



**The wrong Amazon
is burning.**



**The wrong ICE
is melting.**

**The government won't save the planet for us--
we have to save the planet from the government.**

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Finally, people are filling the streets to call on governments to address the most drastic crisis facing humanity in the 21st century. This is long overdue. But it is pointless to petition the same sector of society that created this problem to solve it. Time and again, we have learned that the state does not exist to serve our needs but to protect those who are profiting on the causes of the crisis.

The most effective way to pressure politicians and executives to address the climate crisis is to show that whatever they fail to do, we will do ourselves. This means moving beyond symbolic displays of “non-violence” to build the capacity to shut down the fossil fuel economy ourselves. No amount of media attention or progressive rhetoric can substitute for this.

Several examples from recent social movements show that we can do this.

In 2011-2012, **the Occupy Movement** demonstrated that tens of thousands of people could make decisions without top-down organization, meeting their needs collectively and carrying out massive demonstrations. On one day of action, participants shut down ports up and down the West Coast, confirming that coordinated blockades can disrupt the global supply chain of energy and commodities.

In 2016, people converged to fight **the Dakota Access Pipeline**, a corporate project threatening Native land and water. Tens of thousands established a network of camps to block construction, demonstrating a new way to live and fight together. The Obama administration canceled the pipeline, causing many occupiers to go home, but the Trump administration reinstated it—confirming that we must never count on the government to do anything for us.

In France, occupiers blocked the construction of a new airport at **la ZAD**, the “Zone to Defend.” Farmers teamed up with anarchists and environmentalists, establishing an autonomous village that provided infrastructure for the struggle. In the end, the government canceled the airport.

We have seen **train blockades** in a variety of struggles. In Olympia, Washington, anarchists blocked trains carrying fracking proppants in 2016 and in 2017, forcing the company to stop transporting the commodity. In Harlan County, Kentucky, coal miners are currently blockading a coal-carrying train after the Black Jewel company refused to pay owed wages. It only takes a few dozen people to shut down a key node in the supply chains of the global fossil fuel economy. Imagine what we could do on a bigger scale!

Governments serve to protect the economy from those it exploits. The state exists to evict, to police, to wage war, to oppress, and above all to defend the property of the wealthy few. The perils of climate change have been known for years, but in response, governments have focused on fighting wars for oil, militarizing their borders, and attacking the social movements that could bring about change.

The capitalist economy is literally killing us. Let's begin the process of shutting it down. Another end of the world is possible!