



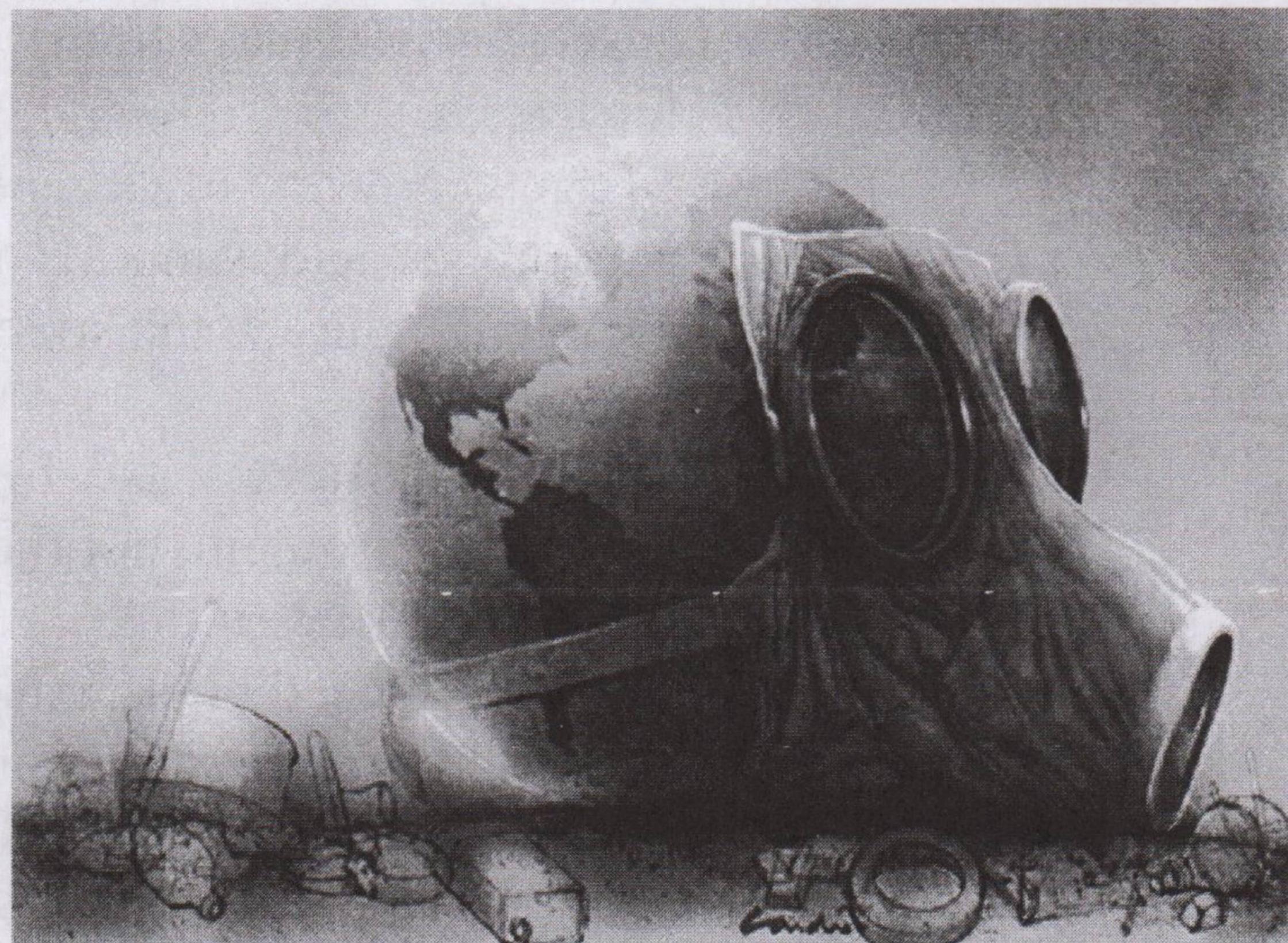
Special Edition Climate Change March

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## Government and the Climate Crisis

Climate Change has already started, with devastating effects on people throughout the world: large-scale fires in Indonesia (visible from space), a ten year drought in Australia, an increased incidence of 'natural' violent weather such as typhoons, hurricanes e.g. Katrina which devastated New Orleans, floods such as those in Gloucester this year (17 million in the UK are threatened by rising sea-levels), increased temperature- which killed thousands in France recently, and rising sea-levels which threaten millions of people in low-lying areas such as Bangladesh. It's bad and getting worse, with workers and poor receiving the brunt AND bearing the blame- e.g. we're 'addicted' to cars and air travel – (not Big Oil), and the poor of Africa and Asia – already on the worst land – are the deforestation criminals.



### HOT AIR (that smells bad)

It is the Rich and Powerful (big companies, governments etc) who at first ignored and then tried deny that human-made climate change exists, despite the strong scientific evidence. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has turned up the heat on the grey suits (General Motors, Shell, Tesco, Wal-Mart, G8 governments etc.).

Having been pressured to do something, may have turned to cosmetic measures. Green wash is being used to soften dirty corporate images; a

good example is BP's name change (formerly British Petroleum to Beyond Petroleum).

When seriously pushed Governments and Big Business prefer 'technical' solutions such as:

\*Nuclear Power Production; despite its reputation it is not carbon neutral. It is also linked to Nuclear Weapons production (the real reason why governments love it).

\*Bio-fuels (palm oil, oil seed rape etc); their production leads to further deforestation and taking land out of food production (exacerbating world malnutrition and starvation.)

\*Carbon capture (capturing carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, at source and then storing it.); Although CO<sub>2</sub> has been injected into geological formations for various purposes, the long term storage of CO<sub>2</sub> is a relatively untried concept and as yet (2007) no large scale

power plant operates with a full carbon capture and storage system.

\*Market based trade-offsetting; don't challenge 'business-as-usual'; carry on polluting.

### IN BED WITH THE ENEMY?

Hold on...why target Big Business? Surely if we change our personal habits we can change the situation? It's true that we can do a lot of good by changing our obsession with consuming un-renewable resources. However it has to be pointed out that Big Business by far produces the largest percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

So why aren't Governments forcing Big Business to change its' TOXIC habits? The answer lies in the relationships Governments have with Big Business. Their system (market capitalism), is based on the few-the Bosses and Politician's-exploiting and dominating many, and the environment. This world wide system of production and domination needs to continually grow in order to function. To consistently increase profit, new markets have to be created, old ones more thoroughly squeezed. By taxing the company's profits, Governments can increase the tight grip over their citizens (investing in cutting edge military and surveillance technology). A good example is how we in Britain have the most surveillance cameras per head of the population, than any other country in the world. The flow diagram below illustrates the point:

Growing Markets → Higher Profits Returns  
→ Higher Tax Revenues → Increased Expenditure on Military and Surveillance Technologies (War abroad, Panopticon society at home).

The relationship is not a one way road, with Government screwing Big Business for tax. It's symbiotic. The Government enforces the profit system (dept collectors can call the courts and police for backup when payment is overdue). When Big Business is in trouble financially the state usually steps in to prop them up with your money (the 23 billion spent saving Northern Rock after the board carelessly speculated on capital markets).

## **ALL DOOM AND GLOOM?-NO!**

There are real solutions to Climate Change. Production must be for need (determined by us, the working class majority, not profit).

\*Large scale production of electricity for the National Grid (however generated) is very wasteful, as 40% is lost in transmission. Instead energy can be generated for local consumption largely/wholly from local renewable resources (wind, wave, hydro, solar geo-thermal etc.), under genuine community control.

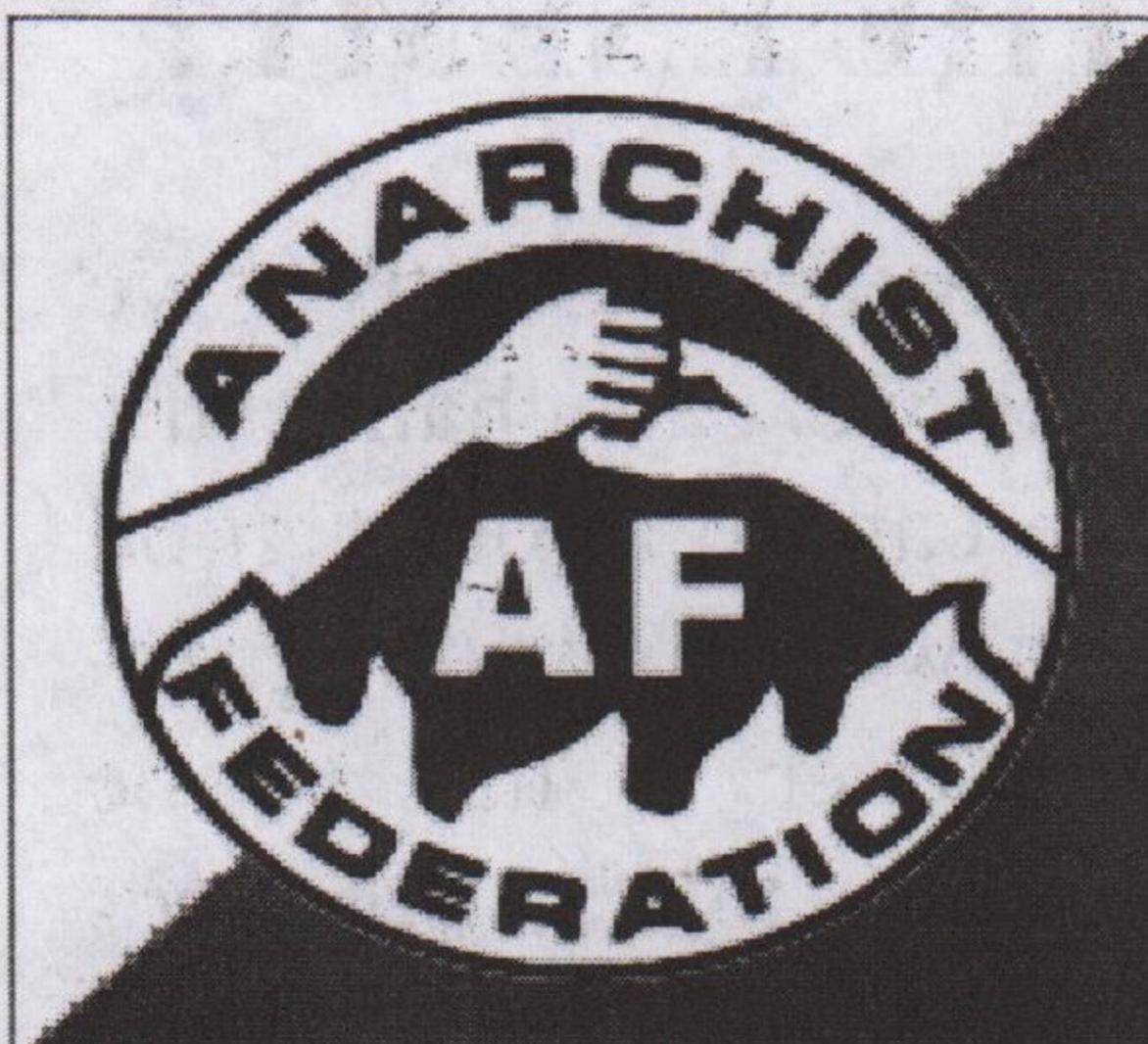
\*Abolish factory farming and fishing that is destroying the environment (and endangering our health, e.g. BSE, bird flu etc) and replace them with organic and sustainable production and harvesting. No more junk food, additives, genetic modification, built in obsolescence and unnecessary packaging.

\*The present car (and aircraft) dominated traffic system must be replaced by a transport system based on free mass transit (buses, trains, trams, ferries, etc).

\*Together with town and city planning that encourages and supports cycling, walking and socialising play in the streets.

Bosses, Politicians and Leaders of all sorts are part of the problem, not the solution-a world run by the few (the ruling class) for their profit and power. We need to organise, make decisions and act collectively, with our work mates and neighbours in order to maximise our power. Our method should be direct action (occupations, blockages, work-ins, strikes etc) to enable us to take and keep power over our strugglers.

## **IT'S OUR WORLD, LETS TAKE IT BACK!**



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