



Climate Change: Solving Europe

Contemporary European Politics 2022

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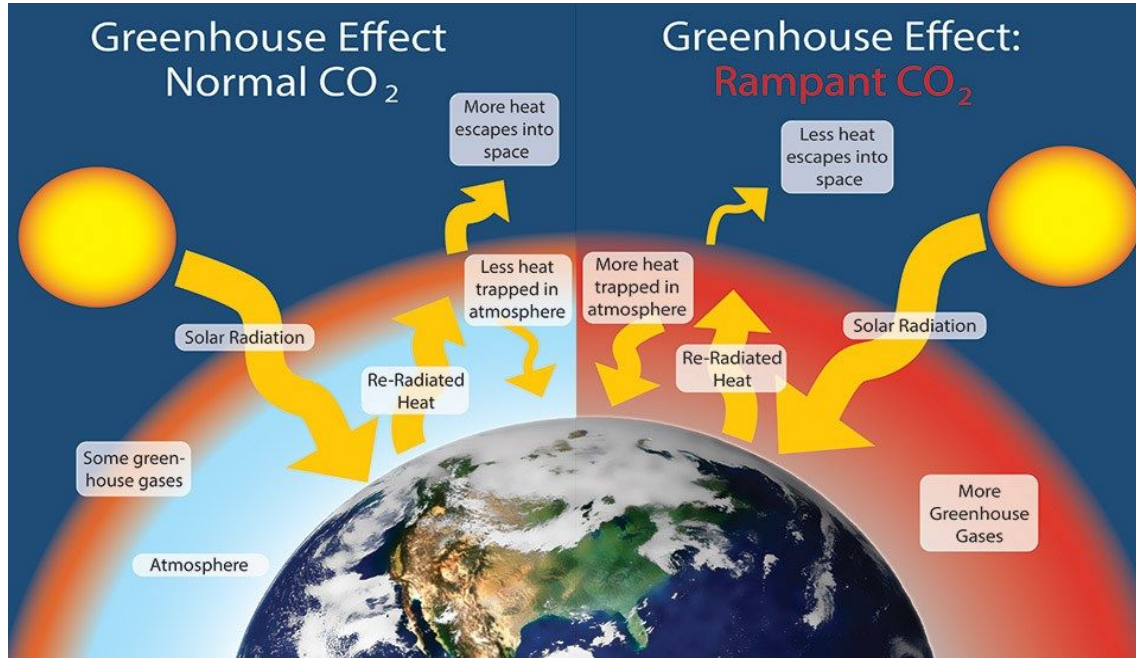
Introduction

Political and ecological figure **Greta Thunberg**




Causes of Climate Change

- Increasing Greenhouses Gases (the greenhouse effect)
- Human Activity



Symptoms of Global Climate Change

- Temperatures are rising world-wide due to greenhouse gases trapping more heat in the atmosphere.
 - Droughts are becoming longer and more extreme around the world.
 - Tropical storms becoming more severe due to warmer ocean water temperatures.
 - As temperatures rise there is less snowpack in mountain ranges and polar areas and the snow melts faster.
 - Overall, glaciers are melting at a faster rate.
 - Sea ice in the Arctic Ocean around the North Pole is melting faster with the warmer temperatures.
 - Permafrost is melting, releasing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere.
 - Sea levels are rising, threatening coastal communities and estuarine ecosystems.
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Immigration

- nearly **216 million** people could leave their homes in 2050
- the most affected region would remain North Africa



How Women are Affected by Climate Change Internationally

- Women face social, economic, and political barriers that limit coping capacity



Human Trafficking is one of the biggest threats for women & children affected by climate change

Sudden Onset Disasters

- Hotspot for human trafficking
- Irregular migration

Results

- Slavery
- Forced marriage
- Sexual exploitation
- Organ removal

Slow Onset Disasters

- Traffickers target migrant locations (urban slums)
- Outmigration
- Migrants have minimal bargaining power

Results

- Increased desperation
- Men selling wives & children
- Women are offered employment that leads to slavery & trafficking

How Women are Affected in Europe

Women hold 39% share of national delegations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



The proportion of women in climate change related decision-making is 38% in the European Commission



In 2021, only 26.8% of government ministers responsible for policies on environment and climate change are women

Women are severely underrepresented in industries that affect climate change such as agriculture and energy

Unjustified domination and exploitation of nature is linked to the historical oppression of women

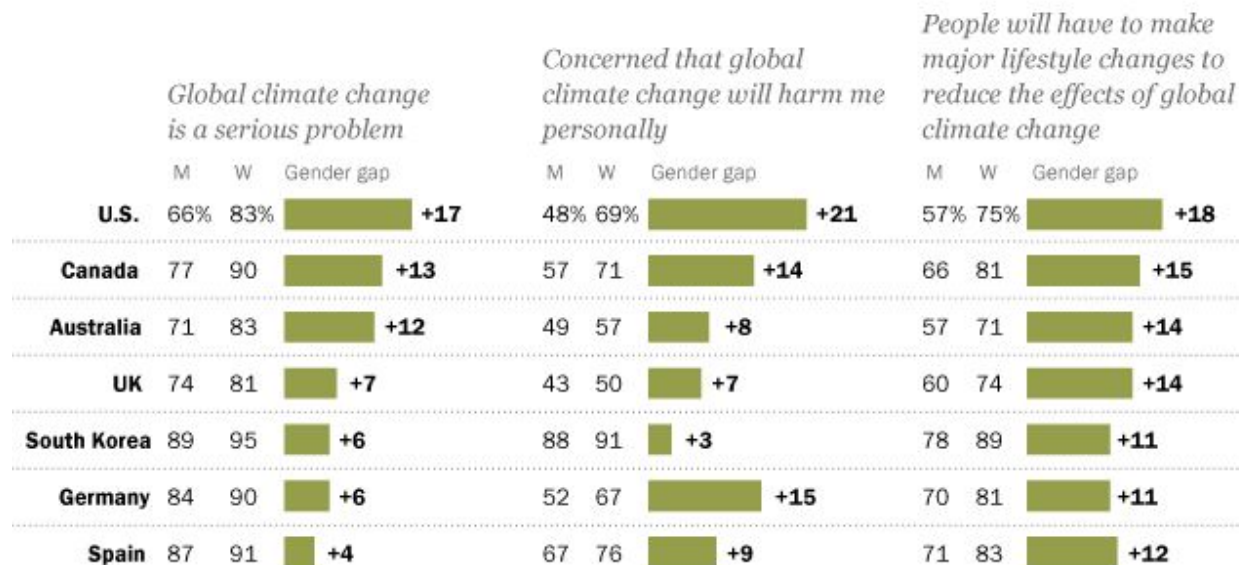
Not a Binary Concept

- Age
- Religion
- Marital status
- Economic Status
- Sexuality
- Ethnicity

- “men and women must have equal opportunities to influence and benefit from the investments that are made to address climate change (adaptation/mitigation). This process will make men and women equal and full-fledged collaborative partners and citizens.” Minister of Nordic Countries

Gender Gap

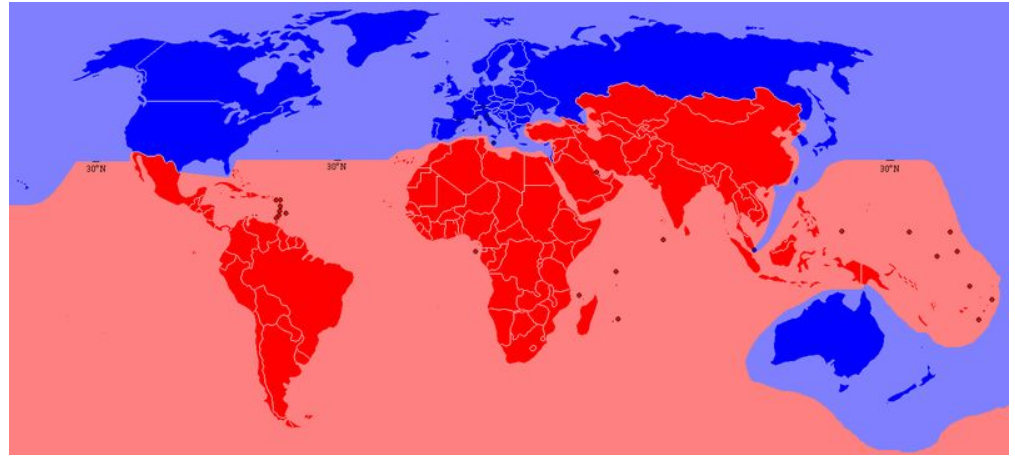
Gender gap on climate change in many wealthy nations



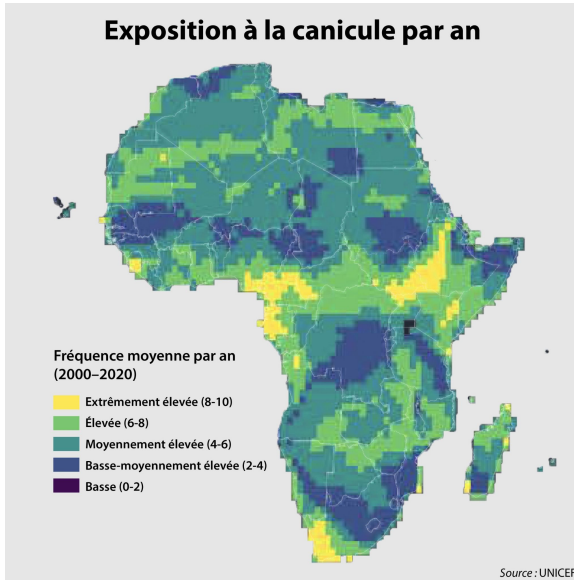
Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey.

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Famine



- The negative effects of climate change will be felt more acutely in developing countries.
- Increasing famine in Africa



Famine

29.7% of the population in Africa suffers from malnutrition



Africa produces 40.1% of the fruit and vegetables sold in Europe



By 2070 temperatures in Europe will be too high to continue our agriculture

The consequences of global warming in Africa have a direct impact on Europe

Current Solutions

Clean Power Plants

- Tougher Emissions and Efficiency Standards
- Greener Farming
- New Kinds of Geopolitical Consensus
- Long-term goals set by the Paris Agreement to guide all countries substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius while pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5 degrees; review countries' commitments every five years; provide financing to developing countries to mitigate climate change, strengthen resilience and enhance abilities to adapt to climate impacts.



Potential Solutions

Immigration

- Invest in data collecting and monitoring of populations that are the most at risk of climate displacement
- Learn how to address slow onset climate events
- Focus on the welfare and safety of displaced people

Women's Rights

- Increase representation in climate change decision making
- Support women in STEM
- Increase incentives for companies that include women in male dominated fields
- Gender sensitive responses to climate change disasters
- Increase awareness of global climate change issues that affect women

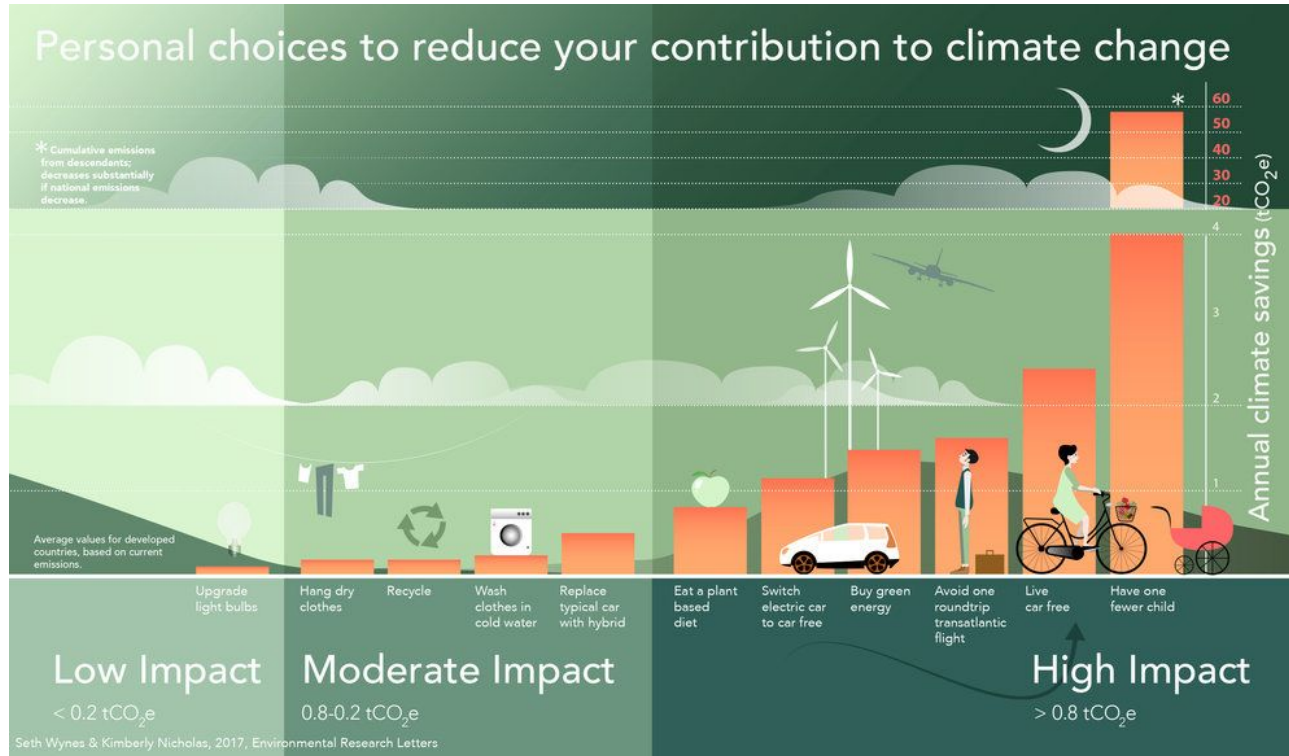
Famine/World Hunger

- New technology to sustain crops and new forms of indoor agriculture
- Switching to a more plant based diet
- Use external measures to prevent climate change from degrading agriculturally proficient countries



Conclusion

- There is a lot that can still be done to address climate change in Europe
 - Climate Change is a major threat to the social, political, and economic future of Europe



Question/Debate

- What do you think is the biggest challenge in addressing the climate crisis in Europe?
- What do you think is the most difficult result of climate change to address: immigration, women's rights, or hunger/famine?

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