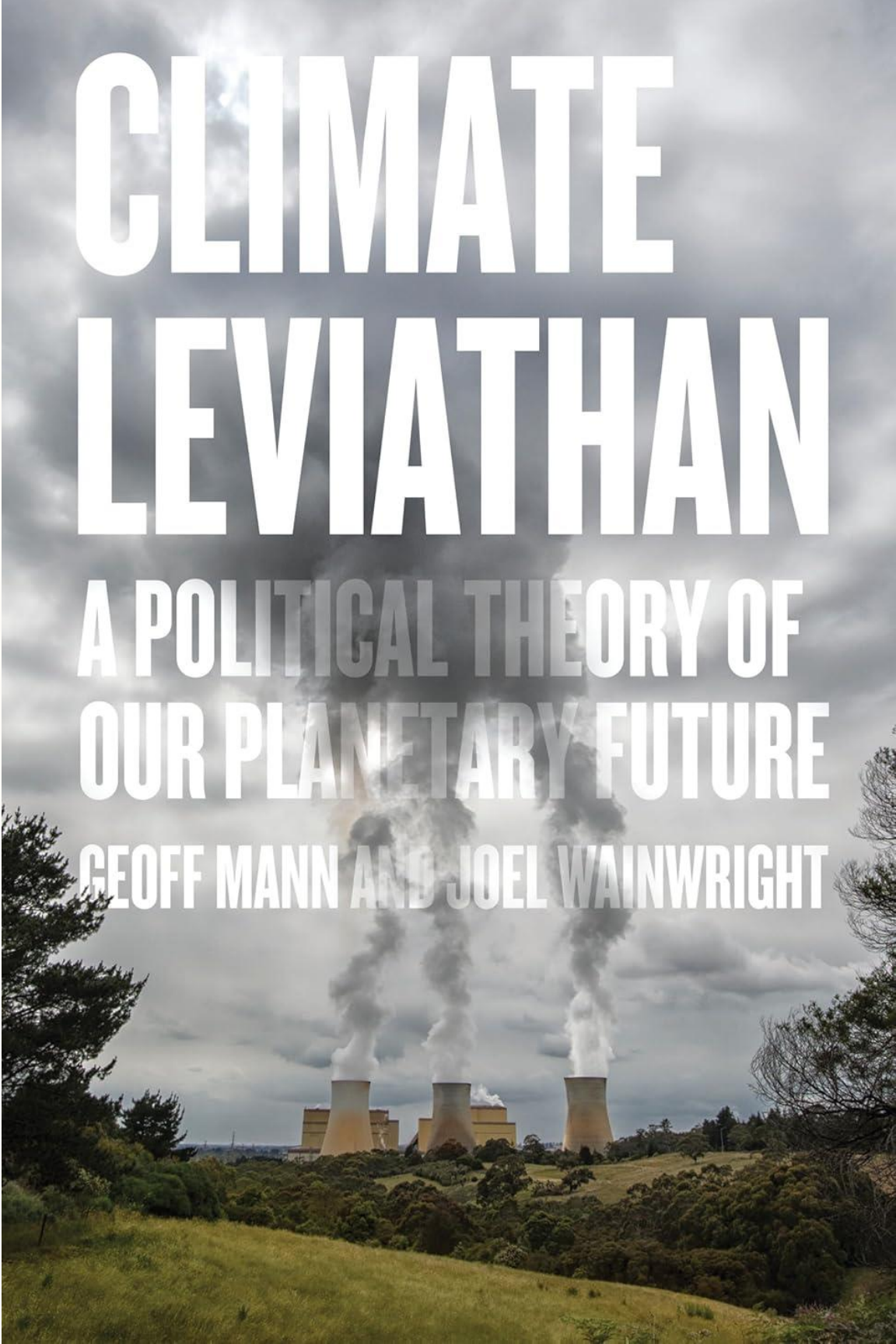
- Industrial civilization is hierarchical and violent
- Sustainability requires ~80% scale-down
- We're on the worst-case collapse pathway
- Controlled collapse is possible through resistance and resilience

The Political Landscape: Climate Leviathan

When I last spoke in 2023, the political context was what Wainright and Mann call "Climate Leviathan" - a fusion of neoliberal capitalism with state-socialism to advance certain market sectors while maintaining economic growth.

"Climate Leviathan describes an emergent global order committed to the consolidation of capitalism via the organization of a form of planetary sovereignty that can overcome the collective action problem."

This approach was exemplified by the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act with its subsidies for electric cars, solar panels, wind power, and mining.



**CLIMATE
LEVIATHAN**
A POLITICAL THEORY OF
OUR PLANETARY FUTURE
GEOFF MANN AND JOEL WAINWRIGHT

Three Political Structures of Industrial Empire

Climate Leviathan

Center-right fusion of capitalism with state intervention to reduce emissions while maintaining growth (Biden, Trudeau)

Climate Behemoth

"A global arrangement animated by a chauvinistic capitalist and nationalist politics that denies—until it can only denounce—the threat climate change poses"

Climate Mao

Authoritarian state capitalism (China) that claims to be anti-capitalist but remains ecologically destructive

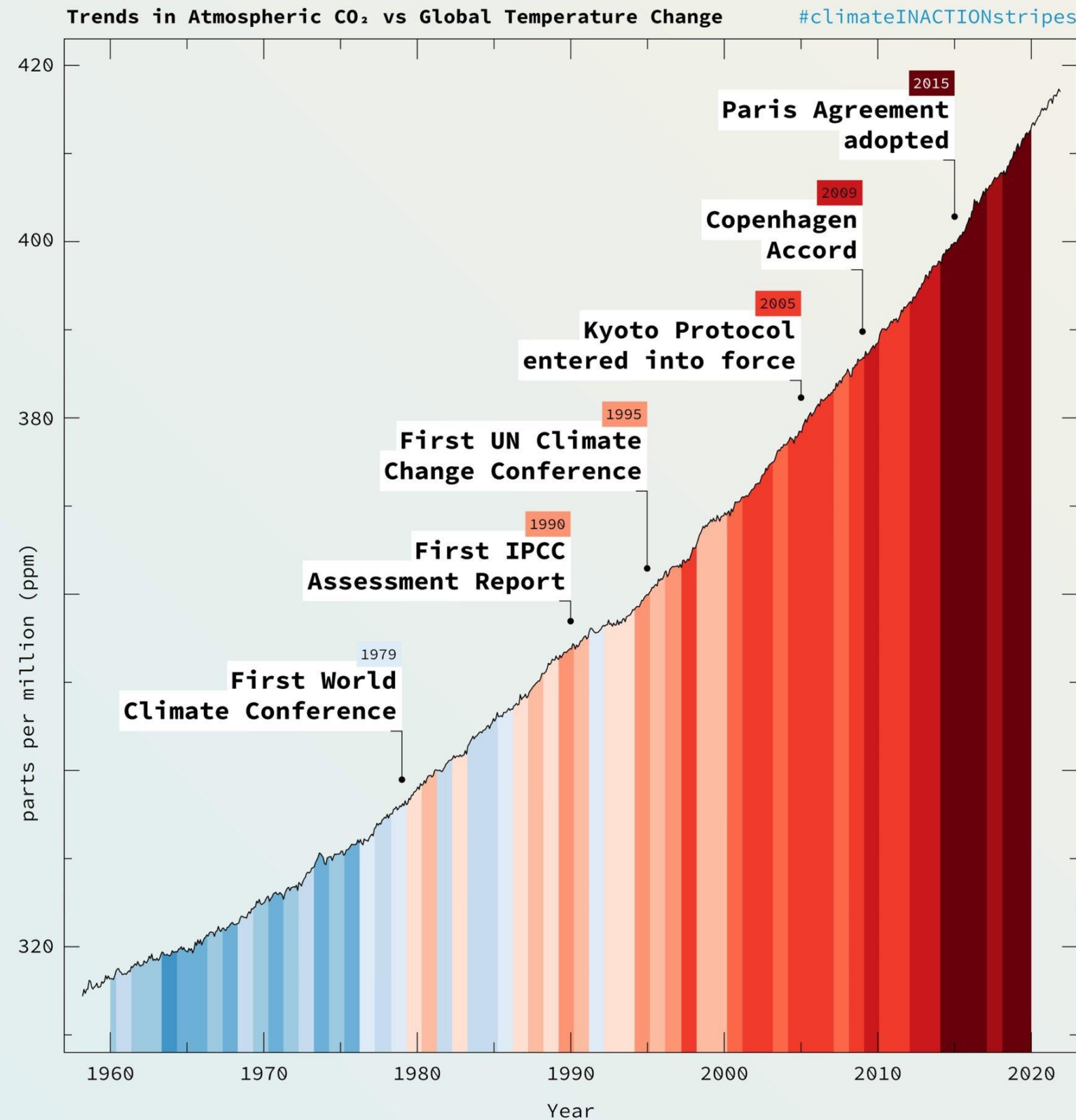
Trump's rise represents a shift to Climate Behemoth - the politics of Bolsonaro, Milei, Meloni, Musk, and the Koch brothers that embraces exploitation and "might makes right."

The Limits of System Change

What All Three Political Forms Share:

- Take growth, capitalism, and profit as given
- Accept extractive industrial economy as inevitable
- Prioritize nationalism over true internationalism
- Maintain neocolonial relationships

As Norman Finkelstein notes about successful movements: they require mass resolve, legal grounding, international pressure, and support without personal sacrifice.



Climate X: Movements for Climate Justice

"Climate X is the name we give the collection of movements that pursue global climate justice: movements that build non-capitalist political economies, and construct solidarities at multiple scales that reject the political logic of sovereignty."

— Wainwright and Mann

1

Biocentrism

Taking life and the biosphere as the center of our worldview, not just human interests

2

Degrowth

Movements challenging economic growth paradigm and advocating for planned reduction

3

Rights of Nature

Legal frameworks recognizing ecosystems' right to exist, persist, and regenerate





Frontline Resistance Movements

1

Mine Protests

Thacker Pass, Hakamwe, Jadar Valley in Serbia - resisting lithium extraction

2

Forest Defense

Treesits in Washington State, Fairy Creek movement in Canada protecting old growth

3

Pipeline Resistance

Unist'ot'en Camp, Gidimten Checkpoint, Standing Rock, Line 3 opposition

4

Direct Action

Earth Uprisings in France, Movement for Emancipation of Niger Delta, eco-sabotage

These movements operate without political authority, institutional backing, or significant financial resources - just human bodies and courage.



Analysis

The Prerequisites for a Degrowth Paradigm Shift: Insights from Critical Political Economy ☆

Hubert Buch-Hansen ✉

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2017.10.021> ➤

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Abstract

What would it take for a degrowth paradigm shift to take place? Drawing on contemporary critical political economy scholarship, this article identifies four prerequisites for socio-economic paradigm shifts: deep crisis, an alternative political project, a comprehensive coalition of social forces promoting the project in political struggles, and broad-based consent. It is argued that, on the one hand, there is much to suggest that current crises cannot be resolved under existing institutional frameworks and that degrowth is a political project that provides solutions to some of the key problems currently facing humanity. On the other hand, the prospects for a degrowth paradigm shift remain bleak: unlike political projects that became hegemonic in the past, degrowth has neither support from a comprehensive coalition of social forces nor any consent to its agenda among the broader population.

Recommended articles



[Degrowth by means of technology? A treatise for an ethos of releasement](#)

Journal of Cleaner Production, Volume 197, Part 2...
Pasi Heikkurinen

[Degrowth: A “missile word” that backfires?](#)

Ecological Economics, Volume 126, 2016, pp. 182...
Stefan Drews, Miklós Antal

[Degrowth in the context of sustainability transitions: In search of a common ground](#)

Journal of Cleaner Production, Volume 267, 2020, ...
Yaryna Khmara, Jakub Kronenberg

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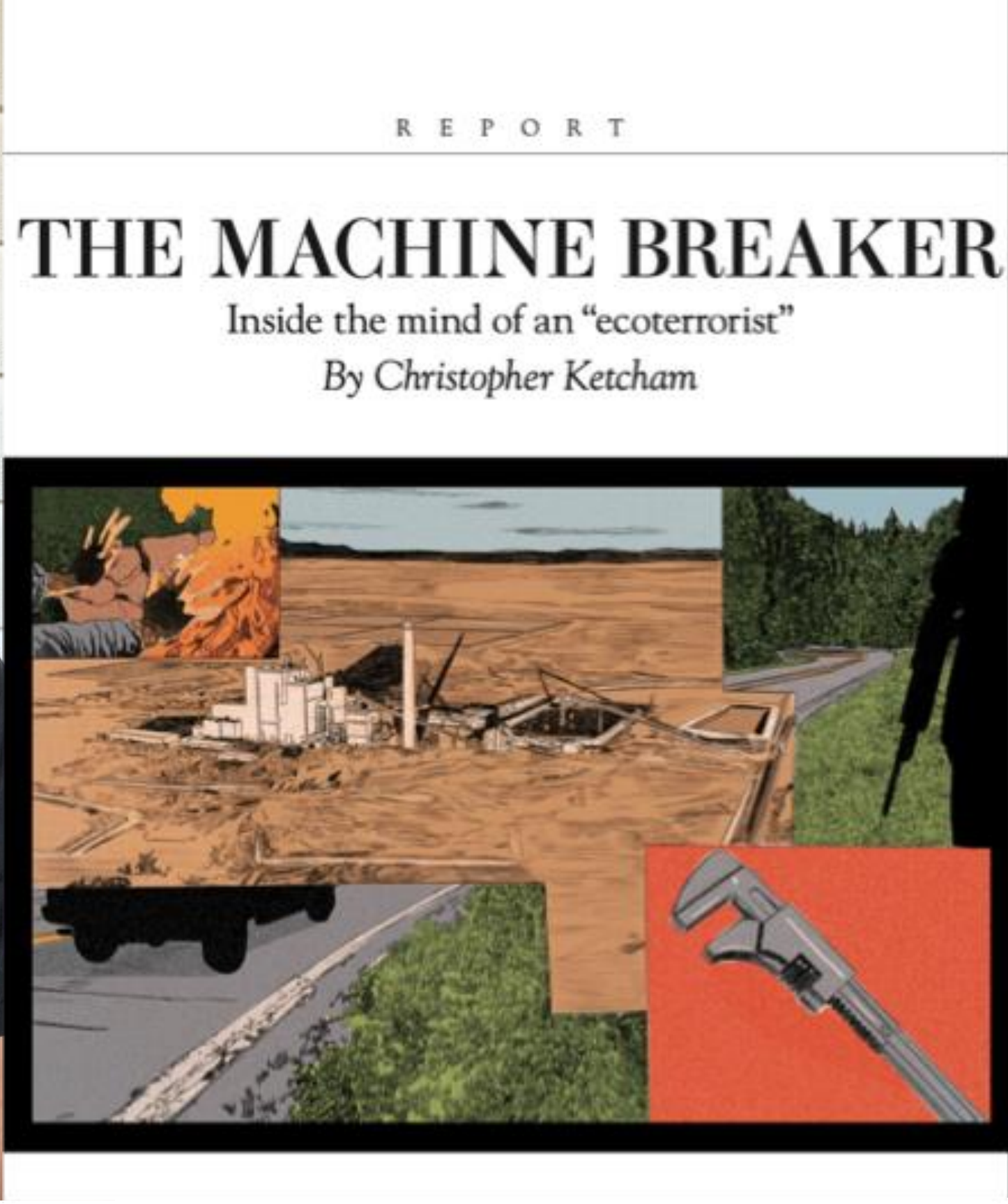
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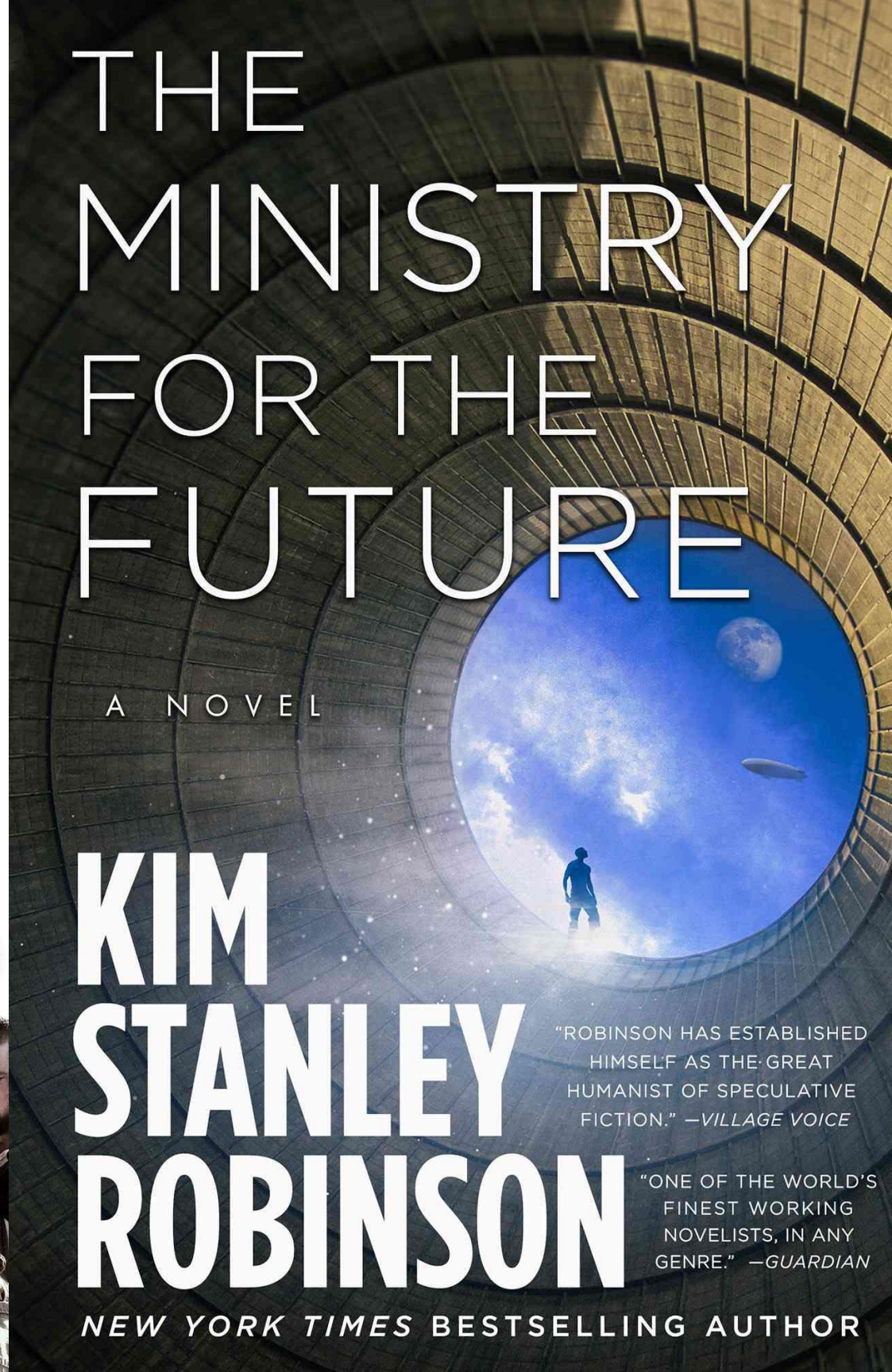
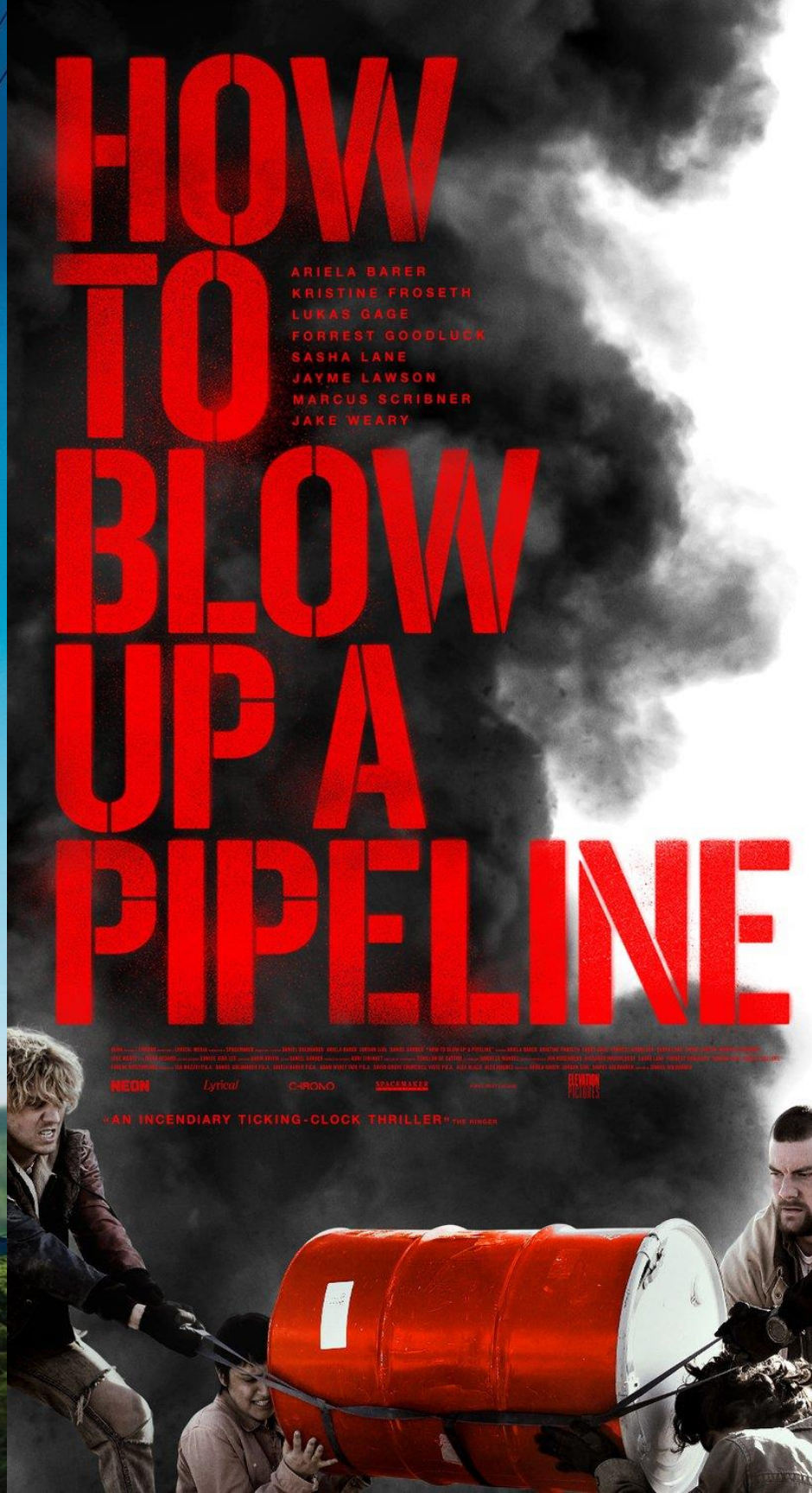
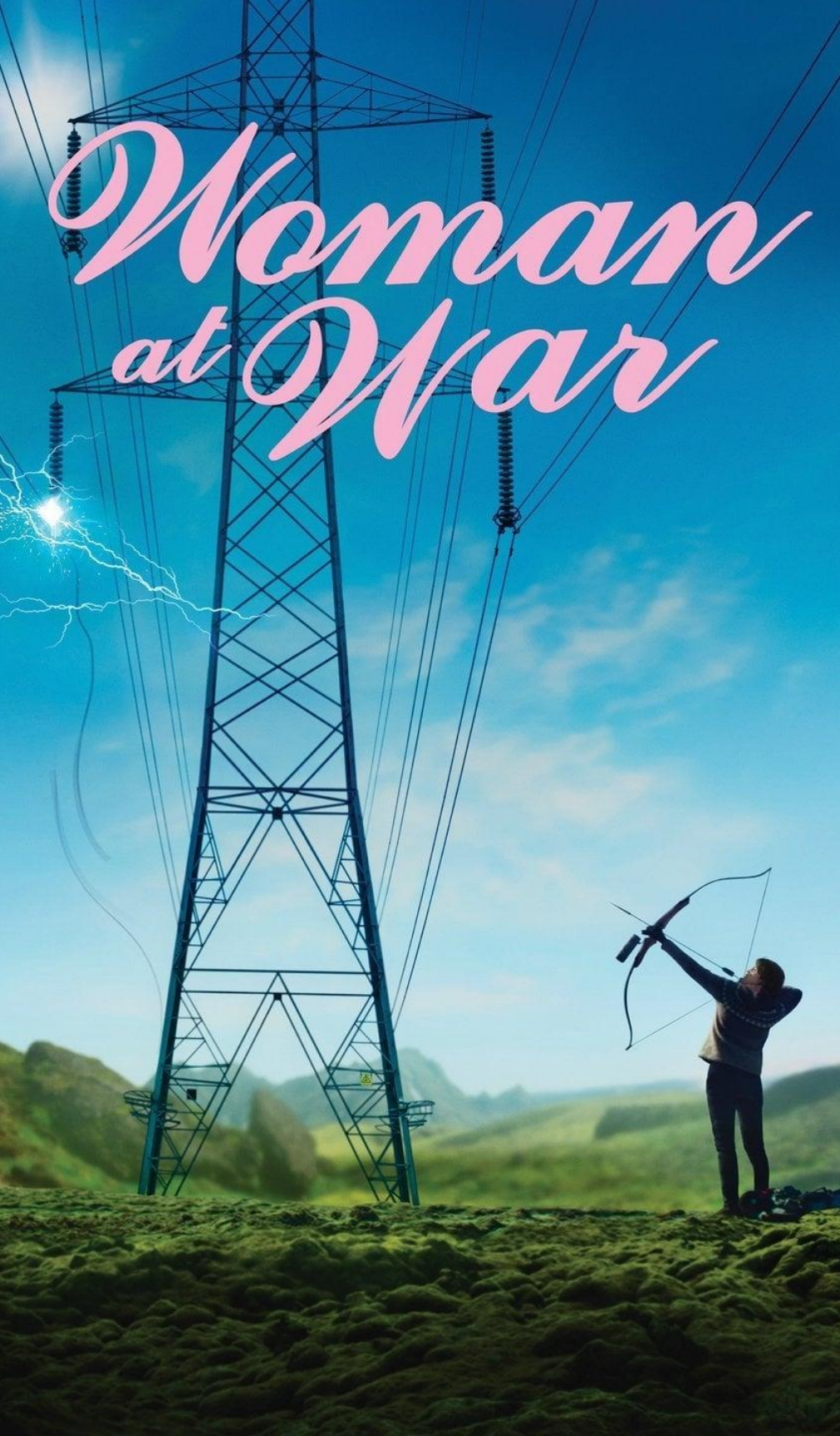
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CELDF

**COMMUNITY
ENVIRONMENTAL
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ONLINE EVENT

SOLIDARITY AGAINST TYRANNY

Featuring activists, organizers, and revolutionaries
from the Philippines and the Appalachian South



Cris De Vera



Mario E. Maderazo



Denzel Caldwell



Jaybee Garganera

**7.21.25
6 PM PDT**

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The Interregnum

"The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum, a great variety of morbid symptoms appear."

— Antonio Gramsci

We need to invest in grassroots forms of resistance and community-based resilience rather than green capitalism.

The Path Forward

- Relocalizing food and supply chains
- Creating systems that build soil and sequester carbon
- Building alternative governance through rights of nature
- Developing dual power alongside the increasingly irrelevant state

"Revolution is never practical – until the hour of the revolution strikes. Then it alone is practical."

— James Connolly



Building Community Resistance and Resilience

Citations

Bright Green Lies: How the Environmental Movement Lost Its Way and What We Can Do About It (Monkfish, 2021)

Bright Green Lies on Planet:Critical www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TSQAYXDV1M

Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund <https://CELDF.org>

I'll Burn That Bridge When I Get to It! Heretical Thoughts on Identity Politics, Cancel Culture, and Academic Freedom by Norman Finkelstein (Sublation, 2023)

The Prerequisites for a Degrowth Paradigm Shift: Insights From Critical Political Economy
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921800916313726>

Through the Eye of a Needle: An Eco-Heterodox Perspective on the Renewable Energy Transition <https://www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/14/15/4508>

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