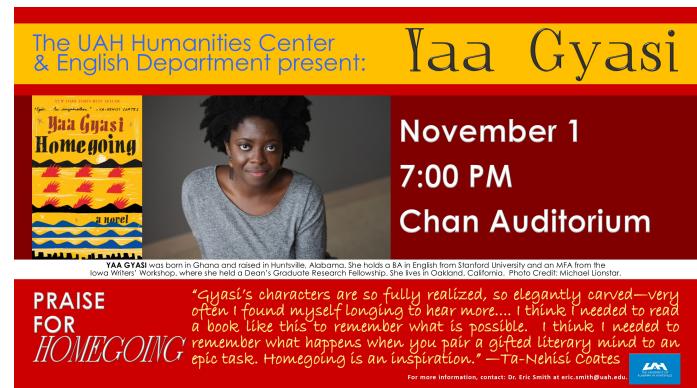


Announcements

- Tonight: Yaa Gyasi, 7pm, Chan Auditorium



- No class on Thursday
- Midterm: Due on Sunday by 11:59
 - Two parts
 - Identification Terms
 - Analytical Essay

Transitions

- Energy
 - The options and the pros and cons of each
- The challenge of meeting growing energy needs and protecting/preserving the environment

Environment

Global Studies 200

November 1, 2016

Objectives

- Explore the idea of “nature” and introduce the concept of the “anthropocene era.”
- Consider representative examples of environmental challenges and their implications
- Reflect on the ethics of environmental action



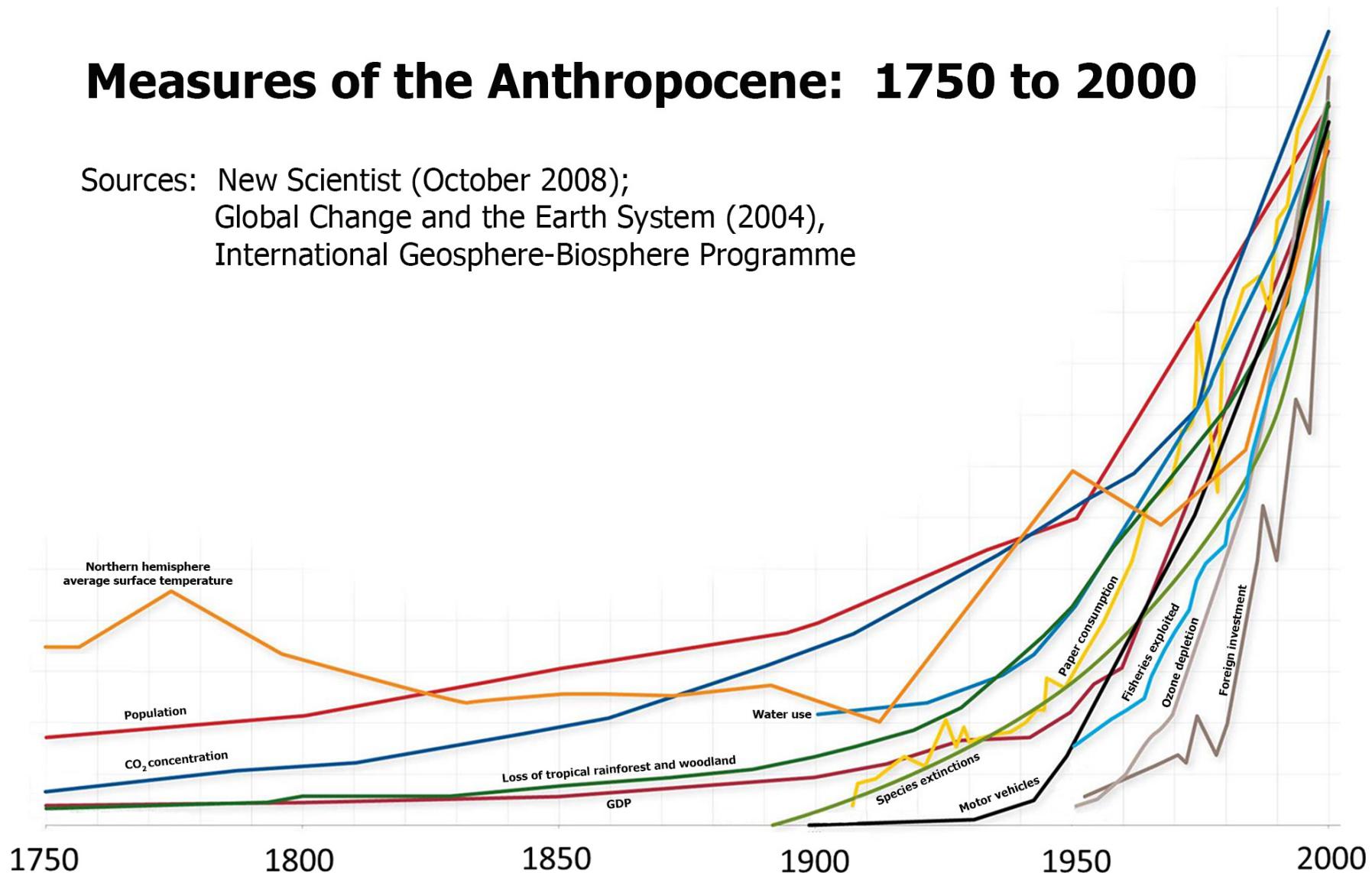
The Myth of “Pristine” Nature

- Humans have always interacted and shaped the environment
- “Nature” and “Humankind” always involved in processes of “exchange”
- Today, however, humankind has far more tools to shape and damage nature
 - Need for resources and space

The “Anthropocene” Era

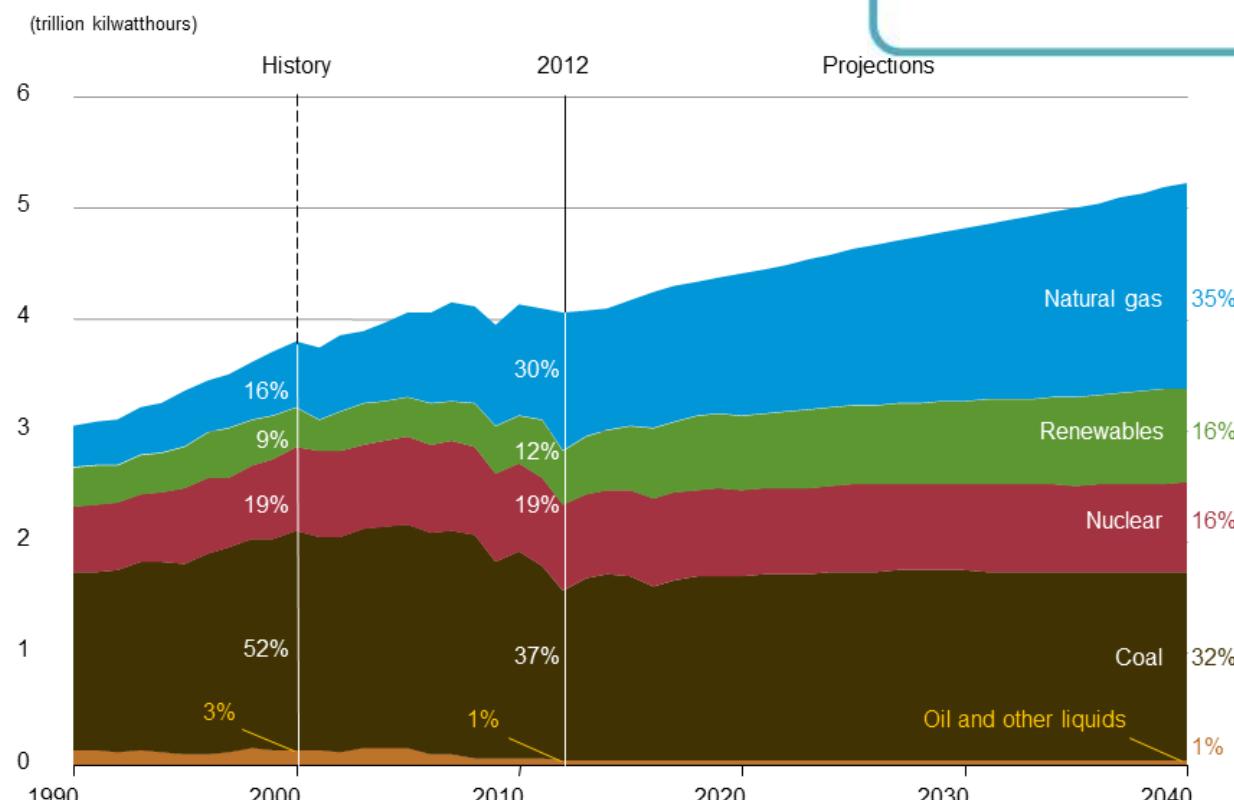
Measures of the Anthropocene: 1750 to 2000

Sources: New Scientist (October 2008);
Global Change and the Earth System (2004),
International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme

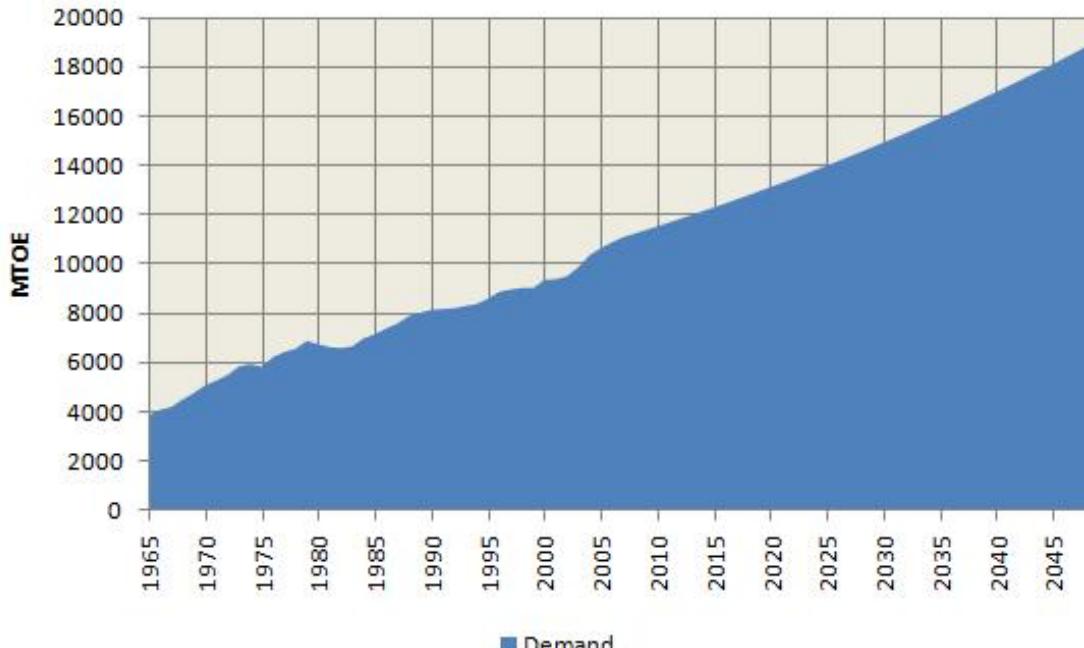


Review: Energy

Figure 13. Electricity generation by fuel, 1990-2040



Energy Demand

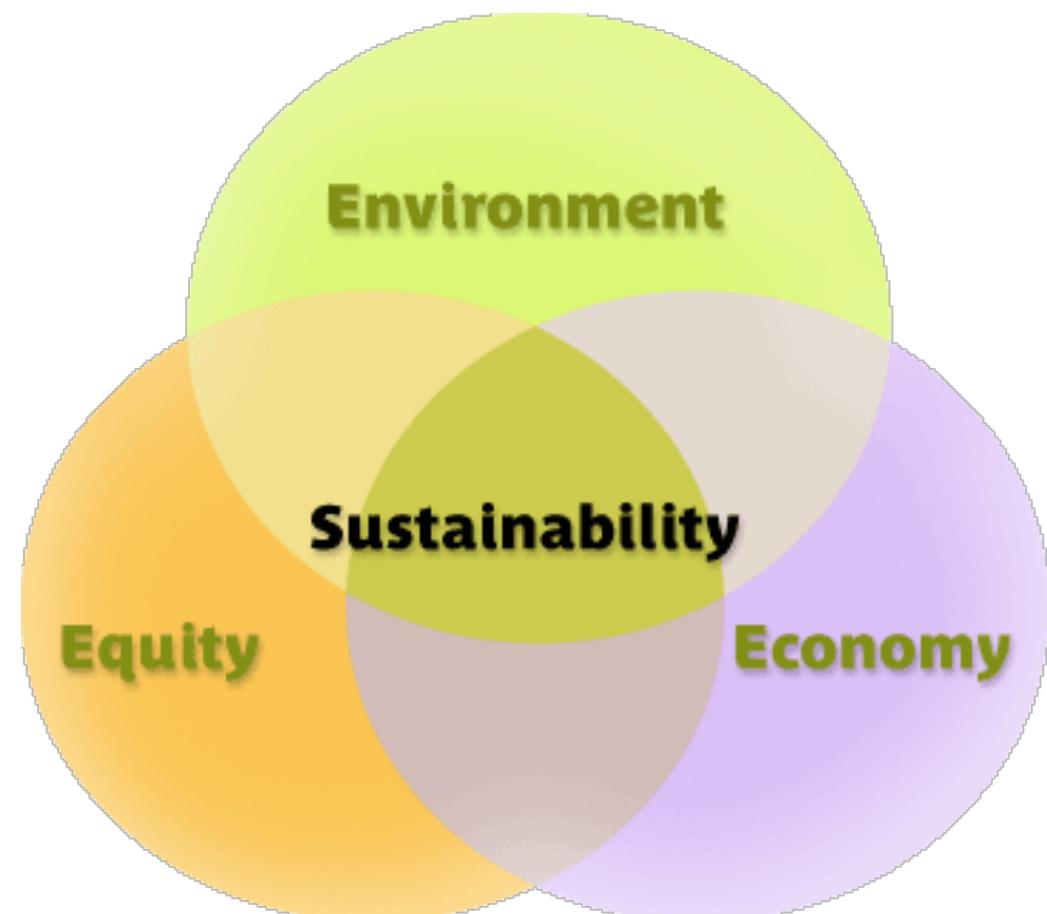


Review: Sustainable Development

- *Sustainable development* is development that "**meet presents needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs**" (Brundtland Report 1987).

The 3 “E’s” of Sustainable Development

- Environment
- Economy
- Equity



The Quandaries

- Are growth and sustainability compatible?
- What are we sustaining?
- The challenges of collective action



Challenge: The Skeptics

- Narrative of constant environmental decline – sensationalistic
 - Predictions often proven wrong
- Science is complex and sometimes evidence is contradictory
- Development and economic growth under threat
 - Free market offers better solutions than regulations
- Renewable energy sources face serious obstacles
- Environmentalists = “Elitist,” even “anti-human”

Challenge: Preserving Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- Biodiversity
- Oceans
 - The problem of control, responsibility, and accountability
 - “The tragedy of the Commons”
- Land, Deforestation, and Desertification

Challenge: Ethics

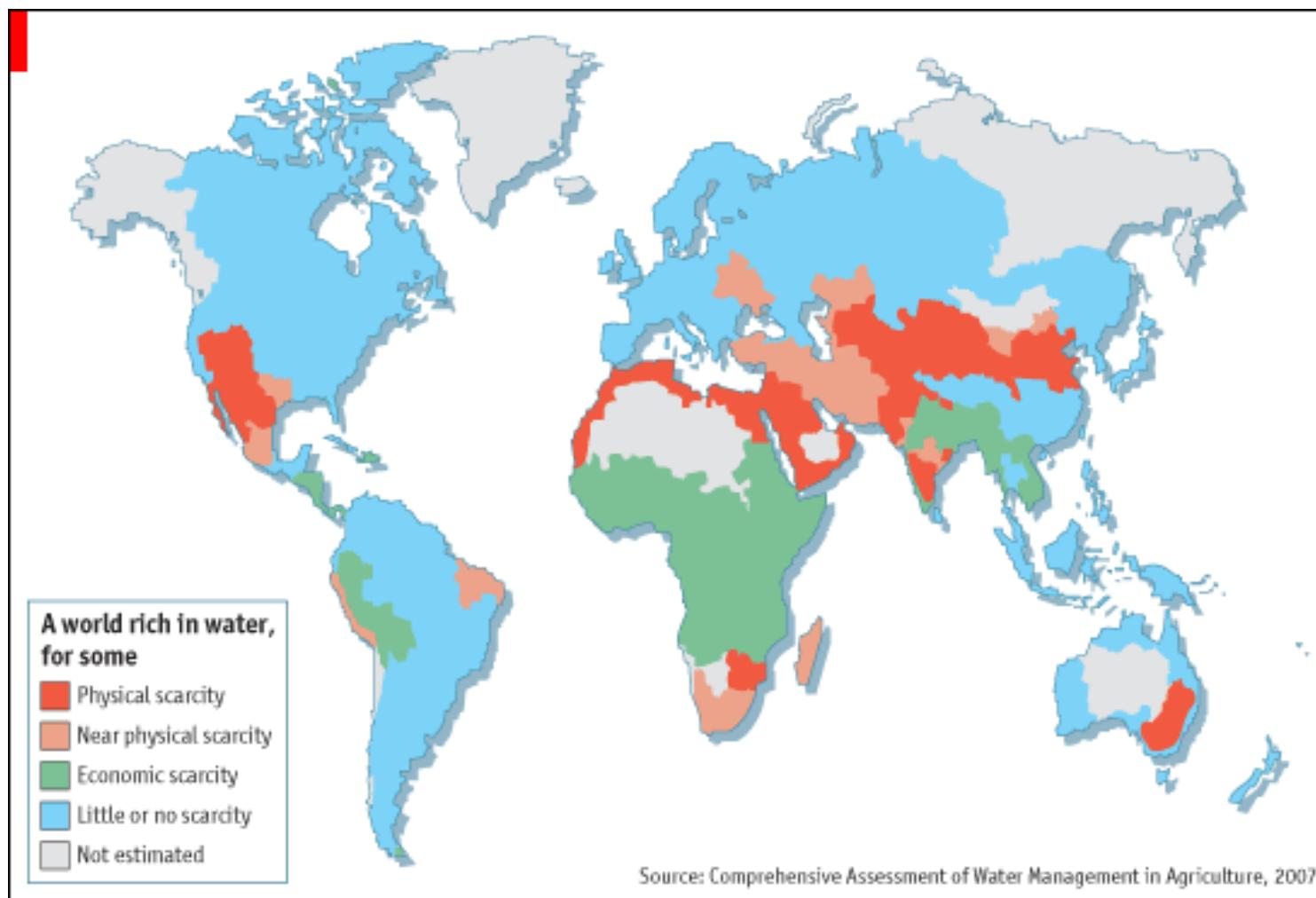
- Definition
- Do we have responsibility to preserve natural resources for future generations?
- Should the focus of our ethical behavior be the environment or people? Can the focus be on both?
- Does the developed world have any ethical right (obligation?) to advise/dictate to the developing world about its energy consumption and environmental protection practices?

The Amazon

- “Global North” and “Global South”
- Development and environmental protection?

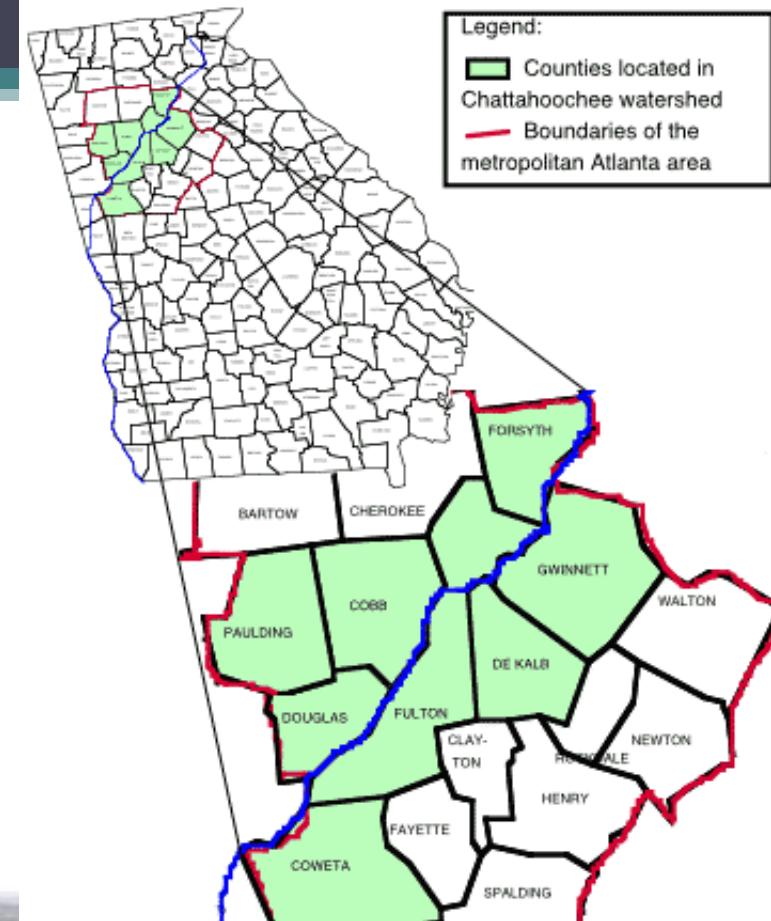


Challenge: Water



Water Shortages

- China
- Colorado River in US
- Chattahoochee River and dispute between Alabama, Florida, and Georgia



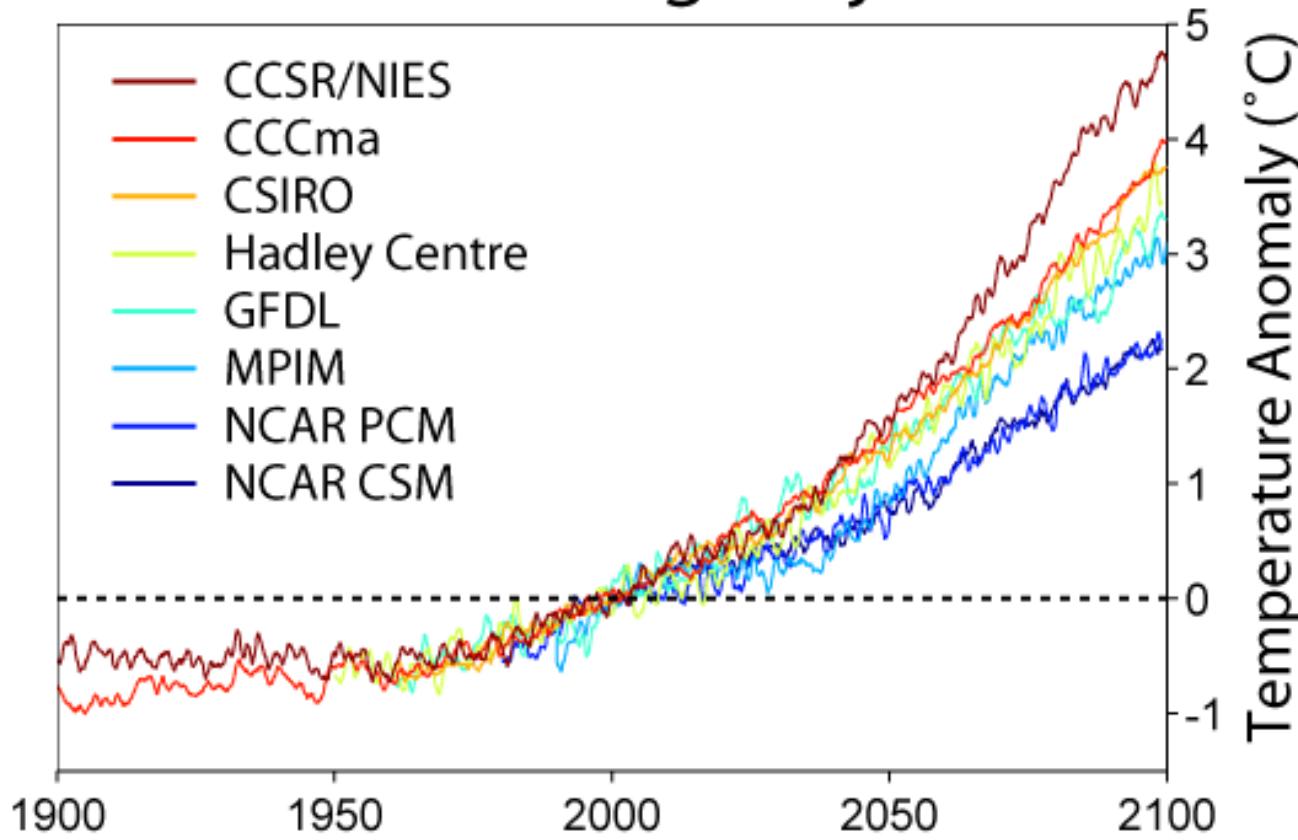
Legend:

- Counties located in Chattahoochee watershed
- Boundaries of the metropolitan Atlanta area



Challenge: Climate Change / Global Warming

Global Warming Projections



Emissions
trading
Carbon tax

Emissions Trading in the EU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJrFSLfaeeE>

Climate Change

- Flooding of populated areas
- Changing weather patterns, affecting agriculture
- Global / national security implications
- If predictions even partly true, isn't there a need for action?
 - But who acts (first)? And at what costs?

A Summary of the Challenges

- Balance between economic growth and environmental protection and the question of “ethics”
- Defining priorities / national interests / global interests
- Global environmental governance
 - Problem of sovereignty

Conclusions

- The mutual exclusivity of economic growth / development and environmental protection?
- The illusion of sustainability?
- Ethical and moral dilemmas and obligations?
- The challenges of skepticism / politics
- The price of inaction?