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Why did 28,000 rivers in China suddenly disappear?

Startling government survey sheds new light on Chinese water crisis

By **Amar Toor** (<http://www.theverge.com/users/Amar%20Toor>) on April 3, 2013 09:09 am Email (<mailto:amar.toor@theverge.com>) @amartoo
(https://twitter.com/intent/user?screen_name=amartoo)

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For years, China claimed to hold an estimated 50,000 rivers within its borders. Now, more than half of them have abruptly vanished.

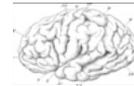
Last week, China's Ministry of Water Resources **announced** (<http://www.mwr.gov.cn/2013pcgb/merge1.pdf>) the results of a three-year survey of the country's waterways, revealing startling declines in water supply. According to the census, there were 22,909 rivers in China as of 2011, each covering an area of at least 100 square kilometers. That marks a decrease of about 28,000 from the government's **previous estimates** (http://www.irtces.org/isi/isi_document/ICEC_ChangeSedimentFluxChina_LIU.pdf), raising fears among environmentalists and putting Beijing on the defensive.

China's longest rivers, the Yangtze and the Yellow, have each seen **declining** (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/may/25/china-drought-crisis-yangtze-dam>) **water levels** (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=16918503>) in recent years, but the government's survey — its most comprehensive to date — may shed new light on the breadth and gravity of the country's crisis.

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According to the *South China Morning Post* (<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1200961/new-study-shows-dramatic-fall-number-rivers-china>), officials attributed the decline to global warming and outdated mapping techniques, saying previous estimates were based on incomplete topographical maps from the 1950s. Experts, meanwhile, say there are more direct factors at play — namely, explosive economic development and poor environmental stewardship.

Ma Jun, director of the Beijing-based Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, acknowledges that updated mapping techniques could explain some discrepancies in river estimates, though he notes that the government's findings corroborate those from independent studies.

"Our research has shown that in some areas, especially in north China, rivers are drying up or turning into seasonal rivers," Ma said in a phone interview with *The Verge*. There are several explanations for this phenomenon, including deforestation and, to a less certain extent, climate change, though Ma says the two primary catalysts are pollution and overpopulation.

"POLLUTION IS DESTROYING THE LIMITED RESOURCES WE HAVE"

Together, they form a potentially disastrous combination. China's mushrooming population has added extra strain to its limited water supply, while the country's rampant industrialization has left many rivers contaminated.

"At the moment, pollution discharge is destroying the limited clean resources we have," Ma said.

The extent of China's pollution problem was laid bare in grisly fashion last month, when more than **12,000 dumped pig carcasses** (<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/03/201331754454370437.html>) washed ashore in Shanghai and Jiaying. Agricultural and industrial waste has had a pronounced human impact, as well, contaminating water supplies in so-called **"cancer villages"** (<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn23212-china-takes-steps-to-clean-up-cancer-villages.html>) — a moniker for areas with particularly high cancer rates.

DEAD PIGS AND CANCER VILLAGES

These incidents have drawn greater attention to China's water crisis, while reviving concerns over the environmental costs of unfettered economic development. Chinese lawmakers, however, have been grappling with these issues for decades.



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China's modern water management system dates back to the 1960s, when a series of devastating floods forced Mao Zedong to commission an array of dams, reservoirs, and spillways. Mao's infrastructure helped prevent floods, but it also created ecological imbalances by blocking rivers that once flowed into the North China Plain. As a result, lakes and rivers in the region began drying up, and farmers began depleting well supplies.

Population growth has only compounded China's supply issues. According to a [2006 study](http://www.oecd.org/tad/agricultural-policies/36774638.pdf) (<http://www.oecd.org/tad/agricultural-policies/36774638.pdf>) from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), China's water use has increased more than fivefold since 1949, forcing the government to take even more drastic measures.



In 2008, China unveiled the Three Gorges Dam — a massive hydropower project that the country heralded as a marvel of engineering. Today, it's the largest hydropower structure in the world, though it has had disastrous ecological and social effects, resulting in deadly landslides and the displacement of an estimated 1.4 million people.

The government openly [acknowledged](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jqP-B675ZY8xNA1UruGP3EvPkibQ?docId=CNG.c650d8e4001215100d640542fe72e0b8.4b1) (<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jqP-B675ZY8xNA1UruGP3EvPkibQ?docId=CNG.c650d8e4001215100d640542fe72e0b8.4b1>) these pitfalls in 2011, but it remains intent on building the South-North Water Transfer Project — an even grander undertaking that the *New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/02/world/asia/02water.html?pagewanted=all>) described as "China's most ambitious attempt to subjugate nature." When completed, the \$62 billion initiative will divert water from China's already drought-ravaged southern region to the northern Yellow and Hai rivers.

"AN EMERGENCY RELIEF EFFORT"

Ma describes the Water Transfer Project as "an emergency relief effort," citing the dire situation in China's northeast region, though he doesn't see it as a viable long-term solution.

"They could run out of water without this project," he said, "but even the current volume of redirected water likely won't be enough to keep up with demand."

Instead, Ma and others say China should focus on controlling demand and regulating pollution, rather than re-allocating its water supply.

Xavier Leflaive, head of the water team at the OECD's Environment Directorate, says China should implement market-based reforms to encourage more responsible water usage, while phasing out fertilizer subsidies to mitigate agricultural runoff.

about 3 hours ago by [technofou](#)

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ALL

(/FORUMS/ALL)

He acknowledges that China isn't the only country facing these issues; global water demand is expected to increase 55 percent over the next three decades, and rapidly developing countries like India have faced [similar crises](#) (http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/29/world/asia/29water.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0) . But Beijing's unique economic and social developments add an extra layer of urgency. "This global trend is exacerbated in China by the speed and scale of urbanization and economic development, and by a lack of strong monitoring, inspection and enforcement capabilities," Leflaive said in an email to *The Verge*. "This lack is limiting the effectiveness of otherwise sound policies, laws and regulations."

China has implemented tougher regulations on water usage and pollutants — the so-called "[three red lines](#)" (<http://aqueduct.wri.org/blog/improving-china%E2%80%99s-yellow-river-why-business-and-government-need-work-together>) — though it remains to be seen whether they can be enforced across an expansive, and fast-growing economy.

"PUNISH OFFENDERS WITH NO MERCY AND ENFORCE THE LAW WITH AN IRON FIST"

The good news is that the Chinese government seems willing to take a harder stance on environmental stewardship. In the past, Beijing has [scoffed](#) (<http://www.reuters.com/article/2009/09/05/us-g20-finance-climatechange-idUSTRE5841RZ20090905>) at calls to control its greenhouse emissions, arguing that it shouldn't be punished for its own economic prosperity. But Premier Li Keqiang has adopted a more environmentally conscious tone in recent weeks, vowing to be more transparent about his country's ecological issues.

"We must take the steps in advance," Li [said](#) (http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2013-03/27/content_16347690.htm) last month, "rather than hurry to handle these issues when they have caused a disturbance in society."

The premier has also promised to enforce current regulations on pollution, as he explained at his debut press conference in March.

"This government will show even greater resolve and take more vigorous efforts to clean up such pollution," Li [said](#) (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/mar/18/china-new-premier-vow-tackle-pollution>) . "We need to face the situation and punish offenders with no mercy and enforce the law with an iron fist."

IMAGE CREDIT

CLGREGOR (FLICKR) ([HTTP://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/CLARK/1074240802/SIZES/L/IN/PHOTOSTREAM/](http://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/CLARK/1074240802/SIZES/L/IN/PHOTOSTREAM/))

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS (<HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/FILE:THREEGORGESDAM-CHINA2009.JPG>)

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[Glenn Howes \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes)

Whenever you see a phrase of the form "attributed the decline to global warming and outdated mapping techniques" in print these days it usually means it's 99.99% outdated mapping techniques.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:17 AM (#153752865)



[GebradenKip \(http://www.theverge.com/users/GebradenKip\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/GebradenKip)

Wouldn't it be nice if the world was simple like that.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:18 AM (#153753023)

[thehun69 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/thehun69\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/thehun69)

Like rid the world of communists? Yeah it would be nice.

Apr 4, 2013 | 12:38 AM (#154019923)

[Intracacy \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Intracacy\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Intracacy)

What communists do you think there are in china? You mean the state run capitalist dictatorship? Ever read what communism is about? If I call myself superman, that doesn't make me superman. Why are you so naive?

Also, I consider myself to be a communist. Fire away your hate.

Apr 5, 2013 | 12:13 AM (#154253123)



[bromaier \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bromaier\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bromaier)

if Marx and/or Engels knew the current perception/implementation of communism he'd totally be like screw this I'm done

Apr 5, 2013 | 4:21 AM (#154264601)



[Dube \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Dube\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Dube)

You sir are ignorant. Did you read the whole article? Have you done ANY research on this topic yourself? I have, it tells me you're ignorant and wrong.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:24 AM (#153753763)



[Glenn Howes \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes)

I read a lot of articles on sites like Ars Technica and I see that phrase all the time and quite often the connection is quite tenuous. I'm about as well informed about general science as anyone with a hard science Ph.D (in my case I trained as an Analytical Chemist) who doesn't actively use it.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:57 AM (#153758271)



[Dube \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Dube\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Dube)

So you are chemist who believes dumping large quantities of foreign chemicals (in various states) into a a billion year old chemical equation* would not alter the already existing balance in that environment.....

cool!

*very lame way of speaking about the global environmental balance (which is affected by many things, one of which being atmospheric composition, something a Chemist would certainly understand)

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:12 AM (#153760389)



[Glenn Howes \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes)

First of all, I'm not a Chemist, I'm an iOS developer. I just have a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Second, I was simply commenting on the commonplace occurrence of attributing any bad thing to global warming when a more proximal reason will suffice. In this case, bad maps and bad water management. You'll notice that the bureaucrat are being called out in this very story for blaming things out of their control (old maps, global warming) when the problem is very much the responsibility of the Chinese bureaucracy with its corruption and incompetence.

The rivers of China are important to me. My wife is Chinese and every time I cross our local river (the Merrimack) I think of how much better we take care of rivers in the United States than do the people of the PRC. In fact, I've been looking forward to taking a river tour in China this summer.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:22 AM (#153762067)

[Demios \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Demios\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Demios)

Except the quantified that, properly at that. You are simply over reaching.

"officials attributed the decline to global warming and outdated mapping techniques, saying previous estimates were based on incomplete topographical maps from the 1950s. **Experts, meanwhile, say there are more direct factors at play — namely, explosive economic development and poor environmental stewardship.**"

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:04 AM (#153769321)

[MyDroopySack \(http://www.theverge.com/users/MyDroopySack\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/MyDroopySack)

Dude's an expert because his WIFE is CHINESE ok? So step off.

Apr 3, 2013 | 3:57 PM (#153846901)

[didibus \(http://www.theverge.com/users/didibus\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/didibus)

Your a Doctor of Chemistry, how much more can one be a chemist, if not a Doctor no less.

Apr 3, 2013 | 4:41 PM (#153862283)



[Kelsomatic \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Kelsomatic\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Kelsomatic)

Oh, I have no idea, maybe if he ACTUALLY DID ANYTHING WITH CHEMISTRY AT ALL ON A REGULAR BASIS. Fucking Christ.

Apr 3, 2013 | 8:41 PM (#153932579)

[ThisGuyRightHere \(http://www.theverge.com/users/ThisGuyRightHere\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/ThisGuyRightHere)

Do you know how much you have to do with a particular science in order to achieve a PHD?

A whole fucking lot – heck, his dissertation alone would boggle the mind.

I would be interested in knowing your highest level of schooling?

Apr 4, 2013 | 12:14 PM (#154078237)



[Kelsomatic \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Kelsomatic\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Kelsomatic)

Listen, he said he doesn't even call himself a chemist... That's what this is all about. Yes, he has a Ph.D. in chemistry, which technically, by the definition of the word/title "chemist," makes him a chemist, but that doesn't have much to do with my comment. This man asked "how much more can one be a chemist?" and I told him, plain and simple, that since he does not practice chemistry at all, he could most certainly be "more" of a chemist.

A big thing to take into consideration here is that this was 90% joke, and that everything we're talking about here is semantic bullshit.

Furthermore, my comment says absolutely nothing against the man with the Ph.D. himself, it actually backs up what he was saying, and that asking my highest level of schooling would only be purposed to compare mine against his, which is completely meaningless because, essentially, I'm on *his* side.

Unless you can actually counter what I've said in any given way, (because pointing out that it's hard to acquire a science based Ph.D., something I did *not* dispute, simply doesn't) your comment is entirely useless and meaningless, pointing out things no one asked about or disputed.

Enjoy your day. <3

Apr 4, 2013 | 6:20 PM (#154170221)



[Sammael \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Sammael\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Sammael)

People want to attribute global warming to every environmental ailment under the sun because of an insecurity over the acceptance of the idea. The problem is the more exaggerated and hyperbolic and pervasive they make their claims about global warming as a sinister root cause to all environmental ills, the weaker their case. The boy who cried wolf was not a lesson learned.

Apr 4, 2013 | 8:07 AM (#154043581)



[mex \(http://www.theverge.com/users/mex\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/mex)

eih, have you seen this RV?



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Copyright (C) Eugenio Garcia Villarreal, submitted 27 June 2012

Apr 5, 2013 | 2:55 AM (#154262787)



[GeanRogers](http://www.theverge.com/users/GeanRogers) (<http://www.theverge.com/users/GeanRogers>)

“how much better we take care of rivers in the United States”
haha.. yes. right. you guys from the U.S together with the chinese are actually a good couple in destroying things. Take also the Russians with you (whole cccp) and this world would be a better place.

Apr 5, 2013 | 3:50 AM (#154264135)



[BillMitchell](http://www.theverge.com/users/BillMitchell) (<http://www.theverge.com/users/BillMitchell>)

You need to know when to stop talking...

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:51 AM (#153766873)



[Glenn Howes](http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes) (<http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes>)

Are you threatening me?

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:52 AM (#153767121)

[leoele](http://www.theverge.com/users/leoele) (<http://www.theverge.com/users/leoele>)

I think he was talking to Dube, who's last response was a bit lackluster.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:55 AM (#153767691)



[Glenn Howes](http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes) (<http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes>)

Oh. you're probably right. Sorry. I do like the Cornholio gif that Wisconsinated put up.

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:26 AM (#153773755)



[Wisconsinated \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Wisconsinated\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Wisconsinated)



Apr 3, 2013 | 11:02 AM (#153769045)



[Bill Mitchell \(http://www.theverge.com/users/BillMitchell\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/BillMitchell)

I was backing you up... What a terrible mistake that was

Apr 3, 2013 | 8:45 PM (#153934491)



[lwatcdr \(http://www.theverge.com/users/lwatcdr\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/lwatcdr)

Actually it looks more like pollution and population are the issues. Global Warming is just what they always throw in.

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:04 PM (#153782111)

[stephenlang \(http://www.theverge.com/users/stephenlang\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/stephenlang)

That, and iPads.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:16 PM (#153798123)



[Sapan \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Sapan\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Sapan)

lol nice

Apr 3, 2013 | 5:50 PM (#153880931)

[Kangal \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Kangal\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Kangal)

Makes you think how enforceable are these laws, when the perp just camouflages himself in a crowd of Asian people.

(its a joke, no offence)

Apr 4, 2013 | 7:48 AM (#154042833)



[backporchprophet \(http://www.theverge.com/users/backporchprophet\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/backporchprophet)

This. Two strings of text caught my attention:

though Ma says the two primary catalysts are pollution and **overpopulation**.

Ma and others say China should focus on **controlling demand** and regulating pollution

How do you control demand for...water? Isn't that kind of like controlling population?

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:49 PM (#154006777)

[sp1ky \(http://www.theverge.com/users/sp1ky\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/sp1ky)

Of course you can. Increase prices, fines for wasting water. Curfews on when you can water your garden etc.

Apr 4, 2013 | 1:42 AM (#154030457)



[tekapo \(http://www.theverge.com/users/tekapo\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/tekapo)

Ban the 10 minute showers, ban the watering of gardens, ban the spas, swimming pools. enforce low flow toilets, etc I guess you get the jest now?

The actual amount water to keep people hydrated and clean is actually quite small.

Apr 4, 2013 | 3:18 AM (#154038491)



[backporchprophet \(http://www.theverge.com/users/backporchprophet\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/backporchprophet)

Makes a lot more sense that way. I guess I read the article and immediately drew conclusions based on what I've always heard about the way things are done in China. That's definitely my bad and thanks for your reply.

Apr 4, 2013 | 6:10 AM (#154041043)



[lwatcdr \(http://www.theverge.com/users/lwatcdr\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/lwatcdr)

Ban Golf courses...

Apr 4, 2013 | 10:12 AM (#154054837)

[informedObserver \(http://www.theverge.com/users/informedObserver\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/informedObserver)

Isn't that kind of like controlling population?

Well China **already has legislation** (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One-child_policy) prohibiting urban couples having more than one child, so the population control is kind of already there.

Apr 4, 2013 | 6:54 AM (#154041591)



[aardWolf \(http://www.theverge.com/users/aardWolf\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/aardWolf)

That, and forced abortions.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/6724580a-8d64-11e2-82d2-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2PV9rFsYT>
(<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/6724580a-8d64-11e2-82d2-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2PV9rFsYT>)

Apr 4, 2013 | 9:37 AM (#154050127)

[bewirenomali \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali)

I'm trained as a computational chemist. Your opinion is bollocks.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:36 PM (#153802447)

[Bast \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Bast\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Bast)

Wait! I know this game. I'm trained as a Quantum Nuclear physicist, both your opinions suck :)

Apr 5, 2013 | 11:06 AM (#154288243)

[Sonar Killa \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Sonar%20Killa\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Sonar%20Killa)

I bet you also believe in Creationism and have passion for guns... or am i wrong?!

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:32 PM (#153954795)



[backporchprophet \(http://www.theverge.com/users/backporchprophet\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/backporchprophet)

Here we have a short list of things that are in no way related to a person's level intelligence.

Apr 4, 2013 | 1:47 AM (#154031075)



[SRPuffinstuff \(http://www.theverge.com/users/SRPuffinstuff\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/SRPuffinstuff)

You are wrong....on many levels.

Apr 4, 2013 | 2:35 PM (#154117013)



[theendofdays \(http://www.theverge.com/users/theendofdays\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/theendofdays)

you're ignorant she's ignorant he's ignorant we're all ignorant

A proper discussion would start without pointing out where you think he is mistaken and then providing some sort of evidence to support your claim not simply attacking him.

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:04 PM (#153782205)



[speed_demon \(http://www.theverge.com/users/speed_demon\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/speed_demon)

Good point. A good argument isn't a yelling contest.

Apr 3, 2013 | 8:36 PM (#153930247)

[ThePompousOtter \(http://www.theverge.com/users/ThePompousOtter\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/ThePompousOtter)

I will heed your words.

Apr 4, 2013 | 9:51 PM (#154221245)



[gorskiegangsta \(http://www.theverge.com/users/gorskiegangsta\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/gorskiegangsta)

If you have done *actual* "research" on the topic, you'd remember that global warming causes rising sea levels and swelled rivers by increasing the rate of melting of polar ice caps – exactly the opposite of what's reportedly happening to China's river systems. So, either you haven't done the research, or you're the one who's willing to display ignorance on the subject.

Anyway, the article aptly mentions the fact that it's the officials and not the *experts* who attribute the phenomenon to global warming – it's the latter who claim (more reasonably, I might add) that “*..there are more direct factors at play — namely, explosive economic development and poor environmental stewardship.*”

Apr 5, 2013 | 12:43 PM (#154307207)



[herki \(http://www.theverge.com/users/herki\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/herki)

True, but it also increases the aridity of areas, and accelerates desertification if an area is dry enough. Lots of these rivers have a large enough change in elevation that increased sea levels will only be at the mouths of the rivers, where tidal changes can be easily seen.

Apr 9, 2013 | 12:41 PM (#155135761)

[Ninellec \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Ninellec\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Ninellec)

Libs will link anything from falling asteroids to a stumped toe with global warming.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:48 AM (#153756997)



[Glenn Howes \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes)

While this is often true, I think, on reflection about the article, what's going on here is that the Chinese government is using global warming as an excuse for their own poor water management policies; perhaps because some people will actually believe anything bad can be caused by AGW.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:37 AM (#153764567)



[DanAfterDark \(http://www.theverge.com/users/DanAfterDark\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/DanAfterDark)

There are several explanations for this phenomenon, including deforestation and, to a less certain extent, climate change, though Ma says the two primary catalysts are pollution and overpopulation.

Am I missing something? He seems to be pretty straight forward in saying climate change is a less certain cause, to the primary factors of pollution and overpopulation.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:51 AM (#153766955)



[Glenn Howes \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Glenn%20Howes)

I think people in this discussion got sidetracked, and I'm at fault for the sidetracking. You are right, the article is pretty clear about what the probable roots of the problem are.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:55 AM (#153767757)

[lassikin \(http://www.theverge.com/users/lassikin\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/lassikin)

global warming is now getting substituted with climate change all the time.

and then it's used in sentences which pretty much say that climate change causes climate change.

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:17 PM (#153785073)

[lancelott \(http://www.theverge.com/users/lancelott\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/lancelott)

"While this is often true..."

You just validated his unfounded and stereotypical hyperbole.

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:34 AM (#153775551)

[thehun69 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/thehun69\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/thehun69)

Naturally, there is nothing good can come out of the AGW hysteria. Cardinal Gore really effed this up for everyone.

Apr 4, 2013 | 12:49 AM (#154022461)

[bewirenomali \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali)

But that doesn't seem to be the case. I don't see anything here where the Chinese are attempting to use global warming in stead of another more pertinent cause. It's merely listed as a possible cause.

It's you who seems to express certitude that it is not.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:38 PM (#153803005)

[Humpledink \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Humpledink\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Humpledink)

While cons are too busy trying to find Jesus in a pancake or a piece of toast, or blaming hurricanes on gay

marriage, or scrutinizing Obama's birth certificate.

The difference between your comment in mine is that all the ridiculous things I mentioned are actually true. Your comment is just bad hyperbole.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:38 AM (#153764649)



[cgilmore \(http://www.theverge.com/users/cgilmore\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/cgilmore)

I think both sides make equal asses of themselves but seriously have we forgotten [Al Gore?](http://youtu.be/xf69EEL3WBk?t=10s) (<http://youtu.be/xf69EEL3WBk?t=10s>)

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:45 AM (#153765911)

[devwild \(http://www.theverge.com/users/devwild\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/devwild)

More like every side of most every argument ever has people that make complete asses of themselves, in addition to the people like those above who use their stupidity as talking points rather than actually staying on topic and ignoring them (or better yet, not voting them into office).

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:13 AM (#153770963)

[pegasus912 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/pegasus912\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/pegasus912)

I personally don't like Al Gore, but saying both sides make equal asses of themselves is a false equivalency. I think its pretty obvious Republicans make bigger asses of themselves.

Apr 3, 2013 | 4:37 PM (#153860727)



[cgilmore \(http://www.theverge.com/users/cgilmore\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/cgilmore)

Good one.

Apr 3, 2013 | 5:58 PM (#153882595)



[SickSixJames \(http://www.theverge.com/users/SickSixJames\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/SickSixJames)

Is this observation due to the fact that you don't like Republicans because you like Democrats?

Fanboys.....

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:08 PM (#154157455)



[JesseDegenerate \(http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate)

no, it's more due to the fact that only republicans (and stupid people) believe the vagina is capable of destroying "rape sperm"

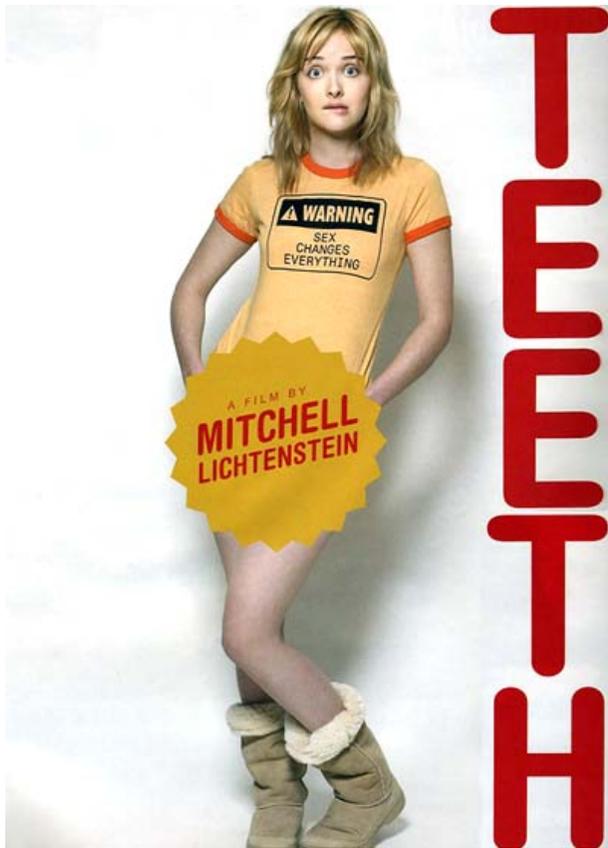
democrats are more annoying in a nanny state way. Shall we make a list?

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:50 PM (#154165049)

[bangishotyou \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bangishotyou\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bangishotyou)

Oh god. I had totally forgotten about that. When I first heard that said I thought to myself, "These are the f*cking morons we elect to make intelligent decisions on our behalf?!"

Completely (un)related and just as ridiculous (if you haven't seen it, I highly recommend it, it's a crazy as f*ck film) is this:



What you said totally reminded me of that just now.

Apr 5, 2013 | 9:41 AM (#154276227)

[sp1ky \(http://www.theverge.com/users/sp1ky\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/sp1ky)

The key word you use there is 'equal'. No it really isn't. You're part of the problem. Also, quoting South Park? Really?

Apr 4, 2013 | 1:43 AM (#154030633)



[cgilmore \(http://www.theverge.com/users/cgilmore\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/cgilmore)

So seeing fault in both sides makes me part of the problem? Cool story bro. It's fun to hate on conservatives these days isn't it? And yes, South Park gave an accurate caricature of Al Gore. But I see you left your sense of humor at the door. Excuse me.

Apr 4, 2013 | 10:37 AM (#154058975)



[Jesse Degenerate \(http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate)

you should watch the show sometime.

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:51 PM (#154165347)



[lwatcdr \(http://www.theverge.com/users/lwatcdr\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/lwatcdr)

Same to you buddy. Really can't we get a flag for stupid useless rants?

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:05 PM (#153782463)



[soBLACK \(http://www.theverge.com/users/soBLACK\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/soBLACK)

^Truth

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:10 PM (#153783331)



[KittenAppreciatorUSA \(http://www.theverge.com/users/KittenAppreciatorUSA\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/KittenAppreciatorUSA)

Nah. Libertarians don't care about anything except themselves.

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:24 AM (#153773335)



[SRPuffinstuff \(http://www.theverge.com/users/SRPuffinstuff\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/SRPuffinstuff)

Correction, Libertarians don't think their life is anyone's responsibility but themselves.

Apr 4, 2013 | 2:40 PM (#154118997)

[stephenlang \(http://www.theverge.com/users/stephenlang\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/stephenlang)

I was pondering global warming when I inadvertently walked into a wall and stubbed my toe, can I attribute my stumped toe to global warming?

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:18 PM (#153798375)



[speed_demon \(http://www.theverge.com/users/speed_demon\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/speed_demon)

Apparently if you are a liberal, yes.

Apr 3, 2013 | 8:46 PM (#153934661)

[bewirenomali \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali)

Libs will link anything from falling asteroids to a stumped toe with global warming.

Except this is the Chinese government though.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:37 PM (#153802713)



[doughybowie \(http://www.theverge.com/users/doughybowie\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/doughybowie)

Dum Dums will link anything from falling asteroids to a stumped toe to the Chinese government with Libs.

Apr 3, 2013 | 4:47 PM (#153863853)



[speed_demon \(http://www.theverge.com/users/speed_demon\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/speed_demon)

As a conservative, this is just stupid. Talk about a broaaaaad generalization...

Apr 3, 2013 | 8:37 PM (#153930823)



[JesseDegenerate \(http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate)

Libs will link anything from falling asteroids to a stumped toe with global warming.

because global warming **is happening**. and we are kinda fucking up this rock we live on. Does that mean we don't believe in naturally occurring ice ages? no. It just means we are scared of the impact we have on this planet.

Why is that in any way threatening to you?

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:54 PM (#154165827)

[GodShapedHole \(http://www.theverge.com/users/GodShapedHole\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/GodShapedHole)

Because the pockets of the people whose talking points he relies on are well-greased by the very industries whose profits rely on pollution.

Apr 5, 2013 | 6:49 AM (#154266645)



[Emmanuel A. \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Emmanuel%20A.\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Emmanuel%20A.)

Yeah, cause science has a well-known liberal bias.

Apr 5, 2013 | 4:34 AM (#154264785)



[Sharpmango \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Sharpmango\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Sharpmango)

outdated mapping techniques seems improbable. china has a long history of having a well-run bureaucracy. I

imagine even 250 years ago that these bureaucrats were effectively mapping the Sinosphere.
No, I think the maps are wrong because the facts have changed... that is much more probable over a 200 year span, then the fact the maps were wrong.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:37 AM (#153764591)



[patrickquirke \(http://www.theverge.com/users/patrickquirke\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/patrickquirke)

They must have been using Apple Maps!

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:20 AM (#153753235)

[jan. \(http://www.theverge.com/users/jan.\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/jan.)



Apr 3, 2013 | 9:33 AM (#153754799)

[RTFM \(http://www.theverge.com/users/RTFM\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/RTFM)

Or maybe all their data got corrupted from malware!

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:47 AM (#153756859)

[jbrandonf \(http://www.theverge.com/users/jbrandonf\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/jbrandonf)

Womp womppppp

Apr 6, 2013 | 5:17 PM (#154584323)



[KittenAppreciatorUSA \(http://www.theverge.com/users/KittenAppreciatorUSA\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/KittenAppreciatorUSA)

Maybe. Since Google doesn't do very well in China.

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:25 AM (#153773503)

[Jkjk \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Jkjk\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Jkjk)

Apple doesn't do well anywhere outside of US.

Apr 3, 2013 | 5:43 PM (#153879391)

[anano \(http://www.theverge.com/users/anano\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/anano)

Funny the Chinese media cared to pull them down then.

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:45 AM (#154040745)



[JesseDegenerate \(http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate)

wow, haha.

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:56 PM (#154166261)

[GodShapedHole \(http://www.theverge.com/users/GodShapedHole\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/GodShapedHole)

I have an ingrained distaste for Apple, but to insinuate they're not doing well in Europe is folly.

Apr 5, 2013 | 6:50 AM (#154266669)

[sag969 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/sag969\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/sag969)

Pretty scary. Unfortunately, it sounds like this will be a major issue that just gets worse and worse over the next 50 years.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:22 AM (#153753429)



[Vette \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Vette\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Vette)

Fresh Water is scarce. I think water scarcity will eventually cause another World War. Even now they bring up piping water out of the Great Lakes (I live less than 10 minutes from the shores of Lake Erie) to send to other areas.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:40 AM (#153755787)

[lassikin \(http://www.theverge.com/users/lassikin\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/lassikin)

you can't move water.. well you can but it makes less sense, since making water on the spot takes less effort(energy) than stealing water from halfway around the world. so an area with plenty of water is lucky if they can sell it off. if you manage to sell bottled water to be sent to china then very good for you guys! (and shame on stupid chinese).

local disputes, sure. but not a world war. and those local disputes over water have concentrated for fifty years on a small area of middle east because stubborn people want to live on badlands..

and I live in finland. got plenty of fresh water and lakes. worried about someone coming and stealing it? not really. anyone wants to buy it? no, not really, it's not marketed as well as perrier.

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:27 PM (#153787513)



[doughybowie \(http://www.theverge.com/users/doughybowie\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/doughybowie)

They have tried to bottle away the Great Lakes as well as proposals for new great canals to water the central plains and arid southwest when the aquifers finally give out. I think that's why the Great Lakes Commission is building all the legal dams they can right now before it becomes a national focus.

I do miss my [Swill \(http://www.metacafe.com/watch/5378456/bill_murray_snl_classic_commercial/\)](http://www.metacafe.com/watch/5378456/bill_murray_snl_classic_commercial/).

Apr 3, 2013 | 4:59 PM (#153867751)



[numberoneoppa \(http://www.theverge.com/users/numberoneoppa\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/numberoneoppa)

Ew... lol.

Apr 5, 2013 | 12:36 PM (#154305701)

[GodShapedHole \(http://www.theverge.com/users/GodShapedHole\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/GodShapedHole)

We're losing millions, possibly billions of tons of polar ice every year. Freshwater ice that just melts into the surrounding oceans, fucking up sea currents by changing their salt content.

Now if we were to take all that melt and let people drink it...

Apr 5, 2013 | 6:52 AM (#154266721)



[9876 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/9876\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/9876)

Gaddafi got it right: http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Manmade_River
(http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Manmade_River)

Too bad he was murdered.

Apr 5, 2013 | 10:47 AM (#154285117)



[nae2shabby \(http://www.theverge.com/users/nae2shabby\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/nae2shabby)

"This government will show even **greater** resolve and take more vigorous efforts to clean up such pollution," Li said.

Taking even 'greater' resolve from the buggler-all they've shown already is a worryingly vacuous statement from the Premier. I hope they see sense soon.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:10 AM (#153760107)



Dube (<http://www.theverge.com/users/Dube>)

This was a GREAT article. Thanks Amar Toor for writing it and Vox Media(The Verge) for publishing it. I appreciate this kind of work.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:25 AM (#153753863)

arnavd (<http://www.theverge.com/users/arnavd>)

I wonder at some point the people of China will look at their life and realize the price they are paying for their prosperity. I guess we are lucky in America that we have at least some protection (which unfortunately though a larger and larger group in Washington wants to step away from. There is always a price to be paid. Its a decision of you paying vs. your kids paying.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:30 AM (#153754435)



fourthletter (<http://www.theverge.com/users/fourthletter>)

So China is paying a price with their children ? They own a large chunk of American debt – remember that debt mountain your children will have to pay off ?

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:55 AM (#153757917)



Vette (<http://www.theverge.com/users/Vette>)

The Federal Reserve holds way, way more US debt than China

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:09 AM (#153759849)



KajunBowser (<http://www.theverge.com/users/KajunBowser>)

Monetizing your debt is never cool.

Apr 3, 2013 | 2:52 PM (#153823985)

realitymonster (<http://www.theverge.com/users/realitymonster>)

Most US debt is held by Americans. That's what bonds are—the government selling debt to citizens to fund projects. You can look up the exact percentages, but the vastly, vastly overwhelming percentage of US debt is held by US governments (at all levels), businesses and citizens.

And the Chinese own American debt for the same reason Americans do: it's safe money. They know it'll be paid back. It's not a lever—they're not going to 'call it in' and cause a sudden issue.

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:03 PM (#153782029)

Nexi (<http://www.theverge.com/users/Nexi>)

The Chinese government buys US debt to hold their currency down so that their products will be cheaper in the US, not really because it is safe.

[Here's a fairly good explanation](http://dalrock.wordpress.com/2011/07/27/why-china-has-to-buy-us-debt/) (<http://dalrock.wordpress.com/2011/07/27/why-china-has-to-buy-us-debt/>)

But you are right, a lot more debt is held by US citizens and institutions than China.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:19 PM (#153798727)



Strand0410 (<http://www.theverge.com/users/Strand0410>)

I wonder at some point the people of China will look at their life and realize the price they are paying for their prosperity.

I'll hazard a guess and say that they're counting their blessings. We are fortunate to even have the luxury of tut-tutting on environmental issues. For most of China's population, this new wealth is a godsend. There are Chinese people still alive who remember The Great Leap Forward and the very real fear that they would be one of the millions who wouldn't make it through.

China had a very ugly 20th century that effectively pulled the country back to the Ming Dynasty. All this economic growth is simply equalising the status quo. It might seem short-sighted, but the disappearance of rivers, biodiversity etc would probably be a distant concern if your country's economic policies were shaped by the memory of widespread starvation and abject poverty.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:55 AM (#153757961)

[Mojave3012 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012)

Really? Do you want to live in a city where you literally choking to death on the air? You count those people as lucky?

Apr 4, 2013 | 11:46 PM (#154249117)

VHS [Strand0410 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Strand0410\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Strand0410)

What a stupid comment. We can enjoy bountiful biodiversity, clean air and water because of environmental regulation. No *shit* I wouldn't want to live in a Chinese city. However if your country has been ravaged by widespread poverty and famine, any degree of air pollution will seem a reasonable trade to provide your family with reliable food and electricity.

My point is that it's extremely hypocritical for Westerners to judge them for doing what our countries did for centuries, just because they had to fast-track their economic development. This obviously flew right over your head, but I'm guessing that ignorance is a way of life for you, since you couldn't even figure out which fictitious [feature \(http://www.theverge.com/2013/3/9/4082106/microsoft-is-turning-it-around\)](http://www.theverge.com/2013/3/9/4082106/microsoft-is-turning-it-around) to pimp your chosen company.

the fact that I can charge the pen on the Surface magnetic port is genius.

Apr 5, 2013 | 2:30 AM (#154261923)

[GodShapedHole \(http://www.theverge.com/users/GodShapedHole\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/GodShapedHole)

You have a point.

I'll **never** move to L.A.

Apr 5, 2013 | 6:53 AM (#154266729)

[polackio \(http://www.theverge.com/users/polackio\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/polackio)

Prosperity? You haven't been to China, have you? The "prosperity" from their recent economic booms is pretty unevenly distributed. The vast majority of Chinese are barely any better off now than they were thirty years ago (and those who are economically better off tend to live in the most polluted urban environments in the world so... break even?). They went from a brutal dictatorial communism to full-on crony capitalism pretty quick.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:35 AM (#153764167)

[nirutochi \(http://www.theverge.com/users/nirutochi\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/nirutochi)

That's not true. Farmers' quality of life has dramatically improved since the privatization of agricultural land. The Chinese middle class is only about 20% of the population (depending on how you define "middle class"), but that's about 250 million people. Income disparity in China is not too bad (that is, if you think income disparity in the US is not too bad, as the Gini coefficient for both countries is very close). If you look at the December issue of China Quarterly, there is an article in there stating that Chinese agricultural workers are the class most satisfied with their quality of life. China is vastly better off now than when Deng Xiaoping first came to power. And contrary to popular belief, China's leaders do seem to care to ensure that income disparity and corruption do not get totally out of hand.

Apr 4, 2013 | 3:05 AM (#154037485)

[stephenlang \(http://www.theverge.com/users/stephenlang\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/stephenlang)

It's easy for us, now that we've gone through our boom and subsequent re-adjustment. There's still a lot of subsistence farmers in China, try to tell them they should continue doing that instead of pursuing better futures for themselves and their children. Protecting the environment is obviously important, but feeding your kids comes first. After that, people start looking around and wondering about the smog and pollution.

That being said, it's happening on a grander scale (both in population and probably in speed as well) in China so they really need to be careful.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:23 PM (#153799407)



[MinBat \(http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat)

Stop wondering, it is already happening. Spend some time in China and the environmental (food) problems are

number one topic of conversation. Less anecdotally, there has been a number of surveys in the last few months alone indicating environmental and food issues as the number one concern of Chinese. These surveys are both Chinese and international.

(One thing to keep in mind here is that environmental problems are for the most part ok to talk about in China, unlike some political issues, so the environment can be a bit of a trojan horse for general frustrations).

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:03 AM (#154040309)

[Noyz \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Noyz\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Noyz)

Stop the madness!

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:35 AM (#153755055)



[R. Walton \(http://www.theverge.com/users/R.%20Walton\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/R.%20Walton)

Cry me a river!

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:46 AM (#153756673)



[Jameseh \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Jameseh\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Jameseh)

JT plugging his songs again.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:53 AM (#153767269)

[theREALdotnet \(http://www.theverge.com/users/theREALdotnet\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/theREALdotnet)

Rivers? Seriously? What I wanna know – why do birds suddenly appear?

Apr 4, 2013 | 10:29 AM (#154057635)



[Jesse Degenerate \(http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate)

.. because you're near.

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:57 PM (#154166325)

[gregwarren2 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/gregwarren2\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/gregwarren2)

Because I needed another reason to dislike China.

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:51 AM (#153757281)

[bewirenomali \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali)

you "dislike" China?

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:42 PM (#153803753)



[nickselman \(http://www.theverge.com/users/nickselman\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/nickselman)

One thing worth noting: while the Chinese as a people are heralded for their hard work and diligence, it's actually a bit of a corner-cutting culture. The large-scale, drastic measures they take to improve one aspect of the country (to the detriment of another) would be stifled in the planning stages in a western country. It's sort of a dangerous combination: their scale/growth and the unilateral decision-making of their government.

Was the Three Gorges project commissioned on the same 1950s data?

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:53 AM (#153757647)



[MinBat \(http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat)

While I agree that there's a great deal of corner-cutting in China (specifically in matters such as construction), it is way too simplistic to attribute it to some kind of "corner-cutting culture." Even though I do not think this is your intention, this phrasing also smacks a bit of ethnocentrism like non-Chinese (presumably Westerners) are defining the "corners" and the Chinese fail to live up to it.

There are cultural standards at play here (re: things like public sanitation, for example), but these standards are rapidly changing and are multifaceted to begin with. But equally if not more important are things like corruption, bad oversight (the two are not the same thing), misallocation of human capital, etc.

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:07 AM (#154040379)

[jbrandonf \(http://www.theverge.com/users/jbrandonf\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/jbrandonf)

Excellent points.

Apr 6, 2013 | 5:50 PM (#154591575)



[MinBat \(http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat)

Well thank you.

Apr 7, 2013 | 6:03 PM (#154800177)

[БЯ byazrov \(http://www.theverge.com/users/byazrov\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/byazrov)

those people will destroy planet quicker than atomic bomb

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:54 AM (#153757727)



[fourthletter \(http://www.theverge.com/users/fourthletter\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/fourthletter)

Atomic bomb, only one country has used the Atomic bomb, twice guess which one.....

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:57 AM (#153758225)



[ranhalt \(http://www.theverge.com/users/ranhalt\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/ranhalt)

Only one country has used a nuclear device on another country. 8 countries have actually detonated them, totally over 2,000 detonations, the US and USSR/Russia being responsible for most of them.

Detonating them over a city is no more harmful to the planet than detonating them over the ocean or desert. Underground might be one thing, but you're still irradiating large amounts of earth that could be exposed at some point.

Neither of you have any idea what you're talking about.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:19 AM (#153761621)

[MrJspeed \(http://www.theverge.com/users/MrJspeed\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/MrJspeed)

I agree.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:28 AM (#153763033)

[trendingdown \(http://www.theverge.com/users/trendingdown\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/trendingdown)

No more harmful to the planet. Definitely more harmful to the people.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:38 AM (#153764637)

[bobrovsky \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bobrovsky\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bobrovsky)

True, but that wasn't the point.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:43 PM (#153804101)

[informedObserver \(http://www.theverge.com/users/informedObserver\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/informedObserver)

Technically, no, but logically, I suspect his idea of what constitutes 'destroying the planet' probably refers to human habitability rather than literally destroying the planet. Making trendingdowns comment relevant.

Apr 4, 2013 | 7:02 AM (#154041735)

[stephenlang \(http://www.theverge.com/users/stephenlang\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/stephenlang)

Don't forget the thousands (100's of thousands?) of rounds of depleted uranium bullets we've scattered across the Middle East.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:27 PM (#153800243)



[Emmanuel A. \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Emmanuel%20A.\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Emmanuel%20A.)

And Rumsfeld, Cheney and Bush got away with it while thousands of babies are born with extreme birth defects. You gotta love war.

Apr 5, 2013 | 4:38 AM (#154264823)

[Creamjuicy \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Creamjuicy\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Creamjuicy)

Finland.

Apr 3, 2013 | 5:09 PM (#153870745)



[hezec \(http://www.theverge.com/users/hezec\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/hezec)

As a Finn I have to ask... what.

Apr 3, 2013 | 7:05 PM (#153896049)

[Creamjuicy \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Creamjuicy\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Creamjuicy)

Only country to use the atomic bomb, twice.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:24 PM (#153976767)

[theREALdotnet \(http://www.theverge.com/users/theREALdotnet\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/theREALdotnet)

A poor second to Belgium when going abroad.

Apr 4, 2013 | 10:32 AM (#154058139)



[speed_demon \(http://www.theverge.com/users/speed_demon\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/speed_demon)

Atomic bomb, only **one** country has used the Atomic bomb, twice guess which one.....

I'll yell out the answer: 'Murrica. In all seriousness though, have you heard of what NKorea is saying?

Apr 3, 2013 | 8:53 PM (#153937647)



[Vette \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Vette\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Vette)

The atomic bomb hasn't the destroyed the world. The threat of it has probably saved the planet from another huge war thus far.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:10 AM (#153760025)

[informedObserver \(http://www.theverge.com/users/informedObserver\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/informedObserver)

The atomic bomb hasn't the destroyed the world

Yet.

Just like the solution to gun crime isn't to give everyone a gun.

Apr 4, 2013 | 7:05 AM (#154041779)



[dicobalt \(http://www.theverge.com/users/dicobalt\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/dicobalt)

... and then manufacturing in China became expensive and companies left to find new places to destroy and kill.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:11 AM (#153760183)

[saaffyy \(http://www.theverge.com/users/saaffyy\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/saaffyy)

India!

Apr 3, 2013 | 5:17 PM (#153872915)



Emmanuel A. (<http://www.theverge.com/users/Emmanuel%20A.>)

Pakistan.

Apr 5, 2013 | 4:38 AM (#154264833)



MinBat (<http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat>)

This too is already happening for lower-skilled manufacturing. Walk into a Target or something like that and a lot of clothes that 10 years ago might have been made in China will now be made in India, Indonesia, Vietnam, etc. I don't think any country can compete on electronics manufacturing and the like for a while, but not for lack of trying.

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:09 AM (#154040399)

Yseraboy (<http://www.theverge.com/users/Yseraboy>)

But Premier Li Keqiang has adopted a more environmentally conscious tone in recent weeks, vowing to be more transparent about his country's ecological issues.

"We must take the steps in advance," Li said last month, "rather than hurry to handle these issues when they have caused a disturbance in society."

In recent weeks...?

The black-eye they got for having to suspend most vehicle traffic in Beijing for the Olympics wasn't enough of an impetus? Or was that the final straw which prevented opponents of change from being able to stonewall public acknowledgement of the problems?

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:11 AM (#153760241)



sighclops (<http://www.theverge.com/users/sighclops>)

umm... pollution?! 90% of china's water supply is heavily polluted as it is...

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:13 AM (#153760497)

TomSpearSix (<http://www.theverge.com/users/TomSpearSix>)

I am afraid that diminishing water supplies will be a growing global problem.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:16 AM (#153761007)



K7 (<http://www.theverge.com/users/K7>)

Just ask **Bajji** (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bajji>) how polluted the water is.....oh wait



Apr 3, 2013 | 10:17 AM (#153761289)

thatoneguy11 (<http://www.theverge.com/users/thatoneguy11>)

That's actually an Amazon River Dolphin..

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:59 PM (#153794575)

[stephenlang \(http://www.theverge.com/users/stephenlang\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/stephenlang)

So the pollution has spread all the way to the Amazon River?!?!?

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:28 PM (#153800495)



[JesseDegenerate \(http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/JesseDegenerate)

either way, the baiji, or the chinese river dolphin, is "functionally extinct"

Apr 3, 2013 | 2:57 PM (#153826039)



[K7 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/K7\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/K7)

@thatoneguy11 You are right....wrong Dolphin pictured.

It is the Chinese White Dolphin

(http://www.redorbit.com/education/reference_library/science_1/mammalia/1112542723/chinese-white-dolphin-sousa-chinensis-chinensis-known-as-rare-pink-dolphins/)

Correct Image (<http://www.earthtimes.org/nature/baiji-river-dolphin-demise/1768/>)



As JesseDegenerate noted functionally extinct.

Apr 3, 2013 | 3:36 PM (#153839957)



[ssdeez \(http://www.theverge.com/users/ssdeez\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/ssdeez)

What's bad for China is good for us.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:23 AM (#153762133)

[polackio \(http://www.theverge.com/users/polackio\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/polackio)

No. Reducing the supply of potable water on the planet is good for nobody. When the refugees start pouring into the rest of Asia, you'll see how that works.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:38 AM (#153764779)

[Mojave3012 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012)

You mean mass death via lack of water and famine?

Apr 4, 2013 | 11:44 PM (#154248743)



[cdawg92 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/cdawg92\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/cdawg92)

A really, what's bad for China is also bad for the U.S. you'll figure that out later.

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:13 AM (#153771035)

[alex1984 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/alex1984\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/alex1984)

Once Chinese are running out of resources, what do you imagine the next step is? They'll be forced to go conquer.
Great, another global war.

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:23 AM (#153773153)



[ssdeez \(http://www.theverge.com/users/ssdeez\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/ssdeez)

Nah, they'll just buy water from us. Obama's debt crisis will be solved.

Apr 3, 2013 | 5:51 PM (#153881103)



[numberoneoppa \(http://www.theverge.com/users/numberoneoppa\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/numberoneoppa)

Got a chuckle from that.

Apr 5, 2013 | 12:39 PM (#154306359)

[bewirenomali \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali)

What? What are you talking about?

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:43 PM (#153804045)

[lamerz \(http://www.theverge.com/users/lamerz\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/lamerz)

FAIL

Apr 3, 2013 | 4:12 PM (#153852003)

[nirutochi \(http://www.theverge.com/users/nirutochi\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/nirutochi)

This isn't the Cold War, and China is not the new Soviet Union. In our tightly integrated global economy, the economic health of China is vitally important to all other states. An environmental catastrophe in China would mean an economic catastrophe in the United States and Europe, far worse than the recent financial crisis.

Apr 4, 2013 | 3:23 AM (#154038649)

[Ramyrzzzz \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Ramyrzzzz\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Ramyrzzzz)

Ah man, I thought this was an Apple Maps joke...

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:41 AM (#153765209)

[Jack 49 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Jack_49\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Jack_49)

ya Nanjing is sooo smoggy you cant see 100ft infront of you.

Apr 3, 2013 | 10:56 AM (#153767959)

[***** \(http://www.theverge.com/users/*****\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/*****)

Hey, lakes up in the Canadian north are still pretty cheap. I'd better go buy some up

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:11 AM (#153770665)

[uscmafia \(http://www.theverge.com/users/uscmafia\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/uscmafia)

plus the Aliens hate water...

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:38 PM (#153790015)



[chesterharry \(http://www.theverge.com/users/chesterharry\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/chesterharry)

recommended for marginally obscure movie reference.

Apr 5, 2013 | 12:22 PM (#154302949)

[wilkov \(http://www.theverge.com/users/wilkov\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/wilkov)

China is on a very dangerous, destructive path at present and is pretty much getting away with it due to financial meltdown across the world and ex colonial paranoia.

Take Africa for example where the Chinese are very cleverly moving every single type of commodity out of African countries using bribes, roads, schools, corruption etc to get what they want. The problem is they are also destroying most of the biodiversity as well especially in Madagascar, Congo where they are responsible for destroying the last remaining forests and the near extinction of the forest elephant.

Ecuador has just sold out 3 million acres of pristine Amazon rain forest to the Chinese as the Ecuadorians owe China a bucket load of cash. You can see this tactic of lending money to countries and then calling in the debt for natural resources all over the world. The US, Europe etc are just standing watching this tale of destruction as they are either in a financial mess, paranoid due to former colonial issues or worse still shamefully sucking up to China at any given opportunity like my government in the UK.

Tibet is even worse where a form of ethnic cleansing is currently going on with Tibetans being forced out of their farming communities and replaced by Han Chinese and yet again all the biodiversity is destroyed to feed the economic growth of China. They call the Dalai Lama a terrorist for goodness sake.

It would help if Western countries weren't so keen to sell their manufacturing past down the river for cheap rubbish but I don't see that changing anytime soon as we are in the great 'global' market place

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:22 AM (#153772921)



[santillanavila \(http://www.theverge.com/users/santillanavila\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/santillanavila)

some sources would be nice.

Apr 4, 2013 | 12:31 AM (#154018195)



[MinBat \(http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat)

The general idea here is correct, but it is a bit exaggerated (there are still forests in the DRC). But you have to remember that until very recently, these moves on China's part were largely welcomed by African countries (aside from the four or whatever countries that still recognise Taiwan instead of the Mainland). Beijing comes to Luanda, Khartoum, or wherever with less preachiness and fewer strings attached (in terms of good governance and the like), which is appealing to African governments that are (quite understandably) tired of being lectured at by Europeans (and Americans).

This is changing though. Just a few weeks ago the Nigerian Minister of Finance (I believe, might have the Central Bank director or similar) published an editorial basically saying that African countries need to wake up and see China as a competitor, not a benefactor. In cutting deals with China these governments are simply confining themselves to being purveyors of raw commodities which brings all kinds of issues (e.g. external price shocks, cf. uranium in Niger, copper in Zambia, etc.) as well as disincentivizes the expansion of domestic manufacturing.

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:20 AM (#154040501)

[wilkov \(http://www.theverge.com/users/wilkov\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/wilkov)

Apologies I wasn't clear above I meant the forests of Madagascar. Yes there are still forests in the DRC (the lungs of Africa) but hardly any forest elephants. The rate countries such as Kenya, Mali, Chad, Cameroon are losing elephants is not exaggerated I'm afraid. We need to stop blaming the past and deal with the here and now.

China may bring less preaching than former European / US governments but it also brings a nasty sting in the tail by wiping out biodiversity at an alarming rate to feed the ever expanding home market for ivory, rhino horn etc etc... African countries will eventually wake up but it may be too late.

links

[Madagascar \(http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jul/01/scientists-deforestation-madagascar\)](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jul/01/scientists-deforestation-madagascar)

[Forest elephants \(http://www.earthtimes.org/conservation/forest-elephant-disappear/2307/\)](http://www.earthtimes.org/conservation/forest-elephant-disappear/2307/)

Apr 5, 2013 | 8:02 AM (#154268839)

[Deckard Cain \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Deckard%20Cain\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Deckard%20Cain)

China is getting to a point where they seriously need to rethink their approach to environmental protection.

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:36 AM (#153776033)

[Mojave3012 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012)

They needed to rethink things a decade ago, now it's too late. They're finished.

Apr 4, 2013 | 11:43 PM (#154248545)



[volodoscope \(http://www.theverge.com/users/volodoscope\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/volodoscope)

Well done China! You're spinning into a collapse faster than anyone predicted.

Apr 3, 2013 | 11:50 AM (#153779019)

[enlight10ment \(http://www.theverge.com/users/enlight10ment\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/enlight10ment)

I'm surprised this article makes no mention of the cloud seeding china does around the main cities like beijing to force rain there which prevents it from depositing rain in other locations it naturally would have...

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:00 PM (#153781305)

[realitymonster \(http://www.theverge.com/users/realitymonster\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/realitymonster)

The only good thing about this article is that the Chinese government seems to believe it's time to take action. And one of the few benefits of a government as authoritarian as the Chinese is that if they decide to take action, they can do it a lot faster than other countries. They pass down some harsh edicts and then start being nasty to people that break the laws.

Let's see if it works this time.

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:08 PM (#153783043)

[Mojave3012 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012)

Yeah right, I'll believe it when I see Beijing have clear air and no more reports of disappearing rivers.

Apr 4, 2013 | 11:42 PM (#154248467)

[draltazar \(http://www.theverge.com/users/draltazar\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/draltazar)

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP?HAVE THEY GONE MENTAL?this would mean live in harmony with nature ? living like elves?ignoring the lobby industry against this?I'm am in.sadly I am probably the only one .so this mean we are going the Terra nova way (TV series)

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:16 PM (#153784955)

[heatlessun \(http://www.theverge.com/users/heatlessun\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/heatlessun)

The bottom line is that humans are altering the nature of this planet on a large scale, global warming is just one aspect of it.

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:34 PM (#153788899)

[bewirenomali \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali)

agreed. on every possible scale, from pesticides and bees, to the awful catastrophic effects of fossil fuel procurement, production, and use (a cycle a large segment of our population seems unwilling to give up even as they ignorantly are harmed by this), to the burning of coal.

Minimal impact fuel should be our generation's Apollo program. Too bad we have such strong proponents.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:46 PM (#153804705)

[bewirenomali \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bewirenomali)

*opponents.

Apr 3, 2013 | 2:33 PM (#153817239)

[informedObserver \(http://www.theverge.com/users/informedObserver\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/informedObserver)

The bottom line is that humans are altering the nature of this planet on a large scale

As do ants, bacteria, and thousands of other life forms.

We're part of nature too, anything we do is natural, even electricity pilons.

Apr 4, 2013 | 7:08 AM (#154041837)

[jbrandonf \(http://www.theverge.com/users/jbrandonf\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/jbrandonf)

What other creature on earth in the history of earth polluted like we do? How is that natural at all? Man people truly can justify anything nowadays.

Apr 6, 2013 | 6:16 PM (#154596311)

[sunfly \(http://www.theverge.com/users/sunfly\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/sunfly)

Great writing, thanks.

When are humans going to learn to stay out of mother natures way? Instead of building dikes so we can build a house in a flood zone, the better answer is to realize an area floods and not build the house.

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:38 PM (#153790007)



[chad.preslar \(http://www.theverge.com/users/chad.preslar\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/chad.preslar)

It's very obvious is the government is the problem here.

previous estimates were based on incomplete topographical maps from the 1950s

array of dams, reservoirs, and spillways, created ecological imbalances by blocking rivers that once flowed into the North China Plain

largest hydropower structure in the world, remains intent on building the South-North Water Transfer Project – will divert water from China's already drought-ravaged southern region to the northern Yellow and Hai rivers

Apr 3, 2013 | 12:41 PM (#153790593)



[Sicsicpuppy \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Sicsicpuppy\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Sicsicpuppy)

China , A ticking time bomb

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:14 PM (#153797603)

[Mojave3012 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012)

Where will Apple build their products next?

Apr 4, 2013 | 11:41 PM (#154248313)



[chesterharry \(http://www.theverge.com/users/chesterharry\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/chesterharry)

Bangalore or the US.

Apr 5, 2013 | 12:23 PM (#154303205)

[alex8ion \(http://www.theverge.com/users/alex8ion\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/alex8ion)

TL;DR: 'Cause dam.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:31 PM (#153801215)

[euklid81 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/euklid81\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/euklid81)

If earth starts to look like venus, conservatives will still say global warming is a hoax. Its funny how ideology always blinds people to ignore science.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:48 PM (#153805115)

[Jon Johnston \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Jon%20Johnston\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Jon%20Johnston)

It's more funny how ideology blinds people from making comments germane to the article that's been posted, but not really.

Apr 3, 2013 | 2:05 PM (#153809439)



[KajunBowser \(http://www.theverge.com/users/KajunBowser\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/KajunBowser)

If earth continues to not look like venus, liberals/progressives will still say we need more carbon taxes . Its funny how ideology always blinds people to ignore common sense.

Apr 3, 2013 | 2:56 PM (#153825217)

[Creamjuicy \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Creamjuicy\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Creamjuicy)

I thought it was conservatives who came up with the carbon tax idea.

Apr 3, 2013 | 5:13 PM (#153871849)



[SRPuffinstuff \(http://www.theverge.com/users/SRPuffinstuff\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/SRPuffinstuff)

I'm not sure where it started (though I'd find it terribly ironic if it was conservatives) but its certainly been liberals who've been pushing for them whenever possible. Unfortunately as far as I can tell, carbon taxes don't do dick all to help the environment, and just allow large corporations with lots of money to buy up all the carbon credits for an effective monopoly of resources.

Apr 4, 2013 | 3:00 PM (#154125125)

[Daniel0524 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Daniel0524\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Daniel0524)

I live in China. My city is mostly one of those oh too common ghost towns with hundreds of totally empty, mostly unfinished, horribly built, residential buildings on the outside of Shenzhen. I live on a golf course there – I don't know how much my rent is because my company pays it, but imagine it's around US\$500/Mo.

One round of golf at this course is US\$300. I couldn't believe it was so much money until somebody told me that not long ago the CCP prohibited the building of new golf courses because of the amount of water it consumes.

Needless to say the only people who can afford to play it are wealthy Hong Kong businessmen.

Funnily enough there is another enormous empty residential golf course development outside my city that has mud where the course should be because they were shut down in-development.

Apr 3, 2013 | 1:52 PM (#153806093)

[jayeshsharma \(http://www.theverge.com/users/jayeshsharma\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/jayeshsharma)

Excellent article. Keep up the great work

Apr 3, 2013 | 4:32 PM (#153859175)

[pegasus912 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/pegasus912\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/pegasus912)

I wonder what will happen when China has destroyed all of their fresh water sources and natural resources? Will they start colonizing other regions (Africa would be the first logical target IMO)? China currently has about 1.4 billion people, this could put some serious pressure on the Chinese government to seek out new resources.

Apr 3, 2013 | 4:42 PM (#153862475)



[speed_demon \(http://www.theverge.com/users/speed_demon\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/speed_demon)

They will get very, very thirsty for a start...

Apr 3, 2013 | 8:55 PM (#153938877)



[scott.takemoto \(http://www.theverge.com/users/scott.takemoto\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/scott.takemoto)

Did anybody catch the NPR report about the deaths in Beijing as a result of air pollution? 2/3 of all deaths related to air pollution on the planet occur in China.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/04/02/176017887/chinas-air-pollution-linked-to-millions-of-early-deaths>
(<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/04/02/176017887/chinas-air-pollution-linked-to-millions-of-early-deaths>)

Apr 3, 2013 | 9:43 PM (#153959263)



[MinBat \(http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat)

Yep. Air pollution is bad. There were days earlier in the year when most major cities would be "beyond index."

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:13 AM (#154040445)



[santillanavila \(http://www.theverge.com/users/santillanavila\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/santillanavila)

First the air and now the water. They are going to kill themselves.

Apr 4, 2013 | 12:41 AM (#154020675)

It's worth noting that China has spent the past several years working with the United States and the Asian

[nirutochi \(http://www.theverge.com/users/nirutochi\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/nirutochi)

Development Bank on building up its environmental regulatory institutional capacity; I would not be surprised if the new administration comes with a Ministry of the Environment willing to show its teeth. It's also worth noting that China generates more power from renewable sources than any other state (including the European Union), and that China has been far more aggressive in shutting down its most heavily-polluting industrial facilities than probably any other state.

Apr 4, 2013 | 3:18 AM (#154038473)



[MinBat \(http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/MinBat)

I forgot the details but they are in the middle of a big re-organization of their ministries and agencies right now so the various environmental bodies might get some more teeth through consolidation.

Apr 4, 2013 | 5:14 AM (#154040455)

[informedObserver \(http://www.theverge.com/users/informedObserver\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/informedObserver)

It's also worth noting that China generates more power from renewable sources than any other state

As a percentage of their overall requirement, or absolute?

It it's the latter, very misleading.

Apr 4, 2013 | 7:10 AM (#154041887)



[numberoneoppa \(http://www.theverge.com/users/numberoneoppa\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/numberoneoppa)

Absolute.

Apr 5, 2013 | 12:40 PM (#154306573)

[2Fx \(http://www.theverge.com/users/2Fx\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/2Fx)

China, the only country where producing more power from renewable resources is a **bad** thing. The blind hate and ignorance in here is incredible. It's sad that you feel the need to have an imaginary enemy to make yourself feel better.

Apr 6, 2013 | 4:24 AM (#154502945)

[OlderBloke \(http://www.theverge.com/users/OlderBloke\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/OlderBloke)

You could all benefit from a little history. There is a book "Why the West Rules for Now" by Ian Morris. Have a read. Pity this thread is not solutions based.

Apr 4, 2013 | 9:20 PM (#154210563)

[Mojave3012 \(http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/Mojave3012)

How can you call this prosperity when your throat is dry with thirst and you can't take more than a 2-minute shower?

Apr 4, 2013 | 11:40 PM (#154248173)



[GeanRogers \(http://www.theverge.com/users/GeanRogers\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/GeanRogers)

all i know is, that this world would be a better place without the people of certain countries

Apr 5, 2013 | 3:44 AM (#154264005)

[jbrandonf \(http://www.theverge.com/users/jbrandonf\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/jbrandonf)

All I know is... Ah nice try ;)

Apr 6, 2013 | 6:25 PM (#154598221)

[wolfgang.schnydere \(http://www.theverge.com/users/wolfgang.schnydere\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/wolfgang.schnydere)

<http://politics.people.com.cn/n/2013/0327/c1027-20939199.html> (<http://politics.people.com.cn/n/2013/0327/c1027-20939199.html>)

"2011 Census concluded that China has 45,203 rivers that has a catchment are bigger than 50 square kilometers.

Among them, 22909 has catchments area bigger than 100 square kilometers. In the 1950s, experts back then estimated that China has roughly 50,000 rivers that has a catchment are bigger than 100 square meters, based on an incomplete 1:300000 map”.

See, your article totally ignored the fact that there are actually ~45,000 rivers in China, and the 22909 figure is talking about rather large rivers. False accusations does not help anyone, the only thing it achieves is to destroy The Verge's barely established reputation.

Apr 5, 2013 | 5:10 AM (#154265299)

[GodShapedHole \(http://www.theverge.com/users/GodShapedHole\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/GodShapedHole)

Very interesting.

Perhaps some fact-checking would become The Verge.

Apr 5, 2013 | 6:55 AM (#154266781)



[chad.preslar \(http://www.theverge.com/users/chad.preslar\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/chad.preslar)

your link is to a Chinese website... :/

Apr 5, 2013 | 9:36 AM (#154275711)

[wolfgang.schnydere \(http://www.theverge.com/users/wolfgang.schnydere\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/wolfgang.schnydere)

We're talking about a Chinese affair, are we not? Chinese medias have their own whole set of problems and one must learn about how to read into it, but even that is far better than trying to learn anything from English language medias, which are engineered to steer you away from what the facts are about China.

Apr 7, 2013 | 7:13 AM (#154696291)

[www.gamesclone.com \(http://www.theverge.com/users/www.gamesclone.com\)](http://www.gamesclone.com)

+1

Apr 10, 2013 | 3:31 AM (#155349897)



[numberoneoppa \(http://www.theverge.com/users/numberoneoppa\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/numberoneoppa)

+1 but you could be yanking my chain and I would have no idea.

Apr 5, 2013 | 12:41 PM (#154306749)

[bobrovsky \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bobrovsky\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bobrovsky)

He's probably a paid blogger for the Chinese state, disseminating false information. Verge can probably verify his Chinese IP address.

Apr 6, 2013 | 12:50 AM (#154492645)

[wolfgang.schnydere \(http://www.theverge.com/users/wolfgang.schnydere\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/wolfgang.schnydere)

Such a knee jerking reaction. Really, read what you wrote as if you're a 3rd person. It might help.

Verge can verify the figures I quoted are in the very same report they based this piece of writing on. They CHERRY PICKED data. I don't know about you, I am an engineer and I HATE people who do this with a passion. You may like or dislike someone or some country, for reasons that might even be just, but if you try to achieve your goal with lies, you've already lost.

Apr 7, 2013 | 7:19 AM (#154696453)

[bobrovsky \(http://www.theverge.com/users/bobrovsky\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/bobrovsky)

Chinese economic data is usually wildly inaccurate, so it stands to reason that geographical data would be comparable inaccurate.

Apr 7, 2013 | 6:34 PM (#154806255)



[herki \(http://www.theverge.com/users/herki\)](http://www.theverge.com/users/herki)

Man, we need to colonize the moon and get the hell off this planet ASAP.

Apr 9, 2013 | 12:51 PM (#155137483)

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