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Review: Carbon Criminals, Climate Crimes
By Ronald C. Kramer

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Kramer, Ronald C. *Carbon Criminals, Climate Crimes*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2020, 230pp. ISBN: 978-1-9788-0558-3, paperback, US\$32.95.

Carbon Criminals, Climate Crimes, written by Ronald C. Kramer, aims to prove that global warming was knowingly caused by the fossil fuel industry, highly developed nations, such as the United States, and politicians. Kramer believes that these bad actors' decisions to cause a global climate crisis should be considered crimes against humanity and those actors should be viewed as criminals. The book explores examples of what he refers to as state-corporate crimes, which have four specific forms: crimes of continued extraction and rising emissions, crimes of socially organized denial, crimes of political omission, and climate crimes of the empire. In addition, Kramer spends a great deal of time exploring the environmental policies of each US president since the 1970's, showing how each administration positively and negatively impacted climate change efforts.

Kramer outlines the conceptualized crime of continued extraction and rising emissions using Exxon-Mobil as an example. In 2015, the corporation was exposed for their numerous efforts to disseminate misinformation on the relationship between carbon dioxide and climate change since the 1970's. Exxon-Mobile also serves as an example of a crime wherein it's difficult to pinpoint an individual who can be held criminally accountable for their actions, a frequent and frustrating issue for crimes in this category.

Kramer showcases multiple instances of crimes of political omission, frequently using President Trump and his administration as examples. The main climate crimes of which he accuses President Trump are claiming that climate change is a hoax and putting

climate deniers in positions of power. This section may have benefitted from suggestions on how to penalize a politician like President Trump for this type of activity.

Towards the end of the book Kramer becomes more optimistic for the future of climate justice efforts. The younger generation seems to care more about the environment and has more awareness about climate change than previous generations. He argues that it is never too late to renew hope through positive influence and responsible action. Hopefully, we can create progress in reducing the effects of climate crisis by improving the public's knowledge of climate change while instilling hope and confidence.

Carbon Criminals, Climate Crimes is a useful book designed to reshape how we view the issues surrounding climate change and how we can use this new viewpoint to make changes to protect future generations. The author raises many critical questions about the debate over the environmental criminology of climate change. The book would have been more compelling if the author had also offered tangible suggestions on how to criminally punish those guilty of state-corporate climate crimes. It seems like the most effective current course of action to achieve some climate justice is to penalize those actors through legal lawsuits. Overall, this book will be effective at sparking much needed discussions about how we can view and address the bad actors behind our climate crisis as criminals.

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