CLIMATE POLITICS

By exploring the dynamic relationships between politics, policymaking, and policy over time, this book aims to explain why climate change mitigation is so political and why politics is also indispensable in enacting real change. It argues that politics is poorly understood and often sidelined in research and policy circles, which is an omission that must be rectified because the policies that we rely on to drive down greenhouse gas emissions are deeply interconnected with political and social contexts. Incorporating insights from political economy, sociotechnical transitions, and public policy, this book provides a framework for understanding the role of specific ideas, interests, and institutions in shaping and driving sustainable change. The chapters present examples at global, national, and local scales, spanning from the 1990s to 2020s. This volume will prove valuable for graduate students, researchers, and policymakers interested in the politics and policy of climate change mitigation. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

CAROLINE KUZEMKO is Professor in Political Economy of Climate Change at the University of Warwick. Her work explores the roles of politics and policy in enabling, constraining, and shaping sustainable energy transformations at international, national, and local governing scales. She is an award-winning author, a Co-Director of the UK Energy Research Centre, and a co-founder and co-lead of the Energy Policy, Politics and Governance standing group of the European Consortium for Political Research. Her publications include the books *The Energy Security-Climate Nexus: Institutional Change in the UK and Beyond* (2013, Springer) and *The Global Energy Challenge: Environment, Development, and Security* (2018, Bloomsbury); and a journal special section on New Directions in the International Political Economy of Energy in the *Review of International Political Economy* (2019). Prior to her academic career, Caroline was Director at the Union Bank of Switzerland, where she worked in Latin American equities.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 15 Nov 2026 at 12:54:25, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009455725

‘Caroline Kuzemko marvelously draws on international political economy, sociotechnical transitions and public policy to show why mitigation politics have remained poorly understood in the past, and why politicisation is key for designing effective policies going forward. This book is an indispensable read for scholars of climate politics and anyone who takes an interest in fighting dangerous climate change.’

Professor Andreas Goldthau, University of Erfurt

‘Accessibly and engagingly written, this book expertly guides the reader through the complex world of climate politics, combining interdisciplinary theoretical insights and astute empirical observations to show how and why we have to place politics centrally in understanding societal responses to the threat of climate change’.

Professor Peter Newell, University of Sussex, author of
Power Shift and *States of Transition*

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 15 Nov 2026 at 12:54:25, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009455725

CLIMATE POLITICS

Can't Live with It, Can't Mitigate without It

CAROLINE KUZEMKO
University of Warwick

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 15 Nov 2026 at 12:54:25, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009455725

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009455688

DOI: 10.1017/9781009455725

© Caroline Kuzemko 2026

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant
licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for
which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place
without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009455725 under a
Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution
and reproduction in any medium providing appropriate credit to the original work is given.
You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0.

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.
Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009455725

First published 2026

Cover image: RelaxFoto.de / E+ / Getty Images

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN 978-1-009-45568-8 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-45571-8 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

For EU product safety concerns, contact us at Calle de José Abascal, 56, 1°, 28003 Madrid,
Spain, or email eugpsr@cambridge.org

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 15 Nov 2026 at 12:54:25, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009455725