

## BOOK REVIEWS

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*Climate Change: Turning up the heat.* By A. B. Pittock London: Earthscan (2007), pp. 316, £22.95 (paperback). ISBN 978-1-84407-300-9.

There are many books on climate change about so I asked: what is different about this one? It was first published in 2005, and reprinted in 2007, but with such a fast-developing field, it obviously lacks reference to the most recent data and conclusions such as those of the latest Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Changes report. Nevertheless, it covers many major generic matters in a reasonably logical progression, leaving the reader with a balanced knowledge-base. From why climate change matters, historical evidence and future projections, it goes on to address the big issues of uncertainty and why any action should be taken. The evidence is then addressed in the three classical approaches of impacts, adaptation and mitigation. The final chapters are socio-political and address how the evidence interfaces with the mechanisms for actions to be taken. Although illustrated with some figures, tables and boxes, the presentation is not particularly attractive and does not lend itself to dipping into individual sections out of context. However, as an objective, authoritative text with broad coverage, this book represents a valuable contribution to the literature.

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*Climate Change and Agriculture: an Economic Analysis of Global Impacts, Adaptation and Distributional Effects.* By R. Mendelsohn and A. Dinar. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar (2009), pp. 256, £53.96 (online discount price). ISBN 978-1-84720-670-1.

This book, by US authors whose papers dominate the references, derives from World Bank-funded research on how farmers will be able to adapt to climate change. Following introductory chapters reviewing agronomy and modelling, several ‘Ricardian’ approaches (based on land values or net revenues) are applied, mainly to the USA, Africa, Latin America and China, using two climate scenarios for 2100, one (PCM) moderate, the other (CCC or HAD3) severe. As well as the developed/developing-country distinction, the analysis distinguishes where possible between rain-fed and irrigation agriculture, between crops (sometimes staple and other) and livestock, and between small and large farms. The broad nature of the results is by now familiar (e.g. lesser impacts in developed countries than in developing ones), but the level of detail here is considerable, and the scope for local adaptations by farmers and others (e.g. water authorities, scientists, advisors) is stressed. Some broad implications are drawn (e.g. there is no analysis of global agri-food production or trade, nor of farmers’ reactions to GHG emission limits or trading), but further research on the links between agriculture and both water and health is urged. A more comprehensive approach, using the IPCC A2 scenario for 2050, appears in Nelson *et al.*, *Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and the Costs of Adaptation*, IFPRI, 2009.

Kenneth J. Thomson

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*Global Warming: The Complete Briefing.* 4th edition. By J. Houghton. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2009), pp. 438, £60.00. ISBN 9780521882569.