

Hope in Hell

Notes

Chapter Two

All progressive social movements are nurtured by hope, frequently in the face of ridiculous odds.

“It always seems impossible until it’s done” Nelson Mandela.
Powerful, destructive forces at work in the world.

There’s a strong body of work that demonstrates that people who feel optimistic about the future are more likely to take action to help improve it.

Many feel very strongly that without hope it’s impossible to overcome the sense that many people have that they themselves cannot make a difference anyway, why bother...so much easier not to have to think about it all.

The voices of those who believe that it’s already too late to turn things around are increasing all the time – with all sorts of implications for building a powerful movement for change.

“Act like your house is on fire because it is” Greta Thunberg.

Greta Thunberg – a remarkable role model for young people.

Climate change has never been ‘an environmental issue’; it just got put in that box because environmental scientists and campaigners were the first to raise the alarm back in the 1980’s - with great foresight, as it happens, as the evidence wasn’t as crystal clear then as it is today. Unfortunately we’ve paid a heavy price for that pigeonholing, as it allowed politicians to address climate change with as little *real* concern as they’ve addressed every other environmental issue over the past 40 years. In fact climate change is a civilisation issue rather than an environmental issue, going right to the heart of today’s growth-obsessed economy, challenging the very meaning of what we call progress.

A global movement is needed.

Climate change “The human rights struggle of our time – too important to be left to environmentalists alone” Naomi Klein.
Commitment to the radical transformation of today’s economy the only source of authentic hope for addressing today’s Climate Emergency.

It is crucial that we give ourselves time to imagine what a ‘better world’ might look like, and to picture ourselves living in that world, so that we can become better storytellers as we confront the Climate Emergency.

The definition of insanity “doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results” Albert Einstein.

What are the grounds for supposing that we’re going to see a profound transformation in the politics of climate change?

We can be resolutely hopeful that we will make a much, much better job of it over the next thirty years than we have over the last thirty years, starting that process with enough humility to listen properly to the passion and the anger of young people.

Notes from ‘Hope in Hell’ by Jonathon Porritt