**This Changes Everything: Summated**

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Naomi Klein’s recent 2014 book, “This Changes Everything” takes a look at the current state of climate change opinions, research and understanding in the world today. Klein believes the signatures of this era have been the mass export of products across vast distances, and the import of a uniquely wasteful model of production, consumption, and agriculture to every corner of the world. In turn, an irony presents itself in the form of our environment pushing back against the consumption of fossil fuels while society in response must push to consume even more. This model is difficult to change because of its main threat to centrism, which involves a habit of reasonableness, seriousness, splitting the difference and generally not getting overly excited about anything.

An elite minority have a stranglehold over our economy, our political process, and most of our major media outlets. We have not done what is necessary to to lower emissions because those things fundamentally conflict with deregulated capitalism, the reigning ideology for the entire period we have been struggling to find a way out of this 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.

MIT economist John Reilly: “The more we talk about the need to control emissions, the more they are growing.” So too is the despair growing among the general public, Sally Weintrobe is quoted as saying “leaders are not looking after us...we are not cared for at the level of our very survival.” 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. The world’s governments have been talking about preventing climate change for more than two decades. “In that time, you’ve failed to meet pledges, you’ve missed targets, and you’ve broken promises.”

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.

This 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 and the potential for society to unroot itself from the very core to change everything about ourselves is the picture that Naomi Klein paints in her book.