

Commentary & Conversation

at the

Balliol JCR - Oxford

“Some Notes from Belshazzar’s Feast”

21 January 2015

(...Or, Why The Future Aint What it Used to Be:)
The Dynamics of Economic Accumulation in an Age of Ecological Collapse



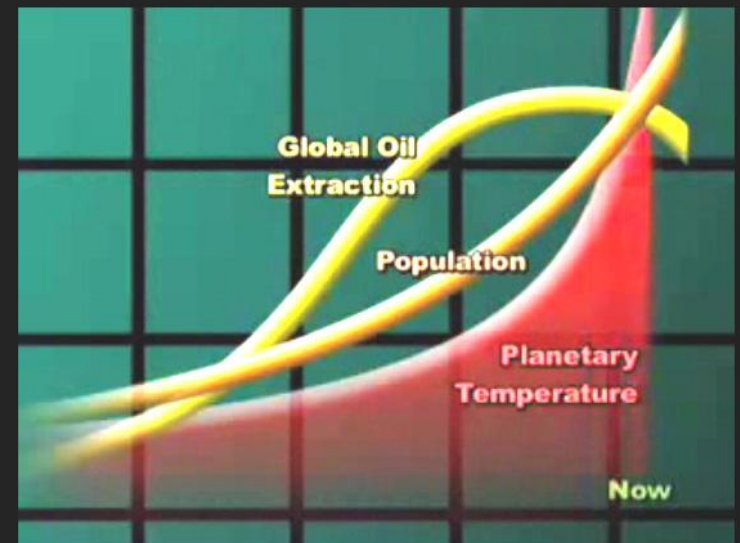
T.C. Weiskel

Balliol, ‘69

Dipl. Soc. Anthrop., ‘70

DPhil, ‘77

[First draft – incomplete links]



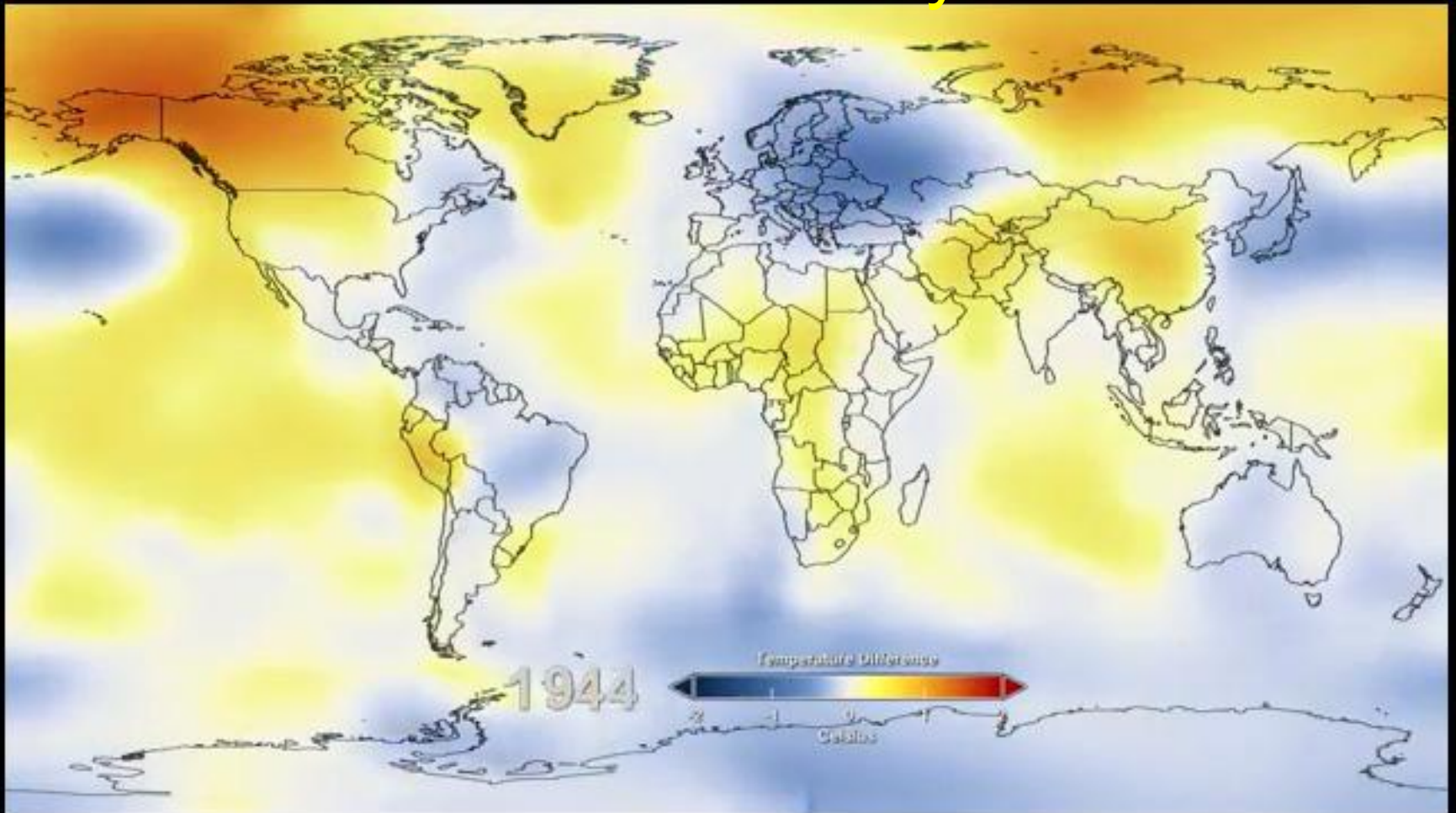
The Context for Transition Studies
Global Trends from 1900 to 2008

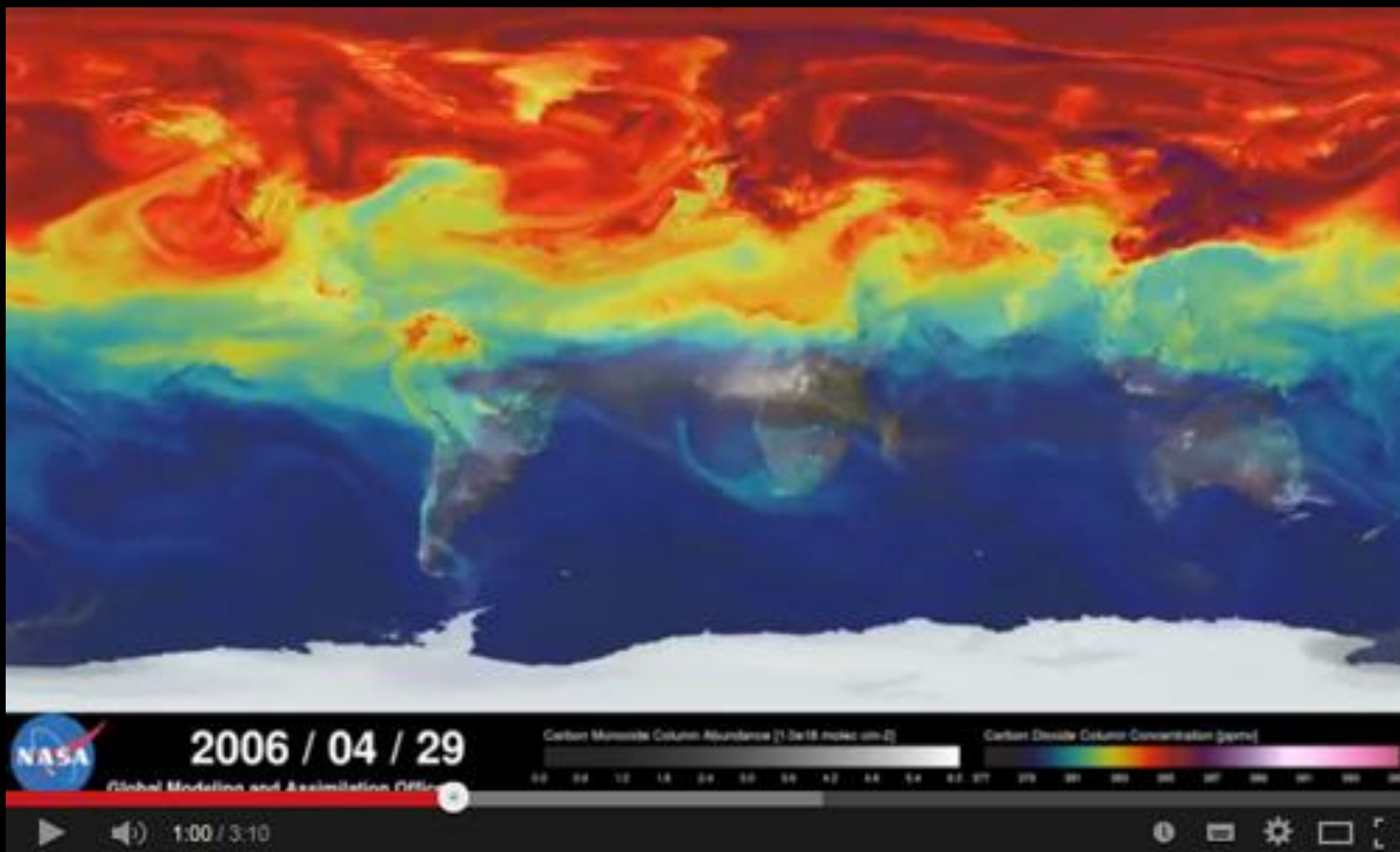
What is our cosmic
circumstance?

Let's take a large-scale view...

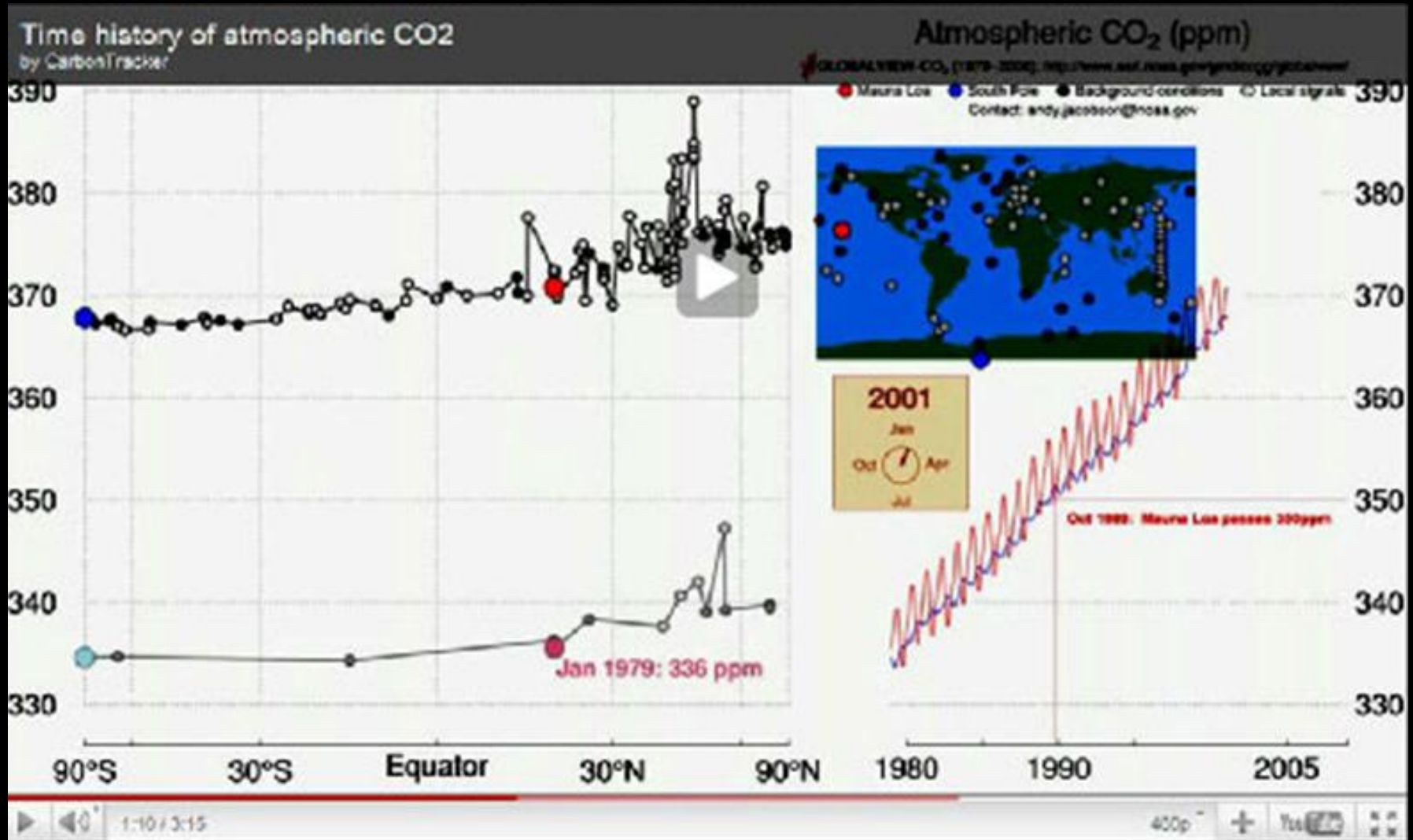


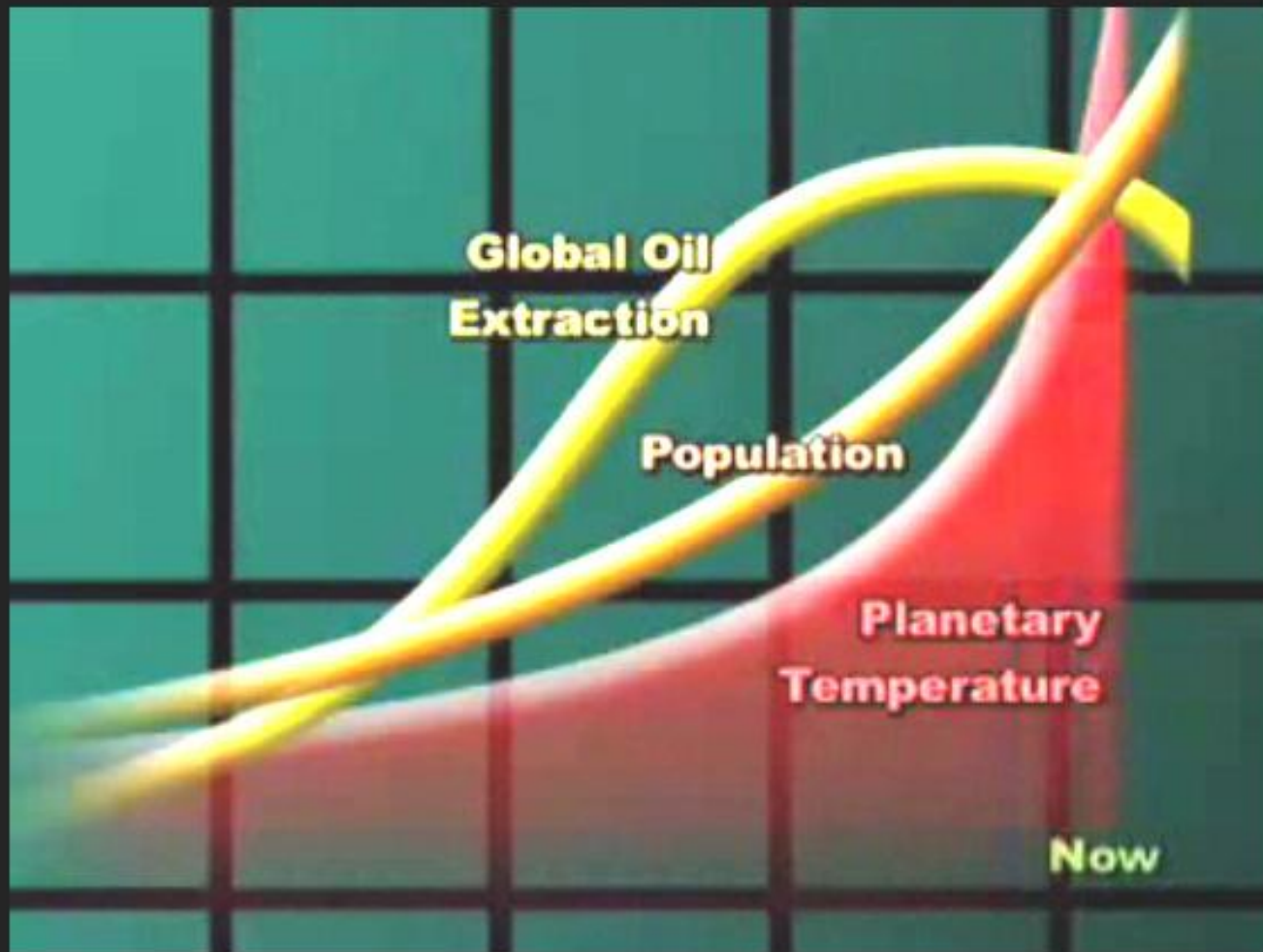
Let's look at the whole globe over recent history





Let's have a look at “deep time”





The Context for Transition Studies
Global Trends from 1900 to 2008



What is Balliol's view
of our cosmic
circumstance?





What is Balliol's view
of our cosmic
circumstance?



Is this an
absurd question?

Andrew C. Revkin

"Goodbye to These Times,"
Living on Earth
15 January 2010



Second Thoughts about First Principles...



Sir Nicholas Stern

With climate change “free-market” advocates have constructed a global system that has lead to what **Sir Nicholas Stern** has called:

“...the greatest market failure the world has ever seen.”

(...perhaps it's time to re-think the “free market” principles...?)

Balliol has played an important role in conceptualizing and implementing the world's current economic system. It bears a responsibility to help shape the transition to what comes next.

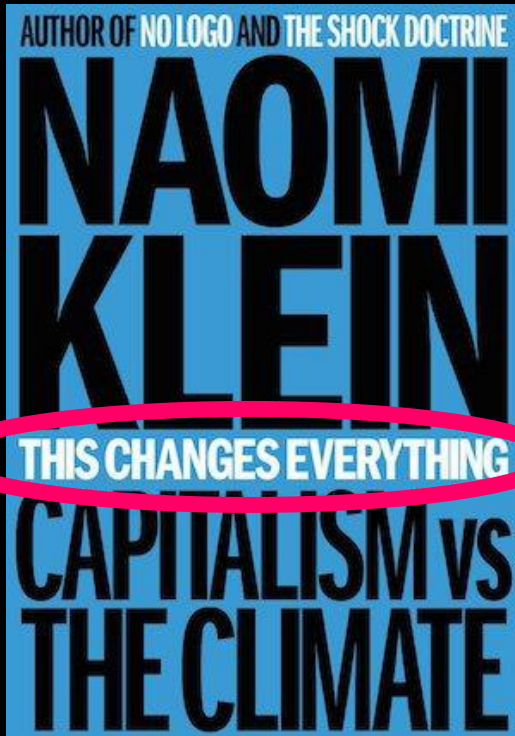


**Balliol College,
Oxford**



Adam Smith
Balliol Scholar, Scottish Economist
Author, *The Wealth of Nations*

Moving Toward the Transition: Climate Change, Capitalism and What Comes Next...



Balliol College,
Oxford



Adam Smith
Balliol Scholar, Scottish Economist
Author, *The Wealth of Nations*



Why the 1% Doesn't See What's Coming:
The “Institutional Contradiction” of Finance Capital

Can't
Why the 1% ~~Doesn't~~ See What's Coming:
The “Institutional Contradiction” of Finance Capital

Won't Let You
~~Can't~~

Why the 1% ~~Doesn't~~ See What's Coming:
The “Institutional Contradiction” of Finance Capital



Peak Oil and a Changing Climate

NOAM CHOMSKY

Political Activist

MIT Professor

Author: numerous best-selling political works

chomsky.info

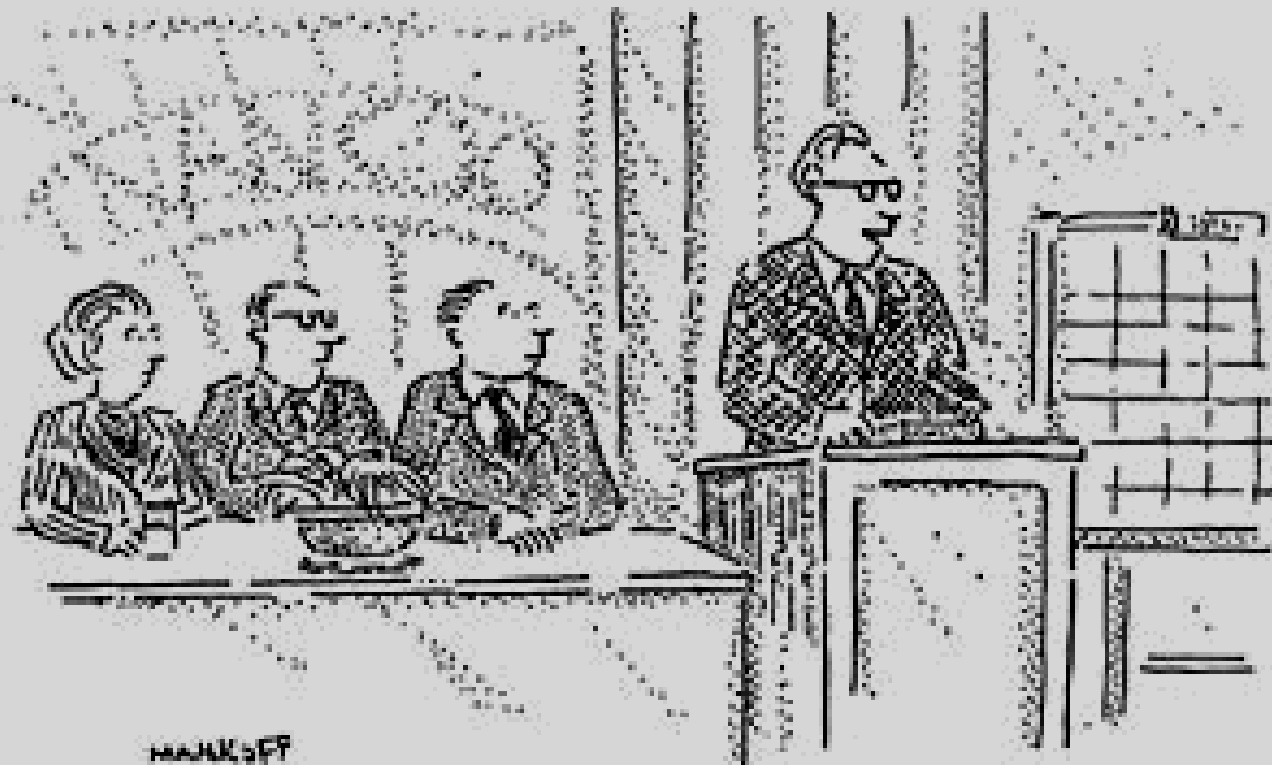
<http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2012/12/23/noam-chomsky-peak-oil-and-a-changing-climate/>



PRICELE\$\$ Documentary | It Can Cost Millions to Run for Congress

Posted on [April 22, 2013](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)





"And so, while the end-of-the-world scenario will be rife with unimaginable horrors, we believe that the pre-end period will be filled with unprecedented opportunities for profit."

Failing the Future:

Inter-Generational Betrayal and the Human Prospect

Ship Carrying 900 Migrants Abandoned At Sea

Posted on [January 3, 2015](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

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Ship Carrying 900 Migrants Abandoned At Sea

The ship's engines had been locked and its steering set on a course which would have seen it smash into rocks in southern Italy.

Wed

sky NEWS HD



00:05 / 01:03

Top Stories





A striking, public failure in moral reasoning...

Severn Cullis-Suzuki speaking at Rio in 1992









“...a betrayal of the future of all children and our grandchildren on this planet.”

But youth continued to demand action from the “grown-ups” in

"Get It Done": Urging Climate Justice, Youth Delegate Anjali Appadurai Mic-Checks UN S



DEMOCRACY
NOW!

ANJALI APPADURAI
College of the Atlantic



0:00 / 5:13



YouTube



Lauding “Collapse of Global Warming Movement” Inhofe Tells UN Summit “You Are Being Ignored”

Posted on [July 21, 2013](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



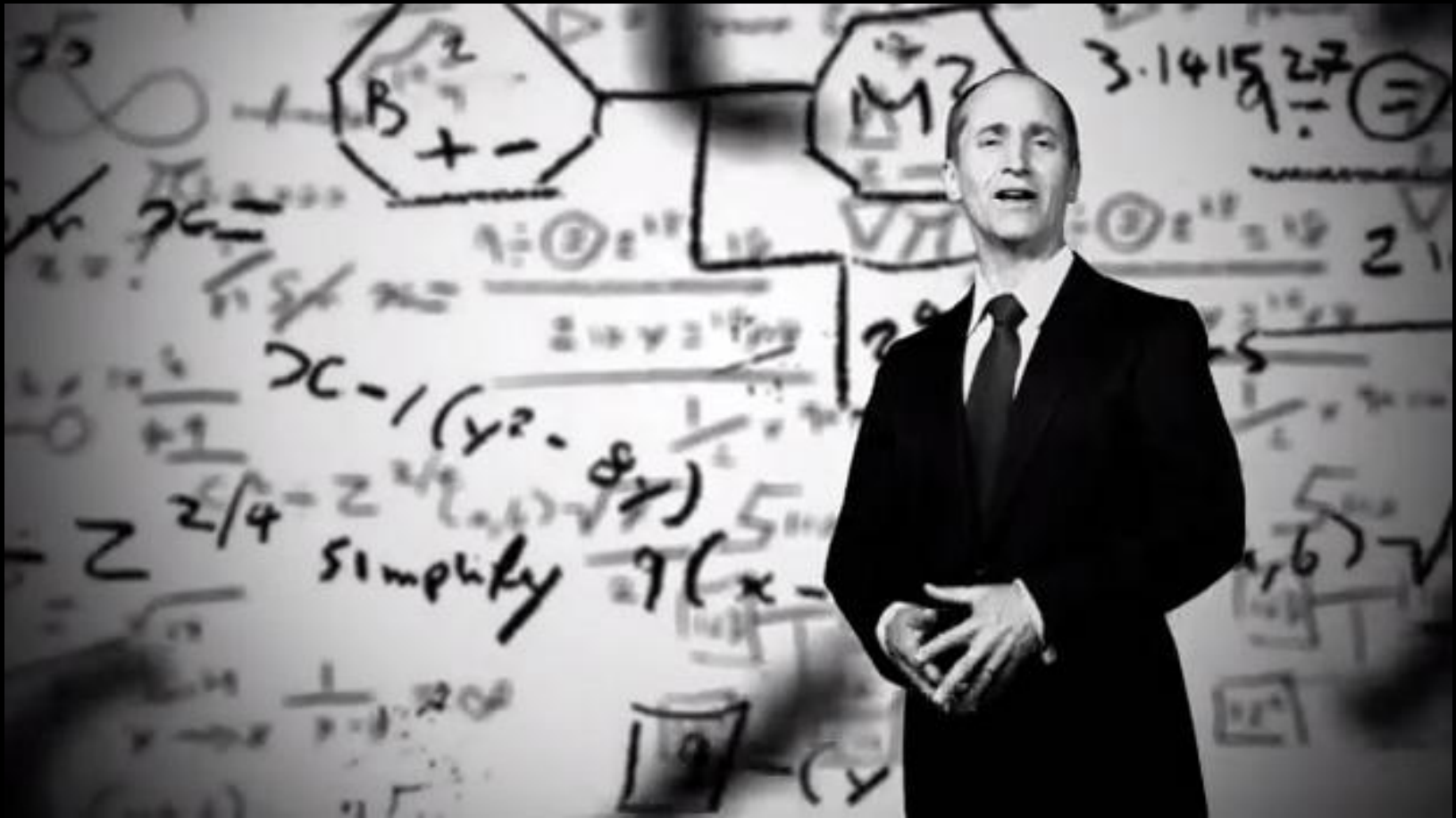
Then in Dubai, after Durban, they tried to silence the voice of the youth...

“Get It Done”: After Durban Speech, Student Anjali Appadurai Initially Banned by UN in Doha

Posted on [August 18, 2014](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)







The oil companies's *real* message...



Some think the problems are 30 years away
....What does that mean?

Sanders to Senators: Think of Your Grandchildren

Posted on [January 8, 2015](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



*“What were you guys thinking...?
Did you not hear...?”*

Lauding “Collapse of Global Warming Movement” Inhofe Tells UN Summit “You Are Being Ignored”

Posted on [July 21, 2013](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



Our leaders have set the machinery of state on
“auto-pilot” and it is heading for the rocks...

*We are all migrant
passengers on Earth.*

***The ship of state –
abandoned by its
crew -- is now on
“free market” auto-
pilot and headed for
the rocks.***

Ship Carrying 900 Migrants Abandoned At Sea

Posted on [January 3, 2015](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

The screenshot shows a Sky News article. At the top is the Sky News logo and a navigation bar with links: Home, UK, World, US, Business, Politics, Technology, Entertainment, Strange News, Weather, and More. The article title is "Ship Carrying 900 Migrants Abandoned At Sea". Below the title is a sub-headline: "The ship's engines had been locked and its steering set on a course which would have seen it smash into rocks in southern Italy." The main image is a video player showing a large ship with "GUARDIA COAST GUARDIA" on its side. The video player has a progress bar at 00:05 / 01:03. To the right of the video player is a "Top Stories" section with three small image thumbnails: a man in a suit, a helicopter, and a building.

Angry Kid

Posted on [June 2, 2014](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



Little wonder that some are angry...

“Those that make evolutionary change impossible make revolutionary change inevitable.”

President John F. Kennedy

Failing the Future:

Inter-Generational Betrayal and the Human Prospect

*The ship of state –
abandoned by its crew --
is now on “free market”
auto-pilot and headed for
the rocks.*



We all need now to devote ourselves to
transition studies...



We all need now to devote ourselves to
transition studies...



We all need now to devote ourselves to
transition studies...

-- a transition toward a
survivable future ... not simply a tragic
repeat of the unjust growth of the past.



An urgent call has gone forth from all faiths,
all countries, all cultural traditions and all the
world's sciences...



An urgent call has gone forth from all faiths,
all countries, all cultural traditions and all the
world's sciences...

And the message is this:



We did not create the world.

We cannot control it.

We must not destroy it.



There is no “Planet B.”



There is no “Planet B.”

We only have one Earth.



There is no “Planet B.”

We only have one Earth.

We only get one chance.



There is no “Planet B.”

We only have one Earth.

We only get one chance.



There is no “Planet B.”

We only have one Earth.

We only get one chance.





Keep Your Eye on the Ball



Keep Your Eye on the Ball



A Citizen-Scientist Alliance

We now need a new kind
of global alliance...



A Citizen-Scientist Alliance

We now need a new kind
of global alliance...



A Citizen-Scientist Alliance

Climate science for human survival



A Citizen-Scientist Alliance

Climate science for human survival



A Citizen-Scientist Alliance

Climate science for human survival

Because humankind deserves to know....

...while there is still time to act.



A Citizen-Scientist Alliance

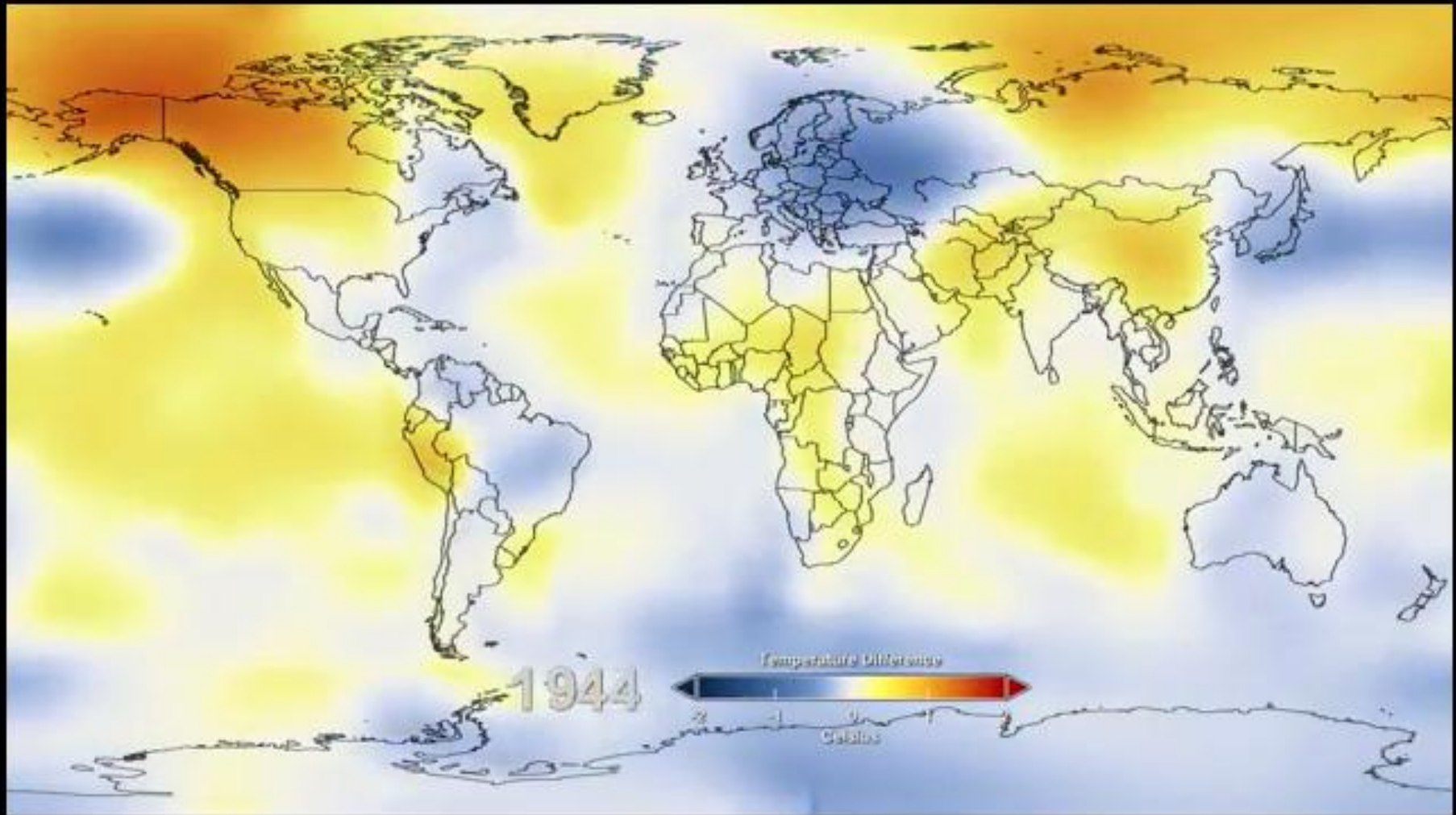
Climate science for human survival

Because humankind deserves to know....
...while there is still time to act.





Climate-Justice.TV



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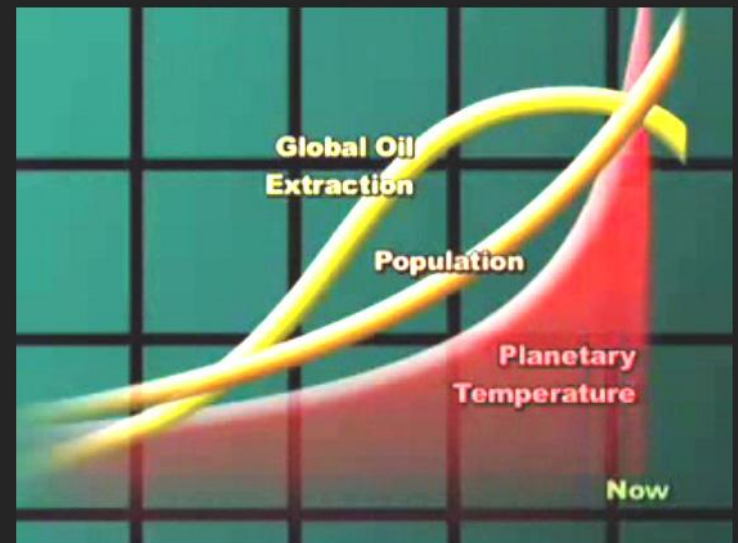


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