Reading Questions from Naomi Klein, This Changes Everything (Chapter 2)

A quote from Albert Einstein: “Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”

Keep this quote and the one at the beginning of the chapter from Wayne Lewis in mind.

What was the basis for the green energy challenges under international trade agreements, as listed in the first two pages of the chapter?

Context: “By 2012, Ontario was the largest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ producer in Canada…by 2014, more than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ jobs had been created…”

Why was Silfab originally welcomed into Ontario, and then why later did the Ontario provincial government nix the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-content rules?

Trade Trumps Climate

Defenders of trade deals where “national \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” is involved…argue that protections…distort the free \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and should be eliminated.”

What is the biggest problem with these arguments, according to Klein? What is the $775 billion to $1 trillion figure all about?

What else do fossil fuel companies (coal, oil, and natural gas) pay nothing for?

Has the WTO attempted to correct these distortions?

Aaron Cosbey: “…local \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the key to political success of renewable energy programs.”

“Any attempt by a government to regulate the sale of extraction of particularly dirty kinds of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is also vulnerable to similar trade challenges.” As an example: the new fuel quality standards that the EU was considering against high carbon sources such as the Alberta \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What was the basis of the oil company using NAFTA provisions against Quebec?

Summarize the quote about this sort of thing from Nobel Prize winner Stiglitz:

What are the three pillarss of the ideological wall that has blocked a serious response to climate change for decades?

A Wall Comes Down, Emissions Go Up

NASA’s James Hansen made his now-often quoted about human causation in the year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the IPCC, and what did it do in the same year?

Who was Time magazines “man of the year” in 1988?

What did the journalist Thomas Sanction say was at the roots of the crisis? (brief summary ok)

A note from your instructor (☺): there are diverse interpretations of the concept of dominion within global Christianity, some of which diverge from those of the journalist Sanction. The current Pope and a diverse group of Christian progressives in the US (such as the Sojourners) and elsewhere are not climate change deniers but rather believe the scientific consensus.

Voices from developing countries such as India’s president argue that the global environmental crisis was the result of developed countries’ …(give 17 word quote):

But while countries were having significant discussions about what should be done about climate change and global environmental problems, what happened in 1989, what was the meaning of “The End of History,” and what was left standing of ideas such as Keynesianism, deep ecology, socialism, etc?

As an example of outcomes related to the emergent consumerism, Klein summarizes the growth in US household credit card debt, which grew \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between 1980 and 2010.

Simultaneously, that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle went where?

Trade and Climate: Two Solitudes

Each seemed to actively pretend that the other did not exist, ignoring the most glaring questions, including: (list two of the three given here, including Klein’s most critical one)

“These questions were not debated by government negotiators…”the commitments made in the climate negotiations all effectively functioned on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ system.”

Contrast this to what happened with the trade agreements.

“In fact, the hierarchy was so clear that the climate negotiators formally declared their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the trading system from the start.”

What is the gist of the quote from the 2000 paper by Shrybman on the subject of the global export of industrial agriculture?

A really key point: this isn’t so much about food miles (which can be important), but rather what three things were granted to companies such as Monsanto and Cargill as their “regulatory wish list:”

…and all of this has helped to “entrench and expand the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-intensive, higher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ model of industrial agriculture around the world.”

“This in turn is a major explanation for why the global food system now accounts for between \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_ percent of world greenhouse gas emissions.”

Summarize what can be learned about the US negotiator strategy proposed edit to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade document draft. This material is in the paragraph that starts with the words “The habit of willfully…” Also keep in mind that these negotiations mentioned here were conducted in the year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was president.

The 2011 Proceeding of the National Academies of Sciences study of the emissions from industrialized countries that signed the Koyoto Protocol climate change agreement reached a conclusion that the rise in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from goods produced in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but consumed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ times greater than the emissions savings of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ countries.

Instructor restatement of this topic: officially carbon emissions fell in some wealthy countries as their production that moved offshore and they later consumed those products anyway. They got to take credit for these emissions drops even as the driver of these emissions (their consumption) continued unabated, and total trade system emissions rose dramatically.

How fitting the title of the next section:

Cheap Labor, Dirty Energy: a Package Deal

Between 2000 and 2008, the emissions growth rate reached \_\_\_\_\_ percent a year… and then after the financial crisis rose again \_\_\_percent in 2010.

By 2007, China was responsible for \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the annual increase in global emissions, while…according to one study, between 2002 and 2008, \_\_\_\_ percent of China’s total emissions was related to …(finish sentence).

“One of the reasons why we’re in this climate crisis is because of this model of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

The ~3 reasons that “all roads led to China” in the search for the cheapest and most exploitable labor force: (in the paragraph beginning with “That’s because”)

Many people in the wealthy, industrialized countries have argued why bother with limiting emissions at home when emissions are rising so fast in India, China, Brazil etc… What is the counter argument, then, according to Klein?

Klein presents a list of five victim-types in this large transition. Summarize.

A Movement Digs its Own Grave

The title of this section is illustrated by the similar stories of President Clinton and Canadian PM Chretien. Summarize.

Klein to some degree blames some of the environmental groups for Clinton’s moving forward with a NAFTA. Summarize her argument.

Kevin Anderson and Bows-Lark have argued that “if the governments of developed countries want a fifty-fifty chance of hitting the agreed-upon international target of keeping warming below 2 degrees Celsius, and if reductions are to respect any kind of equity principle between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, then wealthy countries need to start cutting their greenhouse gas emissions by something like \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ percent per year, and they need to start right now.”

 (*students, keep in mind that this book came out in 2014*)

“…we cannot achieve (*such*) annual cuts with the array of modest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ solutions usually advocated by Big Green.”

As Nicholas Stern wrote in 2006, “cuts above\_\_\_ percent a year “have historically been associated only with economic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

“…so what Anderson and Bows-Larkin are really saying is that three is still time to avoid catastrophic warming, but not within the rules of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as they are currently constructed.”

Depressing?

“Which is surely the best argument there has ever been for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

…In other words, changing the earth’s climate in ways that will be chaotic and disastrous is easier to accept that the prospect of changing the fundamental, (add in final 7 words of sentence)…

How does Klein feel about the proposition that the “world…can continue to function pretty much as it does now, but in which our power will come from renewable energy and all of our various gadgets and vehicles will become so much more energy-efficient that we can consume away without worrying about the impact?”

So what to do in the meantime? (and what are the challenges to that?) There is a lot to think about here in what Klein has written – maybe too much to write down all, but perhaps highlighting it would be a good idea.

“…these policies need to be fair, so that the people struggling to cover the basics are not being asked to make \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to offset the excess consumption of the rich.”

“Climate change deniers like to claim that environmentalists want to return us to the Stone Age.” “The truth is that …we would need to return to a lifestyle similar to the one we had in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

…“It also means lifestyle changes which will have most impact on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…We’ve done this in the past.”

The next page or so discusses what this would look like. Be familiar with the basics, especially as they relate to ***infrastructure,*** ***employment*** and ***redistribution***.

The last two sentences of this section that come just before the following heading pretty much sum up why many think these necessary changes to prevent even worse climate change are non-starters. I must confess that I am not optimistic that these kinds of changes will come soon enough, if ever. How about you? (hint- I may ask you for your opinion on this soon) If it were to happen down the road, I doubt that my generation (the baby boomers) will be the ones to push it.

Growing the Caring Economy, Shrinking the Careless One

List the benefits that Klein thinks could come from “Growing the Caring Economy, Shrinking the Careless One.”