

“The Most Dangerous Organization in World History?”

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Were there ever any doubt, Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate accords makes it official: the Republican Party is not just the enemy of poor people, working people, the middle class, and racial and religious minorities, it is the enemy of the human race at large and a threat to all life on the planet.

The ten hottest years ever recorded have occurred since 1998. The hottest was 2016, which broke the record set in 2015, which in turn broke the record set in 2014. Extreme weather events are occurring more frequently. Polar ice caps are melting at an alarming rate, sea levels are rising dramatically, and coastal communities are already threatened.

The overwhelming majority of world scientists and virtually all peer-reviewed articles agree that human activity is responsible. They also agree that the failure to act quickly and decisively will not only cause widespread destruction, disease, and death but will threaten to make the earth uninhabitable by the end of this century.

Donald Trump’s recent decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement is thus effectively a crime against every creature on the planet and likely the planet itself. But Trump does not stand alone. The entire Republican Party stands behind him.

Not a single one of the 16 candidates who competed against Trump in last year’s Republican primaries expressed concern about the existential threat posed by climate change. Indeed, to be viable in a primary, Republicans are required to repeat the lie that the link between human activity and climate change is unproven.

In a new book, *Requiem for the American Dream*, Noam Chomsky refers to the Republican Party as “the most dangerous organization in world history.” Prof. Chomsky admits it’s an extremely outrageous statement but adds that the question is whether or not it’s true. Chomsky’s defends the statement by observing that “The party is dedicated to racing as rapidly as possible to destruction of organized human life. There is no historical precedent for such a stand.” I’ll leave that to you to decide., but whether the Republican Party is the most pernicious group in human history or merely the world today, it is clear that their policies are antithetic to all life.

The good news is that Trump’s decision will take four years to implement, and thus may be reversed if he is defeated in 2020 or impeached sooner. The bad news is that failure to do so will make it difficult if not impossible to reverse the sentence he has so recklessly imposed on civilization. The bottom line is that the continued existence of life on Earth may well be incompatible with the continued existence of the Republican Party as a political force.

As such, we must work not only to ensure that the Democrats reclaim Congress in the midterms, and the White House in 2020, but also to consign the Republican Party to fringe-party status, if not the dustbin of history, where it belongs, alongside its spiritual antecedent, the Know-Nothing

Party. It may be nothing less than a matter of life and death.