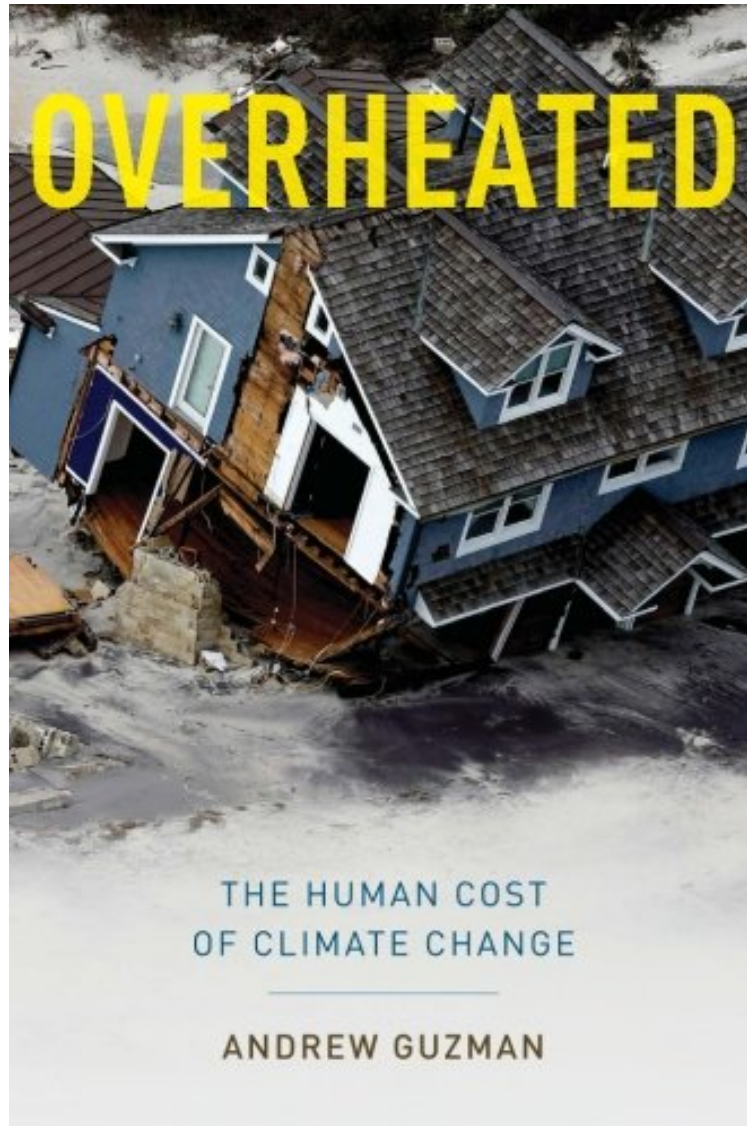


(Download free pdf) Overheated: The Human Cost of Climate Change

Overheated: The Human Cost of Climate Change

Andrew T. Guzman

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Andrew T. Guzman : Overheated: The Human Cost of Climate Change before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Overheated: The Human Cost of Climate Change:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Andrew Guzmans book Overheated does an excellent job explaining how climate change will affect us in ...By CustomerAndrew Guzmans book Overheated does an excellent job explaining how climate change will affect us in the future. Guzman, serving as Dean at USC Gould School of Law, felt it was his duty to educate the public with the consequences that climate change will bring. His approach is not to prove to the readers that climate change is occurring but rather to show them how it will affect our everyday lives and

ultimately the preventative measures that should be taken to reduce this devastation. While Guzman does not have a degree in the science field, I think his background in law is quite helpful when presenting his ideas. The way in which he supports his claims and evidence comes across very credible and reliable. Guzman knows the importance of facts and carries this theme throughout the book. For those unfamiliar with the evidence supporting changes in climate, this book may be a bit difficult to follow. Guzman does a good job refreshing us with what is taking place but this book is definitely not an introduction to climate change. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Strong on both the tactics of a modest hypothetical and on the meta issues. By Erica I like this book as a solid effort in an emerging genre; but I found it a little bit too informal in tone. So I'm giving it 4.6 stars and that rounds to Five. Now if you are wondering what is in the book, the following is my view of the central themes. It is written from the perspective of: An attorney learns the science and considers the sociological implications of climate change. The most important supporting idea in developing the thesis is that the author intentionally errs mild of center on the temperature rise estimate; and he tries to walk the reader through the ideas behind scientific and mathematical uncertainty. That is: Guzman takes a meta-perspective of teaching the lay person how to understand the central problem with climate change: We know how to make accurate predictions but not with the precision with which we can predict something relatively simple like the trajectory of Jupiter. The earth as a system is too complicated and we don't have a lot of the fine structure worked out. Having dispensed with a reasonable approach to 'how do we understand this issue?' the author continues into a second meta-question: Suppose his slightly on the mild side of center hypothetical is wrong and things get a degree or two hotter. Then his point is: It doesn't get 'a little bit worse'. It gets much much worse. And therein is the rub: If it's not too bad then it is very bad indeed; and if it is bad then it is much much worse. So now it would be a good idea to think about how insurance works. Finally I'd like to commend the author for going into local-scale impacts. He talks about Bangladesh at length, for example; where we expect to see some of the first big collisions between sea level and dense populations. I hope to see this type of evaluation flourishing. In my experience the environmental scientists are working very hard on the physical implications and do not have a lot of headroom left over for the human impact. So here we have a good start on that. And thankfully there is only a small amount of dispensing with the red herring of 'is this really happening?' I very much appreciate this new approach of: Don't debate with people who are not interested in debating (with thanks to Bill Nye anyway); rather let's just move on and deal with the situation and they can catch up or not as they are able. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A book about the impacts of global warming. By Art Hobson This book describes realistically the multi-faceted impacts of present and future global warming on many aspects of society in the United States and globally. Guzman discusses the implications for agriculture, water resources, human conflict, health, and other areas. For example, he makes a good argument that the Darfur genocidal conflict was the world's first "climate war."

Deniers of climate change sometimes quip that claims about global warming are more about political science than climate science. They are wrong on the science, but may be right with respect to its political implications. A hotter world, writes Andrew Guzman, will bring unprecedented migrations, famine, war, and disease. It will be a social and political disaster of the first order. In *Overheated*, Guzman takes climate change out of the realm of scientific abstraction to explore its real-world consequences. He writes not as a scientist, but as an authority on international law and economics. He takes as his starting point a fairly optimistic outcome in the range predicted by scientists: a 2 degree Celsius increase in average global temperatures. Even this modest rise would lead to catastrophic environmental and social problems. Already we can see how it will work: The ten warmest years since 1880 have all occurred since 1998, and one estimate of the annual global death toll caused by climate change is now 300,000. That number might rise to 500,000 by 2030. He shows in vivid detail how climate change is already playing out in the real world. Rising seas will swamp island nations like Maldives; coastal food-producing regions in Bangladesh will be flooded; and millions will be forced to migrate into cities or possibly "climate-refugee camps." Even as seas rise, melting glaciers in the Andes and the Himalayas will deprive millions upon millions of people of fresh water, threatening major cities and further straining food production. Prolonged droughts in the Sahel region of Africa have already helped produce mass violence in Darfur. Clear, cogent, and compelling, *Overheated* shifts the discussion on climate change toward its devastating impact on human societies. Two degrees Celsius seems such a minor change. Yet it will change everything.

.com QA with Andrew Guzman, author of *Overheated* Q. Though most scientists now agree that climate change is a reality, the political debate continues. Why do you think this is? A. The debate on the science of climate change is one of the great public relations successes of our time. Well-organized and well-heeled interest groups that benefit from continuing to emit greenhouse gases without limit have conducted an organized and intentional campaign to persuade the public that there is no threat here. It seems, however, that this campaign is finally failing in the face of overwhelming evidence and opinion that makes the reality of climate change irrefutable. It is essential that the debate move on to the far more important questions of how climate change will affect us and what we can and should do about it. Q. What will the greatest human costs be from a 2 Celsius increase in average global temperature? A. The

costs will be large and varied and the greatest cost is perhaps the one that affects you and your family. But one constant across a large share of the problems that will emerge is water. Rising seas will flood some land and make other territory less valuable for agriculture as salt leeches into the soil. Melting glaciers, meanwhile, will increase flooding during rainy seasons and drought during dry seasons; a reality that will bring water crises to perhaps half of the world's population. At the same time, changing precipitation patterns will toy with our established pattern of habitation and agriculture. In short, humans need water everyday and for everything we do, and climate change will disrupt virtually all of our existing water systems. Q. How active of a role should the United States play in mitigating climate change, both domestically and abroad? A. The United States is the essential climate change country. It is the world's second largest emitter of climate change and it is impossible to imagine a workable solution without American cooperation and, more importantly, leadership. We have been foot-draggers on the topic so far, but it is critical that we recognize the threat and take on a leadership role internationally. China, Europe, India, and Brazil can plausibly build a global coalition sufficient to make a real difference in how the planet warms.