

The IPCC has made one thing very clear. We're probably going to die. Reading between the lines, it becomes less clear that this is the outcome. The IPCC released a report early October that indicated that unless substantial change was taken to reduce emissions by more than 50% the ensuing results of climate change could be catastrophic and irreversible.

Current climate change efforts exist, spanning the globe. The most notable of which being the Paris Agreement of 2015, but other smaller treaties exist, and most countries are taken action to curb emissions, even if some of these actions may prove ultimately inconsequential. While many industrialized nations are able to avoid the worst of these consequences, China is an important outlier. A majority of individuals in China do not have the ability to breathe pollution free air, over 20% of the country's farmland and 16% of soil overall is polluted. Additionally, an estimated 60% of groundwater also shows signs of moderate to severe pollution. Economists and warming scientists presume that this is due to the rapid urbanization and economic facilitation. Specifically, the conclusion is that the nature of construction and the increased use of energy by rural citizens transitioning to urban environments have led to a uniquely notable spike in emissions which has had hugely disparate impacts on the working class as there's been a statistically significant increase in pollution related health diseases.

While China is implementing measures to resolve these problems the effects of them have been circumspect at best. The ministry of environmental protection, which has legally designated ability to fine and place restrictions on companies' production of emissions, has overall been an ineffective ministry within China. As Jiagi writes, "According to the Environmental Protection Tax Law of China -- which goes into effect on Jan. 1 -- air pollution, water pollution, solid wastes and noise are the four major categories of taxable emissions. While

the levied items are to remain the same as the previous fee system, the law designates the local tax bureaus as collators of the new environmental protection tax.

Furthermore, local government will decide on the tax rate for the levied items within a range specified by the central government. However, the entire amount of the tax collected will now become part of the local tax revenue, whereas 10 percent of the defunct emissions discharge fee used to go to the central government”. Additionally, 16 of the worlds twenty most polluted cities in the world are located in China. The original action plan facilitated by the Chinese government to start warming itself also had flaws, being instituted before formal quantitative data was available to determine effective courses of action. Most concerning is the fact that none of these policies are able to effectively combat government pollution within China, which accounts for a startling amount of emissions as environmental non-governmental organizations do not exhibit statistically significant effects on environmental pollutant emissions according to a study complete by Li and Lo who go on to conclude that, “China’s restrictive political environment suppresses eNGOs’ peer and business networking but is not associated with government networking. Compared with government-organized NGOs (GONGOs), civic eNGOs network more with peers, businesses, and government agencies. Furthermore, eNGOs with leaders having government work experience conduct more government networking. Theoretically, these findings point to the importance of the political and institutional context of managerial networking. Empirically, this study provides the first set of quantitative data analysis demonstrating how institutional factors affect NGO managerial networking under authoritarianism.”

This coupled with ongoing environmental solutions such as the three-gorge dam project indicate that Chinese policies seem to potentially be inhibited by the nature of political power,

especially as the three-gorge dam project, while potentially beneficial, is dependent on resettling thousands of individuals within China. studies consistently show that white males view the risk of global warming lower than any other ethnic or gender group. Studies also demonstrate that governments who engage in injustice against racial minorities are more likely to engage in violent or coercive international action. This means that when the global south makes concessions to rich countries in order to facilitate their economy it allows for exploitation. Rich countries have a stake in flipping the script.

Resolved: The Peoples Republic of China should create and/or alter a policy to substantially reduce its domestic greenhouse gas emissions

The affirmative has access to a series of environmental policy arguments ranging from increasing investments in certain forms of clean energy (CCS, OTECH, Algae biofuel), while also being able to substantially increase the opportunity cost to increasing emissions. They also have access to being able to defend strict authoritarian practices in the face of looming environmental disaster, especially with China's economic clout within the region. This coupled with the ability to redirect Chinese environmental relief efforts from those that uniquely effect marginalized populations. This means that the aff has strategic flexibility that will allow them to approach the topic from a series of nuanced positions that should be beneficial to any stylistic debate preference prevalent in the country while also re-focusing debates away from United States action.

The negative has, in turn, access to a series of arguments about the ineffectiveness of government action, especially strict authoritarian regimes. This, in combination with NGO movements across the globe means that they have a relatively strong literature base to draw from. Additionally, research of the politburo will produce a series of internal process and politics DA's to any action that reverses or alters existent Chinese environmental policies. This, in combination with a series of highly important environmentalist academics works (such as Morton out of Rice) means that they also have access to a wealth of critical literature. This, along with the disruptions that any significant Chinese action would have on the immediate economic policies of surrounding countries means that whether you roll with Object Oriented Ontology or the Actor counterplan/Politics Disadvantage one-two the negative should be adaptable enough to engage with any affirmative provided that they did their research.

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