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Book Review

The book I chose is called “Negative Emissions Technologies and Reliable Sequestration”. The book was written in an odd format and there were at least 5 authors per section of the book and about 7 sections per chapter. The book was composed of many authors from the same few organizations, these being: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Division on Earth and Life Studies; Ocean Studies Board; Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology; Board on Earth Sciences and Resources; Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources; Board on Energy and Environmental Systems; Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate; Committee on Developing a Research Agenda for Carbon Dioxide Removal and Reliable Sequestration.

The genre of the book is a research agenda, it is about a few of the many ways to combat CO2 emissions in the atmosphere and a few of them were methods in the process of being researched and hopefully brought into action. These methods are currently being tested and researched within the United States with help from a few authors in different countries. This book is really written to help shed some light on what we can do to combat pollution that has already occurred and a little bit about how we will see if progress if we do nothing. The book ended with a conclusion that summed up all the research projects and what stages they are at and how they will develop if upscaled from the testing. The book also ends with a synthesis that has a proposed research agenda and a budget summary, it almost reminds me of a call to action in a way just by listing out some facts that would be helpful and important to policy makers. I chose this book because I feel like I don’t know a whole lot about the specifics of pollution and everyday people pollute the earth and CO2 is a major way everyone pollutes the earth daily. I felt that knowing more about CO2 and not just the dangers but also the clean-up is great knowledge to have. It tends to be that every time I hear about CO2 it is on the topic of preventative measures, these are helpful to help prevent further damage, but I felt that it was important to learn about some ways to tend to the damage that has already been done.

One thing that I really enjoyed about the book was the fact that it seemed so unbiased. This is due to many different factors but the main one being that it was written and composed by so many different people in so many different areas of not only the globe but also just in expertise and backgrounds in general. There was one particular chapter in the book which discussed direct air capture and it was a topic I had heard about a little bit in the news and in the media in general, but I didn’t know all too much about it. All that I had heard was many people are upset that it wasn’t being used or pushed more than it currently is. The book touched on the positives of direct air capture, but it also discussed things that have been left out in the media which I feel as though, would’ve never been widely aired. In the media today it is almost impossible to find information that seems to be unbiased, so it was very refreshing to find a book about a worldwide issue that felt unbiased.

I was very impressed about the research agenda genre; I didn’t know or have any sort of expectation of what that would entail but I was pleasantly surprised. I really felt that in a way, it was almost exciting to hear about different ways that we could control and eliminate CO2 in the atmosphere. It was super interesting to read, and I thought it was cool that they incorporated how far they were in the research and development process of the new methods. They also tied into the part that I liked about the article being unbiased with the fact that even with the new methods, they wrote about the positives and negatives and an estimate for how long before it would be something that was able to be used and if it ever would be used based on price point and other factors.

One thing that I did find difficult was the fact that a lot of things weren’t completely described as good as they should’ve been. I did find myself having to look up a decent number of words that were said but, that being said, the target of the research agenda was definitely not people like me who have nearly no knowledge of the healing process brought by pollution. That was my only complaint about the book for the most part was the fact that it was quite difficult for the average person to follow and comprehend without having to turn to outside sources but it is also a research agenda so that is very understandable.

The final thing that I enjoyed about the book was how much better it was than the peer review articles, as crazy as that sounds. The peer review articles were very difficult to find in general and were less than what the book ultimately gave me. The way that the book was layed out, it felt like a composition of all kinds of peer reviews. Each chapter was composed and written by many different authors which made it feel more scholarly and composed of different writings and data.

Even though it was hard to follow in some areas, I felt that I still got a lot out of the book, and it was fascinating to read about the different methods that are currently being researched and developed. I give the book an overall four out of five stars because of the fact that it wasn’t really catered to a general audience, but it was very informational and thorough. I would recommend this book to people who genuinely want to learn about some of the methods that are currently being developed to combat pollution. I would also recommend only to people who have a more scholarly vocabulary when it comes to the topic of pollution and want to know very extensive details of each method. I think people who would find this book most interesting would-be different people for some different chapters of the book. For example, I feel that Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 of the book would appeal well to geologists. Chapter 6 was about the research behind mineralizing carbon so it can be stored in the same form as calcite which is a rock forming mineral. Chapter 7 was about a different method of storing CO2 and it was to transform it into a fluid and insert it at least one kilometer below the surface inside of rock. As a whole, I feel that the book appeals to policy makers and those who control how government money is spent. Chapter 4 in the book touches on this with the method BECCS which is a combination of three methods that all together have a much bigger effect on pollution at a relatively cheap price point. Chapter 4 discusses how it has been researched, tested, and proven, it just needs to be accepted by policy makers. Currently, policy makers don’t know much about it nor have they taken the time to read and look into the research. I think that if policy makers read the book and knew more about up-and-coming developments to combat pollution, we would see more changes and more positive things stem from research articles like this one.

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