

GLOBALIZATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

THE LATEST BOOKS ON GLOBALIZATION

Edited by
ELIA ZARU
University of Padua (Italy)
elia.zaru@unipd.it

Environmental issues and climate change are two of the main problems of our time (Chasek, Downie 2021). Along with the pandemic – which, according to some scholars, is a direct consequence of them –, these two issues face the human condition at the global level (Singh, Singh, Rangabhashyam, Srivastava 2021). Not by chance, any attempt to delineate what has been called “a brief history of now” (Olstein 2021) considers climate change as one of the key-questions of contemporary globalization. At the same time, the reflection on the tension relationship between democracy and justice on a global scale – that is, the attempt to define a framework in which a global democracy can lead to global justice – include at his core the issues of “climate governance” and “climate justice” (Dryzek, Tanasoca 2021).

This intricate relationship between globalization and climate and environmental issues raises two questions. The first one, which can be considered “classical” in global studies, asks whether globalization is to be considered responsible for climate and environmental issues, that is asks if globalization has been “dangerous” for the Earth environment (Del Valle, Soppelsa 2021). The second one goes deeper; it involves the idea of globalization as an intimately

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human process and questions the anthropocentric nature of the concept of the “global” itself. If “the globe” is “a human-centric construction”, while environmental and climate issues affect primarily the planet (strictly speaking), is it still possible to reflect through the idea of the “global” and its anthropocentric framework, or do we have to change our perspective including in it the “planetary” dimension of the Earth (Chakrabarty 2021)?

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