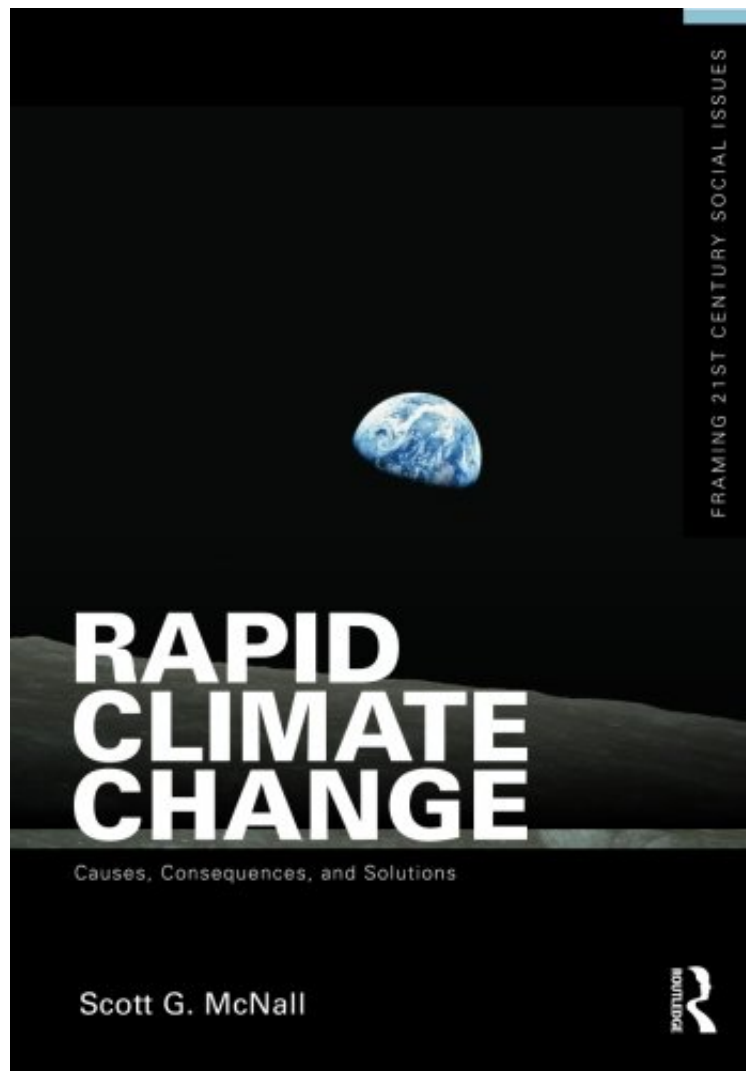


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Rapid Climate Change: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions (Framing 21st Century Social Issues)

Scott G. McNall

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Scott G. McNall : Rapid Climate Change: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions (Framing 21st Century Social Issues) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rapid Climate Change: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions (Framing 21st Century Social Issues):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Beeghly Library AcquisitionsGreat book, timely delivery.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Primer...By Allan StellarI ran across this book at that

great, under-appreciated, institution---the public library. The title caught my attention because it states something that most climate change books do not emphasize enough: RAPID CLIMATE CHANGE. A good title; a good point. Plus the author is from my neck of the woods, and being a person who likes most things local (veggies, fruit, meat, farmers' markets, products, vacations), I wanted to see what the local fella had to say. We all need Primers. Books that are slim in volume that are well documented and pack a punch without being overly dramatic. This book delivers. It is a must read for any high school student who is delving into the issue for the first time. Some might say it is too basic, but when it comes to Human Caused Global Warming, the debate has gotten so dumbed down in America by the denialists, that most students need a slim book like this to reference. I can imagine many reports for high school civics and biology and earth science classes being written using this book as a resource. It is a good introduction to climate change. Bravo!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Fair and Balanced review of the Global Warming-Climate Change Issue By Dr. Tom Kando, Professor of Sociology Scott McNall's new book RAPID CLIMATE CHANGE is really effective. It touches on every important aspect of the global warming-climate change crisis in 67 pp. The "wicked" problem, the so-called debate, the solutions, the links to overpopulation and poverty. The treatment of the so-called debate is especially effective. Of course to me, the book is merely preaching to the choir. But I like the clarity with which it shows the overwhelming correctness of one side. This is no more a "debate" than the heliocentrism-geocentrism "debate" was one, 500 years ago. The book documents the media's aggravating habit of presenting "both sides." They got shy after being accused of liberal bias for so long. Next they'll have a forum about the pros and cons of Hitler. Two sides to everything, my foot!

Some additional random comments: 1. I am glad that the book does not exclude nuclear power. In this, as in many other ways, the book is "fair and balanced" (to use the expression fraudulently appropriated in recent years by that least fair-and-balanced news network which I will refrain from identifying...) 2. Over-population: I have always been a neo-Malthusian. And even if Ehrlich, Jared Diamond et. al. are not exactly on target, and Gaia by hook or by crook does manage to support 10-12 billion of us, do we really want to be so over-crowded? I grew up in Holland. Trust me, 1500 people per square mile is no fun, even with a high standard of living! 3. The book touches on public transportation. As a Euro-chauvinist, that always hits me as one of the things they do so much better than America. The current debate about building a bullet train in California is a case in point. Have you ever taken the TGV in France, or similar systems in other countries? A dozen European and Asian countries have them now. Even Poland, for crying out. But the country that landed men on the moon can't afford it! 4. And related to this, my old social-democratic (I didn't use the accursed word - "Socialist") nature: Other things being equal, this country really needs to raise its taxes. American taxes are too low. That's ONE reason why the country isn't doing well, whether for the environment, education or anything else the public needs... 5. Charles Krauthammer (one of the conservative critics quoted in the book) is an evil man. I read his columns and I watch him on Fox, so as to know what the enemy is up to. However: the process of transferring resources to the 3rd world to help it combat global warming IS problematic. Making sure the resources are used properly, etc. 6. The Copenhagen Conference didn't go well. That makes me a pessimist.

The book reviews the science of climate change and explains why it is one of the most difficult problems humanity has ever tackled. Climate change is a "wicked" problem bound up with problems of population growth, environmental degradation, and world problems of growing social and economic inequality. The book explores the politicization of the topic, the polarization of opinion, and the reasons why, for some, science has become just another ideology to be contested. How do humans assess risk? Why are they so bad at focusing on the future? How can we solve the problem of climate change? These are the questions this work answers. The goal of this new, unique Series is to offer readable, teachable "thinking frames" on today's social problems and social issues by leading scholars, all in short 60 page or shorter formats, and available for view on <http://routledge.customgateway.com/routledge-social-issues.html> For instructors teaching a wide range of courses in the social sciences, the Routledge Social Issues Collection now offers the best of both worlds: originally written short texts that provide "overviews" to important social issues as well as teachable excerpts from larger works previously published by Routledge and other presses.

"McNall,...a sociologist with a long history of involvement in sustainability, has written the best book on climate change this reviewer has read....Most of the book explores the reasons individuals and society find it almost impossible to deal with this type of problem; a short exploration of possible solutions follows. The nine-page reference list and the 'glossary/index' are well done...suitable for all students; it could also serve as a good standing point for a graduate course on climate change. Summing up: Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers." CHOICE, October 2011, M. K. Cleaveland, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, USA

About the Author Scott G. McNall is the Senior Advisor to the President for Sustainability at California State University, Chico. He was the founding Executive Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development at the University and served for three years in that capacity. He is Professor Emeritus of Sociology and has served as provost for 13 years and interim university president for almost one year.