

ENVS 4100/3521
Climate Politics & Policy
a brief history of political economy
& climate change
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Spring 2012
Component I - January 24



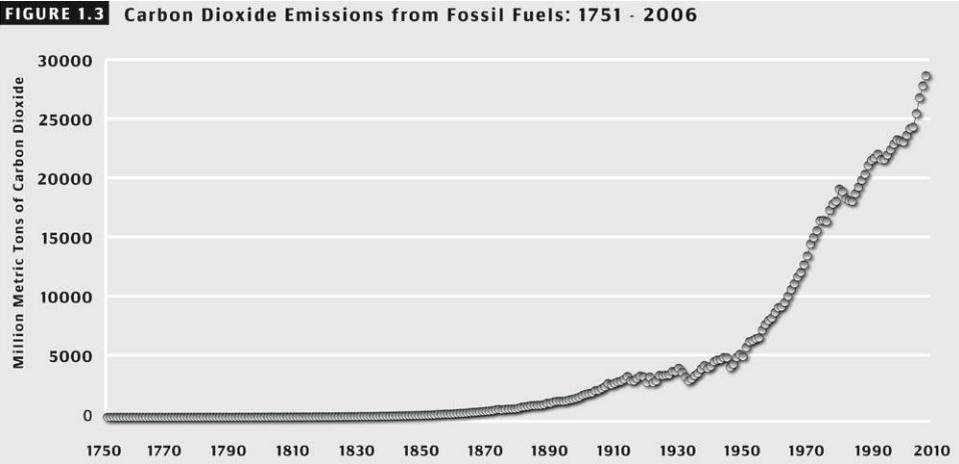
top themes in today's readings



Hulme – Chapter 2 *The Discovery of Climate Change*

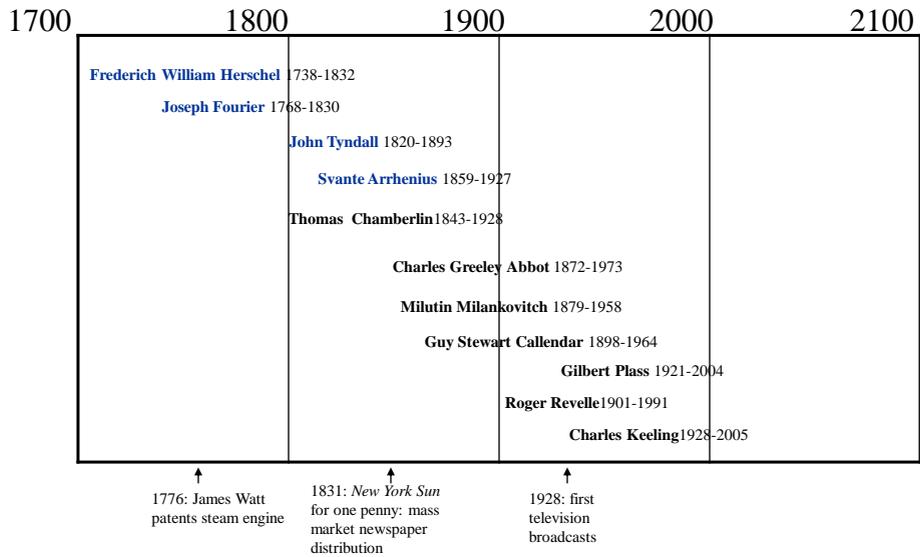
- 2.2 The genealogy of climate change – competing definitions between climate change & global warming
- detecting a signal of anthropogenic climate change
- 2.5 Climate change today – weather & climate
- chapter critiques?

CO₂ emissions since the Industrial Revolution  



in Pielke, Jr. (2010) 'The Climate Fix'

climate science contributions over time  



the 'discovery' of global warming
~ Spencer Weart, Mike Hulme, James Fleming



Freidrich
William
Herschel

Do the varying brightness of stars bring changes in temp on Earth?



Friedrich William Herschel
(1738-1822)

John
Tyndall

How are some gases trapped in the atmosphere while others are not?



AIP

Jean-Baptiste
Joseph Fourier

What factors determine the Earth's temperature and climate?



Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Fourier
(1768-1830)

Svante
Arrhenius

How do anthropogenic CO₂ emissions and feedbacks affect the global climate?



top themes in today's readings



Schroeder – chapter 2 *The History of International Climate Change Politics: Three Decades of Progress, Process & Procrastination*

- Phase I: Institutionalizing the science
- Phase II: Creation of the climate regime – UNFCCC
- Phase III: Strengthening the climate regime – KP

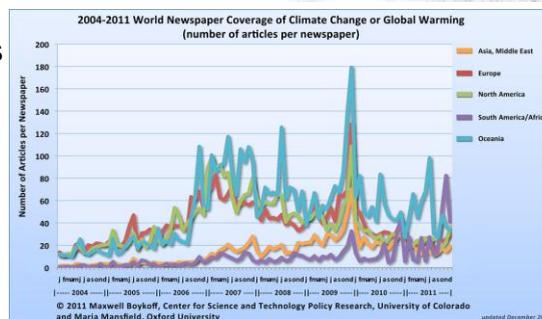
→ negotiating blocs and LMCs

→ limits to solving climate change at international scale alone

non nation-state actors (NNSAs)



- non-governmental orgs (NGOs)
- business: from small businesses to multinational corporations
- cities (& other sub-national actors)
- celebrities & the arts
- sport
- religious movements
- mass media



Much ado about what to do



Mitigation ~ human intervention to reduce the sources of GHGs

Adaptation ~ the alteration of an organism or the capacity to make changes to suit conditions different than those normally encountered



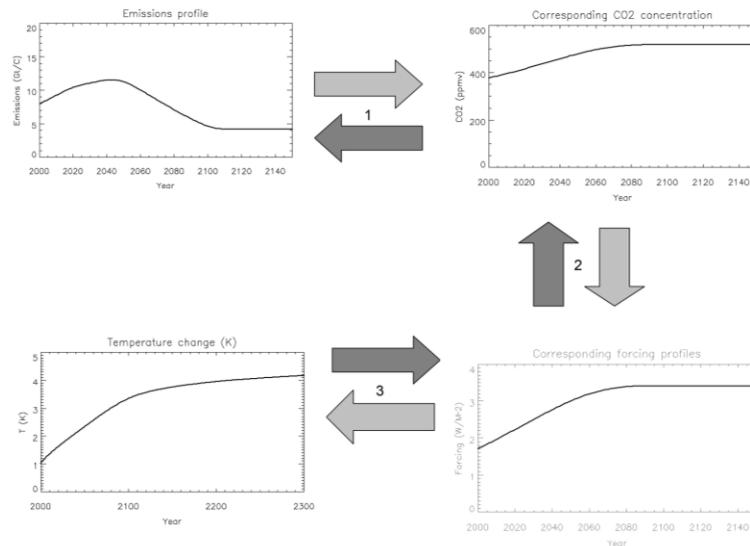
Maslin (2002)

climate politics & policy



“Politics’ are considered as the management and contestations of policies, through social relations infused with power, authority and varying perspectives. ‘Politics’ involve proposals, ideas, intentions, decisions and behaviors, with a focus on processes that prop up, challenge, lurk behind, support and resist explicit actions” (3).

climate science to inform policy



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

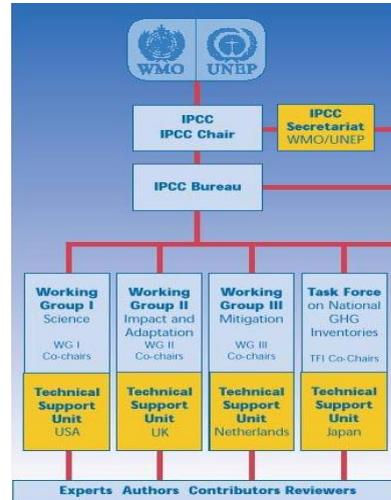


Working Group foci:

- Science
- Impacts: Adaptation & Mitigation
- Policy Responses: Economics & Social Dimensions

Major Reports:

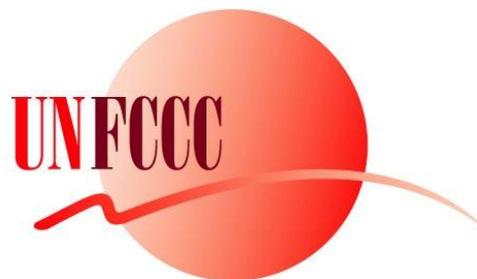
- 1990, 1995, 2001, 2007, 2013
- Summary for Policymakers (SPM); Technical Summary (TS)



Activity #1: COP18 & the 'Doha Decision'



- the 18th Conference of Parties (COP18) meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Doha, Qatar
- objective: successfully agree to commitments that most closely align with your nation's interests, as situated in your specified voting blocs



COP18 country position paper



- (1) What your country position has been on **mitigation commitments** as well as **actual emissions reductions**
- (2) What your country position has been on **adaptation commitments and needs**
- (3) What are particular issues in climate change that your country has **prioritized** (e.g. sea level rise, drought, poverty, the economy) in negotiations

[due next Thurs (Feb 2), copies for LMC members & me]