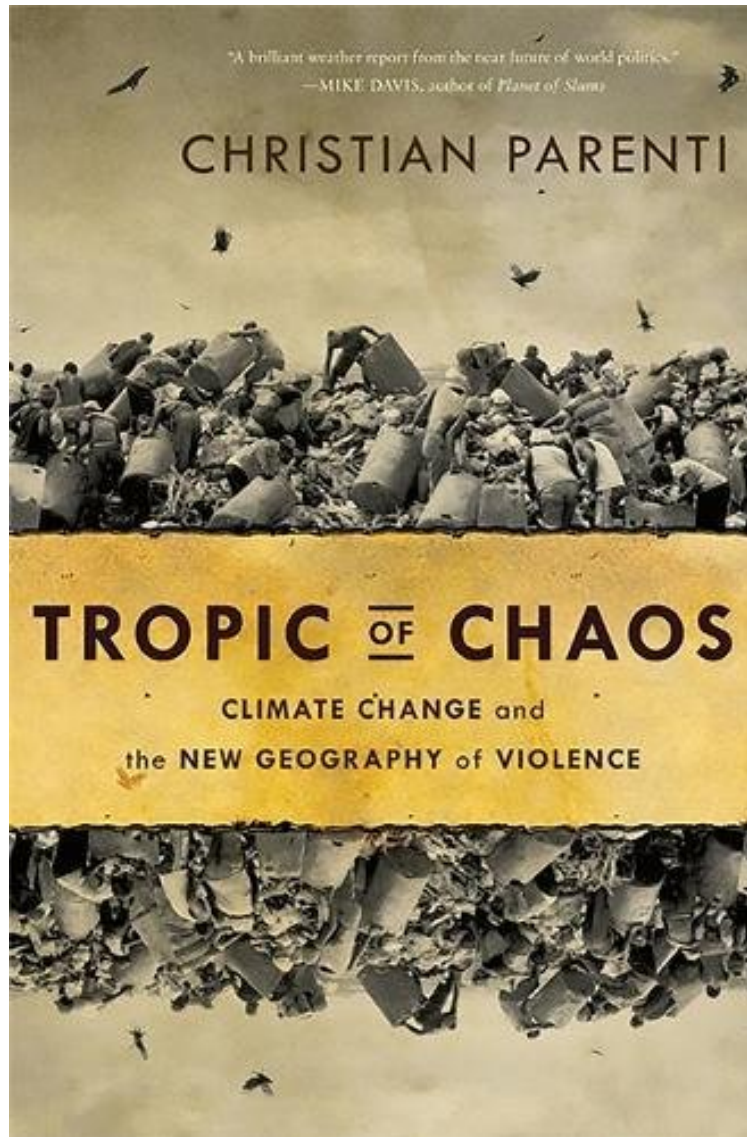


[Ebook free] Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence

Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence

Christian Parenti

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Christian Parenti : Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence:

31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Tropic of ChaosBy Shawn ClarkLast week I bought a new book before my flight to San Francisco, " Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence.", by

Christian Parenti. Indeed, this book is well written, well researched and is deserving of the 5-stars by two reviewers on . More to the point though, Parenti presents a history of many regions of the world framed through the climate of the area with an eye on how the climate may change in the near future (the next 50 years). Unfortunately, in areas like Somalia, the near future is today. Somalia presents a tragic case study of the violence of climate change. As I write this, hundreds of thousands of refugees are fleeing Somalia for Kenya to find relief from intense drought and the resulting famine. The Miami Herald (10 Aug 2011, AP article) printed an Associated Press article reporting the rape of many women refugees once they reached the Kenyan boarder by groups of armed men. "One 30-year-old woman who watched two of her five children die as they trekked through Somalia was raped after reaching what she hoped would be the safety of Kenyan soil." (AP, 09 Aug 2011) According to the report, some of these armed men would order the woman's brother to rape her. If he refused, he or she or both would then be killed. Once these people manage to cross the border, their future does not get much better. Kenya does not have the resources to protect or feed the 400,000 refugees that are already staying in a camp built for 90,000. "Officials here say they are being overwhelmed by the influx of tens of thousands of Somali refugees, and can't stem the attacks. " (AP, 2011) Parenti's book is certainly an important book for anyone interested in looking at a brief history of how many societies have changed when the climate changes - Somalia, Afghanistan, Brazil, Mexico and others are discussed - especially during a drought. More important is the understanding of the dynamics at play right now, today, during many of our debates in this country: The war in Afghanistan, immigration across our border with Mexico, and our current debt crisis. I highly recommend this book.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. ... eco-history -- I felt this was among the very best books on the climate crisis I have ever encountered ... By Scott As an avid reader of sustainability/environmental literature -- with my own discipline expertise in eco-history -- I felt this was among the very best books on the climate crisis I have ever encountered anywhere. Parenti's perspective is chilling, but convincing. The reporting is genuinely courageous, skilled, dispassionate, detailed, revelatory, and deeply frightening. Parenti's ability to weave a compelling human story (and detect convincing patterns) from the confusing "chaos" of global events and data sets is an intellectual tour de force of the first order. Given its focus on military and global security repercussions, there's even some hope that those still (somewhat) skeptical of climate change would find Parenti's rigorous, non-sentimental world-view more convincing than other competing books on the topic. That said, his analysis does offer realistic yet hopeful opportunities to the doomed "armed life-boat" strategies we are currently locked into.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Modern society - wake up By Janee Crane This is an important book for showing the real-world complex connections and interactions between political, social, economic and environmental elements that are contributing to and resulting from climate change. It is a message to modern society wake up catastrophic convergence of environmental, economic, social and political breakdown in the worlds poorest and conflicted countries is happening. While we've been sleeping our governments have begun to deploy a response that if fully realised will see us living in police state conditions and violently repressing immigrants and climate refugees. All the while as a result of our myopic inaction, we will be suffering the extreme climate volatility that will characterise planetary decline if atmospheric temperatures continue to rise unabated. Parenti illuminates the catastrophic convergence that is resulting from climate change and violence in failed and fragile states in the so-called Tropic of Chaos the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America geographically located between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer. The countries that Parenti describes have extremely high poverty incidence. They are societies in which tradition and culture have been deeply ruptured, and which experience massive movements of population from rural to urban areas and trans-national labour migration, attributed by Parenti to the impacts of climate change that are already beginning to bite. The concomitant violence has its roots in the legacy anomie of colonialism, post-colonial militarisation and resulting accessibility of weaponry, the gross corruption of kleptocratic regimes, and the immiserating failure of neo-liberal economic re-structuring policies fostered by the IMF and the World Bank since the 1970s. Parenti signals alarm about the devastating effects of climate change in countries that lack the stability, resources and state legitimacy to respond. He cautions the likely increase in global refugee populations from estimated current levels to some 250 million to one billion people by 2050. Parenti critiques the emerging response to this convergence in the US, Europe and other developed economies that is characterised by counter-insurgency, militarism, and hardening of policy responses to the converging crisis. Tropic of Chaos concludes with an assertion that both the technology and financial resources to prevent catastrophic environmental destruction do exist already. What is lacking according to Parenti is political will in the dominant economies and a re-legitimation of the states role in the economy that could direct investment and government purchasing into clean and green technology. Parenti deploys theoretical references in his critique and extensively cites climate data throughout Tropic of Chaos. He uses individual stories to give a sense of personal realism to a catastrophic global crisis. The accounts of small wars, cold war, insurgencies, counter-insurgencies and resource and drug violence are greatly detailed and to some extent divert the reader from the main idea expounded in the book, which is that the fall-out from climate change in the poorest, most populous and most fragile states will have massive population movement implications that the rest of the world has not yet realised and is in danger of responding to badly. This is the spectre of a police state in which personal freedoms are severely restricted and violent repression of immigrants is commonplace.

From Africa to Asia and Latin America, the era of climate wars has begun. Extreme weather is breeding banditry, humanitarian crisis, and state failure. In *Tropic of Chaos*, investigative journalist Christian Parenti travels along the front lines of this gathering catastrophe--the belt of economically and politically battered postcolonial nations and war zones girding the planet's midlatitudes. Here he finds failed states amid climatic disasters. But he also reveals the unsettling presence of Western military forces and explains how they see an opportunity in the crisis to prepare for open-ended global counterinsurgency. Parenti argues that this incipient "climate fascism"--a political hardening of wealthy states-- is bound to fail. The struggling states of the developing world cannot be allowed to collapse, as they will take other nations down as well. Instead, we must work to meet the challenge of climate-driven violence with a very different set of sustainable economic and development policies.

San Francisco Bay Guardian Christian Parenti offers an unusual and compelling analysis of violence through the lens of the environment. Parenti also turns a sharp eye upon the repression, surveillance, and counterinsurgency that first-world nations have employed to combat growing violence in water-scarce, conflict-ridden regions, and calls for a more enlightened approach. Jan McGirk, ChinaDialogue.net *Tropic of Chaos* is a must-read. It telegraphs an urgent message of how quickly climate catastrophe is morphing around the globe. Astra Taylor, Bookforum (online) [A] harrowing tour-de-force if you read one book on climate change this year (and really, who can bear to read more than one?), *Tropic of Chaos* should be it. The way you understand the changing climate, and the resulting conflicts that serrate our world, will be transformed.