

Original Paper

The Global *Crisis* with States Incapable of *Minimax*

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Abstract

Global attention is now very much directed onto questions of war and military armaments. In a long run perspective on humankind in the 21st century, global warming raises an even more fundamental problem of human survival. By heating the planet through greenhouse gases, especially CO₂ and methane, rich countries risk their affluence and poor countries will be even worse.

Keywords

climate change, costs and losses, global encompassing strategy, managing externalities, Keeling curve

1. Introduction

The states of the have operated the UN COP approach to global warming and climate change for more than 20 years. Facing no success, there is yet no agreement about what to do and how to stop the warming of the planet. One finds that the ambition to deal with problem sadly varies much among the states. This is the real cause—the inactivity of many of the states.

It is an uncomfortable fact that several recently published question global warming and its probable consequences. The literature in question denies both the occurrence of the typical climate change phenomena and as well the causal theory of global warming, i.e., the greenhouse gases (Lomborg, 2020). On the one hand we have the literature on a coming global “*untergang*”. But on the other hand, there is the books ridiculing this prediction as unscientific. When turning to physics, the mechanism of global warming is validate—see L.M. Krauss’ Physics of Climate Change (2021).

The Keeling curve is available day after day for all globally. It should become the global policy measure each and every day and year.

2. Global Warming Phenomena

The climate change theory is no longer called ridiculously “green” exaggeration. And the suggestion that we should focus more on daily pressing problems seems irrelevant, when the dangers to the planet are clearly understood:

- Desertification
- Shortage of fresh water
- Loss of land and islands
- Difficult atmosphere for work
- Migratory flows of people
- Stats conflicts and war.

These consequences are externalities for all countries on the planet, as they cannot be avoided by any separate country. And they come with extremely high costs. Why, then, are not the key firms and the businesses more concerned?

The distinction between verbiage and practical action is glaring when it comes to the globally looming environmental catastrophe. There is no new equilibrium in sight, as global warming does not release any counter forces. We can only wait for the tipping points to set in. Global warming is a cumulative process where all are affected.

Diagram 1 shows developments since 1990 relating temperature rises to CO2 emission expansion.

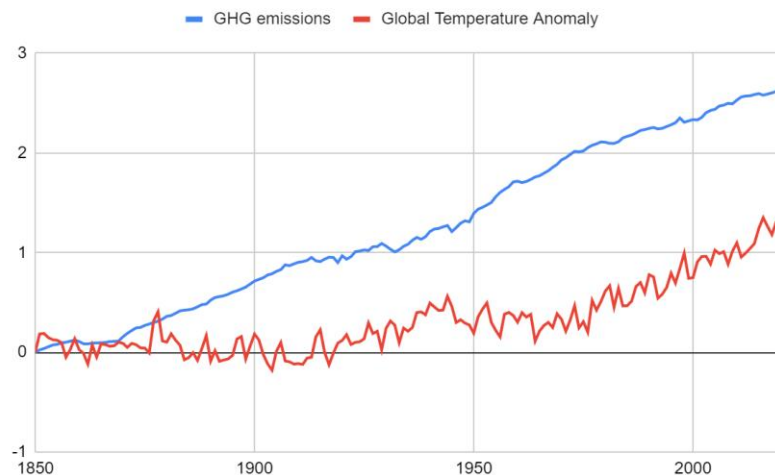


Diagram 1. Natural logarithm of Greenhouse gas (GHG emissions) and Global Temperature Anomaly 1850-2021 (Our World in Data).

Although the phenomena of climate change have been known for 200 years, the key text was published in 1989: S. Schneider's *Global Warming* (Schneider, 1989). Are we heating up the planet? Yes, our constantly increasing need for energy leads to higher CO2 levels.

The link between global warming and energy makes it very difficult to combat climate change. Every state seeks to avoid energy shortage. If necessary, coal or natural gas will be used. In several countries wood is burnt. All advanced countries cheat in their own way. In developing countries the forests are cut down for a variety of selfish purposes: agriculture, charcoal, house building and decorative goals. Poor and landless people figure prominently when the rainforest is invaded.

The energy shortages are augmented by the premature shutdown of nuclear stations. Nuclear power is a source of energy that is both valued and frightening.

3. SOURCE: State Egoism and Opportunism

States guard their sovereignty jealously. They are prepared to act when vital interests are at stake, including opportunism, cheating and violence. Energy is high on the list of state priorities. State egoism does not exclude intergovernmental cooperation and states' coordination. But when vital interests are concerned, states renege. They may sign international treaties but lack implementation.

Hobbes following the Epicurean tradition predicted the war of all against all as well as total chaos in Parliament from his egoism axiom. He therefore preferred kingship—one will. But surely kings or autocrats can be incredibly selfish! It seems that Putin has managed to lay his private hands on some of the assets of Yukos and Gazprom. Embezzlement and autocracy hit Russia with a vengeance.

State egoism is of another order. When energy is lacking, even red-green governments look for fossils. The CO2 levels will continue rising.

When states act, their decision making is characterized by:

- Myopia
- Opportunism
- Status quo
- Reneging

If there is an energy crisis, states go back to fossils. If some states offer much green policy-making, then others may offer little when states coordinate. If there is a threat to state existence or longevity, the money goes to weapon procurement. If states promise too much, they can always repent. As the greatest ever political philosopher expressed it (*Leviathan*): "...covenants without the sword are but words..."

The COP approach of the UN suffers badly from Hobbes' weakness of international agreements: enforcement.

4. Strategic Action

According to the dominant theory of the organisation, the goal function is complex and the knowledge of the means to these ends uncertain. Thus, organisations may fail their objectives and deliver outcomes that are suboptimal or even counterproductive. The management problem is actually simple, namely changing the Keeling curve. The Keeling curve can be likened to the heath measurement rod of the planet—one scale decides our fate. It adds up the yearly CO2 emissions globally standing now at 425 ppm. It must NOT be allowed to rise over 500 or 600—a death knell to humankind. The global strategic management task is to halt the Keeling curve. It calls upon the big polluters to stop burning fossil fuels:

Table 1. Big Polluters 2021

Country	Share of world emissions
China	30,9%
United States	13,5%
India	7,3%
Russia	4,7%
Japan	2,9%
Iran	2%
Germany	1.8%
Saudi Arabia	1.8%
Indonesia	1.7%

It also calls upon small polluters to go Green as soon as possible. The model example is Denmark where wind and solar power accounts for 60 percent of the electricity. For strategic management to work with saving the planet, there must be **INCENTIVES** to employ. Thus we return to Paris 2015.

How to get the big polluters interested in the future 2050 and onwards of the Earth (Wallace-Wells, 2019).

5. Two Hurdles of COP

The COP organisation is strong on information gathering but weak on policy-making and implementation. It has to reduce its transaction costs and create a mechanism for control of promises made.

Following March's theory of organisational behaviour, they tend to focus on "standard operating procedures". Thus, the COP meets often and the states make their speeches. But the Keeling curve keeps rising. The COP must be much more innovative.

Second, the COP must somehow overcome the PD game strategy of some states, especially the big polluters. These states must sign up to a global policy that changes the Keeling curve as we enforce such measures.

The policy technology of such an active COP is not difficult from all we know about the Keeling curve:

- 1) Close down coal power;
- 2) Replace oil and gas power with green power;
- 3) Do not close down nuclear power prematurely.

The problem is how to get the big polluters on-board on such a global policy journey saving the only planet humans have.

And as soon as the Keeling curve changes direction, we will be on the way to restore equilibrium.

6. Conclusion

The optimism that Elinor Ostrom (1990) expounded about voluntary cooperation in relation to commons -externalities- appears undone by state egoism and opportunism.

The way the UN COP needs urgent reform is in the interest of states, big or small.

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