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Are humans creating mass extinction?

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It's been no secret that people all around the world are worried about the state in which our planet is in. Protests, marches, and petitions have all occurred for people to voice their concerns. Many countries, including allies of the United States, joined the Paris Climate Agreement to fight against climate change. The United States withdrew from the Agreement on June 1, 2017 and continues to distance itself from the reality of climate change.

Recently, on Friday 21, 2019, Young people took to the streets of New York to protest inaction on climate change. One of the leading climate activists, Greta Thunberg, led the protest in speaking to an audience of over two-hundred and fifty thousand people. "People are dying;entire ecosystems are collapsing, we are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!" Thunberg stressed the importance of immediate action and urged political figures to act. She blamed ignorant politicians for stealing ruining her childhood and ambition. The organization "Fridays for Future" called for students and workers to strike against authority figures everywhere. Climate change doesn't just impact the United States. These strikes have brought people together from all around the world.

Human activity continues to warm the Earth every year and it is estimated that humans have thirty years to make a global impact towards climate change to the Earth. The biggest factors towards global warming are greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Carbon dioxide combusts from cars, factories, and power plants and is arguably the most damaging gas to the environment. Methane is released from landfills, natural gas, and the livestock industry. Nitrous oxides is emitted from gases used for refrigeration and fertilizer. Forest are getting chopped down in mass numbers, causing these greenhouse gases to have nowhere to go. Plants absorb greenhouse gases and greatly contribute to the ecosystem.

Many countries met in Paris to create the Paris Climate Agreement, which is taking measures to combat climate change. Laws are being passed by countries to make their societies more eco-friendly. For example, Italy is planning to enforce a policy that gives shoppers a twenty percent discount off their total bill if they buy unpackaged items. Germany is reducing the price of train tickets and raising the price of airplane tickets to cut carbon emissions. Countries are also encouraging their citizens to use electric cars as opposed to petrol engine cars by installing charging points across their country.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump is continuing to deny the existence of climate change. He is apart of the Republican Party, whose right wing views describe the climate crisis as a "hoax". Trump mocked Greta Thunberg on Twitter and sarcastically called her a "very happy young girl". His latest remarks on climate change is that the United States has some of the cleanest water and air in the world. The Earth's temperature continues to rise and the arctic simultaneously is melting while the president is off drawing fake maps and making racist remarks.