

## FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The aim of this book is to provide a clear view of our current status and options in this age of more intense and frequent disasters (MIFDs) associated with Rising Average Earth Temperatures (Fahrenheit/Celsius). While Rising Average Earth Temperatures (RAETs) have been understood by many in terms of a Climate Change Paradigm (CCP), recent political events coinciding with completing my final version of this manuscript in February 2025, made it clear that not all leaders who need to design and implement policies to address MIFDs accept a CCP. I will explain what a, or the, CCP is, in the Introduction that follows, here. But for now, it is sufficient to identify the kind of disasters requiring immediate and renewed attention, namely MIFDs that cannot be addressed with skepticism or denied when they occur. Like MIFDs, RAETs are also easily and uncontroversially confirmed facts. Moreover, when RAETs are accompanied by droughts, heat that strains human life, and rising oceanic temperatures, they directly constitute disasters.

I am a philosopher by training and occupation but a philosophy of anything, in this case, a philosophy of contemporary disaster, is the same thing as theory in other fields. Here, it is theory of the multi-disciplinary subject of contemporary disaster. The multidisciplinary nature of disaster studies yields many specialists, but this book offers general descriptions and analyses for general readers of disaster studies, as well as to a broader audience of readers interested in life in our times. Still, when necessary, I have tried to present some of the specialized knowledge as accurately as possible, when such details are called for. This philosophical or theoretical treatment of contemporary disaster studies, either with or without the CCP, requires analysis, conceptualization, and comparison, which are at times somewhat abstract. However, a generalist also has the freedom to consider specific empirical information, including case studies, and I have also done that.

Both Parts I and II of the book are intended to be practical. There are normative implications for those who seek to draw them, although this is not a work in ethics. Neither is it a philosophical continuation of my project in *Ethics for Disaster*. The 2023 update of that book devoted four new chapters to “The New Disaster-as-Risk World,” but it remained focused on the United States. This book is more attentive to direct work in disaster studies and aims for an international perspective. However, a time of rapid change creates its own blinkers. Parts of this book became dated by unfolding events as I was writing it in 2024-5. After the 2024 US presidential election, forebodings of administrative CCP skepticism created a new sense of urgency. I hope that readers in the future will receive this as a document of a difficult condition in human history, if human life on earth by then is not so different from how it is now that it precludes this book from serving as intelligible history.

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