

# THE ORWELLIAN LANGUAGE AT CLIMATE BATTLEFIELD:

## How the Developed World Exports Climate Crisis

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The geopolitics of energy is characterized by the West playing games, manipulating the game to secure their advantage, and swaying the battle. They tailor the legislation to suit them, break the rules when it is against them, and sit in judgment of others who don't follow their lead. Oil, nuclear, coal all these plethora of energy fuels the power gains. In this article let us give a special highlight to the role of coal in power dynamics by exposing how the West is keeping its lights on at the cost of the developing world.

### *Eurocentrism in the Energy Grid*

Whenever a discussion is raised on the topic of coal, India is portrayed as an anti-hero. In 2020 UN Chief warned India over the 'bad economics' of coal. At the COP 26, held at Glasgow, the summit experts asserted that India prioritized its economic growth over the planet's future. The statement further added that India led the charge to weaken anti-coal pledges.

A few months down the line, the war between Ukraine and Russia began. Europe needed energy and the story altered. British fired up its coal plants again and so did Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, and Greece. It's very straightforward now, as to who is responsible for weakening the anti-coal pledges and hence, betraying the planet. Coal politics is a shining example of Western hypocrisy. They called for strict obedience to climate pledges and railed against the global south for us-

ing coal. But when they found themselves at the crossroads of energy scarcity, they fired up the coal plants again. At some locus, they even exported their energy crisis.

In the wake of the Ukraine-Russia war, Europe was in a state of panic. The continent feared that it would not have enough energy and along with that, there were predictions of a merciless winter. But in retrospect when the time unfolded, Europe survived. At this moment there may arise a question of how did that happen. And the answer relies upon the fact that Europe reopened the closed shutters of the coal plants. Countries like Germany reignited the coal plants that ceased in the name of fighting climate change earlier and at that time it became rebooted. And Germany is not alone in doing this. The list of countries turning to coal includes the United Kingdom, Finland, Italy, Greece, France, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands. They all resorted to coal power in some form or the other. They also ration energy. The winter turned out to be milder than predicted and thus Europe sailed through. But its Orwellian language was much evident at this stage.

### *The Vanquished Forces on the Battlefield*

When its energy security came under threat Europe muddled the climate promises and jumped to coal. This includes the G-7, the group of the seven largest economies in the world. They vowed to cease funding the fossil fuel projects and at the same time, they were making appeals to West Asian powers. When Russia halted its gas supply, the bloc

bought up whatever it could find and the victims were Asian countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. They were struggling very much to keep the lights on and that's how the West exported an energy crisis. The West swept away everything on the market and the rest of the countries had to deal with it. Just buying everything you can and leaving others to deal with the shortages, is what exactly the policy of the West was and still is. Undeniably that's how we ended up with climate change in the first place. The West created the problem, it enriched itself through the large-scale exploitation of fossil fuels and now it is passing the baton of responsibility to the developing world.

Firstly, the West took unilateral benefitting climate pledges, and then they squeezed supplies out of the energy markets. They stitched the fabric of rules by themselves but never wore them. They remain among the worst polluters. India accounts for nearly 18% of the world's population but only generates 8% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. Whereas a country like the USA which has a world population of less than 5% accounts for 15% of the emissions. While considering China in the context of emissions, it accounts for 30% with a global population of 17.5%. This points out the rich world's climate hypocrisy. They buy and use more oil and coal while telling the developing world to rely on sunshine and wind.

### *A Scanning of COP29*

Baku in Azerbaijan was staging the annual UN climate summit of the year 2024, that's COP29. At the meeting, there were heated debates over climate financing. Climate change did not begin in the last decade or even in the last 20 years. It's the result of decades of emissions, pollution, and actions that harm the planet. The prime offenders are the developed world which majorly consists of the rich nations. Their actions led to climate change thus making it obvious that the ones who reaped the benefit should pay, sort of like reparations. The developing nations asked

for \$1.3 trillion every year to which the rich nations did not agree and this led to weeks of bitter negotiations. The developing countries left the chat by walking out of the rooms as a form of discontent.

The West refused to budge in dealing with the poorer countries and there was no point in holding the summit hostage. Accordingly, a deal was finalised, \$300 billion every year till 2035. It's less than 1/4th of what the developing nations wanted. But they were compelled to settle for less, a deal that offered too little and too late. The developing nation took it, but not without making their displeasure clear, and leading the charge here was India. India declared the document as an "optical illusion" as a form of conveying the voice of objection. Despite accounting for nearly 18% of the world's population, India's emissions account for less than 8%. This places India in a unique position, a forefront position of leadership. India is the world's fifth-largest economy and it has emerged as the voice of the global south. India is bearing the brunt of climate change but also pioneering in climate action.

New Delhi is facing numerous hurdles in association with this deal. The first problem is with the amount offered. \$ 300 billion may seem like a hefty price but when you think about tackling climate change across the globe it falls short. India calls it a paltry sum. An additional issue is the way the deal was approved. The member nations approved it but India says the process was managed. New Delhi was not permitted to interrupt before, it was all hasty. India is not the only one complaining. Back in 2015, the developed nations made a promise at the COP Summit in Paris that they were committed to paying the vulnerable countries.

The initial pledge was \$100 billion every year. This new deal holds greater promises, it promises \$300 billion. However, an expert says that the cost of handling climate change has escalated typically. Today it is \$1.3 trillion, with some even calling it a war of attrition between the rich and the poor nations.

COP Summit. The latest is the 29th edition COP and there have been 28 before, unfortunately, they have a minimal achievement to showcase. The rich make unrealistic promises and the poor wait. There's political haggling and it ends with a disappointing deal.

### *A Capsule of Climate Hypocrisy*

The climate is a tough pill to sell. The world is dealing with two wars, one in Europe and the other in West Asia, the global economy

ter-thought. Each Summit, each deal is a reminder of neglected responsibilities or a reminder of the long journey that yet remains unfinished. But the clock is ticking and the planet won't wait for political consensus. The floods will keep coming, the temperatures will keep rising, and the sea levels will swallow lives and livelihoods. It's not just about financing, reparations or negotiations, it's about the future of this planet, our home. Unless Elon Musk or any other visionaries have their way and build human settlements on Mars, this is where we will have to reside in the years to come. There's no denying climate change and its implications for our world. This is serious, but unequal rules and unfair demands on others are no way to fix it.



is still recovering, and there's an economic hardship in many countries, so climate change may be the furthest priority in people's minds. But that does not alter the fact that it is happening and all of us are engulfed by its effect. The toxic air in Delhi and the typhoons in the Philippines are all the results of climate change. Dubai's record-breaking rains, Europe's blistering heatwave, floods in Brazil, Kenya, and China, cyclones in Bangladesh, rainfall in the Sahara Desert, and island nations sinking, all of these add to the list. And the list extends beyond this.

Climate change does not care about borders or politics and yet it remains an af-