

Review of *Climate Change and Migration: Security and Borders in a Warming World*, by Gregory White. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. 192 pages.

Climate Change and Migration by Gregory White details the newfound principles of Climate-Induced Migration (CIM) and how the current international field is combatting this emerging global issue. The reader's journey begins with an understanding of the current system of both climate change and immigration in which White makes significant claims, stating that migrants live a bare life in which they "exist outside of state sovereignty" and thus do not have any rights or freedoms at all. While focusing heavily on the policy and logistics of the issue of migration, White humanizes the issue by bringing up the idea of defending the indefensible. He explores how government organizations at times make wrong policy decisions and sell them as positive steps. In contrast, he claims that when it comes to the issue of immigration, governments try to project it as a problem even though there is human life and stories behind the numbers and facts. White also brings about the issue of CIM through three lenses. The first is the actual basis of CIM and whether or not climate change is inducing an increase in migration. He provides evidence from growing environmental unrest in areas such as Bangladesh, Sahel, and Sub-Saharan Africa to show that CIM is a real issue in today's society. However, he debunks many of the myths that people have about CIM such as the fact that it perpetuates long-distance migration when in fact it either forces people to travel short-distances or stay put due to a lack of resources. His goal throughout this book comes off as an attempt to fight against the anti-immigration rhetoric that politicians use to appeal to the public. The next segment of his book focuses on the securitization of immigration and specifically CIM. As nations work to target CIM they tend to put up borders and fences and militarize the entire process of immigration, in efforts to reduce illegal immigration. However, White's main message through the book centers on the wrongs of securitizing CIM since he believes that it will only worsen the world from its current state. The biggest problem he articulates is that by securing one's national border policy makers are only pushing the responsibility onto another country and forcing them to take the burden of the migrants. He sees North Atlantic nations also extending their state sovereignty by forcing countries near them (transit states) to create increased border safety measures themselves, thereby cutting off potential migration from countries further away. This brings up the central theme of transit states throughout his book and how these states use their designation as transit states as tools in diplomacy to create positive environments from themselves. White ends his book by sending out a call to action, asking nations to create a global commission to deal with CIM instead of linking the issue to illegal immigration. Furthering that goal is the hope that countries will take climate change seriously and mitigate the issues instead of treating it as an unsolvable issue.

Reviewed by Srivarun Tummarakota
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, Class of 2017