

# ECO-SOCIALISM

# VS. ECO-FASCISM

**Almost 50 percent of global emissions are produced by the richest 10 percent of the world's population; the wealthiest 20 percent are responsible for 70 percent. But the impacts of those emissions are hurting the poorest first and worst, forcing growing numbers of people to move, with many more on the way.** A 2018 World Bank study estimates that by 2050, more than 140 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America will be displaced because of climate stresses, an estimate many consider conservative. Most will stay in their own countries, crowding into already overstressed cities and slums; many will try for a better life elsewhere.

**In any moral universe, guided by basic human rights principles, these victims of a crisis of other people's making would be owed justice.**

That justice would and should take many forms. First and foremost, justice requires that the wealthiest 10-20 percent stop the underlying cause of this deepening crisis by lowering emissions as rapidly as technology allows (the premise of the Green New Deal). Justice also demands that we heed the call for a "Marshall Plan for the Earth" that Bolivia's climate negotiator called for a decade ago: to roll out resources in the global south so communities can fortify themselves against extreme weather, pull themselves out of poverty with clean tech, and protect their ways of life wherever possible.

When protection is not possible - when the land is simply too parched to grow crops and when the seas are rising too fast to hold them back - then justice demands that we clearly recognize that all people have the human right to move and seek safety. That means they are owed asylum and status on arrival. In truth, amid so much loss and suffering, they are owed much more than that: They are owed kindness, compensation, and a heartfelt apology.

**In other words, climate disruption demands a reckoning on the terrain most repellent to conservative minds: wealth redistribution, resource sharing, and reparations.** And a growing number of people on the hard right realize this all too well, which is why they are developing various twisted rationales for why none of this can take place.

**The first phase is to scream "socialist conspiracy" and flat out deny reality. We've been in that phase for quite some time now.** That was the tack taken by Anders Breivik, the sociopath who opened fire at the Norwegian summer camp in 2011. Breivik was convinced that in addition to immigration, one of the ways that white Western culture was being weakened was through calls for Europe and the Anglosphere to pay its "climate debt." In a section of his manifesto titled "Green Is the New Red - Stop EnviroCommunism!," in which he cites several prominent climate change deniers, he casts demands for climate financing as an attempt to "'punish' European countries (US included) for capitalism and success." Climate action, he asserts, "is the new Redistribution of Wealth."

But if straight-up denial seemed a viable strategy then, nine years later it is far more likely that many who currently claim to deny climate change will simply switch abruptly to the sinister worldview espoused by the Christchurch killer, or the El Paso shooter, a recognition that we are indeed facing a convulsive

future and that is all the more reason for wealthy, majority-white countries to fortress their borders, as well as their identities as white Christians, and wage war on any and all "invaders." The goal of this fortification around Europe and the Anglosphere is all too clear: Convince people to stay where they are, no matter how miserable it is, no matter how deadly.

**The climate science will no longer be denied; what will be denied is the idea that the nations that are the largest historical emitters of carbon owe anything to the black and brown people impacted by that pollution.** This will be denied based on the only rationale possible: that those non-white and non-Christian people are lesser than, are the other, are dangerous invaders. In much of Europe and the Anglosphere, this hardening is already well under way. *The European Union, Australia and the United States have all embraced immigration policies that are variations on "prevention through deterrence."* The brutal logic is to treat migrants with so much callousness and cruelty that desperate people will be deterred from seeking safety by crossing borders.

With this in mind, migrants are left to drown in the Mediterranean, or to die of dehydration in the rugged Arizona desert. And if they survive, they are put in conditions tantamount to torture: in the Libyan camps where European countries now send the migrants who try to reach their shores; in Australia's offshore island detention camps; in a cavernous Walmart turned child jail in Texas. In Italy, if migrants do make it to a port, they are now regularly prevented from disembarking, held captive in rescue boats under conditions a court has ruled to be tantamount to kidnapping.

The drivers of mass migration are complex: war, gang violence, sexual violence, deepening poverty. What is clear is that climate disruption is intensifying all these other crises, and it's only going to get worse as it gets hotter. But rather than helping, the wealthiest countries on the planet seem determined to deepen the crisis on every front. They are failing to provide meaningful new aid so that poorer nations can better protect themselves from weather extremes.

**Will we share what's left and try to look after one another? Or are we instead going to attempt to hoard what's left, look after "our own," and lock everyone else out? Let there be no mistake: This is the dawn of climate barbarism. And unless there is a radical change not only in politics but in the underlying values that govern our politics, this is how the wealthy world is going to "adapt" to more climate disruption: by fully unleashing the toxic ideologies that rank the relative value of human lives in order to justify the monstrous discarding of huge swaths of humanity. And what starts as brutality at the border will most certainly infect societies as a whole.**

These supremacist ideas are not new; nor have they ever gone away. For those of us in North America, they are deeply embedded in the legal basis for our nations' very existence. Their power has ebbed and flowed



throughout our histories, depending on what immoral behaviors demanded ideological justification. And just as these toxic ideas surged when they were required to rationalize slavery, land theft, and segregation, they are surging once more now that they are needed to justify climate recalcitrance and the barbarism at our borders.

**The rapidly escalating cruelty of our present moment cannot be overstated; nor can the long-term damage to the collective psyche should this go unchallenged.**

Beneath the theater of some governments denying climate change and others claiming to be doing something about it while they fortress their borders from its effects, there is one overarching question facing us. In the rough and rocky future that has already begun, what kind of people are we going to be? Will we share what's left and try to look after one another? Or are we instead going to attempt to hoard what's left, look after "our own," and lock everyone else out?

*In this time of rising seas and rising fascism, these are the stark choices before us.* There are options besides full-blown climate barbarism, but given how far down that road we are, there is no point pretending that they are easy. It's going to take a lot more than a carbon tax or cap-and-trade. *It's going to take an all-out war on pollution and poverty and racism and colonialism and despair all at the same time.*

Because our house is on fire, and this should come as no surprise. Built on false promises, discounted futures, and sacrificial people, it was rigged to blow from the start. It's too late to save all our stuff, but we can still save each other and a great many other species, too. Let's put out the flames and build something different in its place. Something a little less ornate, but with room for all those who need shelter and care.

**Naomi Klein**

adapted from  
"On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal!"  
[theintercept.com](http://theintercept.com)

## Eugene 'Ed' Denson

### Attorney at Law

Marijuana Defense,  
counseling and licensing.

- Medical
- Commercial
- Recreational
- Spiritual
- Personal

PO Box 158,  
Alderpoint, Ca 95511  
Phone: 707-923-4764  
email: [edenson@asis.com](mailto:edenson@asis.com)

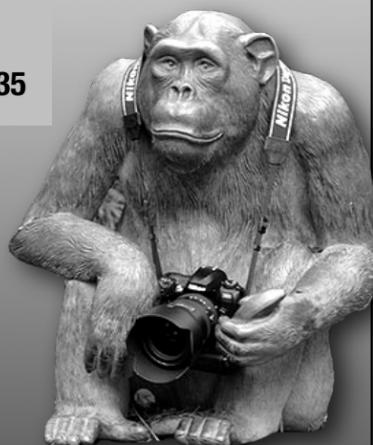


CSB 202415

Create you own MUIR REPORT with  
**The Muirwalker Himself!**  
on a tour of the wilds  
of Northwildwest California\*

(415) 264-6235

\*No Plants  
or Animals will  
be Harmed  
during the tour



## BARBECUE TO YOU



**"Have Barbecue - Will Travel!"**

Mobile Barbecue-Chef for Hire  
Homemade Sauce - Ethnic Specialties  
Non BBQ, Organic, Vegan Options Available

**Moses Danzer: 986-7299/845-4247**