

## Book Review

# Climate Terror: A Critical Geopolitics of Climate Change

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*Climate Terror: A Critical Geopolitics of Climate Change*

Sanjay Chaturvedi & Timothy Doyle

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The Copenhagen accord, recently signed by representatives of most of the leading nations of the world, even shortened the differences between the United States and BASIC countries, stipulated some gas emission pledges that were limited according to the size of GNP (Gross national product). As a result of this, the consensus envisaged a gap between developed and under-developed nations in their respective margins to contaminate.

As the previous backdrop, it is not otiose that climate change posited as one of the main threats for humankind, but no less true is that it accelerated the acceptance of a new irregular scheme for greenhouse gas emission in order for nations to implement in the years to come. This suggests that we are still thinking the environmental problems in economic terms. Hence some radical voices recently suggest that beyond the urgency implemented by climate change underlies a discourse of fear, which imposes a disciplinary mechanism to regulate the ebbs and flows of market. Such a point ushered exactly Sanjay Chaturvedi and Timothy Doyle into a difficult dilemma, which is addressed through the book *Climate Terror: a critical geopolitics of climate change*.

*What happens to be common to both the war on terror and the securitization/militarization of climate change is the speculative preemption of future threats and dangers to justify the manipulation of socio-spatial consciousness and policy intervention by the powers that be in the name of a moral economy that is heavily skewed in favor of the securing of future citizens (p. 13).*

In such an excerpt above noted, the involving authors start from the premise that developed economies should recognize the climate change as a real problem but paying a specific heed on the inflation and manipulation of emotions, which leads to an interplay between fear and hope that is politically manipulated to erode the critical thought. This movement, which is known as apocalypticism, not only is not new because it was already used in several occasions but also after 9/11 it appeals to be encrypted in a new geopolitics splitting the world in two: the damned and saved.

The common-thread argument in this book is organized along with eight chapters, which may be read indistinctively, but with a common argumentation in mind. Beyond the concerns on the grim future of humanity, which is paradoxically accelerated by climate change, still remains a manifest intention to introduce the germen of anti-politics, -or following authors a post-political action.

The introductory chapter discusses critically “*the rhetoric of climate terror*”, which delineates the borders for the vulnerability of global south. In fact, far from coordinating efforts in the struggle to curb gas emission rates, climate terror enlarges the asymmetries between have and have-nots. This chapter provides with a first point of entry in the discussion around how statecraft is forged as well as organize a critical insight on the current geo-politics of environment. Rather, in the second chapter, authors explore the socio-economic tension between natural sciences and humanism. The already-existent geopolitics of terrorism not only neglects others types of ancient knowledges but also imposes rationale as the touchstone of progress. In so doing, it is important to review the historical evolution of environmental movements, which today places as the myth of progress at any costs in jeopardy. To put this in bluntly, for academicians the rational calculus, already-established in the culture of capitalism, is not taken as a part of problem, but the solution.

As the previous argument given, the geopolitics of climate change not only segregates some territories, which are doomed as prohibited spaces, but also the discussion seems to be given to enforce the center-periphery dependency, already existent in the colonial rule. This moot point represents the main dispute in the third chapter.

As the best of our knowledge, the fourth chapter is considered one of the most exciting of the book. Here Chaturvedi and Doyle acknowledge that the ideology of climate terror, which supposedly to be prone to egalitarianism while at the bottom it was forged by conservative forces that operate in neoliberalism from its onset. At some extent, one might speculate two contrasting forces collide in the the atralization of bottom days. Demonized by the human greed the market is pitted against the state, which in the opposite direction, symbolizes the use of rationality in favor of community. The philosophical rivalry between private and public space, Chaturvedi and Doyle adds, rests on shaky foundations simply because the conceptual pillars of climate terror have been elaborated by an old colonial right-wing morality.

In consonance with this reasoning, chapters fifth and sixth - one of the best of the book- offers a fertile ground to understand the intersection of climate change and terrorism. Both takes part of a much deeper process of securitization, where a post political landscape prevails. The rise of securitization as the necessary borders of national rule corresponds with a neoliberal program to militarize nations in the name of climate security.

Last but not least, the notion of climate justice or climate debts are examined in the last chapters, as well as the role played by corporations and governments in implementing policies to mitigate the effects of climate change. To what extent this potential threat can be used for emancipatory ends or even politically manipulated to protect the interests of status quo is the main question this book persistently pursues to answer.

The imposition of climate as a dogma -unless carefully and critically reviewed- may undermine the background of democracy, achieving consensus not to reverse the polluting but in ensuring the natural resources for elite in the years to come. The risk of climate change implies a further philosophical discussion not only to respond why in spite of cross national programs or the worries of global Spector-ship, less is done respecting to gas emission reduction, but also to what extent, this concerns situates as a pretext for an eco-dictatorship.

This book centers the term climate borders to denote the geographical division between a critical mobility and the concept of climate wars. This point is particularly evident through fifth chapter, when authors go on to say

*Our central argument in this chapter is that similar to the war on terror, the so-called war on climate change invokes -through the deployment of certain metaphors – a borderless, flat global society at risk, but the practices it gives rise to are resulting in highly territorializing but invisible borders both within and across national borders. These new fences and walls (both material and discursive) are*

*being conceived, constructed and imposed by the minority world in anticipation of a large number of climate migrants fleeing from the majority world (p 110).*

In this respect, the mediated sense of *Climate terror* imposes a discursive (but not for this less real) allegory that evokes the new emergent territories to constraint the development of global south, but at the same time forcing a technology of control, which is based on the preemptive nature of risks. The psychological manipulation of fear, instilled in the global south, differentiates specific policies and programs originally tended to reinforce the neo-colonial order.

After further review, this provoking and pathbreaking project inaugurates the channels for further debates in those circles that retain serious doubts by the promises and current assertions of specialists on climate change. To put this slightly in other terms, it brilliantly reflects a well-argued thesis that escapes to classic opinion revolving around the protection of planet. By considering Chaturvedi & Doyle as deniers appears to be an over-simplification where some colleagues may fall. However, they provide with a balanced and robust insight that validates unfortunately, the configuration of the war-on- terror and our current apocalyptic feelings around climate change are inextricably intertwined.

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