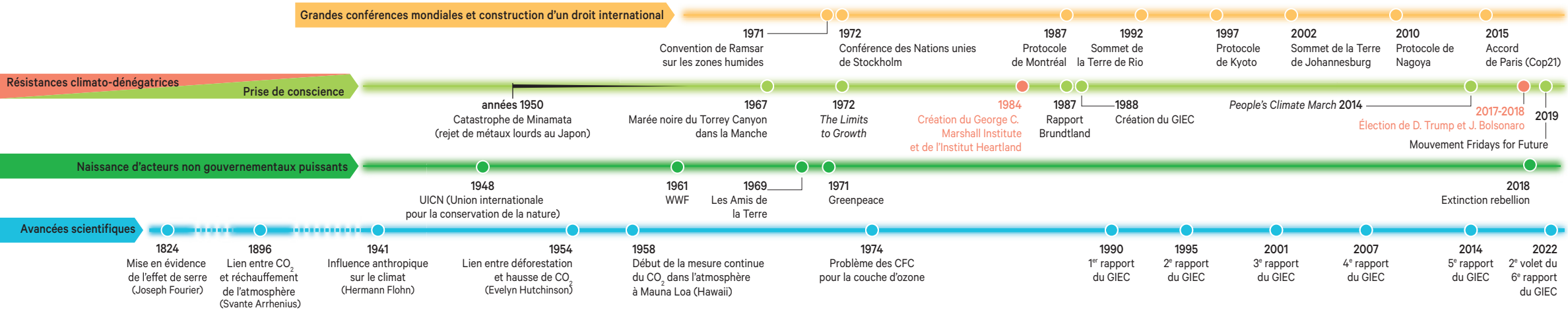Enjeu scientifique, enjeu politique (XIXe - XXIe siècle)