

Student Climate Strikes: Beyond Protests March 19, 2019

The recent student climate strikes showed hundreds of thousands of students, all around the world, expressing their desire for a healthy future and their anger at the adult world. I joined a few thousand students who gathered in Auckland. They have every reason to be angry. The next step for them is to use that anger for *appropriate action*. What is appropriate? Well, copying adults isn't. Adults have been protesting and waving their signs for several decades now, and everything has gotten much, much worse. Protesting is begging, so it's time to move on from that. Among the many protests I've been a part of, years ago, I joined 300,000 people in Washington, D.C., to protest the U.S. Government's intention to invade Iraq. Millions of people around the world took to the streets. We were easily ignored. Youth should save their energy for effective tactics.

To be precise, protesting is begging *the government*, and by now it should be clear who governments work for and who they've always worked for. The total transformation that needs to be made *now*, not in thirty years – including shutting down the global economy and scrapping capitalism – is beyond the ability of politicians. We wouldn't use a hammer to drive in a screw, would we? MPs and Senators are tools of the elite, not of the people. But the good news is that we can manage ourselves just fine without them, actually, and did so for most of human history.

We were also better off without schools – another tool of the elite, designed to turn us all into obedient slaves for the industrial world. In fact, schools teach the same way of thinking that caused climate change to begin with! So students can stop wasting their time in classrooms. Real learning is, and always has been, *outside*. (Where did our brains evolve? *Outside*.)

The fact is, we need to question everything that industrial civilisation offers us, including social media, smartphones, solar panels, wind turbines, electric cars, recycling, vegan/vegetarianism, livable cities, green jobs, Green New Deals, capitalism, civilisation, the idea of *human superiority* and *patriarchy* itself. These all lead to the same dead end. So do semi-automatic assault rifles and the racism promoted by the capitalist and nationalist elite as part of their aim to always divide and distract us (sports and screens do the same). You can be sure the real decision-makers are pleased at the Christchurch mass shooting, since they would much rather us arguing over racism, guns and mass shootings than the system-threatening potential of climate change. And of course, nothing changes and nothing gets better.

Don't believe their “solutions.” We don't need so-called “renewable energy” – just so we can continue to power this destructive culture and feel better about it? And just who will work in the mines and factories to produce the solar panels so we can power our laptops? It takes courage and persistence to question all this, to face reality, and our youth need guidance from those able to question, which is why the Deep Green Bush-School was created.

The key to solving the climate crisis (along with racism, mass shootings and all other problems) requires asking two questions: 1. How did humans evolve to live? And: 2. What has been the most sustainable way of living humans have ever known? These are easy to answer. It's in our bones and in our deep memory. From there, young people will need the courage to embrace a *diversity of tactics* and develop a strategy to demonstrate their real power. History has many useful examples. It's time to stop waiting for adults, who are not just failures, but obstacles. Students of the world, unite!

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