Bill McKibben, “A World at War” (August 15, 2016) *We’re under attack from climate change—and our only hope is to mobilize like we did in WWII* [https://newrepublic.com/article/135684/declare-war-climate-change-mobilize-wwii](https://newrepublic.com/article/135684/declare-war-climate-change-mobilize-wwii)

[http://www.theclimatemobilization.org/introducing_the_climate_mobilization_victory_plan](http://www.theclimatemobilization.org/introducing_the_climate_mobilization_victory_plan)

The Climate Mobilization’s “Victory Plan” aims to detail how a fully mobilized United States government could drive our economy to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, restore a safe climate, end the sixth mass extinction, reverse ecological overshoot — and revitalize America.

“What would ‘winning’ the Climate Wars look like?” (August 22, 2016)  
If our climate challenge is a world war, it’s one without an ending—or one where the ending won’t be clear for a century or two.  

David Roberts, “Is it useful to think of climate change as a ‘world war’?” (August 22 2016)  
*Bill McKibben has a bracing new piece in the New Republic called “A World at War” His thesis is simple: Climate change is tantamount to a global war, being waged on us by physics.*  

Elliot Sperber, “Clean, Green, Class War: Bill McKibben’s Shortsighted ‘War on Climate Change’” (August 22, 2016)  
*While the severity of the catastrophes attending climate change are difficult to overstate, and are no doubt already bombarding us, “the war on climate change” that Bill McKibben proposes does not, however, amount to much more than a proposal to reform (and continue) an other, far less openly discussed, war – i.e., class war.*  

Michael Gasser, “The enemy is not the climate; it’s capitalism” (August 22, 2016)  
*The problem is that what they are arguing for is not nearly drastic enough. This is because their “war” is against nature, and as such it ultimately relies on technological fixes, rather than challenges to the political and economic system.*  

No ecological/environmental crisis exists that is not a manifestation of Our Way of Life.


It’s important to understand what this means. WWII-scale climate mobilization is not just “a big effort.” It is not a major project or a key policy initiative like the Apollo Program or even the New Deal. It is a comprehensive, economy-wide approach that, if done correctly, represents the only realistic way we can overcome the climate emergency.

Stan Cox, “If There’s a World War II-Style Climate Mobilization, It has to Go All the Way—and Then Some” (September 22, 2016). http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/09/22/if-theres-a-world-war-ii-style-climate-mobilization-it-has-to-go-all-the-way-and-then-some/

Our national acclimatization to ecological reality can succeed only with sweeping grassroots support and participation. It’s the job of the American people to launch that mobilization—not next year or in the next decade but right now.


We are under no illusion that Hillary Clinton has any intention of initiating a WWII-scale climate mobilization powerful enough to save us…. If parallel, extraordinarily potent movements of the 99% and the 1% (we are working every day to create both) arise demanding an immediate WWII-scale mobilization to save civilization, we believe that Hillary Clinton will have little choice but to answer the call. It will become her only option.


Both McKibben and TCM calls upon the state to intervene in the economy in order to motivate or compel the economic actors (particularly companies) to do what is needed to save the planet. McKibben’s eco-Keynesian action plan does not need to question capitalism. But I wonder how TCM’s plan, which is in effect tantamount to enforcing a world-wide recession, can be compatible with capitalism with its growth compulsion. The plan even envisages rationing of all products and services that emit greenhouse gases in order to ensure more
equity. That is not far from planning. Why doesn’t the group call its plan one for eco-socialism in America? Of course, I know it is very difficult to say this in America.

Other materials

There is an extensive discussion of the Climate Mobilization Victory Plan on their website at https://forum.climatemobilization.org/category/5/victory-plan-discussion