The more serious the problem of climate change becomes, the more revolutionary the change needed to address it—the more we can expect powerful economic and social interests to deny the seriousness of the problem: playing up scientific uncertainties that always exist, and casting doubt on climate science itself. The object of such a response is to manipulate public opinion so as to sow confusion and arrest any attempt to alter business as usual.

In this space in the March 2010 issue of MR, we noted the controversy that arose as a result of the discovery of a single error in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007 (known as AR4). The report as a whole consisted of three volumes of nearly 1,000 pages each. The regional chapter on Asia in AR4’s volume 2 mistakenly said, in one lone paragraph, that the Himalayan glaciers could disappear as early as 2035. This isolated error (one wrong number in a massive report), although...
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Notes from the Editors

The World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth held April 20-22, 2010, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, will undoubtedly be remembered as a major historical turning point in the struggle over climate change. Over 35,000 people from 142 countries attended (including official delegations from the United Nations and forty-seven countries, and spokespersons from indigenous communities). For perhaps the first time, the issue of the planetary environmental crisis was wrested entirely from the ideological control of the rich countries of the North in a major international forum, leading to the development of a radical South-based perspective.

President Evo Morales of Bolivia opened the conference with the words "Planet or Death, We Shall Overcome" and emphasized that there were two possible paths: "either capitalism dies or Mother Earth dies." The final declaration of the conference on April 22, known as The Cochabamba Protocol, or The People's Agreement on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, stated:

The capitalist system has imposed on us a logic of competition, progress, and limitless growth. The regime of production and consumption seeks profit