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13 February 2023

### **Précis - Current & Future Trends: Climate Change**

A current global trend of great importance to me is climate change. In essence, the primary forces behind climate change are greenhouse gasses. It is said “these gasses make up just a small fraction of the atmosphere but exert outsized control on Earth’s climate by trapping some of the planet’s heat before it escapes into space”.<sup>1</sup> Much of these greenhouse gasses are left trapped in the atmosphere as a result of human activities, specifically the burning of fossil fuels.

Unfortunately, sheets of ice and glaciers are constantly melting both in the Arctic and Antarctic. The most dire consequence of this phenomenon is rising sea levels that can and have led to flooding / monsoons and droughts in some parts of the world. The fact of the matter is climate change is not simply just global warming, but a shift in Earth’s climate and nature as a result of human activities. This has already made an impact for decades, but we are beginning to see constant effects today. For example, for years now the Northeast has seen decreased levels of snow, and warmer temperatures in the peak of winter. California has been experiencing severe wildfires and drought in the past few years.

I have ranked this trend as having the greatest importance because the fate of the world quite literally hangs in the balance. For decades now each generation has managed to neglect this problem, yet we are finally beginning to see strides being made in the last decade especially. There are many potential action steps that can be taken, however, none are more important than cutting down our usage of fossil fuels. This can be done in a number of ways, a few are: the use of windmills, the use of renewable energy (i.e. electric cars), and more. The likelihood of these prevention steps being taken are high, and as luck would have it already being taken into account and implemented by many countries around the world.

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<sup>1</sup> Rosen J. The Science of Climate Change explained: Facts, evidence and proof. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/climate-change-global-warming-faq.html>. Published April 19, 2021.

### References

Rosen J. The Science of Climate Change explained: Facts, evidence and proof. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/climate-change-global-warming-faq.html>.  
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