Is there a Potemkin Village of Green Energy 1: We are in a Planetary Emergency -.Review of “Michael Moore Presents: ‘Planet of the Humans’“ © 2020 by Dr. Philip Ernest Schoenberg

Just in time for Earth Day, the latest Michael Moore bombshell documentary has arrived as “Michael Moore Presents: ‘Planet of the Humans’“ As he explains in the introduction, if you cannot count on your friends to tell you the truth, who will? Michael Moore executive produced so that he gives the credit to Jeff Gibbs who wrote and directed this documentary. Gibbs has written and directed segments of three of Michael Moore’s documentaries. Their green credentials go back to the first Earth Day in 1970 in which Global Warming or Climate Change started to become an issue. Jeff Gibbs examines whether or not the proponents of these forms of green or renewable energy have succeeded in making them really clean, green, practical, and viable.

Jeff Gibs argues drive to save the planet has resulted in creating a marketplace to provide the solutions by for profit businesses, nonprofits or NGOs, and government agencies: green energy. The “Planet of the Humans” examines whether they have delivered on green or renewable energy. Their conclusion the profit-nonprofit-government complex evil calls by the catchy term “eco-industrial complex” after the Eisenhower warning of the “military-industrial complex” because they all have mutually intermingled to greenwash everyone instead of a collaborative synthesis that benefits everybody including the consumer. Episode # 75 Michael Moore: We Are In A Planetary Emergency (Rumble w/ Michael Moore podcast) May 8, 2020) As far Michael Moore is concerned, the earth is facing a “planet emergency.” We need to change direction before it is too late.

In defending the documentary, Moore explains he likes to limit his work to a length of one half and half hours, so he does not discuss nuclear energy and the impact of fracking and natural gas. The proponents the use of these forms of energy argue that these have reduced pollution, thereby saving lives, and are more efficient than green energy.

Jeff Gibbs argues solar and wind power need to be backed up by fossil fuel when they do not work two-thirds of the time. Solar power fries birds and wind power shreds birds, particularly bats and big birds like eagles. Biomass, plant, or animal material used for energy production, is actually retrogressive because it uses up entire forests that are clear-cut around the world from the Amazon to Indonesia that is converted into woodchips. The construction of biomass, solar, and wind power infrastructure is energy-intensive and a major source of pollution. The spokeswoman of GM proudly demonstrated plugging its electric automobile, the Volt, subsidized by the federal government through tax-break, into a socket which is powered by a fossil fuel plant. An environmental concert relying upon solar power plugs into the electric power grid when the sun failed to cooperate, and its backup power generator proved insufficient. Hydropower is not discussed because all the rivers have been dammed and maximized to provide electric power.

Windmills and solar panels will have to cover vast acreage in order to supply in order to provide the energy. The construction involves considerable amounts of materials and energy. Then this stuff is high maintenance. Worst of all, the infrastructure for wind and sun only lasts about twenty to thirty years and will have to be replaced as the parts are discarded on the ground. Fauna and flora from deserts to forests are cleared that full of life will become sterile, dead wastelands.

Jeff Gibbs then shows that the road to all these supposed green energy alternatives lead back to the evil of fossil fuels to give the false image that they are the solution. Then the most graphic pictures, accompanied by the music of doom that ramps things up, are shown that getting the natural resources out the ground is done in the most irresponsible fashion, harms the environment, and pollutes the air we breathe.

In the end, the nexus for-profit businesses, the nonprofits or NGOs, and the government agencies that he calls “eco-industrial complex” or “eco-capitalism” have failed to have delivered on green or renewable energy as cheap, clean, and practical. Green business people like Al Gore make a fortune pushing his carbon exchanges or Elon Musk greenwashes with his electric automobile, the Tesla; non-profits like the Sierra Club raises money for programs that do not work and greenwash corporations by accepting their money; ,and bureaucrats fail to make green energy providers accountable for pollution.

Despite steady technological improvements in providing green energy, it is still not competitive with fossil fuels. Around the world, green energy is mired in red ink as costs are passed on to consumers and businesses while serving vested interests that have no real concern to save the environment but only to benefit in terms of fame and fortune. The tradeoffs of green energy for the benefits saving the planet have not paid off. They have hijacked our future instead of providing viable solutions. Moore evaluates the green movement is a failure because we have crossed the threshold of 350 parts of carbon dioxide per million, it is still increasing, and we must change course if it is not too late. (Actually, we crossed it in 2016 according to “How the World Passed a Carbon Threshold and Why It Matters” by Nicola Jones, YaleEnvironment360•JANUARY 26, 2017•Published at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

The critics of the left and environmentalists are shocked that such old friends have turned on them. In rebuttal, they claim the information and interviews provided are inaccurate, obsolete, or taken out of context, cherry-picks the data and evidence, weak on the science which they fail to understand, accusations that other critics of the left and the right have criticized of his other documentaries. This is no surprise. Although Michael Moore claims he did not write, direct or edit the documentary, it bears his handprint using all these techniques that he first used in a documentary that gave fame and fortune, “Roger and Me.” He has not changed his bag of tricks over the decades.

Instead of a debate, these critics demand censorship—the removal of the documentary from the Internet and YouTube. Toward the end of one sensible response to the documentary, one left-wing critic denounced it as the product of “two old white men” that had only white spokespeople on the documentary without examining the impact of upon “communities of color” provided unintentional humor since she is white herself, one can ironically observe. (Planet Of The Humans - EVs, Green Energy in Michael Moore's Confused New Documentary)

Is there a Potemkin Village of Green Energy 2: Michael Moore’s Remedies -- Review of Episode # 75 “Michael Moore: We Are In A Planetary Emergency” (Rumble w/ Michael Moore podcast) May 8, 2020) © 2020 by Dr. Philip Ernest Schoenberg

In response to his critics, Michael Moore argues that he always assumes the other fellow is guilty as charged instead of presumption of innocence. He claims he applies this to everybody. Michael Moore explains that he made the self-realization that activist groups that he had supported and liberal allies and friends “were not always doing good for the people.” He added, “Often, they were well intentioned, occasionally misguided, and simply wrong. And a few were up to no good.” He questions whether or not “’green capitalism’ in quotes is really our savior”; and if we are being manipulated by fear and anxiety as capitalist wage slaves and consumer that supports “the beast” of capitalism. The long and short of it is that green energy movement as presently operate does not give green energy and save the planet because we have lost our way. “We have failed to stop climate change,” Moore gravely intones. (Episode # 75 Michael Moore: We Are In A Planetary Emergency (Rumble w/ Michael Moore podcast) May 8, 2020)

Then, we get Michael Moore’s panacea to save the planet. He plaintively asks, “What is our way out? We have all been on the wrong road.” Michael Moore has a few helpful suggestions.

1. Plant a billion trees “because that would really help.” Few people would disagree with such a noble concept except how and who shall pay for this.
2. Always a favorite solution of anybody to the left is that is time to end capitalism and “greed”.
3. Once again, Michael Moore sees the profit-nonprofit-government complex evil because they all have mutually intermingled to greenwash everyone that exploits the environment and the average person instead of a collaborative synthesis that benefits everybody including the consumer.
4. Moore does not explain how socialism, which has never worked anywhere, will do a better job. Bad as irresponsible companies may have been in trashing the environment, the record of countries that have been or still have been under Communist rule has been far worse. Enterprises, facilities, and projects were built in disregard of the environmental sensitivity of the location and its subsequent, disastrous impact.
5. Moore scapegoats capitalism by proclaiming, “We have been told capitalism is the solution to the problem that it has created. That strategy has failed. While decimating the planet is called good business, it is actually bad for the people and living creatures on that planet.”
6. Failing that, his next suggestion is the rich, especially ”making the ‘1%’ should pay their fair share” by increasing taxes. People who foolishly support that idea in anticipation of getting unearned benefit from their betters are only fooling themselves. This will be a cover to increase their taxes to benefit their inferiors and schemes of politicians. Michael Moore who has become a member of the “1%” who has been benefitted from capitalism in the marketing of his documentaries must have a tax dodge or two he must rationalize he can use so that he does not suffer the consequences of his suggestions.
7. “We should nationalize our energy companies. It really works well in Norway.” All you need to do is look at the record of the Tennessee Valley Authority.” Initially, the TVA provided cheap electricity which was to serve as a yardstick against the rates of private utilities in the surrounding states. After World War II, it built nine nuclear power plants that did not operate as well as they were supposed to.
8. Natural resources should not be owned by any private entity. The blessings of heaven, land, and water “belong to us collectively.” Hence, “Our natural resources should not be owned by any profit-making company.” This is a matter of natural security.
9. He would bring civics to teach how the government should work for the people This sounds harmless enough except does it mean “indoctrinate” with is particular point of view as dictated by the philosopher-kings of activism?
10. Then Michael Moore throws in a basketful of irrelevant stuff that has nothing to do with the earth in crisis such as guaranteed annual income, universal healthcare, and free child care.
11. We need to change our lifestyle. “Admit it. The Western world uses too much crap, too much energy, and eats too many cows and chickens.” Michael Moore quotes Greta Thunberg, “You have stolen our future You have stolen my youth” and comments, “Indeed, we have.” He concludes, “I want the rest of the [environmental] movement to admit that, too.” He agrees that it is time to abandon Western concentration on money and wealth.
12. It is time to time for the old leaders of the green movement to step aside because they have been co-opted by what he calls the “Eco-Industrial Complex.” He advises, “It is time to shut the door on the green capitalism that funds and poisons our movement.” The eco-capitalist movement has failed and y we must change course. He puts his trust in the youth like Greta Thunberg who will show us the way. (Episode # 75 Michael Moore: We Are In A Planetary Emergency (Rumble w/ Michael Moore podcast) May 8, 2020)

Is there a Potemkin Village of Green Energy 3: The Bull in the China Shop --.Review of “Michael Moore Presents: ‘Planet of the Humans’“ and Episode # 75 Michael Moore: “We Are In A Planetary Emergency” (Rumble w/ Michael Moore podcast) May 8, 2020)

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Ironically, Michael Moore and Donald Trump would be shocked to be told they have something in common: they like to be the bull in the china shop—always surprising friends and foes alike by what they say and do. They have one more thing in common, facts and fantasy are tools to be used to spin a story in which they are always the hero, infallible, and never wrong in telling people what to do. Once more, Moore has been the bull in the china shop that has gotten usual jollies. However, he may do more harm than good for his cause because the critics have been armed with ammunition to take down what he supposedly champions.

Daisy Cousins points out that Michael Moore is a shock to his supposed environmental comrades in arms for three reasons. Firstly, they are not used to publicly defending or debating their ideas because they are used to instant acceptance in the media and pop culture. Since the are not up to challenge to standing up for what they believe in, they turn to censorship. Secondly, they are unable to conceive that anybody can have an opposing opinion, challenge their morality, or interpret the science differently. Third, the film does raise some troubling questions about the progress that has been made on green energy but still has to resolve: efficiency, reliability, battery storage, and reliance on fossil fuel backup problems as well as corporate involvement. (Daisy Cousins SJWs Meltdown Over New Michael Moore Film May 1, 2020)

Daisy Cousins notes: “The film gets one thing right”: Wind and solar technologies are nowhere close in powering our electric-driven civilization unless we are willing to make drastic changes in our lifestyle downward which very few people would be willing to conceive, to consider, and to do. (Daisy Cousins SJWs Meltdown Over New Michael Moore Film May 1, 2020)

Finally, Cousins notes as many other commentators have that socialists of all stripes have attempted to hijack the Global Warming or renewable energy movements to implement socialism or “environmental justice.” That is what the Green New Deal is about. They dream they can achieve their socialist dystopia by piggybacking onto this crisis. (Daisy Cousins SJWs Meltdown Over New Michael Moore Film May 1, 2020)

Michael Moore and Jeff Gibbs claim they have given us an honest self-examination of the failure to save the earth we live on from climate change. In the end, they are no friends to anybody because they have their own hidden agendas and fail to walk the talk, they tell us we should do. Despite the supposed good intentions of the documentary, it only gives ammunition to the opponents of Global Warming or Climate Change that the proposed solutions are not only expensive but just don’t work. Once more Michael Moore has spun a fascinating tale but has not give us a document entirely based on the facts.

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