

5. The environment has gone beyond the <sup>Date</sup> tipping point now <sup>20</sup>

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: The environment has crossed the safe threshold for living beings. This phenomenon has disastrous implications for the world at large. However, the situation can be remedied through adoption of far-reaching technology to adapt ~~and~~ or alter the damaged environment.

2. Vitality of the environment in general

3. Reasons for the environment going beyond the tipping point

- (a) The disastrous side-effects of capitalism
- (b) Incredulity towards human impacts on the environment
- (c) Deep and unwavering reliance on fossil fuels
- (d) Detrimental impacts of population explosion
- (e) Unwillingness to adopt sustainable technology and practices

4. Far-reaching horrendous implications of moving beyond the tipping point

- (a) Increased chances of mass extinction
- (b) Upward trajectory of natural disasters
- (c) Consistent increase in global temperature
- (d) Logical adoption of law of the jungle
- (e) Forgoing internationalism for extreme nationalism
- (f) Increased distances of conflicts



(g) More people falling victim to poverty

## 5. Measures to remedy the situation and adaptation strategies

- (a) Adoption of geo-engineering technology
- (b) Prepare for the worst through emergency warning systems
- (c) Taking advantage of AI
- (d) Switch to clean energy consumption
- (e) Green financing encouraged and facilitated

## 6. Conclusion

### ESSAY

Time and again environmentalists have warned the world about the point of no return. These warnings were not based on arbitrary intuition but on research-backed claims. Previously, environmentalists were seen as starry-eyed, tree-hugging hippies but now the image has transformed into Ph.D holders in lab coats citing evidence of environmental doom. Frequently, language such as catastrophe, environmental armageddon, mass extinction and the end of the world was seen in the news, research papers, policy briefs and studies. Now, it is claimed humans have gone beyond the tipping point and whatever happens next to cannot be blamed on anyone but the entire human race. Each individual, knowingly or unknowingly, has



cumulatively contributed to reaching beyond the this stage where the environment is in grave danger. The reasons for this include the disastrous side-effects of capitalism, deep and unwavering reliance on fossil fuels and unwillingness to adopt sustainable, environmentally-friendly technologies. This has severe and horrendous implications such as mass increased chances of mass extinction, upward trajectory of natural disasters and forging societal norms in favour of the law of the jungle. However, humans are capable of finding solutions to the problems they create and when push comes to shove, they ~~will~~ will adopt such measures. These include geo-engineering, adoption of AI and using early warning systems to prepare for the worst. Hence, the environment has crossed the safe threshold for living beings. This phenomenon has disastrous implications for the world at large. However, the situation can be remedied through adoption of far-reaching technology to adapt or alter the damaged environment.

Human beings and all living entities need an environment to not only flourish but survive. An environment constitutes the air that we breathe, the temperature we encounter, and the ~~the~~ vegetation or



lack thereof present around them. The environment ~~has~~ doesn't just impact humans directly but also indirectly. For example, if the environment doesn't encourage the growth of food sources, ~~humans~~ animals may not survive which poses a ~~do~~ lack of options for humans who have no vegetation or animal source to feed from. This entails that the environment ~~is~~ one is in need to provide sustenance to living beings. As the environment is degraded - habitats are disrupted and extinction may result which poses a threat to the food chain and humans at large. Moreover, weather conditions are also vital for human survival. For instance, extreme temperatures could lead to diseases which would annihilate humankind. ~~Therefore~~ Therefore, the environment a stable and nourishing environment is vital for all life forms.

Capitalism and its ideals have led to disastrous side-effects that have contributed to the environment going beyond its tipping point. Capitalism encourages consumption and production while ignoring the impacts on the environment. ~~The production of goods and services require energy which~~ The world increasingly adopted capitalist ideologies as that was seen as the only means to live a fulfilling and successful life as opposed to communism. ~~For~~



(Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History and The Last Man*, 1992). The idolization of consumer choice, and overproduction and efficiency led to ignorance of the damage to the environment which led to the world moving beyond the safety threshold. Hence, the safety threshold was breached due to the ideology of capitalism which ignores the environment.

Unfortunately, many people still question the ~~credit~~ impact of human activity on the environment which has led to it not being taken seriously. The environmental changes taking place are seen as a natural phenomenon and out of the scope of human activity. These ideas are not just adopted by illiterate individuals but even men in powerful positions. For instance, Donald Trump former president of the US, Donald Trump withdrew from The Paris Agreement (2015) during his first month in office as he seriously questioned the credibility of environmental research. This led to the US ~~producing~~ being the largest contributor to environmental degradation which ~~it~~ is a title it has infamously held for decades. Thus, incredulity towards human impacts on the environment has led to the world going beyond the tipping point.

Since the Industrial Revolution, the world has had a deep



and unwavering reliance on fossil fuels which has led to the crossing of the safe environment ~~threshold~~ threshold. To meet their energy needs humans have relied on fossil fuels which have deeply etched into all systems of human existence. ~~Part has~~ and contributed to environmental degradation. Fossil fuels ~~are~~ don't just come in the form of energy sources but its by-products have seeped into everything utilized by man. For instance, from the pen to the used by <sup>the</sup> common man to the sockets that are used for space exploration, all have elements of fossil fuels which are vital for ~~all~~ human activity in general (Bill Gates, How To Avoid A Climate Disaster, 2021). Therefore, reliance on fossil fuels has contributed to the environment going beyond ~~the~~ the tipping point.

A large population explosion has had ~~to~~ profound and detrimental impacts on the environment. Populations need to be fed, clothed and sheltered - all of which require production and which has fuelled environmental catastrophe. Not enough was done to facilitate a sustainable population growth so that the ~~been~~ people added to earth reduced the wiping threat. ~~of~~ For instance, in 2023, it was estimated that the world population crossed 8 billion ([www.worldpopulationreview.com](http://www.worldpopulationreview.com)). This has



led to an illiterate and unsustainable population adding fuel to the fire of environmental calamity. All in all, the population explosion has led to the environment going beyond the tipping point now.

A seemingly stable and successful system of power generation has stiffly resisted the adoption of sustainable technology to curb environmental degradation which has culminated into the situation today. The ~~world~~ successful nations of the world did not want to give up on progress and power and continued business as-usual which ~~has~~ led to warming the environment. Countries that have recently found success through industrialisation ~~would~~ have cited that they would not want to fall behind and if the west was allowed to industrialise then they should too. For instance, India has found industrial success in the last decade and has resisted attempts to phase out coal while citing the hypocrisy of the west. Overall, an unwillingness to adopt sustainable practices and technology has culminated into the move beyond the environmental tipping point.

The environment moving beyond the tipping point has led to an increased chance of mass extinction. With increasing temperatures, harm on agriculture and fresh water depletion, mass extinction is highly



likely. Environmental deterioration is a man-made situation, and in less than 200 years of industrialisation humans have achieved what no other species has achieved thus far. The sixth mass extinction is likely due to the environment moving beyond beyond the safety threshold (Aisha Wali, Mass extinction, 2023).

Therefore, a disastrous implication of this phenomenon is mass extinction.

By and large, natural disasters have increased in frequency and intensity which is a negative impact of ~~the~~ moving beyond the tipping point. A turbulent and violent environment is a breeding ground for natural disasters. General increases in temperature, particularly over  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  from pre-industrial levels, entails that hurricanes, floods, droughts are more likely to occur. For example, the world saw 134 natural disasters of a large scale in ~~2023~~<sup>2023</sup> which included the wildfires in Australia, Greece and Canada (World Meteorological Organisation Report 2023). Ergo, there frequency ~~and~~ has been an upward trajectory of ~~the~~ natural disasters which is likely to become worse.

The average global temperature ~~may~~ may lead to planet earth becoming inhospitable as the environment moves beyond the tipping point. The global temperatures has seen an



uptake and has ceased to become sustainable provide a safe environment for most living habit habitats. While there have been minor fluctuations, the general trend has been an increase which threatens all forms of life. For instance, July was termed the hottest month of the year and 2023 was termed the hottest year in 125,000 years (World Meteorological Organisation). Hence, the global temperatures are uptaking consistently as the environment has moved beyond the tipping point.

The very essence of civilization and social order is at stake as the world <sup>has</sup> moved beyond the tipping point. In order to survive, humans will forgo everything they have been taught through socialisation in society and adopt the law of the jungle. Evolutionarily, humans have an instinct to survive and when resources begin to deplete further, they would fight one another and accumulate resources for their survival and the survival of their loved ones (Aisha Umar). Society and social order as ~~we~~ one knows it will cease to exist and the law of the jungle will ensue. Therefore, the environmental tipping point being breached ~~it~~ will lead to societal collapse and social anarchy.

The system of globalisation and internationalism will shift to extreme



nationalism as environmental degradation wreaks havoc on the world. International law and adherence to principles of cooperation and world peace will be a thing of the past. To protect their own people, countries will cease trade and forcefully take what is needed to survive. For example, 60% of the ~~the~~ fresh water supply of the world are ~~water~~ transboundary and the upper riparian countries that hold the source of the rivers ~~may~~ cut off supply to lower riparian countries. This situation has already unfolded in Somalia in 2011 and may be a common phenomenon now. Thus, the environment moving beyond the tipping point ~~it~~ will now lead to extreme nationalism and forgetting of internationalism.

Undoubtedly, conflicts will be a major ~~negative~~ manifestation of the environment moving beyond the tipping point. The ~~the~~ expanding human race will begin to compete for resources even more and ultimately ~~will~~ clash and with each other. When it comes to food and water, no one will be willing to sacrifice as those are essential for survival. ~~the~~ Countries may war with each other not for power but for ~~the~~ survival. On a smaller scale, groups of people may conflict constantly due to climate catastrophes (Ali Tawqeer Sheikh,



(Climate-conflict nexus, 2023). Ergo, the environment moving beyond the tipping point may raise the number and intensity of conflicts.

Unsurprisingly, more people will fall victim to poverty as they would not have adequate means to go up the social mobility ladder. The environment moving beyond the tipping point ~~with~~ has occupied governments dealing with ~~cost~~ a revolving door of crises. These are likely to increase more. In such a situation, governments would spread their resources thin and less would be available for the ever-increasing poverty bracket. This would lead to poverty increasing overall. Overall, the environment moving beyond the tipping point will lead to more people falling victim to poverty.

In the doom and gloom of ~~stare~~ environmental catastrophe, a ray of hope emerges in the form of geo-engineering. Geo-engineering seeks to alter the environment to reduce the harm caused to the environment and scale back from the breached tipping point. Geo-engineering is already making headway in the form of solar radiation modification to reduce the temperature of earth. For instance to elaborate, ~~to~~ aerosol sprays can be sprayed into the earth's atmosphere



to ~~do~~ block solar radiation. Moreover, salt particles can be sprayed into clouds so that ~~the~~ solar radiation is reflected back and the earth ~~sees~~ attains a lower average temperature (Bill Gates, How To Avoid a Climate Disaster, 2021). All in all, geoengineering offers an innovative means to remedy the situation and pull back from environmental degradation catastrophe.

The best way to avoid the harmful impacts of the environment is to prepare for the worst through early warning systems. Since the environment has gone beyond the tipping point now, disasters are eminent which need to be prepared for. Early warning systems offer a means to move out of harm's way and reduce <sup>potential</sup> human casualties. This is already taking place in the Bilgi Baltistan region where 14 of early warning systems are being installed. Hence, preparing for the worst is an effective strategy to reduce potential harm of environmental degradation.

AI has emerged as a saviour of mankind in the face of the environment blacking its safety point. AI has seeped into every facet of human existence and has the means to remedy the situation and keep humans



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prepare for environmental hazard. AI has the ability ~~to~~ to forecast ~~to~~ environmental disasters through monitoring weather patterns and studying the impact and scale of impending disasters. Moreover, AI could help eliminate ~~carbon dioxide~~ greenhouse gases from the atmosphere to clean the environment by studying the existing technologies (Henry Kissinger, The Age of AI and Our Human Future, 2021). Thus, AI could be ~~used to~~ taken advantage of to remedy the ~~the~~ situation.

Another means to counter the environment crossing the tipping point is by aggressively adopting clean energy. The prerogative of using fossil fuels for a economic stability should be ~~curbed~~ as added more ~~to~~ green- greenhouse gases to the atmosphere will only make matters worse. It would be ~~more~~ desirable and logical to adopt ~~renewable~~ clean energy that ensures a quality lifestyle and a scale back of environmental degrad-  
-ation. For example, <sup>nuclear</sup> ~~renewable~~ energy offers a solution to curb the intermittent nature of renewable energy such as solar and wind ~~energy~~ (Tabish Brauhar, The new energy world order, 2023). Ergo,





switching to clean energy consumption will facilitate a ~~more~~ <sup>improving</sup> reduced ~~reduce~~ the pull back the ~~the~~ environment catastrophe.

lastly, green financing offers a means to ~~pull~~ encourage countries to invest in green solutions so that further damage does not ensue. Green finance offers an incentive to particularly developing countries to move away from harmful environmental practices and towards environmentally friendly practices. While the world ~~has~~ has moved beyond the tipping point, the matter should not be made worse by continuing business as usual. ~~They~~ The developing countries can be facilitated through funds provided by the culprits of ~~the~~ environmental degradation, the developed countries, through COP28 (COP28 (Abu Dhabi, UAE), New Climate Finance, 2023).

Therefore, ~~environmental~~ the environment moving beyond the tipping point is no excuse for not trying to remedy the situation which can be done through green financing.

In conclusion, the environment has moved beyond its tipping point ~~but~~ which ~~the~~ can be largely blamed on the developed and industrialised world. Despite calls to cease their harmful activities,



They carried on business as usual. This ~~was~~ was due to their idolization of capitalism and neo-liberalism along with their over dependence on fossil fuels. The harmful impacts of the environment ~~to~~ moving beyond the tipping point now has lead to an increased chance of the sixth mass extinction, ~~or~~ a high likelihood of societal collapse and an increased chance of conflicts. But, all is not lost as humans are capable of devising solutions to the problems they create. These include geo-engineering, ~~storing~~ using AI and incentivizing clean energy consumption. ~~Indeed, the saying~~ The saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention" can be adopted here as human beings ~~need to invent something extraordinary~~ have invented technologies to counter their impending doom and will continue to do so as it is the need of the hour.