

ENJOY

Paradise

UNTIL THE
TIDE TURNS



AROUND ENVIRONMENT

INTRO

Now that my exercise is over, I will talk about the environment. Indeed during the Euro Class, we were shown several documents concerning the environment and its protection, such as the movie “ Before the flood”. This movie treated very different aspects of how the environment is threatened every day and, of course, many ways to stop its destruction and eventually restore it. Among my research for documents, I managed to find a poster, by Shepard Fairey, denouncing oil production. I was struck by this poster as it provides a very realistic vision of what oil production is today.

*Montrer affiche *

I was very uncomfortable with the thought of what the world could become if we continued such production and that is why my presentation will explain to you what oil production is today, how dangerous it is everyday, and what are its best alternatives to me.

WHAT IT IS TODAY

I must admit that I first thought the largest oil producer was situated in the Middle-East. But actually, it is the USA that are the largest oil producer as they produce 14.85 million barrels a day but also the largest consumer with 19.53 million barrels a day. Those two stats represent about 15 % of the world total for each of these fields in 2016 . All around the world, the total oil production in 2015 was 4 300 tons. Such numbers look pretty enormous and yet they increase everyday.

That is what Fairey’s poster wants to denounce : the continuous digging for more oil. Of course oil is a fossil fuel, that is why if digging continues this way, there will soon be no more safe place from oil wells. And with the fact that some will probably go to war just to find more fuel, oil comes with some problems due to its nature.

HOW DANGEROUS IT IS EVERYDAY

Indeed not only do oil production contaminates the environment, but it is also toxic for any living being. Thing is that assessing the toxicity of oil is a tricky business. The main difficulty is that "oil" is a mixture of many different chemicals, and no two oils are the same. Proportions of chemicals vary even within a single category of oil, like crude oil or diesel oil.

For example, Arabian crude oil, Louisiana crude oil, and Alaska North Slope crude oil represent very different mixtures that will behave differently in the environment and have different toxic effects to exposed organisms.

So, using hot water or chemicals to remove oil that was spilled can harm plants and animals, and simply sending a team of cleanup workers into an oiled area can mess with sensitive organisms and mix oil more deeply into a beach. The experts who respond to oil spills must consider all of these potential problems when evaluating the consequences of how far to go in removing spilled oil. For oil production and then removal can be dangerous and harmful for the environment, alternatives have to be found.

ALTERNATIVES

Although many alternatives could exist and are still prototypes, some very efficient alternatives exist today, and I am of course talking about renewable energies. As long as countries will continue to rely on oil, for example, the transition to safer energies will remain expensive. As I said, the USA are the largest oil producer. But it would be a very good idea for them to invest in shale-gas-powered cars, as they have numerous amount of gas fields underground ! Unfortunately the fact that this transition is expensive is one of the reason why oil production might keep on going until it is nowhere to be found on earth ! But we can assume that if more and more countries made this step forward then the cost of these technologies would reduce significantly !

CONCLUSION

All in all, we can confirm that oil is today a direct threat to the environment and I am among the ones who believe it is possible to stop its production, with efforts of course, but it is only with efforts and sacrifices that things can be achieved. It would only be a part of what it takes to restore the environment, but still, making the situation better has to be a priority. Actually, more than ever, our today protects our tomorrow.