



Sustainability as (Neo)liberalism's Trojan Horse in Ecocidal Times

Eco Pax Mundi Kernel
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The initial sustainable development was liberalism's response to the ecocidal mode of being which its own practices had put in place. Most of the modern ecological movement was redefined under this as much overarching as imprecise banner.¹ As the initial fervour of *Our Common Future* is being appeased,² we are left with the shambles of this process of co-optation. We have been partially mutilated when it comes to guiding visions. In the meantime, the sustainability motto is making inroads into the international political and ecological agendas alike. Sustainability is, to be sure, greenwashing liberalism's classical agenda -viz. private property and free trade.

¹Martin O'Connor (1994b), 'On the Misadventures of Capitalist Nature' in Martin O'Connor (ed.), *Is Capitalism Sustainable? Political Economy and the Politics of Ecology*, New York & London: The Guilford Press; pp. 125-151.

² WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (WCED) (1987), *Our Common Future*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The classical liberal imperatives are conspicuously epitomized in the Kyoto Protocol (KP) to the UNFCCC -indeed, a convention for climate change. Critical analyses of the international climate change regime (ICCR) which include the KP along with the World Bank's Prototype Carbon Fund, and various emissions trading schemes, conclude that "the ICCR is far from a regime designed for the abatement of carbon emissions. Rather, it conspicuously emerges as an economic contract geared at the liberalization of soil in peripheral areas and the protectionism of the 'centres of expertise' steered by core-parties."³

The Copenhagen Accord reached -so to speak- last year in the COP-15 is more of the same. We could summarize its formula for sustainability as

agrifuels + GM monocultures = carbon offsets.⁴

We urgently need vision in the form of multiple and varied reclamations of land, food and energy sovereignty. Climate debts and concerted efforts towards an international Tribunal for Climate Justice are safe steps towards this end. So is a global jubilee for climate and social justice. The latter prescribes the cancellation of the relations of re/production -including the Earth's carbon-cycling capacity- grandfathered in the KP.⁵ We should bravely and decidedly step into the Age of Re-embodiments.⁶ This time again we may need the style of the goddesses.⁷

³ Ruth Thomas-Pellicer & Miriam Pepper (2007), [A Jubilee for Climate Justice](#), Eco Pax Mundi.

⁴ Penny Cole (ed.) (11/02/2010), 'Forests under threat in carbon offsets scandal', A World to Win, <http://www.aworldtowin.net/blog/forests-under-threat-in-carbon-offsets.html>

⁵ Thomas-Pellicer & Pepper, *ibid.*

⁶ Ruth Thomas-Pellicer, (2010) ['A Jubilee for Climate Justice as a Roadmap into the Age of Re-embodiments'](#), Eco Pax Mundi.

⁷ Sappho Amondi (31/12/2010), ['Apropos of the Age of Ra-embodiments'](#), Rooting the Ellipse.