

Title: Everything and Nothing- A Work in Progress

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Is\_self: True

# "Who will pay for climate change mitigation and adaptation? Is this 'Just'?"

The Distributive Justice philosophy \*alone\* is insufficient to answer the questions posed because it is not addressing the true, underlying and inherent root causes of climate change (D'Souza, 2015). When discussing a controversial topic such as climate change, more often than not, the discussions focus on the immediate root causes resulting from a poor line of questioning. Identifying an entity or entities to pay for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and whether or not the answer is 'just' \*is\* an answer- to a misplaced question. In due time and off the record, everyone and everything will justly pay for climate change mitigation and adaptation (Caney, 2018). This essay argues that no one will genuinely be identified to justly pay for any policies by examining various global crises, climate change history, and developing realistic future scenarios to justify that history will repeat itself as long as society continuously disregards the underlying root causes of human greed, narcissism, and self-indulgence (D'Souza, 2015).

World War 1(WW1) can be largely attributed to human greed collectively seeking control over people and natural resources, in order to rule developing industrial societies and compete with advanced industrial societies. This becomes clear, as rising tensions in Eastern European nations over majority rule of certain people and territories, led to the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in June 1914. Rapid troop mobilization was not possible for countries with less developed oil resources or lacking coal-based transportation. There were few countries who could safely count on a sufficiently high domestic supply of oil production- the United States and Russia (Gliech, 2015). The British Navy for example, "switched to oil combustion in 1910, thereby increasing its operating distance and speed, but also its dependence upon overseas supplies" (Gliech, 2015). As Central Power nations were preoccupied with ongoing war, the shift in how petroleum products were utilized went unnoticed, especially the mass-production of oil-based motor vehicles. Fear, uncertainty, and doubt drove nations to view dependence on overseas supplies as a weakness. This was magnified by Germany's renowned coal-powered rail network having contributed to German War victories in the mid-1800s. German dominance of coal, an established strategic resource by 1914, allowed Germany to ignore the budding oil-based fuel and continue its conquest according to the Schlieffen Plan. When the U.S entered the war with their mass-produced oil motor vehicles in 1918, the tide immediately changed in favor of the Allies and ended the war. This outcome encouraged the Allies' further expansion into other nations' oil fields and tipped the dominoes of greed to acquire more resources at the expense of future generations, while actively ignoring global warming studies.

By the late 1800s, there were several studies conducted to calculate CO<sub>2</sub> human emissions, hypothesis regarding self-oscillating cycles driven by CO<sub>2</sub> feedbacks from those calculations (Chamberlin, 1897), and inaccurate counter arguments claiming the atmosphere had enough CO<sub>2</sub> to absorb radiation and additional CO<sub>2</sub> would make little difference (Angstrom, Koch, 1900). These theories, along with Nils Ekholm's accurate explanation of climate change variations in 1901, were largely dismissed throughout the early 1900s. It was argued the climate was self-regulating and unreasonable to imagine how insignificant human emissions were capable of altering the vastness of the world's atmosphere. Arrhenius' speculation about global warming from fossil fuels continued to be ignored post World War 1, because the ocean and forests would absorb excesses from the atmosphere (Lotka, 1924). In 1879, the International Meteorological Organization was officially formed after meteorologists came together in a series of international congresses. The organization did not have an official status and was purely voluntary in nature. By 1930, there were meteorological stations around the world that exchanged standardized weather data and were able to report that the average temperatures (°F) in most regions had risen several points. Despite the research being in its early stages, there was sufficient data from various nations warning that human emissions would have detrimental climatic effects.

"The Allies floated to victory on a wave of oil," (Friedensburg, 1939) stated by Lord Curzon and further supports the argument of sequential human actions, borne out of greed, resulting in global crises.

Throughout the early 1900s, the increase in discovery and refining of oil in various parts of the United States undoubtedly helped win the war. The Oil Boom in Texas led to rapid industrialization by the end of the 1920s, but not without adversely affecting people's livelihoods. Land speculation was unregulated and driven by loose money supply and high levels of margin trading by investors- new and old (Kramer, 2019). Speculation frenzies in the New York Stock Exchange further exacerbated an unprecedented increase in asset prices (Segal, 2019). The land speculation process is simple: place a bet on a piece of land one thinks will produce oil, oil company drills on that land, and has two outcomes- you find oil or you don't. Many companies didn't find oil and underwent bankruptcy due to this inefficient speculation process. An unregulated oil industry coupled with the desire to possess wealth led to unstable prices as a result of overproduction and oversupply in the mid-1920s (Kramer, 2019). Productivity and economic output levels in other industries pre-WW1 were also sustained after the war ended. The stock market crash of October 1929 was the final nail in the coffin of the ensuing Great Depression, lasting from 1929-1939 and affecting various countries (Segal, 2019).

When asked to answer the climate questions posed from Caney's Journal within this essay, there wasn't a single moment in which it was understood this topic was genuinely about Climate Change. There is certainly a possibility in which my assessment is entirely or partially incorrect, and those reading are more than welcome to think so. When attempting to solve problems in an effective manner, a useful approach is by performing a Root Cause Analysis (RCA). Problems differ from one another and call for certain adjustments in how the RCA is conducted. The RCA logic outlined in this essay started by examining a global war, surrounding events, and how the Climate Change topic developed since its discovery within that time period. In our current world, the problem of Climate Change resolution is a topic transformed by humans into a weapon of greed. Our lives are heavily intertwined with politics, economics, environment, society, and technology- categories identified by the World Economic Forum (WEF). This complicated overlap was purposefully injected deep into the Climate Change topic, and made it nothing but smoke and mirrors (Brulle, 2018). We find ourselves 197 years later, after the first remark (Fourier) of a climate theory, and it took a pandemic (induced global lockdowns) to reduce CO2 emissions by 9% in 2020 (WEF, 2021). Emissions were reduced, at the expense of diminished economies, human well-being, and overall faith in political, financial, and legal entities to name a few examples (WEF, 2021). The remaining sections will fill in the gaps, drawing from Caney's Just Burden philosophy to further justify the RCA and future scenarios evolving.

Caney identified three types of burdens relevant to an expanded version of the Just Burden Question. The Just Burden Question states, "What is the fair distribution of the burdens (and benefits) of adopting policies that address climate change?" (Caney, 2018). Of the three types, he further subdivided into two kinds of responsibility: Mitigation and Adaptation. Mitigation is defined "as reducing the extent to which humans affect the climate system by affecting the volume of greenhouse gases." (Caney, 2018). Adaptation on the other hand, "changes in the social, economic, and political systems that reduce the extent to which climatic changes undermine people's entitlements." (Caney, 2018). The third burden states: "the policies enacted to combat climate change may impose costs on persons other than those implementing the policy: they sometimes impose harms on third parties." (Caney, 2018). If we were to find ourselves in an ideal scenario in which humans (governments, companies, nations, etc.) collectively choose to work towards a common objective without ulterior motives, then we clearly would not be in our current and completely opposite scenario. These views disagree with Caney's third burden being identified as a burden because it's already something people live with. Mitigation on the other hand, in the current world we live in, cannot occur without a variant of Caney's definition of Adaptation. The pandemic highlighted how convoluted human lives are with politics, economics, environment, society, and technology. Heightened human greed drove many to take advantage of people, wealth, substances, power, status, social instability, and was done at the expense of the 99.99% by the .01%. Unregulated financial institutions worldwide profited from allegedly \*unexpected\* stock market crashes in March 2020 (Neely, Carmichael, 2021). Political figures, governments, companies, media, banks, investment funds, non-profits, religious institutions, illicitly executed trades to profit off of struggling 'brick-and-mortars' (WEF, 2021). These entities, systematically put at risk the lives of others through extensive manipulation of black-box algorithms that skewed data sets and spread false reports in a delayed manner (WEF, 2021). Misinformation campaigns by these entities were used to justify illegal short selling trading strategies of numerous companies to bankruptcy, as that would relieve the entities' physical and monetary obligation to cover their positions (Finnerty, 2005).

The 2021 Global Risks Report mentions some, but not all of the corruption that plagues your everyday person. As long as the entities outlined in the previous paragraph maintain their higher levels of greed,

then it will be business as usual (Brulle, 2018). Governments won't hold regulating entities accountable, regulating entities won't hold financial institutions accountable, a continuing and endless cycle hiding behind politics, economics, environment, society, and technology topics. The future holds instability within every aspect of humanity and information manipulation falsely convincing others of reduced emissions, going green, closing electrification gaps, vaccine gaps, all more of the same.

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