

Should China and India be held to looser emissions standards?

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Pro

- **China is exceeding expectations/obligations to lower its emissions.** As of 2008, China's per capita emissions of CO₂ were still one-quarter that of the US. Though China continues to build emissions-intensive coal-fired power plants, its "rate of development of renewable energy is even faster". Within reason, it is doing a good job of combating global climate change.
- **China/India can't bare same costs as developed states on warming.** China is not able to take up the same responsibilities in fighting global warming, mainly because it would entail much greater economic consequences for them. This is the case for the entire developing world, which is more vulnerable to any external financial burdens.
- **Developed states are exploiting standards to constrain India/China.** Many developed countries nefariously see emissions standards as a means to constrain China and India's rapid development and to minimize the effect of this new competition on their own economies. The world needs to be aware of this conflict of interests when interpreting the arguments coming from developed countries to hold China and India to equal standards.
- **Developed countries have had more of a chance to pollute so China and India deserve the same freedom.** Although China and India are two of *today's* biggest CO₂ emitters, the US and Europe have already emitted huge amounts in the past. From 1960 to 2013, the US emitted almost 100,000 megatons more CO₂ than China, nearly double what China emitted in the same amount of time.

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Con

- **China is worst contributor to climate change; has equal obligations.** In 2006, China's CO2 emissions surpassed those of the US by 8%, according to the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, making it the largest contributor to global warming. This means that, in the era of knowledge regarding the effects of greenhouse emissions on global warming, China has at least an equal responsibility as developed nations to cut emissions.
- **China is basically "developed", with higher "obligation".** While many presume that China is a "developing" country, many others, particularly in the much poorer parts of Southeast Asia, consider China to be in the "developed" category. China was, after all, the third largest economy in the world at the beginning of 2009. As a "developed" nation, China would certainly have a greater obligation to fight global warming. Emissions exemptions would violate this obligation.
- **China and India emissions will increase over time; cannot be exempted.** India and China are two of the world's worst polluters. As they industrialize, their contributions to global warming will become astounding and far exceed the emissions from other countries. Compared to 2005, China's total emissions increased by 9% in 2006 (to 6.2 billion tons of CO2), while emissions in the US decreased by 1.4% (to 5.8 billion), compared to the previous year. China's increasing rate of CO2 emissions is heading toward a 50-100% increase above the current world total for CO2 emissions, by 20 years from 2008. The scientists warn that if China continues to increase its GDP at a rate of at least 7% per year, it will by then be emitting as much CO2 per year as the whole world emitted in 2007, -- 8 gigatons per year. China has a unique obligation to cut this high and dangerous emissions growth rate. Holding them to looser standards with emissions exemptions would exacerbate this already disastrous prospect.
- **China's emissions harm neighbors/world; exemptions are unfair.** Japan has complained about the dramatic local effects of China's pollution on Japan's forests and people. Exempting China would condemn Japan to even greater consequences from Chinese pollution. In a world in which the consequences of a single state's pollution affect its neighbors and the entire world, exemptions are irresponsible and unfair.