What is extractivism?

Extractivism is different from the act of ‘extracting’, which refers to individual actions such as berry picking and gardening. Instead, extractivism denotes a way of thinking and a way of positioning oneself in relation to the natural world. Anna Willow (2018, p. 2) defines extractivism as “a mindset and a pattern of resource procurement based on removing as much material as possible for as much profit as possible” and at times, “as quickly as possible” (Harvey 2005, 174). Examples of extractivism include that of minerals (gold, copper, coil but also oil, natural gas...), fisheries, clear-cut logging, cattle, hydroelectric dams, etc.

References: