

Politics of Climate Change

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SUMMARY

This article shows that the politics of climate change involve global debates and actions driven by scientific consensus, political divisions, economic interests, public activism, diverse policy responses, persistent challenges, and the need for continued international cooperation and innovation to address the crisis effectively because climate change is a complex global problem. The burning of fossil fuels, the production of steel and cement, and the use of land for forestry and agriculture are the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. Since the Industrial Revolution, the primary energy source for advancements in technology and the economy has been fossil fuels. There have been several calls for a "green recovery" as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, with some governments like the European Union successfully incorporating climate action into policy changes. The politics of climate change results from different perspectives on how to respond to climate change.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change first emerged as a political issue in the 1970s. The history of climate change policy and politics involves current histories of political actions, regulations, patterns, disputes, and local activities concerning the matter of climate change. International cooperation and the creation of global warming standards have been the main focuses of climate change policy. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international treaty that has evolved throughout time to take on unique challenges. Critical reflection on the history of climate change politics provides "ways to think about one of the most difficult issues we human beings have brought upon ourselves in our short life on the planet". The scientific community has reached a unanimous conclusion in its publication that human-induced greenhouse gas emissions are the primary cause of the recent increase in global surface temperatures. In contrast to the Kyoto Protocol's failure to address climate change, international law based on the Montreal Protocol was successful in tackling ozone depletion despite significant opposition and a high degree of uncertainty.

Definition

Tanner and AL louche (2011) define the political economy as "the processes by which ideas, power and resources are conceptualized, negotiated and implemented by different groups at different scales".

International politics

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** (1992)- to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations for preventing dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.
- **Kyoto Protocol** (1997)- reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Paris Agreement** (2015)- aims to limit global warming to well <2°C to 1.5°C.
- **Montreal Protocol** (1897): to protect the stratospheric ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).
- **Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol** (2012): Establishes a 2nd commitment period (2013-20) for the Kyoto protocol, an international agreement to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. (Gregor Erbach, Members' Research Service, <http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu>).

Countries involved in the politics of climate change

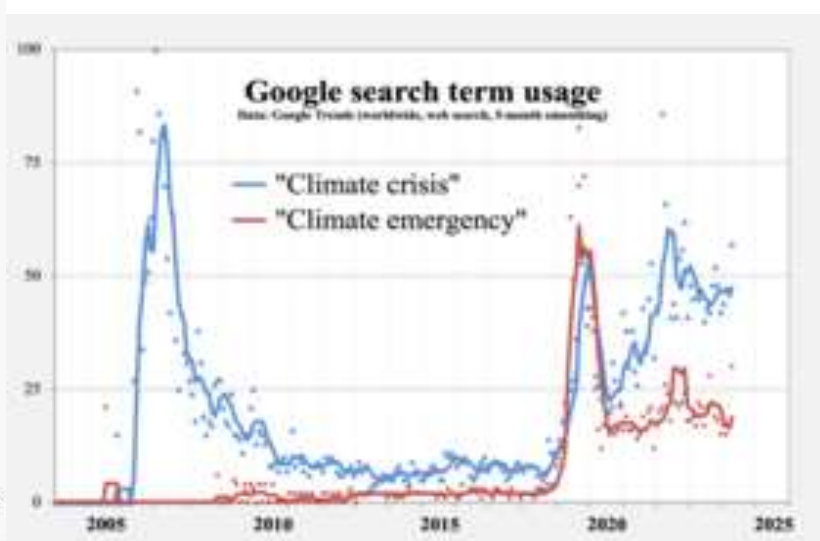
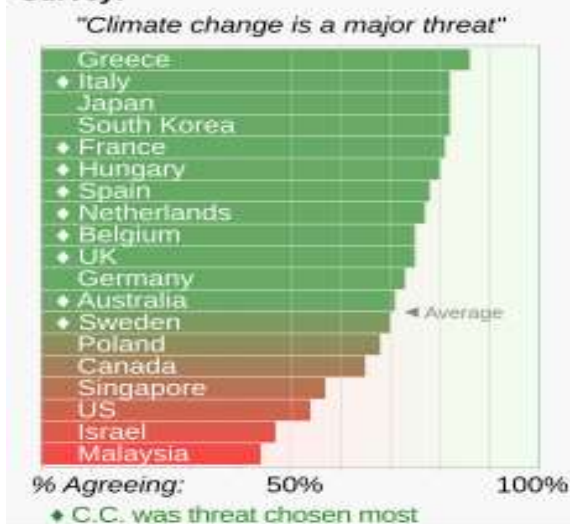
S. No	Countries	Role
1.	United States	It was a party to the UNFCCC and played a key role in negotiating the Paris Agreement, although it withdrew from the agreement under the Trump administration. The Biden administration rejoined the Paris Agreement in 2021 and has made climate action a priority.
2.	China	It is a party to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and has committed to peak its emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.
3.	European union	The EU's policies include the European Green Deal, which aims to make the EU carbon-neutral by 2050.

4.	India	India is another major emitter of greenhouse gases and a key player in climate change politics. Also, a party to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.
5.	Brazil	It plays a significant role in global carbon cycling. It is a party to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.
6.	Russia	As a major producer of fossil fuels, Russia's stance on climate change policies is significant. It is a party to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.
7.	Other countries (Japan, Canada, Australia, South Korea, and Indonesia)	They also play important roles in climate change politics due to their significant emissions profiles and participation in international climate agreements.

Public opinion

- The Greta effect, the IPCC 1.5 °C report, and the increasing awareness of the threat posed by global warming as a result of recent extreme weather occurrences have all change." (Vaughan et al., 2019).
- Public opinion on climate change politics varies widely. There's significant concern and support for action in many places, but it's also a polarizing issue with differences based on political ideology, economic interests, and generational perspectives.

Survey:



(Source: <https://www.pewresearch.org>)

- In this 2022 Pew survey, a majority said climate change is a major threat to their country, with respondents from almost half the countries ranking climate change highest of five listed threats. (Poushter et al)
- A 2023 review study published in One Earth stated that opinion polls show that most people perceive climate change as occurring now and close by. The study concluded that seeing climate change as more distant does not necessarily result in less climate action, and reducing psychological distancing does not reliably increase climate action. (Van Valkengoed et al.,)

Political economy of climate change: Political economy of climate change is an approach that applies the political economy thinking concerning social and political processes to study the critical issues surrounding decision-making on climate change.

The key issues

- The cross-sectoral nature of climate change.
- The problematic perception of climate change as simply a “global” issue.
- The growth of climate change finance.
- Different ideological worldviews of responding to climate change.
- Unintended negative consequences of adaptation policies that fail to factor in environmental-economic trade-offs.

Technological innovations

- New technologies indicate a path to limiting warming to 2 °C have a big role for carbon dioxide removal - climate change mitigation. (Andrew Dessler et al., 2020).

- Solar radiation management is another technology aiming to reduce global warming. Michael Mann claims that the possibility of utilizing solar management to lower temperatures is another justification used to undermine support for implementing legislation aimed at reducing emissions. (*Michael E. Mann, 2021*)
- Our principal goal should be to mitigate problems that are global in scale, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, virus transmission and invasive species. The promise of technology is seen as both a threat and a potential boon. (*Steven cohen,2022, fossil fuels, renewable energy and electric vehicles*).

CONCLUSION

In addition to providing insights into how governments make policy in response to climate change, the authors in this special issue reveal the importance of understanding the proportionality of governmental responses. In the best of all possible worlds, governments would respond to policy problems in a measured, proportional manner. As we do not live in such a world, the contributions to this special issue show that governments often either over- or under respond to the challenges presented by climate change. Moreover, many of the same factors that explain general differences in policy choices can also explain their proportionality. Understanding the causes and consequences of disproportionate policy responses to climate change represents a stimulating agenda for future research in comparative politics

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