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Review: Climate Change: What It Means for Us, Our Children, and Our Grandchildren

Joseph F.C. DiMento and Pamela Doughman, Eds.

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DiMento, Joseph F.C. and Doughman, Pamela (Editors). *Climate Change: What It Means for Us, Our Children, and Our Grandchildren*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2014, 2nd edition, 360 pp. ISBN: 9780262525879. US \$22.95. Available as a paperback and an electronic book.

As expressed by the editors, *Climate Change: What It Means for Us, Our Children, and Our Grandchildren* aims to make climate change understandable to the public. To do this, this book begins by introducing the basic concepts of climate change and defining the many climate related terms in plain language. The reader then learns how scientists study and monitor past climate variability and changes, using paleo climatological data to develop computer models for predicting climate system change. Subsequent chapters discuss the expected consequences of global and the local climate change on humans and ecological systems are explored (Chapter 3). The next chapter asks why scientists are right about climate change and the rise of temperature (Chapter 4). Unfortunately, it seems the answer is based on the fallacy of appeal to widespread belief or *Argumentum ad populum*, as the answer to why scientists are right about climate change is that "...all of the major scientific bodies in the United States whose membership's expertise bears directly on the matter have issued reports or statements that confirm the IPCC conclusion." (p.108) Although the author of this chapter notes in the beginning of the chapter that many scientific consensuses have faded away over the years, she provides no better answer for climate change but mentioning that there exists a scientific consensus on this matter!

Chapter five provides an exhaustive review of the history of the protocols, arguments, meetings, conferences, global awareness concerning ecological problems and any international effort for mitigating the climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions and the possibility of international and national organizations', and even individuals' action for mitigating climate change are also discussed. After that, there are discussions on how the media deals with the climate change (Chapter 6). The author of this chapter, a journalist himself, analyzes the media bias regarding climate change. The author concludes that the "...biggest impediments to effective climate coverage seem to lie not out in the examined world but back in the newsroom and in the nature of news itself." (p. 230) Finally, chapter seven examines the failure of international agreements on decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and how this process and effort has been a failure from its conception.

This book has both strengths and weaknesses. Although the authors of the volume acknowledge the limitations of experimental investigation on climate change, most of

the book's contents are based on predictions, i.e. models, as the normal method for exploring the probable effects of climate change is through employing simulations and models. Despite the introductory nature of the earlier chapters, the book may appeal more to readers who are interested in climate change activism and awareness due to the numerous examples, discussions and arguments on the conferences, policies and hypothetical scenarios. Thus, the goal of the book to make climate change understandable to the public is only pursued in the first chapter. Finally, this volume fails in suggesting, providing and proposing any practical and applicable solution for the problem of climate change, although a few national scale policies for controlling the global levels of anthropogenic impact on climate are mentioned (Chapter 3).

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