

World Civilization II (OA)

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Film Response Chapter 26

What are some of the major environmental problems documented in this film.

The film points out the issues with global warming and how it has affected our climates.

It states that for the past century and a half, the earth's average temperature has been rising faster than at any time in the past ten thousand years.

Many believe that much of the change has been driven by humans and that their involvement in global warming has caused a Large-scale change in the climate.

Human control has resulted in changes to atmospheric chemistry, greenhouse gases, and toxic metals. This can cause the climate to be unstable which can be very dramatic.

According to the video, there are signs everywhere. There is Carbon dioxide from trucks, buses, vehicles, planes, etc. that continuously pollute the air.

Various sources of this pollution were found to be from Transportation, which is responsible for 33%. Power plants are responsible for 1/3, while heating our homes, making cement, agriculture and others account for the rest.

There are concentrations of carbon dioxide that have been in the atmosphere for 100 years.

These concentrations have increased from 280 parts per million during the industrial revolution to 370 today. There is a possibility that these concentrations may climb to 500 in our lifetime

Climate change has caused rising seas in Louisiana and Bangladesh, tropical diseases to spread in the North, and weather from Florida to France has been extreme.

The film documented a 1-degree Fahrenheit change in temperature, but in Alaska, there has been a 4-7-degree change that hasn't been seen in 50 years. There has been less ice due to warming.

Global warming is accelerating and has altered Climates' basic elements like rainfall and evaporation. Days of sunshine and nighttime temperatures can be very hot.

Climates are not what they used to be. This can be very damaging to the environment and to agricultural production, and there can also be a threat to wild species by way of extinction.

What are some of the long-term dangers projected in the film?

Climate changes affect many things like:

- Our health, lifestyles, and favorite cities by the seas are at risk.
- Droughts and precipitation patterns lay the ground for diseases such as the West Nile virus.

- Droughts kill our forests and trees and cause a reduction in available water
- Rising sea levels can threaten communities by flooding them.
- Beachfronts can be hit by 15-foot storm surges.
- Hurricanes like Hurricane Katrina can wipe out entire communities
- Environments become harsh damaging pipes.
- The entire food supply can be vulnerable due to climate changes and long-term precipitation ---

If climate variability increases, the rate of mortality will increase

Cities can experience temperatures 3-5 degrees higher creating unhealthy air days, especially for those who suffer from allergies. It can be deadly for those suffering from Asthma.

However, CO₂ is very important because of greenhouse gas which is one form of creating energy. We live in societies where modern lifestyles demand this energy.

The U.S. is the biggest economy, energy consumer, and biggest greenhouse gas emitter in our world today. There have been predictions that by the year 2050, China may become larger than the US as they desire the same things as Americans.

What can we do to stop this danger?

In Detroit., the fight for healthy air is taking place. Schools are teaching children the importance of not wasting energy by controlling the amount they use.

Scientists have been using satellites and probes to analyze how systems work and why they change. Scientists and environmentalists suggest that we change the amount of CO₂ that resides in the atmosphere so that climate change is no longer a problem.

In addition, according to the film, if we can agree that Global climate change is taking place there are two approaches that can work.

First, as individuals, we can start adapting to the new realities of a new climate by preparing ourselves for the change.

Second, we can slow down the rate of global warming by reducing the impact our on the atmosphere by cleaning up the way we live.

We can also get involved in environmental programs that show how to look for energy wasted.

We can create cleaner air by purchasing hybrid cars which use less fuel.

Use emission-free energy such as solar energy that gets power from the sun and builds houses that recover energy.

If we work together, we can make a change for the better.