

# Peace & Planet News

*Dedicated to abolishing war, establishing justice, and preventing climate disaster*

## A Call to Put Down Arms

By Dud Hendriick

It is past time for the paradigm shift. We have one planet and we must see ourselves as one and we must take a stand.

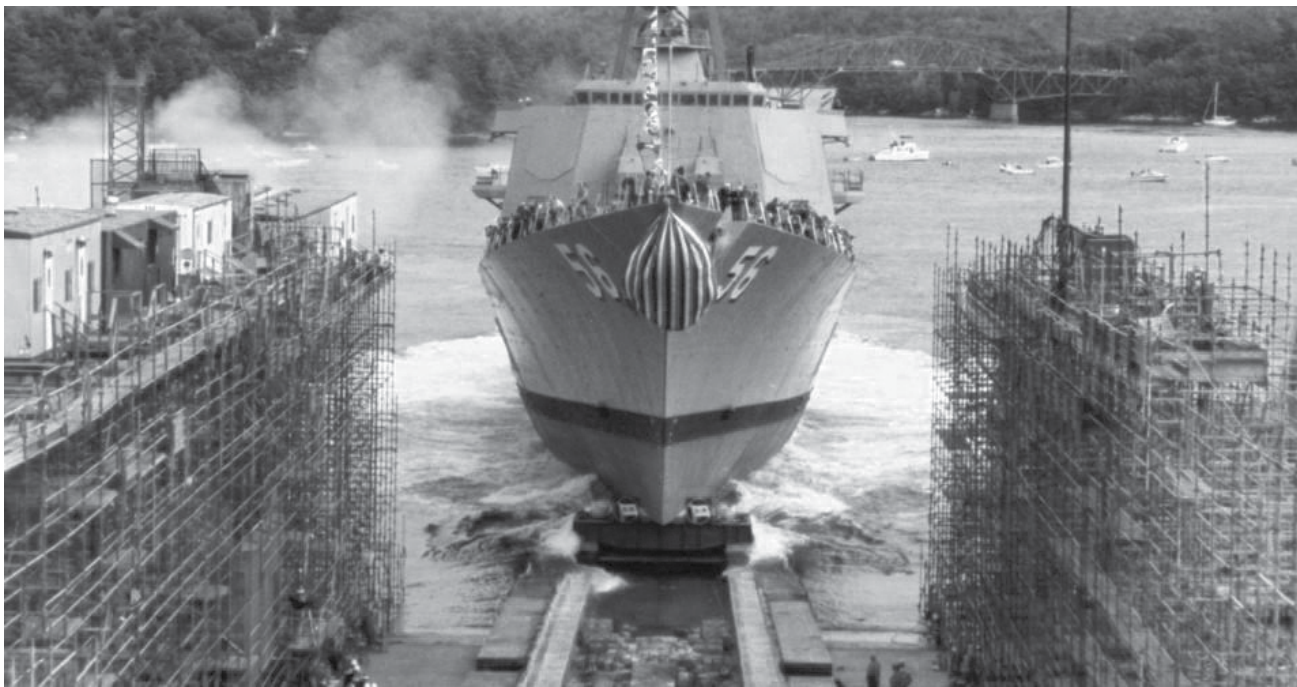
It's become so absolutely apparent that even the most dedicated and resolute militarist has to concede the fact we have enormous climate crisis-related changes on the near horizon and America's persistent and insistent militarism is the major culprit.

It is not hyperbole to argue, as does Barry Sanders, author of *The Green Zone: The Environmental Costs of Militarism*, that the U.S. military, "as the largest consumer of fossil fuels and greatest [institutional] producer of greenhouse gases, places the entire globe with all its inhabitants in the most imminent danger of extinction."

Irony abounds. The greatest single assault on the environment, on all of us around the globe, comes from

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the one agency ostensibly in business to protect us (and our "allies") from our enemies—the U.S. Armed Forces. And, it is painfully ironic that the Defense Department acknowledges that global warming may make the world  
*continued on page 2 ...*



The Arleigh Burke class destroyer *USS John S. McCain* as it is launched at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, September 26, 1992. Photo: Wemitt/US Navy/Interim Archives.

## Save the Planet: Nonviolent Resistance

By Jon Queally

### **'We Are Unstoppable, Another World Is Possible!'**

Hundreds of climate activists stormed a massive open-pit coal mine in Germany on Saturday, June 22, entering a stand-off with police inside the mine while thousands of others maintained separate blockades of the nation's coal infrastructure as part of a week-long series of actions designed to end Europe's dependency on fossil fuels.

Coordinated by the Ende Gelände alliance, the campaigners targeted the Garzweiler mine in the German state of North-Rhine Westphalia as they evaded security forces across roads and fields before reaching the pit and descending its banks.

"We are unstoppable," the activists declared, "another world is possible!"

"This is not only about coal power," said Sina Reisch, spokeswoman of Ende Gelände, in a statement. "This is about changing a destructive system that is based on the quest for infinite economic

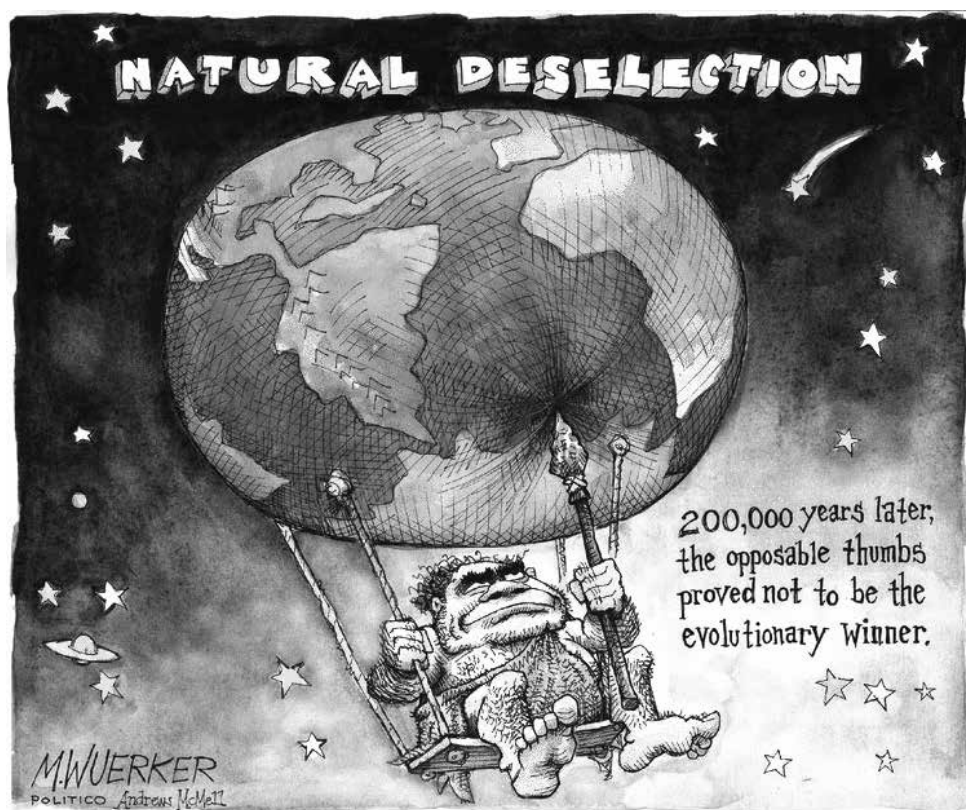
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Climate activists storm the Garzweiler mine in Germany.

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F V E T E R A N S F O R P E A C E





## Welcome to *Peace and Planet News*

Dear Reader,

We're pleased to offer this new eight-page publication, *Peace and Planet News*, which will supplement our regular 24-page *Peace in Our Times* and will come out between issues of that paper. Each edition will have a specific theme. This initial issue focuses on something of urgent importance to us all—the intimate connection between militarism and the destruction of our precious and endangered biosphere.

that a small number of people could make unimaginable amounts of money."

If we want to have any chance of averting the looming ecocide—and the end of civilization as we know it, if not all life on Earth—then we must recognize the interconnectivity of all peace, justice, and environmental movements. Saving the planet is up to all of us.

And that's the point of this publication. But besides providing critical, informative and well-written articles, we'll also

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We also recognize that we cannot depend on our bought-and-sold, military/industrial, corporate-controlled government to make the changes needed to save our planet, because, as Greta Thunberg so poignantly said, "that future was sold so

do our best to keep you informed on what you can do and how to be involved.

The fact that you have picked up this paper and read these words indicates your interest and commitment to saving our precious planet and we thank you for that. Read on, and please share this publication with others.

In Solidarity,  
Doug, Becky, Crystal, Mike,  
Ken, Ellen, and Tarak

### The Peace and Planet News

*Peace and Planet News* is a supplement to *Peace in Our Times*, the quarterly newspaper of Veterans For Peace. Bundles are \$20 for 80 and \$12 for 40. To donate, subscribe, or order bundles, visit [peaceinourtimes.org](http://peaceinourtimes.org) or send a check to Veterans For Peace, 1404 North Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102.

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## Put Down Arms

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politically unstable due to rising seas, powerful storms, famine and consequent migration, which "validates" the need for a stronger, bigger, more costly military—the single entity most responsible for climate crisis in the first place.

The truth of militarism as the major contributor to the climate crisis facing humanity has spawned the "Climate Crisis Demands Conversion" campaign where I live in Maine, organized by climate activists and organizations throughout the state. We are calling on Bath Iron Works to shift its industrial power from the production of warships to sustainable energy systems that might stem climate disruption rather than contribute to it. Supporters gathered at a news conference for the Conversion Campaign June 21, at the public library in downtown Portland.

Though Maine's congressional delegation had been invited, not surprisingly, not one even responded. As undeniable as the connection between the war machine and the climate crisis is, so is the sacrosanct status of the military as a whole. Depressingly, the slightest nod of concurrence with the merits of the factual arguments submitted might well spell political suicide. We're led to conclude that the seduction of power is so compelling as to preclude real acts of conscience and courage by our political leaders.

If the politicians lack the will, it is left to us, we the people. Energy-saving light bulbs, solar panels, all of our electric automobiles are not alone sufficient. It may seem naïve, ludicrous, absurdly prepos-

terous, but it is absolutely irrefutable. War-making must be renounced. It is past time for the paradigm shift. We have one planet; we must see ourselves as one, and we must take a stand.

I spent the summer of 1962 on board the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Independence*. I've since learned that this vessel consumed 100,000 gallons of fuel per day. Every four days it took on 1 million gallons of fuel, half of which was consumed by its aircraft. Steaming to the Persian Gulf from its homeport in Norfolk, it consumed more than 2 million gallons of fuel. One ship, 50 years ago! What may the daily assault look like now?

On Saturday, June 22, Bath Iron Works Christened the *U.S.S. Daniel Inouye*, an Arleigh Burke Destroyer. The addition of yet another unnecessary warship to the U.S. fleet (already larger than the next 13 largest fleets combined) represents an absolute disregard for the well-being of our planet.

We should feel a measure of shame for these launchings. In his book, Sanders writes, "We pollute as we purportedly advance democracy using the most powerful machinery of death in the world." If we are not war tax resisters, we are paying taxes to support the degradation of our planet.

We can and ought to be in the streets. We must believe that in numbers we can make a difference.

*Dud Hendrick is a member of Veterans For Peace. He has traveled widely to meet with and to speak about the victims of U.S. foreign policy. He resides on Deer Isle, Maine, and can be emailed at [dudhe@myfairpoint.net](mailto:dudhe@myfairpoint.net)*

## Join Veterans For Peace!



**Veterans For Peace is an international organization made up of military veterans, military family members, and allies. We accept veteran members from all branches of service. We are dedicated to building a culture of peace, exposing the true causes and costs of war, and healing the wounds of war.**

**For more information or to join or donate, go to [veteransforpeace.org](http://veteransforpeace.org).**

## Greta Thunberg's Speech to MPs in London April 23, 2019

My name is Greta Thunberg. I am 16 years old. I come from Sweden. And I speak on behalf of future generations.

I know many of you don't want to listen to us—you say we are just children. Many of you appear concerned that we are wasting valuable lesson time, but I assure you we will go back to school the moment you start listening to science and give us a future. Is that really too much to ask?

In the year 2030 I will be 26 years old. My little sister Beata will be 23. Just like many of your own children or grandchildren. That is a great age, we have been told. When you have all of your life ahead of you. But I am not so sure it will be that great for us.

I was fortunate to be born in a time and place where everyone told us to dream big; I could become whatever I wanted to ... we had everything we could ever wish for and yet now we may have nothing.

We probably don't even have a future any more.

That future was sold so that a small number of people could make unimaginable amounts of money. It was stolen from us every time you said that the sky was the limit, and that you only live once.

You lied to us. You gave us false hope. You told us that the future was something to look forward to. And the saddest thing is that most children are not even aware of the fate that awaits us. We will not understand it until it's too late. And yet we are the lucky ones. Those who will be affected the hardest are already suffering the consequences. But their voices are not heard.

Around the year 2030, 10 years 252 days and 10 hours away from now, we will be in a position where we set off an irreversible chain reaction beyond human control, that will most likely lead to the end of civilization as we know it. That is unless in that time, permanent and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society have taken place, including a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 50%.

And please note that these calculations are depending on inventions that have not yet been invented at scale, inventions that are supposed to clear the atmosphere of astronomical amounts of carbon dioxide.

Furthermore, these calculations do not include unforeseen tipping points and feedback loops like the extremely powerful methane gas escaping from rapidly thawing arctic permafrost.

Nor do these scientific calculations include already locked-in warming hidden by toxic air pollution. Nor the aspect of equity—or climate justice—clearly stated throughout the Paris agreement, which is absolutely necessary to make it work on a global scale.

We must also bear in mind that these are just calculations. Estimations. That means that these “points of no return” may occur sooner or later than 2030. No one can know for sure. We can, however, be certain that they will occur approximately in these timeframes, because these calculations are not opinions or wild guesses.

These projections are backed up by scientific facts, concluded by all nations through the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). Nearly every single major national scientific body around the world unreservedly supports the work and findings of the IPCC.

Did you hear what I just said? Is my English OK? Is the microphone on? Because I'm beginning to wonder.

During the last six months I have travelled around Europe for hundreds of hours in trains, electric cars and buses, repeating these life-changing words over and over again. But no one seems to be talking about it, and nothing has changed. In fact, the emissions are still rising.

Because the basic problem is the same everywhere. And the basic problem is that basically nothing is being done to halt—or even slow—climate and ecological breakdown, despite all the beautiful words and promises.

The UK is, however, very special. Not only for its mind-blowing historical carbon debt, but also for its current, very creative, carbon accounting.

Since 1990 the UK has achieved a 37% reduction of its

## 'You Did Not Act in Time'



territorial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, according to the Global Carbon Project. That does sound very impressive. But these numbers do not include emissions from aviation, shipping and those associated with imports and exports. If these numbers are included the reduction is only around 10% since 1990.

And the main reason for this reduction is not a consequence of climate policies, but rather a 2001 EU directive on air quality that essentially forced the UK to close down its very old and extremely dirty coal power plants and replace them with less dirty gas power stations. Switching from one disastrous energy source to a slightly less disastrous one will of course result in a lowering of emissions.

But perhaps the most dangerous misconception about the climate crisis is that we have to “lower” our emissions. Because that is far from enough. Our emissions have to stop if we are to stay below 1.5-2C of warming. The “lowering of emissions” is of course necessary but it

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is only the beginning of a fast process that must lead to a stop within a couple of decades, or less. And by “stop” I mean net zero—and then quickly on to negative figures. That rules out most of today's politics.

The fact that we are speaking of “lowering” instead of “stopping” emissions is perhaps the greatest force behind the continuing business as usual. The UK's active current support of new exploitation of fossil fuels—for example, the UK shale gas fracking industry, the expansion of its North Sea oil and gas fields, the expansion of airports as well as the planning permission for a brand new coal mine—is beyond absurd.

This ongoing irresponsible behavior will no doubt be remembered in history as one of the greatest failures of humankind.

People always tell me and the other millions of school strikers that we should be proud of ourselves for what we have accomplished. But the only thing that we need to look at is the emission curve. And I'm sorry, but it's still rising. That curve is the only thing we should look at.

Every time we make a decision we should ask ourselves; how will this decision affect that curve? We should no longer measure our wealth and success in the graph that shows economic growth, but in the curve that shows the emis-

sions of greenhouse gases. Many people say that we don't have any solutions to the climate crisis. And they are right. Because how could we? How do you “solve” the greatest crisis that humanity has ever faced? How do you “solve” a war? How do you “solve” going to the moon for the first time? How do you “solve” inventing new inventions?

The climate crisis is both the easiest and the hardest issue we have ever faced. The easiest because we know what we must do. We must stop the emissions of greenhouse gases. The hardest because our current economics are still totally dependent on burning fossil fuels, and thereby destroying ecosystems in order to create everlasting economic growth.

“So, exactly how do we solve that?” you ask us—the schoolchildren striking for the climate.

And we say: “No one knows for sure. But we have to stop burning fossil fuels and restore nature and many other things that we may not have quite figured out yet.”

Then you say: “That's not an answer!”

So we say: “We have to start treating the crisis like a crisis—and act even if we don't have all the solutions.”

“That's still not an answer,” you say.

Then we start talking about circular economy and re-wilding nature and the need for a just transition. Then you don't understand what we are talking about.

We say that all those solutions needed are not known to anyone and therefore we must unite behind the science and find them together along the way. But you do not listen to that! Because those answers are for solving a crisis that most of you don't even fully understand. Or don't want to understand.

You don't listen to the science because you are only interested in solutions that will enable you to carry on like before. Like now. And those answers don't exist any more. Because you did not act in time.

Sometimes we just simply have to find a way. The moment we decide to fulfill something, we can do anything. I'm sure that the moment we start behaving as if we were in an emergency, we can avoid climate and ecological catastrophe. Humans are very adaptable: we can still fix this. But the opportunity to do so will not last for long. We must start today. We have no more excuses.

We children are not sacrificing our education and our childhood for you to tell us what you consider is politically possible in the society that you have created. We have not taken to the streets for you to take selfies with us, and tell us that you really admire what we do.

We children are doing this to wake the adults up. We children are doing this for you to put your differences aside and start acting as you would in a crisis. We children are doing this because we want our hopes and dreams back.

*Greta Thunberg has become one of the world's foremost environmental activists over the past year through her weekly Friday for Future protests. The 16-year-old has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for her work, has spoken at the World Economic Forum and in front of the European Parliament, and sparked a protest movement involving millions of young people worldwide.*



# Grieving the Future You Thought You Had

**Editor's note:** The following is excerpted from the author's forthcoming book, *Facing the Climate Emergency: How to Transform Yourself with Climate Truth*.

By Margaret Klein Salamon

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? In 20? Perhaps you plan to be advancing in your career, married, with children or retired, living near the beach, traveling often.

Whatever it is—have you factored the climate crisis into it? In my experience, most people have not integrated the climate emergency into their sense of identity and future plans. This is a form of climate denial.

The vast majority of Americans—especially educated, successful, powerful, and privileged Americans—are still living their

making sense of what they find.

After you acknowledge the apocalyptic scale and speed of the climate emergency, you must allow yourself time to grieve. There are so many losses: the people and species already lost, your sense of safety and normalcy.

We have to grieve for our own futures—the futures we had planned, hoped for, and thought we were building. Grief is appropriate.

When I was a child, I remember my mother telling me that I could be anything I wanted to be. I knew this wasn't literally true, but I also knew that I had many options. I studied at Harvard, then earned a PhD in clinical psychology with plans to write books about psychology for popular audiences. I imagined myself married with children. What a lovely life I had planned! It was going to be meaningful, intellectually stimulating, financially re-



“normal” lives as though the climate crisis was not happening. They know, intellectually, that the climate crisis is real, but they have not faced that reality emotionally; they have not grieved the future they thought they had, and consequently, they have not been able to act rationally or responsibly.

This is starting to change. Thanks to the efforts of the School Strikers, The Climate

warding, and rich in relationships.

But there was one problem.

When I forced myself to learn about the climate crisis, when I fully grasped its reality, and when I started the process of grieving what was already lost, I also realized that my lovely life was not going to really work. Maybe I could still pull off living my perfect life—at least for a decade or so—but it



going to lead a happy and satisfying life while watching the world burn, no matter how much self-care I practiced. I already felt that I was simply too interconnected with the planet for that. I had to say goodbye to the future I had planned on, and, in many ways, I had to say goodbye to the person who had made those plans, and so I had to grieve those losses, too.

Grief is not optional: when confronted with devastating losses, grief is the only healthy way to respond and adapt to new

warrior who is prepared to do everything that I can to prevent catastrophic outcomes from fully unfolding, and to help restore the health of the climate and protect all life.

My grief enabled me to remember my connection to all life, and helped me let go of the illusion of my separate self. If the forests die, I die. If the oceans die, I die. I am entirely dependent on the natural world for my life and safety.

The natural world will only survive if humanity has a collective awakening and

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*Maybe I could still pull off living my perfect life ... but it would happen while tens of millions of refugees streamed out of regions made unlivable by heat, drought, or flood, and while state after state failed and threatened the collapse of humanity and the natural world.*

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realities. If we stop ourselves from feeling grief, we stop ourselves from processing the reality of our loss. If we can't process our loss, then we can't live in reality. We become imprisoned and immobile. Grief ensures we don't get stuck in the paralysis of denial, living in the past or in fantasy versions of the present and future.

The climate emergency threatens to destroy our shared and personal futures. The climate crisis threatens to set back thousands of years of human development. It has ruined the futures we had planned. It has also made the present—what we do now—almost unbearably important. Our actions now, this year and next year, will have an incalculable importance to all life.

When I grieved the loss of the future I had planned for myself, I gained the ability to engage more fully and meaningfully in the here and now of reality and morality. Changing course allowed me to set out on a new path, with a new future dictated by the personal mission to do whatever I could to help society confront the truth, and initiate a global response to the climate crisis. Letting go of my hopes and plans that were, in themselves, a kind of climate denial—allowing me to live in line with my values and in climate truth. This action allowed me to feel a hope that was powerful enough to motivate my transformation into a climate

commences emergency mobilization. I realized, as Dr. King Jr. wrote in “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” that “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.”

Understanding this meant I had to shed my former self and go far beyond my goals for personal happiness and success, and re-orient them around helping to create the collective awakening that we need.

If humanity's two choices are to transform or collapse, the only rational, moral choice is to immerse yourself in the struggle to protect all life.

Only when you are able to face the future as it is—not as it was or as you dreamed it would be—will you fully grieve and be ready to move on. To help as you grieve the future you thought you had, ask yourself:

- What have been your cherished hopes and plans for the future?
- Are you ready to realize your plans will not unfold as you had hoped?
- Can you envision a life that revolves around a commitment to protect all life?

Margaret Klein Salamon, PhD, is co-founder and director of Climate Mobilization. Klein earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Adelphi University and also holds a BA in Social Anthropology from Harvard.

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Mobilization (the organization I founded and direct), Extinction Rebellion, the Sunrise Movement, leaders like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, authors like David Wallace Wells, and many more, people are confronting the terrifying reality of climate truth, and looking for help processing and

would happen while tens of millions of refugees streamed out of regions made unlivable by heat, drought, or flood, and while state after state failed and threatened the collapse of humanity and the natural world.

I had to acknowledge that the future I was planning on was ruined. I was never

# No Such Thing as a Green War

By Eleanor Goldfield

In June, the Costs of War Project at Brown University's Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs released a report titled "Pentagon Fuel Use, Climate Change, and the Costs of War." Echoing previous reports on the link between the U.S. military and climate change, the paper outlines the various ways in which the Pentagon is "the world's largest institutional user of petroleum and correspondingly, the single largest producer of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the world."

While this is not necessarily news, it never hurts to have a reminder, and the paper's detailed data on issues such as fuel usage and greenhouse gas emissions make for a shocking read and eye-catching headlines. In 2017 alone, for example, "the Pentagon's greenhouse gas emissions were greater than the greenhouse gas emissions of entire industrialized countries such as Sweden or Denmark."

Still, it is not enough to academically trace a red thread between issues. Recognizing the connections that tie climate chaos to war to imperialism to the growing refugee crisis demands solutions founded on that real-world intersectionality. We need an active solidarity that erases the demarcations of single-issue movements and builds a power that reflects the reality of our place and time. Likewise, we must be wary of soft reforms, greenwashing and capitalism's unending affinity for shaming people.

## Climate Chaos and National Security

Soft reforms are often linked with greenwashing in a sort of shot-and-chaser combo, made to placate the mind and ultimately uphold the status quo. Naturally, such a false solution typically comes wrapped in language that says much and means little—sounding logical without actually employing logic.

For instance, the paper concludes that "by reducing the use of greenhouse gas-emitting fuels (coupled with emission reductions in other sectors) the Pentagon would decrease its contribution to the associated climate change threats to national security." This reminds me of those SAT sentences that used long, circular logic inanities to say essentially nothing. Basically, the Pentagon could stop creating national security threats if it stopped creating national security threats.

The overall conclusions made in the report push us to look at climate chaos through the lens of national security rather than the destruction of millions of species, arable land, potable water, breathable air and a livable future in general.

It is reminiscent of Senator Elizabeth Warren's tweet in mid-May, which lamented that "climate change is real, it's worsening by the day, and it's undermining our military readiness. More and more, accomplishing the mission depends on our ability to continue operations in



Veterans For Peace at the People's Climate March, Sept. 21, 2014. Photo: Ellen Davidson.

the face of floods, drought, wildfires, desertification, and extreme cold." But by god, we must accomplish the mission! Even if that means going green!

Of course, the idea of an eco-friendly war is as ridiculous as it sounds. Our so-called national security is based on unprovoked invasions, gross human rights violations, economic warfare, regime change and overt terrorism.

The paper does make valid and important points about reducing our reliance on oil, which includes tapering operations in the Middle East, scaling back bases and spending military budget cash on "more economically productive activities." However, neither Senator Warren

greenwash the blood-soaked façade of an imperialist war machine. For instance, rather than demanding the closure of any of our almost 1,000 military bases around the world, Warren wants to make sure they are ready to withstand extreme weather.

Meanwhile, these bases that she wants to save are environmental catastrophes. Back in 2014, *Newsweek* reported that "about 900 of the 1200 or so Superfund sites in America are abandoned military facilities or sites that otherwise support military needs."

Around the world, U.S. bases leach toxic chemicals such as depleted uranium, oil, jet fuel, pesticides and defoli-

our city upon a hill is practically an American pastime. Since this settler colonialist nation was established, the United States has always been anti-immigrant, and that paradigm has held strong despite the fact that these days, it is directly our fault that people are migrating. Yes, irony is also as American as apple pie.

A recent report by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees reveals that "the number of refugees worldwide is now the highest it's ever been since the United Nations began keeping records, with more than 70 million people seeking refuge after being forced from their homes." According to the Norwegian Refugee Council, "on average, 26 million people are displaced by disasters such as floods and storms every year. That's one person forced to flee every second."

It is worth noting that the Middle East, Africa, and South-Central Asia are not only where most of the world's refugees are coming from, but also where most of the refugees are being hosted—yet another instance of breaking, taking, and leaving disasters in our wake.

And as the "War on Terror" continues in the Middle East, the less discussed new scramble for Africa, AFRICOM hides imperialist jockeying for natural resources behind yet another "national security threat" lie. In short, our national security is threatened every day by our push for national security: vis-à-vis our need to drill, spill, extract and burn, which is inextricably tied to the military's push to destabilize, destroy, and displace.

Just as there is no such thing as a green war, there is likewise no way to confront climate change unless we confront the war machine, and vice versa. There is no way to confront the refugee crisis, unless we confront climate change and the war machine.

As an organizer, I have seen so many niche movements fall apart from overwork

*continued on page 7 ...*

*In 2017 alone, for example, 'the Pentagon's greenhouse gas emissions were greater than the greenhouse gas emissions of entire industrialized countries such as Sweden or Denmark.'*

nor the Watson Institute paper dig to the root and ask whether or not the military is necessary, just whether or not it is green enough.

One might argue that it is perfectly understandable why a paper dealing with the fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions of the military is not discussing systemic change. However, conclusions are meant to analyze the preceding data, and without analyzing the overarching destructive and oppressive nature of the U.S. military, any conclusions we make within or without a report will fail to address the necessary systemic change involved in combating climate chaos.

This is the same reason why Senator Warren's co-sponsored bill to reduce the Pentagon's carbon footprint is a non-starter. Even if it passes, it will merely

ants like Agent Orange and lead into soil and groundwater. For years, local communities have protested U.S. bases on the grounds of cultural and environmental destruction from Okinawa to Guam to the Galapagos to the Seychelles.

The most eco-friendly thing you could do would be to close all U.S. military bases and effectively dismantle the imperialist military-industrial complex as a whole. This would also be the biggest boost to our beloved national security, not just with regards to climate, but forced migration and displacement as well.

## The Intersection of Our Movements

While climate change is a newcomer to the national security conversation, the fear of refugees and/or immigrants tarnishing





Seventy activists arrested at *New York Times* protest June 22.

## Save the Planet

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growth and exploitation. We are fighting for a future in which people count more than profits.”

This is what it looked like, as one group put it, when “a thousand heroes enter the #Garzweiler mine.”

The climate action group 350 Europe said the collective action gave them “chills” to witness.

As clashes began with security forces, the activists declared on social media that they were not the source of the violence and called on the police to withdraw from the area.

With the Garzweiler mine occupation under way, a separate team of Ende Gelände activists maintained a blockade of railway tracks leading to the coal-fired Neurath power station, also in Rhineland, that began the previous day. The activists spent the night on the tracks to keep any trains from coming or going.

“This year,” said Nike Malhaus, another spokesperson for Ende Gelände, “the climate justice movement is hitting a new peak. We are more determined, more diverse and more united than ever before. The climate crisis is already a reality, especially for people in the global South. We are bringing the age of fossil fuels to an end today.”

In a tweet on Saturday afternoon, Kathrin Henneberger, another spokesperson for the group, said: “This weekend, we have completely shut down the CO<sub>2</sub> source in Europe, the Rhineland lignite mining area. No coal train goes to the power plants anymore. No excavator works anymore in the opencast mines. It is amazing!!!! Thanks to all the thousands of brave ones.”

### Climate Solutions, Not Endless War

The same day, Saturday, June 22, 22 climate and antiwar campaigners were arrested in the small town of Bath, Maine, as they held a direct action calling for conversion of the major U.S. weapons manufacturing facilities into places where the

urgently needed economic and renewable energy transition can be realized.

The protest took place outside the General Dynamics-owned Bath Iron Works (BIW), where some of the U.S. Navy’s most advanced and lethal warships are built. The group blocked traffic near the shipyard as buses carried guests to a ceremonial “christening” of a new Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer.

Holding signs that read, “Tell Congress: Fund Climate Solutions, Not Endless War” and “Bring Our War Dollars Home,” supporters of the action stood on sidewalks nearby as those who risked arrest were taken into custody by local police.

The protest in Bath was a much smaller direct action than what the world in Germany that day—when thousands of people from across Europe mobilized to shut down that nation’s coal industry, storming an open-pit and occupying railway tracks to a major power station—but the message was quite the same: a call for drastic and immediate action to end the world’s reliance on fossil fuels in order to build a more sustainable and peaceful world.

According to the group, nine of the 22 arrested declined bail and asked to be released on their own recognizance, but were denied the request. Those nine—Jim Freeman, Sadie Fulton, Bruce Gagnon, Ken Jones, Natasha Mayers, George Ostensen, Dixie Searway, Mary Beth Sullivan, and Russell Wray—were held at a nearby jail until they were arraigned the following Monday. The 13 others who were charged and released on bail pending arraignment in August were Ashley Bahlkow, Dan Ellis, Ridgeley Fuller, Sophia Fuller, Dud Hendrick, Cynthia Howard, Damon Howard, Connie Jenkins, Richard Lethem, Mark Roman, Lisa Savage, Robert Shetterly, and Will Thomas.

“We engaged in civil resistance to underscore our conversion demand. BIW should be helping to solve the climate crisis, not building weapons that make the problem worse,” said activist Mark Roman, one of those arrested.

The U.S. Navy destroyer that was being celebrated that day, according to the

*Portland Press Herald*, is 510 feet long and “can easily top 30 knots while simultaneously waging war with enemy ships, submarines, missiles and aircraft.” The newspaper reports that the warship’s “combat system uses powerful computers and a phased-array radar to track more than 100 targets” and is “also equipped with ballistic missile defense capability.”

For the protesters, it is not that the highly-skilled labor force at BIW should not have the high-quality jobs that building weapons for the U.S. military provides, but that the U.S. government spending what it does on war and destruction is misguided and wrong when the planet desperately needs a rapid transition to renewable energy and immediate respite from endless armed conflict.

Not only is the Pentagon’s war machine the largest single emitter of carbon pollution on Earth, the protesters note, but the

Dud Hendrick, a U.S. Navy veteran and one of those arrested, explained in a recent Common Dreams op-ed that those behind the effort “are calling on Bath Iron Works to shift its industrial power from the production of warships to sustainable energy systems that might stem climate disruption rather than contribute to it.”

Having worked closely with the union workers at BIW for a long time, even as an outspoken critic of war and U.S. empire, local Bath resident Bruce Gagnon—also among those arrested Saturday—said at the press conference that many of the workers themselves “are quite open” to the demands to convert the shipyard to peaceful purposes. “We’d rather build something else,” Gagnon said, paraphrasing what many BIW workers have told him over recent years. “We’d rather build something we’re proud of. We don’t feel so great.”

Also speaking at the press conference was Dr. Jill Stein, who ran for president on the Green Party ticket in 2016. Stein characterized workers in the weapons industry as “victims of an economy that forces us into militarization.”

Putting the call for conversion into the context of the Green New Deal, Stein said the demand for a rapid transition should be seen as revolutionary. “It’s a revolution,” she said, “for our economy, for our climate, and it makes the wars for oil obsolete.”

### ‘Report the Urgency! This Is a Climate Emergency!’

Hundreds of people descended on the headquarters of the *New York Times* on Saturday, June 22, to demand that the “paper of record” drastically improve its coverage of the global climate crisis and specifically that its reporters refer to the situation as a “climate emergency” in alignment with what the world’s scientific community is warning.



Outside the *New York Times* offices June 22.

U.S. wars that have been waged over recent decades have everything to do with a world too dependent on the dirty energy sources buried beneath the ground.

As part of an ongoing “conversion” campaign in Maine—coordinated by a number of like-minded groups from around the state—the coalition held a press conference on Friday ahead of the Saturday direct action to explain the basis of their vision and why they insist places like BIW need not be a source of the problem, but an essential part of the solution instead.

Coordinated by Extinction Rebellion NYC, 70 people were reported arrested after the group staged a sit-in on Eight Avenue in midtown Manhattan in order to bring attention to the failure of the paper—and journalism overall—to adequately report on the global urgency of skyrocketing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, rapidly warming oceans, and all the associated perils that result. The group hung banners in front of the *Times* building as well as from the

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# No Green War

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and exclusion. It is in fact a gift to the powers that be that we often draw such deep lines of demarcation: the environmental movement is here, the refugee and migrant rights movement is there, the antiwar movement is here, and never the three shall meet.

But take, for instance, the recent protest in Bath, Maine, where activists blocked traffic outside a naval battleship construction site demanding money for climate solutions, not endless war.

ecutive than if you went vegan.” It is not only funny, but it also makes a good point. Rousseau may just have been ahead of his time in prescribing a foundation for a climate change revolution: “When the people shall have nothing more to eat, they will eat the rich ...”

Sure, go vegan if you have the privilege to do so. But let us not conflate that personal choice with the actions that are necessary to dismantle the machine that profits off of animal torture.

Yes, activists will often drive to remote sites of a pipeline fight or a logging proj-

ment to recycling is not it. Because some 91% of plastic is not recycled, we should work to institute better waste management practices and demand recycling facilities. We should use public transportation whenever we can. We should also brush our teeth regularly, not drink too much alcohol and avoid processed foods.

In other words, the so-called greening of your personal life should not be viewed as acting for the climate. It should be viewed as another facet of being an adult in today’s world. Acting for the climate, that “something” that everyone can do,

It means targeting the system rather than each other, decoupling our power from our green purchasing power and not turning the class war in on ourselves. It means educating and engaging on the foundations of anti-oppression, anti-imperialism, and anti-capitalism. It means building communities and networks that exist outside the confines of the capitalist system we all suffer under.

There’s no definitive blueprint for this work. True solidarity and real intersectionality means reaching outside our comfort zones and stepping into spaces we do not know, in ways that go beyond theory. Environmentalists will need to address the climate chaos inherent in a racist, imperialist war machine. Antiwar activists will need to consider the importance of climate justice in their work.

Folks most impacted will not only need

*With the rise of green capitalism (as much an oxymoron as green war), the misconception that we can save the planet by buying a tote bag or two has risen in parallel.*



People’s Climate March, Sept. 21, 2014. Photo: Ellen Davidson.

At the asset management firm BlackRock’s annual shareholders meeting on May 23, a multitude of groups—from the National Indigenous Organization of Brazil to CODEPINK—came together to call out BlackRock’s CEO and the entire company on their massive and grotesque investments in death and destruction via climate chaos and war. Many climate justice and direct action communities have long made these connections, literally flying the flag of anti-capitalism in solidarity with struggles around the world.

These intersectional endeavors are sources of inspiration, power, and ideas. They build upon the tenets of collaboration, solidarity, and respect, antitheses of the violent capitalist system.

## Lock, Protest, Sit In, Stand Up, Lie Down, Lock Down

With the rise of green capitalism (as much an oxymoron as green war), the misconception that we can save the planet by buying a tote bag or two has risen in parallel. I call it the “green me fallacy.” If everyone just recycled, if everyone just got solar panels and a reusable water bottle with Namaste written on the side.

This thinking is another manifestation of the divide-and-conquer strategy of a capitalist system based on extraction and destruction. It shames people who cannot afford or have access to new technologies or green choices and further cleaves our potential at unification along the lines of greenwashed purchasing power. A recent joke post on social media read: “you’d do more for the climate if you ate an oil ex-

ect. Yes, people will shop at Wal-Mart because they lack the financial privilege to shop elsewhere. If everyone so eager to shame folks for these choices instead would have stepped up to the front lines of a pipeline fight, dirty energy would have thousands to contend with, rather than a handful of inestimably strong-willed activists.

When people say “everyone can do something,” I agree. But a mere commit-

actually means acting for the climate. It means that you block, protest, sit in, stand up, lie down, lock down or in some way lend your time, energy, body and mind to a pointed systemic struggle. It means organizing in your community to draw connections between our various issues—from gentrification to imperialism to food sovereignty to public health to systemic racism, all of which are linked to climate chaos.

## Save the Planet

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Port Authority Bus Terminal on the other side of the street.

Standing on the street corner, scores of people repeated the chant: “Report the urgency, this is a climate emergency!”

Others, shouted “Tell the truth! Tell the truth!” as they sat down in the street and refused to leave:

Detailing their demands, the group has put forward a “Climate Media Standards” document that offers guidance to outlets, editors, and reporters for how to best provide coverage. For example, the standards call for use of “climate emergency language” in all reporting:

- Stop calling it “climate change.” Name the threat: “climate crisis,” “climate breakdown,” “climate destruction,” or “climate emergency.”
- Use language that states the risks of the crisis more clearly. For example, “global warming” becomes “global

heating,” and “biodiversity” becomes “wildlife.”

- Do not publish statements that cast doubt on the scientific consensus that a catastrophic climate crisis is under way and driven by human activity.
- Do not print the opinion of writers who cast doubt on the scientific consensus and the effects of the climate emergency.

Ironically, however, it appeared the *Times* did not read the memo because their own coverage of the protest—which was actually just an Associated Press wire version of the events—did not take the advice.

Demonstrator Donna Nicolino told the *Guardian* she was willing to risk arrest because “we want the *New York Times* as well as all the other media to treat climate change as the crisis it is.”

As one demonstrator was brought down from the side of a building in handcuffs by police, she shouted to the crowd: “This is the biggest crisis in human history. What are we going to tell our children when

they ask us: why didn’t we do anything to stop it while we still had time?”

As Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish climate campaigner and driving force behind the global student strike movement, has said, “If there really was a crisis this big, then we would rarely talk about anything else. As soon as you turn on the TV, almost everything would be about that: headlines, radio, newspapers. You would almost never hear or read about anything else.”

Just like lawmakers, say Thunberg and her allies, too many major media outlets pay lip-service to the scale of the crisis but then fail to back up that rhetoric with meaningful action or commitments.

“The lack of coverage of the climate crisis is completely unacceptable,” Becca Trabin, a member of Extinction Rebellion organizing team, explained to the *Guardian* on Saturday. “It’s a public safety crisis on a global scale.”

*Jon Queally is managing editor of Common Dreams.*



# Sonar Can Literally Scare Whales to Death, Study Finds



Biologists studying beaked whales call for an end to naval exercises using sonar, which can sicken whales and lead to mass beachings.

By Mindy Weisberger

Naval sonar has been linked to mass strandings of otherwise healthy whales for nearly two decades, but the precise mechanisms of how it affects whales has eluded scientists. Now, researchers have explained key details of how this disruptive signal triggers behavior in some whales that ends in death.

Previously, necropsies of beaked whales from multiple stranding incidents found nitrogen bubbles in their body tissues, a hallmark of decompression sickness, or “the bends.” This dangerous condition also affects scuba divers when they rise too rapidly from deep water; it can cause pain, paralysis, and even death.

Whales are adapted for deep-sea diving, and beaked whales are the record-holders for the longest and deepest dives. But the new research explains how sonar in certain frequencies disorients and terrifies some beaked whales so much that the experience overrides an important adaptation for deep diving: a slower heartbeat. Extreme fear accelerates a whale’s heart rate, which can lead to decompression sickness; the intense pain of this condition incapacitates the whales, so they strand on beaches and eventually die, scientists reported in a new study.

Mass strandings of Cuvier’s beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) were almost unheard of prior to 1960, but that changed with the introduction of midfrequency active sonar (MFAS) in naval exercises in the open ocean. This type of sonar, developed in the 1950s for submarine detection, operates in a range of 4.5 to 5.5 kHz, according to the study. After this sonar appeared, mass stranding events soon skyrocketed for beaked whales, with 121 such strandings taking place between 1960 and 2004, the researchers wrote.

Scientists first noted a connection between mass strandings of Cuvier’s beaked whales and naval exercises using sonar in the late 1980s, lead study author Yara Ber-

nardo de Quirós, a researcher at the Institute for Animal Health and Food Safety at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in Spain, told *Live Science* in an email.

That link strengthened after similar stranding events in Greece in 1996 and in the Bahamas in 2000, de Quirós added. And in September 2002, when 14 beaked whales stranded in the Canary Islands during a NATO naval exercise, veterinary pathologists discovered lesions in the animals that were “consistent with a decompression sickness,” de Quirós said.

## Fight or Flight

In 2017, biologists studying beaked whales gathered for a workshop to analyze findings about strandings from the past decades, looking at mass strandings that were linked to nearby naval exercises using sonar.

Between 2002 and 2014, six mass strandings took place in Greece, the Canary Is-

lands, and Almería in southeastern Spain, but the dead whales did not appear to be malnourished or sick. However, they displayed “abundant gas bubbles” throughout their veins, blood clots in multiple organs, and microscopic hemorrhages “of varying severity” in body tissues.

Beached whales may have experienced “a fight-or-flight response” that overrode a key diving adaptation: the lowering of heart rate, which reduces oxygen consumption and prevents nitrogen accumulation. The result was hemorrhages and “massive bubble formation in their tissues,” de Quirós explained.

These symptoms of decompression sickness likely afflicted the whales after they were spooked by sonic blasts, according to the study.

“The temporal and spatial association with naval exercises [using] sonar is very clear,” de Quirós said in the email. What’s

more, behavioral studies have shown that whales that have never encountered sonar (or that have been exposed to it only occasionally) typically exhibit a stronger response than animals living near military outposts, she added.

In 2004, Spain banned sonar in Canary Islands waters, a mass-strandings

*[S]onar in certain frequencies disorients and terrifies some beaked whales so much that the experience overrides an important adaptation for deep diving: a slower heartbeat.*

hotspot. No mass strandings have taken place since the ban was enacted, “proving the effectiveness of this mitigation,” de Quirós said.

Based on their findings, the study authors recommended more widespread bans on military exercises using sonar across the Mediterranean Sea, where atypical mass strandings of beaked whales still take place. Further research will determine the long-term impact of mass strandings on beaked whale populations, the authors wrote in the study.

Mindy Weisberger is a senior writer for Live Science ([livescience.com](http://livescience.com)) covering general science topics, especially those relating to brains, bodies, and behaviors in humans and other animals, living and extinct. She studied filmmaking at Columbia University; her videos about dinosaurs, biodiversity, human origins, evolution, and astrophysics appear in the American Museum of Natural History, on YouTube, and in museums and science centers worldwide.

## Nature Bats Last

“I’m two with nature”—Woody Allen

We fled Woody and the cities  
in the tie-dyed seventies  
headed back to the land, man,  
and fed ourselves on nature’s bounty  
while planning on saving the planet along the way  
forgetting that nature bats last.

It’s been almost fifty years now  
of have-a-heart traps, deer caught in the headlights,  
road kill left to glisten in the moon-filled nights  
while the weather changed and changed and changed  
it seems that saving the planet was put on hold  
Nature is stepping out of the dugout, bottom of the ninth

So what have we found out about ourselves over these years?  
Are we one with nature or have we zeroed out?  
Are we part of the problem or are we part of the solution?  
Are we most parts compost or are we mainly pollution?  
Does the planet really care if we’re one or two with its grand  
evolution?  
The first pitch is in the dirt.

The bats are KIA, the bees are missing in action  
The ticks have taken over and the mice are moving out  
We retire into the sterile comfort of our insulated houses  
watching our clever little devices for news far from home:  
How about that Serengeti Plain? That Asian oceanfront  
swallowed up by tsunamis?  
A visit to the mound—how to pitch to the Great Mother?

Meanwhile forgetting to ponder this—will anyone be left to  
tend our own graves, to till our fields?  
Are we stewards of this planet, or are we merely along for  
the ride?  
Does the climate change because of us, despite us, or to  
dispose of us?  
Cartesians have sat high in the saddle for four centuries telling  
us not to worry  
Now it’s time to listen to Chief Seattle, Geronimo, and the  
Haudenosaunee  
lest we forget that nature bats last.

—Doug Rawlings