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The climate crisis is “at bottom, the product of a social rift: the domination of human being by human being. The driving force is a society based on class, inequality, and acquisition without end” (John Bellamy Foster, Brett Clark, and Richard York, The Ecological Rift: Capitalism’s War on the Earth, 2010, p. 47). Comment on the above statement. ⁽¹⁾

Commented [O11]: Follow Up: 1

The authors of the given statement have **beat** the game in summing up the enigma that is the issue of climate crisis. While the climate ‘crisis’ is not a globally accepted concept yet, the supporters for the theory are far too many to be ignored. I too am a staunch believer of the anthropogenic component in the acceleration of the said problem.

Commented [A2]: beaten

“We have been talking about the environment as if it is something different from us, but we are the environment. The non-human elements are our environment, but we are the environment of non-human elements, so we are one with the environment. We are the environment.”
-Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist Monk, March. ⁽²⁾

Commented [A3]: Please justify your text and use double spacing. Also the first line of a paragraph is indented.

Primarily, the **girth** of the term ‘climate crisis’ must be established. They are the collective concerns about the climate, environment, and its related components with respect to their irreparable degradation, extreme changes, exploitation, and their side-effects. The climate and environment are a spirited, **fidgety** system of **forces** which drive the non-anthropogenic factors in our surroundings. However, this ever-changing, shape-shifting characteristic of the environment is not attributed to the climate crisis. Rather, the ‘excess’ drive or ‘accelerated’ change in these forces (which are unnatural) are the pinpointed **integrants** of the climate crisis.

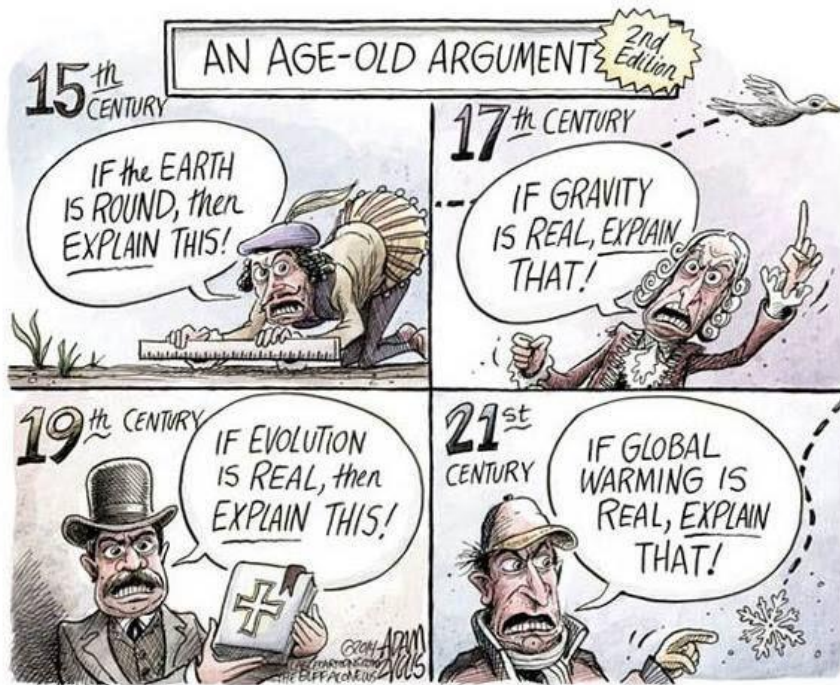
Commented [A4]: This quote is a bit out of context in the middle of the paragraph. When you introduce a quote, you need to elaborate on the main ideas that you are drawing from it. You need to engage with it. You can start the essay with a quote sometimes which is an apt expression of some of the ideas of the essay, without engaging with it in detail, but not in the middle of a paragraph.

Commented [A5]: breadth would be a better word here I feel

Commented [A6]: what do you mean by fidgety here?

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Commented [A8]: Can you explain this word?



(3)

A second, crucial question that must be addressed before the commentary on the mentioned statement is that whether changes in the climate are truly a situation of crisis or not? While there is undoubtedly scientific evidence in support of this issue, there is still a minority of climate change deniers. As mentioned in the book 'Climate Change Denial: Heads in the Sand', the authors quote:

"There have been claims purporting to prove there is no scientific consensus on human-caused global warming...The uncertainties of climate models are often used as an excuse to reject them along with all evidence of human-caused global warming...Another argument is that 'climate has changed naturally in the past and therefore current climate change must be natural'...To avoid accepting human-caused climate change, climate deniers commonly select isolated papers that challenge the consensus – to the neglect of the broader body of research...Similarly, deniers often focus on narrow pieces of data while ignoring other evidence that does not support their viewpoint...if one disagrees with a view held by the great majority of the world's scientists, the most common response is to assume all those scientists are involved in a vast conspiracy to deceive." (4)

While these reasons are meritless against the hefty, scientific basis for the climate crisis, from a humanities point of view, these arguments infect the masses behind the masks of fear, religious and ethnic beliefs (& traditions), blind-faith, political bias, economic hierarchy, and social pressure. Thus, while a scientific analysis of the issue at hand is eminent, the perspectives from the humanities set the foreground at battling such powerful ideological and intellectual opponents.

Commented [A9]: I understand the relevance of the comic strip here. But again, like the earlier quote, it needs to be put in context and explained. You have not referred to it in your essay at all. Without engaging with it or even mentioning it, it seems abrupt and out of place.

Commented [A10]: [...]

Commented [A11]: influence

Commented [A12]: with

Commented [A13]: foreground the need to contest powerful ideological...

Although ‘how’ the deniability of the climate crisis occurs and is handled by masses, is not the main topic of discussion of this commentary, but the related question of ‘why’ this **deniability** is seeded into the minds of the **minority** might covertly push us into questioning ‘what causes this climate crisis?’

Commented [A14]: denial

Commented [A15]: which minority are you referring to?

*“It’s not that the world hasn’t had more carbon dioxide, it’s not that the world hasn’t been warmer. **The problem is the speed at which things are changing.** We are inducing a sixth mass extinction event kind of by accident and we don’t want to be the ‘extinctee.’”*

- Bill Nye, *The Science Guy* ⁽⁵⁾

The above quote is verbalized by a famous American science popularity TV show host from the late 90s. It reiterates our initial discussion that the climate change is a natural phenomenon but occurs over geologic time-scales (at least a few hundred thousand years). However, the global climatic changes noticeable since the past few decades are leaps and bounds greater than those that were seen a century ago. When looked at our millennium from a bird’s eye view, it would be hard to miss the human presence and **evolution**. While our species has been present on earth for a couple of hundred thousand years, our presence has only been noticeable in the last few thousand years.

Commented [A16]: impact on the earth

*“One can see from space how the human race has changed the Earth. Nearly all of the available land has been cleared of forest and is now used for agriculture or urban development. The polar icecaps are shrinking and the desert areas are increasing. At night, the Earth is no longer dark, but large areas are lit up. All of this is **evidence that human exploitation of the planet is reaching a critical limit.** But human demands and expectations are ever-increasing. We cannot continue to pollute the atmosphere, poison the ocean and exhaust the land. There isn’t any more available.”*

- Stephen Hawking, *Physicist and Author* ⁽⁶⁾

Initially, humans were opportunistic feeders and adapted to their surroundings. They lived by the rules of nature and held no dominance over other life. There was no concept of an **anthroposphere**. This changed when the first block of dominos fell: humans developed **agriculture**. This is when we understood the idea of self-sustenance (growing our own food; not relying **at the nature’s** mercy). While this and all further advancements (such as domestication of animals, colonization, urbanization, industrialization, medical revolution, etc.) made by the human species were productive for themselves, they turned out detrimental for the environment eventually. Farming led to deforestation while industrialization led to pollution. These effects might seem stand-alone by themselves, but their root cause was the stability and **sustaining** environments that humans carved for themselves. This quality of self-sustenance and controlling our environments is a classic femme fatale in disguise; it induced **overconsumption** and exponentially increased the **human population**.

Commented [A17]: explain the term when you introduce it

Commented [A18]: on

Commented [A19]: meaning?

“Either we reduce the world’s population voluntarily or nature will do this for us, but brutally.”

- Maurice Strong, *UN Under-Secretary-General* ⁽⁷⁾

"I have no doubt that the fundamental source of all our problems, particularly our environmental problems, is population growth."

- Sir David Attenborough (2016) ⁽⁸⁾

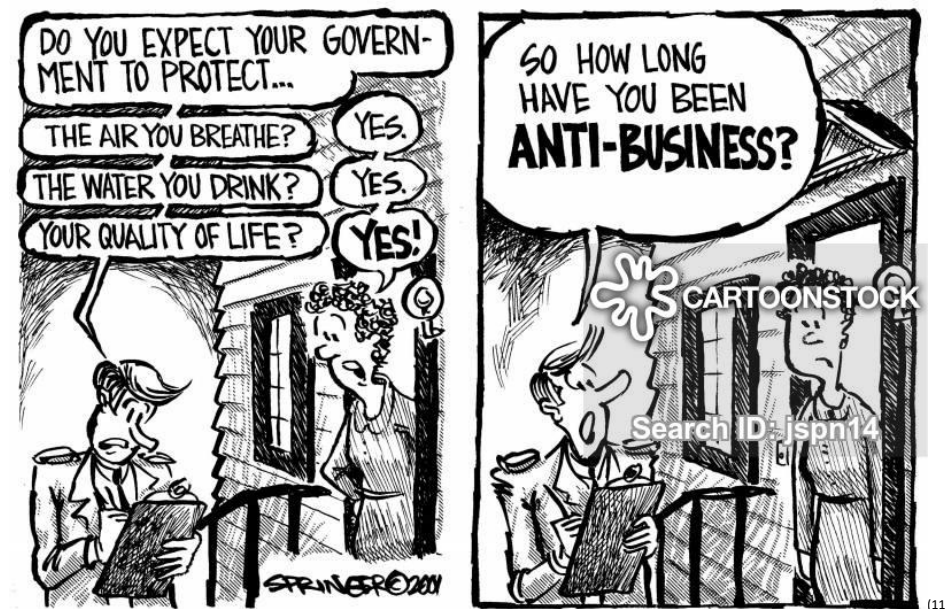
"Unlike plagues of the dark ages or contemporary diseases we do not yet understand, the modern plague of overpopulation is soluble by means we have discovered and with resources we possess. What is lacking is not sufficient knowledge of the solution but universal consciousness of the gravity of the problem and education of the billions who are its victims."

- Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1969) ⁽⁹⁾

"Having one less child is the biggest contribution anyone can make to leaving a habitable planet."

- Prof John Guilleband, Optimum Population Trust (2008) ⁽¹⁰⁾

The above quotes reflect on the concerns of overpopulation and its connection to the climate crisis. Though the **quoters** span a vast time period and occupy distinct occupational strata, they all **plead** the same message. A lone human might induce a miniscule perturbation on the environmental fabric, but this effect cosmically amplifies due to overpopulation; presently equaling in magnitude to the colossal geologic forces. This has occurred due to our exploitation of resources beyond the ambit of our vision.



To supply an example, the use of fossil fuels began in the early 1600s and was extensively used without knowledge of its side effects. A similar potential concern remains with use of nuclear fuels which certainly aid humans in producing more harvestable energy, but might cause a problem with disposition of nuclear waste soon. This only makes us wonder whether energy solutions such as solar energy or artificial rains are future's **pandora's** boxes. Hence, the problem is not that of finding a better energy

Commented [A20]: Again I understand the relevance of the quotes but I am not sure if a string of quotes like this is effective for analysis. Also it is disrupting your paragraph structuring. Same with the cartoon below. It is relevant but you need to weave the main idea of the cartoon into your argument. Otherwise it seems very abrupt.

Commented [A21]: the quoted commentators

Commented [A22]: put forward

Commented [A23]: The whole idea of the cartoon about business/capitalism and the environment is introduced through the cartoon. However, after the introduction of this point in the cartoon, you need to elaborate on this point and need to weave it into your main arguments in the essay

Commented [A24]: P

resource, but one about acceptance of the fact that tampering with the environment (whether in a negative or a positive, but an unforeseen negative way) needs to stop. The bitter truth needs to be accepted that economic development and climate crisis are not mutually exclusive. Anthropogenic developments—whether industrial, scientific, or economic— do expose the underlying human greed or as quoted by the author ‘the desire of acquisition without end’.

Commented [A25]: this is really confused

Commented [A26]: delete

Commented [A27]: which author? There were 3 authors. Name them.

“The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it.”

-Bible, Genesis 2:15 ⁽¹²⁾

“The dominion granted to man by the Creator is not an absolute power, nor can one speak of a freedom to ‘use and misuse’, or to dispose of things as one pleases.”

-Evangelium Vitae, Section 42 (1995) ⁽¹³⁾

“Christianity is first and foremost a concern for the whole of the created order — biodiversity and business; politics and pollution; rivers, religion and rainforests...If Christians believe in Jesus they must recognise that concern for climate change is not an optional extra but a core matter of faith.”

-Anglican Communion Environmental Network ⁽¹⁴⁾

“Islam teaches its followers to take care of the earth. Muslims believe that humans should act as guardians, or khalifah, of the planet, and that they will be held accountable by God for their actions. This concept of stewardship is a powerful one, and was used in the Islamic Declaration on Climate Change to propel change in environmental policy in Muslim countries. Muslims are taught that ‘greater indeed than the creation of man is the creation of the heavens and the earth’.” ⁽¹⁵⁾

“O children of Allah!...eat and drink but exceed not the bounds; surely He does not love those who exceed the bounds.”

- Holy Quran, Chapter 7, verse 32 ⁽¹⁶⁾

“Īśāvāsyam idam sarvam. This entire universe is to be looked upon as the energy of the Lord.”

- Īśopaniṣad ⁽¹⁷⁾

“We call on all Hindus to expand our conception of dharma. We must consider the effects of our actions not just on ourselves and those humans around us, but also on all beings. We have a dharmic duty for each of us to do our part in ensuring that we have a functioning, abundant, and bountiful planet. Climate change creates pain, suffering, and violence. Unless we change how we use energy, how we use the land, how we grow our crops, how we treat other animals, and how we use natural resources, we will only further this pain, suffering, and violence. On a personal basis, we can reduce this suffering by beginning to transform our habits, simplifying our lives and material desires, and not taking more than our reasonable share of resources. Adopting a plant-based diet is one of the single most powerful acts that a person can take in reducing environmental impact. In doing all of this, we help maintain the ecological and cosmic order, an order that allows life and existence to flourish.”

- Hindu Declaration on Climate Change ⁽¹⁸⁾

As can be seen in the above quotes, several religious texts and spiritual leaders encourage their disciples to conserve their environment. There are also examples of religious stories which warn their respective disciples of an imminent doom if the human greed and over-exploitation of the environment does not cease. One such example is the 'Kalki' from the 'Dasha-Avataras or 10 Avatars' who is a character from a Hindu lore that vanquishes all life on Earth due to life's transformed corrupted nature. Other such examples are the 'Pralayas' in various Hindu folklore and the Christian religious tale 'Noah's Ark'. With this being said, some followers do interpret religious texts in support of climate change denial. These opposing religious views (within 2 sects of the same religion or 2 different religions) do generate feuds amongst human communities. Such conflicts of opinions also give rise to specific perceptions about the environment and can cause serious concerns such as eco-vandalism.

Commented [A28]: What do you mean by religious stories?

Commented [A29]: delete

Commented [A30]: can you give an example?

Commented [A31]: Explain this term

"Income and wealth inequality have reached obscene levels, the threat of climate change is more frightening than ever, and the billionaire class is now allowed to spend unlimited amounts of money to buy anything they want."

- Bernie Sanders ⁽¹⁹⁾



A lion's share of environmental problems are caused by the disparity within the socio-economic classes. While there is a general awareness about these issues, the monetarily leaner sections of society will often have to conflict these ideologies with their own livelihood. As a result, their basic needs reap overwhelmingly greater priority as compared to the vexations of climate change. To snowball the problems further, the richer classes are often the insatiable consumers of environmentally unfriendly goods. Since they are financially powerful, these goods are utilized at an excessive rate and generate enough pollution to exceed the country's carrying capacity.

Commented [A32]: This is the most important point in the question asked: about social and economic disparities and inequalities. You need to focus on this much more centrally in your essay

Commented [A33]: poorer sections of human societies

Commented [A34]: reap priority is not a correct expression. Get priority/reap benefits

Commented [A35]: which country? What is the carrying capacity?

"People living in the world's poorest nations do not concern themselves with the environment, or the latest figures on carbon emissions; rather, they wake up each day wondering if they will be able to feed their children."

- Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Head, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community ⁽²¹⁾



(22), (23)

This inter-human domination is not just restricted to an individual or community level; its effects are also noted at inter-country platforms. For e.g. several developed countries such as the United States and United Kingdom have already capped their share of environmental exploitation in the past. This has been a predominant gambit in their relatively high rates of development. However, now that their major infrastructural needs are nearly satisfied, they emerge as the flag-bearers for discouraging the use of environmentally harmful commodities. While this is good game plan, one cannot help but wonder about the discrimination this has spawned against the underdeveloped and developing countries. Similar inequalities (including populative inequality) can be discerned in foreign trades amongst the underdeveloped, developing and developed countries and could be construed as acts of buying favors and cold imperialism by the latter. Such diplomatic activities do indirectly albeit massively contribute to the climate crisis as well.

Commented [A36]: population

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Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, solving the climate crisis, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.

- Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General ⁽²⁴⁾

Finally, the effects of socio-economic, religious, populative and political discrimination are heightened in the presence of gender inequality, as the underdeveloped and developing society's women are multi-foldedly oppressed and hence do not score a chance to voice out about their views and ideas to curb the environmental problems.

Thus, the human-human conflicts and despotisms bag the front row seats to the climatic and ecological disasters that are ensuing. Natural calamities, pandemics and the climatic change might not string together as the outcome of anthropogenic intervention in plain sight, but every stain leaves a mark on the intricately knitted fabric known as the 'Environment'.

References: -

Commented [A39]: oppressed manifold

Commented [A40]: stand

Commented [A41]: this is an important point of inequality: gender and how it interacts with other social and economic disparities like those between the developed and the developing world, those between the rich and poor. This point is introduced right at the end and you also do not engage with it in any detail. This needs to be discussed and elaborated further.

Commented [A42]: You need a proper, strong, well-rounded conclusion which sums up the main arguments and your main position in the essay. This concluding paragraph is too brief and not comprehensive.

1. https://monthlyreview.org/product/ecological_rift/
2. <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/10/2/120/htm>
3. https://www.reddit.com/r/politicalcartoons/duplicates/c1b5jb/an_ageold_argument/
4. https://books.google.co.in/books?id=snk1CLf9ZbYC&pg=PA45&lpg=PA45&dq=There+have+been+claims+purporting+to+prove+there+is+no+scientific+consensus+on+human-caused+global+warming&source=bl&ots=YgnUijlHom&sig=ACfU3U3z9pWpwmt1LhT4om2lxywvpijt_Q&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewiWv-6nn5TsAhXczDgGHVojB2oQ6AEwA3oECAUQA#v=onepage&q=There%20have%20been%20claims%20purporting%20to%20prove%20there%20is%20no%20scientific%20consensus%20on%20human-caused%20global%20warming&f=false
5. <https://bigthink.com/think-tank/bill-nye-to-climate-change-deniers-you-cant-ignore-facts-forever>
6. http://www.scienceforthepeople.net/CapBld/foot/Efoot_front.htm
7. <https://www.populationmedia.org/2011/05/02/global-populations-annual-growth/#:~:text=As%20was%20stated%20at%20the,5.5%20billion%20people%20to%20support>
8. <https://thetravellingcheetah.com/tag/essay/>
9. <https://www.populationmedia.org/2018/01/15/martin-luther-king/>
10. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/birth-control-is-a-green-option-552j3b2zt05>
11. <https://www.cartoonstock.com/directory/a/anti-business.asp>
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13. <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/care-for-creation>
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15. <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2020/8/12/what-does-islam-say-about-climate-change-and-climate-action/>
16. <https://qurano.com/en/7-al-a-raf/verse-31/>
17. [https://vaniquotes.org/wiki/ISO_Mantra_01_isavasyam_idam_sarvam..._cited_\(Lec\)](https://vaniquotes.org/wiki/ISO_Mantra_01_isavasyam_idam_sarvam..._cited_(Lec))
18. <http://www.hinduclimatedeclaration2015.org/>
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20. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/dec/14/australian-newspaper-cartoon-depicting-indians-eating-solar-panels-attacked-racist>

21. <https://www.pressahmadiyya.com/press-releases/2018/03/head-ahmadiyya-muslim-community-says-time-come-stop-blaming-muslims-worlds-problems/>
22. <https://blogs.commonsg Georgetown.edu/phil-108-spring2013-amg252/2013/03/14/a-few-thoughts-on-environmental-justice/>
23. <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2015/08/how-neocolonialism-works/>
24. <https://www.un.org/press/en/1998/19980430.SGSM6544.html>

Mark: 63%

Comments: Your essay has some good points and a good overall analysis of questions of inequalities, disparities, neocolonialism and capitalism and how these have affected the environment. However, I feel that you need to work further on the structure and organisation of your essay and its main points/arguments in a well-structured way. There were a series of long quotes one after another in many parts of the essay. While I understand the relevance of the quotes, too many quotes one after another without engaging with them in detail, led to some lack of structure and was sometimes confusing. The same applies to the cartoons. While they were relevant and interesting, they were mostly abrupt, introduced suddenly without any build-up or signal towards them, and they were further not engaged with in any detail in your essay. When you introduce extraneous material like cartoons, quotes to help in substantiating your points, you need to integrate them and the ideas you derive from them into the main structure of your arguments. Otherwise, they seem abrupt, out of context and not integral to the main arguments. I felt that the cartoons and the long series of quotes disrupted the structure of your paragraphs and arguments somewhat.

You need to think of a clear progression of arguments and points throughout your essay. For this purpose, a rough/initial draft/ outline with all points that you want to introduce and discuss in the essay might be helpful. You need a strong, well-rounded conclusion, which summarises the main arguments and your main position in the essay clearly. This was missing in your essay. Also you introduce an important point about gender inequality and how that ties up with other modes of inequality to perpetrate marginalisation on vulnerable sectors of society like poor women in developing countries, right at the end. This point needs to come earlier and needs to be discussed further. Also you need to focus more centrally on the questions of social and economic disparities and inequalities and their relationship to the environment, as this was the crux of the question asked.