



The senate passed a resolution 95-0 opposing the ratification of a Kyoto treaty until developing countries committed to binding emission limits in the same time frame as the United States.

Phase III

Kyoto Ratified

BBC, November 2004

The United Nations treaty, already backed by 126 countries, needed Russia's support before it could come into force. Although it was adopted nearly seven years ago, the Kyoto Protocol had until now remained a statement of intent, rather than a legally binding document. To come into force, it needed to be ratified by developed nations that account for at least 55% of global greenhouse emissions. Within 90 days of Russia's ratification, Kyoto signatories must start making cuts that will reduce emissions of six key greenhouse gases to an average of 5.2% below 1990 levels by 2012.


Many experts believe that Kyoto will be largely ineffective as the world's two biggest emitters, the US and China, will not cut their outputs. Although China did sign the protocol, as a developing country it is not yet required to begin reducing emissions.

Stephen Gardiner, Kyoto is flawed in substance and background assumptions

- Even with full compliance, there will be an increase in GHG emissions of 9 percent above 2000 levels.
- There is no mechanism for penalizing countries that fail to ratify the treaty
- Kyoto contains no effective compliance mechanism.
- The treaty has been set-up with ways for countries to avoid penalties.
- Penalties take the form of more demanding targets in the next decade's commitment period.
- But since that has not been settled, countries can take their failures into account in the next round of negotiations.
- Flawed background assumptions: two-track approach without addressing wider issues of social justice

IV. Emphasize the Importance of Justice & Equality

Eileen Claussen and Lisa McNeilly,
“Equity & Global Climate Change:
The Complex Elements of Global
Fairness”



Summary

“If the end result of negotiations is not fair then it will not be fully implemented. Little or no mitigation of climate change is then the unfair outcome to those who will have to bear the brunt of the impacts.”

Some Thoughts on Justice

- “Equals should be treated equally, and unequals should be treated unequally.”
- “Justice is not simple. It requires judgment.”
- “An unjust law is no law at all.”
- It is difficult to acquire the capacity to make fair judgments using a many criteria applied in complex circumstance. Justice is contextual, and it virtually always involves conflicting considerations and different dimensions of justice.
- “Justice will exist if we act with justice.”

Proposals: Divide Countries into 3 Groups based on 3 Criteria

Three Groups:

- Must Act Now
- Should Act Now—but Differently
- Could Act Now

Currently there are 2 groups

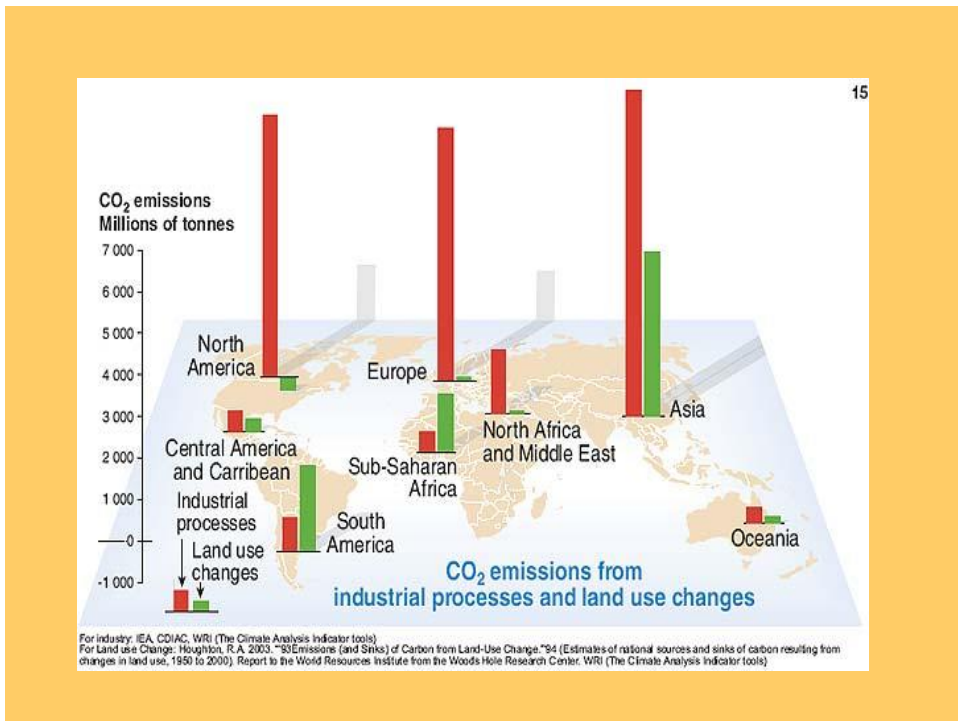
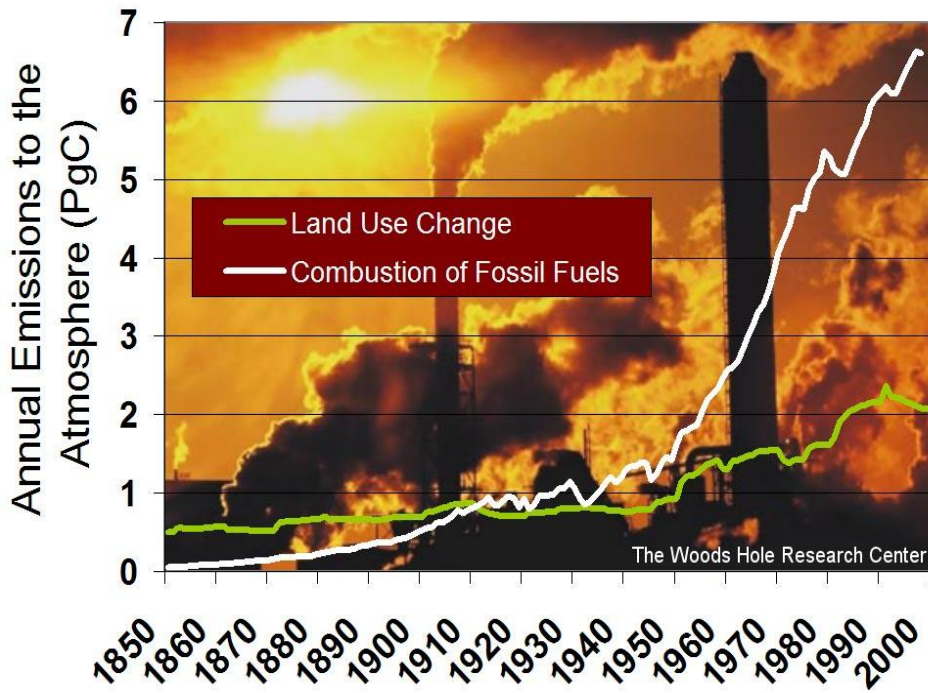
Three criteria:

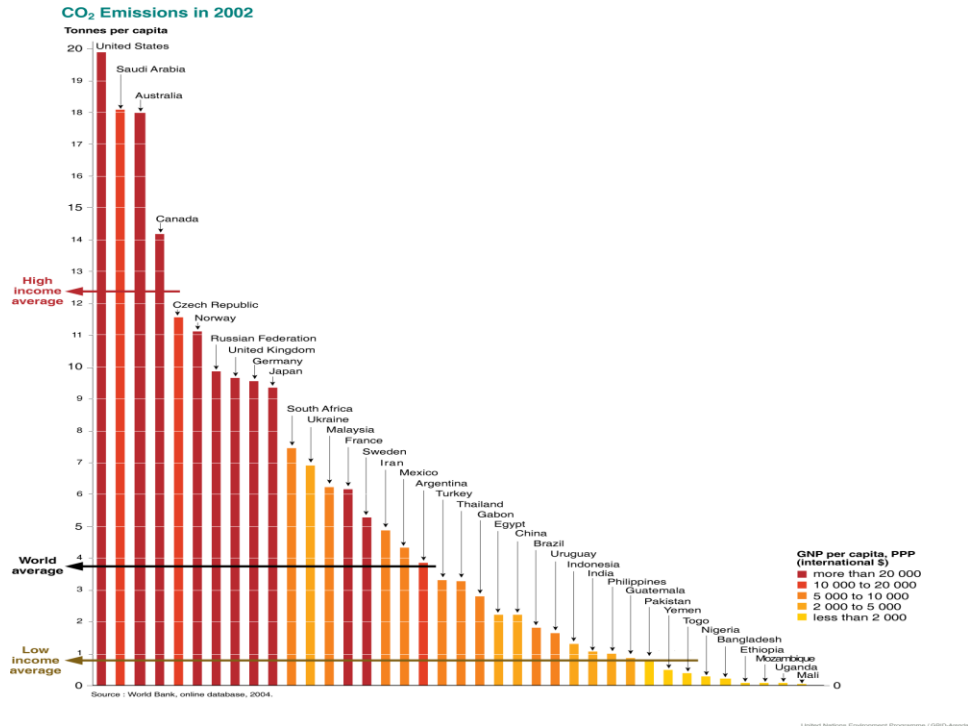
- Responsibility: “polluter pays” principle (past and future)
- Standard of living (ability)
- Opportunity (can do more, more cheaply)

Currently these were negotiated

Economic growth, Energy consumption, GHG emissions

- “Decoupling economic growth and carbon emissions permanently is, of course, the main goal of climate change mitigation activities.”
- French economy has done this by a commitment of nuclear power. (This is not a good model for the developing world.)





Three Criteria for Fairness

- Standard of Living
(acknowledgement of income inequalities)
e.g., India
- Responsibility
(both historical and future)
e.g., Europe and China
- Opportunity
(energy efficiency)
e.g., U.S. and Japan

Three Groups

- “Must Act Now”
Provide leadership
- “Should Act Now, But Differently”
Variable commitments
- “Could Act Now”
No action until feasible

