

Capitalism, Fossil Fuels, and Climate Crisis: Critiquing the Global Development Model from an Islamic Perspective

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Abstract

This study explores the relationship between capitalism and global warming, focusing on the roles of industrialization, resource exploitation, and urbanization in exacerbating climate change. The inherent capitalist drive for economic growth and consumption leads to unsustainable industrial practices, widespread fossil fuel use, and environmental degradation. This research critically examines how these capitalist mechanisms contribute to global warming, particularly through excessive natural resource extraction that disrupts ecosystems and accelerates greenhouse gas emissions. It also highlights urbanization as a major driver of increased energy consumption and carbon emissions. Furthermore, the study compares the capitalist development model with Islamic economic principles, proposing that Islam offers a more sustainable and equitable approach to development. By emphasizing resource management, sustainability, and balanced fulfillment of human needs, Islam presents an alternative to the exploitative tendencies of capitalism. The findings suggest that transitioning to a development model rooted in Islamic economic principles could provide a pathway to addressing climate change while ensuring social justice and environmental stewardship.

Keywords: capitalism, climate change, industrialization, resource exploitation, urbanization, Islamic economics, sustainability, economic growth.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi hubungan antara kapitalisme dan pemanasan global, dengan berfokus pada peran industrialisasi, eksploitasi sumber daya, dan urbanisasi dalam memperparah perubahan iklim. Dorongan inheren kapitalisme terhadap pertumbuhan ekonomi dan konsumsi menyebabkan praktik industri yang tidak berkelanjutan, penggunaan bahan bakar fosil secara luas, serta degradasi lingkungan. Penelitian ini secara kritis mengkaji bagaimana mekanisme kapitalisme tersebut berkontribusi terhadap pemanasan global, khususnya melalui ekstraksi sumber daya alam yang berlebihan sehingga mengganggu ekosistem dan mempercepat emisi gas rumah kaca. Penelitian ini juga menyoroti urbanisasi sebagai salah satu pendorong utama meningkatnya konsumsi energi dan emisi karbon. Lebih lanjut, penelitian ini membandingkan model pembangunan kapitalis dengan prinsip-prinsip ekonomi Islam, serta mengemukakan bahwa Islam menawarkan pendekatan pembangunan yang lebih berkelanjutan dan berkeadilan. Dengan menekankan pengelolaan sumber daya, keberlanjutan, dan pemenuhan kebutuhan manusia secara seimbang, Islam menghadirkan alternatif terhadap kecenderungan eksploitatif kapitalisme. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa transisi menuju model pembangunan yang berlandaskan prinsip ekonomi Islam dapat menjadi jalan untuk mengatasi perubahan iklim sekaligus menjamin keadilan sosial dan pengelolaan lingkungan yang bertanggung jawab.

Kata kunci: kapitalisme, perubahan iklim, industrialisasi, eksploitasi sumber daya, urbanisasi, ekonomi Islam, keberlanjutan, pertumbuhan ekonomi.

INTRODUCTION

The world is currently grappling with a climate crisis that threatens ecosystem stability, economies, and humanity. Scientific consensus is clear: human activities—particularly those linked to industrialization, resource exploitation, and urbanization—are the main drivers of global warming (IPCC, 2021; USGCRP, 2018). As global temperatures rise, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and biodiversity loss have become everyday realities, affecting millions of lives, especially in developing countries. The root cause of this crisis can largely be traced back to the global capitalist system, which prioritizes economic growth, consumption, and unsustainable use of natural resources.

Industrialization has long been associated with economic development and prosperity, but it has also caused extensive environmental damage. The burning of fossil fuels for energy—which powers industries and transportation—is the leading cause of

greenhouse gas emissions, directly contributing to climate change (IEA, 2024). Similarly, excessive exploitation of natural resources—such as deforestation, mining, and agricultural expansion—has accelerated ecosystem degradation and reduced the planet's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide (Lu & Wang, 2023). Urbanization, driven by urban growth and increased demand for industrial production, has further exacerbated the problem by increasing energy consumption, generating waste, and replacing natural landscapes with concrete and steel (Musarat et al., 2024; USGCRP, 2018).

The capitalist economic model promotes continuous growth and consumption, often at the expense of environmental health. The relentless pursuit of profit has led to the depletion of non-renewable resources and increased dependence on fossil fuels, both of which are unsustainable in the long term. This unchecked growth is closely tied to consumerism, which prioritizes acquiring material goods for personal satisfaction over meeting basic human needs. Consequently, the world faces a dual crisis: environmental degradation and growing social inequality (Vineis & Gambhir, 2023).

Although there is increasing recognition of capitalism's negative impact on the environment, current climate mitigation strategies are insufficient to address the root causes of the problem. Current approaches, largely based on technological innovation and market-driven policies, focus on reducing emissions and transitioning to renewable energy sources. However, these strategies fail to challenge the economic system that underpins overconsumption and resource depletion (Basavapattan, 2021). There is a critical gap in the climate discourse. While technological solutions and policy frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement, aim to address the symptoms of climate change, they largely ignore the systemic flaws of the capitalist model, thereby perpetuating the crisis. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by critically examining capitalism's role in driving global warming and offering Islamic economic principles as a potential solution for sustainable development.

This study seeks to explore capitalism's role in accelerating global warming and how its core mechanisms—industrialization, resource exploitation, and urbanization—contribute to the environmental crisis. By examining these factors, the research aims to critically evaluate the sustainability of the capitalist development model and its effectiveness in addressing the climate crisis. Further, the study explores the potential of

Islamic economic principles as a viable alternative to capitalist-driven development. Islam, with its emphasis on ethical resource management, justice, and sustainability, offers a unique perspective on development that prioritizes human well-being, environmental stewardship, and social justice.

The primary motivation for this study comes from the recognition that current climate mitigation strategies—largely based on technological innovation and market-driven policies—are insufficient to tackle the root causes of the issue. While international agreements such as the Paris Agreement aim to curb emissions and transition to renewable energy, they do not challenge the underlying economic system that continues to drive overconsumption and resource depletion (Matemilola et al., 2023). Thus, this study aims to offer a broader critique of the capitalist model and propose Islamic economic principles as a potential solution for sustainable development.

To achieve this, the research adopts a qualitative methodology, using document analysis and a comprehensive literature review to examine the interconnections among capitalism, climate change, and Islamic economics. This method allows for an in-depth exploration of the theoretical and practical implications of the findings. The literature review includes recent academic research, policy documents, and critical reports discussing the relationship between economic systems and environmental sustainability. By synthesizing insights from various sources, this study highlights the systemic weaknesses in capitalist development models. It proposes Islam as an alternative framework to address climate change while ensuring social justice.

This paper aims to contribute to the growing body of research critiquing capitalism's role in exacerbating the environmental crisis and to offer an in-depth exploration of Islamic principles as a path toward more sustainable and just development. By examining the compatibility of Islamic economics with contemporary environmental challenges, this research hopes to provide valuable insights for policymakers, academics, and activists striving to achieve climate justice and sustainable development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing humanity in the 21st Century. Its impacts go beyond environmental damage, affecting economies, public

health, and social sustainability. Scientific consensus states that the main cause of climate change is the increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels (IPCC, 2021). Although awareness of the need to transition to renewable energy is growing, many argue that the capitalist economic system must be held accountable for the excessive production and consumption that drive environmental degradation.

In this literature review, we critique the relationship between capitalism, fossil fuels, and the climate crisis. On one hand, capitalism—as the dominant economic system—has triggered massive production and consumption of fossil fuels. On the other hand, criticism of capitalism arises because the system prioritizes uncontrolled economic growth, often ignoring social and environmental consequences. Based on a critical analysis of various literature, this review aims to identify the strengths and weaknesses of capitalism in addressing climate change and present potential alternative solutions.

Capitalism and Fossil Fuel Exploitation

Capitalism is an economic system centered on unlimited economic growth and capital accumulation. One of its core features is the need to expand production and consumption to generate profit continuously. This has led to a deep dependence on natural resources, especially fossil fuels, which have become central to industrialization and urbanization (Akalın et al., 2021; Mayer, 2022). The use of fossil fuels as the primary energy source for industry and transportation has resulted in increased carbon emissions, significantly contributing to global warming (Kartal, 2022).

Much of the literature on the relationship between capitalism and climate change highlights how this system often ignores the environmental costs of production and consumption (Dunlap & Marin, 2022; Moore, 2023; Spash, 2022; Sutrisno & Astuti, 2024). In this context, capitalism encourages fossil fuel exploitation by treating natural resources as commodities to be extracted without limits. Industrial expansion driven by capitalism not only damages ecosystems but also worsens socio-economic inequality (Chu & Kong, 2024; Di Muzio, 2023; Russo, 2021). Capitalism prioritizes short-term economic growth over long-term sustainability, making it increasingly difficult to address the climate crisis effectively.

The Expansive Nature of Capitalism

The capitalist system is inherently expansionary, and to sustain its growth, capitalism must continuously increase production (Duffield & Stockton, 2023; Michelsen & Bolt, 2022; Vasudevan, 2021). This process often involves increasing the use of fossil fuels, which contributes to worsening climate change. Some critics argue that solutions offered by capitalism to address climate change, such as carbon markets, only deepen social injustice and prolong fossil fuel dependency (Känzig, 2023).

Climate Change Impacts and Capitalism

Climate change, caused by rising concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, has harmful effects on various aspects of human life. According to the IPCC (IPCC, 2021), the impacts of climate change include rising global temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and more frequent natural disasters such as storms and floods. Developing countries with weak infrastructure, such as those in Asia and Africa, are particularly vulnerable to these effects (Saeed et al., 2023).

Capitalism has long been viewed as one of the main causes of environmental damage. Its focus on limitless economic growth has worsened unchecked fossil fuel consumption, leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions. Researchers such as Liou (2010) argue that under capitalism, economic growth is treated as the ultimate goal, while the environmental consequences of such growth are often ignored.

Several scholars have shown that despite efforts to reduce carbon emissions, the capitalist system is insufficient to address climate change effectively. For example, although the 2015 Paris Agreement focuses on reducing global emissions, criticisms of its implementation suggest that developed countries prioritize their own economic growth over meeting internationally agreed-upon emissions-reduction targets (Pelling, 2010).

Energy Transition: Capitalist Solutions and Global Challenges

One of the most discussed solutions to combat climate change is transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Research by Hosseini (2022) shows that

transitioning to renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydrogen can reduce fossil fuel dependence and lower carbon emissions. However, while renewable energy offers long-term solutions, the challenges of implementing this transition are significant, especially given the global dependence on the fossil fuel industry.

According to Hosseinabad and Moraga (2020), although renewable energy has the potential to provide sustainable alternatives, this transition is hindered by large industries with significant political and economic influence. In many countries, the oil and gas industry still dominates the energy sector, and energy transition policies often face strong economic interests from major energy corporations. This indicates that market-based solutions, as proposed by capitalism, are insufficient to tackle climate change effectively (Vasudevan, 2021).

Critics also note that although there is momentum for energy transition, existing policies often fail to meet more ambitious goals. The Paris Agreement, though considered a milestone in global efforts to reduce carbon emissions, still faces significant implementation challenges, particularly for developing countries that struggle to finance a fair and equitable energy transition (Thomas & Twyman, 2005).

Critique of Capitalism in Addressing the Climate Crisis

Criticism of capitalism in the context of climate change focuses more on its inability to provide just and sustainable solutions. Capitalism tends to neglect social justice and instead focuses on achieving economic growth without considering long-term sustainability. This is evident in the inequalities present in resource distribution and access to energy, which in turn exacerbate the global gap in facing the impacts of climate change (Pelling, 2010).

Other researchers, such as Siddiqui (2022), argue that capitalism often exacerbates the social and economic crises associated with climate change. The capitalist development model, which promotes excessive consumption and industrial growth, often overlooks long-term environmental and social consequences. This reflects the tension between the need to preserve the environment and capitalism's drive to profit from uncontrolled industrial expansion.

Moreover, solutions offered by carbon markets and similar mechanisms are often seen as ineffective in addressing the root cause of the problem. The carbon market system, for instance, focuses on reducing emissions through carbon allocation trading, which ultimately does not change the fundamental structure of the economic system that prioritizes consumption and unlimited economic growth (Klein & McMillan, 2015).

RESEARCH METHOD

This study adopts a qualitative research design to critically assess the relationship among capitalism, fossil fuels, and climate change, and to explore global development models and their alignment with sustainable alternatives. The research methodology follows a systematic procedure to ensure reliability, validity, and replication of findings.

Data Collection

Data collection for this study involved document analysis and a comprehensive literature review, which are essential for exploring the impact of capitalism on climate change and evaluating alternative development models.

Document Analysis: The primary method of data collection was the analysis of major international climate documents and policy reports. These documents include agreements such as the Paris Agreement, IPCC reports, and academic studies that critically examine how capitalism exacerbates climate change through its reliance on fossil fuels. These documents were systematically analyzed to identify recurring themes around fossil fuel use, capitalist growth models, and proposed solutions within international climate agreements.

Literature Review: A comprehensive review was conducted to gather scientific research critiquing capitalism and exploring alternative economic models. This review included peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and reports from well-known environmental organizations discussing the causes of climate change, the role of industrialization and capitalism in the crisis, and potential sustainable alternatives. The review also examined research discussing Islamic economic principles as a possible solution to climate change, focusing on how these principles critique resource exploitation and consumption ethics.

Measurement

The study used the following key steps to evaluate data and synthesize findings:

Thematic Document Analysis: The documents analyzed were examined using thematic coding. Key themes related to capitalism's role in the climate crisis—such as economic growth, fossil fuel dependence, industrialization, and energy consumption—were identified. This approach also involved evaluating contradictions in global climate policies, such as tensions between economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Literature Synthesis: For the literature review, the study identified recurring criticisms of the capitalist development model, particularly regarding environmental degradation caused by excessive fossil fuel consumption. This synthesis compared arguments from critics of capitalism and proponents of alternative models, such as Islamic economics, focusing on issues such as equitable resource distribution, sustainability, and ecological justice.

Comparative Analysis: A comparative approach was used to evaluate the capitalist economic model against Islamic economic principles. This analysis highlighted differences in how the two models handle natural resource exploitation and in their approaches to long-term environmental sustainability. The study compared findings from the reviewed literature, offering insights into how Islamic principles can function as an alternative to capitalist-driven development.

Through a systematic review of policy documents and academic literature, this study provides a robust, reliable analysis of the current state of climate change discourse and the viability of alternative development models that prioritize sustainability and social justice.

RESULTS

Industry and Global Warming

Modern industries, driven by the capitalist system, have become major contributors to global climate change. Since the Industrial Revolution, capitalism has

promoted massive expansion in the industrial sector, with the primary goal of increasing production and consumption to achieve unlimited economic growth. This has led to a significant increase in the use of fossil fuels—particularly coal, oil, and gas—which are major contributors to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (Siddik et al., 2021).

Industry, within the framework of capitalism, functions to generate as much profit as possible, without regard for long-term environmental impacts. For example, energy-intensive manufacturing industries use fossil fuels to produce large quantities of consumer goods. This increased consumption, ensured by free-market mechanisms, creates a continuous demand for limited natural resources (Fremstad & Paul, 2022).

According to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the industrial sector is one of the largest contributors to global carbon emissions, accounting for about 30% of total energy-related emissions worldwide (IEA, 2024). Continuous industrialization, without consideration for ecological sustainability, leads to excessive fossil fuel exploitation and reduces the planet's capacity to absorb carbon. This worsens the greenhouse effect and accelerates global warming.

Furthermore, industrialization also produces waste and pollution, further degrading air quality and causing broader environmental contamination. Hazardous chemicals and other industrial waste contribute to soil and water pollution, affecting ecosystems and biodiversity. These phenomena illustrate the direct link between capitalist industrialization and the climate crisis.

Natural Resource Exploitation and Capitalist Consumerism

Natural resource exploitation is one of the defining characteristics of capitalism. In this system, natural resources are often viewed as commodities that can be exploited without limits to meet ever-increasing consumption demand. However, this consumption is not based on basic human needs but is driven by the need to increase demand in a growth-oriented economy continually. This phenomenon can be observed across various sectors, including agriculture, forestry, mining, and energy.

Excessive natural resource exploitation, based on the principle of "the more, the better," is a direct cause of significant environmental damage. Deforestation for large-scale plantations, such as palm oil plantations, is one example of exploitation that has harmful

ecological consequences. This process leads to massive deforestation, which in turn reduces forests' ability to absorb carbon and increases CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere (Kumar, 2020; Sasaki et al., 2021).

The capitalist system, with its focus on limitless production, pushes companies to sacrifice environmental sustainability for financial gain. For instance, the expansion of commercial agriculture to meet global demand for raw materials in the food, energy, and other industries has accelerated deforestation rates, especially in developing countries like Indonesia and Brazil (Austin et al., 2019). In Indonesia, the palm oil industry has been a major driver of deforestation, significantly contributing to carbon emissions (De Rosa et al., 2022).

Natural resource exploitation under capitalism not only damages the environment but also exacerbates social inequality. Natural resources intended for public welfare are often exploited by large corporations seeking profit, leaving behind environmental damage that future generations must bear.

Urbanization: The Driver of “Fast Industries” and Consumerism

Urbanization is an inevitable phenomenon under capitalism. Rapid and uncontrolled urbanization has become a key driver of industrial growth and energy consumption. Capitalism promotes urban development by focusing on infrastructure construction and industrial expansion. This demands increased energy consumption, particularly from fossil fuels, to meet the rising needs of growing urban populations (USGCRP, 2018).

Urbanization symbolizes city modernization and the economic gap between urban and rural areas. It highlights the failure of economic distribution. The disparity in development between cities and villages is often cited as an example of center-periphery development. This is crucial in capitalist development, as the phenomenon is characterized by core-peripheral urban development.

Urbanization drives the emergence of "fast industries"—industries that operate at high speed to meet continuously increasing consumer demand. This phenomenon accelerates fossil fuel usage, worsens air pollution, and increases dependence on the

industrial sector to supply large quantities of consumer goods. The fashion industry alone accounts for 18–20% of greenhouse gas emissions due to long supply chains and energy-intensive production processes (Connell & LeHew, 2020; Jin, 2023; Leal Filho et al., 2022).

Some examples of fast-fashion brands include Zara, Uniqlo, H&M, Bershka, and many others. Rapid changes in fashion trends led to the development of ready-to-wear clothing in the fast-fashion industry. With every shift in fashion trends, stores and consumers replace their collections, leading to increased waste (Leman et al., 2020).

In the capitalist framework, the industrial sector not only focuses on producing essential daily-use goods but also on producing goods oriented toward excessive consumption. Consumerism, the core of capitalism, creates endless demand for products that do not always fulfill basic human needs (Jackson, 2021).

Generally, urban areas are more remote than rural areas. As a result of agglomeration, innovation and large-scale economic activities become possible. In "Triumph of the City," Edward Glaeser (2011) argues that cities are generally healthier, wealthier, and more environmentally friendly because their larger populations enable them to produce goods and services at a greater scale, resulting in lower per-person costs. This low production cost results in higher prices and more expensive goods. This explains why one of the world's largest consumer groups is currently experiencing urban decline. This phenomenon also confirms that capitalism lacks distribution mechanisms that influence inequality, beyond price and exchange mechanisms. Consequently, capitalism encourages population growth and urbanization to access life resources across different economic zones.

In other cases, society has increased consumption levels, ultimately creating massive waste, all of which contributes to the environmental crisis. In such a capitalist consumer society, the environmental impact of this type of consumption is often ignored. In the context of marketing strategies for consumer goods, fashion, and technology, social media algorithms aid mass marketing.

Capitalist companies tend to boost production and create excessively consumptive societies. Large corporations and manufacturing companies eventually overproduce by ruthlessly exploiting natural resources, building polluting factories, and greedily pursuing

profits without concern for anything beyond material gain. According to data, nearly 30% of all products made by the global fashion industry remain unsold. Reports state that fashion giant H&M had \$4.3 million worth of unsold inventory as of March 2018. A few months later, British label Burberry destroyed its unsold products, valued at \$36 million, and sold them at a reduced price (Wood, 2018).

Major cities rapidly expanding under capitalism require massive energy consumption for lighting, transportation, and other infrastructure needs. However, most of the energy used in these cities still comes from fossil fuels, further worsening the climate crisis. On the other hand, capitalism-driven urban development often neglects sustainability, prioritizing short-term economic growth over long-term environmental impact.

Capitalism's Focus on Economic Growth and Consumerism

The capitalist system fundamentally focuses on unlimited economic growth. Capitalism views economic growth as the ultimate goal, often without considering environmental consequences or social well-being. Consumerism is at the heart of capitalism, encouraging individuals to continually purchase new goods, even when many of them are unnecessary. This system widens the gap between rich and poor nations, intensifies social inequality, and simultaneously damages the global ecosystem.

According to Jackson (Jackson, 2021), the capitalist system fosters an unhealthy relationship between economic growth and excessive consumption, ultimately leading to environmental degradation and global warming. The "fast industries" driven by capitalism lead to rapid depletion of natural resources, worsen global ecological conditions, and increase greenhouse gas emissions.

Capitalism prioritizes economic growth through industrial expansion and consumption. However, this strategy ignores the principle of sustainability, where natural resources are exploited excessively to meet rising demand. In many cases, capitalism fails to account for environmental impacts as costs to be considered in profit calculations, ultimately causing further damage to the planet (Wright & Nyberg, 2015).

DISCUSSION

The main objective of this study is to examine the relationships among capitalism, industrialization, resource exploitation, and urbanization, and their impacts on global warming and the climate crisis. This research critiques the capitalist system, which promotes unlimited economic growth and excessive consumption—factors that significantly contribute to climate change. Ultimately, this study aims to offer an alternative perspective on development models that emphasize sustainability, based on Islamic principles that prioritize social welfare, justice, and responsible resource management.

This study makes a significant contribution to understanding the link between capitalism and global warming by providing a critical view of the capitalist development model, which places strong emphasis on consumption and economic growth. One of its key contributions is identifying how capitalism, through industrialization and urbanization, exacerbates environmental degradation while neglecting social and ecological sustainability. Furthermore, the study highlights that climate change is not merely a technical issue to be solved through technology or emissions policies, but also a structural issue tied to the global economic system.

Additionally, this review proposes Islam-based solutions as an alternative to the capitalist development model. In this context, Islam offers an economic system that focuses on human well-being, equitable resource management, and the limitation of excessive consumption. These solutions emphasize the importance of fulfilling every individual's basic needs without harming the environment or creating social inequality.

The study finds that three key factors contributing to global warming are: industrialization, resource exploitation, and urbanization. All of these factors are closely linked to capitalism, which prioritizes economic growth and excessive consumption over environmental sustainability and social well-being. By focusing on consumption-driven production and manufacturing, capitalism pushes large corporations to exploit natural resources extensively, ignoring the impact on the planet and society (Fremstad & Paul, 2022; Jackson, 2021).

Industries driven by capitalism also function to meet the endless demand for consumer goods, which in turn increases fossil fuel use and worsens pollution (Ali et al., 2021). Rapid urbanization, a result of capitalism, creates greater energy demand, intensifies global warming, and widens social inequality (USGCRP, 2018).

However, the study also highlights that Islam-based solutions offer a more sustainable alternative. Islam teaches restrained consumption, wise resource management, and development based on fundamental human needs. The Islamic economic system focuses on ensuring that no one suffers from hunger, lacks housing, or fails to meet basic needs, while also providing opportunities to fulfill secondary and tertiary needs in ways that do not harm the environment (Astuti, 2023; Kholis et al., 2012).

The findings of this study align with existing literature that criticizes capitalism as a major cause of climate change. As noted by Wright and Nyberg (2015), capitalism exacerbates climate change by prioritizing unlimited economic growth and excessive consumption. Numerous studies show that capitalism fails to account for the environmental costs of uncontrolled growth, leading to large-scale exploitation of natural resources and increased greenhouse gas emissions (Movahed, 2016).

Furthermore, this study supports previous findings that capitalism-driven urbanization worsens global warming. Discoli and Martini (2012) show that unplanned urban development that ignores sustainability leads to increased energy consumption and carbon emissions.

On the other hand, literature on Islamic economic principles also supports more sustainable Islam-based solutions. Sutrisno and Astuti (2024) explain that in Islamic economics, the use of natural resources is governed by principles of justice and sustainability. Islam teaches that natural wealth is a trust from God and must be used for human welfare without exploitation or environmental damage.

While this study identifies a clear link between capitalism and global warming, it acknowledges that other factors—such as ineffective international policies or expensive dependence on renewable energy—may also contribute to worsening the climate crisis. Some countries may struggle to implement Islam-based solutions in practice due to a lack of infrastructure, resources, or political support for fair and sustainable policies.

Moreover, it is possible that global consumerism, driven by capitalism, has a greater impact than was detected in this research. For example, multinational corporations based in developed countries often influence global consumption patterns through media and marketing, leading to unsustainable consumption practices worldwide (Jackson, 2021).

This study offers several important implications for policymakers and industries. First, its findings suggest that effectively addressing climate change requires a fundamental shift in how we view economic growth and consumption. Industries and companies must focus more on sustainability rather than unlimited economic growth. Development must be driven by sustainability principles that consider the long-term interests of humanity and the planet (IEA, 2024).

Second, governments and international organizations should integrate sustainability principles into development policies. This includes limiting fossil fuel consumption and promoting greater investment in renewable energy. In this context, Islamic economic principles—which emphasize social justice and responsible resource management—can provide valuable insights for formulating more sustainable policies.

CONCLUSION

This study reveals that capitalism, through its mechanisms of industrialization, resource exploitation, and urbanization, is a major driver of global warming and the climate crisis. Industries driven by capitalism, with the primary goal of generating profit and increasing consumption, have increased fossil fuel use and pollution, worsening climate change. Excessive natural resource exploitation, driven by the pursuit of limitless economic growth, has damaged global ecosystems, exacerbated environmental degradation, and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, rapid urbanization driven by capitalist expansion has deepened fossil fuel dependence and increased carbon emissions in major cities. Capitalism-driven consumption patterns, in which production and manufacturing focus more on non-essential consumer goods, have further exacerbated global warming while neglecting social welfare and environmental sustainability.

This study emphasizes that Islam-based solutions offer a more sustainable alternative. Islam teaches sustainability through moderation in consumption and the fair management of resources. In the Islamic economic system, development focuses on fulfilling every individual's basic needs without harming the environment, guided by principles of legitimate ownership and restrictions on exploitation. This offers a solution to the unsustainability caused by capitalism, emphasizing social and ecological well-being as the main goals, rather than just economic growth and consumerism.

For future research, it is necessary to explore in greater depth how Islamic economic principles can be applied in practice globally, across both developing and developed countries. Further studies may examine how Islam-based development models can be implemented in industrial and urban sectors to create more sustainable and just societies.

For general readers, it is important to understand that climate change is not merely a technical issue or an environmental policy problem—it is also a structural issue rooted in the global economic system. Therefore, transitioning toward sustainable development requires fundamental changes in how we view economic growth, consumption, and resource management. Solutions based on principles of sustainability and social justice, as taught in Islam, can provide a stronger foundation for achieving balance between human needs and planetary sustainability.

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