

THE LAST WAR

Have been watching daily reporting from Copenhagen where representatives and heads of state of 196 nations are having a Climate Discussion under auspices of the United Nations. It's official goal is to get a Binding Resolution to continue the Kyoto Protocol and perhaps strengthen it. Before the event began, a week ago, it was already widely reported that nothing 'binding' was expected. It is primarily the United States that does not, or cannot, accept anything that would bind it to changing the way we live — more accurately, anything that might challenge the kind of capitalism that we live by. Our kind of capitalism is focused exclusively on profit, utterly without responsibility for consequences. A capitalism that made a very few people immensely rich by gambling and trading illusionary values, not only collapsing our own economy but the economies of many other nations (it is interesting to note which nations were not affected at all!). The banks that were rescued by generous helpings of our tax money evidently are not the least embarrassed to make large profits again while not doing anything to reinvigorate our economy, on the contrary they spend many millions buying politicians to prevent any and all measures that might help what we like to think of as '*We the people*'.

Watching the daily reports on Democracy Now (democracynow.org) made very clear that there is much more going on outside than inside the official UN-sponsored meeting hall. A very large crowd of people (100,000+) from all over the world, from small island nations, from Africa and everywhere else, is there to loudly voice the need to do what can be done to change Climate Change. We in this country do not seem to know there are people who are already experiencing a new and frightening reality. A rise of the level of the world ocean, a change of seasons, migration of animal and plant species. The masses in Copenhagen insist on a binding agreement of the world's powerful nations not only to reduce their carbon emissions but also acknowledge the 'ecological debt' they owe the small, less powerful nations of the world, because, after all, it is the rich and powerful who created the imbalance of the planetary ecology that manifests as Climate Change.

It is now Tuesday of the second week of COP15, as the meeting in Copenhagen is referred to. Heads of state are beginning to arrive. President Obama is expected to arrive the very last day. Every day Democracy Now interviews representatives and activists from countries all over the world who—it is now abundantly clear—are united in their common urgency. I know that urgency. Al Gore too obviously feels the urgency although in this short movie he gives it a positive twist:

<http://www.ted.com/talks/al_gore_s_new_thinking_on_the_climate_crisis.html>

Seeing what is going on in Copenhagen I see a War. A world war and very possibly the Last War. Our kind of capitalism that rules the ruthless capitalist nations, against the masses, the disenfranchised, the poor. Mr Obama said in his speech in Oslo, "Make no mistake. Evil does exist in the world." I don't know whether the 19 men who highjacked four planes, flew two of them into two buildings which caused three buildings to pulverize into their own footprint, are 'evil'. Criminal, yes. In response this country invaded and occupied one and then another country thousands of miles away. When people in those countries resent and resist our enduring occupations I cannot find that evil.

Now, in Copenhagen, the American representative is blocking a motion aiming to stop the destruction of forests. Evidently the rulers of The US are not concerned about endangering the lives of all seven billion people of this planet, To me, that sounds as if it is we who are evil. Evil to me is the kind of brutal capitalism that sees every issue in terms of profit, that steals the wealth of the planet to profit a few ever larger global corporations, ignoring the damage we do to the planetary ecology. The kind of capitalism that spends millions on preventing governments from making decisions in favor of sustainability, in support of people's rights; *that* is evil. The kind of capitalism that uses money to bribe law makers, that uses money to spread disinformation, lies, to make people doubt what all scientists say about what is causing the poles and all glaciers to melt; that is evil.

I do not understand how the rich can ignore the danger of Climate Change. A warming of the waters of the ocean off Greenland could make the Gulf Stream alter its course; that would freeze Western Europe. Permafrost is already thawing, releasing methane gas, which is many times more dangerous than CO₂ in causing the 'greenhouse effect' which causes global warming which has changed the climate and, if nothing is done now, will melt all glaciers which are the source of rivers, raise the level of the world ocean by one meter or more, make some parts of the globe much warmer, others much colder, which will effect the availability of water and food for almost all people everywhere. Do we really think that we can control this planet? All our might and force cannot stop the globe from warming. But we are hastening the process by continuing our emissions, by our stubborn refusal to look reality straight on.

If we say that the economy is more important than our survival— what are we saying!

This war between the few at the top and the masses at the bottom is the French Revolution globalized. It is and will be bloody as that earlier revolution was. But, what is more, there is now an urgency, we need to act NOW. Every day that we do not change the way we live brings us nearer to a global disaster. It is an irony, or an unbelievably shortsighted stupidity, that the very few at the top who now fight for doing nothing, must suffer the same consequences as all mankind. One of the wise sayings of Native Americans goes: We do not inherit the world from our parents, but borrow from our children. Our kind of unlimited capitalism destroys the world of its children.

The concept of 'evil' I find hard to understand or describe, but deliberately, with intent, endangering the lives of one's children and grandchildren cannot be but 'evil'.

I expect a messy, wild, perhaps even violent end to this UN meeting, but no big surprise when nothing much will be achieved. We knew that power, money—a few very big corporations and one or two countries—would sabotage any attempt to control those who control the globe. Maybe the process that is changing this planet cannot be slowed down, let alone stopped or reversed. That means we must adapt to an earth severely changed. We've done it before, perhaps we can do it again.

Climate Change is global, adapting to it must be local.