

gued that the expected increase in SSTs will produce larger heat fluxes from the ocean, and stronger storms can therefore be expected. It is unclear whether the frequencies will change because there are countervailing factors at work. Model simulations with an increase of 2.5°C in SSTs over the next 100 years suggest that the TC tracks will be longer and farther poleward, and that mean intensities are likely to

increase. Significantly, from the viewpoint of climate impacts, precipitation rates and amounts are also expected to increase, especially in the extreme range.

—LANCE M. LESLIE

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OUR SIMMERING PLANET: WHAT TO DO ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING?

Joyeeta Gupta, 2002, 178 pp., \$17.50, paperback, Zed Books Ltd., ISBN 1-84277-079-9

There are now hundreds of books in the popular literature that discuss the issues behind global warming. Some of the more mainstream works have taken a fairly strident tone, telling us what we need to do to “save the planet” and stop greenhouse warming from happening: Don’t buy an SUV, stop eating meat, turn off your lights, turn down the thermostat, and so on.

So it was with some dread that I picked up a copy of *Our Simmering Planet: What to do About Global Warming?* From the title, I expected another list of “10 simple things you can do to become self-righteous and save the world.”

But I was pleasantly surprised to find that, despite the title of this book, it has some real substance. In fact, Gupta has written a well-researched, authoritative summary of international climate policy issues. Unlike other books I have read on the subject, this work is neither “pop science” nor hard-core atmospheric physics. Instead, it is an intelligent, well-written history of how the international policy discussions about global warming have transpired over the last two decades.

The author knows what she’s writing about. Gupta has a strong academic background in law and economics, combined with many years of real-world international policy experience. She has worked on climate change issues within governmental agencies in the Netherlands, as well as a variety of nongovernmental organizations in India, the United States, and Europe.

The book starts off with a brief scientific background to the global warming problem. Not surprisingly, there is very little in the way of new science material here. Other books focus much more on describing the scientific issues behind climate change. Instead, much of the rest of the text focuses where it should—on international climate change negotiations.

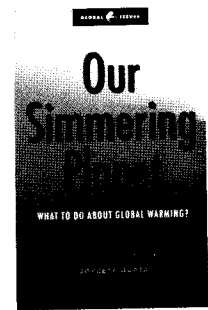
In a series of six chapters, Gupta discusses the key events of the last two decades of climate change ne-

gotiations. First, she discusses the decisions leading up to formation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the establishment of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992. She goes on to follow the Framework Convention through the various “Conference of Parties,” including the famous Kyoto meeting in 1997—which led to the so-called Kyoto Protocols.

Gupta explores the Kyoto protocols in great detail, including a thorough discussion of the underlying principles, as well as the thorny issues of setting targets, allowing for carbon trading, clean development mechanisms and carbon sinks. This is confusing stuff, but Gupta keeps the reader clear on the salient points. The book continues to discuss how, after the Bush Administration withdrew support for the Kyoto Protocols, the rest of the world joined together in Bonn in 2001 to formulate a political agreement without the United States.

One of the most helpful aspects of this book is how Gupta carefully outlines the key players in the global climate change policy debate: Europe, the United States, Russia, Japan, China, nongovernmental organizations, and industry. She also carefully presented the myriad of actors who make up the so-called “developed” and “developing” nations of the world—explaining that it isn’t a simple split between the two. There are many agendas at work here, and many forces playing against each other. I found her characterization of the different policy actors to be well balanced and fair, often giving them the benefit of the doubt.

One of the lessons I drew from this book is that negotiations about climate change policy often reflect a dichotomy between those who are satisfied with the current state of world affairs (e.g., many wealthy nations, oil producers) and those who are not (almost



everyone else). This political and social “simmering” (between the North and South, for example) is very well described in Gupta’s book, although I wonder how she would write it now—in the post-September 11 world? Is the split between North and South, or between Europe and the United States, worse today than it was in the summer of 2001?

This book’s unfortunate title may lead readers to think it is an easy-reading popular science book. It is not. While the author intended this book for the general reader, it is still a fairly dry and dense piece of work—still most appropriate for a scholarly audience. Other books about climate change, like *The Heat is On* (Gelbspan 1997) or *Global Warming* (Schneider 1989), will capture the general reader much better and would probably be a better choice for popular audiences.

I would highly recommend this book to scientists and graduate students working on climate change is-

sues. It is a good summary of the climate change policy game. As a scientist, I appreciated this “primer” on climate change policy issues—and the thorny political, economic and social factors underlying them.

—JONATHAN FOLEY

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IN THE EYE OF HURRICANE ANDREW

Eugene F. Provenzo Jr. and Asterie Baker Provenzo, 2002, 184 pp., \$24.95, hardbound, University of Florida Press, ISBN 0-8130-2566-4

In the Eye of Hurricane Andrew, by the husband-and-wife team of Eugene F. Provenzo Jr. and Asterie Baker Provenzo, is a collaboration between the authors and graduate and undergraduate honor students at the University of Miami (Florida). Eugene Provenzo began informally interviewing people almost immediately after Hurricane Andrew laid its swath of destruction across Southern Miami/Dade County on 23–24 August 1992. At first, the interviews were “a way of coping, of trying to understand the enormity of what had happened.” Soon, as students returned to classes at the university, the project grew to include them, as a way to help them cope, as well.

Ninety-two people were interviewed, many because they were friends and acquaintances of the interviewers. Many were staff and faculty members at the university. Despite this, the interviews show the wide diversity of the effect of Andrew on the population of South Florida as well as the ultimate responsibility of those meteorologists and emergency managers who predict and help to prepare for natural disasters. As Bryan Norcross stated, “Once the storm is bearing down on you, it becomes a sociological issue. . . . If you look at the overall scope of the coverage immediately around the crisis, it was 15 percent meteorology and 85 percent

social assistance, in terms of evacuation and shelters and electricity.” It is in the social “85 percent” that the book shines, providing a brief yet compelling overview of the sociology of the disaster.

The numbers are staggering: 1.4 million families without electricity, 107,800 homes damaged and 49,000 destroyed, 250,000 homeless, and damage totaling about \$30 billion, the costliest natural disaster ever. The psychological and sociological disaster was equally unprecedented, with schools, businesses, and government disrupted for months afterwards. The book is divided chronologically, with chapters on the preparation period, the time during the storm, the immediate aftermath, the first weeks after the storm, the ultimate rebuilding, and the long-term effects of the storm. Again and again, each interviewee

talks about how they believe that nobody can understand the difficulty of life after the storm, from living weeks without any electricity, phone, cold water, or even shade, to trying to repair homes and businesses in an environment in which hundreds of thousands of people are competing for very scarce resources.

The book is a valuable resource if only for the extensive bibliography of writings on hurricane Andrew provided in the appendix. The list includes printed, audio, and visual materials. Much of the material is

