Climate Change and The Global Order

Co Leaders: Gaby Litsky / Joya Chatterjee

Agenda

- Introductions: 10 mins
- Website Update: Gary Oing
- Presentation Climate Change Video and topics : 45 mins
  - UN Climate Change
  - Ozone Layer solution
- Discussion : 45 mins
- Signup volunteers for future discussion topics: 15 mins

Sign up

Madrid : **U.N. climate talks end with hard feelings, few results and new doubts about global unity**

Dec. 15, 2019 at 3:15 p.m.

… divisive conference

Climate Change and the Global Order

- After more than two weeks of negotiations, punctuated by raucous protests, negotiators failed to achieve their primary goals. Central among them: persuading the world's largest carbon-emitting countries to pledge to tackle climate change more aggressively beginning in 2020.
- "We are not satisfied," said Chilean Environment Minister Carolina Schmidt, who chaired the conference. "The agreements reached by the parties are not enough."
- Delegates from nearly 200 nations wrestled for more than 40 hours past their planned deadline — making these the longest in the 25-year history of the talks.
- Officials scrambled to finalize a complex set of rules to implement the 2015 Paris climate accord, a handful of higher-emitting countries squared off against smaller, more vulnerable countries.
- Fights also dragged on about how to provide funding to poorer nations already coping with rising seas, crippling droughts and other consequences of climate change.
- Sunday's outcome underscored how international divisions and a lack of momentum threaten the effort to limit the warming of Earth and avoid dangerous levels, only four years after the Paris agreement produced a moment of global solidarity.

Madrid : **U.N. climate talks end with hard feelings, few results and new doubts about global unity**
Dec. 15, 2019 …. divisive conference

- "The can-do spirit that birthed the Paris agreement feels like a distant memory today," Helen Mountford, vice president for climate and economics at the World Resources Institute, said in a statement Sunday.
- *At U.N. climate conference, the divide widens between countries that pollute and those that suffer from it*
- The lack of progress in Spain sets up a critical moment ahead of next year's gathering in Scotland, where countries will be asked to show up with more ambitious pledges to slash their carbon footprints.
- Already, many countries are not keeping the promises they made in Paris in 2015.
- In Madrid, small and developing countries accused the United States and others, such as Brazil and Australia, of obstructing key parts of the negotiations and undermining the spirit and goals of the Paris accord. Countries already hard hit by climate change argued that large emitters continue to dawdle, as other imperiled nations face intensifying cyclones, increased flooding and other climate-related disasters.
- The United States is in its final year as part of the international agreement it once helped spearhead. The Trump administration has said it officially will withdraw from the Paris accord on Nov. 4, 2020 — the day after the U.S. presidential election.

Madrid : **U.N. climate talks end with hard feelings, few results and new doubts about global unity**

Dec. 15, 2019 at 3:15 p.m.

…. divisive conference

- As delegates voted on the final texts, many seats were empty: Some negotiators, tired and, with flights to catch, had simply gone home.
- Officials ultimately punted any resolution on the issue, just as they had done a year ago — a result that many negotiators described as a major disappointment.
- Scientists have made clear there is no longer time for delay, especially after a decade in which emissions continued to rise.
- One of the few promising developments during the talks came not from Madrid but from Brussels, where European leaders on Friday pledged to eliminate their carbon footprint by 2050. Though the European Union talks revealed divisions of their own — coal-reliant Poland refrained from signing on — they provided a rare example of one of the world's big emitters taking steps to draw up more ambitious reductions goals.

Madrid : **U.N. climate talks end with hard feelings, few results and new doubts about global unity…** a divisive conference
Dec. 15, 2019

- About 80 countries have committed to setting more ambitious targets in 2020, but most are small and developing nations that account for barely 10 percent of the world's emissions.
- During the talks, officials from many of those small countries spoke with exasperation about the pace and tenor of the proceedings, saying they had been excluded from key negotiations and stonewalled by major-emitting nations.
- As the negotiations headed toward their drawn-out conclusion, about 300 people assembled in the middle of the convention hall, where one young speaker after another held a megaphone and called for **"climate justice."**
-

5 Steps to Sanity

This future is still possible. But it will only come to pass if we shed our shame, stop focusing on ourselves, join together and demand it.

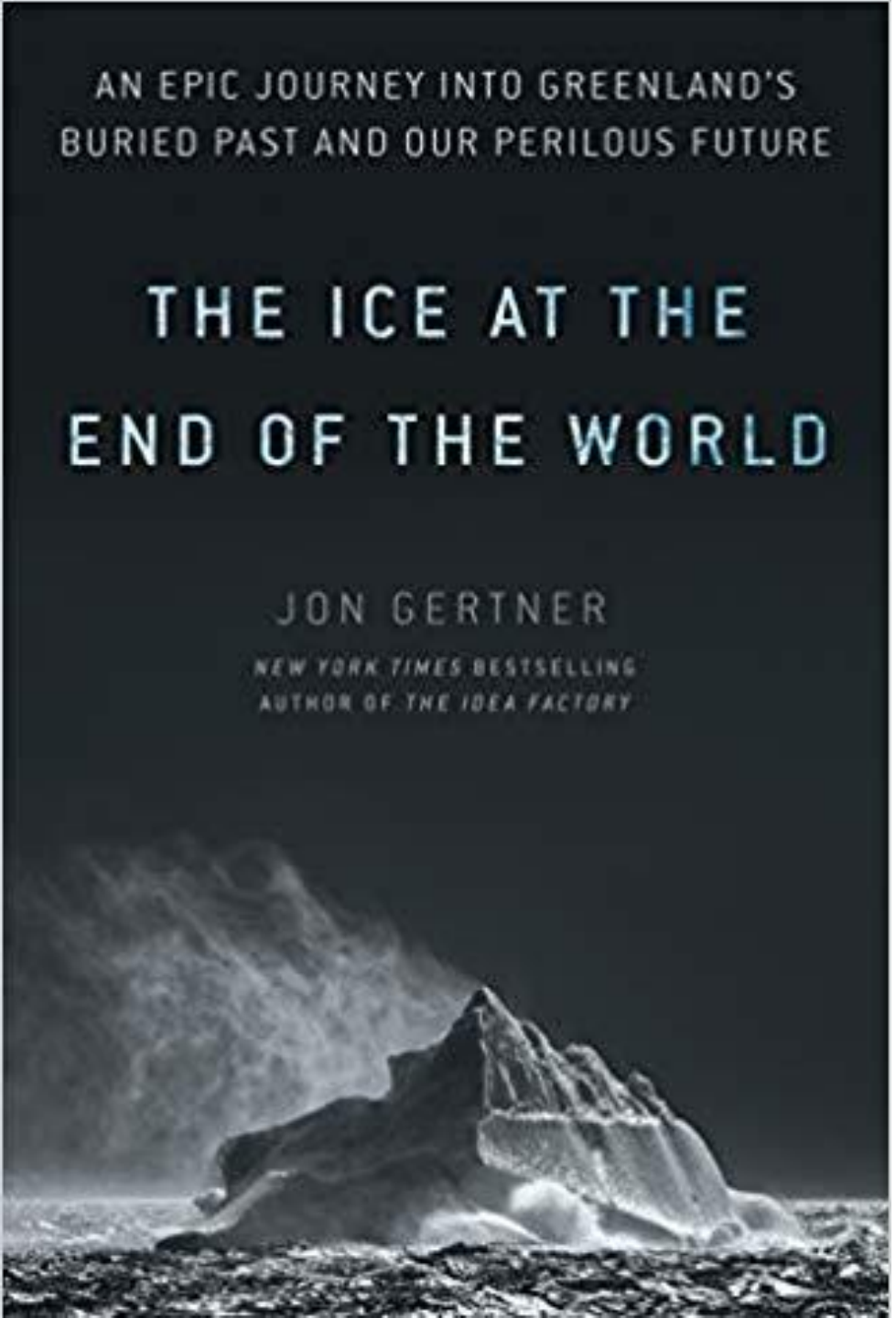
Follow The New York Times Opinion section on Facebook, Twitter (@NYTopinion) and Instagram.

- **Step 1: Ditch the shame.**
- The first step is the key to all the rest. Yes, our daily lives are undoubtedly contributing to climate change. And yet we blame ourselves for not being green enough. It turns eco-saints against eco-sinners, who are really just fellow victims.
- **Step 2: Focus on systems, not yourself.**
- Even if we manage to zero-out our own contributions to climate change, leaving us little time or energy for pushing for the **systemic changes** we need. Each person in the United States emitted an average of 16 metric tons of energy-related carbon dioxide in 2018, according to the Energy Information Agency. The entire country emitted 5.28 billion metric tons of energy-related carbon dioxide that year.
- Climate crisis is not going to be solved by personal sacrifice. It will be solved by electing the right people, passing the right laws, drafting the right regulations, signing the right treaties — and respecting those treaties already signed, it will be solved by holding the companies and people who have made billions off our shared atmosphere to account.
- **Step 3: Join an effective group.**
- These sweeping, systemic changes are complicated and will be hard won. No single person alone can make them happen. Or you might volunteer for a climate-focused local or national political candidate.
- **Step 4: Define your role.**
- The power of these groups is not simply strength in numbers. Instead of trying to become an expert in international regulatory law, global supply chains, atmospheric science and the art of protest, you can offer the skills and resources you already have.
- **Step 5: Know what you are fighting for, not just what you are fighting against.**
- Even though keeping global warming under 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit (1.5 degrees Celsius) would absolutely be better than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) of warming, there is no threshold that means that it is “too late” or that we are “doomed.”
- As we fight, it is important for our mental health and motivation to have an image in mind of our goal: a realistically good future.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/climate-change-is-playing-havoc-with-mexicos-monarch-butterfly-migration/2019/12/23/e60c1e0e-21ab-11ea-b034-de7dc2b5199b_story.html?arc404=true

https://remezcla.com/culture/central-mexico-climate-change-poses-threat-monarch-butterflies/

Something we can all relate to in Santa Cruz



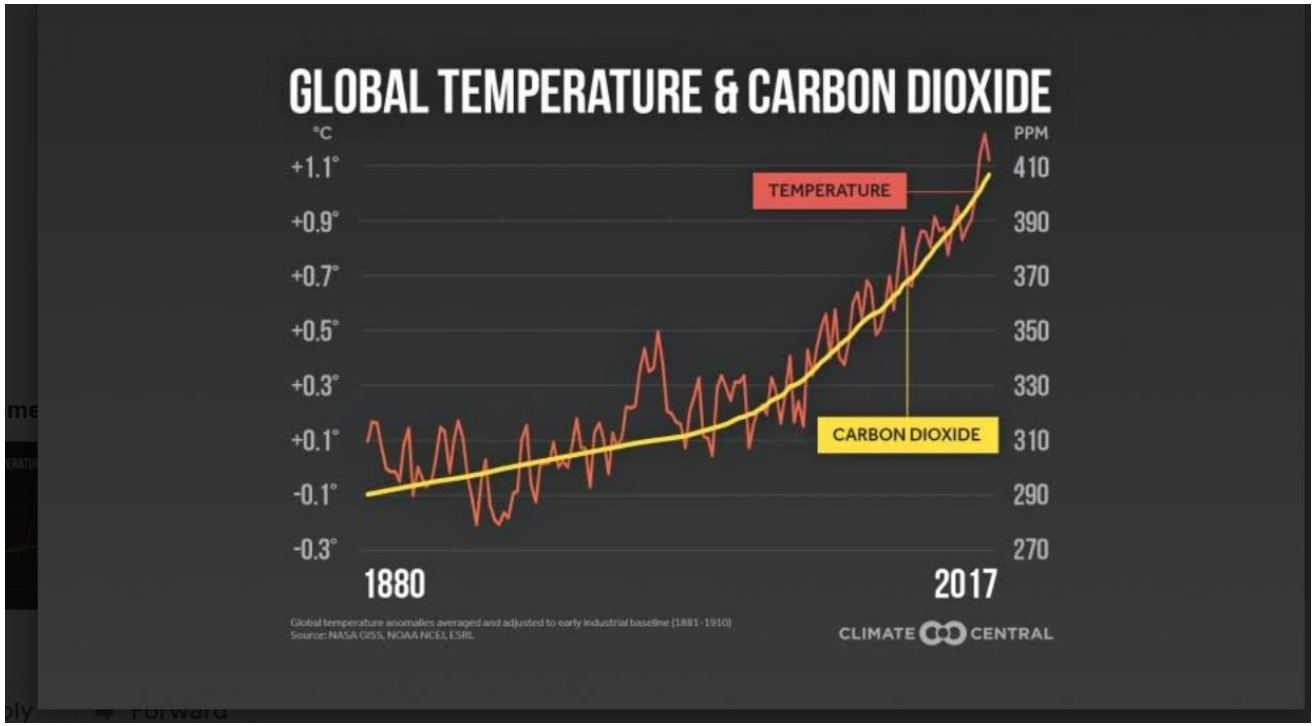
The Ice at the End of the World: An Epic Journey into Greenland's Buried Past and Our Perilous Future

- Greenland: a remote, mysterious island five times the size of California but with a population of just 56,000. The ice sheet that covers it is 700 miles wide and 1,500 miles long, and is composed of nearly three quadrillion tons of ice. For the last 150 years, explorers and scientists have sought to understand Greenland—at first hoping that it would serve as a gateway to the North Pole, and later coming to realize that it contained essential information about our climate. Locked within this vast and frozen white desert are some of the most profound secrets about our planet and its future. Greenland's ice doesn't just tell us where we've been. More urgently, it tells us where we're headed.

  In *The Ice at the End of the World,* Jon Gertner explains how Greenland has evolved from one of earth's last frontiers to its largest scientific laboratory. The history of Greenland's ice begins with the explorers who arrived here at the turn of the twentieth century—first on foot, then on skis, then on crude, motorized sleds—and embarked on grueling expeditions that took as long as a year and often ended in frostbitten tragedy. Their original goal was simple: to conquer Greenland's seemingly infinite interior. Yet their efforts eventually gave way to scientists who built lonely encampments out on the ice and began drilling—one mile, two miles down. Their aim was to pull up ice cores that could reveal the deepest mysteries of earth's past, going back hundreds of thousands of years.

  Today, scientists from all over the world are deploying every technological tool available to uncover the secrets of this frozen island before it's too late. As Greenland's ice melts and runs off into the sea, it not only threatens to affect hundreds of millions of people who live in coastal areas. It will also have drastic effects on ocean currents, weather systems, economies, and migration patterns.

  The melting ice sheet in Greenland is, in a way, an analog for time. It contains the past. It reflects the present. It can also tell us how much time we might have left.


GLOBAL TEMPERATURE & CARBON DIOXIDE
°C
PPM
+1.1°
+0.9°
+0.7°
+0.5°
+0.3°
+0.1°
-0.1°
-0.3°
410
390
370
350
330
310
290
270
TEMPERATURE
CARBON DIOXIDE
1880
2017
Global temperature anomalies averaged and adjusted to early industrial baseline (1881-1910)
Source: NASA GISS, NOAA NCEI, ESRL
CLIMATE CENTRAL

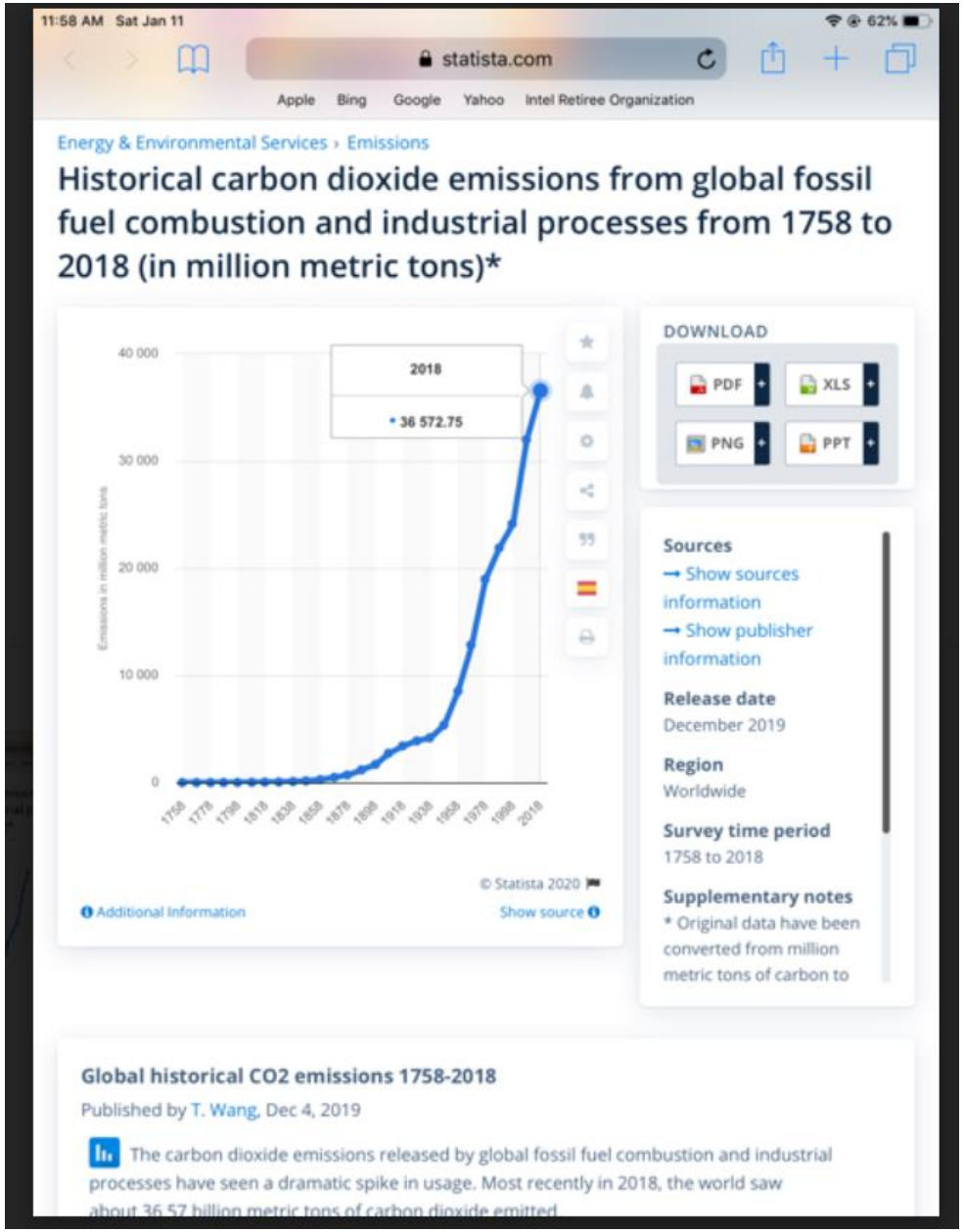

11:58 AM Sat Jan 11
62%
statista.com
Apple Bing Google Yahoo Intel Retiree Organization
Energy & Environmental Services › Emissions
Historical carbon dioxide emissions from global fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes from 1758 to 2018 (in million metric tons)*
2018
36 572.75
40 000
30 000
20 000
10 000
0
Emissions in million metric tons
DOWNLOAD
PDF
XLS
PNG
PPT
Sources
Show sources information
Show publisher information
Release date
December 2019
Region
Worldwide
Survey time period
1758 to 2018
Supplementary notes
* Original data have been converted from million metric tons of carbon to
© Statista 2020
Additional Information
Show source
Global historical CO2 emissions 1758-2018
Published by T. Wang, Dec 4, 2019
The carbon dioxide emissions released by global fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes have seen a dramatic spike in usage. Most recently in 2018, the world saw about 36.57 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emitted

Table 4.1
What we are doing to curb CO_2 emissions.

Direct reduction of fossil fuel demand Better insulation, lighter cars, less heating, less driving, switching off lights, switching off stand-by mode
More efficient use of energy LEDs and fluorescent lights, variable-speed electric motors, intelligent energy management, common-rail diesel engines, DiesOtto engines, condensing boilers, gas-and-stream power plants, coal-fired plants burning finer powder coal, combined heat-and-power
"Green" electricity Wind, hydro, solar, biomass, hybrid cars
Nuclear energy Electricity and hydrogen generation
Other "green" energy sources Pellets, wood chips, wood, biogas, biodiesel, bioethanol, heat pumps, solar thermopanels, geothermal energy

fluorescent or LED lamps, and we install automatic variable-speed ci
culating pumps in our heating systems in order to save electricity. Indu
try has increasingly turned to variable-speed electric motors for
machines and factories. Carmakers help by resorting to common-r
diesel engines. The new DiesOtto engine squeezes more energy out of t
fuel than any other combustion motor. Condensing boilers are
favored for

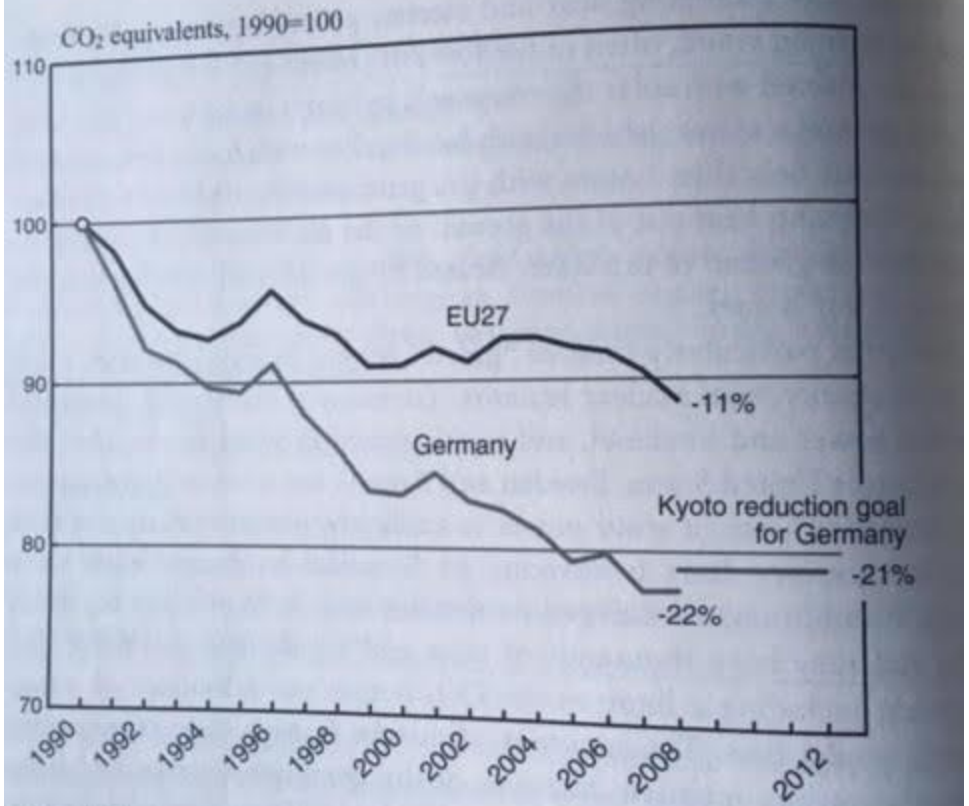
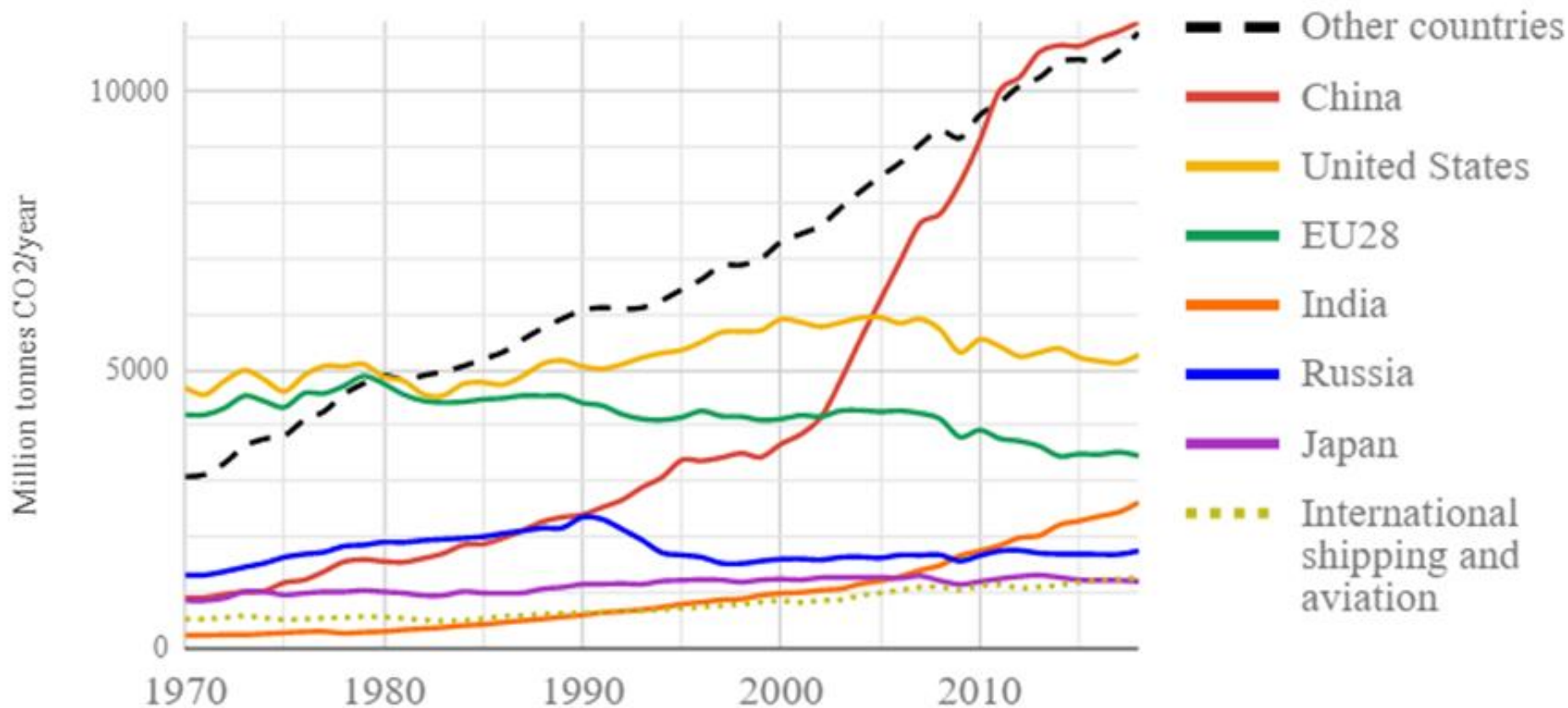


Figure 4.1
Europe's CO_2 emissions since 1990. Sources: European Environment Ag
EEA Greenhouse Gas Data Viewer; Annual European Union Greenhouse
Inventory 1990–2008 and Inventory Report 2010, EEA Technical Report 6/2
(http://www.eea.europa.eu).

Chinese

World fossil carbon dioxide emission 1970-2018



Discussion Questions For Today

- Do you think the progress on climate change is doomed to follow the same scenario as that of Global order?
- What climate change and/or catastrophic events do you think may be enough prompt to bring about change?
- What are the potential impacts of climate change in the absence of corrective action? What have wee experienced already?
- Who are the US stakeholders who will suffer if action is not taken? Who benefits from not reducing greenhouse gasses? What action can Government and NGOs take to align interests?
- Does US participation in Paris Agreement make any difference to overall progress?
- As the US focusses inward should it concentrate on mitigating damage from climate change as Miami/CA is doing and as Obama era regulations attempted?
- Will improvement be quicker from a top down or a bottom up approach?
- Is there an opportunity for economic gain and leadership for US producers by developing and selling new technologies to deal with climate change?
- Should the US Gov. be funding these technologies