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## *Approaching an unprecedented catastrophe*

The uninterrupted, annual, monthly, daily dumping of thousands, millions of tons of detritus, often polluting in heavily affected areas; the seas and the dumps on land in the open. [2] It is done from the coasts, inland and from ships.



The megalopolises are presented as the summit of our civilization and at the same time as one of the "infernal machines" with massive and widespread pollution.

We find ourselves as humanity, as a planet, increasingly faced with a series of new, at the same time ominous phenomena.

There are more and more spots, ads, podcasts, shipments, small clips, mini-videos, that announce it. And certainly, the whole UN environmental concert as well.

What was observed twenty or thirty years ago in Europe and other industrialized areas of the planet; Forest fires, for example, increasingly frequent and devastating, or landslides,

storm 5 at 250 km. per hour, or rupture of tail dikes, any of these phenomena devastating populations, crops, are suffering an unprecedented intensification.



There is, however, always a doubt. As we are increasingly presented through permanent intercommunications, it is very difficult to discriminate how much is the real increase in catastrophic climatic events and how much is the access to know them that induces us to consider that they have increased (catastrophically).

Because there were always, for example, unbearable temperatures. In the Sahara; at the beginning of the twentieth century 78 degrees Celsius had been recorded in Tripolitania (text for schoolchildren in Uruguay *The world as it is*) while in some Finnish lakes it reached 60 degrees below zero in winter, and breathing had to be done very restrained; Allowing too much icy air in could break bronchioles.



The mismatches between perception and reality are very significant. Because if we understand that it is a question of perception, there is nothing that can be considered "global warming" – and there is a whole plethora or string [choose the reader] of deniers of such a phenomenon – and if it is about reality, then we are facing a problem of unparalleled scope, of unprecedented gravity. Before which the eruption of the Krakatoa volcano (in 1883, altering with its waves the Indian Ocean and seismically recorded throughout the world), the atomic bombs that the US unloaded in 1945 against Japan ending life, killing hundreds of thousands of humans, the same "World Wars" (1914-1918 and 1939-1945, which strictly speaking is only one, although with a significant change of "characters"), they could be "small events".

Warnings are small. And the perception of the planetary audience, sitting before the cinema, television, computer, cell phone screens, is permanently crushed.

We do not know how much truth there is in each one, but we do know that a third factor: the increasingly widespread and especially deepened technological development in human societies is increasingly modifying our habitat. Seriously or seriously? The consequent use of energies and raw materials, always increasing on a material, planetary, limited, always the same background, may be giving rise to the environmental complications attributed to climate changes. Let's remember the acid verification of the economist Frederick Soddy, who in the '20s came to realize

-unparalleled insight- that humans (some) were using in decades or centuries what the planet had taken millions of years to forge (minerals, oil, gas).

The imbalance between technological deployments and the material background in which we live; Our planet is becoming more and more evident; A vertex on which the pyramid of the human building rests.

A wide range of places are experiencing unprecedented disruption: fires in California, Antarctic and Arctic ice slides, floods in Europe and Asia, droughts in Africa and South America.

Faced with this state of affairs, alarms sound. And precisely in that act, increasingly frequent and plural, which is in turn worrying because of the permanent skimming, we can appreciate how far we are from attending and understanding the equation to which we are trying to point.

Let's take an example that has entered massively on our screens and screens: *Hope*. One video of so many. Of Hispanic origin who seeks to "raise awareness". [\[1\]](#)

*Hope* reviews several climate-related disorders; a tornado that breaks up a small Canadian city, while weighing on the place a heat wave of 50 degrees, which throws hundreds of dead in June 2023; electrical services interrupted because the plastic wrappings of the cables have melted; billions of clams and other bivalves literally cooked in the heat on the coasts; in California the number of fires has quintupled compared to last year at this time, remembering that those had already been huge then, and that the drought had forced to sell cattle impossible to take care of. Now, plantation owners are eradicating half to see if even the other half can be preserved in the face of water scarcity (the task of uprooting trees, often fruit trees, is a nightmare).

Along with the extraordinary drought in California, there is flooding in Detroit.

Another terrifying drought on the island of Madagascar devastating an African area all of it already hit hard and for many centuries by the ferocious and permanent extractivism of the rich, modern and civilizational Europe.

In Miami, the salinity of the water has corroded foundations of coastal buildings that fall like houses of cards (we assume -from the images presented- that they are not tourist season and are consequently empty); Monuments of American splurge.

After the atrocious description of calamities, the video reports that all this barely happens with a degree Celsius of increase in global temperature, but that it is feared that we will arrive, with the current economic policies, without effort, to 3 degrees.

Do you ever make explicit what it is? Not by a long shot.

Does it propose a way out of improvement? Not at all.

The video reminds us that "we are approaching the point of no return." But then comes the good news (hopefully, of course, after the string of evils): oh wonder!, that "we are in time" to reverse this process.

"We have to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero as soon as humanly possible" [an empty phrase] and at the same time warns that we should "restore on a large scale the ecosystems that balance the global climate system." Chocolate for the news.

Not a word about how. Thus the whole repertoire of calamities is a blow of effect, an artificial threat.

Because *Hope* is very careful to indicate some concrete measure, some policy to choose.

It calls for "emergency climate action to arrive on time."

*Hope* (dominant mode in all these messages of "warning" and catastrophic descriptions) offers chilling data, predicts even worse disasters, and at the same time warns – a hopeful message after the shock – that we are still in time to avert it. The key? They tell us: 'reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero'. Everything explained then? Just phrases.

Humanity, however, has been finding that there is no way to reduce almost anything "as soon as humanly possible."

Let's think about our daily way of life.

Whoever throws away the peels of the fruit in a bag for this purpose, along with the disposable crockery, a threadbare T-shirt, the boxes and cases discarded after a single use, considers that he acts correctly, even with citizen pride. Such is the brainwashing we have. And whoever collects, sometimes more harm than good, with a plastic bag the shit of his dog or dog that the dog had deposited on the ground next to a tree, and then takes that smelly bag to a waste container (where there are remains of pizza, ice cream glasses, propaganda flyers) believes in turn that he acts with "civic or environmental responsibility", exonerated of guilt and charge after having nailed one more nail in the planetary coffin we are building; And so the one who pollutes willingly or unwillingly with his car every day or with plane trips that he can repeat as many times as he deems necessary ...

What should be done is a more precise diagnosis, with all the difficulties involved in such a task because what we see is that planetary systems and subsystems are increasingly altered by human action.

#### WASTE SINKS

The uninterrupted, annual, monthly, daily dumping of thousands, millions of tons of detritus, often polluting in heavily affected areas; the seas and the dumps on land in the open. [2] It is done from the coasts, inland and from ships.

Pollution is to the planet what cancer is to any body. An inorganic "growth", a malformation out of control. In some of its forms it suppresses human labor. But at a very

high environmental cost. And at an unacceptable social cost, "allowing" or promoting epsilones (the usual or novel) to do the dirty tasks of the whole society. But the issue is so serious and widespread that it is in the long run unfeasible, that of cleaning with someone else's hand.

Because this is something that concerns us all.

Our planet is truly immense. Our travels, our communications, have made it much more available to us humans. But it has been our generation of pollution, which has reduced it.

Because pollution, as in another time god, is everywhere.

Let's take our travels and commutes. Never has humanity had so many recreational trips.

What displacements? There are those who have traveled thousands of miles [3]

That is another of the time bombs that we have placed between our skeleton and our shadow.

Let's dwell for a moment on the distinction between traveler and tourist: there have always been travelers and some have left their imperishable testimonies. The traveler opens a trip, which can have return. Which even usually does. But that journey is open, in space and time: medieval scholars and philosophers used to travel to one of the main libraries of what we call antiquity, in Timbuktu, in present-day Mali. Since it was at least a matter of reading, these already laborious trips used to take at least a year. The tourist, the etymology says, goes around. It goes but with the return assured. It's a closed journey. When you leave, you already know in which hotels you will stay, at what time you will leave that city, to arrive with "calming" accuracy to each planned and timed site. It's another travel idea. Closed. Default. Total loss of freedom. But consumption harassment in the form of photos, images, videos.

We should examine whether we have gained or lost from the fairly widespread substitution of travellers for tourists.

But both waste and polluting travel are just "grajeas" in the planetary evolution in which we find ourselves, as a species widening human action far above what? We know the objection: we have no frames; Our march is infinite, like life.

However, it is worth noting hard data: air pollution, air in short, is no longer what the planet and humanity knew in the past: radioactivity, for example, is increasingly widespread, the chemical jungle is totally out of control,[4] altering our planet in an increasingly radical and unpredictable way.



[Aftermath of the pandemic + Ukraine war = impossible equation to face climate change and achieve sustainability](#)

Artificial intelligence, on the other hand – another seven-league step in technological developments, such as 3D reproduction – puts us in front of a new problem, now epistemological, about the scope of the true.

Strictly speaking, we had always lived in a world of scarcity. That is our finite condition. The idea of omnipotence, of amortality (definition of a philosopher of *No Limits*; Yuval Harari) has begun to become infected in our world, and I consider it a confusion caused by our technological *hybris*. Or perhaps, just another step in the *American way of life*; The model of the dominant culture, everywhere.

Are we going to continue to spend the planet as if it were infinite? We seem to see in this a significant abstract myopia; Simply not seeing the data.

Hyper-technological modernity has imposed on us the modality of *No limits*. A dominant cultural feature in our current society, fundamentally that of the central countries, of the modern and *aggiornadas* middle strata. The question is whether such a presupposition is the result of reality (for all equally) or of a certain ombliguism of the dominant culture.

I have the impression that the cultural network of our modernity is like a kind of technological drunkenness, which impels us, for example, to new gadgets in the most varied areas; The race of consumerism.

Can coming to understand that living well, as billionaires live, is harmful, lead us to an asceticism of the Calvinist type? That would make the amendment worse than the sonnet.

This will have to be taken into account. Because Calvinism and ideologies of that tenor have been the foundation for creating an overwhelming comfort for beings "chosen" above their peers.

And a question, which we note as provisionally final: what is the relationship of the hyperdeveloped world of Western matrix with China?

"What happened in China for many years is that they invested a lot and smartly in the processing capacity to convert 'rare earths' from mine to magnet," explains Allan Walton, professor of metallurgy at the University of Birmingham. [5]

And Andrew Anglin, author of the note, just cited, estimates that "China supplies 87% of the rare earths [6] worldwide.

Which in turn will generate new environmental problems, probably aggravated:

"This whole green project is so destructive that even third world countries say 'we can't have this shit in our country, it's too poisonous'. [7] (ibid.)

But we are far from exhausting what we have in perspective: we have not said a word about the military. That it has never lost prominence in society and that, with a certain increase in tensions, shortages, advances in knowledge and awareness, it becomes a factor that can be paramount.

Suffice it to recall that the concept of *overkill* refers to the "capacity" that the arsenals of the heaviest countries - especially those with nuclear weapons - have, to annihilate all humanity. Ten, a hundred, or a thousand times? But everyone agrees that existing armaments could wipe out ALL human life... several times.

We know that life is worth more.

*Notes:*

[1] We assume that to expand its reach it starts by titling the message in English. The imposition of English as a *lingua franca* is made, as the Galicians say, "a la cheetah callando"; They know, we know, the effectiveness of such a method. We have, for example, the twenty-odd states of the European Union, now without any English-speaking members, which intercommunicate in English.

It is understood that Europeans, the cultural, technological, linguistic vanguard of the world - this is how they are perceived by some cultural traditions and perceive themselves - are not going to go around using another language.

[2] Half of household waste is food waste (which is no longer food). In a city like the GBA it is between 8 000 and 15 000 tons per day. You read that right. In one like Montevideo, several hundred tons. That is what usually agglomerates in mountains of



remains (which in general are much more toxic, because with food waste go the remains of plastics, papers, clothes, metal gadgets, cardboard, cases, glass, medicines.

A separation rescuing to compost only the food remains of vegetable origin, would generate an immense, fertile humus, which would allow to gain land and consequently strengthen crops. It was the normal and daily task of almost all our grandparents living not only "in the countryside" but in small villages.

[3] We would have to say kilometers – an agreement on eighteenth-century measures that became widespread in the West – but the rich English-speaking world and its companies, to speak of profusion of travel, do so in miles.

[4] In the tens of thousands of chemicals designed by humans, only a small percentage, about 10%, have what might be called a technical sheet, identity, about their qualities. All the rest has just the recognition of a function or the handful of features for which it has been designed. If that product has other toxic or counterproductive traits in some sense... will be discovered in your application. That it could be, thus, catastrophic. This is what has happened with thalidomide or Vioxx, with chlorofluorocarbons, Teflon, DDT and a long etcetera.

[5] <https://www.unz.com/aanglin/china-has-total-ability-to-thwart-the-idiotic-green-agenda-that-western-anti-china-lunatic-are-pushing//?lang=es>

[6] These are materials in general recently discovered, and become basic in cell phones, windmill turbines, fluorescent lamps that save energy, hybrid vehicles, optical fibers ...

[7] Ibid. I clarify that this reference to Third World skepticism to implement highly polluting projects in its territories does not apply to at least two countries I know: Argentina and Uruguay. Whose leaders, different from each other, rely on the investments, promises and appropriations of transnational capital. In dispossession, in short. Uruguay today makes a practical exercise of that delivery that easily becomes dispossession: our country lacks, rather lost the drinking water of the entire central area of the country, the capital included, for working on doing (terrible) business with transnationals that take over the water. These transnationals continue to have drinking or purifiable water in their plants, unlike ordinary inhabitants, who receive water of poor sanitary quality (not recommended for hypertensive or cardiac patients or with urinary conditions, which is not used for cooking.



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