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**Review: The Cartoon Introduction to Climate Change (Revised Edition)**

By Grady Klein and Yoram Bauman

**Reviewed by Miriam Aczel**

*Berkeley, California, United States*

Klein, G. and Bauman, Y., *The Cartoon Introduction to Climate Change* (Revised Edition), Washington, DC: Island Press, 2022. 224pp. ISBN: 9781642832334, \$29.00.

The *Cartoon Introduction to Climate Change* (Revised Edition) is a unique and engaging overview of climate science and its impact on the planet. The product of a creative collaboration between illustrator Grady Klein and Yoram Bauman called "the world's first and only stand-up economist," the book is a valuable contribution to the literature on climate change. The first edition, published in 2014, was a breakthrough in offering an entertaining, illustrated guide to the global crisis. The 2022 Revised Edition has been updated with the latest scientific data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Despite the daunting statistics on the dire state of our changing world, humorous and informative cartoons engage and entertain the reader, allowing us to become familiar with critical concepts in climate science, projections, and policy.

Klein and Bauman's approach is a breath of fresh air in the literary realm of climate "doom and gloom" and increasingly scary predictions. The reader learns complex ideas in digestible chunks, where charts and graphs come to life with a zany cast of characters including dogs, polar bears, penguins, Martians, and scientists. The lighthearted and optimistic tone is a much-needed antidote to climate anxiety, particularly among youth. Importantly, readers learn ways to take meaningful action towards a sustainable future—and prepare to "write the next chapter" (p. 200).

The book's three parts, Observations, Predictions, and Actions, provide a comprehensive overview of climate change, from its history to potential impacts beyond 2100.

Part One, Observations, establishes the foundation with a brief climate history of planet Earth, including an explanation of the ice ages. Then carbon dioxide, Earth's energy balance, and greenhouse gases are defined and their role in climate change is

explained. Finally, the scientific method is described in order to empower readers to make informed conclusions rooted in science and leading to action.

Part Two, Predictions, explores the potential consequences of climate change, such as global warming, water shortages, and observed and projected impacts on life on Earth. The authors further discuss the uncertainties involved in predicting climate change, emphasizing the need for action to mitigate projected impacts. They describe the disconnect between economic theory and practice, that may lead to inaction or “distract us from our main task” (p.186). For example, while the use of carbon offsets may seem a good plan for countering the impacts of emissions, the implementation may not be as beneficial or straightforward as expected.

Finally, in Part Three, Actions, practical steps are proposed to address climate change, such as pricing carbon or strategies to move beyond fossil fuels. The authors' approach emphasizes the role of collective action, encouraging readers to work together towards a sustainable future, with a variety of approaches and scalable solutions such as government-funded clean energy programs, adopting a low carbon lifestyle, and strategic planning for a sustainable future. Solutions at the household level can range from installing solar panels and energy efficient appliances, driving less, and eating lower quantities of meat. “In ways big and small, YOU can help write the next chapter” (p. 199).

The book is a valuable and fun addition to the climate change literature, and the visual mastery and irreverent writing style make it an enjoyable read for both adults and children. The book's emphasis on collective action and practical solutions, and the optimistic tone encourages readers that now is the time to act towards a sustainable future.

Ultimately, *The Cartoon Introduction to Climate Change* is more than just a book; it's a call to action, presented in a format that is both enlightening and enjoyable. In an era where understanding, communicating, and addressing climate change is more crucial than ever, this model of innovative informative material is vital. It shows how creativity and science can merge to educate and inspire a wide and diverse audience, encouraging all of us to play a part in navigating the challenges of climate change.

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