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THE CLIMATE CHANGE SPECTER: A GLOBAL CATASTROPHE IN THE MAKING AND THE G20 MOBILIZATION

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ABSTRACT
This compilation delivers a rigorous, interdisciplinary synthesis linking global capitalism to ecological degradation, social injustice, and emergent legal and policy responses, with focused application to India. It argues that capitalist accumulation, policy capture, and extractive regimes have driven disproportionate greenhouse gas emissions, dispossession of indigenous and marginal communities, labor precarity, and uneven vulnerability—a condition variously framed as the Capitalocene or climate apartheid. The work documents concrete pathways from extraction and industrialization to rising atmospheric CO2, extreme weather events, health burdens, and economic losses, and it connects these harms to geopolitical and corporate vectors including state-backed projects, financial flows, and supply-chain abuses. It foregrounds the psychological and social toll on frontline communities and activists, emphasizing trauma, eco-anxiety, and the need for movement-embedded, trauma-informed psychological practice that moves beyond disciplinary neutrality. Jurisprudentially, the texts highlight a doctrinal shift in India—exemplified by recent Supreme Court reasoning that reads a constitutional "climate right" into Articles 21 and 14—creating new avenues for rights-based climate litigation and governance accountability. Practically, the collection proposes an integrated India strategy: regionally differentiated research, nature-based green-blue infrastructure, climate-smart agriculture and finance, improved forecasting and early-warning systems, renewable transitions with just-transition measures, and decentralized resilience planning that centers vulnerable groups. It demands systemic reforms: enforceable environmental accounting, curbs on corporate policy capture, reorientation of public finance toward low-carbon investments, and international equity mechanisms recognizing historical responsibility. Finally, it prescribes an operational research and policy agenda combining interdisciplinary collaboration, adaptive governance, community participation, and metrics-based monitoring to translate rights, justice, and technical innovation into an accountable, resilient, and equitable pathway to net-zero.

Keywords: *Capitalocene, Climate Justice, Political Economy of Climate, Environmental accountability.*

INTRODUCTION
It doesn't require a solemn testimony to syllogize that the world has undergone a cataclysmic change in its strata of functionalism at myriad levels (Piketty, 2014). It has become a dystopic juggernaut crusaded by a spectrum of covert and overt ideological battlefields- each wielding inexorable appeasement to nuances of new political order (Harvey, 2005). This caustic approach by the global actors infuriates the mundane masses who are subverted through a pattern of cumbersome methodologies aimed at aligning them to toe to their belief systems (Zizek, 2008). The global order both at political as well as social level is in abyss (Fukuyama, 2018). From inflicting war upon innocent civilians who decry occupation to jeopardizing the environment to the hilt, the global power holders have a lot to answer (Mann, 2003). Its more about the accountability that hold much waters than the gimmick of consolation hovered on besieged people (Keohane & Nye, 2001). Its nauseatingly unfair for those on the echelons of power to maintain a horrid silence on disparagement of the moral and social value systems and rather proliferate more schism in the society (Giroux, 2004). Well, the global environment too couldn't escape the irony of the "civilized world" and their narrative of building a capitalistic society which correspondingly toes to an imperialistic notion of global political and economic order (Sachs, 2019).

It is not a rocket science to delineate the toll global climate took as a result of this capitalistic fervency since the end of cold war era (IPCC, 2021). An upsurge of global capitalism and expansionist economic policies have an impetus to an increase in income inequality and climate change (Piketty, 2014). Postindustrial period, the economic paradigm was shifted towards a more capital oriented order catering majorly to colonialists-aimed at accumulation of wealth and dispossession of land fundamental to indigenous people (Robinson, 2014). The debate around the north-south divide holds much waters in opening up the sinews of the intricate capitalistic machinations and economic orientalism leading to climate calamities (Rodney, 1972). A calculated approach by production driven economic pejorative yields more release of greenhouse gases particularly carbon dioxide whose effects have exacerbated post Industrial Revolution (IPCC, 2013). Its significant to note that capitalism

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comes with a cost-affecting social and economic parameters (Harvey, 2005). For instance, in 2009, over 238000 deaths occurred as a consequence of natural calamity (CRED, 2010). A general consensus prevails amongst the policymakers that susceptibility to climate change and harsh weather conditions portends a major threat to social cohesion and stable economic order (UNDP, 2014). An upsurge in the socio environmental dynamisms was observed and more extraction were carried out by the champions of capitalism at the helm of industrial revolution (Moore, 2015). Consequently, concentration of carbon dioxide has exacerbated by 48% post Industrial Revolution (NOAA, 2020). it has been studied that atmospheric CO2 concentration has exacerbated by 48% since the Industrial Revolution (NOAA, 2020).

Similarly, the fires that engulfed Turkey in 2021 were aided by a European heatwave from the South sourcing itself in North Africa (European Commission, 2021). The hot air from the region fueled it (European Commission, 2021). Also, El Niño2 too has serious repercussions on the global climatic sphere affecting not only in the spheres of ecology but also social paradigms (NOAA, 2022). What's imponderable to note is that it El Niño has its origin in Tropical Pacific (NOAA, 2022). This uneven character of climatic catastrophe is also worthy of consideration (IPCC, 2014). What is even more precarious is that an uneven trajectory of climate crisis is experienced throughout the globe (IPCC, 2014).

It is worth considering the report of International Energy Agency that projects that by 2030, dependence on energy globally would rise way above 50%, with fossil fuels still the primary source of energy (IEA, 2021). As an effect the global temperatures would rise with exacerbating global capitalism (IPCC, 2021). The recent trends of the globalized world to remain submissive to fossil fuel industries and the unremitting nexus it creates perpetuates a rise in global temperatures which is a consequence of global capitalism (Newell & Paterson, 2010). Then the ambiguous dichotomy between privatization and environmental regulations needs to be siphoned off prioritizing environment consciousness even if it means lesser profits for the corporations (Sachs, 2019).

Capitalism grants a higher leverage to the capitalists to maneuver policy changes which are exploitive of nature (Harvey, 2005). The little governmental interference that shields capitalism of any ingrained accountability grants more or less an imprimatur to perpetuate their anti-environment agendas to bolster profits (Oreskes & Conway, 2010). The notion backing the political theory that limited government meddling into the affairs of capitalists confers upon the owners a vantage position that makes them relentlessly exploit nature (Friedman, 1962). Even, after limited interference by the State, it usually is done to make it more favorable for the for the capitalist class and big business (Stiglitz, 2012). Take for instance the connecting dots between the extraction of cobalt and human rights abuses, corruption, child labor in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Amnesty International, 2016). Mining companies were involved in this case which was taken up by the families of those children who were most vulnerable and killed in the mines while extracting cobalt (Amnesty International, 2016). Research also enunciated the high emission of carbon dioxide along with nitrogen dioxide from mining of the cobalt (UNEP, 2013). This colonial project goaded from capitalist mindset is nudging forward the blatant destruction of land and lives (Moore, 2015).

Capitalism and Political Underpinning.

It's essential to note that the tools of capitalism influence not just the earth fundamental elements-rather the people who communicate with these elements through various agencies (Moore, 2015). Labor experiences the most tantalizing effect on itself due such precarious situations (Marx, 1867). A cursory analysis of capitalism reveals that it was often hinged on unpaid labor (Marx, 1867). Violence and expropriation of unorganized labor is often given a justifiable cause in the capitalistic ideological framework (Robinson, 2014). The greater substance of capitalism is ensconced in climate 'apartheid' and a patriarchal nexus that reeks from a domination of the colonial project and proliferating class divide (González, 2024).

The onus lies on the capitalistic class and its ethos of exploitation through various agencies to hold accountability for climate change (Moore, 2015). A plethora of markers such as unabashed access to natural resources, upsurge in profits, rent extraction and involvement in war gimmicks are directly responsible for climate catastrophe at the hands of the capitalists (Harvey, 2005). This monopolized behavioral notion that is rooted in capitalism requires a solemn response as a part of struggle for climate justice (Oladejo et al., 2024). The capitalist class and its unsolicited approach have hastened cheap labor and misused environment for achieving high profits ushering them at the helm of climate catastrophe (Moore, 2015). It is pertinent to note that this trend often is proliferated not only through unhindered availability to natural resources, but also by means of finance, state sponsored wars, international media outlets, and extraction of rent (Harvey, 2005). All in all, the capitalist class has gripped the global economic spectrum and brought world to the threshold of Capitalocene (Moore, 2019). This analytical approach of capitalism provides a historical inference to the

contemporary geo-historical period in a power centric and structurally balanced manner but also because it augurs how connecting our struggle across the board against capitalistic policy should be for climate justice (Moore, 2019).

Over two decades have been passed ever since that industrial capitalism has been critiqued for neither pricing nor accounting its negative externalities (Schnaiberg, 1980). "It liquidates natural capital and uses the misnomer of profit, depreciating both natural resources and living systems. Rathi enunciates in the political maneuverings that helped China's advancement in developing fleets of electric cars, India's success in promoting solar power, America's success with reversing climate damages in the oil industry, and the Danish quest for pushing wind turbines. All such initiatives combined; it has been estimated that 2% of global GDP is enough to make the carbon dioxide problem go away. Far from being linear, however, there are disruptive elements that play upon power politics to sully the path to zero emissions. Politics, technology and finance must align in the right direction to bring about change", says Rathi (Rathi, 2021).

It is worth noting that for sustainability for all life, it requires a solemn consensus amongst all stakeholders to come in solidarity and carve out a plan of action with the those who have been vulnerable as a consequence of unbridled accumulation of wealth and fervency of capitalism (Oladejo et al., 2024). As many climate change activists exhort that for fostering, 'a socially just sustainability for all life and labor, it has called for solidarity and action with the planetary proletariat, that is, the people and nature who have been exploited and put to work for capital accumulation (Moore, 2015). The work of consolidating the planetary proletariat is not simple (Oladejo et al., 2024). For many, this work entails considerable stress, trauma, and a sense of failure that exacerbates any existing eco-anxieties (Oladejo et al., 2024). It is this difficult psychological work to which we believe critical psychological practitioners can be of use (Oladejo et al., 2024).

Climate Change Activism

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Doctoring the Challenge- An Indian Example

It is essential to get the optics right when it comes to building a right narrative for climate blot and avoid unnecessary overtones as conspicuous from the rhetoric of the global North (Roberts, 2017). Instead, it should be oriented as a sustainability challenge (IPCC, 2022). A much-concerted effort must be focused upon channelizing the national plans, methodology, objectives planning, funding and implementation in order to create a smart country and bring about a transition to net zero emission (Government of India, National Action Plan on Climate Change, 2008; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2021). A climate-sympathetic country and economy favoring climatic cause must be the benchmark of any strategic policy making and should include all such coping mechanisms inclusive of all fundamental aspects of climate justice (Climate Justice Research Group, 2020). Our major focus should be mitigating the risks and opt for a resilient path (UNDRR,2019).

We need to harbor novel and effective research methodologies in serving India's development project so that it compromises with the climate action and sustainable development goals (TERI, 2020). The nation can bank on systemic collaborative team network to train earth system (Deep Decarburization Pathways/NEP and research partnerships, 2023).

Strategies for India

There needs to be broad scale transition both at the urban as well as rural level to bring about grandstanding changes for the promotion of "mitigation, adaptation, human welfare, the applicability of ecosystem services, and plummeting of vulnerability within low-income communities for necessitating comprehensive, enduring planning that incorporates both physical and natural elements as well as social infrastructure" (DDP Initiative, 2024). Some comprehensive plan of action that can be favorable for the third world countries can be following:

1. Green and blue infrastructure: Natural and blue infrastructure functions to capture as well as store carbon (Ramboll/WEF, 2025). Additionally, it can also be utilized with traditional gray infrastructure, which diminishes consumption of energy and decreases risks befalling from harsh events like heatwaves, flooding, heavy rainfall, and droughts (Ramboll, 2024). Couple with this, it induces additional advantages by improving health, standard of living and livelihoods (IUCN/World Bank, 2021).
2. Inquisitive climate methodologies: methodologies catering to such as climate-sympathetic agriculture, assuaging disaster risks, and financing the urban blue-green infrastructure efficaciously tackle adaptation, mitigation, and following of the SDGs simultaneously (FAO/UN, 2017). All of these parameters provide an edge and new arenas for a climate-resilient innovation across the spectrum (SDG Timebound analyses, 2019).
3. Mitigating climate factors: The strategies involved should incorporate all risks and adaptation skills to cope with the vulnerabilities (IPCC, 2022). A deep sense of pragmatism should be included in the governance patterns to reduce climate catastrophes and vulnerabilities (World Bank, 2023). New ideas must be catered to in the decision-making portfolios at myriad strata of governance (DDP Initiative, 2024). This pushes for a rooted approach towards climate impacts and building a considerate solidarity across all stakeholders (UNFCCC, 2015).
4. Improving forecasting and Pragmatism: Improvement of technological tools for predicting extreme weather and climatic events, better readiness to risk, and consensus building through pragmatic decisions at individual as well as collective level which is imperative for climate action (NVIDIA/Lawrence Berkeley Lab; HENS research, 2024).
5. Creating opportunities out of risks: Third world countries can carve out an opportunity out of the risks posed by climate change by harboring more on sustainable energy (IEA/World Bank analyses, 2023). Investment-centric approach particularly in renewable energy sources, protection of gas reserves, improvement of water conservation methodologies (UNCTAD/World Bank, 2023). Prioritizing green infrastructure technologies, and nudging for collaborations among various stakeholders are many of the strategies that can be employed (WEF, 2022).

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6. Transformation from fossil fuels: looking at the contemporary global scenario, a shift from fossil fuel-dependent economies to renewable resources and nature-based solutions is crucial for a sustainable future (IPCC, 2022; IRENA, 2024).

A New Right around Climate

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CONCLUSION

An in-depth analytical approach should be developed to solemnly resolve the barrage of affects - considering temperature changes, irregular rain and harsh events- climate change has on various regions of India. An agro based Research should be channelized that essentially caters to effects of climate change on agriculture which acts as a backbone for millions. Considering a host of steps which can be taken up such as climate-sympathetic

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farming practices, crop varieties, and water management systems- to boost food security with changing dimensions of climate change. There is also an acute water crisis in the making that needs to be paid heed and water-oriented studies inclusive of replenishment techniques needs to be undertaken. Additionally, India's demographic trajectory calls for research that fosters the development of mechanisms calibrate the impact of rising sea-level rise, inclusive of building, potent infrastructure and safeguarding pitiable coastal communities residing near the coastlines. The research should also be inclusive of urban planning, infrastructure development, and efficient energy use to enhance the resilience of cities. Collection of data, improvement in technology, and remote sensing can help in getting the right picture of climate change and analyzing its impacts accurately. All in all, safeguarding that climate policies and political prowess behind it are intertwined with India's development goals and bring about a watershed moment in the global sphere.

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