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WEF's Agenda-setting Confab

This year's World Economic Forum, the 53rd such annual meeting, has returned to its traditional January time slot after several years of pandemic-related delays and cancellations. The WEF has traditionally met soon after the New Year in order to serve as an annual agenda-setting event, one of the most important venues for globalists to align their New Year's resolutions for more action-oriented venues later in the year. Founded by German economist, engineer, and all-around International Man of Mystery Klaus Schwab, the WEF takes over the Alpine Swiss village of Davos for an entire week. Its guest roster always includes a generous number of political leaders, including heads of state, as well as assorted prominent economists, business leaders, and cultural icons. Hailing from all over the world and speaking dozens of different languages, Davos attendees are typically united in their support for international socialism and their intention to remake the global political and economic system.

This year, the four-day get-together — held January 16-19 — was all about the need for systemic change, as the 2023 program made clear. Invoking the fragility of a global system ravaged by the Covid pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, the WEF's official program laid out five agenda items targeting comprehensive systemic change:

Addressing the Current Energy and Food Crises in the context of a New System for Energy, Climate and Nature.

Addressing the Current High Inflation, Low Growth, High Debt Economy in the context of a New System for Investment, Trade and Infrastructure.

Addressing the Current Industry Headwinds in the context of a New System for Harnessing Frontier Technologies for Private Sector Innovation and Resilience.

Addressing the Current Social Vulnerabilities in the context of a New System for Work, Skills and Care.

Addressing the Current Geopolitical Risks in the context of a New System for Dialogue and Cooperation in a Multipolar World.



[AP Images](#)

Mountain retreat: Davos, Switzerland, a small town in the Swiss Alps, is chiefly known for being the venue each January for the week-long World Economic Forum convention.



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Just what these “new systems” might entail is purposefully vague. But global elites profess to be spooked by many current trends that could undo the globalization of the last several decades, including the decoupling of the Chinese economy from the rest of the world, the election of anti-globalist heads of state such as Donald Trump and Brazil’s Jair Bolsonaro, and the towering levels of debt and inflation that threaten to topple the entire world financial and economic system. According to the introduction to the WEF’s 2023 program, “For the first time since the 1970s, the world is facing a precarious disequilibrium with growth and inflation moving in opposite directions. This is occurring alongside heightened geo-economic fragmentation, financial sector vulnerabilities ... and a climate crisis spiraling out of control.” And *The Guardian’s* Larry Elliott, in a piece highlighting the gloomy mood at Davos this year, lamented that “the golden age of globalization in the late 1990s and early 2000s is now a fast-fading memory.”

Globalization Not Waning

Would that globalization would go the way of the woolly mammoth! But rumors of its demise are premature, to say the least. As always, Davos served as a sounding board for new globalist agenda items bandied about in WEF panel discussions and public speeches. And the number-one message being communicated in this year’s public sessions was that globalization is here to stay.

According to historian Niall Ferguson, speaking in Davos, the notion of deglobalization is a “mirage.” Ferguson assured his globalist audience that all the seemingly disruptive crises of the past few years are “just history happening,” not nails in the coffin of globalization. “This is how history works,” Ferguson said. “You get stuff that is not so perceptible, the economic convergence, the technological change, which were obviously going to alter the way the global economy worked.” Under such turmoil, it would be surprising if there were not changes to the global economic structure, he added.

Christian Klein, the CEO of German tech company SAP, seemed to agree, suggesting that the world is merely entering “the next phase of globalization,” a phase that would be characterized by, among other things, rejigging supply chains in response to the Russia-Ukraine war and the aftermath of the Covid pandemic. Despite such challenges, “we in the tech sector, we at SAP, we are very confident about the year ahead,” Klein added.

Kristalina Georgieva, the International Monetary Fund chief, encapsulated the conference’s major economic theme by urging attendees on the final day of the conference to “keep the global economy integrated for the benefit of all of us.”

Not surprisingly, the conference also focused heavily on technology, with a special session on Tuesday dedicated to exploring the impact of revolutionary new “generative AI” technology, especially the new software ChatGPT that has been the talk of the internet for the past couple of months. ChatGPT is able to literally write research papers, speeches, and agendas in response to even the simplest prompts, and is rapidly making traditional college assignments — such as term papers and essay writing — obsolete.

It wouldn’t be a World Economic Forum without environmentalist histrionics, and this year’s Davos conclave was no exception. Former vice president Al Gore was the climate-alarmist headliner at a special panel discussion on saving the planet. Sounding like a secular evangelist preaching climate-change fire and brimstone, Gore feverishly harangued those in attendance for more than seven minutes, insisting that environmental apocalypse is nigh at hand if we do not immediately forsake our destructive



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ways.

First, the good news, according to Gore: The “Inflation Reduction Act” recently passed by Democrats and signed into law by President Biden on August 16, 2022, was “primarily a climate act.” Indeed, the \$738 billion act is the largest climate-change boondoggle in U.S. history, allocating a whopping \$391 billion for that conceit. So outrageous was the bill that even normally conciliatory RINOs in the House and Senate panned it, with the likes of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell calling it “reckless spending.” Not a single Republican in either house voted for it, and every Democrat supported it. Almost every serious pundit agrees that the deceptively named bill will do nothing to reduce inflation. But as a payout to radical environmentalists both domestic and international, as well as to their anti-American agenda, it was certainly an unprecedented act, as Gore observed.

In a subplot rich with irony, the Inflation Reduction Act has become a major bone of contention for many Europeans, who — far from perceiving the environmental virtues touted by Gore — largely view the legislation as naked protectionism that will hurt the EU’s economy. As a result, Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.V.), one of several U.S. legislators at Davos this year, had to resort to lengthy rhetorical contortions in a different working session to defend the new law. “There’s been a lot of consternation and concerns about the IRA — the Inflation Reduction Act — thinking that it’s going to harm the E.U.,” Manchin said. “There is no intent whatsoever to harm any of our allies.” And oblivious to the likely eye-rolls, Manchin added reassuringly, “If you really want a clean environment, a cleaner environment, and some calming of geopolitical unrest that we have, you better be able to do it quicker, faster, and better than any place in the world, and then share it with your friends. That’s what we’re going to do.” Later, former U.S. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers offered further clarity, pointing out that competition on environmental policies, including “who can accelerate a transition towards renewables more rapidly,” is healthy competition, and ought to be embraced.

Gore’s “Seven Minutes of Terror”

Meanwhile Al Gore, in his jeremiad, praised the overthrow of Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil by Marxist Luiz Inácio “Lula” da Silva, proclaiming it a victory for rainforest preservation, and also characterized as “good news” the recent ouster of Australia’s conservative prime minister Scott Morrison by leftist Anthony Albanese. He waxed effusive about all the new renewable energy technologies, which are replacing fossil fuels and other traditional energy sources all over the world (except, of course, in Communist China, which neither Gore nor anyone else in global environmentalist circles ever seems to mention). Finally, Gore commended the many CEOs and other people of influence in business circles for their increased “passion” for the supposed climate crisis.

But, Gore observed, his voice rising with emotion, “we are still losing.” Global greenhouse-gas emissions are still going up, he noted, once again failing to mention that China is the chief culprit. Erroneously claiming that the troposphere is “only five to seven kilometers thick” (it actually averages 13 kilometers, or 8.1 miles, thick), Gore, in an odd choice of metaphor, asserted that we have turned it into “an open sewer.”

And the claims got “curioser and curioser” as Gore warmed to his subject before a backdrop of a satellite photo of Amazonia. Thundered the former senator and vice president:

We’re still putting 162 million tons of greenhouse gas pollution into [the troposphere] every



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single day, and the accumulated amount is now trapping as much extra heat as would be released by 600,000 Hiroshima-class atomic bombs exploding every single day on the earth. That's what's boiling the oceans, creating these atmospheric rivers, and the rain bombs, and sucking the moisture out of the land, and creating the droughts, and melting the ice, and raising the sea level, and causing these waves of climate refugees predicted to reach one billion in this century!"



Saving the planet: Former senator and vice president Al Gore is a member of the WEF's board of trustees and the most prominent voice at the forum advocating radical global environmental policies, such as ending the use of fossil fuels. (AP Images)

"Rain bomb," for the environmentally uninitiated, is non-scientific scare-speak for what used to be called a "downpour" or "cloud burst." "Atmospheric river" is a recent coinage for what used to be called "cloud bands," the long, strung-out cloud formations that convey moisture from one region to another — since, it turns out, weather does not stand still. As for "boiling oceans," we have no idea what Gore was referring to.

Turning to geopolitics, Gore implored his audience to "look at the xenophobia and political authoritarian trends that have come from just a few million refugees. What about a billion? We would lose our capacity for self-governance!" The not-so-subtle swipe at those opposed to Biden's unhinged immigration policies seemed to imply that the MAGA movement, January 6, and the general rise in populism and desire to return to limited government are, in fact, products of the climate crisis.

Gore expressed hope that the young people will achieve what his generation could not: stopping human progress in its tracks. He applauded Greta Thunberg and her recent police detention on the site of a German coal mine. He excoriated the World Bank for having a "climate denier" in charge (a reference to World Bank president David Malpass, who last year had the audacity to cast doubt on the dogma that fossil fuels are warming the planet), and for "completely failing to do its job." Gore also railed against the United Arab Emirates' Sultan Al Jaber (without naming him), the CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, who, in a delicious twist of duplicity, was recently named president of this year's UN Climate Conference (COP28) in Dubai. "We cannot let the oil companies and gas companies and petro states tell us what is permissible," the former veep vituperated. "In the last COP, we were not even allowed to discuss scaling down oil and gas!"



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Gore concluded with a lengthy tantrum about the oil and gas industries and their woeful tendency to fight back against the efforts of enviro-extremists to shut them down completely, all to approving nods and applause from those assembled.

Gore's "seven minutes of terror" were a welcome dose of sincerity in an event typically dominated by word-parsing, well-groomed elites careful to avoid referring too overtly to their radical globalist designs. Al Gore, by contrast, was open and artless in his fiery denunciations of human progress, and particularly the energy sector that has elevated incalculably the standard of living for the entire human race. By Gore's logic — and that of modern radical environmentalists — all gas, oil, coal, and petroleum products such as plastic need to be abolished or, at the very least, scaled back to 19th-century levels of production and consumption, a plan that would, inevitably, entail a return to 19th-century standards of living.

Their Real Mindset

This anti-progress mindset is pervasive among globalist elites, including Davos attendees. At root, however, they are far more opposed to the empowerment and independence that modern technology has conferred on ordinary people worldwide than they are to alleged environmental abuses. After all, hundreds of them traveled to Davos in private jets and spent the week enjoying luxuries that only a small elite can access. No, their beef is not with environmental abuse and overconsumption in principle; it is with little people who dare to enjoy technologies and luxuries that they would rather reserve to themselves — such as fast, convenient travel and unfettered access to information via the internet. Gore's diatribe was a welcome reminder to the sane of just how high the stakes are, and how unhinged the radical opposition is.

Besides the global environment, the Russia-Ukraine war attracted a lot of attention, as expected, including a panel that pondered whether the unthinkable — a nuclear war — might be in the cards. Not surprisingly, Russia was disinvited to this year's WEF, and the consensus was that Russia could not be permitted to conquer Ukraine, much less get away with nuclear blackmail — lest the entire globalist project be discredited. A panel on the final day of the forum recommended a strengthening of sanctions against Russia, but saw Russia likely evolving into "a giant Iran" — poor, isolated from the outside world, and bristling with weapons. The need for regime change was openly discussed, although the panelists admitted that getting rid of Putin was a tall order.

War and peace: This year's WEF dedicated a lot of time to the possible ramifications of the Russia-Ukraine war, and how to prevent Putin from annexing Ukraine while avoiding World War III. (AP Images)



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Anyone doubting the seriousness of the World Economic Forum or its clout in the global governance game need look no further than the organization's Board of Trustees, which includes a large number of the world's most powerful people in government, finance, business, and culture. Al Gore is a board member, and so are Christine LaGarde, president of the European Central Bank; Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organization; and the aforementioned Kristalina Georgieva of the IMF. The business sector is represented by the likes of Larry Fink, CEO of BlackRock, the world's largest investment firm; Jim Hagemann Swab, chairman of Siemens; and many others. The science sector is represented by L. Rafael Reif, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Fabiola Gianotti, director-general of CERN, Europe's most venerable particle-physics research facility.

Despite a clear European bias in board membership, there can be no doubt that this organization is immensely influential. Its stated goal, to promote "true global citizenship," should be taken seriously by Americans and people of all nationalities who value their own countries' sovereignty and independence.



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