



# foreword by George Galloway MP

**Ever been bamboozled by TV reports on climate change? Ever wondered whether your children or grandchildren will have a habitable environment to grow up in? Ever thought that such a big problem as the earth overheating requires vastly more than the limited action governments and corporations appear to be taking?**

Yes to any of these, and this gem of a pamphlet is for you. I have no great expertise in the area of environmental politics - that's why I turn for answers and arguments to those who do.

This pamphlet isn't written for those who have followed these issues for decades, though I'm sure they too will get something out of its crisp and clear presentation of the issues. Those are two-fold. First, facts which really ought now to be beyond dispute. We are living through drastic changes in the earth's climate which are the result of human activity. That's an enormous crisis. But it has a silver lining.

This is the result of human activity: it can be undone by human activity.

The second set of issues are the facts and debates around solutions.

Cyclone Nargis - the shape of things to come?  
Photo: NASA



The author carefully takes us through the limited solutions that are on offer from the rich and powerful, demonstrating that they are no solution at all. It's no wonder. The overwhelming and ineluctable conclusion of this pamphlet is that it is the rich and powerful, and their interests, which are at the root of the environmental crisis we all face.

The victims of that crisis are already the poorest people on earth.

I have constituents, fellow members of Respect, who lost dozens of relatives in the Bangladesh cyclone in 2007, followed this year by the even more devastating storm that ripped through Burma.

A great strength of this pamphlet is that it draws together the great issues of

corporate globalisation, war and environmental devastation. This isn't a whimper aimed at a comfortable middle class in the west, asking them to spare a shilling and the odd energy efficient light bulb for the planet.

It is an urgent call to arms to save our planet, its scope is the people of our planet and it deserves a wide audience.

During the Second World War, the British government did not put the future of the country in the hands of the market or businessmen. The state stepped in across society to mobilise the war effort. If that could be done for war, it can and should be done for the lifesaving business of tackling climate change. But that will only come from immense, radical, political pressure.

*George Galloway MP, June 2008*

**This pamphlet was inspired by a meeting of Manchester Respect in April 2008 at which the author spoke on the topic of combating climate change. During the meeting it was suggested that Roy write up the content of his introduction and the ensuing discussion. This pamphlet is the result.**

**Some of the analysis and solutions suggested here will be controversial. Much is not the policy of Respect as a whole. This pamphlet is, therefore, offered as a modest contribution to debate inside Respect, and within the wider movement, about how best to tackle the urgent problem of climate change - for if we are to solve a problem we must first understand it.**

**Roy Wilkes is the chair of Manchester Respect. He is also secretary of the Campaign against Climate Change Trade Union Group and a member of the National Union of Teachers.**

Further copies of this pamphlet, including bulk orders, can be obtained by visiting [www.unitypublishingproject.co.uk](http://www.unitypublishingproject.co.uk)