

Why carry on tackling climate change?

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As the [New York Times](#) notes in a mail this morning:

The leaders of China, Russia and Japan won't be there. Neither will the leaders of Australia, Indonesia or Turkey. But the most notable absence is that of the United States. For the first time since countries began gathering 30 years ago to take action against global warming, the U.S. is not sending any top officials.

The premise of these gatherings is that climate change knows no borders and can be stopped only if countries come together. Can the world do it without the U.S.?

My answer is, yes, it can.

As is very obvious right now, as the real climate pressure begins to increase, the enthusiasm of some states, including the UK, for action is declining. What is more, the excuses are rolling in, with the likes of Bill Gates saying climate change won't be so bad after all.

Deep down, I always thought this might happen, although I was not sure how and when. It always seemed too good to be true that neoliberalism gave in as easily as it did. But at the time, the costs had not been rolling in; now they are. The counterattack is happening.

We have four choices as always.

- * We can ignore what is happening.
- * We can accept what is happening.
- * We can reframe what is happening, which in some situations means walking away, but we cannot in this case.
- * We can fight what is happening.

Those are usually the only options we have in any situation we face.

What is the only credible option? This, of course, is fighting what is happening. We have built up decades of awareness. That was for a reason. This fight was always going to happen. And now it is. If we give in now and pretend that Trump and others are right, the result is inevitable: we fail to protect future generations when it is our duty to do so.

In that case, whilst proceeding without China, Russia, Japan, Australia, the United States, and others diminishes immediate prospects for success, the ethics of the case demand that we carry on, making clear by example what is needed and what is possible. We owe it to our collective children wherever they are in the world.