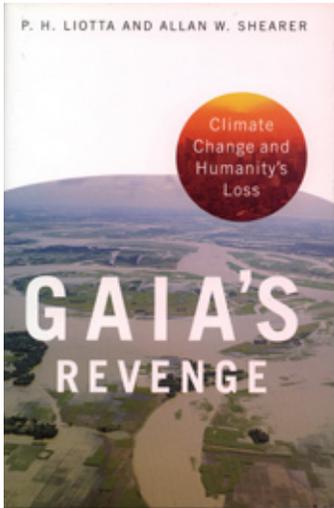management systems. All too often, they simply assume that the political elite will be virtuous, and thus do not explain how to achieve buy-in. The book also fails to account for China's growing influence, which has transformed the reform landscape, as well as oil-industry nationalization, which has recast the balance of power between oil companies and producing states. While these omissions leave room for further study, *Escaping the Resource Curse* is still an important contribution to a topic that is unlikely to go out of style anytime soon.

Gaia's Revenge: Climate Change and Humanity's Loss

By Peter H. Liotta and Allan W. Shearer
Westport, CT: Praeger, 2007. 194 pages.

Reviewed by DAVID M. CATARIOUS, JR., and RONALD FILADELFO

David M. Catarious, Jr., and **Ronald Filadelfo** work as research analysts at the Center for Naval Analysis (CNA), where they were members of the team that produced the April 2007 report *National Security and the Threat of Climate Change.*

In *Gaia's Revenge: Climate Change and Humanity's Loss*, Peter Liotta and Allan Shearer argue that scenario analysis can be a useful tool for policymakers searching for the proper response to the impending challenges presented by climate change. Over the course of seven chapters, the authors move from presenting the theoretical underpinnings of scenario development to discussing and critiquing an example of a climate change-focused scenario developed for the Department of Defense. Unfortunately, the discussion is, at times, disjointed and not fully developed. Despite these drawbacks, *Gaia's Revenge* provides an interesting change of perspective for members of either the environmental or security communities.

By looking only at the title, readers may mistakenly expect to read about the past and future effects of climate change on the planet and human beings in particular. Early in the text,

Liotta and Shearer make it clear that this book is not a history of or primer on climate science. In fact, the third paragraph lists everything the book is not supposed to be, concluding that "instead, this book is about the challenges that confront us and finding ways to envision the most effective actions that may best taken" (p. 2).

The authors review the changing definition of security; discuss the impact of different levels of uncertainty on the mindset of decision-makers; and offer a framework for developing and considering climate change-focused scenarios. In describing why these scenarios are of such importance, they state: "We must create representations that allow us to come to terms with [climate change]". *Gaia's Revenge* concludes with a chapter on the current state of the climate change debate in the United States, the difficulty of finding workable solutions, the major issues threatening human security in the coming century, and the need for action at levels other than that of the nation-state.
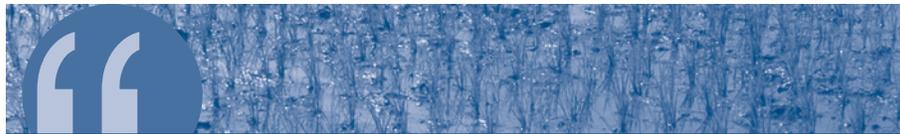
The book's strength is its ability to provoke discussion among policy- and decision-makers on opposite sides of the divide between the traditional security community and the newer players in the security realm (e.g., the environmental community). By discussing climate

change through a security lens, *Gaia's Revenge* could help the traditional security community find a place for environmental issues in its policy portfolio. Conversely, the book can aid the nontraditional security community by providing them with a methodology and framework for considering familiar issues from a new and useful perspective.

The third chapter, "Zombie Concepts and the Boomerang Effect," will be of most interest to both the national security and environmental communities. In it, Liotta and Shearer review human and environmental security and argue that we must broaden the parameters that define national security to include them. They state that since climate change and other "creeping vulnerabilities" differ from direct threats (such as those posed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War), we will not deal with these problems effectively if we continue to approach security concerns from a military-centric perspective. Because creeping vulnerabilities do not have a clear culprit or policy solution, they often fall prey to the "do-nothing" response. Reconsidering the cliché, "If all you have is a hammer, then every problem begins to look like a nail," Liotta and Shearer comment, "It might be more apt to say that when one only has a hammer, the problems that do not look like nails are ignored" (p. 59).

While we believe that the material covered by *Gaia's Revenge* is valuable, several aspects of the book could use improvement. First, the book is mistitled; it has very little to do with the Gaia hypothesis, mentioning it only in passing. The title implies that the book will focus on the impacts of climate change, but the text focuses on constructing scenarios. A more fitting title would help the book find an appropriate audience.

Second, the book's arrangement is awkward. The second chapter critiques the climate change scenario commissioned by the Department of Defense in 2003 (which is included as an appendix to the text). However, this discussion comes too early; it would have better for the authors to

> **Since climate change and other "creeping vulnerabilities" differ from direct threats…we will not deal with these problems effectively if we continue to approach security concerns from a military-centric perspective.**

discuss the possible frameworks for constructing scenarios and then describe the techniques used in the 2003 scenario. As currently organized, the second chapter seems to distract from the book's main purpose, and stands noticeably apart from the rest of the book.

More problematically, *Gaia's Revenge* reads like a collection of separate essays sewn together under one cover (as one could ascertain from the copyright acknowledgements). For example, the relevance of the material in the fifth chapter (which covers different types of uncertainty) to the rest of the text is unclear. The concluding chapter contains content useful to students of the debate surrounding climate change, but does not serve as a logical conclusion to the chapters that precede it. The organizational problems, occasional repetition, and dense content help make the text disjointed and confusing in places. Upon reviewing the book as a whole, the connections between the sections become clearer, but *Gaia's Revenge* would have delivered a better experience had the authors taken more time to excise extraneous material and keep the text more tightly focused.

While it is not for the casual reader and suffers from some organizational problems, Liotta and Shearer's *Gaia's Revenge: Climate Change and Humanity's Loss* is a valuable contribution to policymakers and researchers working at the nexus of national, environmental, and human security.

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