

**EXTINCTIONISM: MASS CATASTROPHE OR MASS HYSTERIA?  
PHILOSOPHIZING CONTEMPORARY ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
THROUGH NIETZSCHE’S PRE-EUGENIC IDEOLOGY**

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**Resumo/Abstract**

In this communication it is intended to realize both a scientific and philosophical analysis of the “extinction” problem and, in particular, of the recent studies on the so-called “sixth mass extinction”. A “mass extinction” is usually defined by paleontologists as time when the Earth loses more than three-quarters of its species in a geologically short interval, as has happened only five times in the past 540 million years or so, and contemporary biologists now suggest that we are probably facing another extinction period (the sixth), given the known species losses over the past few centuries and millennia. Thus, considering some recent paleontological and biological data I propose to discuss the scientific realism of these perspectives in order to measure their epistemic accuracy. I will argue that we do not own yet enough information to classify our age as the “sixth mass extinction period” once the synergic key-factors that we are particularly aware of (e. g. unusual climate changes, atmospheric composition and abnormally high-intensity ecological stressors that affect different lineages of species) are still insufficient to reach a plausible and consistent conclusion. By other words, I will point out that only future generations will be capable of telling the “true” story about our scale of extinctionism. At the same time that I emphasize these hypothesis and their practical implications I will also consider a more theoretical and philosophical approach, namely through the Nietzschean pre-eugenic ideology, which – seeing the permanent world conflicts, wars and genocides that derivate from environmental, monetary, ethnical, religious or, essentially speaking, eugenic factors – can be perfectly postulated in similar terms as a prophecy for a forthcoming extinction of mankind. Here I will introduce and explain concepts such as “Super-Man”, “The Last Man” and “Eternal recurrence” from a pre-eugenic (this is pre-Galtonean) Nietzschean perspective. Thus, I will conclude that contemporary scientific extinctionism concerning the “sixth mass extinction” is still nothing else than a philosophical wishful thinking which can, although, be perfectly achieved at our era through a worldwide chemical or nuclear warfare involving human agents more than a (properly saying) synergic convulsion as some scientists argue.

**Key-words:** environment; eugenics; extinctionism; Nietzsche; synergy.

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