Billionaires have functionally appropriated the Earth. **Ahmad:**

**“**Today, **wealth inequality** has become a growing concern and has been described as **[is] the defining issue of our time.** The most recent statistic outlines that **62 people have the same amount of wealth as the poorer half of** the **earth’s population.** With the current state of public policy, it seems increasingly likely that **Marx’s warning** **is**n’t a warning at all, but rather **a *fait accompli*. Billionaires** (employers) **are supplanting national governments** and frequently exerting influence on the majority (labourers). **At a deeper level,** this implies that *ceteris paribus*, **citizens will no longer look to governments for help but rather capricious billionaires** with their agendas. **As it stands** today, **this is the billionaires' world… we’re just living in it.”**

Ahmad, Shahmeer. “Show me the money: why billionaires are harmful to society.” *Queens Business Review,* April 20, 2020. <https://www.queensbusinessreview.com/show-me-the-money/>

This has the potential to doom the planet. **Barros:**

**“**We found that **billionaires have carbon footprints** that can be **thousands of times higher than** those of **average** Americans. **The wealthy own yachts, planes, and multiple mansions, all of which contribute greenhouse gases** to the atmosphere. For example, **a** super**yacht** with a permanent crew, helicopter pad, submarines, and pools **emits about 7,020 tons of CO**<sub>2</sub> **a year**, according to our calculations, **making it** by **the** far **worst asset to own from an environmental standpoint.** Transportation and real estate make up the lion’s share of most people’s carbon footprint, so we focused on calculating those categories for each billionaire. To pick a sample of billionaires, we started with the 2020 Forbes List of 2,095 billionaires. A random or representatives sample of billionaire carbon footprints is impossible because most wealthy people shy away from publicity, so we had to focus on those whose consumption is public knowledge. This excluded most of the super rich in Asia and the Middle East. We combed 82 databases of public records to document billionaires’ houses, vehicles, aircraft, and yachts. After an exhaustive search, we started with 20 well-known billionaires whose possessions we were able to ascertain, while trying to include some diversity in gender and geography. We have submitted our paper for peer review but plan to continue adding to our list**.”**

Barros, Wilk. “Are billionaires bad for the environment?” *The COnversation,* February 19, 2021.

Thus the counterplan: Give a big asteroid to all the billionaires. Anyone on earth who subsequently becomes a billionaire will join them, that way their drive for tech development will not degrade the environment. **Waddington** explains the solvency:

**“**So how does one live on an asteroid? I've regularly heard this question asked by intelligent people. They point out the low gravity and how with just a misplaced step an astronaut could be hurtled into escape velocity and lost forever! NASA's mission to an asteroid will most likely be conducted on the surface, so this is a real risk, just as it is for astronauts conducting spacewalks on the International Space Station. However, **the settlement of an asteroid would** have little use for the surface, except perhaps as a place to lay solar panels, as all the interesting stuff **happen**s ***below* the surface**. The primary reason is radiation. Just like on the Moon or Mars, humans will need to live underground **to** provide passive **protect**ion **from** galactic **cosmic rays** and solar storms. On Earth (and Venus) the predominate protection from radiation is provided by the atmosphere, miles and miles of it. To achieve the same level of protection only a dozen feet or so of regolith is required. **Robotic probes will** be sent ahead of NASA's human mission to an asteroid. More than likely, only an orbiter, but a much more capable robotic lander makes a lot of sense. For the long term settlement of an asteroid, it will carry essential drilling equipment which it will use to **drill straight down**. After digging down for a while, the robotic drill will **[then] turn** some significant angle **and keep drilling. The hole** it produces need only **[will] be big enough to maneuver a crew module** into without bumping the sides - once they arrive, weeks or months later. The right-hand-turn the drill makes is sufficient to protect the crew from radiation, which can only move in straight lines. If mirrors are installed on the turn the crew can enjoy natural sunlight and a view of the stars. Having secured the safety of the crew from ionizing radiation, they are now free to get to work. Using drilling tools the **astronauts can prospect** deep into the core in search of the richest metals, or collect **[for]** volatiles which can be purified into **drinking water or oxygen** for breathing. Soon, they'll dig a long circular tunnel with a radius of at least 894 meters. The outside edge of the tunnel is lined with metal track. A[n] simple electric train runs the length of it, completing a full circuit in just one minute. On a parallel track the astronauts enter an open carriage which accelerates them up to rendezvous with the ever moving train. As they speed up the astronauts feel the gentle pull of **centripetal force** as it builds to a full **[will provide] Earth-standard gravity.** As the astronauts step onto the train they cease being astronauts and become settlers. **They** now **have access to resources**, protection from radiation **and** a full Earth-standard gravity. **The colony can** now **grow**. The train can be extended compartment by compartment and deck by deck to accommodate the growing population. Excess metals and other materials can be exported to other settlements in the solar system**.”**

Waddington, Trent. [Scientist and engineer] “Living inside an asteroid.” July 7, 2010. <http://quantumg.blogspot.com/2010/07/living-inside-asteroid.html>