

The Global Response to Climate Change Requires a New Paradigm

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National and global responses to climate change can be improved due to necessity, in a bid for survival, or alternatively, by presenting significant challenges to long-held beliefs, coupled with viable alternatives. A thesis was proposed, that a new paradigm arising from a unified sociological front, would lead to significant progress in securing a better future for all humanity. The human situation in relation to the effects of climate change was examined, through empirical research and sociological analysis, wherein historical, structural, cultural and critical aspects were considered. Problems faced by lower-middle to low income earners in Western Society were identified. In a case study of Superstorm Sandy, it was revealed that the elderly and poor suffered the greatest impact. Regardless of a prompt response following the disaster, there was a lack of reliable data regarding the distribution and frequency of aid. It was found that although relief efforts occur following climatic disasters, they may not be adequately or fairly distributed, leading to further suffering. Capitalism and the class system were identified as another issue in the global approach to climate change, with the necessity for globalization to better combine with preservation, in order to serve a higher purpose towards survival. Additionally, disparity between sociological perspectives, highlighted a need for a coherent stance, particularly in view of the influence of sociology in political decision-making. The research supported the thesis and it was concluded that progress for all humanity could stem from a new sociological paradigm addressing the globalized climate change problem.

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