

# The Evolution of the Anthropocene and Climate Change: A Media Ecology Approach and a Call to Action

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**Abstract:** The idea of the Anthropocene is investigated in a multidisciplinary study by combining the perspectives of geography, biology, archaeology, paleontology and media ecology (i.e. the study of the impacts of technology). The hypothesis is developed that the Anthropocene did not have a precise starting point (i.e. there is no “golden spike”), but that the Anthropocene began in starts and fits and that it was not evenly distributed over time and space and that as time increased the severity of the changes to the Earth’s environment due to human activity increased with time to the point that it now threatens the very possibility of human existence on this planet. We have identified six stages in the evolution of the Anthropocene starting with the global dispersal of Homo sapiens to today’s looming crisis of global warming, climate change and the Earth’s sixth mass extinction event which we are currently in the midst of. The six stages of the emergence of the Anthropocene that are identified include i. the **Paleo-Anthropocene** with the extinction of megafauna and the large-scale forest clearing by fire; ii. the **Neolithic-Anthropocene** at the beginning of the Holocene that includes the Neolithic Revolution; iii. the **Trade-Anthropocene** with the spread of flora and fauna globally through global trade and includes the Orbis Spike; iv. the **Industrial-Anthropocene** or the Industrial Revolution beginning with the invention of the steam engine and its application to manufacturing; v. the **Petro-electric-Anthropocene** beginning with the gasoline powered motor car and the generation of electricity basically through burning fossil fuels; and vi. the **Hyper-Anthropocene or Great Acceleration-Anthropocene** with the onset of global warming and climate change. We will examine what it is that causes humans to harm the very environment that gives them life and sustains them to the point that their very own survival is put in peril. We must learn how to control our use of technology instead of allowing our technology to control us.

Key words: Anthropocene; Holocene; Quaternary; Neolithic Revolution, global warming; climate change; mass extinction events; environment; Paleo-, Neolithic-, Trade-, Industrial-, Petro-electric-, and Hyper- Anthropocene; niche construction; technology; tools; evolution.