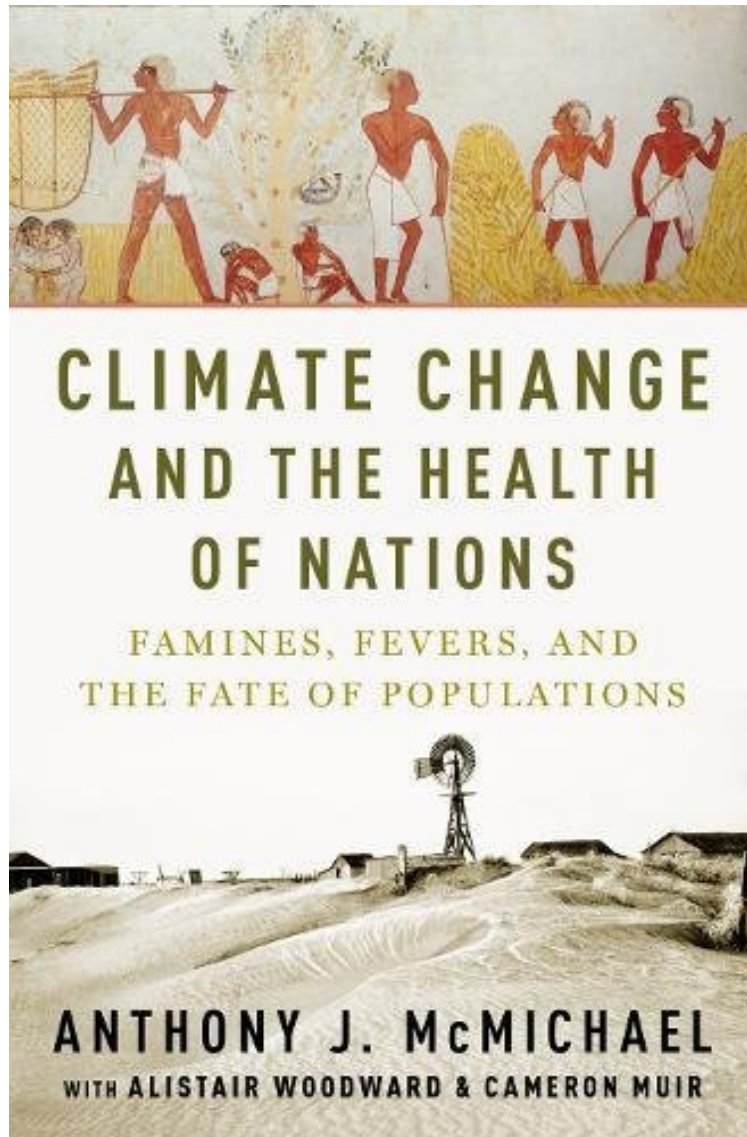


Climate Change and the Health of Nations: Famines, Fevers, and the Fate of Populations

Anthony McMichael

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#215254 in Books McMichael Anthony 2017-02-06Original language:English 6.40 x 1.40 x 9.30l, .0 #File Name: 0190262958392 pagesClimate Change and the Health of Nations Famines Fevers and the Fate of Populations | File size: 56.Mb

Anthony McMichael : Climate Change and the Health of Nations: Famines, Fevers, and the Fate of Populations before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Climate Change and the Health of Nations: Famines, Fevers, and the Fate of Populations:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. easy to get lostBy algo4II had assumed I would be reading how

increases in temperature caused famine, disease and war. They can, but so can cooling. Climate variability, both temperature and precipitation, are what the book is really about its history and many of the mechanisms by which it has wreaked havoc. McMichaels impetus for the book is the concern that due to the rise in carbon dioxide caused by man, there will be warming of historically very rapid magnitude, and associated increased climate variability as well as rises in sea level. I found it easy to get lost in this book, which I blame in part on mediocre organization, mediocre or absent charts, mediocre or absent chapter introductions and summaries. At the same time, there was much of interest. I owe McMichael this debt: I had previously encountered explanations for the Easterlies and Westerlies wind patterns, and despite supplementing what I read with internet searches I was still confused, probably because of a poor background and interest in physics; McMichaels provides clear and simple explanations.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent piece from the authorBy gryphonmonsterI just finished reading this book. This book puts together a lot of things including history, climatology, epidemiology and economics. It transcends millions of years to provide evidence of how climate change has caused many deaths and attributed these climate change to have indirectly caused civilisations to fall. It is a brilliant piece of work which was pretty heavy on climatology terms at the beginning and a number of repeats throughout the book.4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Terrific!!By Orbell, JohnThis is a masterful book; a real achievement and a VERY important contribution to the climate literature....

When we think of "climate change," we think of man-made global warming, caused by greenhouse gas emissions. But natural climate change has occurred throughout human history, and populations have had to adapt to the climate's vicissitudes. Anthony J. McMichael, a renowned epidemiologist and a pioneer in the field of how human health relates to climate change, is the ideal person to tell this story. Climate Change and the Health of Nations shows how the natural environment has vast direct and indirect repercussions for human health and welfare. McMichael takes us on a tour of human history through the lens of major transformations in climate. From the very beginning of our species some five million years ago, human biology has evolved in response to cooling temperatures, new food sources, and changing geography. As societies began to form, they too adapted in relation to their environments, most notably with the development of agriculture eleven thousand years ago. Agricultural civilization was a Faustian bargain, however: the prosperity and comfort that an agrarian society provides relies on the assumption that the environment will largely remain stable. Indeed, for agriculture to succeed, environmental conditions must be just right, which McMichael refers to as the "Goldilocks phenomenon." Global warming is disrupting this balance, just as other climate-related upheavals have tested human societies throughout history. As McMichael shows, the break-up of the Roman Empire, the bubonic Plague of Justinian, and the mysterious collapse of Mayan civilization all have roots in climate change. Why devote so much analysis to the past, when the daunting future of climate change is already here? Because the story of mankind's previous survival in the face of an unpredictable and unstable climate, and of the terrible toll that climate change can take, could not be more important as we face the realities of a warming planet. This sweeping magnum opus is not only a rigorous, innovative, and fascinating exploration of how the climate affects the human condition, but also an urgent call to recognize our species' utter reliance on the earth as it is.