Is Capitalism Driving Climate Change?
Aljazeera
March 18, 2016

• Scientists say the world is in the midst of a "climate emergency"
• Naomi Klein: 'To avoid climate change, we need system change'
• known as one of the world's best critics of big corporations and uncontrolled capitalism
• This Changes Everything, the activist and author says one cannot take on climate change without also addressing capitalism.
• Many across the world applauded last year when nearly 200 countries adopted the first ever agreement to address climate change. Proponents of the Paris agreement say the deal signals a global commitment to reduce greenhouse gases, but critics call it "worthless", "weak" and "not strong enough". So is the Paris agreement a historic victory or a dangerous distraction?

Postmodernism and Its Critics:
http://anthropology.ua.edu/cultures/cultures.php?culture=Postmodernism%20and%20Its%20Critics
11/4/16

• Postmodernism a challenge to several modernist themes articulated during the Enlightenment
• Primary tenets of post modernism:
  • Elevation of text and language as fundamental phenomena of existence, application of literary analysis to all phenomena, resounding of reality and representation, critique of metanarratives, argumentation and method and evaluative focus upon power relations and hegemony, general critique of Western institutions and knowledge
• anthropologist Melford Spiro defines postmodernism thusly:
  • The postmodernist critique of science consists of two interrelated arguments, epistemological and ideological. Both are based on subjectivity. First, because of the subjectivity of the human object, anthropology, according to the epistemological argument cannot be a science; and in any event the subjectivity of the human subject precludes the possibility of science discovering objective truth. Second, since objectivity is an illusion, science according to the ideological argument, subverts oppressed groups, females, ethnics, third-world peoples. [Spiro 1996: 759]
• The term 'postmodernism' is somewhat controversial since many doubt whether it can ever be dignified by conceptual coherence
• Post colonialism – a description of institutional conditions in formerly colonial societies/ an abstract representation of the global situation after the colonial period/ a description of discourses informed by psychological and epistemological orientations
• Important feature of post colonolist thought is its assertion that modernism and modernity are part of the project of domination.
• Poststructuralism – concerned with reflexivity (taking account for self) and search for logical practice
• Expresses disenchantment with static, mechanistic, and controlling models of culture, instead privileging social process and agency.
• Essential element of postmodernism is that it constitutes an attack against theory and methodology
• Jean Baudrillard – sociologist, post-modernist
• Identifies early modernity as period between Enlightenment and Industrial Revolution
of human diversity as we embrace our commonality as a species.” – Rick Potts, director of the human Origins Program, National Museum of National History

Working Group on the ‘Anthropocene’:
http://quaternary.stratigraphy.org/workinggroups/anthropocene/
16/4/16

- changes in: erosion and sediment transport associated with a variety of anthropogenic processes, including colonisation, agriculture, urbanisation and global warming; the chemical composition of the atmosphere, oceans and soils, with significant anthropogenic perturbations of the cycles of elements such as carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and various metals. Environmental conditions generated by these perturbations; these include global warming, ocean acidification and spreading oceanic ‘dead zones’. The biosphere both on land and in the sea, as a result of habitat loss, predation, species invasions and the physical and chemical changes noted above.
- The ‘Anthropocene’ has emerged as a popular scientific term used by scientists, the scientifically engaged public and the media to designate the period of Earth's history during which humans have a decisive influence on the state, dynamics and future of the Earth system. It is widely agreed that the Earth is currently in this state.

Earth Statement:
http://earthstatement.org/statement/
16/4/16

- 2015 is a critical year for humanity. Our civilization has never faced such existential risks as those associated with global warming, biodiversity erosion and resource depletion. Our societies have never had such an opportunity to advance prosperity and eradicate poverty. We have the choice to either finally embark on the journey towards sustainability or to stick to our inherently destructive “business-as-usual” pathway.
- In 2015, a good climate future is still within reach. If we act boldly, we can safeguard human development.
- Equity is critical for a successful global agreement in Paris. Every country must formulate an emissions pathway consistent with deep decarbonization. For the sake of fairness, rich countries and progressive industries can and should take the lead and decarbonize well before mid-century. Developing countries should formulate plans far beyond what they can be expected to pursue on their own, reaping benefits from leapfrogging into a sustainable economy, well supported by international climate finance and technology access. Safeguarding the right to development of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is fundamental.

Will Humans Survive the Sixth Great Extinction?
http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/06/150623-sixth-extinction-kolbert-animals-conservation-science-world/
17/4/16

- In the last half-billion years, life on Earth has been nearly wiped out five times—by such things as climate change, an intense ice age, volcanoes, and that space rock that smashed into the Gulf of Mexico 65 million years ago, obliterating the dinosaurs and a bunch of other species. These events are known as the Big Five mass extinctions, and all signs suggest we are now on the precipice of a sixth.
- According to a study published last week in Science Advances, the current extinction rate