Welcome to the Idiocene

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It has been proposed that the present era of life on earth should be called the Anthropocene to reflect the human domination of our planet.

However, an elegant, scientific-sounding term like anthropocene seems like a cop-out, a handy euphemism to hide exactly what kind of domination this is and what it’s doing to the planet.

I propose that instead we call it the Idiocene, signifying the New Era of Idiots. Idiot comes from the Greek word “idiutns” meaning both an incompetent person and a private citizen. Idiocene is the one precisely appropriate name for an era that is suicidally stupid and ecocidally privatizing.

Would you like a simple definition of the Idiocene? You might remember the old joke about a robber who comes up to somebody on the street, pulls out a gun and says: "Your money or your life!" The victim pauses and then says, “Can I have a moment to think it over?”

That moment is the Idiocene.

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