

Post U.S. Election 2020 Epilogue

February 2, 2021, David Schwartzman

Alas, Trump has not yet died of the heart attack that I said had occurred in 2020 in chapter 5. Nevertheless, we finally woke up from the four year nightmare. The defeat of Trump in the November 2020 election was a significant defeat for fossil capital, especially since President Biden is promoting an ambitious climate agenda and economic green stimulus. Reentering the Paris Agreement was a necessary first step, and despite his denial in his debate with Trump, in his campaign for President, Biden did frame his initiative as a Green New Deal (<https://joebiden.com/climate-plan>), surely as a response to the GND Congressional Resolution and Bernie Sanders improved version (<https://berniesanders.com/issues/green-new-deal>). Very welcome initiatives have already been taken including the cancellation of the Keystone XL Pipeline and towards environmental justice enforcement. Fossil capital is now on the defensive, a big opportunity for the left to organize for the GND in a just green recovery from the deep economic, health and social crisis that still confronts us. But as Patrick Bond reminds us in his trenchant analysis there are formidable problems with Biden's international climate agenda (<https://www.counterpunch.org/2021/02/01/biden-kerry-international-climate-politricks/>).

What is especially problematic in Biden's "GND":

- 1) 2050 at net zero carbon emissions is probably too late to achieve 1.5 deg C warming target. Net zero includes carbon offsets, rather than early termination of fossil fuels coupled with negative carbon emissions. As Greta Thunberg said at Davos a year ago, "Forget about net zero, we need real zero" (<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-51193460>). For a critique of net zero see: https://demandclimatejustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NOT_ZERO_How_net_zero_targets_disguise_climate_inaction_FINAL.pdf.
- 2) Continued promotion of nuclear power from fission as "clean" carbon-free energy, as well as natural gas consumption and fracking.
- 3) The imperialist regime change agenda and the U.S. military budget remain as formidable obstacles to international cooperation and of course demilitarization of the global economy necessary for reaching the IPCC warming target.

Here is my brainstorming on the *Potential Stages of a Global Green New Deal, from NeoKeynesian to Ecosocialist*

1st NeoKeynesian (applying Modern Monetary Theory), Goal: defeat Militarized Fossil Capital, by a broad alliance including "green" capital
"Green" capital must be challenged all along the way, to optimize environmental, worker and community protection, while progressively eroding its power to manage this transition, until full social management is in place.

Growing strength of organized labor from renewable energy/green infrastructure jobs, the Global GND as an arena of transnational class struggle

Expansion of community control of renewable energy supplies, agroecologies replacing industrial agriculture. Demilitarization and termination of fossil fuel consumption begins, freeing up vast resources, financial and material. Transfer of resources from the Global North to the South.

2nd Nationalization of Critical Sectors of the Economy, especially Energy

New level of international cooperation. The termination of fossil fuel consumption and its replacement by a global renewable energy infrastructure is near completion. Negative carbon emission technologies are progressively bringing down the atmospheric level of carbon dioxide. Universal disarmament is in place, including the abolition of nuclear weapons. Energy poverty and global North/South disparities are close to being eliminated.

3rd Global ecosocialist transition led by the transnational working class and its allies, Forward to the Global Solar Commons!