

We live in a world where the same black, brown boy with dreams for the future is born, where he is self-determined, where all possibilities are open to him, like to any other child. The same white boy is dreaming of the same future. But we all know that the lives of many little dark boys can change suddenly in the southern part of the world, the moment those little hands are able to operate a sewing machine or dig coltan.

We are talking about the enormous meat consumption of the western world and what consequences it has on the environment, but not about the fact that this is also only made possible because it is clear that any surplus may flood African markets.

We are talking about the 3 thousand heavy liters of water consumed to produce T-shirts that cost 5€, while sewn in cries for help from small children become a running gag or at most pull down the mood of the western consumer world for an afternoon.

We look at the problem and its consequences, but we separate the cause: namely, what actually enables this cycle, what makes it possible.

For we know that if a surplus of meat were to rot in our own markets and be sold at a ridiculous price, there would be an outcry, just as with French child labor instead of Indian child labor, slavery well noticed. Modern slavery.

The climate crisis has been made possible by racist and capitalist structures in terrible combination, sometimes brought to life by the colonization of those southern countries whose raw materials enrich the northern part of the globe.

But only the exploitation of the people considered "useful" since colonization is only one half of the racism in the climate crisis. The other half is the fact that if solutions to climate change and environmental degradation are actually sought, brown and black people will be excluded once again. The use and distribution of THEIR resources, both for them and for the rest of the world, will be determined by outsiders, by those who have contributed most and suffered least.

Black and brown people need to fight to be able to participate in emerging green economic opportunities. Whether it is because their skills are being questioned or because they are simply forgotten when thinking about the future.

So-called white saviors seem to want to take over their work instead of being allowed to determine the future of their raw materials.

And many are wiping these problems away by saying that problems such as child labor are much more complex and that they cannot change, for example, Congolese, Ghanaian markets or the fate of a Guatemalan farmer when the weather changes. And they can't do that on their own either, it's true. But we all know that if the children's hands were white and they were reaching for coltan to make our electrical appliances instead of painting with chalk on the asphalt in front of their elementary school, there would be so much more reluctance to buy and use any kind of "cheap" goods. Especially if the production, delivery or use would contaminate the European rivers.