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Climate Change Adaptation: Competing Framings of Security and Development

Yuncheng Deng ^{1,2,*} , Ying Liu ¹ , Arti Pratap ³

¹ Law School, Shanghai University, Shanghai 200444, China

² Southern Marine Science and Engineering Guangdong Laboratory (Zhuhai), Zhuhai 519099, China

³ School of Agriculture, Geography, Environment, Ocean and Natural Sciences, The University of the South Pacific, Suva 1168, Fiji

* Correspondence: dengyuncheng2006@163.com

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With the global geopolitical center of gravity shifting rapidly to the Indo-Pacific region, climate change has become one of the most critical factors shaping future developments in the region. It does not only increase the frequency and severity of natural disasters, but also profoundly impact development paradigms, security architectures, and strategic rivalries among major powers. In this context, Faisal Ahmed and Mohd Faheem edited the book *Climate Change in the Indo-Pacific: Developmental and Geopolitical Dimensions* [1]. Apart from the introduction chapter, the other 10 chapters of this book focus on issues, challenges, and policy imperatives relating to climate change in the Indo-Pacific region. The book combines contributions from scholars and practitioners across diverse disciplines, including policy studies and international relations, to examine policy coherence, security dilemmas, and geopolitical competition related to climate change.

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There is no doubt that disasters and climate-related hazards affect not only the economy in the Indo-Pacific region, but also the people. Socio-economic impacts can range from loss of livelihoods to loss of homes, education and healthcare access (p. 7). In the Indo-Pacific region, natural disasters are particularly prevalent [2], a vulnerability that is being exacerbated by climate change's escalating effects (p. 1). In light of the fact that the countries have only a decade to adequately prepare for the first catastrophic impacts of climate change, disasters and development are at a crossroads (p. 9). Chapter 1 reveals that the global frameworks envisaged for climate change will be effective, efficient, achievable, and sustainable if there is synergy between policies, programmes, and institutions, strengthening coordination mechanisms and partnerships, and breaking down traditional silos at the national and sub-national levels. Climate change poses a threat to national security [3]. A detailed discussion of geostrategic policy agendas and power rivalries is presented in Chapter 2, which also explains how superpowers interpret climate change in different ways. As a result of the COP21 Paris Agreement, new and significant market opportunities are anticipated. The so-called "nationally determined contributions" [4,5] set at Paris represent a combined investment into renewable energy of at least \$2 trillion per year over the next fifteen years (p. 31). There are a number of new geoeconomic rivalries at the heart of the issue of climate geopolitics. Global West (15 % of the world population) may want to believe in climate change (mainly for geopolitical reasons), but Global South (85 % of the world population) continues to believe in its legitimate right to development (p. 39).

Chapter 3 examines the climate change strategies of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In the past 50 years, international security has undergone significant changes (p. 46). There have been many conflicts associated with natural resources and climate change adaptation that may have significant macroeconomic benefits (p. 46). Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies in Asia are expected to be affected by climate change across many sectors and face significant risks as a result. Rather than attributing direct causality of conflict to climate change, cumulative impacts of climate change may exacerbate these drivers of conflict, particularly in those states already susceptible to conflict (p. 57). National governments and UN agencies are recommended to adopt priority adaptation strategies (pp. 59-61). With regard to coastal adaptation measures, Chapter 4 of this book discusses some of the best practices that Pacific Island countries can use to enhance their resilience to the impact of climate change, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events. Climate change securitization is discussed in Chapter 5. The disconnect between climate change advocates and military institutions has been underexplored by mainstream environmentalists (p. 73). The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a good example of a multiscale approach that can be used to examine the nuances and interconnectedness of militaries and military alliances as well as their fundamental reservations regarding climate change (pp. 81- 82). Chapter 6 examines how local governments in Thailand engaged in Disaster Risk Governance (DRG) with a case study from the

Chiang Rai earthquake of 2014. Based on local disaster resilience, this study developed a conceptual model of Integrated Disaster Management to gain a better understanding of the current DRG mechanism at the local level in Phan District, Chiang Rai Province (p. 91). A discussion of adaptation and mitigation strategies to combat climate change in Indian Ocean islands is presented in Chapter 7. The lack of reliable data and the lack of funding are major barriers to effective adaptation measures in the Indian Ocean Region (p. 111).

Among the most vulnerable regions to climate change are Asia and the Pacific (p. 113). 'Climate refugee' as well as 'climate migrants', 'environmental migrants', 'climate-induced displacement', 'climigration', 'eco-migrants', etc. [6] are the focus of the last three chapters. Chapter 8 examines the factors (sea-level rise, natural disasters, coastal erosion) contributing to the climate refugee crisis in the Indo-Pacific region, the provisions of international legal frameworks and relevant intergovernmental conventions, and the legal and technical obstacles associated with them. A report highlights four challenges pertaining to the readiness to assist climate refugees, including a lack of international legal framework, inadequate disaster preparedness and risk management, limited insurance penetration, and urbanization (pp. 120-121). There is a discussion in Chapter 9 about forced migration caused by climate change in South Asia. Their manifestation is likely to be attributed to three primary mechanisms: (1) a rise in environmental risks and socio-ecological events caused by these risks; (2) shifting resource circumstances in linear and nonlinear trends that affect how easily natural resources can be accessed and used; (3) climate change affects perceptions independently of actual experiences (p. 133). Using Bangladesh as a case study, Chapter 10 examines the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

Nevertheless, there are a few points that could be discussed in greater depth in the book. While the book pays considerable attention to climate actions by major powers such as China and the United States, it should investigate further the climate policies and capacities of emerging regional powers such as Fiji, Indonesia. It critiques the current geopolitical landscape, but it does not provide detailed proposals for financing or technology transfer to create a more equitable and inclusive global climate governance mechanism. Several perspectives, including development and geopolitics, are employed in this book to analyze climate change issues the Indo-Pacific region. Many aspects of the content still presuppose positions and fail to adequately balance the practical needs of development and security in the process of climate change adaptation and migration. Therefore, there is a deviation from the analytical perspective throughout the entire book. Too many authors may be responsible for this reason.

Diplomacy and regional policies may continue to prioritize Indo-Pacific studies [7]. From a climate change perspective, the book offers considerable academic depth and practical relevance. This book provides a wealth of case studies and a multidisciplinary research paradigm to researchers in international relations, public policy, and environmental studies, as well as

evidence-based references for policymakers to avoid potential governance pitfalls and to understand the region's complex climate challenges. It provides a valuable starting point for further research by identifying key topics that merit deeper exploration.

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