

“Science cannot create ends and, even less, instill them in human beings; science, at most, can supply the means by which to attain certain ends. The ends themselves are conceived by personalities with lofty ethical ideals [and] are adopted and carried forward by those many human beings who, half unconsciously, determine the slow evolution of society.” (1949)

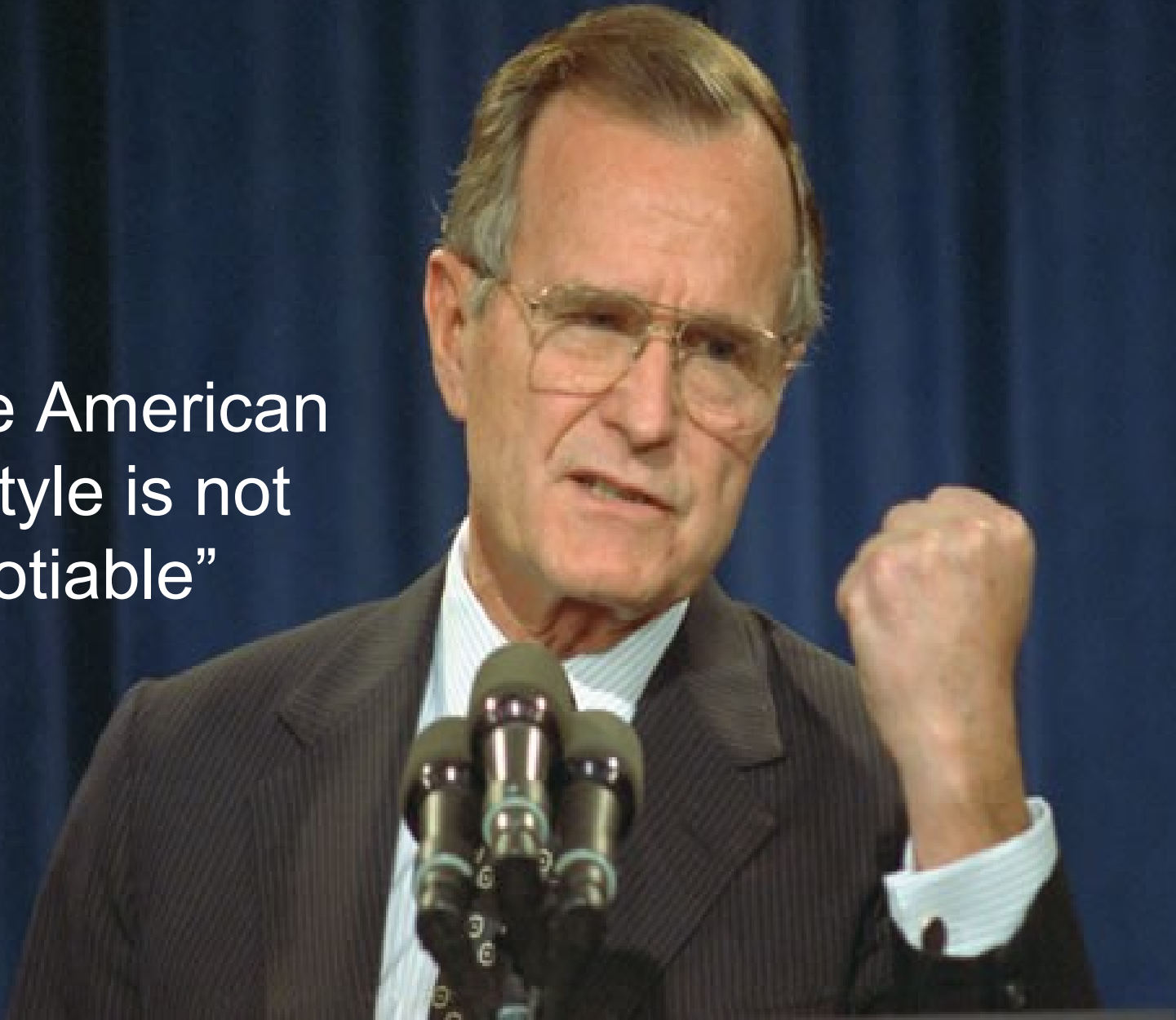
A note on interdisciplinarity



Politics as collective action and ethical choice

Pessimism of the intellect

“The American lifestyle is not negotiable”



Optimism of the will



A black and white portrait of Antonio Gramsci, a man with dark hair and a serious expression, looking slightly to the right. The image is high-contrast and grainy.

**Antonio
Gramsci
(1891-1937)
Political theorist
and leader
of the Italian**

The historical conjuncture of capitalism and anthropogenic climate change is no coincidence...

...and the accumulation drive and the inequalities this generates continues to shape climate

politics

Gramsci's key claim: Hegemony rests on consensus rooted in civil society...



...but civil
society is also
where counter-
hegemony



CHANGE THE
POLITICS
SAVE THE
CLIMATE



**How might environmentalists
conduct a 'war of position' against
the hegemonic order?**

**#1 Have organic
intellectuals act
as permanent
persuaders**

#2 Gain credibility for an alternative mode of production





**#3 Meet
people's
spiritual needs**

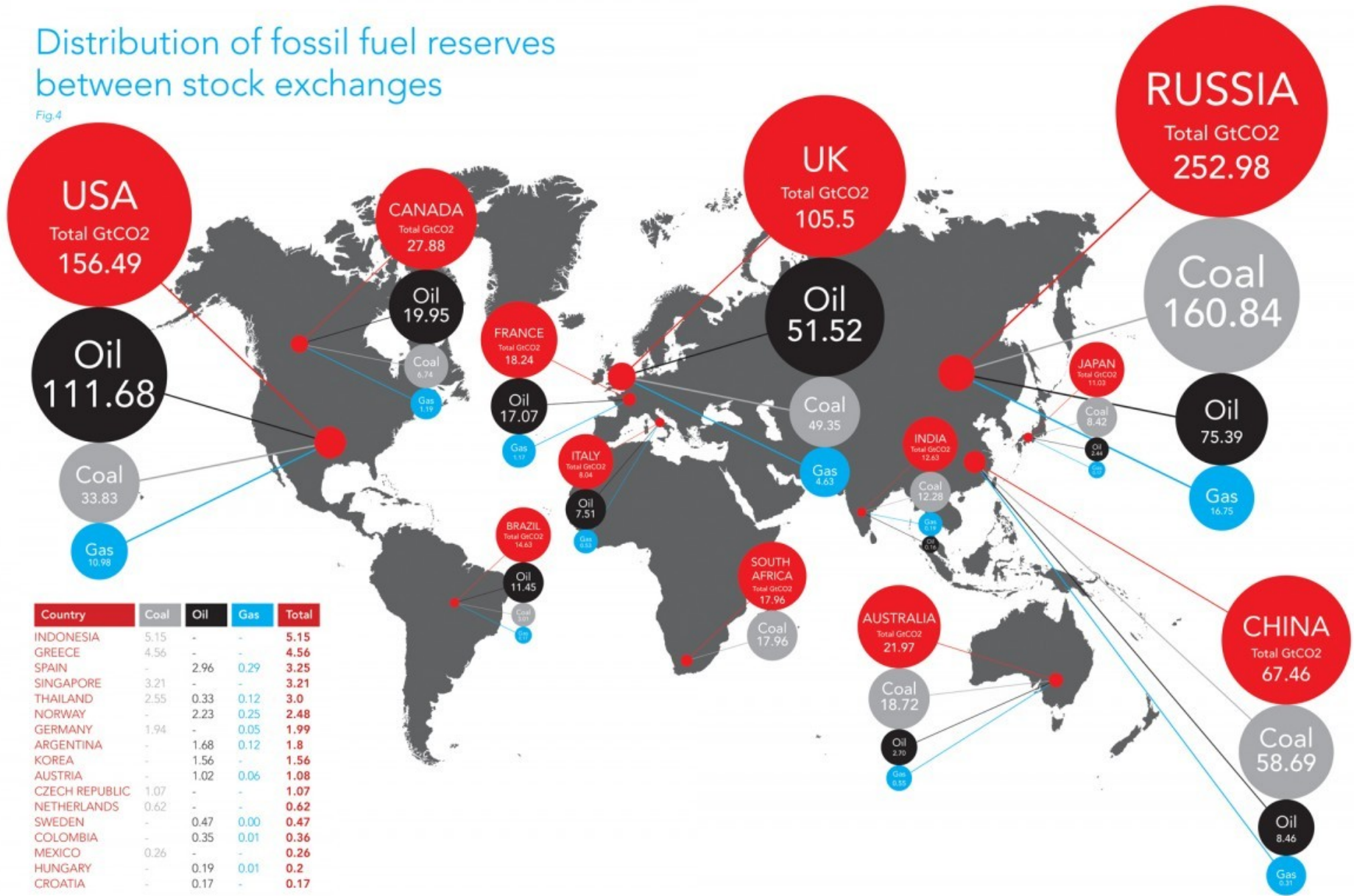
#4 Find a 'prince' to organise change



**FUKUSHIMA MAHNT:
ALLE AKWS ABSCHALTEN!**

Distribution of fossil fuel reserves between stock exchanges

Fig.4



And avoid passive revolution!



Conclusions

- Responses to climate change require collective action and individual sacrifice
- This in turn requires reasons to act, possibly against the current way of doing things
- Gramscian political theory provides one way of thinking this through
- Whatever the approach, enrollment is key – what would make you act or acquiesce?