

# The Tricks of the Climate Politicians – Translated

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On 27 November 2014 the widely circulated German newspaper, *Die Zeit*, posted an article on various tricks used by politicians in negotiating greenhouse gas emission reductions (<http://www.zeit.de/2014/49/klimakonferenz-klimagipfel-lima>). The article was a prelude to the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP-20) to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change, to be held in Lima, Peru, in December 2014, but it has particular relevance to the upcoming COP-21 scheduled to take place in Paris, December 2015, where decisions and specific agreements are largely anticipated. While the article was informative, the most compelling part was a full page display of how the various stances and negotiations would affect the ultimate outcome these efforts. Needless to say, the prognosis is not good – unless much tighter restrictions are not only agreed to, but enacted upon and monitored. Current commitments could lead us to a 3.6°C world if those commitments are held. This article is a good example of communicating the issue of emissions to an informed public, though it relies to some extent on an ability to understand fundamental plots. We have taken the liberty to translate the graphic into English for our GMAC attendees to ruminate over. Key to a successful future will be enhanced measurement and analysis systems to inform decisions as time goes by, leading to better policy decisions and responsible management. Communicating this issue will continue to be a struggle.

(Note: A world warmed by 2°C by 2100, the Kyoto Protocol (1990) target, would be substantially different than today, in that in such a world, one would expect an average of 6°C (11°F) warming over the continents. Of course this would not be distributed evenly. But, what’s worse is that the current state of negotiations would lead to a +3.6°C (6.5°F) average global warming, or +10.8°C (19.5°F) average over the continents.)

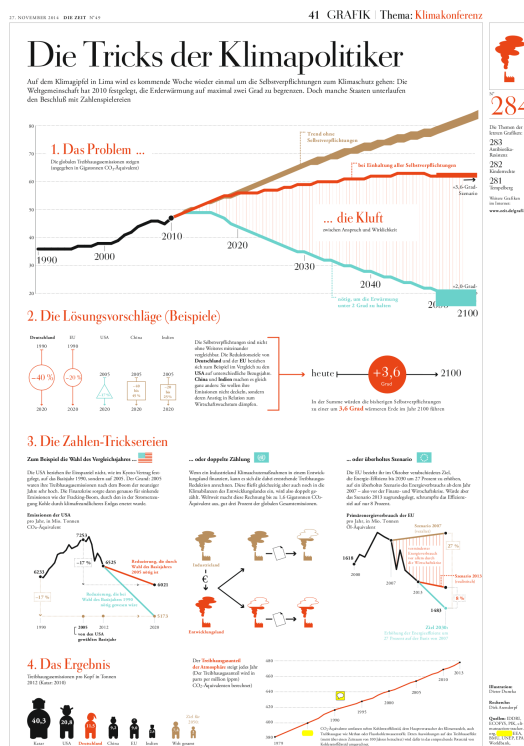


Figure 1. The original graphic from *Die Zeit*, 27 November 2014.