

## We have to hope we can survive this

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I have already posted a comment this morning suggesting that Trump is a Russian agent.

He is more than that though. He is intent on destruction. This is Musk's modus operandi, which Trump has empowered. His aim is to take any structure and deny it resources until it breaks, and then, if he thinks it necessary, plug a few of the remaining gaps. This is because he thinks as a result that profit (which he equates with money, although it is not) is maximised, and nothing else matters to him.

George Monbiot has successfully related that idea to Trump's relationship with the planet in an article in The Guardian today, [saying in his opening paragraphs](#):

*In thinking about the war being waged against life on Earth by Donald Trump, Elon Musk and their minions, I keep bumping into a horrible suspicion. Could it be that this is not just about delivering the world to oligarchs and corporations – not just about wringing as much profit from living systems as they can? Could it be that they want to see the destruction of the habitable planet?*

We know that Trump's overriding purpose is power. We have seen that no amount of power appears to satisfy his craving. So let's consider power's ultimate destination. It is to become not only an emperor, but the last of the emperors: to close the chapter on civilisation. It is to scratch your name indelibly upon a geological epoch. Look on my works, ye vermin, and despair.

The article is well worth reading. George concludes:

*Where there is no love, there can be only destruction. Smash the planet then transcend it; leave your indelible mark on Earth while reigning triumphant in the heavens: this, I believe, is a deep, unspoken urge that helps explain Trump's programmes. But even if, through some grim miracle, the planet wreckers succeeded, they would soon discover that no technological wonderland, no space station or Martian city, compares to what we have.*

*This is the only planet in the universe to which we are adapted. Things we seldom think about – 1 bar of atmospheric pressure at the Earth's surface; the magnetosphere, which, with the atmosphere, shields us from cosmic radiation and solar proton bombardment; ambient oxygen; 9.8 m/s<sup>2</sup> of gravity; an average surface temperature of 15C – create, alongside the living systems that feed, water and shelter us, a place that would sound like paradise to anyone removed from it. This is our heaven, and there can be no other.*

Those paragraphs are particularly well written. They also happen to be right.

We have to hope we can survive this. There is no guarantee that we will.