

First Fruits of the Rebellion for Life



Noam Chomsky, world renowned linguist and outstanding contemporary socio-political analyst, has recently declared:

«Every single newspaper should have a glaring headline every day saying we are heading towards total catastrophe. Within a couple of generations, organised human society may not exist. That has to be drilled into people’s heads constantly. After all, there has been nothing like this in the whole of human history. The current generation has to make a decision as to whether organised human society will survive another couple of generations, and it has to be done quickly, there’s not a lot of time. So, there’s no time for dillydallying and beating around the bush (.....) And pulling out of the Paris negotiations should be regarded as one of the worst crimes in history.»

“It is impossible to exaggerate the magnitude of the challenge we face: to determine, within the next few years, whether organised human society can survive in anything like its present form. Global warming is already a major factor in species extinction, at a rate not seen for 65 million years. We cannot delay a radical change of course in order to avert a major catastrophe. Extinction Rebellion activists are leading the way in confronting this immense challenge, with courage and integrity; a historically significant achievement

that must be urgently expanded and supported”

Along with Vandana Shiva and Naomi Klein, Chomsky is one of the signatories of the document "Climate Emergency: An Open Letter to Concerned Global Citizens," in which they express their support for Extinction Rebellion and declare that "Political leaders around the world are failing to address the environmental crisis. If global corporate capitalism continues to drive the international economy, global catastrophe is inevitable."

At the end of April 2019, here in the Spanish state, we witnessed a clear example of this "failure" of "political leaders". We saw how political parties raised a number of issues in their electoral campaigns, yet, nonetheless, all of them completely ignored the crucial question of our times, namely: how do we get out of this spiral of ecological destruction and degradation, thus averting greater, irreversible damage? We are speaking of a crisis already becoming a catastrophe in many parts of the world. If we do not make radical and overarching changes in the coming years, current scientific forecasts suggest that this catastrophe will spread throughout the world, worsening, until the very survival of the human species will be open to question.

Chomsky does not exaggerate. Nor do Vandana Shiva, Naomi Klein, Greta Thunberg, David Attenborough, George Monbiot and thousands of Extinction Rebellion activists from around the world. The people spreading these messages are not alarmists or catastrophists, they are simply realistic and prudent. We do not seek to promote fear. On the contrary, we seek to find the courage to face reality, however difficult and painful that may be, and to take responsibility to act accordingly. One only has to take a brief look at the scientific consensus of recent decades, especially of recent years, to understand that we are moving from crisis to catastrophe. Indeed, if we do nothing to prevent it, we could pass from catastrophe to cataclysm over the coming decades.

Sadly, our "political leaders", rather than talking seriously about climate issues and informing their citizens about the reality of the situation, prefer to distract us with other issues that frequently border on triviality, superficiality, demagoguery and falsehood. In a context of collective risk, where we urgently need a combined, society-wide effort, the main political parties encourage us to fragment and polarise ourselves, pushing us to divide into opposing sides, hoping that our side will 'win' on some specific issue. Such polarising conceals how we all lose when it comes to more general issues that affect us all. When what is needed is a global, truthful and long-term vision, today's political parties are diffusing a fragmented and largely illusory vision that only takes the short term into account. Never have we more urgently needed a wide ranging and profound debate that seeks to find plausible solutions oriented to the common good.

Thus, brilliant thinker and fine human being, Simone Weil, may not have been misguided when she reflected that "It is doubtful that this leprosy that is killing us can be remedied without first suppressing political parties."

In the United Kingdom, fortunately, the situation has begun to turn around. There, "Political leaders" can no longer ignore the fact that "there is an elephant in the room", the elephant of climate chaos and ecological catastrophe. Extinction Rebellion has succeeded in persuading politicians in Great Britain to confront the issue with some modicum of seriousness and responsibility. Thanks to massive civil disobedience, growing

climate chaos is firmly and clearly on the table of public debate. Subsequently the Scottish, Welsh and English Parliaments have recently declared a state of "Climate Emergency". Now, of course, it is essential that this declaration does not become "empty words", as often happens in parliamentary frameworks. Instead, it must lead to measures aimed at plausible transformations, measures that really reflect the proclaimed state of emergency. Not only that, but it is necessary, of course, for other countries to take similar steps.

For the time being, however, Extinction Rebellion has achieved its first triumph: the first movement demand, (that governments recognise the seriousness of the ecological crisis and publicly declare a state of Climate Emergency), is being met in the country where the movement was born. Not only that, but after weeks of intense mobilisation, in which there have been more than 1500 people arrested for blocking streets in the United Kingdom, the movement is successfully bearing another fruit, possibly more important: in Great Britain, the number of activists involved has doubled or tripled in many locations. Meanwhile, dozens of new Extinction Rebellion groups have sprung up around the world and people who know about and sympathise with the movement have multiplied.

Hopefully this is just the beginning. The beginning of a massive global movement that effectively addresses the most important and urgent political question of our time, namely: how can we transform civilisation, culture and consciousness in order to stop destroying, degrading and deteriorating Life on planet Earth and, in this way, ensure survival of the human species and enhance its progress? We hope that, in this sense, more and more people will adopt a courageous, responsible and ethical attitude, like that of the activist and grandmother Gerri Jacobs, who, after being detained on April 20th when she was blocking major London streets, declared: "I am here to be able to look my grandchildren in the eyes and tell them that I did what I could."

Blai Dalmau Solé
Alt Empordà, May 6th, 2019

Cited, Mentioned or Related Documents:

[«In a couple of generations, organized human society may not survive»](#)

(National Observer a Noam Chomsky, 2019)

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(David Attenborough, 2019)

[Only rebellion will prevent an ecological apocalypse](#)

(George Monbiot, 2019)

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[Votar hoy tampoco nos va a salvar](#)

(Kathy, de Palo en Palo, 2019)

[Nota sobre la supresión general de los partidos políticos](#)

[Opúscle] (Simone Weil, XX)

[You did not act in time': Greta Thunberg's full speech to MPs](#)

(Greta Thunberg, 2019)

[The UK Just Became the First Country in the World to Declare a 'Climate Emergency'](#)

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[El Parlament britànic, primer del món a aprovar una declaració d'"emergència climàtica"](#)

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