

Deutschland 2050 Wie der Klimawandel unser Leben verändern wird

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Why do most people perceive climate change as being far away from them in time and space? This phenomenon can be explained by „psychological distance“. In a documentary book, German journalists Nick Reimer and Toralf Staud demonstrate that climate change is all around human life, quietly altering everything.

Tracing the last 30 years, environmental pollution has brought considerable lifestyle changes. Although Germany and the world are working to reduce pollutants, accumulated greenhouse gases will increase air temperature. With time as a mirror, the authors take readers on a journey exploring the coming 30 years in this 374-page image-free book. Based on scientific findings, the average temperature will rise by at least two degrees Celsius by 2050. The way people live, work, recreate, and travel in Germany will change. People will struggle and coexist with new viruses. Natural disasters will become more frequent, and flora and fauna will be at risk. Cities and landscapes will also change their face. The book shows that human reactions are based on historical experience, while climate change will mean a complete failure of acquired expertise, unsettling the future even more.

Rather than science fiction, this is a German documentary about the past disasters caused by climate change. The broad audience made it an immediate bestseller, as any group of people wonder what tomorrow will bring. The authors seize the opportunity to popularize knowledge of many relevant subjects and subtly emphasize climate as the most vital influencing factor. In their previous book, *Wir Klimaretter* (2007), the authors proposed practical measures to reduce half of the carbon emissions by 2020. Unfortunately, the reality did not meet their expectations. In this new book, the authors thus tried a fresh approach from a psychological perspective, rather than telling people what to do. By describing figures and facts, the authors make people realize and fear climate change, thus reducing the so-called „psychological distance“. Numerous aspects are relevant to the future of a country, such as humans and nature, cityscape, society, economy, and politics. The categorized table of contents allows the reader to find the topics that interest them most at a glance. The adverse facts in the book are stunning. However, it is a certainty that temperatures are rising. In addition to focusing on physical health and social safety, there should be more psychological consideration to empower people to face the changes and hazards.

Prophetic and cautionary, this book will undoubtedly provide insights into future challenges for specialists in fields as diverse as architecture, industrial and product design, corporate investment, and political initiatives. Notably, it deserves the attention of landscape architects and urban planners on how future cities should be under the evolution of rivers and forests, application of new energy resources, and changes in transportation and community lifestyles.