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Philosophy 103

October 31, 2019

Assignment 7: Climate Change and Changing your Mind

Climate change is a term that has been coming up more frequently in recent years. In the simplest terms possible, climate change is a generalization of global warming. Carbon emissions are at an alltime high in all of the Earth's lifetime and they only continue to grow. Many have said that it is a crucial task, saying that it is a top priority that we must deal with. Others disagree and say that it is a bunch of crap and that we should prioritize other things. The reason that climate change is so important is because we are damaging our only planet, yet at the same time, there is still time and effort to be put in to save the planet.

Bjorn Lomborg is a prime example of the "others". Although he does not deny that climate change is a major issue, he simply feels that there are other more important issues that would be better to prioritize. Lomborg's beliefs coincide well with my own, so his podcast was quite nice. During the beginning and reading some comments on the page, people wanted to argue with what he said, but he was correct. It was strange to hear someone argue their side of the argument so well. He says that he understands the problem, and appreciates the efforts being put in to solve the issue. He proposes that any policy put in at the moment will do little to help the environment; considering if we wait a few years, we might be in a better situation to implement more ideas. Many facts that sound false were said, but they were entirely true. Hearing them felt like taking a bite from a bullet. Many say that polar bears are dying out, yet to

the surprise of many, there are more polar bears now than there were in 1920's. Many have said that storm severity is getting worse each year that passes, yet again to the surprise of many, our satellite imaging ~40 years ago was not as accurate, hence skewing the data tremendously.

While speaking to my roommate about this topic, it seems like we disagree on a handful of parts of what was said. After having a civil discussion and speaking our minds, they were hardly changed, but we clearly understand the other side. The main points of the argument included global warming, sea level rise, and the possible fixes. The first point that was made was about the entire global warming situation; neither of us could deny that global warming exists as its effects are showing. The second point that was made was the sea level rise, and yet again we couldn't deny that it existed. Since my roommate is from China, it was pointed out that many parts of the east coast of China are at high risk of flooding due to sea level rise. The last main point was some possible fixes. He said that nuclear power was his go-to since it is efficient and it doesn't burn coal or fossil fuels. Personally, Lomborg's point of making cheap energy accessible to the world stood out more. At the same time, I believe that it is also better to try and focus on improving developing countries to try and educate them on the situation, and once everyone can assist, we can begin improving the world around us.