

The Anthropocene is suggested to be a new area in Earth's history. This era was defined by humans creating a bigger impact on the planet's conditions. These conditions are broad but could refer to climate, environment, and geology. This was the era of humans modifying the environment. Throughout this era in this paper we will look through all of the changes that have occurred through this period of time.

I believe that the world has entered another geological epoch due to the fact that none of this was significant in other areas but was one of the major defining factors of the Anthropocene. I am comfortable with the name 'Anthropocene' because I believe there are worse things that could be said about this period of time.

One of the key points of this era was the reliance on fossil fuels. This is shown through, "The burning of fossil fuels releases greenhouse gasses, such as carbon dioxide and methane, into the atmosphere, exacerbating the greenhouse effect and leading to global warming" (Hecht). This quote emphasizes the use of fossil fuels and some of the after effects of it on the environment. This use of fossil fuels has helped support the economy and helped support the industrial revolution in its current form. This however on the flip side has hurt the environment and led to our Earth to start degrading. According to Malm, "The Anthropocene is characterized not only by environmental changes but also by the deliberate actions of humans, particularly the burning of fossil fuels" (Malm). Malm uses this to introduce the concept of 'fossil capital'. Which highlights the use of fossil fuels and how they are used as capital in capitalist economies. This perspective I find interesting and I think he made a valid point by

stating how all of the fossil fuels are used as an economic gain. This all shows how Anthropocene was the cause of the start of the environment starting to degrade.

Economic growth and industrialization often lead to the disturbance of natural nutrient cycles, especially those involving nitrogen and phosphorus. This is emphasized through, "Human activities, such as the use of nitrogen-based fertilizers, have exceeded the capacity of natural processes to regulate nutrient levels, leading to pollution and eutrophication of water bodies" (Marks). This quote shows how nutrients in the environment are being manipulated to help further production and profit which is in turn hurting the environment.

Economy and industry have particularly grown exponentially since World War II. This growth however has not been good to the environment. WWII started mass production, grew the economy, and also helped develop the globe. This is shown through, "Mining, manufacturing, and intensive agricultural practices have led to habitat destruction, pollution, and loss of biodiversity"(Marks). This quote shows some of the tolls take since the environmental growth has started and what it has left the Earth with.

The start of WWII is when I personally believe the Anthropocene started due to the mass production and uses of the Earth's natural resources. This marked the start of the industrialization and economic boom across the world with war efforts in full effect. Overall this small period within the era marked the major turning point for fossil fuels and other resources needed to produce for the war effort. This inturn ended with the use of nuclear weapons which did irreversible damage to the Earth and its atmosphere.

In conclusion, the Anthropocene represents a change in era. This era was vitalized by a mass use of the Earth and its resources. This was shown in the use of

fossil fuels. I believe that this era started when WWII came into full effect due to the need for these resources to be used. Overall, the Anthropocene is an era in history that will continue to be seen in the future years and the effects that this era did to the world.