

Greening Energy Discourses

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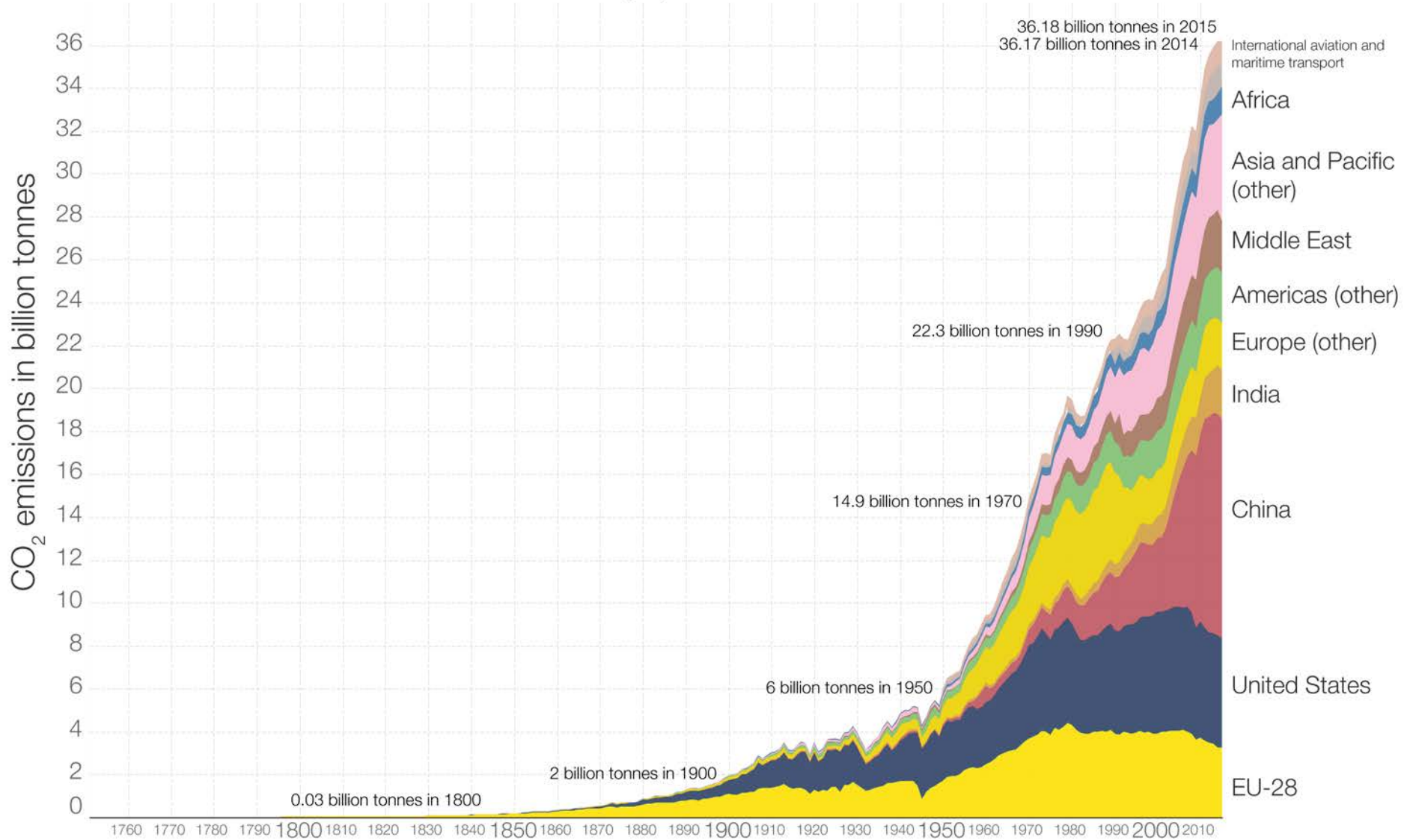
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Global CO₂ emissions by world region, 1751 to 2015

Annual carbon dioxide emissions in billion tonnes (Gt).



Power of Narratives

- Dominant discourse has been based on the notion that economic growth is the main priority and that environmental protection is costly. Cheap energy and materials are viewed as essential.
- The American Dream – consumption oriented development – has been a second powerful discourse

These narratives have powerfully influenced economic and political decision making for years.

Energy Politics: 1980s

- Beginning of neoconservative economics revolution (small government)
- Reagan Ended price controls on oil
- Petroleum prices drop
- Reagan admin removes some tax breaks for renewables
- 1985 CAFE standards relaxed to 26 mpg



'Government is not a solution to our problem, government is the problem.'

-- Ronald Reagan
40th President of
the United States

George W. Bush's White House and Climate Change

The Kyoto Protocol is “dead on arrival”
(Condoleezza Rice, March 27, 2001)

The Kyoto Protocol is “dead” in its current
form (George Bush, June 2001)

2007 Agreed to “seriously
consider” EU Plan to
halve global GHG emission
by 2050



Koch Brothers



Tea Party Movement



Rise of Populism: New Sustainability Discourses perceived as a threat to the status quo

- USA
- Turkey
- Hungary
- Poland
- UK
- France
- Germany...



Changing the Discourse

- Climate change, biodiversity loss, plastics in the oceans...
- There is a need for a new narrative one that places environmental protection on par with economic development
- There needs to be a shift towards more sustainable economic and energy models

Emerging New Discourses

- Green New Deal
- Ecological Civilization
- Green Urbanism
- Circular Economy
- Just Transition

Green New Deal

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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

Whereas the October 2018 report entitled "Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C" by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the November 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment report found that—

- (1) human activity is the dominant cause of observed climate change over the past century;
- (2) a changing climate is causing sea levels to rise and an increase in wildfires, severe storms, droughts, and other extreme weather events that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure;

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February 7, 2019 (9:55 a.m.)





Joe Biden

“are at the core of his plan: (1) the United States urgently needs to embrace greater ambition Biden believes the Green New Deal is a crucial framework for meeting the climate challenges we face. It powerfully captures two basic truths, which run on an epic scale to meet the scope of this challenge, and (2) our environment and our economy are completely and totally connected.”

Biden's Climate and Environmental Justice Proposal

- 100% clean energy economy and net zero emissions no later than 2050
- 100% carbon pollution free electricity by 2035
- \$2 trillion in investments (renewables, small scale nuclear, CCS, new grid infrastructure, zero emission public transport)
- Environmental justice (investment in coal communities)
- Smart infrastructure investments to withstand a changing climate
- Recommit to the Paris Agreement

Europe's Green New Deal

1. Climate Neutrality 2050
2. Circular Economy (action plan expected March 2020). Clean steelmaking using hydrogen by 2030, making batteries reusable & recyclable.
3. Building renovation. Double/Triple renovation rate of buildings
4. Zero Pollution (air, water, soil) by 2050
5. Ecosystems & Biodiversity. New forestry strategy.

Green New Deal cont.

6. Green & Healthier Agric. System (significantly reducing chemical pesticides, fertilizers & antibiotics. Aligning Common Agricultural Policy with Green Deal.
7. Transport. $95\text{gCO}_2/\text{km}$
8. Just transition fund for regions most impacted by transition away from fossil fuels
9. R&D (35% of EU research for climate-friendly technologies)
10. Carbon border tax/external relations

Germany

Phase out nuclear by 2022

Phase out coal by 2038

Greenhouse gas neutral by 2050

Minimum 55% CO₂ reduction by 2030 (*1990)

Climate Action Law



China: President Xi calls for creation of ecological civilization

- Creating an ecological civilization that ensures “harmony between human and nature”
- "step up efforts to establish a legal and policy framework ... that facilitates green, low-carbon, and circular development”
- "promote afforestation" "strengthen wetland conservation and restoration”
- "take tough steps to stop and punish all activities that damage the environment."



第13个五年计划

13th Five-Year-Plan - March 2016

medium-term goals for 2020

- crucial to achieve INDC goals
- Reduce emissions intensity by 40-45%
- from 2005 levels
- 15% share renewables in energy-mix

New Normal 新常态

- heavily resource-based economy >>> increasingly service-oriented, diversified, and less carbon-intensive economy
- Decoupling economic growth (goal: average 6.5% per year) and emissions
- Multi-pronged approach

中华人民共和国国家发展和改革委员会

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)
to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
(UNFCCC)

Long-term goals for 2030

- Peak emissions (with best intentions to peak earlier)
- Reduce emission intensity by 60-65% from 2005 levels
- 20% share of renewables in energy-mix

Restrictions on Coal

- National Energy Administration and National Development and Reform Commission impose restrictions on capacity expansions
- Modernization of coal industry (shutting down of oldest coal fired power plants)