

# [The shadow our future throws by al gore](https://assignbuster.com/the-shadow-our-future-throws-by-al-gore/)

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The Shadow Our Future Throws - Al Gore The shadow our future throws is a chapter in Al-Gore's book, Earth in the balance: ecology and the human spirit. The book itself in general is about the ways in which humans are using our   
environmental resources and how this use of environmental resources has caused a serious   
imbalance in our nature. The book is also about the way in which humans are forming themselves   
around capitalism and not the other way around. The chapter in which he elaborates the theories   
underlying the questions of globalism and capitalism are detailed in the essay, 'The Shadow our   
Future Throws'. The name itself is a signifier that actions can lead to disastrous consequences if we   
leave progress unchecked.   
  
The first theory that Gore mentioned concerned the 'Chaos Theory'. The 'Chaos Theory is   
also known as the butterfly effect (because the plot of the mathematical model crosses each other   
like a butterfly). It is easy for example to say that chaos exists but in the nature of man and science   
everything is neat and well-ordered with charted predictability however in every stable known   
natural phenomena for example, exists unpredictable uncharted and chaotic phenomena. For   
example, the movement of the earth's tectonic plates that caused the inevitable tsunami   
destruction that affected South Asia and Southeast Asia. We know the cause of the tsunami, what   
we do not know is why. Therefore, the earth is moving at a chaotic erratic and random pace that   
cannot be known to man specifically. However, due to the fact that the chaos theory is difficult to   
chart and understand, scientists have the tendency to wait back before proceeding into any   
statement. This is a plausible move however but Gore argues that it might be too late when the   
world's climate is changing rapidly due to the greenhouse effect. Initially, the earth has a particular   
manner in which it will swing 'pendulum-like' from state to state. The earth is able to recuperate   
itself continuously but the rapid changes and avid materialism and capitalism that is being   
overzealously advocated today is moving the natural environment too fast too soon. What are the   
effects on the environment and the earth of our rapid pollution   
  
Often the target of such rapid pollution is portrayed by the media as the work of   
irresponsible loggers or irresponsible swidden agriculturalists but nobody seems to question why   
there are swidden agriculturalists, to what extent are their involvement with slash and burn   
agriculture that affects the forest and causes deforestation and where does all the trees go The   
answer is quite simple, it is transported to developed countries. Resources belonging to developing   
countries are simply used for materialism and capitalism of developed countries. The cost of   
capitalism is this, we move and shift natural resources from one part of the globe to another without   
realizing the consequences of our actions. In addition the problems of import and export are also   
apparent with the high cost of capitalism in maintaining 'freshness' of packaged goods. The media   
does not portray the perpetrators of capitalism and the wreckage of environmentalism to be the   
work of developed countries, on the contrary, environmentalism and environmentalists concentrate   
their efforts elsewhere by creating humanitarian problems instead in the developing countries (Tsing   
2005). However, this does not mean that there should be disjointed efforts on conserving the   
environment but rather, joint efforts on conserving the environment, one that cooperate for the   
initiative of other and other's communities instead of hoping to preserve solely only developed   
communities. Capitalism and environmentalism are two sides of a sword and are strange bedfellows   
but the truth is, they are action and reaction of one another.   
  
Previously, man and still today, those of the hunting and gathering communities have always   
lived harmoniously with nature, they do not have the attitude of keeping and gathering for later but   
instead perceive that there will always be abundance and they take only what they need (Sahlins   
1972). This is in line with Gore's theory of using science within the environment especially when he   
uses e= mc2, the formula for the theory of relativity. Our use of mass affects our experience that is   
shaped by time and space (Gore 1992: 48).   
  
In conclusion, we are able to use science as a means to concentrate our efforts on reducing   
global effects of pollution thus saving ourselves from the rapid change in climate. In fact, we can use   
whatever means and resources that we have with us to change this situation, the media must   
cooperate, science must cooperate and above all, everyone must cooperate but we also must keep   
in check that our relationship with our society is also our relationship with nature.   
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
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