

It was a bright winter day, and the clocks were striking seven. Blackbirds were singing and rejoicing that the end of winter is close. I approached my windowpane and saw white flowers blooming, trees getting greener and greener, and a pond bursting into life with frogs getting busy laying their eggs. *I guess there won't be any snow this year!* my roommate laughed leaning her head out of the window. It's the first time we both had the chance to experience English winter and we haven't even taken our fleece-lined jackets and cardigans out of the closet. Hopeless waiting for any signs of snow gradually billowed into hearing the first noises of bumblebees and wandering through the sea of golden celandines. This year brought the planet's sixteenth warmest February since records began.

Climate change is believed to be the greatest challenge of 21st century. It is defined as *changes in the earth's weather, including changes in temperature, wind patterns, and rainfall, especially the increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere that is caused by the increase of particular gases, especially carbon dioxide.*¹ Never in our planet's history were we to face a phenomenon that could not only wreak havoc on the society that we have worked so hard to establish for centuries but also lead to our ultimate defeat. Humankind experienced over 500 years of amazing discoveries, breakthroughs, and revolutions. Nevertheless, the period of an unprecedented growth brought along the deadliest man-made disasters, dreadful welfare and devastating cataclysms. The conquest of new knowledge, territories and development of world economy enabled us to finance both science and human empire thanks to which we managed to overrule every other species on Earth. We are far more powerful than our ancestors, however we must combat forces we never attempted to tackle before. For the first time in history, we cannot bring peace and stability to the world by signing a Pax Romana, holding a Congress of Vienna or simply settling for a Treaty of Versailles. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but forces of cosmic darkness. We are facing a battle which cannot be won with an armour of gold and heavy Friesian horse. A battle in which the greatest warriors of all time, Alexander the Great, Spartacus or indestructible Spartans would be defeated at their first clash. Climate change is not just another enterprise we can undertake.

Despite massive media attention for climate change around the world, some people are still loath to accept pernicious changes. With developing world of politics and marketing, we are exposed to biased media coverage thus we can easily be deceived by malicious fallacies or detrimental governmental agendas. Human species shares the same set of shared laws, norms and values so that all of us can lead relatively ordered lives. Thanks to this, we have the freedom of expression, anyone can rightfully hold their own opinion without governmental intervention. Over centuries we managed to shape our minds and develop logical reasoning skills in order to make rational decisions and believe in what we think is the best for our survival. Thus, we tend to pay attention to information consistent with our pre-existing beliefs, motivations, and values. However, not everyone is equally proficient in interpreting evidence and selectively attending to controversial information. Not everyone shares the same urgent need for action. Many are prone to experience phenomena such as authority or confirmation bias, being blindly loyal to their authority figures. Some say that "Ignorance is blissful", too much information can

¹ Oxford Dictionary

confuse our brains, however all it does is lead us to inaction and poor choices that can only worsen our present situation. At its heart, climate change denial is a conflict between facts and values. People deny the climate crisis because, to them, it just sounds fallaciously. The truth is – environmental changes are no longer a prediction or a wildly overblown concept, but a fact. Either way, climate change becomes such an “inconvenient truth” that, instead of living with and acting upon our worries, some suppress the truth instead.

Why is it so important that everyone accepts occurring changes and decides to act? As a society, we have the luxury of affluence and cushiness, but more importantly, we can relish the existence of democracy that allows us to work for a sustainable future. We have very little time to alter the global vision for our future, the driving force of every decision we arrive at. We have already succeeded to control the worst aspects of living on Earth, now we need to communicate and continue to improve using technology that we invented. It is crucial to understand how the environmental changes influence our health, not just the climate itself. Global warming, water and food shortages as well as emerging conflicts are catastrophic consequences of humanity’s greatest peril. No one is safe from these dangers and the strongly affected ones, whose health is being harmed first by the climate crisis are interestingly those who contribute the least to its causes.

*You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.*² It is particularly important for every single one of us to take steps in order to reduce calamitous effects of climate change. All in all, a nation that destroys its soils will slowly destroy itself. Planet Earth is the source of everything in life that makes it worth living and today could be our last chance to save it from an imminent catastrophe.

² Jane Goodall