

seeking an introduction to the field of constructions of health and illness. Nor is it recommended for those already conversant in the field, who seek a stimulating and rigorous examination of European perspectives on the subject. Finally, it is unfortunate that the volume is littered with typographic errors; had more care been taken in its editing, the book may have proved a more useful academic source.

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The Economics of Climate Change. The Stern Review. By Nicholas Stern. Pp. 692. (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2007.) £29.99, ISBN 0-521-70080-9, paperback. doi: 10.1017/S0021932008002824

There seems little controversy now concerning climate change, although the extent to which it is anthropogenic remains debated in some quarters. If governments are to take it seriously and to act to mitigate its effects, they must be convinced of its impacts on the economy. To that end, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer called for the Review in July 2005, to be presented to the Prime Minister and Chancellor by autumn 2006. The remit was to examine the economics of moving to a low-carbon global economy, with a focus on the medium- to long-term perspective, with time-scales for action according to a small number of potential policies. It was also called to determine the potential of different approaches for adaptation, and examine what of what is known about global climate change is of specific importance for the United Kingdom, in relation to existing climate change goals. Nicholas Stern, the Head of the United Kingdom Government Economic Service and a former chief economist of the World Bank, rose to the challenge admirably. The Stern Report is a landmark publication. It is a wide-reaching report from a man of gravity, and should be taken seriously. The Report considers all aspects of the issue, from an introductory overview, to the impacts of climate change on economic growth and development, the economics of stabilization, possible policy responses for the mitigation of climate change and its impacts, and the economics of adaptation to climate change. The final part presents a persuasive case for the urgent need for international collective action. The author leaves little room for political manoeuvre: pay now to fix global warming or risk a worldwide economic depression later. These are words that the United Kingdom Government is heeding; the world must follow. This book is extremely readable, and something that all interested in climate change and its consequences should have.

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