

## BOOK REVIEW

# Climate, economy and justice — the interdependent aspects of global well-being: An analysis of developmental economy, climate and justice in light of its global politics

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In his book *Climate, Economy, and Justice: Global Frontiers of Social Development in Theory and Practice*, Brij Mohan assembled the works of a team of experts on topics such as climate change, economics and social justice. According to the author, this book explodes myths about social welfare and development and offers a critical interface between “comparative social welfare” and “new social development”.

Brij Mohan, Professor and Dean Emeritus of the School of Social Work at Louisiana State University is praised as the “Father of Indian Psychiatry” and has authored many books, the most recent ones being *Development, Poverty of Culture, and Social Policy* (2011), *Society and Social Justice* (2012) and *Death of an Elephant* (2013). Adding to his list of professional achievements is also the fact that he is also the founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Comparative Social Welfare* (1985–2012), and *Journal of Environment and Social Psychology*.

Mohan’s life experience as a dedicated social life pioneer gave him the opportunity to explore new facets of social practise, which lends its relevance and utmost importance in a globalized culture that breeds social meltdowns, economic inequality, and injustice

on a global scale. His book *Climate, Economy, and Justice: Global Frontiers of Social Development in Theory and Practice* features a number of essays revolving around the main theme of climate, economy and justice, which Mohan believes to be interdependent aspects of global well-being.

In a book review, Sonia Kapur, Assistant Professor of International Studies from the University of North Carolina wrote, “Mohan urges us think in a framework of duality: de-development vs counter developmentality. The former raises the often-asked pertinent question in Mohan’s other writings — Is it the culture of poverty or poverty of culture that accounts for social misery and malaise?” The first part of the book delves into social work and existential questions of its ethics and practise on a global scale. In addition, as Kapur explains, Mohan also explores how economic models function to create further inequality in society with the already underprivileged at the receiving end of the system.

She further adds that Mohan provided a deeper insight into how major social science disciplines are unsuccessful in contributing towards the greater progress of mankind and yet “the socially conscious people have also led and participated in environmental

movements which are detailed through references to social environmental movements.”

What captures the reader’s attention, specifically, is social sustainability which is presented in Mohan’s writing as an “unexplored theme that is multi-layered” and requires sufficient “exploration for social development,” according to Kapur.

Kapur claims that as the reader moves on to the second part of the book, they would notice that the need for comparative social perspective is emphasized and the fact that Mohan had provided an insight into the themes of governance as applied to local cultures and societies, caste, religious differences and corruption also gives the reader a better understanding of social schisms in societies.

In the book’s foreword, Robert Kowalski, a visiting professor at the Instituto Socioambiental e dos Recursos Hidricos, states that “[Mohan’s] true brilliance has shone through his response to Beckhard’s

final term, *feasibility*, manifested in the third concept - *comparative social development*.”

In another praise, M.K. Gautam, Chancellor at East-West University, says that *Climate, Economy, and Justice* attempts to interpret what lies behind various attitudes, conflicts and agonizing frustrations and he further explains that Mohan’s work cogently proves of value to all those interested in exploring the global frontier of social development and allied social sciences.

Professor Susan P. Robbins, from the University of Houston’s Graduate College of Social Work, also shared her opinion about the book by stating that Mohan presents new perceptions of social relations and search for transformational theory and practice in human and social developments.

His work in this book proves to be of utmost value to anyone who is interested in “exploring the global frontier” of social development and allied social sciences, Robbins concluded.