



## Lesson 119

### Perils Facing the World part 2

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There are many perils facing the world this year. In part 1, we studied the impact of the Ukraine war, Xi Jinping's leadership in China, Iran's domestic and nuclear war, division in the United States and Canada, and inflation. Those are only some of the risks facing the world. In this lesson, we'll look at five more critical issues that are shaping the planet. From water to Artificial Intelligence, the perils facing the world are many in number.

## **Energy: The Impending Crisis**

### **Energy Shortage**

Oil prices are increasing. Poorer countries are unable to afford these prices which leads them to borrowing it or using less, causing shortages. Other countries, such as India and China, continue to get oil from Russia, which is a lot cheaper, but also supports Russia's war with Ukraine-which is why many countries have stopped buying oil from Russia. The higher oil prices have also driven a wedge between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), led by Saudi Arabia, and countries under the United States influence. The OPEC brings together oil producing countries to distribute the oil to maximize profit. Just as with oil, gas prices are very high with limited supply available. "As with oil, the result will be widespread energy shortfalls, food insecurity, and social unrest," Eurasia Group.

# Climate Change: Water

## Climate Change's effect on water

Climate change is a threat facing the whole world. Climate change is due to global warming, which is due to humans burning fossil fuels. Climate change can be observed affecting different things, one is water. Thanks to climate change the sea level is rising about 2.5 times faster than it usually does. The rising temperatures are causing the water to expand because the molecules are farther away from each other. A lot of the ice (like glaciers) is also melting which adds water to the ocean. Today, the sea is more than 8–9 inches (21–24 centimeters) above what it was in 1880. Rising sea levels threaten people who live on the coasts, by events like increased flooding. Climate change also includes heavy precipitation, the higher temperatures speeds up evaporation, and the whole water cycle happens faster. This leads to a lot of heavier storms in some areas (there doesn't have to be more precipitation, it just has to happen more violently). But not all areas get increases in precipitation, some areas get less and the water they do have can be evaporated away-meaning those areas dry out. Global warming is also affecting water quality. Higher temperatures mean that many microscopic organisms can grow faster and increased flooding means that the water can pick up substances from the land - both of which pollute water. All of these factors are affecting the water on our planet - and they are just a facet of climate change that we have to deal with this year.

## Water Shortage

The global shortage of fresh water has brought about catastrophic consequences. Seventy percent of all freshwater humans use is for agriculture; that makes food insecurity a major effect of water shortages. The world is currently experiencing a food crisis partly due to lack of water. An example of this is the country Somalia which is in the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> failed rain season in a row. According to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) "by mid-2023, over 8 million people—nearly half of the population—will be living through crisis levels of food insecurity as the country faces an impending famine." In Europe, a drought is creating a shipping problem. The Rhine is a critical river route in Germany for shipping goods. But due to a drought sweeping the country, many ships are unable to sail the river because water levels are too low. This means shipments will be smaller and delayed. The country's energy output could be affected since fuel such as coal is commonly transported. Economic growth may very well be impacted, since low river levels in 2018 caused the economy to fall by 1.5%. Over in China, a drought and summer heat have evaporated large portions of reservoirs used to generate power. There simply isn't enough electricity being generated to supply citizens' needs and factory needs. Several factories had to shut down in order to "Leave power for the people." In other parts of China, "emergency measures [are being taken] to ensure drinking water supplies after summer rain was as little as half normal levels." Hundreds of square miles of crops have wilted from lack of water, and excessive heat. Economic recovery from the pandemic will be slowed due to these water shortages. The United States also has water related issues. Since the Colorado river has been drying up, the government has started limiting the amount of water some western states can use from the river. Water scarcity is likely to get worse this year. The Pacific Institute recently released a study that outlined water related conflicts. It showed that fights and violence over water, as well as water being the trigger for many of these fights, have drastically increased since the early 2000s. Countries with prominent militias will be impacted the most, as they will try

to control water sources wherever possible. Wars are only one effect of a water shortage, others include inflation, disease, power shortages, and inequality. According to a report by the CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project), two-thirds of businesses around the world (that were surveyed) said they are facing severe risks for their operations because of water shortage. Many of them said this will affect their growth-the global economy itself will worsen if water scarcity persists. Governments are making policies to address the impending crisis, but policy takes time and won't take shape very soon, leaving citizens and companies on their own.

## **Social Media and AI: In the Past and Present**

### **Social Media and Trump's election**

Social media played a crucial role in Donald Trump's 2016 presidential election. It was mainly through the role that Cambridge Analytica played. In 2014, Cambridge Analytica created profiles on millions of Americans. The profiles were so detailed that the company would know exactly how to target that person to get the desired reaction. So, for Trump's campaign, they used that information to target people with right leaning ads to get them to vote for Trump in the 2016 election. They also used it to promote negative ads about Hillary Clinton. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, a Trump supporter was charged with conspiracy against rights and he faces up to a decade in prison for the disinformation he spread on social media that caused voters to vote for Trump in 2016. Cambridge Analytica also began testing out phrases that Trump would later use at his rallies and as a part of his campaign, such as drain the swamp. The company posted these ads and disinformation on social media, specifically Facebook and Twitter. And on November 9, 2016-all of that hard work paid off. Trump was elected.

### **AI Advancement**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a big topic today. Generative AI is a type of AI that is "trained" on a lot of information, from things like books and the internet. This gives it the ability to generate information: like answering questions, making videos, or writing text. Of course AI can be used to do things that are wrong, like spreading political disinformation or impersonating people, but it can also be helpful. This can be a good thing because AI can then be used to do things like summarizing long documents quickly. In November of 2022 the company OpenAI released ChatGPT (the stable release date, though, was in mid-March 2023). ChatGPT is an example of a generative AI. It was trained on a lot of data and you can "chat" with it, it will answer questions, ask questions back, and even admit to making a mistake (you can try it out for free on OpenAI's website). AI has gone through a lot of advancements recently, ChatGPT is just the most recent example of that.

# Generation Z: A Political Force

## Who is Gen Z?

A cohort is “a group of people with a shared characteristic,” Oxford Languages. People born in certain time periods are grouped into cohorts with specific names. People born between 1965 and 1980 are called “Generation X”. Those born from 1981 to 1996 are called “Millennials.” Then we get to Generation Z. They are anyone born from the mid to late 1990s to early 2010s (1997 - 2012). Generation Z is unique because they are the first generation to grow up with the internet. Everyone before them were living when the internet was invented. Generation Z, or Gen Z, are called “digitally native,” which means they grew up in the information age. In this movement we know how important information is. For example, information is important enough for countries such as Russia to use it as a war tactic. That isn’t to say Gen Z is a superior generation, but it does bring to light how the internet and information played a huge role in shaping their world view. Gen Z has become a political force to be reckoned with. They tend to make more demands and expect more from politicians. This will force politicians, especially, to take sides on certain issues, which will present a threat if they take the wrong side.

## Gen Z’s influence

Generation Z voters were key in holding off a “red wave”. In the 2022 midterm elections, Republicans expected to gain many Democratic seats in the House of Representative, Senate, and state government spots. They expected a red wave. It didn’t happen that way, mainly because Roe v. Wade and abortion rights were still a fresh topic that was important to people. The majority of Gen Z support abortion, and it was many Democratic candidates who supported this issue as well. “Our September poll of Gen Z voters of color in battleground states found that 87% supported abortion rights. And in our national poll with URGE following the leak of the Dobbs v. Jackson decision in May, 65% of Gen Z voters reported that abortion access was an important part of their decision to go vote,” “How Gen Z Held Off the Red Wave” TIME. That is why Gen Z turned out to vote for the Democratic Party, leaving the Republicans with an underwhelming victory in the House and losses in the Senate and state governments. Another reason that Democrats reached Gen Z is because they were active on social media. Many Gen Z said that they got the majority of their news from social media and wanted to be campaigned to online. Much of the news that Gen Z consumes comes from apps such as TikTok, which are owned by foreign countries like China.

# Humanity: Halted Development

## What the pandemic did to women

The COVID-19 pandemic was hard on everyone, but it was hardest on women and girls. Because of it, global human development actually went backward. Because of COVID-19 women have faced more violence, in the home and in public, some reasons for this are stress, being isolated at home, and deserted public places. Reports of violence have increased 25% in some countries. Seventy percent of healthcare workers are women, but they are mostly people like nurses. Only 30% are in leadership positions, this means that women weren't very involved in the decisions to combat COVID-19. And they were more likely to get COVID-19. Before COVID-19 women did three times as much unpaid work as men, since COVID-19 that has only increased (because of things like schools closing). Schools were effected a lot, even when they could stay in school, girls were more likely to drop out. In some countries, the girls that left school during the pandemic will not return. Women's unemployment rate also went up. A lot of women stopped working because they were expected to do all of the unpaid work, or because they were laid off due to the shrinking economy. All of this leads to many more women being in poverty. The progress that women have made over the recent years has been reversed - and that is a big threat we face this year.

**In summary:**

## **Energy**

Oil and gas prices are high,  
which will result in energy shortfalls.

Buying cheap oil from Russia  
supports the Ukraine war.

## **Climate Change and Water**

Climate change (caused by global  
warming) is causing sea levels to rise  
which prompts flooding.

Climate change also causes  
all kinds of severe weather  
including high temperatures.

Climate change is one reason  
why rivers are drying up  
and rain isn't falling in some areas.

Countries all around the world  
are being negatively affected  
by the lack of fresh water.

## Social Media and AI

Cambridge Analytica  
utilized social media to get  
Trump elected.

They made millions of  
profiles on people in order  
to manipulate them.

Artificial Intelligence has  
become extremely  
popular today.

It can be used for good, such as  
summarizing large documents or  
for bad such as spreading disinformation.

## Generation Z

Gen Z was the first generation  
to grow up in the information age.  
Their world and political view are largely  
affected by the internet.

Gen Z has become a political force  
which could threaten politicians into  
making bad decisions.

One good thing Gen Z has done  
was halting the “red wave”  
in the 2022 midterm elections.

## Human Development

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic,  
global human development decreased.

Women were affected the most:  
being more likely (than men) to be  
laid off from work or leave school.

Official Youth Prophecy Group website:  
[youthprophecygroup.org](https://youthprophecygroup.org)

If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us at:  
[youthprophecygroup@gmail.com](mailto:youthprophecygroup@gmail.com)

Find all the YPG lesson videos at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQL-o2XOq\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQL-o2XOq_g)

Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays of the month:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>