



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Opening speech

Dietz, A.J.

Citation

Dietz, A. J. (2009). Opening speech. Retrieved from
<https://hdl.handle.net/1887/15482>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License:

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/15482>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

People and the Sea V

LIVING WITH UNCERTAINTY AND ADAPTING TO CHANGE



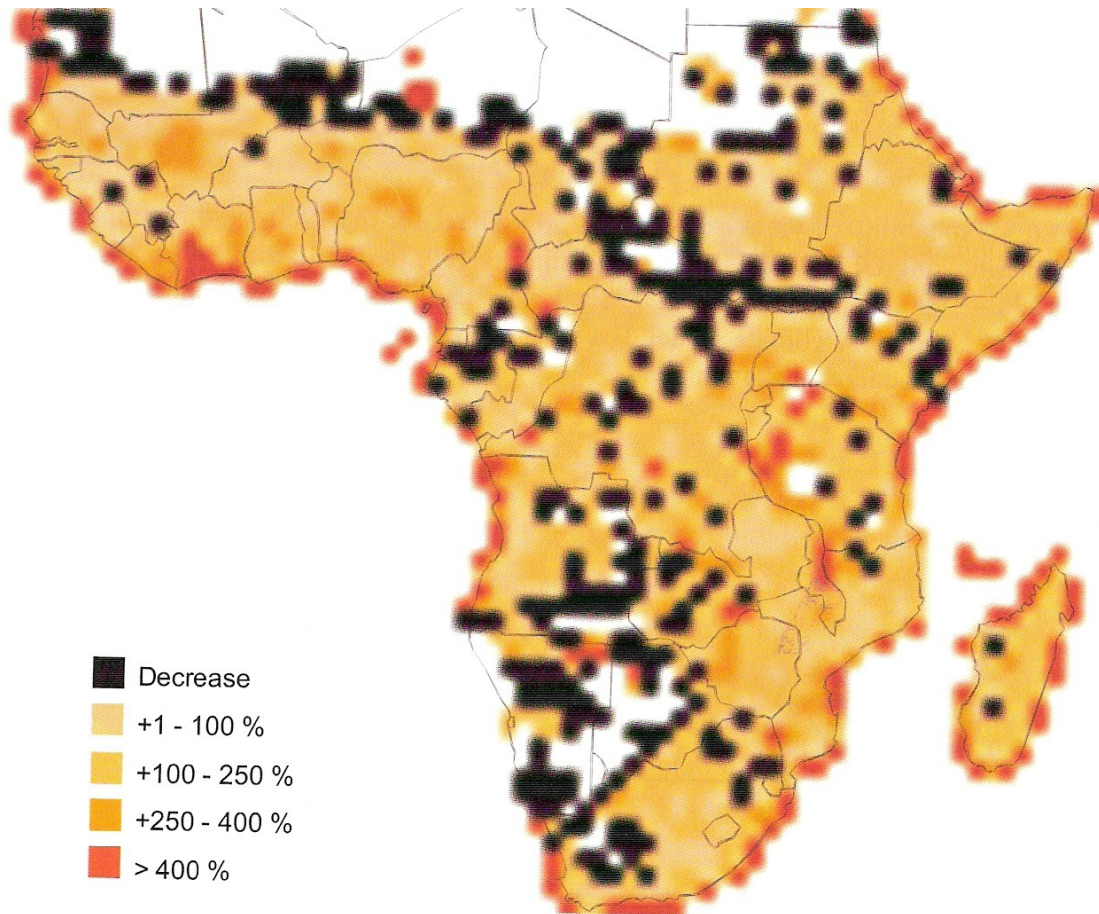
People at Risk

- The majority of people on Earth live in urban environments now
- There has been a massive population growth in and migration to coastal areas
- The most vulnerable people live in the most risky places in these coastal areas
- Climate change adds to a host of risks for these coastal people: sea level rise, storms, inundations.



New Orleans 2005

Sub-Saharan Africa 1960-1995



- Massive population redistribution
- Most coastal areas: population increased more than fourfold

HARALD WELZER

KLIMAKRIEGE

Wofür im
21. Jahrhundert
getötet wird



S.FISCHER

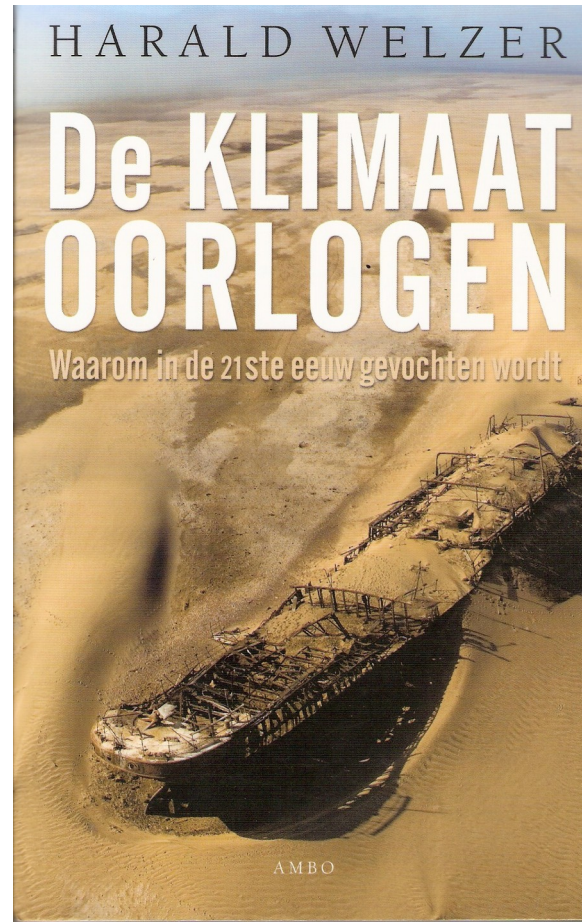
A disturbing
book



HARALD WELZER

De KLIMAAT OORLOGEN

Waarom in de 21ste eeuw gevochten wordt

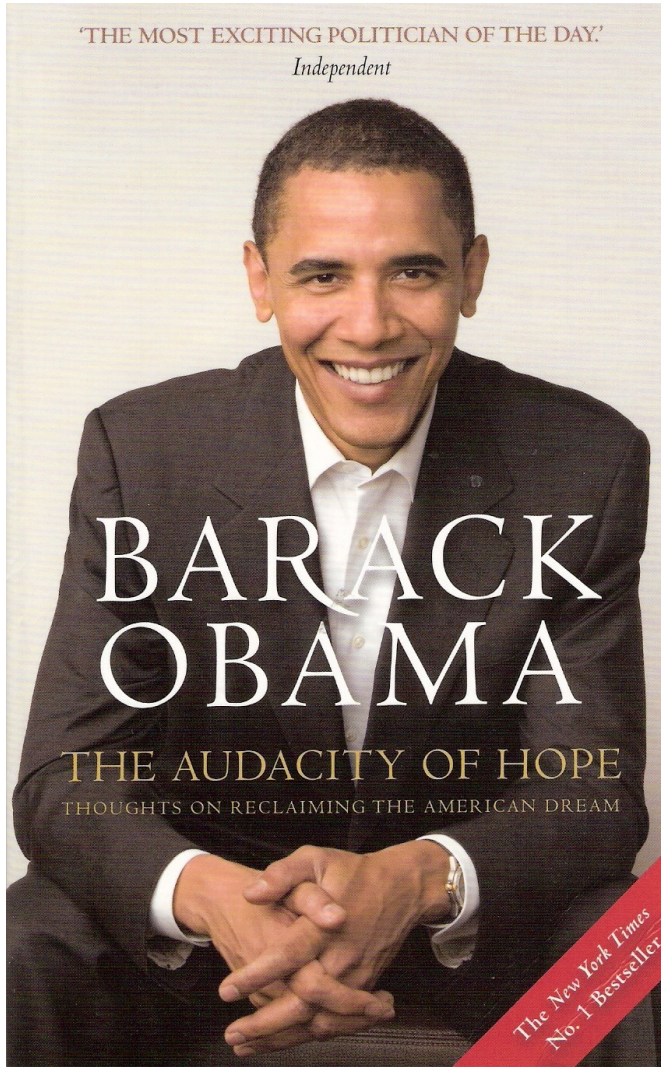


AMBO

Disturbing book

- The world will not reach agreement on effective global climate governance
- The generations causing the problem will hardly suffer the consequences
- The people in areas who have caused the problem might be able to adapt and defend themselves against the consequences of climate change
- The people in areas who have not caused the problem will be the ones hit most, and they will not be able to adapt
- Not climate change but resulting governance breakdown and climate wars will be the cause of social disaster, on a global scale.

Reason to be optimistic?



Barack Obama on hurricane Katrina:

“...nearly two months after the storm, after the outrage and shame that Americans across the country had felt during the crisis...it felt as if nothing had happened.... The sense that the nation had reached a transformative moment...had quickly died away.”

Needed

- Global governance on mitigation of and adaptation to climate change
- Technical knowhow
- But most important: institutional innovation
- And more creative social science and policy initiatives to cope with huge coastal problems, including the impact of climate change

Central questions of this conference:

- How do coastal people live with uncertainty?
- and
- How do they adapt to change?



Central questions of this conference

- How do coastal people live with uncertainty?
- and
- How do they adapt to change?

