

Erschienen in: *Journal of Peace Research* ; 42 (2005), 3. - S. 361-362  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/002234330504200318>

■ Lomborg, Bjørn, ed., 2004. *Global Crises, Global Solutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 670 pp. ISBN 0521606144.

When eminent intellectual leaders get together to sort out the most pressing problems of the world, they often end up with lofty recommendations. *Global Crises, Global Solutions* is fortunately not this sort of non-committing pamphlet. Rather, it contains some of the best and most relevant policy research that social scientists have produced during the past few years. The book is a result of the *Copenhagen Consensus*, a well-advertised series of paper presentations. Bjørn Lomborg, the mastermind of the project and author of *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, has asked leading experts how the world could efficiently deal with ten current challenges, ranging from war over corruption to hunger and malnutrition. Each of the papers presents the relevant problems and discusses the efficiency of different solutions. Although some costs and benefits are hard to quantify, the authors suggest the price for each of their recommended policies. Two reactions on each paper indicate how controversial the propositions are. The only weakness with this original interactive approach is the

ranking that the so-called expert panel – a group of distinguished and rather senior economists – makes at the end of the book. Their priorities tend to be quick-fixes of problems that might, at least partly, be caused by some other challenge. More importantly, the panellists tend to disregard some of the evidence assembled by the authors. The reactions to the excellent chapter on armed conflict by Collier & Hoeffler illustrate that Nobel awards are no protection against bias. One member of the panel dismisses the economic sources of war that the Oxford economists analyse and points out that free trade is the main pacifying force, while another famous panellist mentions ethnic or religious hatred as a source of conflict.

*Gerald Schneider*