Daniel Cacatian

Santo Romano

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2020: The Year Nobody Wanted but Needed

I am sure that most individuals will agree that the year 2020 has not been a great year for anyone at all. Although most people would agree that 2020 has brought nothing but bad things, I would like to think that 2020 has also given good things and most people tend to overlook that fact. For example, halfway through March, global CO2 emissions decreased, and towards June, the Black Lives Matter protest occurred, making humanity realize how we live in an unjust world. These are one of the most critical events that were an eye-opener to humankind, and I believe that it is relevant that the world realizes it.

Global warming is a problem that the world continues to struggle with to this very day. The Earth’s temperature continuously rises due to CO2 emissions emitted into the atmosphere. However, for a brief period, there was a substantial decrease in carbon dioxide emissions in countries that have applied quarantine laws where individuals were obliged to stay-at-home. The cause was due to low energy demands in numerous economic sectors: power, industry, surface transport, public buildings and commerce, residential and aviation (Le Quéré, C., Jackson, R.B., Jones, M.W. et al., “Temporary reduction in daily global CO2 emissions during the COVID-19 forced confinement”). Since everyone was staying at home, obviously our carbon footprint would reduce. Individuals were prohibited from travelling outside for a while, so vehicles that used fossil fuel like cars, trucks, buses, and airplanes were idle, which resulted in lower CO2 emissions. Since nobody would travel to work, the usage of power has reduced since plenty of workplaces did not need it. These events resulted in a large amount of energy not being consumed, which in turn meant that certain forms of non-renewable energy such as CO2 were unused. Hence, why during April, global CO2 emissions were decreasing substantially. Now, the reason why I found this to be a critical event is that we have managed to find a working solution. We saw the effects in action, and they worked, but at the cost of the economy going down, so if humanity can somehow find an in-between that will work for both the economy and individuals, then perhaps we would have a chance of fighting global warming.

Another issue individuals have been fighting for and not against is the black community. This story is not anything new. Society has always been unjust to individuals of colour across the world, but none have suffered more than black skin-toned individuals. They’ve long endured acts of racism throughout the years, and it wasn’t until June 2020 that they’ve decided no more. I do not know why it took everyone to realize this, but I am glad it happened when it did then later. Unfortunately, it took a man’s life to reignite this movement. Although the reaction to George Floyd’s death was unethical at first, it ended up bringing the people closer together for the greater good. This event expanded people’s views regarding racism towards specific ethnicity. As the years go by, society is still unfair towards people of colour. Luckily, the people talked back and said, “no more.”

Overall, despite the year 2020 being unpleasant till the end, there was still some good that came out of it, but I think it is time that humanity has been beset with harsh truths. How global warming is real with the recent California wildfire and that the black community is oppressed. This year has been a real eye-opener, and as much as I didn’t want the year to turn out this way, I believe it needed to.

Works Cited

Le Quéré, C., Jackson, R.B., Jones, M.W. *et al.* Temporary reduction in daily global CO2 emissions during the COVID-19 forced confinement. *Nat. Clim. Chang.* **10,** 647–653 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0797-x>