

THE POLITICS OF CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

How do we organise against climate breakdown and environmental destruction?

Every day brings new climate calamities. Beyond these looms the risk of cascading 'tipping points' and runaway warming. Millions of people are suffering under the impact of extractive industries, pollution and climate change. We know the problem facing us is not technological, but political. A mass movement against climate change is emerging. What strategies will help it take off?

OPPOSE FOSSIL CAPITAL

It's clear to everyone that the government is not taking enough action to radically reduce emissions, but why? The government is not simply corrupt or inept. The state functions to manage capital accumulation, hence its protection of the interests of polluting and exploitative corporations. The repression of anti-fracking protesters who disrupt fossil fuel extraction shows that the state puts capital before people. That's why we need to ratchet up direct resistance to fossil capital. The protesters in Lancashire are showing the way.

JUST TRANSITION

How can a sustainable future be created? At its heart will be a just transition, with programmes of publicly funded investment creating green jobs, retraining workers whose livelihoods currently rely on oil, gas and defence industries, and improving living conditions through better insulated homes and improved public transport. Trade unionists are at the centre of this struggle, through campaigns like One Million Climate Jobs and Scot.E3.

ANTI-IMPERIALISM

Colonialism and imperialism have always gone hand in hand with extractive industries and environmental destruction. Today, fossil capital and the arms industry profit from imperialist

conflict and competition. The USA and other imperialist states cause military conflicts over control of natural resources, build extractive infrastructures that destroy the conditions of life for indigenous peoples, and routinely violate the flimsy and inadequate international agreements on emissions. In response, the climate movement must be anti-imperialist and stand in solidarity with indigenous people against incursions by extractive industries. Campaigns demanding that corporations and public institutions divest from fossil capital and the arms industry are gaining ground all over the country, particularly on university campuses. Divest – disarm – decolonise!

MIGRANT SOLIDARITY

As climate disasters, imperialist conflict and environmental destruction displace tens of millions of people in the Global South, states in the imperial core are militarising their borders. Opposition to border controls must be central to our response to climate breakdown. Climate change is an international crisis that demands an internationalist solution.

THE ANTI-CLIMATE POLITICS OF THE FAR RIGHT

Across Europe, far-right parties are defending the interests of fossil fuel industries and deflecting attention from climate breakdown onto immigration. Brazil's recently-elected far-right President Jair Bolsonaro poses an existential threat to the rainforest and to indigenous peoples. The resurgence of the far right is a major threat to any progress on climate. We have to stop them in their tracks. Demonstrating and organising against the far right is a crucial aspect of the struggle to secure a sustainable future against the predatory drive of fossil capital.