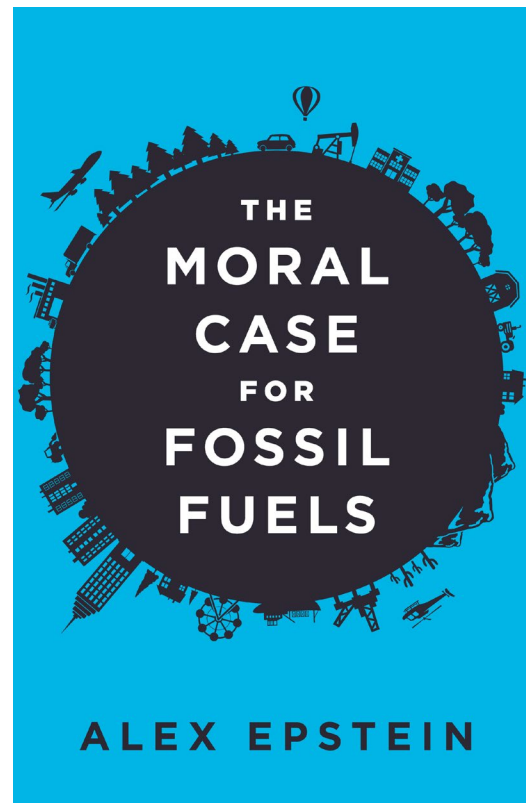


Fossil Fuels and Our Improving Environment

Alex Epstein



Email "IOGCC" to alex@alexepstein.com for my slides deck and other free, shareable resources

The most useless subject



An anti-human environmental philosophy
is blinding us to the fact that our
environment is improving and that fossil
fuel energy is an essential cause

Conventional narrative about fossil fuels and environment

Our environment is naturally safe and healthy, fossil fuels' impacts make it unnaturally dangerous and unhealthy

Assumptions

“Delicate nurturer” assumption

**The unimpacted planet exists
in a delicate “balance” that is:**

- 1. Sufficient**
- 2. Safe**
- 3. Stable**

Human beings are parasite-
polluters.

Therefore significant human
impact destroys the “delicate
balance” and us with it.

"Wild potential" assumption

The planet has the potential to be human-friendly, but in its wild, unimpacted state it is

- 1. Deficient**
- 2. Dangerous**
- 3. Dynamic**

Human beings are producer-improvers.

Therefore significant, productive human impact is necessary to make the planet human-friendly.

Three ideas about fossil fuels and our environment

1

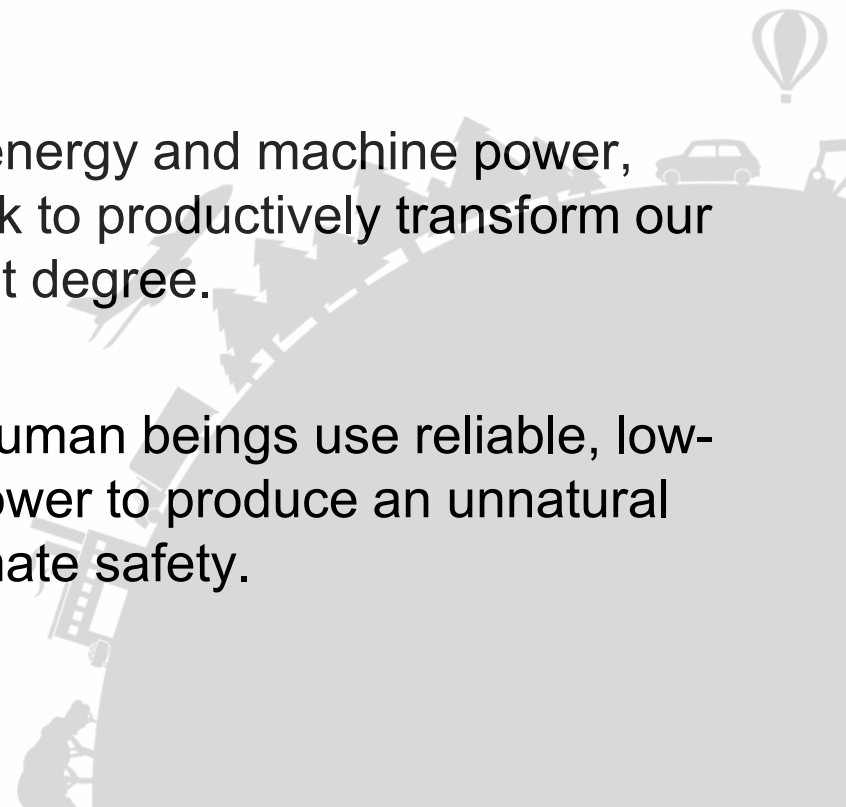
Our environment is naturally unsafe and unhealthy, requiring massive productive transformation (impact) to survive, let alone flourish.

2

Without reliable, low-cost energy and machine power, human beings are too weak to productively transform our environment to a significant degree.

3

In the empowered world human beings use reliable, low-cost fossil fuel machine power to produce an unnatural level of sanitation and climate safety.





1: Our environment is naturally unsafe and unhealthy, requiring massive productive transformation (impact) to survive, let alone flourish.

NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM/MAGAZINE | SEPTEMBER 2009

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Before New York

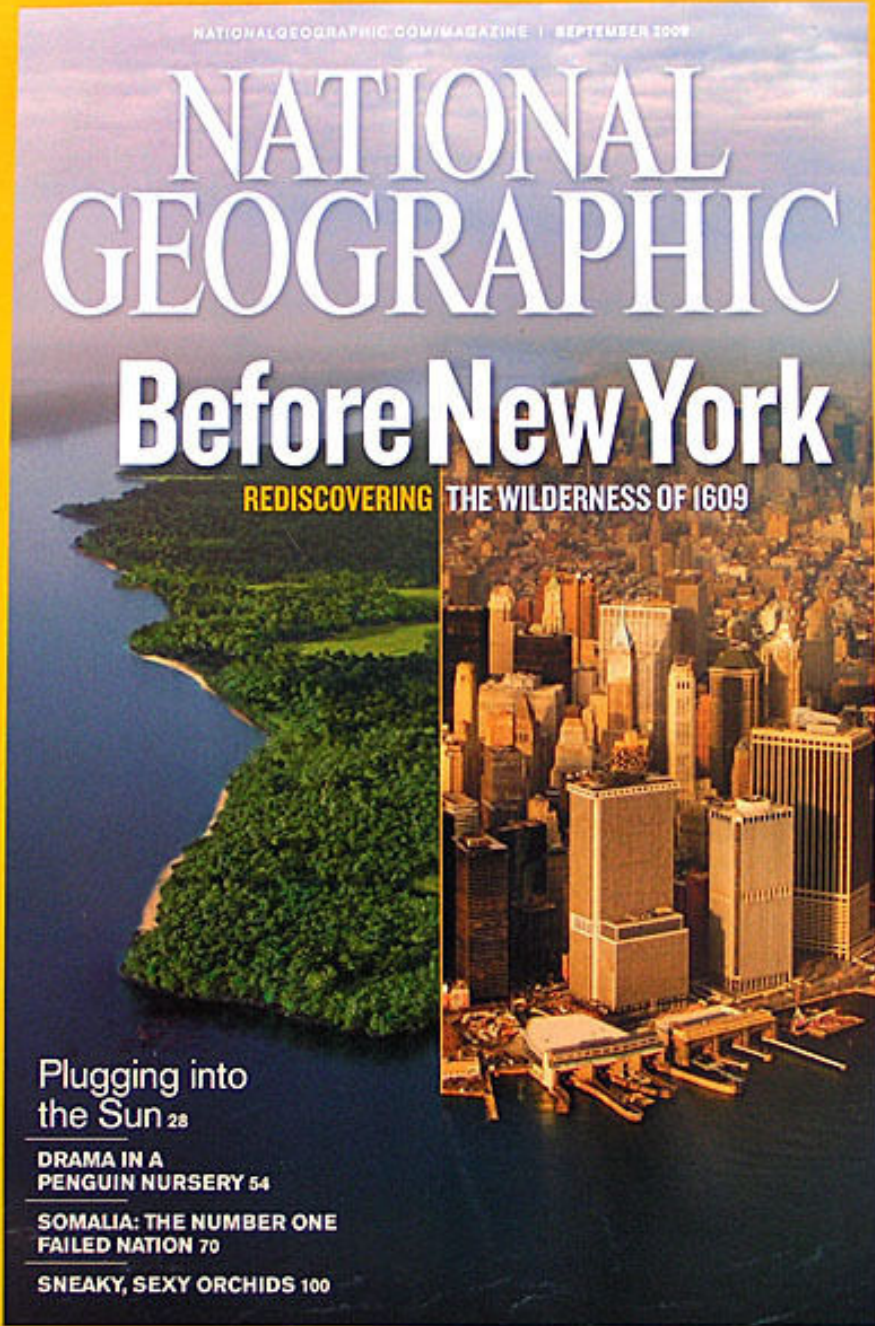
REDISCOVERING THE WILDERNESS OF 1609

Plugging into
the Sun 28

DRAMA IN A
PENGUIN NURSERY 54

SOMALIA: THE NUMBER ONE
FAILED NATION 70

SNEAKY, SEXY ORCHIDS 100



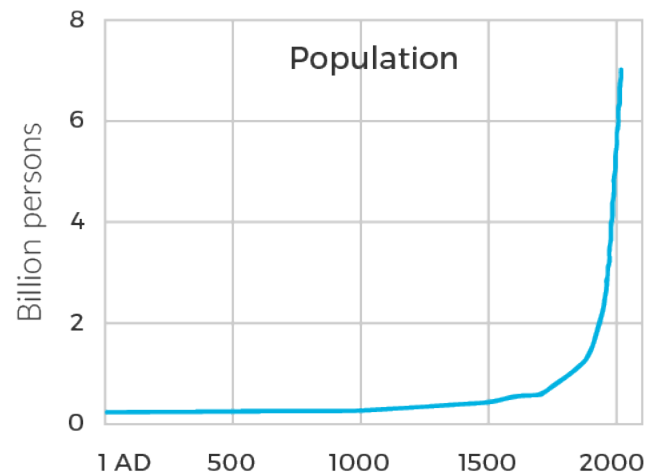
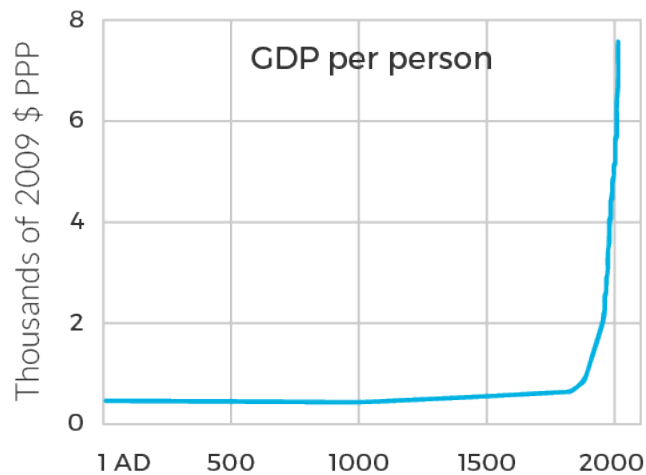
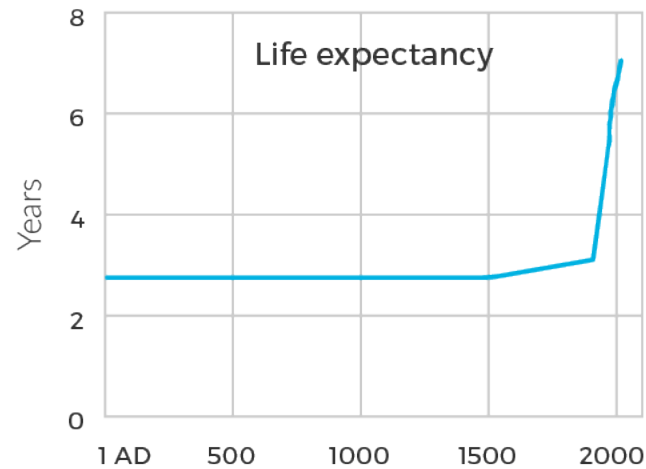
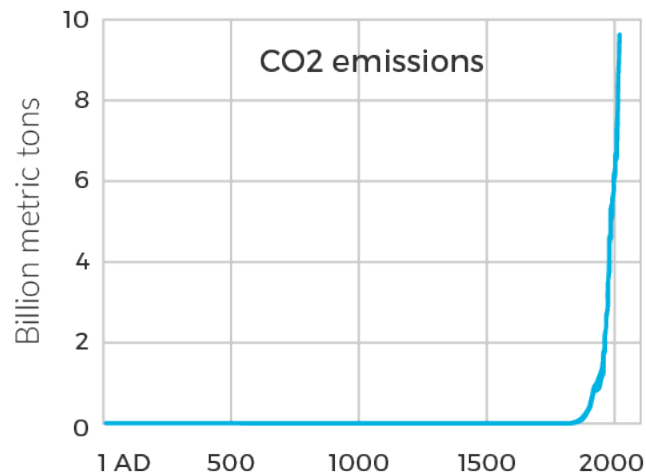
**WITHOUT FOSSIL
FUELS**

WITH FOSSIL FUELS



2: Without reliable, low-cost energy and machine power, human beings are too weak to productively transform our environment to a significant degree.

Fact: By the standards of the empowered world the Earth has been a terrible environment for most of its history until very recently.





3: In the empowered world human beings use reliable, low-cost fossil fuel machine power to produce an unnatural level of sanitation and climate safety.

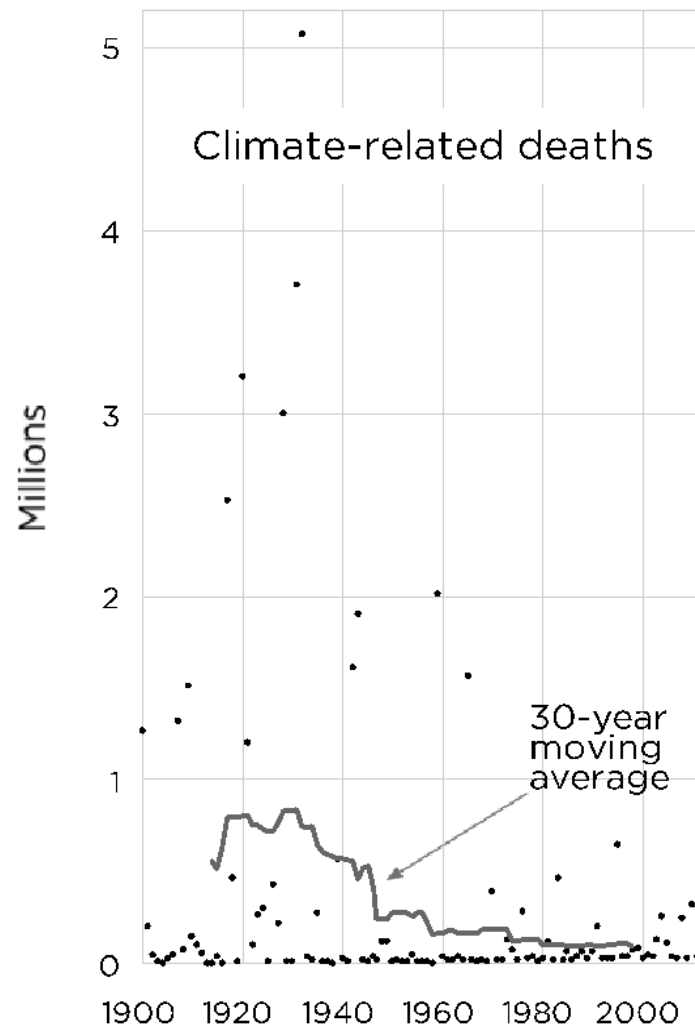
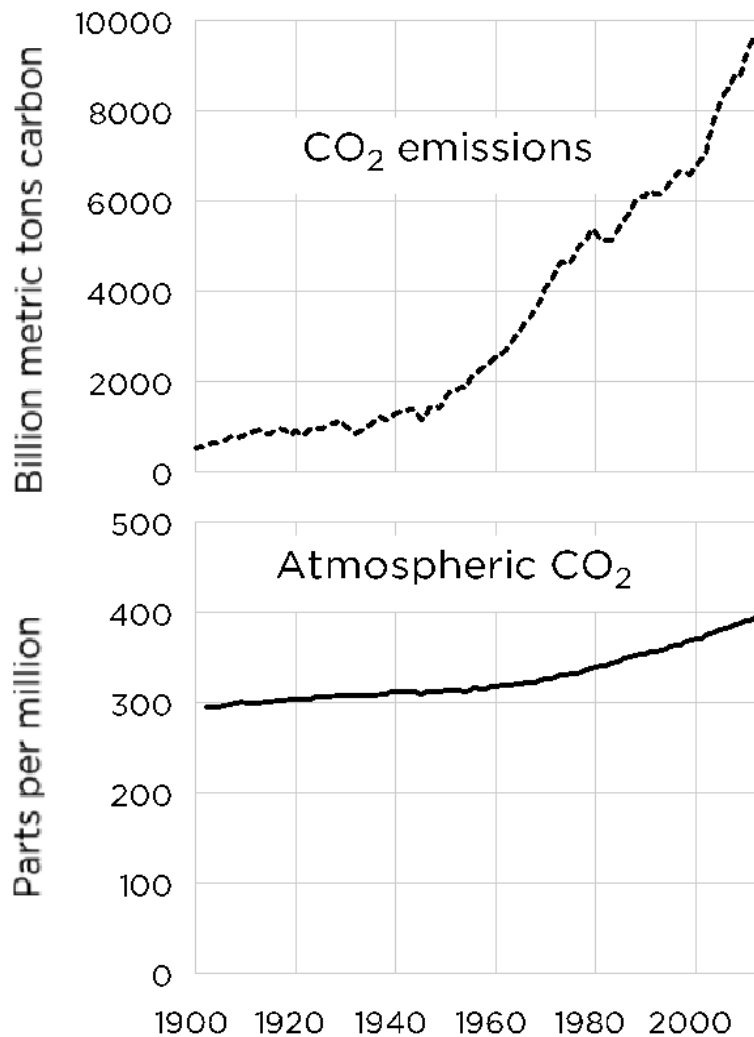
Energy is machine food. The more of it we use, the more we can use machines to produce the values we need to survive and flourish.



Fact: Dramatically increasing energy use correlates directly with dramatic improvements in the **health** and **safety** of our environment



Reliable, low-cost energy from fossil fuels empowers us to make our climate safer



The climate mastery benefits of low-cost, reliable energy have far outweighed any negative side effects



How many in 2018?

6,646



Method

When evaluating any issue we must look at the full context—carefully weighing the benefits and side effects of every option



Goal

Weigh benefits and side effects of continuing fossil fuel use on human flourishing

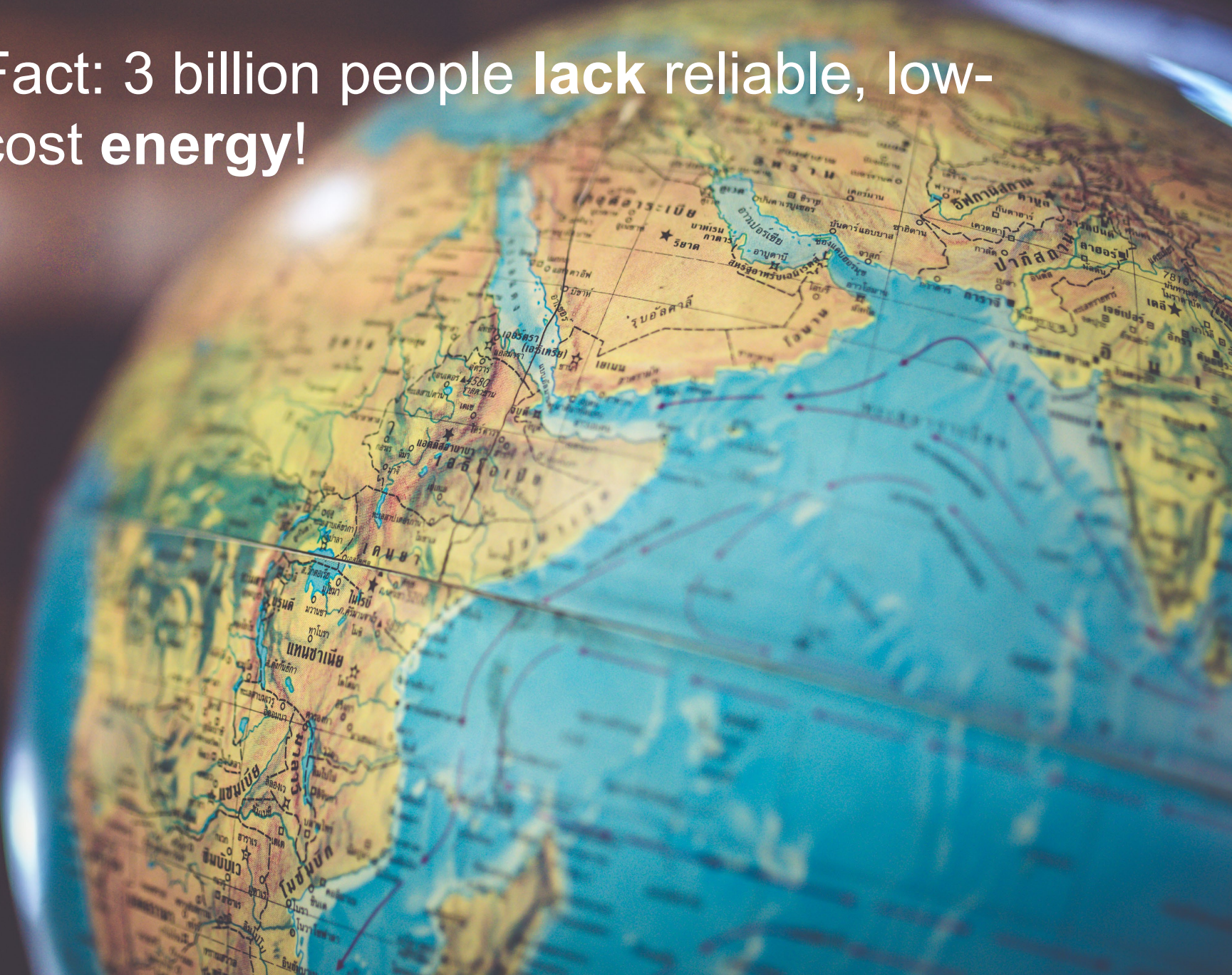
Includes a safe and healthy environment, short-term and long-term





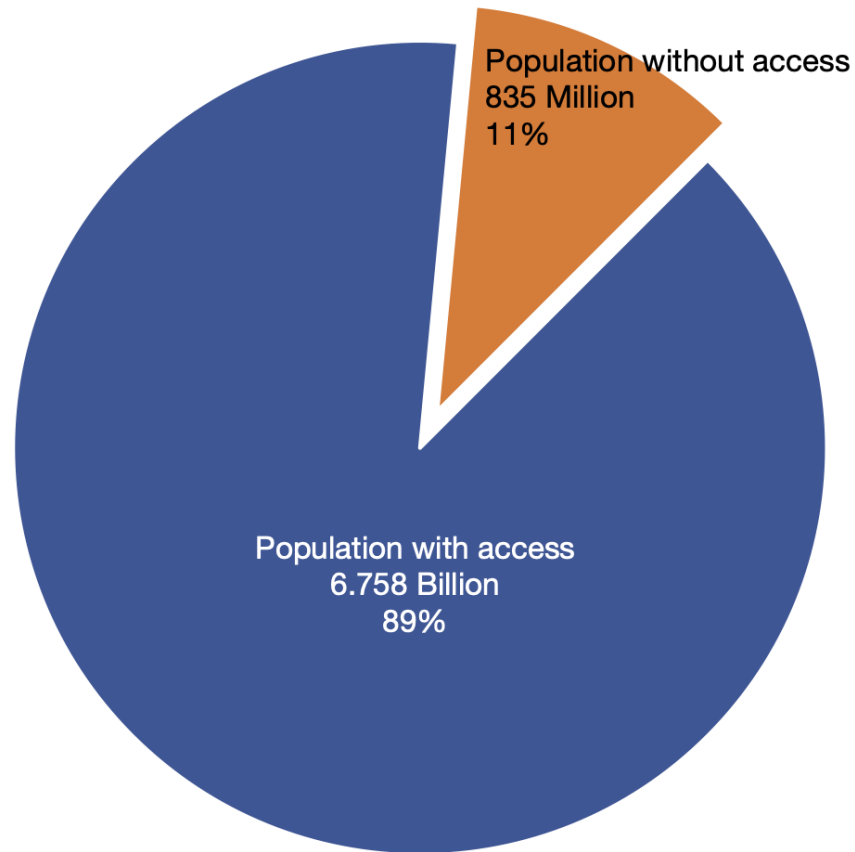
For decades to come fossil fuels will remain by far the lowest-cost source of energy for billions of people

Fact: 3 billion people lack reliable, low-cost energy!

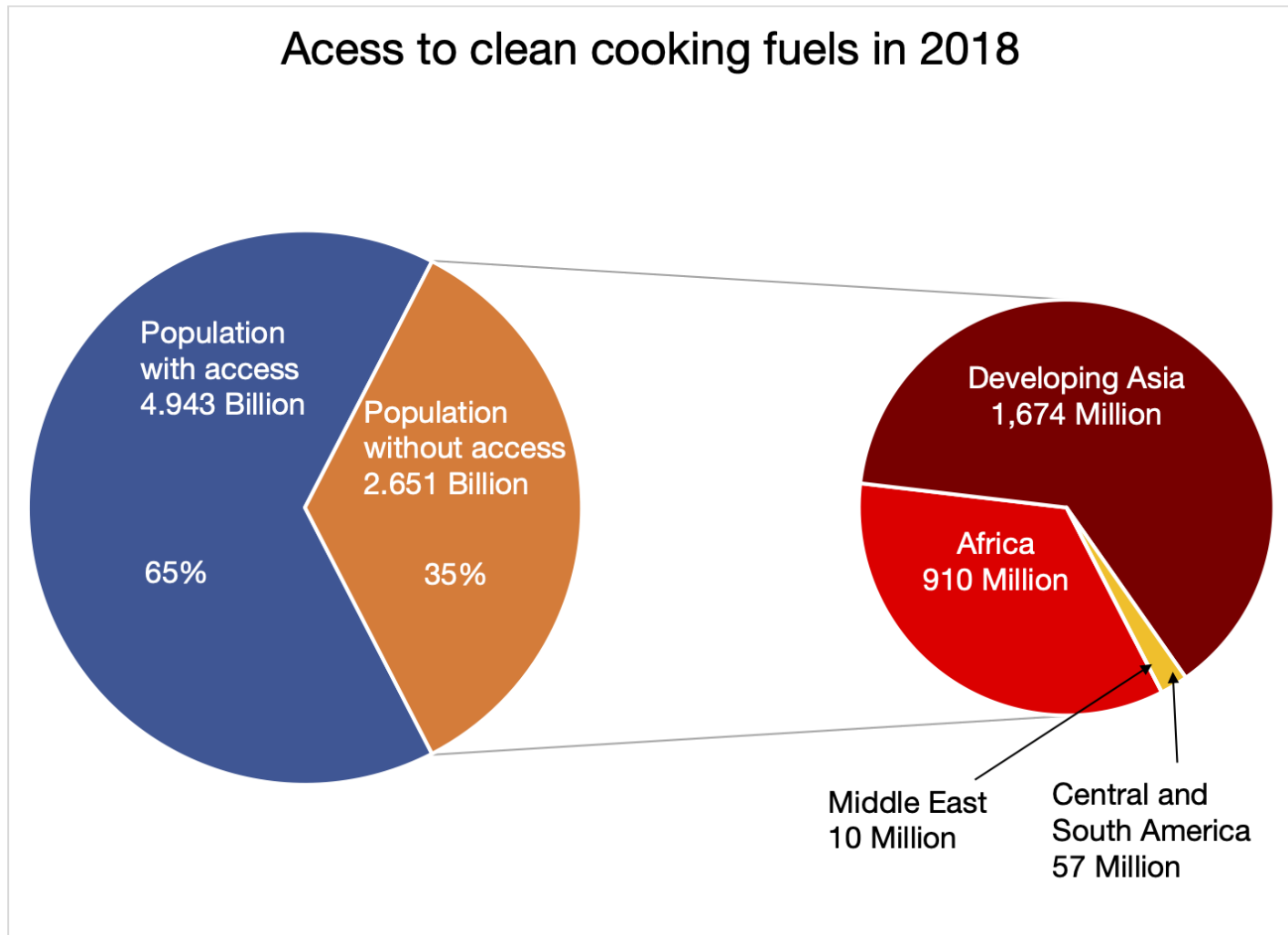


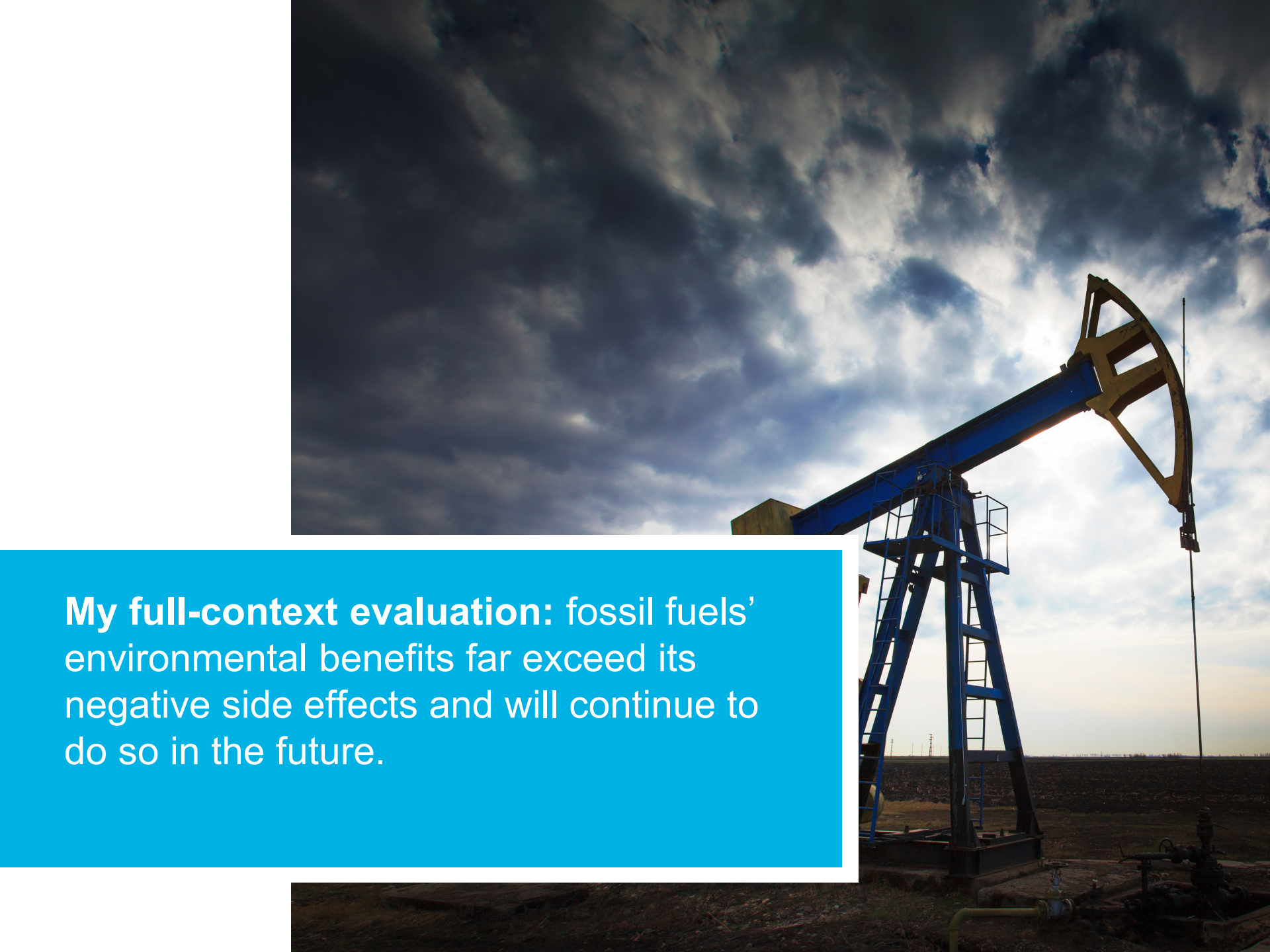
835 million humans without any electricity...

Access to electricity 2018



2.7 billion humans rely on biomass for cooking and heating



A photograph of an oil pumpjack (jack-o'-lantern) in a field. The pumpjack is painted blue and yellow. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, with a bright light source (the sun) breaking through near the horizon, creating a silhouette effect on the pumpjack. The ground is dark and appears to be a field.

My full-context evaluation: fossil fuels' environmental benefits far exceed its negative side effects and will continue to do so in the future.

An anti-human environmental philosophy is blinding us to the fact that our environment is improving and that fossil fuel energy is an essential cause

Policy needs to be guided by a pro-human environmental philosophy that:

1. Values human flourishing
2. Recognizes that nature is wild potential, not a delicate nurturer
3. Looks at the full context of benefits and side effects, not just side effects

Resource: [EnergyTalkingPoints.com](https://www.energytalkingpoints.com)

2020 Talking Points on Fracking

By Alex Epstein

Fracking is one of the most important technologies in our economy and can be done very safely. Government should ban only dangerous misuses of fracking, not all fracking. A fracking ban is the best way to create a global recession and an American depression.

Quick summary

2020 Talking Points on American Energy Policy

By Alex Epstein

In the last 15 years America has become the world's leading energy producer thanks to energy freedom--allowing all sources of energy to compete and innovate. To make even more progress we need energy freedom--not mandates of renewables or bans of fossil fuels and nuclear.

Quick summary

America's future depends on America's energy industry. Energy is the industry that powers every other industry. The lower cost and more reliable our energy is, the more competitive every American company is and the lower the cost of living is for every American.

In the last 15 years America has become a world energy leader largely through enormous growth in producing the #1 and #3 forms of energy in the world: oil and natural gas. This was only possible because of our unrivaled freedom to develop and innovate.^{1,2}

America can only remain an energy leader if we continue producing fossil fuels--the world's largest and fastest-growing source of energy. Fossil fuels are by far the lowest cost source of energy for billions of people. Unreliable solar and wind can't come close.^{3,4}

Contrary to the myth that CO2 emissions from fossil fuels are causing a climate crisis, the climate death rate is actually lower than ever thanks to human adaptation. Rising CO2 levels will continue to cause manageable warming as well as significant global greening--not a crisis.^{5,6,7}

The only way to lower CO2 emissions and benefit America is to promote innovation that makes low-carbon energy truly reliable and low-cost. Are China and India going to stop using fossil fuels so long as they are the lowest-cost option? They won't and they shouldn't.

America can lower emissions and energy costs by decriminalizing nuclear energy. Nuclear is actually the safest source of energy and the only way to provide reliable non-carbon electricity anywhere in the world. Yet politicians are overregulating it to death.⁸

If America tries to rapidly eliminate fossil fuel use through a Green New Deal or Biden Climate Plan we will not prevent a crisis, we will cause a crisis by making energy completely unreliable and unaffordable for American industry and American consumers.

America needs more energy freedom across the board, including in nuclear energy, fracking, development of federal lands, development offshore, pipelines, and export terminals--all of which can be done safely and responsibly.

2020 Talking Points on Energy Poverty

By Alex Epstein

10s of millions of Americans live in energy poverty--a growing problem thanks to wasteful, unreliable solar and wind infrastructure. If we want to stop making our poorest citizens choose between food and heat or medicine and electricity we must end favoritism for "unreliables."

Quick summary

1. 10s of millions of Americans live in energy poverty, meaning they experience hardship paying for their basic energy needs. 25 million US households say they've gone without food or medicine to pay for energy. 12 million say they've kept their home at an unsafe temperature.¹

2020 Talking Points on the Wind Production Tax Credit

By Alex Epstein

The Wind Production Tax Credit is a perverse policy that pays utilities to slow down or shut down power plants whenever the wind blows. It is driving reliable power plants out of business, causing higher costs and lower reliability.

Quick summary

Wind turbines cannot provide the reliable energy that our amazing electrical grid requires 24/7. That's why every place in the world that uses unreliable wind energy depends on massive amounts of reliable energy from coal, gas, hydro, or nuclear plants.

Because wind turbines are unreliable they can't replace our reliable power plants, only complicate or supplement them at tremendous cost. That's why the more wind a grid uses the more expensive its electricity tends to be.¹

The only reason utilities buy unnecessary, wasteful wind turbines is government policies that force them to do so or reward them for doing so. "We get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That's the only reason to build them," says Warren Buffett.²

One of the worst wind favoritism policies is the wind Production Tax Credit (PTC), which pays utilities to shut down or slow down reliable gas, coal, and nuclear power plants whenever the wind blows, driving many out of operation and threatening the grid's future.³

The perverse incentives of the wind PTC and other wind favoritism are not only making electricity more expensive but less reliable. That's why grids around the US are already kicking out industrial customers, and Texas and the Northeast are warning of residential blackouts.⁴

Congress needs to let the 28-year-old wind PTC expire, end all forms of energy favoritism, let technologies compete on reliability and cost. That will reduce electricity prices, increase reliability, and increase innovation.

2020 Talking Points on the So-Called Climate Crisis

By Alex Epstein

Climate catastrophists claim that our climate is less livable than ever because of fossil fuels, but it's more livable than ever thanks to our fossil fuel powered climate protection systems. Rising CO2 levels will cause mild, manageable warming as well as significant global greening--not a crisis.¹

Quick summary

2020 Talking Points on Reducing CO2 Emissions

By Alex Epstein

The only practical way to lower global CO2 emissions is to encourage innovation that could make low-carbon energy cheap for everyone. Policies like the Green New Deal and the Biden Plan that would outlaw American fossil fuel use won't stop global CO2 emissions from rising--but they will ruin America.

Quick summary

1. Many Democratic politicians claim that if America rapidly eliminates fossil fuel use, even at enormous cost, it will be worth it to lower CO2 levels and avoid a climate crisis. But the US causes less than 1/6 of global emissions--and falling.¹
2. The main reason global CO2 emissions are rising is because billions of people in the developing world are bringing themselves out of poverty by using fossil fuels to power factories, farms, vehicles, and appliances.²
3. The developing world overwhelmingly uses fossil fuels because that is by far the lowest-cost way for them to get reliable energy. Unreliable solar and wind can't come close. That's why China and India have hundreds of new coal plants under construction.³
4. The only way to lower CO2 emissions and benefit America is to promote innovation that makes low-carbon energy truly reliable and low-cost. Are China and India going to stop using fossil fuels so long as they are the lowest-cost option? They won't and they shouldn't.
5. America can lower emissions and energy costs by decriminalizing nuclear energy. Nuclear is actually the safest source of energy and the only way to provide reliable non-carbon electricity anywhere in the world. Yet politicians are overregulating it to death.⁴
6. America can also lower emissions and energy costs by lifting irrational restrictions on natural gas, such as anti-fracking policies and pipeline opposition. Yet Joe Biden and most Democrats want to stop fracking and new pipelines.^{5,6}
7. The fossil fuel bans and "renewables only" policies supported by most Democratic politicians will make American energy incredibly unreliable and expensive. That won't stop CO2 emissions from rising but it will ruin the American economy.



Alex Epstein

I am a practical philosopher. I develop frameworks for acquiring real know...

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Dear LinkedIn,

You mistakenly classified as "misinformation" a recent post of mine correcting Joe Biden's insane claim that climate change is "going to actually bake this planet. This is not hyperbole."

However, if you had bothered to look at the link I provided you would have discovered that I was actually providing "information."

Fact: Fossil fuels' CO2 emissions have contributed to the warming of the last 170 years, but that warming has been mild and manageable—1 degree Celsius, mostly in the colder parts of the world.

Fact: Fossil fuels' CO2 emissions have not only contributed to mild and manageable warming, they have also caused the benefit of significant global greening. Thanks to fossil fuels the Earth is far greener than it was just 40 years ago.

Fact: Climate catastrophists have been claiming climate crisis for 40 years. For example, Obama science advisor John Holdren predicted in the 1980s that we'd have up to 1 billion climate deaths today.

Fact: After 40 years of "climate crisis" predictions by climate catastrophists, human beings are safer than ever from climate. The climate death rate has decreased by *98%* over the last century.

You can learn about these and other facts, all carefully referenced, at:

<https://lnkd.in/gRudTRv>

