

Global Warring: How Environmental, Economic, and Political Crises Will Redraw the World Map

Cleo Paskal

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Cleo Paskal : Global Warring: How Environmental, Economic, and Political Crises Will Redraw the World Map before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Global Warring: How Environmental, Economic, and Political Crises Will Redraw the World Map:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and Insightful Discussion of Potential World Issues That Could Result from Global WarmingBy Greg WheelerInformative and interesting perspective on world politics based

upon environmental and geographic conditions. Particularly found the discussion of a "Northwest Passage" below the Arctic Circle enlightening. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Easy Read By Daniel Excellent book! I enjoyed it thoroughly. It was an easy read. It also had a good analysis of the geopolitics around Climate Change. I was particularly impressed by the analysis of small island states. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Must-Read for the 21st Century By Jacqui Denomme To start off with, I must say that if we were to decide to elect a world government at some point in the near future and author Cleo Paskal ran for office I would not only vote for her, I would offer to be on her campaign team. The depth and breadth of her grasp of the coming effects of what she calls 'Environmental Change' (a much broader and more appropriate term than the more commonly used 'global warming' or 'climate change') is phenomenal. I learned so much in this relatively short but very dense and impeccably researched book that put much of what I read in the news into perspective. I also benefited from the crash course in geopolitics that she delivers and appreciated her ability to hold both macro and micro-perspectives of the changes that have occurred in our past and that are to come in the future. Her chart on page 244 is a must-read for anyone in the world who has a position of governance or influence. It is a brilliant synthesis of four aspects of preparedness for the potential hazards of the environmental changes that we are in the middle of and can expect more and more of. She describes three aspects of preparedness: 'Reinforce, Rescue, and Recovery' or preparation FOR potential disasters, planning for rescue when they occur, and the repair and cleanup afterward (which of course includes 'reinforce' in the event of another disastrous event). For each of these three aspects, there are four segments of society that must be involved and act according to their domain: Governments, the Private Sector, Society (NGO's, faith-based groups, community organizations, neighbourhoods, etc) and the Media. She goes on to give examples of how some nations have excelled in some areas but come up short in others. Western nations have a complacency that some other lesser-developed nations do not have and this could put us in a very bad position if a disaster happens (she cites Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans). One could apply this chart to the recent Haitian earthquake and it is easy to see where Haiti excelled and where they came up short (obviously in the 'reinforce' aspect). Cleo Paskal believes that we should be proactive rather than reactive in anticipating environmental change. She referred, for example, to the effects of thawing permafrost and the damage that is already causing current infrastructure. For example, rail lines built on permafrost are buckling under the thawing earth, something not previously accounted for that MUST be accounted for as new infrastructure is built. This was something that I'd not thought of before. I could type pages about this book, how informative and enlightening and intelligent it was and its ability to open my eyes to the possible opportunities and potential difficulties we are going to be facing as communities, nations and global citizens. I think the chief benefit for me, having read many books on this topic previously, was the global perspective, the concern with 'environmental change' as opposed to just carbon emissions, which many other books on this topic focus on and the influence of geopolitics on world events. The concept of nationalist capitalism that the author describes (China for one practices this) was very illuminating as well. This book was not written to incite fear but rather to inform in a broad sense and provide very clear and practical prescriptions so that we can weather the upcoming environmental storms as well as we can. This is why I hope that anyone and everyone who has some 'clout' on whatever scale gets to read it and digest the ideas therein and hopefully help guide our good ship planet earth into a long future. (I have also recently read Stewart Brand's newest book "Whole Earth Discipline: an Ecopragmatist's Manifesto" and enjoyed it immensely. Its focus was on the potential of technology to help us adapt to environmental change so a positive, although very different, companion to this book if you enjoy this topic. As a very vocal environmentalist since the sixties (and author of the Whole Earth Catalogue) it was very interesting to hear him retract some of his former views based on new knowledge).

In a perfect storm, the environment, the global economic system and geopolitics are all undergoing rapid, uncontrolled change. In the same way that the climate is in a state of flux, exhibiting erratic behavior before settling into a new norm, in the wake of the global economic crisis, many of the assumptions about the Western economic system have been destroyed, which leads to some troubling questions: How aggressive will water-hungry China become in order to secure a sufficient supply of it? What will happen when climate-triggered conflicts like the one in Sudan spread throughout the continent? As India takes its proper place at the high table of nations and begins large-scale importing of food, what will happen to already shrinking supplies? Global Warring takes a hard look at these questions. Journalist and analyst Cleo Paskal identifies problem areas that are most likely to start wars, destroy economies and create failed states. Examining the most likely environmental change scenarios, she illuminates the ways in which they could radically alter human existence. A fascinating tour through our uncertain future, Global Warring also offers a controversial new way forward for the global economy and the worldwide environmental crisis.

From Booklist If melting ice animates environmentalists, it also galvanizes the thoughts of geostrategists such as Paskal. The prospect of a navigable Northwest Passage is one of many specific effects of climate change that she discusses in this provocative overview of the future of international politics. Rising sea levels and shifting precipitation patterns also auger implications that Paskal elucidates with sardonic readability. Her wry asides lighten a

serious forecast that rough political weather portends. China and the U.S. will contest control of the Pacific Ocean; India and China will vie for the watershed of the Himalayas; and Russia will capitalize on foreign covetousness for its vast resources. Paskal's survey covers the elementary security situation of each of the great powers; assesses the adaptability of each one's government to climatic alteration; and outlines their general strategy. In this way China's interest in Pacific microstates becomes clear and—to American strategists paying attention to China's brand of nationalistic capitalism—worrying. By extending contemporary anxiety about the climate's future to traditional worry about international security, Paskal taps into two disparate audiences. -- Gilbert Taylor "Cleo Paskal is original and compelling; a pioneering scholar of the new terrain where climate change confronts national security, she charts the dramatic implications not just for the game of nations but for their geographic borders, their resources and their fundamental interests." -- Martin Walker, senior director of the Global Business Policy Council and Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of United Press International. "Cleo Paskal's mastery over geopolitics has been fused to a remarkable understanding of just how the coming geophysical changes may affect our planet. This is the first comprehensive view of the real consequences of environmental change." -- M D Nalapat, UNESCO Peace Chair and director of the Department of Geopolitics, Manipal University, India "Cleo Paskal's vividly illustrates the complex interconnections between climate change, environmental conditions, and energy security. Rather than just take a global view, she also demonstrates how environmental changes will impact the lives of people across the globe." -- Chad Briggs, Senior Advisor, Energy and Environmental Security Directorate, US Department of Energy. "In a field beset by hyperbole on the one hand, and complacency on the other, Cleo Paskal's work provides a refreshing, well-grounded and highly readable take on geopolitics and environmental change in the twenty-first century." -- Jeffrey Mazo, International Institute for Strategic Studies