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THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND CAPITALISM: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

From the standpoint of geological history, our contemporary climatic and economic situations are exceptional. The climate has been extraordinarily unstable for the majority of the last 60 million years. The interaction of climate change with capitalism has sparked intense debate from alarming forecasts of the coming environmental disaster to enthusiastic differences in a free market. The relationship between climate change and capitalism has always been a debatable matter amongst policymakers, scholars, and environmentalists as capitalism is an economic system that signifies private ownership and profit maximisation, and it plays a very important role in shaping environmental politics and response to climate change.¹

One of the most important perspectives is that capitalism is harnessed appropriately can bring innovations and provide solutions to the climate crisis is articulated by Eric Brandstedt's in "*Non-ideal Justice*"² which has given a thought-provoking insight into climate change in a world that is marketed by non-ideal conditions. Although different approaches to climate change are focused on ideal theories and Utopian solutions, here the author courageously navigates the complexities of non-ideal circumstances as this approach is relevant in the given urgency and severity of climate crisis and as this approach addresses the real world, challenges and inequalities is commendable as it encourages a more pragmatic and actionable approach to climate change given to his non-ideal perspective on climate change. In my opinion, it is a significant necessary

¹ Resilience (2019) *Climate change and capitalism: A political marxist view., resilience.* Available at: <https://www.resilience.org/stories/2019-07-11/climate-change-and-capitalism-a-political-marxist-view/> (Accessed: 05 September 2023).

² Brandstedt, E. (2019) *Non-ideal climate justice Brandstedt, Eric - Lu.* Available at: https://lucris.lub.lu.se/ws/portalfiles/portal/60696939/Review_Article._Non_Ideal_Climate_Justice_AM_.pdf (Accessed: 04 September 2023).

shift in the disclosure as climate change is complex and is an urgent problem that needs practical solutions by focusing on non-ideal conditions. The author recognises the importance of addressing climate injustice with the constraints of the current, political, economic, and social realities. Moreover it emphasises historical injustice on the concept of climate death is particularly important because in my opinion, it acknowledges the consequences of climate change and are not distributed equally, and communities bear a disproportionate burden and historical emissions and colonial legacies. Addressing this historical injustice is crucial for achieving a more equitable approach to climate action. Moreover, the exploration of ethical dimensions in climate action is very important because climate policies and discussions have ethical implications as they impact vulnerable communities in future generations. The discussion of climate compensation and adaptation ethics encourages a more nuanced and morally informed approach to climate policymaking. After witnessing the climate hazard in history, capitalism can be market-oriented mechanisms that can incentivize businesses and entrepreneurs to develop and adopt green technologies through capitalism's competitive nature, it can help to create sustainable products and services as the modern company seeks to gain a competitive edge by working on environmentally conscious consumers. Now given this approach, there is an agreement with this article as capitalism can help in incentivising innovations, consumer influence, resource allocation, and entrepreneurship as given to the fact that capitalism if left unchecked can exacerbate huge environmental problems through pollution, and resource explosion. If we focus on short-term profit over long-term sustainability, the effectiveness of capitalism in addressing climate classes may also depend on appropriate regulations and policies to steer it towards sustainable practices and if the debate is about capitalism over climate crisis, then it can be overcome that depending on how well it is managed in or kind towards environmentally responsible practices.

On the other hand, a perspective is illustrated by Deepesh Chakrabarty's landmark work "*The politics of climate change is more than the politics of Capitalism*"³ on the progression and development of society, specifically as it relates to climate change on a global scale. Given the

³ Chakrabarty, D. *the politics of climate change is more than the politics of capitalism, The climate of history: Four theses*. Available at: https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/10.1086/596640.pdf?ab_segments=&initiator= (Accessed: 03 September 2023).

increasing security of the current environmental catastrophe which threatens both global human civilisation and every other species on the planet. It has arisen as a topic at the forefront of public discourse in our modern society. Meanwhile, there is no doubt that the exponential expansion in human outlet and social interaction, since the birth of the modern era is the fundamental driver of the current climate problem. Given this an examination of capitalism and pact on humanity is unavoidable.⁴

Given this thought of Chakrabarty, for capitalism to achieve its goal of maximising profits, it will not be afraid to ruin the planet in inventive ways and to continuously appropriate the natural environment, which is seen as a gift that should be given freely to capital. “It is precisely because capitalism exclusively seeks profit and the accumulation of money that it is simpler to ruin the whole natural environment, and the reality that this is the case remains the same”. At the same, capitalistic regimes are better suited to address the global climate governance issues due to their ability to implement effective laws and procedures. Industrialization is the main reason why the world can't progress without it.⁵

At last, the attempt to summarize the topic at hand, which was that “capitalism and the growth of its capitalist economy are one of the primary indirect causes of climate change”. However, just as we cannot deny who we are nor assert that our human existence is in error, neither can the author. According to the concept of development constraints, human civilisation can safeguard their societies from collapsing into chaos by adopting a more orderly transition and setting up their adaptations. It not possible to stay away from contributing factors to climate change so just to improve this all we can do is take actions that has minimal impact on the natural world.

⁴ Smith, Adam. *An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. (1776) 1976. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, p.17.

⁵ Jackson, Tim and Peter Victor, 'Productivity and work in the 'green economy': Some theoretical reflections and empirical tests' (2011) 1(1) *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions* 101-108
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