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The Big Picture of the Climate

There are many views on the climate problem, however many people look at the celebrities and the rich as the source of the problem. Taylor Swift is a big contributor to this, however there is a good reason. Even though celebrities and the rich may be a big contributor to the problem, you should look at the big picture.

In August of 2022 there was a record-breaking heatwave. During this people on Twitter were posting hate comments about Taylor Swift and her contribution to the climate issue. These negative contributions being discussed were from her private jet's emissions of CO₂. Around this time a research organization made a report on celebrities and their carbon footprint due to flights. This report showed Taylor Swift as the number one contributor. This report however used flight logs that showed the planes total usage, including other people borrowing her jet. Her plane was estimated to have emitted over 8,000 metric tons of CO₂ in only 7 months (Our).

Other than the obvious purpose of gaining views by starting the video essay with a discussion about Taylor Swift, a topic that would attract viewers that both love and hate her, this video offers the very questionable defense on Taylor Swift's behalf. This defense states "Taylor Swift isn't the worst person on the planet regarding climate change." While this sort of deflection offers a defense, it does not address the hypocrisy of Taylor Swift's jet usage.

Of course, a bad defense for Taylor Swift is not proof that she is in the wrong. The estimated amount of over 8,000 metric tons of CO₂ from 7 months of flying may be 39 times

that of the average CO₂ emissions of an United States citizen (Statista), but Taylor Swift's *Eras Tour* sold over 10 million tickets (Just Jared). If everyone that went to the concerts had to fly 1000 kilometers on average to Taylor Swift instead of her flying to them that would make over two million metric tons of CO₂ (Our World in Data). Taylor Swift is just doing her job, and that job is to entertain millions of people a year.

According to *Our Changing Climate*, there was also an Oxfam report discussing the correlation between household income and carbon emissions. This study showed that the richest 1% has double the carbon emissions than the poorest 50% in the world. Also, according to *Our Changing Climate*, this is not what we should be worried about. Instead, we should be worried about the companies that provide carbon emitting resources (Our).

This is not the way to the solution. One of the only ways to reduce carbon emissions dramatically is for the government to step in and raise taxes, however the US is already doing this (Peter G. Peterson Foundation). Another way to reduce carbon emissions is the people use less carbon emitting resources globally. This means everyone doing their part to help decrease global carbon emissions.

Overall, the poor are less to blame per person than the rich are to blame per person, but you must look at the bigger picture if you are to understand the climate issue. Just looking at the average of the two groups the rich are to blame, but changing their ways will not fix this problem. The only way to make a lasting difference is to change the ways of the many, not the few.

Works Cited

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