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### Saving the Future One Meme at a Time

Rob Nixon argues that a lack of consideration for the future has especially negative consequences for small nations and historically marginalized communities in large nations. Since small nations and historically marginalized communities in large nations experience greater consequences of global climate change than those who contribute the most, Nixon suggests his readers adopt strategies to better communicate factors that imperil the future for all but the most affluent. One reason societies are unable to preserve the future from environmental catastrophe is an inability to recognize and communicate the slow buildup of pollution and effluent. Nixon calls the slow leaks, emissions, and accretions invisible to media and the general public “slow violence” (263). Because the media is only equipped to cover huge explosions and dramatic gas leaks, they miss the “slow violence that is rapid in geological terms but (unlike a tsunami) fast enough to constitute breaking news” (263). What Nixon means is that by the time oil spills such as the Exxon Valdez or the Deepwater Horizon Spill make national news, prevention is too late. To redress the failure to commutate the causes that underly the inevitable disasters necessitated by the oil and gas industry, Nixon suggests an alternative communicative strategy, such as the signing of a declaration for reduction of carbon emissions held by Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Maldives Islands 2008-12, which was held underwater to communicate the future citizens of the Maldives are on target to inhabit. In order to save the future for all its inhabitants, Nixon invites his readers to find creative ways to make the invisible visible before it is too late.

Nixon, Rob. “Epilogue: Scenes from the Seabed.” *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*.

Harvard University Press, 2011. 263-280.