I. Contemporary World View

A. Consumer/Capitalism

1. Capitalism has become a global economic system

a. dominant institutions

i. large multi-national corporation

i. largest nation states

b. rules for interactions established by

i. IMF. World Bank

ii. WTO, WEF

iii. trade agreements, GATT,NAFTA

iv. extra-judicial system WTO, NAFTA Ch 11

2. Capitalism is much more than an economic system, global or

domestic; it has penetrated every area of society/culture

a. every institution needs to be shaped according to the

theory of the free market: privatization, deregulation,

cutback, in social services

i. education

ii. health care

iii. social

b. also penetrated more deeply into cultural sphere with the creation

of consumerism

i. creation of the world of mass consumption: " the ism that

won the century"

ii. creation of the new "consumer individual"

iii. new or redefined concepts, values, goals; freedom,

consume, material, identity

c. it has become the "Greater Good": "the economy"

B. Technology

1. Technology

a. *techne* and *logos*

b. technology and techniques

c. assumptions about the world and a way of thinking

2. Technology has become synonymous with progress, "a better world

through technology"

3. The union of capitalism with technology has been the

foundation of progress

a. capitalism provides the economic basis

b. and the realm of freedom that allows imagination,

innovation and creativity to flourish

4. Technology transfer has made it possible for "underdeveloped" countries

to become part of the global multi-national techno-capitalism

5. Techno-capitalism has created technologies that have improved all areas of society and promise to solve all problems

a. vital needs: shelter, food, health

b. institutions: economic, education, health care, marriage and family

c. the world of consumerism and its promise for more has been the result of technological development.

d. individual self-expression and success

e. global conflict

6. Techno-capitalism and the environmental crisis

a. problem: "too much carbon in the atmosphere"

b. solution: carbon capture, fusion energy, hydrogen and electric cars, deflection of the sun's rays, aerosol/chemicals into atmosphere to neutralize carbon emissions, small modular nuclear reactors.

<https://thebulletin.org/2022/09/plagued-by-failures-carbon-capture-is-no-climate-solution/>

<https://news.stanford.edu/2022/05/30/small-modular-reactors-produce-high-levels-nuclear-waste/>

<https://thebulletin.org/2017/04/fusion-reactors-not-what-theyre-cracked-up-to-be/>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/12/13/1142208055/nuclear-fusion-breakthrough-climate-change>

C. Progress

1. Techno-capitalism is moving humanity toward a free market *technopia*.

2. Only Resistance: dogmatic religious traditions, and autocracies

3. Resistance is futile TINA, but for the above, if necessary, there

are technological solutions: space dominance, lasers, satellites, AI, B21 bombers,

new and upgraded nuclear arsenal

II. Where is nature in this world view?

A. The contemporary world view:

1. maintains the same dichotomy between humans and other living

things

2. maintains the same hierarchy

3. nature is raw material for human use, to be transformed into commodities, or the energy source for the transformation.

4. nature has no moral standing.

B. Lords of the Earth

1. Humans\* in “advanced” societies think of themselves as “Lords of the Earth”: qualitatively different and superior to all other creatures

a. based on reason, self-consciousness, soul.

b. human beings are masters of their own destiny

i. disengaged subjects who can define their goals, develop appropriate means for achieving those goals,

ii. capability to estimate and predict the consequences of their actions

iii. “thinking” as the reduction of everything to the logic

of “how to”

c. humans believe that technology has them allowed to do this.

d. And they have in fact created a reality: technosphere which they confuse with reality

2. Natures “place”

a. nature has no inherent value

b. nature is "standing reserve" to be transformed by technology

c. into that out which “second nature” nature has been constructed

d. but that which has been destroyed

3. Human beings

a. human beings objectified and assimilated into technosphere

b. human beings become “standing reserve” in technosphere

i. work

ii. education

iii. health care

iv. entertainment

v. war

vi. social interaction: human beings externalize the remaining private moments on social media in order to feel alive

4. Technosphere is the result of illusion, ignorance, pride and arrogance so great that the Lords of the Earth continue on to their inevitable end, unfortunately taking every other living being with them.

“Nemesis, the goddess of retribution and vengeance, and the punisher of hubris

waits impatiently for her meeting with us.”