

The HOPEFUL REALIST Newsletter: *Looking at the World Today as if Facts Matter*

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Here we explore the latest facts, actions, and perspectives on the New Great Transformation of the Earth System. We apply the Hopeful Realism we all need to work through the greatest predicament in human history.

Latest News from the Hopeful Realist

On July 9, my new eBook hit [Number 1 on Amazon.com](#) for the third time in the new releases category “Science and Math Short Reads,” since it launched on June 23; it remained #1 until this newsletter went to press. Amazon categories remain a mystery; this eBook is more about science and social change. You can still download it **FREE** via Kindle Unlimited. If you read it, please [review and rate](#) it by clicking the button on the lower left of its Amazon page below “Customer Reviews.”

HOPEFUL REALISM: A Climate Manifesto explains the basics of our global predicament and the opportunities we have to deal with the New Great Transformation of the Earth System. As Greta Thunberg has said, “Hope is an action.” Whole societies must change to have hope to survive and thrive.

My more comprehensive book, ***At the Edge of Illusion: Facing the New Great Transformation***, will be released by a traditional publisher hopefully later this year. It explores the deep origins of the obstacles we face and how we might overcome them.

LOOK UP! A Bi-weekly Featured Commentary

Will the Fake President be indicted for his narcissistic attempt to conspire with corrupt lawyers and soulless congressmen to execute a coup to overthrow American Democracy? Some fear that such an unprecedented prosecution (though required by law) would “deepen the divide” in our nation. Well, if we look back in history, such cowardice was called appeasement, which certainly did not stop Hitler from his autocratic attempt to rule of the world. When a heinous crime is committed, the perpetrator must be prosecuted. We must stop viewing Presidents as saints or gods immune from the consequences of their acts. We must also avoid letting political dysfunction distract us from dealing with the global emergency of climate and ecosystem destabilization, which require immediate societal action.

In its last session in June, [Cassidy Hutchison](#), former aid to Trump’s Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, testified before the House Select Committee on the January 6 insurrection at the nation’s Capital. She exposed the inner-circle struggles with the Fake President’s efforts to overthrow the election of Joe Biden by trying to force V.P. Mike Pence to illegally invalidate the electoral ballots, by inciting a violent mob to storm Congress in the Capital Building that fateful day. Political shock waves radiated across the nation as the brave 25-year old described the behavior of a narcissistic sociopath and his acolytes.

Some committee members hinted at more blockbuster testimonies to come in July. Trump's White House Council—a position meant to represent the presidency, not the man who occupies the office—John Cipollini, testified privately to the January 6 Select Committee. His testimony was consistent with that of Cassidy Hutchison. Yesterday's hearing focused on Trump's ties with violent extremist groups like the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers, who orchestrated much of the assault on the capital, and the wild December 18 meeting in the West Wing in which Trump's incompetent outside conspiratorial 'advisors' fought with the White House Council over the attempted coup.

As I mentioned in the first issue of this newsletter, carbon emissions continue to accelerate, driving CO₂ in the atmosphere to over 415 parts per million (unprecedented in over 400,000 years), acidifying the oceans, and causing increasingly severe weather events. Look at the Featured Image in that issue; the rapid rise in CO₂ in the atmosphere is an extreme anomaly in comparison with the past 400,000 years.

We must not regard the seditious conspiracy as a distraction; we must deal with it. Yet, at the same time, we know that the Earth System is disintegrating before our eyes and we still await unlikely political actions by a moribund Congress.

Even an ongoing insurrection should not deter us from pursuing a solution to the global climate/ecosystem emergency. It is a matter of survival. Political upheavals come and go, but the collapse of the Earth System and therefore society itself, could be a final act.

As I said in issue no. 1, if we can't get a grip on the climate/ecosystem emergency, nothing else will matter. (For more extensive discussions of this and related matters, go to

<https://thehopefulrealist.com/the-hopeful-realist-blog/>)



Featured Image:

When is a president a fake?

When he acts in his own self-interest and against the Constitution, Lying all the way.

Books and other Sources on the New Great Transformation:

Here is a new book I just ran across. It is highly climate aware, recognizes the emergency, and proposes new technologies that we might use to extract atmospheric carbon to achieve near pre-industrial levels, which could allow the Earth System to restabilize climate conditions at a habitable level—we would hope. (I have not yet looked into the actual viability of the technologies the authors propose, but other carbon-capture technologies now under development are largely impractical.)

Peter Fiekowsky and Carole Douglis. 2022. *Climate Restoration: The Only Future That Will Sustain the Human Race*. Irvington, NY: Rivertowns Books.

However, while I don't like reviews that say a book is bad because it isn't about some other topic the reviewer deems more important, I do have to frame the relevance of this book in terms of priorities. Finding a means to extract carbon from the atmosphere safely (without unintended negative consequences) is important. However, it will be *useless* without first and foremost stopping the emissions that cause the need to extract carbon in the first place. That, unfortunately, is much more difficult and important than cleaning up the mess, which can never replace not making the mess in the first place. Fiekowsky and Douglis seem to take emissions reduction for granted, yet it may be the most problematic of all actions to accomplish, as I explain in [HOPEFUL REALISM: A Climate Manifesto](#).

Quotable Quote

Parasites

*I knew about it from the start
When the parasites settled into my essence
They seemed quaint at first, manageable
Compared to other intrusions,
Disruptions that I've endured over time
Later I knew they were absorbing my vitality
As they left behind their waste
Later still, how strange to watch my own aches
Increasing feebleness
No reverence or forethought
No one stepping forth
Can I kill them before they kill me?
Pleasantly, though, mine play Beethoven
Their Mozart exquisite
Poetry beautiful with depth, passion
Inspiring lyrical critique
Though art, however, high as it is,
Has never managed to alter their nature*

Rick E Regene © 2022

I had not planned to publish poems under the "Quotable Quote" heading, just interesting epigraphs. But when Rick sent me a couple of his most recent poems, I reconsidered.

"Parasites" reflects on the deep paradoxes of the human condition, but also on the urgent predicament before us today. Can we overcome the parasitic nature of the political economy that is rapidly destroying the human habitat?

See you in two weeks. Meanwhile, read [HOPEFUL REALISM](#), and stay safe.