

# HOW TO THINK ABOUT THE CLIMATE CRISIS

A Philosophical Guide to Saner Ways of Living



GRAHAM PARKES

BLOOMSBURY

“An extremely well-written and passionate argument for action on climate change. Importantly, Parkes directly addresses the “China question,” and goes beyond the political, philosophical, and moral Eurocentrism that characterizes much of the current debate.”

**Hans-Georg Moeller**, Professor of Philosophy,  
University of Macau, China

“Parkes finds that foundational Western thought resonates with Confucian and Daoist ideas. Such a confluence could be the basis of an international consensus about reality and governance on which to begin to cope with global warming.”

**J. Baird Callicott**, University Distinguished  
Research Professor Emeritus,  
University of North Texas, USA

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Online resources to accompany this book are available at  
[www.bloomsbury.com/how-to-think-about-the-climate-crisis](http://www.bloomsbury.com/how-to-think-about-the-climate-crisis)

Behind the coronavirus pandemic looms a phenomenon that will cause far greater global misery unless we act to prevent it: a breakdown of the climate.

And behind climate change, a group of libertarian billionaires has been waging a covert ‘war of ideas’ against the rest of us, which is generating formidable obstructions to making progress on the climate emergency.

Here’s an account of this sad story, followed by a guide to fighting back – with better ideas of who we are as human beings and of our actual place in the cosmos.

These ideas can not only allay the fear that we’ll be miserable if we reduce our consumption of energy and goods, but also allow greater flourishing in closer connection with our fellows, human-made things, and the natural world.

Even if we can overcome the obstructions to confronting the climate crisis, the task is impossible without full cooperation from China. And since current relations with the regime in Beijing are going from bad to worse, we need a new approach.

Instead of scolding the Chinese for violating human rights and not embracing liberal democracy, we could develop a more tactful approach, beginning with appreciation for the pertinent ideas from ancient Chinese philosophy that the regime has advocated.

These ideas are remarkably suited for framing an effective global approach to the climate emergency, and they also highlight correspondingly helpful ideas from the Western tradition that have generally been ignored.

