

***Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence* by Christian Parenti. Nation Books, 2011. Pp. 304. \$25.99 (Hardcover). ISBN: 978-1568586007**

Reviewer: Blaine Pope¹

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Christian Parenti has written a solid tour de force on environmentally-induced conflict, worldwide, as seen from within the first decade of the 21st century. Indeed, the book title itself—*Tropic of Chaos*—is derived from the names of the geo-climatic zone situated between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer. And, just as these geo-climatic zones are now slowly spreading north and south, respectively, so too is human-induced violence and destruction, as more and more people engage in a neo-Malthusian competition for fewer and fewer natural resources. Parenti provides an on-the-ground, first person description of what this actually feels like for a few of those individuals caught up in these struggles. He then works backwards, to explain some of the history and “back story” behind these events.

In the spirit of works like Robert Kaplan’s 1994 article, “The Coming Anarchy,” or Dobkowski and Wallimann’s 1998 book, *The Coming Age of Scarcity*, Parenti provides us with the current state of the collapse of the environment, taking place at the end of the Holocene era, and unpacks what that now means in terms of both international and regional security. The most poignant difference between Parenti’s current work

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