

Heated debate – notable new books on climate and the environment

Writers tackle themes such as the roles of capitalism and ideology in the future of the planet

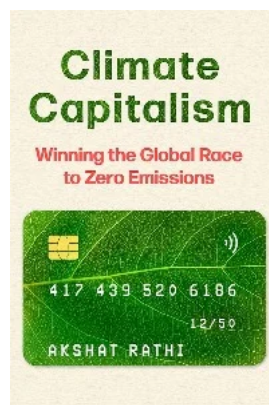


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Pilita Clark YESTERDAY

Can capitalism fix the climate? If it doesn't, are we doomed to a world of extreme heat and even the end of life as we know it? Or have we succumbed to an ideology of "climatism" that wrongly prioritises global warming as humanity's greatest challenge?

Four new books offer answers to these questions, starting with **Climate Capitalism: Winning the Global Race to Zero Emissions** (John Murray, £20) by the Bloomberg journalist Akshat Rathi. Rathi joins a growing number of authors making the case that just because we've ignored the climate problem for so long doesn't mean it will soon be too late.



In fact, striking technological, financial and policy progress is being made around the world, argues Rathi, who brings this shift to life with engaging stories of people behind some of the most important advances in recent decades. There's the little-known Chinese bureaucrat who has revolutionised electric car production as profoundly as Elon Musk; the British baroness who forged world-leading climate legislation; the Texan oil boss investing millions of dollars in direct air-capture technology, which sucks carbon out of the air and stores it deep underground.

Rathi's assessments sometimes veer into overly rosy territory, and he repeatedly acknowledges that far faster action is needed. But this is still a highly readable reminder that efforts to cut emissions are achieving a lot more than is widely realised.