

# The \$5,000,000,000,000,000 Question? The Unspoken Cause of Planetary Destruction

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Theme: [Environment](#), [History](#)

*Apparently, if we add up all the 'values' that make up Planet Earth, we arrive at the figure of \$5 quadrillion [1]! We've reduced the irreducible to the level of an accountant's spreadsheet. Yet, it's exactly this kind of thinking that's created the disaster that, forget 10 years, it's already with us and it's been building to this since the start of the Industrial Revolution approximately 200 years ago.*

For centuries, the West (Europe, N. America) has approached our once beautiful planet as nothing more than a source of raw materials, slaves, cheap labour and markets to fill with an endless stream of consumer products. Endless, they thought, profit and endless, they thought, Nature. After all Nature doesn't cost us anything, it's God's gift to Mankind. Subdue and exploit, the Lord said.

So, let us begin by not exactly counting the *real* cost, but at least adding up what we've done to our once pristine planet. In fact, how do you count the cost, not in dollars but in what we've lost? What can't actually be counted. 'We've trashed our house, let's move to a new one', except there isn't a new one to move to.

Air - fouled • Antibiotics in just about everything • Asthma • Autism • Bodies - fouled • Cancer • EMF, millimeter radiation (4G, 5G) • Fracking • Heart Disease • Hormonal Disruption • Land - poisoned • Nuclear radiation • Oceans - fouled • Pesticides, everywhere and in everyone and every animal • Plastic - everywhere and in everything • Thousands of untested chemicals, most likely also in everyone • Soil - fouled • Space - fouled • Water - fouled

And for what?

Well, for guns and bombs, missiles and planes and warships and surveillance systems, police and security services and the vast profits generated therefrom. The US military is the single biggest consumer of oil on the planet and one of the worst polluters on the planet.

And secondly, for the most banal of reasons; profits for the owners of the corporations that are shitting in our house, so no wonder they don't want to talk about it.

Why not? Doesn't the capitalist class not live on the same planet, drink the same water, eat the same food, breathe the same air, use the same pesticides, swim in the same oceans and get sick from our fouled collective nest?

We have to keep asking the question, why? Why does capitalism not acknowledge that *it* is the cause of planetary destruction? You would think that the instinct for self-preservation

also exists amongst the 1%?

You would think that such an obvious question would be asked by just about everyone given our *collective* condition, yet the question is *never* asked. Why not?

It's as if the cause, that relationship between planetary destruction and capitalism, is a secret never to be divulged. Which, of course, it is. It has to be a secret that capitalism caused this planetary disaster and worse, having known about it for decades, chose not to do anything about it, chose in fact, to hide it, to ignore it, to deny its existence. Even now, the ruling classes prevaricate. Are the ruling classes really that myopic? That stupid?

Or do they have a secret that us mere mortals know nothing about? A secret for their survival. Or perhaps it's simply hyper-hubris, that somehow, they *will* survive. Their wealth, their power, their resources, their technology will protect them while all else perishes. I suppose it's conceivable. Some retreat perhaps, high up in temperate climes? But all would be lost. Or perhaps it's really that they don't believe what the science is telling them and even if they do, they just don't care. Do they care about the millions slaughtered by their resource wars? No, they build monuments to do that for them.

Yes, perhaps that's it. Climate disaster is just WWII by another name. It takes care of several perennial problems that confront capitalist society that historically have been 'handled' by a really big war. In one, fell swoop, 'surplus' populations, over-production, too much unused capital sloshing about, falling rates of profit, all taken care of. Destructive destruction. The final act.

And what of our governments? After all, aren't they the best-placed to act? They have the means, they have resources, they have the power but of course, they're in sway to their masters, their paymasters that is. And of course the state also becomes a haven, of a kind, within which (potential) decision-makers can hide. The state 'anonymises' the individual, it's not *personal*. It's just statistics. It's just policy. It's just...nothing really.

So obviously, we can't leave it up to the ruling classes or their state machines, it's simply not designed to deal with this kind of emergency. Instead, this is something that virtually every last one of us, in one way or another is going to *have* to get involved in and we have to start by removing the 1% and getting rid of their state apparatuses in order for us to take the vital steps needed to address the crisis. And there is no getting around this. You can hide from it the way Extinction/Rebellion does by focusing on carbon dioxide to the exclusion of everything else but in its own way, it actually puts off actually *recognising* that real steps that deal with, not just climate change but the way we live, the way we make our living. The way we relate to our planet and its creatures and places.

We still have time.

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