

# Issue intro

Fifth Estate Collective

2023

The photo above of a traffic jam on a Brazilian highway could be a metaphor for life today. A scarred landscape littered with trucks filled with the everyday stuff of commerce going nowhere.

The trucks carrying what are now the necessities of modern society are stalled at a local level but reflect the entire global economy and culture. As the planetary integrated system becomes increasingly complex, so does its capacity for collapse.

It is increasingly clear that the current state of affairs is untenable. Climate crisis, wars, massive urban populations, all coordinated and policed by centralized systems, perhaps soon to be only one, becomes more inflexible and less convivial. It's not a pretty picture, but forewarned is forearmed.

We need to act before we are acted upon.

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# Fifth estate

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# fifth Estate

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