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| Luke Pepin Climate Change Assignment MARN 1001E |

Questions:

1. Should all countries bear the same burden or should developed countries bear more  
   responsibility for climate action than developing countries? (See slide 36 in Climate lecture re: Developed, Developing A and Developing B designations)
2. Is nuclear power a viable solution to climate change considering its potential risks?

Responses:

1.Burden?

Every country is unique, with diverse regions, populations, and cultures, but they all face distinct challenges. One universal issue is the impact of carbon emissions and climate change. Regardless of their location or the current state of the global economy, every country must make sacrifices to mitigate climate change. The three most common arguments against equal burden climate action—economic growth, energy access, and technological advancement—are each deeply flawed.

Critics claim that the initial costs and economic disruptions can hinder the economic growth of developing countries. However, the primary argument against this is that climate action can drive sustainable economic growth by creating green jobs and industries (World Bank Group, 2023). Green technologies and infrastructure can lead to long-term economic benefits and resilience against climate-related disasters. While the upfront costs and potential short-term economic disruptions pose significant challenges for developing nations striving to balance growth and sustainability, the development of systems that are proven to last longer and remain more efficient is at the core of the argument. Should a country take fewer technological shortcuts to build up its economy, or should it use all the new developments the world has created at its disposal? Why is it the standard in developing countries to replicate the development paths of countries whose industrial revolutions happened over a hundred years ago?

Opponents also argue that the high costs and technological challenges of renewable energy can limit its effectiveness in developing regions. In reality, renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, can provide reliable and affordable power to remote and underserved areas. Despite these benefits, the initial investment and maintenance costs, along with the need for technological expertise, can be prohibitive for many developing countries (U.S Global Leadership Coalition, 2021). Infrastructure for these technological challenges takes time to develop, but it is better than implementing poor, inefficient, and outdated technologies in their place.

Critics point out that the reliance on advanced technologies can be unrealistic for developing countries due to financial and infrastructural constraints (United Nations, 2019). Supporters suggest that climate action can spur technological innovation and modernization. They argue that adopting green technologies can drive progress and position developing countries as leaders in the global green economy. Nevertheless, the financial burden and lack of infrastructure to support such advancements remain significant obstacles.

In conclusion, while the arguments for climate action in developing countries present compelling benefits, they also reveal substantial challenges. Balancing economic growth, energy access, and technological advancement with the realities of financial and infrastructural limitations is crucial. Developing countries must navigate these complexities to implement effective and sustainable climate strategies that address their unique circumstances and needs.

2. Nuclear?

During my time with nuclear submarine research, it has become abundantly clear that nuclear power is safe, sustainable, and viable. The risks are largely overblown as well as outweighed by the benefits it brings.

Citations:

[1] World Bank Group Dec 2023. Poorest Countries, Climate Action is Development in Action <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2023/12/02/for-the-poorest-countries-climate-action-is-development-in-action>

[2] U.S Global Leadership Coalition Mar 2021. Climate Change and the Developing World: A Disproportionate Impact <https://www.usglc.org/blog/climate-change-and-the-developing-world-a-disproportionate-impact/>

[3] United Nations Oct 2019. Unprecedented Impacts of Climate Change Disproportionately Burdening Developing Countries, Delegate Stresses, as Second Committee Concludes General Debate <https://press.un.org/en/2019/gaef3516.doc.htm>