

## **The Ministry for the Future Discussion Questions**

Adapted from [Colorado State Library's Book Club Resources](#)

- Do you think the Indian government is justified in conducting its geoengineering project? What does this suggest about the near term future of international governance and climate change?
- Frank urges Mary to support violence. What forms of such climate change-related violence do you anticipate, either in the novel or in our world?
- Ministry leaders discuss possible leverage points they can work with to save the world. (54-6) Which do you think are the most effective?
- What do you make of how *Ministry of the Future* weaves together narrative and ideas?
- Early in the novel, humanity is not acting in a cohesive way. However, we do see various projects offered by separate governments and organizations at scale: California, India, the Antarctic team. Do you find this a likely way we will proceed? Is it an effective one?
- Returning to the question of violence: We now know the Ministry is connected to people who commit property damage and violence against people. Looking ahead, how do you think this two-winged strategy will fare?
- On the theme of violence: did the terror attacks we've seen so far succeed in changing human behavior, reducing our carbon usage?
- What do you think of the novel's weaving together of fiction and ideas?
- How plausible would widespread use of YourLock be?
- Badim's new religion of climate change: what do you think that might look like?
- What role did higher education play in the novel, overall? What role do you think colleges and universities could play in this world of the 2030s?

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## **Continued, The Ministry for the Future Discussion Questions**

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- Ministry staff offer this list of targets to attack for cutting back emissions in a serious way: “Carbon pricing, industry efficiency standards, land use policies, industrial process emissions regulations, complementary power sector policies, renewable portfolio standards, building codes and appliance standards, fuel economy standards, better urban transport, vehicle electrification, and feebates, which is to say carbon taxes passed back through to consumers.” (251) Which of these do you see as most likely for humanity to tackle now?
- What do you make of the relationship between Mary and Frank?
- How feasible is a planetary identity movement?
- Later in the novel, there are many, many different groups and projects working to address climate change, from nonprofits to bankers, governments to terrorists. Do we think of this agglomeration as the biggest social movement in history or as something else?
- What made the successful decarbonization work? How would you describe the strategy?
- Some geoengineering plays a role in the world’s triumph. It’s less ambitious than anything spaceborne, but definitely more than we’re doing (deliberately) now. Is this a kind of geoengineering compromise or middle path?
- Arguably the world’s success was partially driven by terrorism. Nobody is identified as the authors of all of those acts of violence, much less prosecuted for conducting them. What argument is the novel ultimately making about the climate crisis and violence?

**Questions provided by the author.**

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