Klein, Naomi. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*.

New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014.

**This Changes Everything: Summated**

Kristofer Holmquist

Naomi Klein shares in her recent book “This Changes Everything” her hope and vision for the future of climate change. Klein believes recent generations have engaged in a wasteful manner of life, in which an irony presents itself in the form of our environment revolting against the consumption of fossil fuels while society in response pushes to consume even more. This model is difficult to change due in large part to our own apathy and deeply ingrained habits. There is still a chance for change, believes Klein, and a hope to transform much more than climate change.

An elite minority have a stranglehold over our economy, our political process, and most of our major media outlets, Klein argues. Further, we have not done what is necessary to lower emissions due to a fundamental conflict with deregulated capitalism, the reigning ideology during the entire period we have been struggling to find a way out of the crisis. This is why large conferences, negotiations and reports have had little to no effect on our consumption. Preliminary data shows that in 2013, global carbon dioxide emissions were 61 percent higher than they were in 1990, when negotiations toward a climate treaty began in earnest, Klein points out.

Quoting MIT economist John Reilly: “The more we talk about the need to control emissions, the more they are growing.” Growing too is the frustration, concern and even despair among the general public. Klein quotes Sally Weintrobe “leaders are not looking after us...we are not cared for at the level of our very survival.” The world’s governments have been talking about preventing climate change for more than two decades. Quoting Anjali Appadurai who spoke before the 2011 United Nations climate conference: “In that time, you’ve failed to meet pledges, you’ve missed targets, and you’ve broken promises.” Klein believes that the necessary change must come from below, that this climate crisis has not received the necessary attention by our elite and it is now up to the masses.

All evidence points to a pretty grim future for mankind, but Klein is convinced that climate change presents a historic opportunity for a large mass movement which could benefit the world in more ways than saving our environment. She believes that grassroots efforts to convince our leaders is our best hope yet, that in doing so we may be able to create a more healthy, equal and stronger society. Although, she believes that presently we are actually dousing it with gasoline.

The continuing struggle between regulation and deregulation of large corporations, to the many methods of looking in the opposite direction from our fears, to the inadequate attempts made by our government, to the potential for society to uproot itself from the very core, to changing everything about ourselves is the picture that Naomi Klein paints in her book.