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The Four Horsemen of the Capitalist-Imperialist Apocalypse



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Followers of my writings will have noticed, I hope, that I repeatedly argue that capitalism produces four apocalyptic horsemen that reinforce and multiply each other: ecocide, pandemicide, potentially terminal nuclear war, and fascism.

Capitalism at the Dark Root

I want to elaborate on this formulation here, explaining how capitalism generates each of these apocalyptic threats and how capitalism "Four Horsemen" reinforce and in fact multiply each other.

Let's start with the first dark horseman, **the ecocide**. Here I am referring only to climate change, being fully aware that capitalism produces numerous "cracks" ecological factors" in addition to global warming (and intimately related to with him).

The underlying economic basis of capitalism requires constant and carcinogenic growth, thus putting the habitable ecology. In the age of fossil fuels, in which the capitalism is profoundly and in fact terminally inverted, this requirement is turning the planet into a gigantic Effect Gas Chamber Greenhouse. The combination of steady growth and fossil fuels has created an epic climate catastrophe that is subjecting humanity and countless other species to a heat siege.

Capitalism is an economic and state system global, disorderly and amoral, lacking any real capacity to reorient and Detoxify human relationships with the natural environment in a sustainable way. An increasingly poisoned world, dominated by capitalist imperialists and imperialists. fragmented into dozens and dozens of competing nation-states, it is not rational. It is anarchic, competitive, and exterminating, so fundamentally sociopathological system that sees the ecological destruction it generates as a source of New Profit Opportunities: New Shipping Routes Available in regions previously covered by ice, for example. The common good in the long term it is perpetually outweighed by the short-term benefits of the class dominant investor under the reign of capital. And that class has invested too much in fossil fuels (both directly and indirectly) to allow governments under bourgeois control (whatever their democratic pretensions) keep those resources in the ground before the extraction and burning of coal, oil and gas to push the planet beyond the irreversible tipping points of uncontrolled warming.

What does capitalism have to do with the *pandemic*? Pretty much. The incessant expansion of the system, without which the system of profits cannot survive, it destroys vast swaths of natural habitat, bringing humans into ever closer contact with species carriers of deadly zoonotic viruses that humanity was aware of previously isolated. The capitalogenic climate catastrophe is causing Species migrations further breaking down epidemiological barriers Previous. And contemporary globalized capitalism makes six million fly daily around the world in airplanes, ensuring the rapid and widespread transmission of new diseases that many lack immunity.

A potentially terminal war? Of course. Mao Zedong had He is right to call capitalism "capitalism-imperialism." The world teetering ever closer to a terminal nuclear war, contributing to (along with global warming) to the *Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists is closer to midnight* which has never been, in a way that should come as

no surprise at all. The Capitalism is a system of competition, rivalry, and conflict not only between capitalists, but also between capitalist-imperialist states, for control of and access to markets, raw materials, supplies of manpower, technologies, etc., and with it by the exploitation and oppression of the vast global periphery, the so-called developing world, before known (during the Cold War) as the "Third World". Under the Under capitalism, there is no way that a nation-state will forever remain the the only great power, the role to which the United States aspired (and which it attained) to some extent transiently and partially) after the Second World War Worldwide. The main capitalist-imperialist states confronting each other in today's increasingly "multipolar" world system – States The U.S. — Russia, and China — are armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons (increasingly lethal), developed for the first time during the second of the two massive inter-imperialist world wars of the last century (and used by twice by the United States in 1945, largely as a warning to the first A state that tried to break out of the world capitalist system and challenge it: the Soviet Union). With the capitalist-imperialist U.S. threatening the other two major nuclear powers in their spheres of influence (Eastern Europe and the Far Eastern Pacific), The chances of a catastrophic war are greater now than they were during the Cold war. Trigger zones include Ukraine, Taiwan and, for example, of course, the Middle East, where the escalation of the crucifixion of Gaza by the of Israel (after the Hamas terrorist attack of 7 October) and the current U.S. campaign against Iran have the potential to trigger a much broader conflict.

And then there's *fascism*, usefully [defined by the U.S. group Refuse Fascism \(RF\)](#) as "a qualitative change in the way we to govern society." "Once in power," says RF, "the The defining feature of fascism is the essential elimination of the rule of law and democratic and civil rights." Fascism fosters and is based on xenophobic nationalism, racism, misogyny, and reinstition oppressive "traditional values." The truth is annulled and fascist mobs and threats of violence are unleashed to build their movement and consolidate power."

What does it have to do with capitalism-imperialism? All. By virtue of its inherent tendency to the upward concentration of the wealth and power, capitalism regularly makes its 'democratic' and 'equal before the law' claims, while the underlying anarchy of capital regularly generates crises and disasters that require the intervention of large governments. It's all about A lethal combination that fosters authoritarian "solutions" promoted by charismatic strongmen who find significant support to their assertion that only they can fix

things with the Backing a party and a mass base willing to discard subtleties parliamentary, civil and legal and the moral qualms previously normative.

Capitalism simultaneously creates the politics of delegitimizes (exposing as inauthentic) democracy and the state of the masses. demonizes socialist and communist movements, and sustains and exploits the long-standing oppressive and divisive forces of racism, sexism, nativism, fundamentalism, imperialism and nationalism. It heartlessly degrades human life, turning billions of people into people in disposables in a way that contributes to feeding a sadistic dehumanization.

At the same time, democratic pretensions, humanists, "tolerant" and the "rule of law" of the capitalism is always considered expendable by a considerable part of the of the ruling capitalist class. Many powerful capitalists are willing to work with and through a political superstructure that dispense with bourgeois democracy and opt instead for the Iron Heel: capitalism-imperialism with its boot on the neck of the masses.

It's a toxic hodgepodge that generates potential fascist and a reality like white on rice.

Multiplication, not addition

Now let's see how these four horsemen – I'll keep the intact genre to reflect capitalism's deep connection to the patriarchy- do more than just stand next to each other and They are not added to each other, *as in addition, but they are reinforced and expanded mutually, as in multiplication. It's not ecocide plus war potentially nuclear plus pandemicide plus fascism. It's ecocide multiplied by war potentially nuclear multiplied by pandemicide multiplied by fascism.*

Ecocide and pandemicide. Climate change is contributing to increasing the risk of pandemics by forcing migrations humans and animals outside of overheated and thermally unsafe regions, thus increasing the chances of zoonotic virus transmission between species. At the same time, the negative impact of climate change on the agricultural productivity encourages the expansion of land fencing and further eroding the barriers between humans and pathogens carried by other species (Here, I suppose a clever critic I could argue that the potential mass death and economic depression resulting from pandemics could help reduce emissions of carbon!)

Ecocide and (Potentially Nuclear) War: The Capitalist Climate Crisis undermines global capitalist profitability (reducing productivity and thus raising the cost of food, other materials, and labor for example) in a way that intensifies inter-imperial competition for markets and materials, exacerbating conflicts between states capitalists in a way that encourages drifts and lurches towards global war. Armies and their wars are huge

consumers of fossil fuels and carbon emitters. (Of course, a global thermonuclear war could solve the climate crisis with Nuclear Winter. World War III it would also end the threats of fascism and pandemicide.)

Ecocide and Fascism: In his important book *White Skin, Black Fuel: On the Danger of Fossil Fascism*, Andreas Malm and the Zetkin Group have established numerous connections between the two. Synergies that are mutually reinforcing include:

- The extreme right's strong attachment to the fossil fuels as a great national/racial heritage and stock, source of national greatness.
- The Revival of Racist Anti-Immigration Nativism within wealthy white nations by mass migrations of non-whites of the poor nations where climate change is making life more Miserable than ever.
- Fascism's anti-intellectual opposition to the truth and science, which fosters climate denialism on the far right.

Right-wing anti-socialism, which undermines action positive government in favor of environmental sanity.

- The right-wing narrative that concerns are a cover for the effort of poor, non-white nations to "stealing" the wealth and power of wealthy white nations.
- The "eco-fascist" claim that the Immigration is the real basis of environmental degradation in rich nations
- The right's indifference to change based cruelly on the idea that it only harms nations and the peoples of the non-white periphery of the world system.
- The negative impact of mitigation efforts climate change in the economic situation of important sectors and regions, which gives rise to right-wing parties to sell out policies ecocides against climate change as economic "populism".
- The role of climate change in the production of massive social dislocations and crises that provide fertile ground for Recruitment from the right.

Pandemicidio and fascism. Fear of the Other Carriers of germs and outsiders feed xenophobic nativism and nationalism, key pieces of the fascist mix. Government measures to control Virus Transmission Fuels Paranoid Feelings on the Right "anti-government." Economic Decline and Social Dislocation resulting from pandemics create mass discontent and traumas that the extreme The right wing explodes, describing (for example) pandemics and related to public health to curb their spread as part of a "globalist" conspiracy. Pandemics isolate masses of people of normal social contact, making them less prone to worry and solidarity and more vulnerable to online hate. The far right invents

stories about the origin of pandemics to fuel paranoia and racism (e.g., "the Chinese virus," "deception Chinese"). Fascism promotes potentially genocidal dehumanization and racial, political, cultural, sexual, and additional demonization of the Others, encouraging their followers to celebrate the real or imagined role of pandemics in the elimination of parts of humanity that they hate. At the same time, fascism is animated by a virulent Darwinian social faith in the "survival of the fittest," a mentality that welcomes the death of "the weak" and opposes a government policy of Positive public health for the common good.

Pandemic and war. The negative impact of a pandemic on the profitability can lead to a strangulation of global profits that encourage a greater likelihood of war between states competing capitalist-imperialists. The wars themselves create a massive devastation that increases the susceptibility of humans to diseases of all kinds, including new zoonotic pests.

Fascism and War: The Militarized *and Violent Nationalism* That Has Led the Capitalist-imperial interstate rivalry and war generate and intensify They feed the fascist-authoritarian threat within nations. The Ethos The fascist movements of the past and present are based on a great deal of in nationalist militarism and in current military personnel, and ancient. Like war and militarism, fascism defends the the rule of force and of men over the rule of law and the rule of law. electoral and parliamentary politics. Like fascism, war, and the militarism is based on the dehumanization and demonization of the Others. designated as enemies, necessary to justify the elimination of rivals and enemies. Both fascism and militarism promote the notion of survival of the fittest, identifying strength with ability and readiness to employ mob violence. (Clausewitz said that "the war is political by other means." Fascism is, among other things, the penetration of politics by the mentality and violent practices of the war/militarism). In turn, war often produces social dislocations hardships, and defeats (and triumphs) that fascist politicians and propagandists Explode.

And, of course, the political pathology that is the fascism is a brutal enforcer of apocalyptic capitalism-imperialism – a executor that works, among other things, to crush open public support and movements for climate sanity, public health (including the prevention and responsible response to pandemics), peace, social justice and intellectual freedom.... for reform, not to mention the requirement Revolutionary socialism. (Amerikaner fascist leader Donald Trump has made it very clear that he intends, as the

47th president of the United States, to deploy the army to repress "the radical left," a label under which it absurdly includes capitalist-imperialist democrats Militants. Any opposition to his "drill, baby drill agenda", to his promised military invasion of Mexico, to its escalation of militarization of the their war on women's reproductive freedoms, their promised mass roundup of immigrants, etc., will most likely face considerable state and extra-state violence and repression).

Of course, it is true that the Capitalism-imperialism is clearly showing itself to be ready, willing and capable of poisoning and generally ruining life on Earth by generating all three Early Apocalyptic Horsemen (Ecocide, Pandemicide, and World War potentially nuclear) without the full consolidation of the latter (fascism). But Once in power, fascism threatens to crush all space social-civil-political-ideological of popular opposition to pan-democracy-capitalism and their allied systems of oppression and exploitation, including, of course, racism and sexism. Fascism Must Be resisted, rejected, and defeated in itself, though as part of a Deeper Movement to Get Rid of the Toxic Taproot System - the capitalist mode of production and its political and ideological superstructure - which gives rise to fascism in the first place.

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