

An optimistic view on climate change

Cooler Heads for a Warming Planet

MAARTEN BOUDRY

Exactly half a century ago, a number of influential scientists and other thinkers predicted that the world was heading for catastrophe within the next couple of decades: depletion of the earth's natural resources, ever-increasing pollution of air and water, an unstoppable population explosion, a dangerous and growing hole in the ozone layer. Their warning was stark and simple: we had to put an end to economic growth, or we would all be heading for a cataclysm. And yet, today poverty and hunger are at their lowest-ever levels worldwide, pollution has dramatically improved, the ozone layer is restored, and no natural resource is about to be depleted; the last five decades have been the best-ever for our species by almost any measure. So why did these doom-mongers turn out to be so wrong? How exactly did we manage to avert the predicted calamity?

In this provocative and wide-ranging book, philosopher of science Maarten Boudry explains how we can solve our current climate crisis. We need to escape the ideological dogmas and taboos of mainstream climate activism, which today presents a bigger obstacle to effective climate policy than the remaining 'climate sceptics' who deny there's a problem in the first place. We urgently need a different, more rational and pragmatic approach, embracing technological and economic solutions that actually work. If we want to solve climate change, we have to think big and bold, we have to resist the lure of false remedies that have been tried for at least half a century, and we have to keep our heads cool. If we manage to do all that, we can make the next half-century even better than the previous one, for all of humanity *and* for nature.



AUTHOR



Maarten Boudry (b. 1984) is a science philosopher affiliated with Ghent University. Articles of his have appeared in many national and international magazines and newspapers, including The New York Times. In 2011 Boudry pulled a Sokal-style hoax by submitting a nonsensical article for publication. The scientific world was roused when the article got accepted without any reservation. In 2012 he was the co-author of 'Incredulous Thomas Might Be Right', which sold over 10,000 copies. Maarten Boudry is the first person to hold the Vermeersch Chair at Ghent University.

ORIGINAL TITLE Waarom ons klimaat niet naar de knoppen gaat (als we het hoofd koel houden). Prometheus, 2021, 144 pp.

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