

ATM S 111 Global Warming Last Lecture!

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Last Time

- Political solutions 1:
 - Waxman-Markey bill: Cap & Trade
 - Kyoto protocol
 - Copenhagen accord
- These solutions tend to be business-oriented, with developed countries having much more power than developing ones.
- Although Copenhagen was negotiated by the US, Brazil, India, China, and South Africa, many have criticized it for bowing to corporate and financial interests.
- What are some strategies for developing countries?

Bolivia: A Case Study

- Bolivia has a large indigenous population which has been gaining political power recently.
- We will look at the Bolivian example of ways that people in developing countries are engaging in political struggles around global warming.



After Copenhagen

- After the Copenhagen talks, Bolivian president Evo Morales called for an alternative international conference on climate change, focusing on the needs of indigenous and poor people.
- The World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth was held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, April 20-22, 2010.
- Over 35,000 people attended from 142 countries, including delegates from the UN and 47 governments.
- There they formulated a "People's Agreement" that will be brought to the next UNFCCC meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

People's Agreement

- Demands include:
 - Creation of an adaptation fund to help poorer countries cope with the effects of climate change.
 - An ammendment to the Kyoto Protocol calling on developed countries to cut their emissions 50% from 1990 levels by 2017.
 - Establishment of an international climate and environmental justice tribunal to hold polluters responsible for their climate debt.
- Aljazeera English's episode of "Fault Lines" on the climate conference, and the effects of global warming on Bolivia, here :
<http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/faultlines/2010/05/2010518121127315453.html>

Discussion Questions

- Last week I showed a “Nature’s Edge” program whose guest argued that popular will cannot lead efforts to stop climate change because people will not take action on a future threat, only a current one.
- Organizers of the World People’s conference argue the opposite – they say that for greenhouse gas emissions to really be cut, we need a more democratic process.
- What do you think? What is the relationship between democracy and solutions to global warming? What role can “the people” have in controlling GHG emissions? In the developed world? In the developing world?
- What rights and responsibilities should developing countries have relative to developed ones when it comes to global warming? Are the concepts of climate justice and climate debt useful?