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Climate Change and the Future of the American
West: Exploring the Legal and Policy
Dimensions (Summer Conference, June 7-9)

2006

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SLIDES: Climate Change and ... the Future of the American West

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Climate change and ... the Future of the American West

**which, of course,
is tied to the future
of the
American east,
north and south
and the rest of
the globe**



“The accumulation of GHGs is a moral issue”

V.P. Gore, 2006

“Global warming is the great hoax perpetrated on mankind”

Sen. Inhofe (R-OK)

“One man’s ceiling is another man’s floor”

Paul Simon, 1973

But...whose morality will prevail?

Climate Politics

- Greenhouse effect vs White House effect
 - Turnabout is fair play
- Conservation vs exploitation
- Technophiles vs -phobes
- Dependence on free market mechanisms

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1990 The Washington Times

EDITORIALS COMMENTARY
PAGE F2

WARREN BROOKES

White House effect vs. greenhouse effect

As the nation shivered through one of the coldest Decembers in North American history, White House advisers were seeking ways to cool down President Bush's exposure to global warming, without reneging on his rhetorical 1980 campaign flourish:

"Those who charge we are powerless to do anything about the 'greenhouse effect' are forgetting about the 'White House effect.' So far, the main 'White House effect' has been damage control, keeping environmental hotheads from signing the United States up to potentially disastrous international agreements, long before any scientific evidence even remotely supports them.

But that changed Friday. The State Department, under pressure from the White House, quietly filed with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the ultimate strategic weapon: an unassailably sound, but bold new market-based approach to the international regulation of greenhouse gases that should put the Bush administration back in charge of this debate.

While the purpose of this new approach is to avoid the kind of command-and-control environmentalism that has made the Clean Air Act such a costly and ineffective disaster, it also will slow down the ideological rush to put greenhouse policy way out ahead of real science, and hard evidence.

Most of all, it will drive the international environmental bureaucrats right up the wall, because it hugely undercuts their potential turf and power to meddle in domestic national affairs.

A Dec. 14 confidential memorandum by a brilliant environmental

separate, specific targets — on carbon dioxide, methane, agricultural practices, nitrous oxide, ozone

The upside of Mr.

world environmental problem, it does not dictate strategy to individual nations. That lessens the great

while they, in turn, have a head start on producing more environmentally benign substitutes.





*"Gentlemen, it's time we gave some serious thought
to the effects of global warming."*

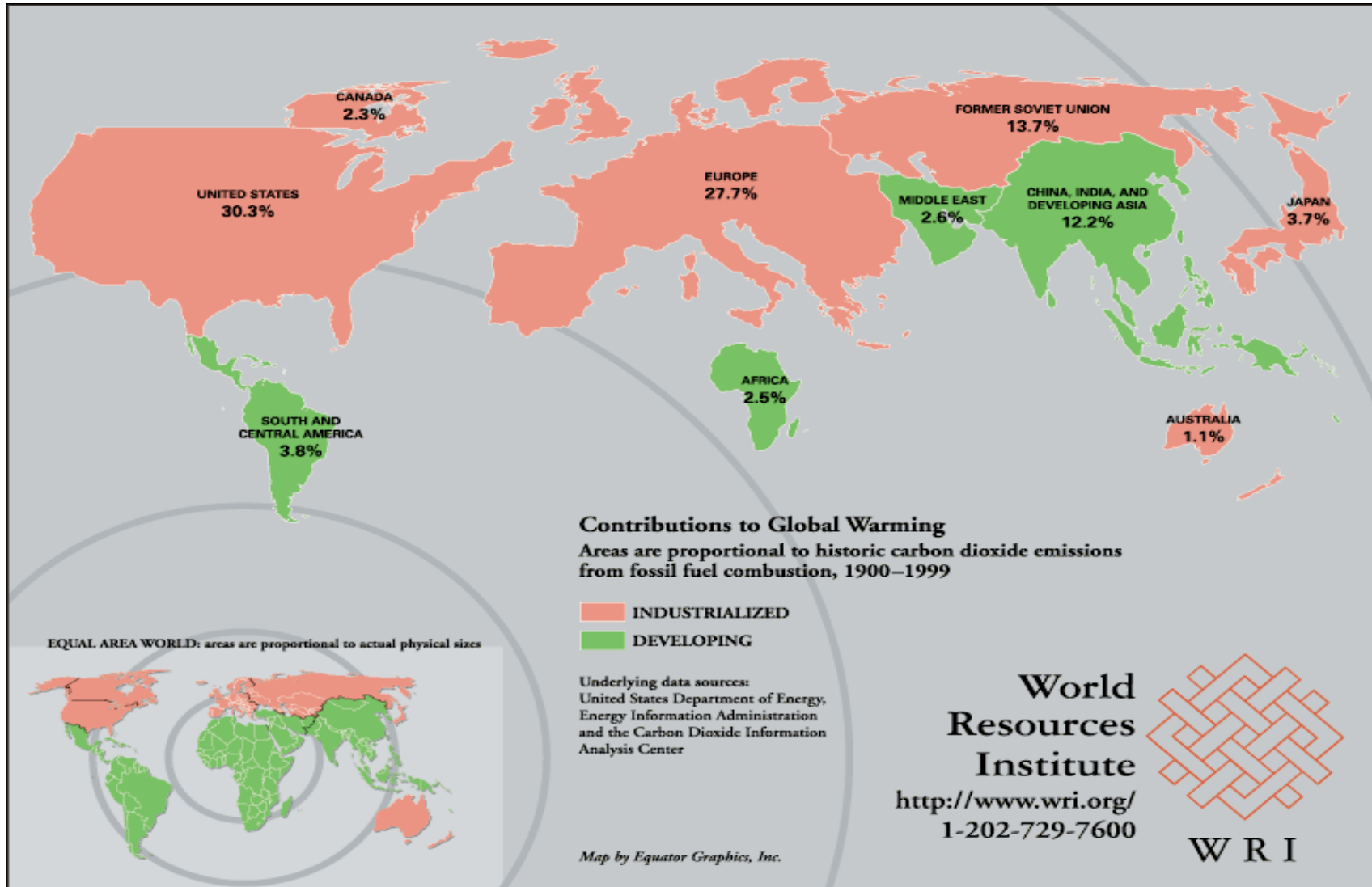
Production Head
<http://www.cartoonbank.com>

<http://www.undoit.org/graphics/NewYorkerCartoon.jpg>

Climate Ethics and Equity

- **Generational equity**
 - (Intra- and Inter-generational)
- **Environmental justice**
 - (Downwind; Downstream)
- **Natural disasters and poverty**
 - (the poor tend to live in high-risk zones)
- **Polluter Pays**
 - (Unless you are the polluter)
- **Precautionary Principle**
 - (“better safe now than sorry later”)
- **Nature’s Bank analogy**
 - (everyone knows about banks !!)

Size matters: CO2 emissions



Where CO2 emissions come from

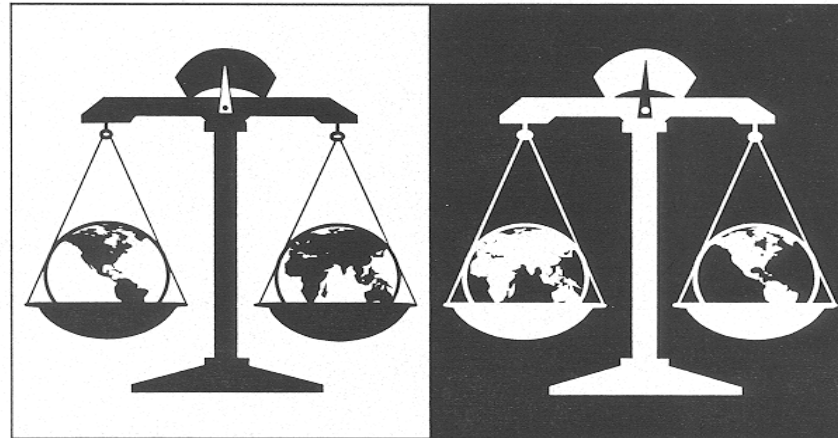
(total emissions since 1950 in billions of tons)



Winners and losers in global warming

Report of the Workshop

**"On Assessing Winners and Losers
in the Context of Global Warming"**



St. Julians, Malta

18 - 21 June 1990



United Nations
Environment Programme



Environmental and Societal
Impacts Group
National Center for Atmospheric Research

Daily burden to fetch water and firewood



Africa –water gatherers



India – firewood gatherers



Hurricane Mitch refugees (Oct.-Nov. 1998)



LATIN AMERICA

By TIM MCGIRK

FLOODED OUT OF HER HONDURAN HOME in October 1998 by fearsome Hurricane Mitch, Marita Fonseca and her six children have been living ever since in the El Trebol refugee camp on a bulldozed hilltop in Tegucigalpa, between two highway off-ramps. Garbage fires smolder in

ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEES

Millions of Latin Americans are being displaced, not by poverty or civil strife, but by the devastating effects of nature. The numbers will keep growing

Photograph by Paul Howell—Liaison

WASH DC
Hurricane Mitch displaced some 1.2 million people, like these in Nicaragua



Hurricane Katrina

**Refugees at
the Earnest
Morial
Convention
Center**

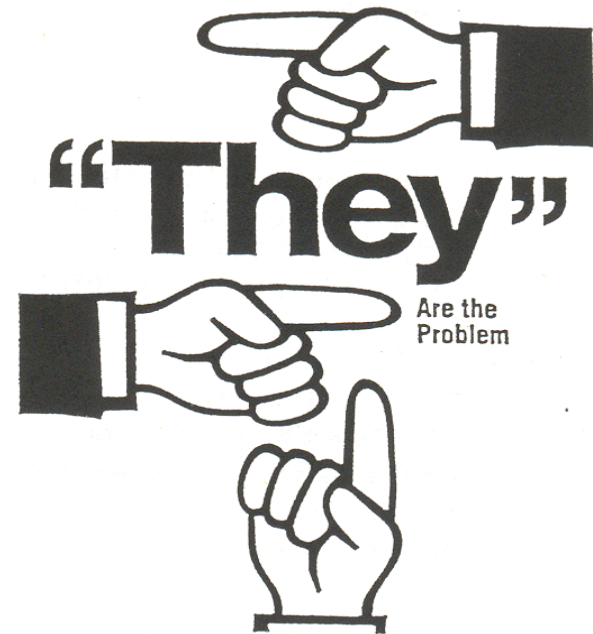
(August 31, 2005)

**Is this a
specter of the
future for
industrialized
countries?**

**Staff photo by
Ted Jackson**

Attributing responsibility for disasters

**A new role for
climate...
as a scapegoat
for societal problems**



Nobody wants to take the blame!

There is a “Lessons Learned” problem

- **Lessons are identified after each disaster**
- **Why are lessons that are allegedly learned not applied?**
 - **In fact, lessons are identified but often not learned !!**

Render unto climate ...

**1. Identify climate's impacts
on societies**

and

**2. Identify society's contribution
to those impacts**

That's Unripe

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