

# Capitalist vampires threaten our home



this beautiful, unique ecosystem that we love--our home--into a giant toxic waste dump.

Only under capitalism, when private property is enshrined as a sacred right and short-term profits are the top priority (the \*only\* priority), could it be generally accepted that these bloodsuckers can go anywhere they want and take whatever they want, leaving behind poisoned water and poisoned land. They're killing us, and won't stop until the entire planet is a wasteland.

We know how bad fracking is: it causes earthquakes and poisons the ground water. In addition, methane leaks during the extraction process have made natural gas an even worse factor in global warming than conventional oil.(1)

Capitalists pillage the world in a constant, depraved hunt for profit. Century Oil (with others sure to follow) has now decided that drilling and fracking in south and central Florida could be lucrative. If allowed to proceed, they will turn

Individually we are weak and ineffective; together we can be strong. We must build a movement that embraces our political and ideological diversity, and our independent autonomy, while creating mechanisms for common and complementary action. The struggles to end all forms of domination, exploitation, oppression and ecocide are intertwined. If we can combine our energies, we will increase our chances for success.

**Let's unite and organize to destroy global capitalism, before it destroys us!**



## ONE STRUGGLE

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Footnotes:

(1) [http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/energy\\_and\\_environment.php](http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/energy_and_environment.php)

(2) Most of these children die from easily preventable and treatable causes such as birth complications, diarrhea, pneumonia, measles and malnutrition. State of the World's Mothers 2008: Closing the Survival Gap for Children Under 5, Save the Children.

## **Our Planet, Our People, Are Not Expendable Our Common Enemy Is Global Capitalism**

Capitalism is the economic system that dominates the planet. It runs on the exploitation of human labor to turn the living world into dead commodities, for the profit of a few. The small, powerful minority who own the means of production enforce their dominance through their control over political and cultural institutions, and their monopoly on force. They create a situation of dependency--forcing us to work for them to obtain basic needs like food and shelter. They annihilate those who resist or refuse to assimilate.

This system values profit over life itself. It has been built on land theft and destruction, genocide, slavery, deforestation and imperialist wars. It commits numberless atrocities as a matter of routine daily functioning. It kills nearly 10 million children worldwide under age 5 each year, because it's not profitable to save them.(2) It kills 100,000 people annually in the US by denying decent health care. More than 54% of the US discretionary budget is spent on imperialist aggression. Recent casualties include more than a million civilians in Iraq, and more than 46,000 American soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq. The economic and psychological violence wrought upon the world's inhabitants is so extensive and comprehensive that it's effectively all-encompassing.

The system is killing the entire planet, the basis for all life. It's converted 98% of old growth forests into lumber. 80% of rivers worldwide no longer support life. 94% of the large fish in the oceans are gone. Phytoplankton, the tiny plants that produce half of the oxygen we breathe, have declined by 40% since 1950. 200 species per day become extinct.

Industries produce 400 million tons of hazardous waste every year. The water in 89% of US cities tested has been found to contain the carcinogen hexavalent chromium. To feed capitalism's insatiable need for economic expansion, dangerous methods of energy extraction have become commonplace: deep sea drilling, oil extraction from tar sands, mountaintop removal, fracking.

The resultant disasters have also become commonplace: oil spills, exploding trains, flaming tap water, radioactive rain, cancer outbreaks, shrimp without eyes, rivers of death. No matter the consequences, no matter what the majority of people may want, those in power insist on (and enforce) their non-negotiable right to poison the land, water and air in pursuit of maximum profit.

The threat to our common existence on Earth is accelerating and intensifying. This is a situation of extreme urgency.

Clearly, a global economic system based on perpetual expansion is unsustainable. A system characterized by oppression and coercion is pure misery for the majority. The obvious conclusion is that we need to get rid of it, and change to a way of life that doesn't involve exploitation and ecocide. But first we must face one hard fact: this system won't stop unless it's stopped. It can not be escaped, reformed, redeemed, cajoled, abandoned, or rejected. We can't make it stop by refraining from buying things, focusing on our personal lifestyles, or voting for a lesser evil. The system must be fought, defeated and dismantled.

The global economy is currently falling deeper into a convergence of deep crises. This presents us with a rare opportunity to build resistance. More than an opportunity, this is also a necessity, and our responsibility. This situation is crying out for action.

Yet inside the U.S., the most aggressive and destructive imperialist nation to ever exist, our movement is weak and fragmented, unable to adequately respond. Our habitual modes of opposition (like protests and demonstrations) no longer work in the ways they once did, and we are unsure how to best proceed. Currently no organizational formation exists that is capable of engaging this situation on the scale that is required. Yet there are countless individuals and small groups who, though we may disagree on much, share the desire for a sustainable, classless alternative to this omnicidal system.

If we are to survive, we must develop ways to work together to challenge global capitalism and its crimes, to weaken their system and ultimately bring it down, putting an end to their rapacious rule of mass destruction.