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Human-Induced Climate Disruption Requires Urgent Action

[Douglas Yazell, June 19, 2019, douglas.yazell@me.com]

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine took office on April 23, 2019. Here are three of the four paragraphs in the Environment and Climate section of the Wikipedia [article](#) about him (Please see the Wikipedia article for its footnotes.):

Before becoming the chief administrator of NASA, Bridenstine rejected the scientific consensus behind global climate change[31][33][36] and in a 2013 speech on the House floor stated that global temperatures stopped rising ten years earlier.[36] Bridenstine criticized the Obama administration for spending "30 times as much money" on climate science as on weather forecasting; PolitiFact said that assertion was "mostly false".[48]

By May 2018, Bridenstine had reversed his position on climate change. At a town hall meeting in Washington D.C., Bridenstine stated that "I fully believe and know that the climate is changing. I also know that we humans beings are contributing to it in a major way. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. We're putting it into the atmosphere in volumes that we haven't seen, and that greenhouse gas is warming the planet. That is absolutely happening, and we are responsible for it."[49]

In 2017, Bridenstine supported James Langevin's legislation requiring the Defense Department to report on the effects of climate change on military installations and strategic battle plans.[50] According to journalist Keith Cowing, Bridenstine's support for the Langevin amendment "was widely seen as being instrumental in its passage."[51]

I recommend the work of climate and energy journalist (an explainer journalist) David Roberts at vox.com. He explained (paraphrased here) that denial and rejection of climate science often takes the form of someone saying, "We recently concluded that climate disruption does, after all, require urgent action, but we do not yet know if this disruption is human-induced."

David Roberts explains (paraphrased), from his appearance in the podcast America Adapts, that mitigation is much more effective than adaptation when working with this climate crisis and greenhouse gas emissions. Mitigation means spending money locally with a result of helping everyone around the world, something only people on the left would ever do. Once the related disasters become even worse than they are now, everyone will engage in adaptation and no one will be willing to work on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, so mitigation is a task to be done early and often. We must create more people on the left and use our powers of persuasion in an honest way inspired by the effectiveness of the power of the right used in a dishonest way. And it is not the work of the left to persuade anyone on the right. Eventually their leaders will explain the reality of the crisis to them while making the left look bad.

I note that we delayed for decades. In a much earlier TEDx talk about the climate crisis, David Roberts explained (paraphrased) that we have two choices, impossible and unthinkable. I agree, and I am inspired by Black America and many other oppressed groups.

The Green New Deal resolution in the Congress of the USA (explained well by the journalism of David Roberts, and endorsed by Climate Reality Project and the Sierra Club) is about climate, jobs, and justice. It mentions the 20-to-1 ratio of average family wealth (White America to Black America). We cannot solve the climate crisis without solving all of these problems at the same time. Only radical solutions remain, as Naomi Klein wrote in her book *This Changes Everything, Capitalism vs. the Climate*.

In a recent episode of his YouTube show, Philippe Matthews asked his guest Dr. Jacqueline Battalora (PhD, lawyer, professor of sociology and criminal justice at Saint Xavier College, a former Chicago police officer, author of the 2013 book, *Birth of a White Nation*), "Is there such a thing as a good white person?" That question was the subject of that one-hour episode. Her answer, paraphrased, was, "No. Whiteness is oppression. Anyone can become a good person, but never through whiteness."