

HUMAN-CAUSED GLOBAL WARMING

**McCarthyism, intimidation, press bias, censorship,
policy-advice corruption and propaganda**

Testimony of

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1988 - fuelled by insistent lobbying from special interest environmental, scientific, political and industry groups - human-caused global warming has become one of the great political issues of our time. Today's dominant paradigm is that human emissions of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, will produce dangerous warming of the globe (the *Anthropogenic Global Warming* hypothesis; AGW). When tested against empirical evidence, this hypothesis fails. It maintains its popular sway only because of the remorseless propagation of climate alarmism based upon anecdotal evidence, and on unvalidated computer modeling (GCMs) and related "attribution studies".

This paper describes ways in which the AGW paradigm has achieved its consensus hold over western political consciousness, and explains how it maintains that status.

AGW supporters exercise strong influence over the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and also over what is published in the professional scientific literature about climate change. Climate rationalists (derogated as "sceptics") who seek a balanced discussion on the issue, and greater recognition of the dominant role of natural climate change, are subject to harassment, intimidation and censorship. Policy advice to governments through scientific agencies and academies is corrupted by financial and political self-interest. Public discussion of climate change is greatly degraded by an unremitting press bias and by lavish NGO-funded propaganda towards alarmism in the AGW cause.

With the publication of the British Stern Review into Climate Change in late 2006, and the scheduled release of the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC in early 2007, AGW alarmism is reaching unprecedented heights. The non-alarmist, rational interpretation of climate change will prevail through this hysteria, as empirical data come to trump unvalidated computer model predictions. Thereafter, attention will turn to the real climate policy problem. Which is the preparation of appropriate response plans for the occurrence of extreme weather events, as well as for longer term climatic coolings and warmings, in the same way that we prepare to cope with other natural hazards such as storms, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Attempting to "stop climate change" is an extravagant and costly exercise of utter futility. Rational climate policies must be based on adaptation.

CONTENTS

Introduction

McCarthyism and legal intimidation

Bias if not censorship in the print media

What about radio, TV and film?

Media bias is worldwide

What does “balance” in the media mean?

Policy advice corruption: inhibition of public debate

Vilification of climate skeptics

Here, mounted on chargers, come the churches and business

And propaganda everywhere

Why the mounting hysteria?

Game up for the warmaholics

Conclusion

<http://carbonplanet.com/blog/?p=243>

Introduction

The debate on global warming has, to its detriment, long since ceased to be a scientific one. Instead, moral fervor for this cause has become a leading religion of our time.

Maintaining the fiction that human-caused global warming is so dangerous that it requires the restructuring of the world economy has come to involve the dedicated efforts of a legion of disciples. Here's a brief description of some of the main ways that they pursue their agenda.

McCarthyism and legal intimidation

The Attorney General of California, Bill Lockyer, supported by the environmental activist groups Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council, [issued suit](#) in September, 2006, against the six largest U.S. and Japanese automakers for damages to the environment caused by vehicle greenhouse gas emissions. Lockyer [alleges](#) that his goal is to hold General Motors, Toyota, Ford, Honda, Chrysler and Nissan accountable for the monies that taxpayers are expending to address the harms of global warming. The perceived harms include reduced winter snow, coastal erosion, ozone pollution, seawater intrusion into drinking water supplies, adverse impacts on endangered wildlife and enhanced wildfire risk.

For their part, in a separate suit, the automakers are challenging the Californian emission standards specified under a 2004 ruling by the Air Resources Board, by claiming that matters of fuel-efficiency are an exclusive responsibility of the federal government.

In targeting U.S. car manufacturers alone, Lockyer's suit exhibits an astonishing selectivity. Do no other manufacturers omit carbon dioxide? If damages were to be awarded - global warming being by definition a worldwide phenomenon - would that give several billion other persons a precedent by which to sue? What about human exhalation; are Californians next going to be taxed for breathing?

That human-caused global warming is damaging to the planetary environment (or can even be identified), is an unproven, and perhaps rather unlikely, hypothesis. Yet Lockyer is proposing that a jury of lay people, based on the preponderance of the evidence, will establish the truth of a matter which - after 15 years of argument, and expenditure of around US \$50 billion of research funds - the cream of the world's climate scientists have been unable to resolve.

Though Lockyer's suit and arguments might seem merely silly, his tactics in pursuing his agenda are downright sinister. For rather than seeking to establish that the Californian laws will actually serve to check global warming, Lockyer instead has decided to attack auto makers' potential scientific advisors. In [pre-trial discovery](#), he has asked a federal court to force disclosure of all communications and documents between the car companies and a group of 18 high profile climate sceptics. Most of those named are

American citizens, but an international flavour is conferred by the inclusion of at least one British and one Canadian citizen.

The intent is clearly twofold. First, a fishing expedition for material that might be useful to the state in pursuing its case. And second, a warning shot across the bows of all climate sceptics that they speak on this issue, in private let alone in public, at their own peril.

It is interesting to ponder why these particular 18 sceptics made Lockyer's A-list, for there are clearly many hundreds of well-credentialed scientists who question the conventional global warming wisdom. These other climate rationalists may feel happy at being omitted, not because they have done anything wrong but because no-one likes legal intimidation of this type.

Intimidatory legal threats of the Lockyer type have started to mount against the oil, electric power, auto and other companies whose emissions can be alleged to be linked to "global warming", with at least 16 cases pending in U.S. federal and state courts. In Mississippi, [a class action](#) has been mounted against literally dozens of companies for damages for destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, the power of which is alleged to have resulted from these companies pumping the atmosphere full of greenhouse gases. Again, it is simply preposterous to believe that a lay jury will have the capability to decide on the "truth" of such assertions when the only thing that the relevant expert scientists are agreed on is that there is no such truth.

Nonetheless, and though they are incompetent to determine scientific truths, legal actions of this type exert a powerful intimidatory pressure on many businessmen and scientists, far beyond the particular individuals who are directly involved. And similar intimidation is now also rampant outside the courts, for example on the web, where notorious climate alarmists are currently trying to prevent skeptical views being aired. As a typical example, George Monbiot's recent shrill polemic on global warming, "Heat", is associated with a [web page](#) that both talks of "climate criminals" and uses blazing red graphics to let various public celebrities know that "George is watching" their carbon usage.

As a type of modern McCarthyism, these types of intimidation can only serve to stifle informed public debate on climate change. It is particularly deplorable for an Attorney General to be involved in such actions. Recalling Lockyer's earlier track record of inhibiting scientific evidence, for instance during a 2001 gun-control debate when he gagged California state experts who opposed his plans, one wonders whether his latest action might not provoke a friends-of-court backlash from some of the many Americans who can recognize an attack on their constitutional rights when they see one.

On cue, up pops an [amicus brief](#), not in California but in the US Supreme Court, in support of the Environmental Agency's 2003 decision not to regulate carbon dioxide emissions under the Clean Air Act. The EPA decision is being challenged by a coalition

of 12 states and non-profit organizations, and the amicus brief has been lodged by 8 well established, rationalist climate scientists.

And now, hot on the heels of these intimidatory U.S. court actions come reports of unbalanced press treatment of the climate change discussion in New Zealand and Australia, attempts to muzzle public discussion by the Royal Societies of London and New Zealand, and media manipulation by the U.S. Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Climate Change Science Program - all accompanied by a worldwide propaganda blitz for Mr Al Gore's movie "*An Inconvenient Truth*".

Why this mounting hysteria?

Bias if not censorship in the print media

In a small country such as New Zealand there is a high risk of press bias influencing public policy outcomes about complex science issues. With a market of only 4 million people to sell into, New Zealand media outlets are of limited diversity. The danger that journalistic sheep-like behaviour will inhibit discussion of important public issues is therefore ever present, and has indeed been manifest in the debate, or rather lack of it, on global warming.

For example, the largest circulation newspaper in South Island, *The Press*, earlier this year published "Heat is on to Act", an 800 word alarmist polemic by Landcare's Dr. David Whitehead. The article included gems like:

"When projections of continued emissions are built into complex computer models to predict future climate, the result is the so-called "hockey stick" curve showing temperature reaching alarmingly high values up to 1 deg. to 3 deg. above present-day values in the next 50 years".

Leaving aside that this sentence is a highly confused and inaccurate account of the "hockey stick", the very same day *The Press* rejected an article by experienced climate researcher Dr. Gerrit van der Lingen titled "[The Broken Hockey Stick](#)". Dr. van der Lingen's article explained something that the New Zealand public have not yet been fully informed about - that the hockey stick construction by Penn State paleoclimatologist Dr. Michael Mann and co-authors, which was highlighted by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its [2001 assessment](#), has been found to be flawed beyond repair by both a [committee](#) of the National Academy of Sciences and an [experts' report](#) for a U.S. House committee. Yet Dr. Whitehead and *The Press* continued to use the hockey-stick as proof of human-caused global warming, and will brook no correction.

A second New Zealand example from earlier this year came when leading weekly magazines *North & South* and *The Listener*, and the large circulation newspapers, the *NZ Herald* and *Sunday Star Times*, all declined to publish an opinion piece that I submitted

to them, titled “The Global Warming Emperor Has No Clothes”. Submission of the article was suggested by local scientists who were strongly concerned about the imbalance in the New Zealand climate change debate. That the piece was rejected by so many editors reflects, of course, not conspiracy but group think - if indeed thought rather than reflex was involved.

Now [posted](#) on the NZ Climate Science Coalition’s website, Carter’s article relates several important facts about contemporary climate that remain unknown to most members of the general public. Such as: that global average temperature has not increased over the last seven years, despite the continuing rise in human-caused greenhouse emissions; that late 20th century temperatures were warm as part of a solar-driven recovery from the Little Ice Age; and that during natural climate cycling, changes in temperature precede their parallel changes in carbon dioxide.

In neighbouring Australia, most of the metropolitan papers also have a long record of unbalanced coverage of the global warming issue. This was exemplified recently by their treatment of the show-stopper of a [speech](#) given at the European Union Summit in Finland by Professor Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic. [Klaus](#), who is a former distinguished Professor of Economics, challenged the conventional wisdom on global warming, and stressed the importance of nuclear energy. In direct contradiction to the views expressed by Prime Ministers Blair (UK) and Balkenende (Netherlands) - that human-caused global warming will cause world climate to reach a dangerous tipping point within 10 to 15 years - Klaus said that “*what is concisely referred to as global warming is a fatal mistake of the present time*”. He also indicated, correctly, that before alarm is raised, first, “*a reply must be given to the question whether global warming is occurring, and second, if it is, are humans to blame*”?

Given the long-lasting evangelism of major European Union (EU) nations about the risks posed by global warming - and the pressures that they have exerted on USA and Australia to sign the Kyoto Protocol - it was almost sensational news that a head-of-state inside the EU tent is a considered climate sceptic. Yet no major Australian metropolitan papers highlighted this news item; and four of them (*The Australian*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *Courier-Mail*, together with the *Auckland N.Z. Herald*) also chose not to publish a brief letter to the editor that drew attention to President Klaus’ views.

Legitimate exercise of editorial prerogative? Of course. Suppression of an ideologically unwelcome alternative viewpoint? Almost certainly.

What about radio, TV and film?

The censorship by the print media that rationalist climate scientists regularly experience, examples of which have just been discussed, is but part of a much wider problem that involves also radio, television and film coverage of the climate change issue.

A startling insight into the way that modern “documentary” films are prepared for cable TV channels - such as *Discovery Science Channel*, *History Channel* and *National*

Geographic Channel - is provided by Chuck Doswell. As a weather scientist who has participated many times in programmes on severe weather issues, Mr. Doswell [comments](#) that the production companies that he has aided invariably:

*“have the story written before their research even begins. They’ve decided the “angle” the story is going to follow, and nothing I say or do seems capable of swaying their determination to produce the story that way. The goal of the production crew’s “research” is to film soundbites ... they can use to back up the story as it has been written. They are definitely and consistently **not** seeking to understand the story first on the basis of what they learn by interviewing me. I’m simply there to give credibility to **their** story”.*

Mr. Doswell’s cynical, but essentially accurate, conclusion is that these types of program – which he terms “*crook-umentaries*”, or “*disaster porn*” – exemplify that:

“TV is obviously all about putting eyeballs in front of the advertisements, and has little or nothing to do with public education or offering information to the viewers, whatever pious proclamations they might offer”.

Of course, this state of affairs merely reflects the classic conflict between commercial aims and broadcasting values. As for newspapers, so for radio, TV and film – alarmist programs sell. One of Australia’s most experienced science journalists, Julian Cribb, summed this up well when in a moment of refreshing candour he said (*Australasian Science*, August 2002, p. 38):

“The publication of “bad news” is not a journalistic vice. It’s a clear instruction from the market. It’s what consumers, on average, demand. As a newspaper editor I knew, as most editors know, that if you print lots of good news, people stop buying your paper. Conversely, if you publish the correct mix of doom, gloom and disaster, your circulation swells. I have done the experiment”.

Alarmist public presentation of the climate change issue in New Zealand and Australia is strongly fuelled also by the politically-correct attitudes of interviewers like Radio New Zealand’s [Kim Hill](#) and [Chris Laidlaw](#), or the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s [Tony Jones](#). These well-regarded talk-show hosts choose not to interview local rationalist climate experts, but instead succumb to the cultural cringe of deferring to “overseas experts” by providing the oxygen of publicity to zany climate alarmists like the U.K.’s Lord Ron Oxburgh, Sir David King and Professor James Lovelock. One wonders why media editors thus deny the public the basic climate facts and alternative views, especially given the endless column space, air time and viewing time that they allocate to alarmist speculation, and remembering that climate change was a critical issue in New Zealand’s election in December, 2005.

New Zealand was one of the first signatories to the Kyoto Accord, with the signing justified to voters by government estimates that the country would make a profit of around NZ \$350 million from the anticipated sale of carbon credits earned by its once-thriving forestry industry. Alas, a change in the carbon accounting rules, and a turndown in forestry investment, have turned that hoped for credit of up to 55 million tons into a deficit of 36 million tons, and this translates into a likely bill, depending upon the costs of tradable carbon credits, of between NZ\$0.5 billion and NZ\$1.5 billion. At around 1% of New Zealand's GDP, the financial turnaround is not small beer. This was reflected by New Zealand's minority Labour party only being able to remain in government by agreeing last year to new coalition partner demands that plans for the introduction of a carbon tax be dropped. Since the election, the government has floundered to come up with rational climate change and energy policies. In order to placate green interests, ministers have even toyed with the reintroduction of a deeply damaging "climate change" provision into the development approval process, by allowing amendments to be tabled to its own Resource Management Act.

It is therefore greatly in the real New Zealand public interest that the national press be vigilant to all sides of the climate debate, and rigorously scrutinize pronouncements by governments and pressure groups alike. Instead, they compliantly and uncritically report climate propaganda from sources that are known to be partial.

Media bias is worldwide

Media bias about global warming is not just a local problem, confined to small, far flung countries like New Zealand and Australia. Its widespread nature is exemplified by the blistering indictment of the U.S. press performance delivered on September 25th by U.S. Senator Inhofe. Senator Inhofe [observed](#):

"During the past year, the American people have been served up an unprecedented parade of environmental alarmism by the media and entertainment industry, which link every possible weather event to global warming. The year 2006 saw many major organs of the media dismiss any pretense of balance and objectivity on climate change coverage and instead crossed squarely into global warming advocacy".

After discussing specific examples of this problem, the Senator concluded:

"The American people deserve better -- much better -- from our fourth estate. We have a right to expect accuracy and objectivity on climate change coverage. We have a right to expect balance in sourcing and fair analysis from reporters who cover the issue.

Above all, the media must roll back this mantra that there is scientific "consensus" of impending climatic doom as an excuse to ignore recent science.

Breaking the cycles of media hysteria will not be easy since hysteria sells -- it's very profitable. But I want to challenge the news media to reverse course and report on the objective science of climate change, to stop ignoring legitimate voices in this scientific debate and to stop acting as a vehicle for unsubstantiated hype”.

The response to Senator Inhofe’s speech was perhaps predictable. Many mainstream media outlets chose to ignore it. A few, like CNN, through reporter Miles O’Brien, indulged in unsuccessful attempts to pick holes in the Senator’s science, a tactic pursued with even more vehemence but equal lack of success by green activist websites. Self-awareness not being a strength of most media workers, that scarcely a peep of *mea culpa* was to be [heard](#) is entirely unsurprising.

But, as geophysicist David Deming has [observed](#), the reality is that:

“Sen. Inhofe is not only correct in his view on global warming, but courageous to insist on truth, objectivity and sound science. Truth in science doesn’t depend on human consensus or political correctness”.

What does “balance” in the media mean?

In justification of their unrelenting climate alarmism, media outlets are fond of repeating the self-evidently silly assertion that “[the science of climate change is settled](#)”. In justification of this view, they usually cite the self-interested and unaudited advice of the IPCC, whose 2001 hockey stick graph - which formed an important part of their formal advice to governments on climate change - has now been scientifically ridiculed (see earlier links, and also Appendix A in “[What the Royal Society of New Zealand wouldn’t distribute](#)”).

And then there is the simplistic view, which journalists seem to learn at their mother’s knee, that a “balanced” account of a controversial issue is achieved by recognizing that there are “*two sides to the debate*”. Reflecting this, for article after article on global warming the bulk of the text, and the authorities quoted, are concerned with one alarmist cause or another; then, usually towards the end, comes the obligatory, brief, contradictory sound bite from Dr. Whomever.

Chris Mooney has [pointed out](#) that the idea that journalists should go beyond such “balance” in search of the truth hardly represents a novel insight. But instead we have:

“a prevalent but lazy form of journalism that makes no attempt to dig beneath competing claims. ... After all, the journalistic norm of balance has no corollary in the world of science”, and “determining how much weight to give different sides in a scientific debate requires considerable expertise on the issue at hand. (Yet) few journalists have real scientific knowledge ...”.

Amazingly - and despite the clear bias towards climate alarmism introduced by the prevalent method of “balance” - this method of reporting has also been attacked recently on the directly opposite grounds that it gives too much credence to alternative, sceptical points of view.

In a paper published in *Global Environmental Change* in 2002, Maxwell and Jules Boykoff investigated the press coverage of climate change in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Los Angeles Times* between 1988 and 2002. The Boykoffs analyzed a random sample of 636 articles. They found that a majority (52.7%) gave about equal weight to the IPCC view that humans contribute to recent climate change and to the alternative view that the change results from natural fluctuations. A further 35.3% percent of articles emphasized the IPCC consensus view, while still mentioning natural variation, 6.2% emphasized natural variation and 5.9% reported the consensus view alone.

The Boykoffs’ study identified a shift in press coverage between 1988 - when climate change first came to press attention - and 1990, in which journalists moved from uncritical reporting of the first alarmist views of warming to writing “balanced” accounts. They noted that this was the period when climate change science first became politicized, part of which entailed the emergence of (their allegation) an industry-funded group of sceptical scientists who questioned the view that industrial emissions are causing dangerous warming. In glutinous prose (Box A), the Boykoff’s inferred from this that from the early 1990s onward the U.S. newspapers that they had surveyed produced “*informationally biased coverage of global warming . . . hidden behind the veil of journalistic balance*”, and that in turn this had led “*the US government to shirk responsibility and delay action regarding global warming*”.

The Boykoff’s study is based on false assumptions, and is therefore fundamentally flawed. First, the paper sides with Edeleman’s post-modern view that there is no such thing as truth in science. Second, it assumes that between 1998 and 2002 “climate scientists” reached consensus that human-caused climate change was dangerous, and that urgent mandatory action was required. Thereby, the Boykoffs completely fail to appreciate that the quasi-scientific consensus of which they speak was politically organized through the IPCC: in the real climate science research community, vigorous debate continued, as it does today. And, third, the Boykoffs display well the frightening though fashionable attitude that matters of science should be determined by consensus, and that it is in the public interest that opposing voices be silenced. In sum, not only does the ghost of Savaronola stalk the Boykoffs’ paper, but the authors also completely fail to apprehend the real issue: which is that climate science is, and will remain, profoundly uncertain and especially so regarding human causation. In that context, the press attempts at “balance” that are of such concern to the Boykoffs are actually greatly too weak rather than too strong.

In the real world, of course, there are not just two sides to the global warming debate, as represented by the Boykoffs and others. Rather, there are almost as many sides to the debate as there are expert scientists arguing it, and the science will never be “*settled*” -

whatever that might mean. And, anyway, to reduce public discussion of important matters to "*he says, she says*" or "*there is a consensus*" pieties is to formularize them into meaninglessness.

It is clear that the press is not good at providing insightful commentaries about matters of complex environmental science, nor at balancing different views, nor at accepting criticism of their efforts. To leave the last word on this with Senator Inhofe:

"Sadly, it looks like my challenge to the media to be objective and balanced has fallen on deaf ears".

Policy advice corruption: inhibition of public debate

In addition to legal threats to free speech, and media bias and lack of balance, a third major problem with the climate change issue is the increasing involvement of national science academies in giving policy advice to governments. By giving false assurances that a "consensus" exists on human-caused global warming, or indeed on any other disputed science issue, and by attempting to inhibit public debate, these bodies betray the very foundations of their existence.

For example, in early September the Royal Society of London embarked on a misguided mission to inhibit informed public discussion of the global warming issue. Their Policy Communication Manager, Mr. Bob Ward, [wrote](#) an intimidatory letter to oil company Esso UK in an effort to suppress Esso's funding for organizations that in the Royal Society's view:

"misrepresented the science of climate change, by outright denial of the evidence, or by overstating the amount and significance of uncertainty in knowledge, or by conveying a misleading impression of the potential impacts of anthropogenic climate change".

Exxon [replied](#):

"At ExxonMobil, we believe that good governance is based on good ideas – and that good ideas are based on a respect for facts, rigor in thinking, rationality in debate and civility in discourse", adding in conclusion that "it is disappointing that representatives of the Royal Society find it appropriate to intentionally misstate our actions and positions relating to these important topics".

Mr. Ward's attempt to prevent free public discussion of climate change resulted in worldwide protests, including the [comment](#) (Marshall Institute, letter of Sept. 22) that:

"It is ... unfortunate that the Royal Society is advocating censorship on a subject that calls for debate. The censorship of voices that challenge and provoke is antithetical to liberty and contrary to the traditions and

values of free societies. That such a call comes from such a venerable scientific society is disturbing and should raise concerns worldwide about the intentions of those seeking to silence honest debate and discussion of our most challenging environmental issue – climate change”.

In defending the Royal Society against these criticisms, Mr. Bob Ward [explained](#) that it was never the Society’s intention to shut down legitimate debate, but rather to ensure that public discussion be conducted solely on the basis of published and peer-reviewed scientific papers. Coming from a primary gatekeeper to that literature, this is *lese majeste* of the first order, peer-reviewing being more of an editorial quality control procedure than it is a guarantee of scientific correctness. Witness the repeated failures by journals as prestigious as [Science](#) and [Nature](#) to conduct rudimentary data checking for papers that they publish, or to detect [conflict of interest](#) or [outright fraud](#). They also maintain a rigid politically correct bias in their [editorials](#), and in the choice of comments and criticisms that they publish on climate change. Therefore, an insistence on the use of peer-reviewed literature only does indeed shut down necessary debate.

Notwithstanding the rapid condemnations of the Royal Society action, copycat attempts to intimidate businesses were soon implemented across the globe. In USA, Senators Rockefeller and Snowe on Oct. 27th [wrote](#) a similar letter to Exxon to that of the Royal Society. And in Australia, Labor Shadow Minister for Public Accountability, Kelvin Thomson, basing his views on a showing of Al Gore’s movie and the Royal Society letter, [wrote](#) on Sept. 27th to leading Australian companies that:

“global warming is happening, it is man-made, and it is not good for us”. He continued “I am writing to ask whether your company has donated any money to the Institute for Public Affairs, the International Policy Network, the American Enterprise Institute, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the European Science and Environment Forums or any other body which spreads misinformation or undermines the scientific consensus concerning global warming. If your company has donated such money in the past, is it continuing to do so? If so, I request that your company cease such financial support”.

Mr. Thomson, without producing a shred of evidence, has here managed to impugn the professional integrity of well-respected public think tanks in Australia, USA, UK and Europe. To date, there has been no public reaction from them or from the businesses that were written to.

Two recent U.S. reports on climate change provide illustrations of another way in which science advice can become corrupted by policy pretension. The [first](#), by the National Academy of Sciences, discusses the evidence for surface temperature reconstructions over the last 2,000 years, including comments on the now infamous “hockey stick” curve. The [second](#), from the new Climate Change Science Program, summarizes information about atmospheric temperature measurements over the last 25 years. Both documents

contain egregious disparities between the (accurate) science detail that is provided in their main text, and free-wheeling, alarmist statements that are contained in their associated Executive Summary and Press Release. Media reports being based only on the latter sources, thus does frisbee science become public reality. As Fred Singer has commented: *“Perhaps we need a policy for summary-makers”*.

As a final example, the Royal Society of New Zealand, which publishes a Newsletter called *Alert*, recently presented an interchange of letters between the chairman of its own expert Committee on Climate Change and the independent New Zealand Climate Science Coalition. When the coalition provided a reasoned, referenced scientific discussion of various points that had been raised by these letters, the *Alert* editor, without giving reasons, declined to distribute it, thereby leaving his society members completely misinformed on the issue. And this from a national learned Society that *“aims to bring together an informed and scholarly approach to scientific and technological questions.”*

Up to the 1950s, the Royal Society of London used to advertise in its *Philosophical Transactions* that *“it is an established rule of the Royal Society ... never to give their opinion, as a Body, upon any subject, either of Nature or Art, that comes before them”*. Leaving such old-fashioned integrity behind them, the modern involvement of national science academies in the policy-setting process has led, quite inevitably, to their political corruption. For it is surely the sharpest of historical ironies that the Russian Academy of Science is now almost alone amongst its sibling organisations in encouraging independent viewpoints about climate change science to be voiced.

Members of science academies often play leading roles in the assessment of research proposals. This places individual alarmist scientists in a position to influence the disbursement of highly competitive research funds, whereby intimidation is brought to bear on research applications from scientists who display critical views on human-caused global warming. In one recent example, the referee of a research proposal commented:

“The applicant appears to be keen to dispute in the popular press the scientific evidence linking recent global-scale warming to increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. While the freedom of the press means that she can write whatever she wants in a newspaper, it would be better if she published scientifically-correct statements in her newspaper articles. .. (Her) statements are incorrect. It is not appropriate... to fund a scientist who continues to publish scientifically erroneous statements in the popular press”.

Against such bias from research professionals, voters worldwide need to insist on a fact-based debate on issues such as whether countries like New Zealand and Canada should withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol, which they are entitled to do without penalty; and whether future environmental health would best be encouraged by enlarging the membership of the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (AP6) rather than by pursuing the chimera of Kyoto-style agreements.

Censoring by not publishing moderate voices in the climate debate, as the media worldwide do; peremptorily refusing sensible calls for a Royal Commission into the matter, as the New Zealand Minister for Climate recently did; issuing press releases or summaries that deliberately misrepresent expert committee findings, as the US Academy of Sciences has done; or not funding research proposals on science merit alone, as is now commonplace; all these actions demonstrate a troubling contempt for the true public interest, similar to that displayed by the Attorney General of California.

Governments, of course, take advice not only from their departmental officials or scientific academies, but also from a range of special reports or committees that they commission to deal with specific topics. Most recently in the United Kingdom, for example, such a review was accomplished on the economics of climate change by Sir Nicholas Stern. In this instance, as in many others, careful choice of the terms of reference and selection of the person to chair the review had a heavy bearing on the outcome. For Sir Nicholas' review, that outcome was yet more unsubstantiated global warming alarmism.

This unsatisfactory use of science in public policy formulation has not passed unnoticed. In early November, 2006, the UK parliamentary Science and Technology Committee released a [report](#) that was highly critical of government use of science and technology, [saying](#) that “*scientific evidence was often misused or distorted to justify policy decisions which were really based on ideological or social grounds*”. One member of the committee, Liberal Democrats' science spokesman Evan Harris said that “*abuse of the term ‘evidence based’ Is a form of fraud which corrupts the whole use of science in government*”.

Finally, and again in November, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI also expressed his concern about the lack of balance in public scientific debates. He commented that:

“This means avoiding needlessly alarming predictions when these are not supported by sufficient data or exceed science’s actual ability to predict. But it also means avoiding the opposite, namely a silence, born of fear, in the face of genuine problems”.

Vilification of climate sceptics

Where the Royal Society of London leads others will follow, and September and October, 2006, saw an astounding outburst of vilification of climate skeptics on a variety of webzines and blogs. As Brendan O'Neill wrote in [Spiked Online](#), “*Whoever thought that serious commentators would want it made illegal to have a row about the weather?*”, which referred to an earlier suggestion by Margot Kingston (Sept., 2005) that:

“David Irvine is under arrest in Austria for Holocaust denial. Perhaps there is a case for making climate change denial an offence - it is a crime against humanity after all. Twenty good years of action have been lost courtesy of climate change sceptics, many of whom did not

act in good faith - they were protecting and promoting vested interests”.

Terms like “climate deniers” or “flat earthers” have appeared spasmodically in the media for many years, and it is standard blog procedure to smear anyone who speaks out against the warming hysteria, however distinguished their professional position may be. For example, one well-known climate sceptic recently had written about him that “*The presence of (the name of) this modern day [Goebbels](#) in any article on climate change is a canary in a coal-mine, indicating the death of journalistic credibility*”, complete with a live link to the Wikipedia entry and a photograph of Joseph Goebbels himself.

Nonetheless, linking the earlier use of the term “deniers” expressly to the Holocaust appears to be a relatively new tactic. The rhetorical trick whereby climate rationalists are first badged as deniers and then transmuted into Holocaust perpetrators grossly exceeds the bounds of normal rhetorical debate. Yet when this was pointed out by Panel Member [Marc Morano](#) at an [October meeting](#) of the [Society of Environmental Journalists](#) none of his fellow panelists nor a single member of the large audience would comment critically on the Holocaust smear. By their silence they became complicit.

At the same meeting, American Broadcasting Corporation reporter Bill Blakemore said that when he is reporting climate change matters, he now rejects the concept of “balance” in order to allow the exclusion of skeptical views about human-caused global warming. This statement is perhaps less surprising than it might first seem, because Mr. Blakemore is also the person who reported in August that “*After extensive searches, ABC News has found no such (scientific) debate on global warming*”. That such overt bias should be displayed by a national broadcaster like the ABC is deeply disturbing.

Recently, people have appeared to be almost queuing up to outdo each other in derogation of those pesky sceptics. For example, George Monbiot made the following typically wild statement in his new book-length [polemic](#), “*Heat*”:

“While they have been most effective in the United States, the impacts of the climate change deniers sponsored by Exxon and Philip Morris have been felt all over the world. I have seen their arguments endlessly repeated in Australia, Canada, India, Russia and the UK. By dominating the media debate on climate change during seven or eight critical years in which urgent international talks should have been taking place, by constantly seeding doubt about the science just as it should have been most persuasive, they have justified the money their sponsors have spent on them many times over. It is fair to say that the professional denial industry has delayed effective global action on climate change by years, just as it helped to delay action against the tobacco companies”.

And on the same day of Sept. 19th, whilst publicizing Monbiot’s book, David Roberts chimed in on the Grist environmental news site [with](#):

“When we've finally gotten serious about global warming, when the impacts are really hitting us and we're in a full worldwide scramble to minimize the damage, we should have war crimes trials for these bastards -- some sort of climate Nuremberg”.

These outrageous comments elicited an immediate reaction from professional scientists such as [Roger Pielke](#), causing Mr. Roberts to withdraw by [saying](#) on Oct. 12th:

“There are people and institutions knowingly disseminating falsehoods and distortions about global warming. They deserve to be held publicly accountable.

As to what shape that accountability would take, my analogy to the Nuremberg trials was woefully inappropriate – nay, stupid. I retract it wholeheartedly”.

Mr. Roberts may well have regretted his lapse in taste, but that didn't stop others copying it. In one of the more astonishing speeches given in modern politics, on November 9, 2006, British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett addressed a seminar on combating terrorism at the Royal United Services Institute in London. Speaking of the terrorists, and seeking an analogy to explain their behaviour, she said:

“This is not a battle between civilisations but a stand-off between the whole of society on the one hand and a fairly small and particularly nasty bunch of murderers and criminals on the other”.

“In practical terms that means avoiding the temptation to artificially polarize debate”.

“I've seen it so often in the long-running debate about climate change: wheel out the resident sceptic, however unrepresentative or discredited, to generate tension and voice provocative views in the name of editorial balance”

“It makes for more heated exchanges and louder headlines. But it is not the way to build a common consensus on the ground we share”.

That a senior minister in a western government can be so misinformed on such an important science issue, but more particularly on the way that science itself works, is of great concern. Given the gross lack of judgement revealed here, it is scarcely surprising that some have demanded that Ms. Beckett should resign her position.

Despite the long history of use of derogatory terms being applied to climate sceptics, deploying the term denialist seems to have become much commoner from mid-2005 onwards, with major newspapers and even Mr. Gore adopting the term widely. The clear intent, as with Margaret Beckett's comments, is to suppress discussion and comment by force of ridicule. Yet as John Roskam has [observed](#):

“Whether climate change is a fact, probably a fact, possibly a fact, or a fabrication depends on who you choose to believe. Most (of us) line up somewhere between probable and possible on this spectrum. Despite differences about the causes of climate change, it would be hoped that there's one aspect of the issue about which there could be unanimity. Ideally, all sides of the issue would agree that discussion about climate change is a good thing - and the more discussion the better”.

Discussion does indeed seem preferable to trials, and climate alarmists, Sir Nigel Stern and Ms. Beckett included, would do well to ponder Mr. Roskam's eminently sensible statement.

Here, mounted on chargers, come the churches and business

At the start of this paper, I identified global warming evangelism as a new religion. Confusingly, in recent years many of the more traditional religious groups have also become involved in proselytizing about global warming. Indeed, Christian church leaders from many denominations now loudly proclaim the evils of climate change alongside the greenest of environmentalists.

Leaders of the [Catholic](#), [Anglican](#), [Methodist](#) and [Uniting](#) churches in countries as far apart as USA, Canada, Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand have espoused calls for action to “stop climate change”. For example, in 2004 the UK-based evangelical group “Tearfund”, in association with co-chair of IPCC's science working group, Sir John Houghton, launched “[Operation Noah](#)”, a campaign to curb human-caused climate change by cutting greenhouse emissions and using “green” electricity. In a more recent but equally typical action, on November 4 another *ad hoc* coalition called “StopClimate Chaos” organized a rally in Trafalgar Square, London, on behalf of more than 35 environmental, religious and women's groups. The event received widespread press coverage, and attracted more than 20,000 people.

In the United States, evangelical religious groups have also entered the public discussion. In 2006, under the auspices of “The Evangelical Climate Initiative”, a group of pastors and heads of theological colleges [called](#) for federal laws to limit carbon dioxide emissions, on the grounds that human-caused global warming is real and threatens the world's poor people disproportionately. Of course that human-caused global warming may be real doesn't necessarily make it dangerous, and the claim that warming will preferentially disadvantage the poor is unsubstantiated if not unsubstantiatable. Not surprisingly, therefore, another evangelical group called the “Interfaith Stewardship Alliance” soon thereafter offered an alternative, science-based view of the issue. Their spokesman, Calvin Beisner, [commented](#) that “*human emissions of CO₂ are a minor cause of global warming, but they enhance plant growth and so contribute to feeding the human population and all other species*”.

Church leaders are not the only influential persons now actively campaigning about dangerous human-caused global warming. Business leaders have caught the disease too, doubtless egged on by the climate change and ecological sustainability [courses](#) that have become fashionable at even the most prestigious business schools. Many examples could be given. To take just one illustration, Mr. John McFarlane, head of the major bank ANZ, began a [recent opinion piece](#) in a national paper with the following daft statement:

“WHILE the debate among scientists about climate change continues, it is unimaginable to conclude otherwise than that the pumping of a massive amount of carbon into the atmosphere is damaging our planet and potentially endangering future generations.”

Bankers are generally not renowned for their imagination. Mr. McFarlane continues:

“... climate change is no longer a "far in the future" issue. It is affecting us right now. Accepting that the deterioration of our climate is a reality, is the crucial first step. By acknowledging the problem, we are one step closer to committing ourselves to a solution.”

So the problem is not just the sad substitution of imagination for scientific rigor, but, worse, a naive ignorance of the basic fact that climate change has always been with us and always will be.

No one doubts the good intentions of most of the clergymen, business leaders and celebrities who now preach such views, but that they are so misinformed must reflect in part the unrelenting bias of what they have been reading, listening to and watching in the media. Through this, they have caught global warming religion.

In this regard, the attempts to muzzle sceptics, and the trenchant criticisms made of them and public figures like Senator Inhofe, are not because of scientific weaknesses in their arguments, but because they have committed the cardinal sin of lacking belief.

And propaganda everywhere

Mr. Al Gore's film, *An Inconvenient Truth* can conveniently be taken to exemplify this statement, for the reach of Hollywood truly is global. As is the daily publication of alarmist climate change stories in major newspapers in all countries, a practice delightfully described as “climate porn” by the London-based Institute for Public Policy Research.

As widely commented on in [reviews](#) and other opinion pieces, Al Gore's film is a masterpiece of evangelism, using every artifice in the propaganda film maker's book. Dramatic and beautiful images of imagined climate-related natural disasters segue fluidly one into another: from collapsing ice sheets to shrinking mountain glaciers, from giant storms and floods to searing deserts, and from ocean current and sea-level changes to drowning polar bears.

Never explained is the minor detail that all of these events reflect mostly the fact that we humans inhabit a dynamic planet. Certainly, all of them have occurred naturally many times in the past, long before human activities could possibly have been their cause.

And when asked about his film, in an [interview](#) with *Grist Magazine*, “Do you scare people or give them hope?” Mr. Gore replied:

“I think the answer to that depends on where your audience’s head is. In the United States of America, unfortunately we still live in a bubble of unreality. And the Category 5 denial is an enormous obstacle to any discussion of solutions. Nobody is interested in solutions if they don’t think there’s a problem. Given that starting point, I believe it is appropriate to have an over-representation of factual solutions on how dangerous it (global warming) is, as a predicate for opening up the audience to listen to what the solutions are, and how hopeful it is that we are going to solve this crisis”.

The intellectual dishonesty involved in all of this is not restricted to Mr. Gore’s film, but has become all pervasive. Thus professional sociologists at the London-based Institute for Public Policy Research [urge](#) that:

“the task of climate change agencies is not to persuade by rational argument. ... Instead, we need to work in a more shrewd and contemporary way, using subtle techniques of engagement. ... The ‘facts’ need to be treated as being so taken-for-granted that they need not be spoken.”

The same authors then calmly advise:

“Ultimately, positive climate behaviours need to be approached in the same way as marketers approach acts of buying and consuming. ... It amounts to treating climate-friendly activity as a brand that can be sold. This is, we believe, the route to mass behaviour change.”

“Amen to that”, Mr Gore would presumably sing. Not chilled by such statements? Then your global warming fever is indeed incurable. Rarely has the public prostitution of an important science issue been so clearly revealed as in these inadvertent slips of the post-modernist skirt.

But surely even those who don’t find aims to change adult behaviour disagreeable must object to the indoctrination of children on matters of science. Consider then the following [statement](#), from an educational consultancy in Australia that believes that climate change is an education “hot spot” and needs a nationally coordinated approach:

"Climate change is here with us now and educational programs that are aimed at changing behaviour in relation to resource use with consistent national goals and clear messaging can provide an important and effective link to millions of homes in Australia".

It is unclear whether the Attorney General of California really does think that “climate skeptics” are a public hazard; whether media editors and journalists are obsessed with being politically correct on climate change, or are merely frightened of offending their governments; whether politicians and leading public figures are being sincere or simply pragmatic about the often inane climate policies that they propose; or whether well meaning educators are aware of the Orwellian nature of their proposals.

At the same time, it is all too clear that Al Gore and his many disciples really do believe their own propaganda, which in late 2006 was being being fomented by the [boot-camp training](#) in Nashville, Tennessee, of “*more than 1,000 individuals to give a version of his presentation on the effects of - and solutions for - global warming, to community groups throughout US.*” Not content with one continent, in November Mr. Gore is traveling to Australia to train another 75 volunteer “climate changers” to replicate the PowerPoint presentation on which *An Inconvenient Truth* was based. Each volunteer will guarantee to deliver at least 10 seminars over the following 12 months, for a minimum total of 750 sessions across Australia. This exercise is being funded by lobby group the Australian Conservation Foundation under the auspices of the [Climate Project](#).

Why the mounting hysteria?

Many of the scientists associated with a rationalist interpretation of global warming accept the null hypothesis that most of the climate change we are now observing is natural; and that, though human activities undoubtedly influence local climate, there is as yet no convincing empirical evidence that global human influence operates above the noise of a naturally dynamic earth system.

This is scarcely a heretical scientific view, yet it has come to be considered as such. For the treatment of global warming “sceptics” has long been characterized by attempts to discredit their views and challenge their integrity using *ad hominem* attacks. In particular, there is an absolute obsession with allegations that industries or interest groups may be paying or offering non-monetary inducements to climate sceptics. For example, Chris Mooney’s recent [villainisation](#) of the Marshall Institute and its president William O’Keefe, or the even more extraordinary assault by the world’s largest professional organization representing climate scientists, the [American Geophysical Union](#) (AGU), on a sibling science organization, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists - which was attacked for making its [2006 Journalism Award](#) to writer Mr. Michael Crichton.

Mr. Mooney, the AGU, and bedfellows like George Monbiot and Ross Gelbspan, completely miss the point that truth in science does not depend upon who pays for it. The key question is not “*where is the money coming from*” but “*is the science sound*”. The alarmist global warming science lobby and their green acolytes have completely failed to

deal with this issue. They remain oblivious to the obvious fact that their own motives are suspect in proportion to the estimated US \$50 billion of public research money that has been allocated to “global warming” investigations since about 1990, not to mention the additional hundreds of millions that has been spent on climate lobbying by NGOs. Why should it be supposed that the directors of supercomputer laboratories and environmental NGOs do not have motives every bit as venal as the senior managers of big business?

The alarmist global warming camp now includes the United Nations, most Western Governments, most of the free press, many large corporations (including Enron, before it failed), the major churches, most scientific organizations and general public opinion.

Why is it that those who form part of such an overwhelming body of opinion are now displaying such sensitivity to criticism of their favoured hypothesis? Why do the Royal Society of London, a major Australian political party and some US Senators feel that it is so necessary to stop Exxon, or any other organisation or individual, from giving financial support to those who advance alternative, science-based views on climate change? Why is it that businessmen, church leaders, sports people, film stars and politicians - all of whom have in common a leadership position and a lack of qualifications in science, but none of whom would dream of telling us what clothes to wear or what music to listen to - feel this fierce urge to lecture us on how we should live our lives with respect to carbon-based fuels?

The only answer is that for such organizations and persons the climate change issue is no longer a matter of science, if indeed it ever was; instead, it has become an inviolable belief system.

Well, leaders or not, and however devout their belief, we have news for these people. Which is that the game’s almost up for the carbon dioxide scam, guys.

Game up for the warmaholics

Modern alarmism about global warming began with Dr. Jim Hansen’s notorious [appearance](#) in front of the US Congress in 1988, and the hare has now been running for almost 20 years. Recent, increased public propaganda about climate change reflects subliminal recognition by the alarmists that they are losing command of the scientific high ground. At the same time, since 1990 the deterministic computer models so vital for sustenance of the global warming myth have time and again been shown wanting when tested against the reality of the actual temperature record as it developed.

Thanks not least to the efforts of those persons disparaged as “skeptics”, the trend towards a more rationalist interpretation of climate change has been occurring over a number of years. But 2006 has been special in that several key events have made it increasingly plain that the hypothesis of dangerous human-caused warming caused by carbon dioxide emission is false. A selection of those events is listed in Box B, and five scientific conclusions from them are summarized in Box C.

The credibility of many prestigious organizations and persons is invested in the dangerous global warming cause. Not surprisingly, therefore, the reaction to the mounting evidence against the alarmist case has been to ramp up the rhetoric and pursue with even more vigor the idea that the public must be “educated” about global warming. For instance, Nov. 4, 2006, was declared an International Day of Action on Climate Change, with more than 20,000 people attending a [StopClimate Chaos](#) rally in Trafalgar Square, London. On the same day but on the other side of the globe, the [Wellington Climate Festival](#) included:

“documentary films, information stalls, a climate change science and policy workshop, presentations from key stakeholders and responses from political parties.... (and) presentations and discussions around what you can do”.

A paroxysm of climate publicity will continue to build from the Nov. 2nd release of Sir Nicholas Stern’s long awaited [economic analysis](#) of the climate change issue to the United Nations [COP 12 climate conference](#) in Nairobi (Nov. 17-28, 2006), to the publication in Paris of the IPCC’s [4th Assessment Report](#) (Feb. 2, 2007). Foreshadowing this, the United Kingdom government recently created an [Office of Climate Change](#), which was matched by a European Union [climate publicity initiative](#).

These stage-managed events will come and go, accompanied by the expenditure of thousands of column inches and hundreds of hours of mostly supportive media comment. Yet, throughout it all, the non-alarmist, rationalist interpretation of climate change will survive; indeed, it will prevail, as empirical data trump unvalidated computer models.

It is already apparent that the real issue is now no longer climate change as such, which will always be with us. Rather, the issues are, first, the failure of the free press to properly inform the public about the nature of climate science and the vested interests involved in the global warming scare. And, second, the self-interest of the science managers who have remained silent about the huge uncertainties of the human-caused global warming hypothesis, because it suited them to do so.

Public opinion will soon demand an explanation as to why experienced editors and hardened investigative journalists, worldwide, have melted before the blowtorch of self-induced guilt, political correctness and special interest expediency that marks the sophisms of global warming alarmists.

Conclusion

Australian Chief Justice, Murray Gleeson, has recently argued that:

“the cultural expectation that those in authority are able and willing to justify the exercise of power is one of the most important aspects of modern public life”.

Public opinion now forces governments, courts, lobby groups and powerful individuals alike to respect this principle. And nowhere is justification more needed, together with accurate information and balanced discussion, than in the complex debate over human-caused global warming, now one of the great political issues of our time.

It remains a matter of faith whether reductions in carbon dioxide emissions, should they occur, will have any measurable influence on climate. My conclusion is that - irrespective of McCarthyist bludgeoning, press bias, policy-advice corruption or propaganda frenzy – it is highly unlikely that the public is going to agree to a costly restructuring of the world economy simply on the basis of speculative computer models of climate in 100 years time.

Attempting to “stop climate change” is an extravagant and costly exercise of utter futility. Rational climate policies must be based on adaptation to climate change as it occurs, irrespective of its causation.

BOX A

Boyoff & Boykoff: Conclusions

“Our research has led us to believe that, as Edelman (1988, p.123) said, “understanding lies in awareness of the range of meanings political phenomena present and in appreciation of their potentialities for generating change in actions and beliefs. It does not spring from designating some one interpretation as fact, truth, or scientific finding”. Structural factors like journalistic norms and values contribute to an explanation as to why global warming, as an environmental issue, has struggled for fair and accurate attention from the prestige press in the United States”.

“Even though the IPCC has strongly posited that anthropogenic activities have had a “discernable” effect on the global climate (IPCC, 1996), urgent, mandatory action has not been taken. The central messages in the generally agreed-upon scientific discourse have therefore not been proliferated by the mass media into the popular arena. The failed discursive translation between the scientific community and popular, mass-mediatised discourse is not random; rather the mis-translation is systematic and occurs for perfectly logical reasons rooted in journalistic norms, and values”.

“We conclude that the US prestige press - New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, and the Wall Street Journal – contributed in significant ways to this failed discursive translation through the adherence to journalistic norms, and more specifically to the journalistic norm of balance. In the end, adherence to the norm of balanced reporting leads to informationally biased coverage of global warming. This bias, hidden behind the veil of journalistic balance, creates both discursive and real political space for the US government to shirk responsibility and delay action regarding global warming”.

Boykoff, M.T. & Boykoff, J.M., 2003. Balance as bias: global warming and the US prestige press. *Global Environmental Change* 14, 125-136.

BOX B

2006: A bad year for the hypothesis of dangerous human-caused global warming

Confirmation that ancient CO₂ levels reached 3X today's values without known environmental harm

A major embarrassment for proponents of the view that increasing carbon dioxide will cause dangerous warming is our knowledge that in the past changes in temperature have *preceded* parallel changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide. This is true at the scale of both annual weather cycles (Kuo et al., 1991; carbon dioxide change lags by 5 months) and geological glacial/interglacial climate cycles (Mudelsee, 2001; carbon dioxide change lags by several hundred to a thousand or so years). The cause of the carbon dioxide increases is thought to be outgassing from the Southern Ocean as it warms.

It has also long been known that levels of atmospheric dioxide up to several thousand ppm have characterized previous geological times, with little effect other than mild warming and prolific vegetation growth. Now, Lowenstein and Demicco, writing in [Science Magazine](#) in 2006, have produced an important new summary curve of inferred carbon dioxide values over the last 60 million years. Values decline from about 1500 ppm at 60 Ma, to 500 ppm at 25 Ma, to around 300-400 ppm since 10 Ma. Against this background, the levels of 180 ppm inferred for recent glacial periods from ice core measurements represent carbon dioxide starvation, and even the average interglacial levels of 280 ppm are low compared with earlier geological history.

Given these data, it is unlikely that an increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide to levels to 500 or even 1000 ppm will be environmentally harmful, for most modern plants and animals have evolved from ancestors used to these higher levels of carbon dioxide.

Kuo, C., Lindberg, C. & Thomson, D.J., 1990. Coherence established between atmospheric carbon dioxide and global temperature. *Nature* 343, 709-713.

Lowenstein, T.K. & Demicco, R.V., 2006. Elevated Eocene atmospheric CO₂ and its subsequent decline. *Science* 313, 1928. (<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/313/5795/1928>).

Mudelsee, M., 2001. The phase relations among atmospheric CO₂ content, temperature and global ice volume over the past 420 ka. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 20, 583-589.

Demise of the hockey-stick temperature curve of the last 1,000 years

Direct temperature measurements began with the development of the thermometer between 1593 and 1714. An acceptably accurate global reconstruction of the global average temperature statistic exists from about 1860, i.e. for the last 150 years. Achieving a longer record requires the study of climatic archives such as tree rings, ice cores and sedimentary layers, within which measurements of, for example, the width of the rings yields a proxy estimate of ancient temperatures.

In 1998 and 1999, Michael Mann and colleagues published two papers based on tree-ring measurements, depicting the northern hemisphere temperature over the last 1,000 years as a North American “hockey-stick” shape, with the blade of the stick representing rapidly warming temperatures during the 20th century. This graph was based on complex statistical manipulations. It was also widely promulgated by the IPCC in 2001 as part of its Third Assessment Report.

Between 2003 and 2005, Canadians Stephen McIntyre and Ross McKittrick published a series of papers in which they showed that the statistical manipulations that underlay the hockey-stick curve were faulty. In 2006, this conclusion was upheld independently by an expert committee of the US National Academy of Sciences and a Congressional committee.

In the years between 1998 and 2005, the hockey-stick curve was widely used, after the IPCC, as the iconic image of human-caused global warming. Now that the hockey-stick is discredited, the hypothesis of

dangerous human influence on climate change is left resting almost entirely on unvalidated computer modeling and attribution studies.

IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) 2001. *Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK. Third Assessment Report, Vol. 1. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

Mann, M. E., Bradley, R. E. and Hughes, M. K. 1998. temperature patterns and climate forcing over the past six centuries," *Nature* 392, 779-787.

Mann, M.E., Bradley, R.S. and Hughes, M. K. 1999. Northern hemisphere temperatures during the past millennium: Inferences, uncertainties, and limitations. *Geophysical Research Letters* 26(6), 759-762.

McIntyre, Stephen and McKittrick, Ross, 2003. Corrections to the Mann et al. (1998) proxy data base and Northern hemispheric average temperature series," *Energy and Environment* 14, 751-771.

McIntyre, S. and McKittrick, R. 2005a. M&M critique of MBH98 Northern hemisphere climate index: Update and implications. *Energy and Environment* 16(1), 69-100.

McIntyre, S. and McKittrick, R. 2005b. Hockey sticks, principal components, and spurious significance. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 32, L03710, doi:10.1029/2004GL021750.

NAS 2006. Surface Temperature Reconstructions for the Last 2,000 Years. Committee on Surface Temperature Reconstructions for the Last 2,000 Years, United States National Research Council, Washington. <http://newton.nap.edu/execsumm.pdf/11676>.

Wegman, E. et al. 2006. Ad hoc Committee Report on the "Hockeystick" Global Climate Reconstruction. *U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce*.

Particularly cold northern hemisphere winter in 2005-06

Extended spells of record cold and stormy weather with blizzards were encountered right across the Northern Hemisphere in the winter of 2005-06.

These events [included](#): the heaviest snows in *Germany* in more than 100 years (Nov.); *Montreal* paralyzed by record snowfall (Dec.); death toll of 36 from an abnormal cold front sweeping across northern India (Dec.); *Japan's* heaviest snow in 122 years (Dec.); snow in *Saudi Arabia* (Dec.); temperatures across *China* 1.5 deg. C lower than the historical average throughout December, and fierce cold continued into January; the UN was forced to suspend relief efforts in *Pakistan* after days of heavy storms dumped up to 3 metres of snow in Kashmir and northwestern Pakistan (Jan.); in *Western Siberia* temperatures dipped to -40 deg. C in the Novosibirsk region (Jan.), the lowest in 100 years; record freeze destroyed 30 percent of *Russian* crops, in the worst winter in the past 28 years (Feb.); thousands trapped by record snowfall in *Western Europe*, with heavy blizzards killing at least seventeen persons (March).

e.g. http://www.iceagenow.com/Global_Warming_Myth.htm

Paucity of North Atlantic hurricanes in 2006

The North Atlantic summer-fall hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. During the 2005 season there were 28 named tropical storms, including destructive Hurricane Katrina. Because of the damage inflicted on the New Orleans district by Katrina, the frequency of recurrence and intensity of hurricanes became the focus of strong attention with respect to climate change alarmism.

Pre-season [predictions](#) for the 2006 hurricane season by various expert forecasting groups clustered around 15 named storms, which is close to the long-term average number. In fact, the season turned out to be a quiet one, with only nine named storms up until the end of October. No tropical storms formed in October, for the first time since the 1994 season.

Despite intensive [research](#) on the topic, there is no strong evidence that late 20th century warming was accompanied by an increase in the number or intensity of cyclones.

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane2006/May/hurricane.shtml>

Gray, W.M. 2006. Hurricanes & climate change assessing the linkages following the 2006 season. *George C. Marshall Institute*, Washington, Oct. 11, 2006, 42 pp. (<http://www.marshall.org/article.php?id=463>).

Sharp decline reported in global ocean temperatures, 2003-05

Global average sea-temperature at shallow and intermediate depths in the ocean (0-1000 m) have increased steadily since 1995, in parallel with increasing air temperatures. Writing in the *Geophysical Research Letters*, [Lyman et al.](#) (2006) have shown that between 2003 and 2005, ocean temperatures declined 0.2 deg. C. This represents about 20% of the prior warming that occurred between 1987 and 2003.

This ocean cooling is centred at depths of around 450 m, where equatorward transports of cold, intermediate-depth water occur. The time constant for ocean circulation being about 1,000 years, it is likely that similar heat (i.e. flow) fluctuations will occur in future, as they have in the past, and that they have little to do with human-caused climate change.

Lyman, J. M., Willis, J.K. & Johnson, G.C., 2006. Recent cooling of the upper ocean, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 33, L18604, doi:10.1029/2006GL027033.

Still no increase in global average temperature since 1998

There are four widely used historical records of global average temperature. The US NASA ([GISS](#)) and UK [Climate Research Unit](#) (CRU) datasets use a largely common database from which to calculate the average surface air temperature drawn from worldwide thermometer measurements. Two other atmospheric temperature records are provided by [radiosondes](#) mounted on weather balloons, and [microwave sounding units](#) mounted on satellites.

Three of these records show that global average temperature has been flatlining or gently declining since 1998. The GISS surface record conflicts with the other three by showing 2005 as hotter than 1998, an exception which suggests that it may be incorrect. Adopting, therefore, the CRU data as the most accurate indication of surface temperature, three different methods of measuring atmospheric temperature (thermometers, radiosondes and MSU) show no warming since 1998.

Even more striking given the very large increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide that occurred, once the perturbing effects of volcanic eruptions and El Nino oscillations are removed the tropospheric data show no significant trend in temperature since 1970 ([Gray, 2006](#)).

Furthermore, and despite claims to the contrary in CCSP (2006), the discrepancy between the surface temperature measurements (which show warming) and the tropospheric records (which do not) remains, in conflict with theoretical calculations and all model predictions.

CCSP 2006. Temperature Trends in the Lower Atmosphere: Steps for Understanding and Reconciling Differences. *Thomas R. Karl, Susan J. Hassol, Christopher D. Miller, and William L. Murray (eds.), A Report by the Climate Change Science Program and the Subcommittee on Global Change Research, Washington, DC.* (<http://newton.nap.edu/catalog/11285.html>.)

Gray, V. 2006 Temperature trends in the lower atmosphere. *Energy & Environment* 17, 707-714. (In: *Papers by recognized New Zealand climate scientists*, dated 31/05/06, at <http://www.climate-science.org.nz>.)

<http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/cru/info/warming/>

http://cdiac.ornl.gov/trends/temp/hansen/graphics/gl_land_ocean.gif

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov>

http://www.junkscience.com/MSU_Temps/Radiosonde.htm

http://www.junkscience.com/MSU_Temps/Warming_Look.htm#UAH%20MSU

Forecast for solar weakening and climatic cooling during the next half-century

Both NASA and the Russian Academy of Science issued statements in 2006 that predict climatic cooling over the next few decades.

[NASA](#) used historical records back to 1890 to show a link between the speed of the solar magnetic conveyor belt and the number of sunspots. Projecting this pattern, Solar Cycle 25, which will peak in 2022, is predicted to be one of the weakest in centuries. The decline of cycle 24 will start in about 2012, after which cooling could proceed to levels as cold as those of the Maunder Minimum during the Little Ice Age.

Khabibullo Abdusamatov and colleagues from the Russian Academy of Sciences made a similar [prediction](#), based on the recognition of a 200 year-long solar emission cycle. They predict a global cooling starting in 2012-2015 and peaking in 2055-2060 towards the middle of the century, with warming again at the start of the 22nd century.

These predictions confirm earlier similar predictions for 21st century cooling based upon empirical analysis of past climate records and their projection (Klyashtorin & Lyubushin, 2003; Krotov, 2001; Loehle, 2004).

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/10may_longrange.htm
<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20060825/53143686.html>

Loehle, C., 2004. Climate change: detection and attribution of trends from long-term geologic data. *Ecological Modelling* 171, 433-450.

Klyashtorin, L.B. & Lyubushin, A.A., 2003. On the coherence between dynamics of the world fuel consumption and global temperature anomaly. *Energy & Environment* 14, 733-782.

Kotov, S.R., 2001. Near-term climate prediction using ice-core data from Greenland. In: Gerhard, L.C. et al. (eds.), *Geological Perspectives of Global Climate Change, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Studies in Geology* 47, 305-315.

Surface temperature record still contaminated with human-related heat artefacts (UHI)

Velazquez-Losada and colleagues analysed surface temperature records from the tropical city of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and surrounding coastal and rural areas. The city was shown to correspond to an urban heat island within which temperature over the last 40 years has increased at a rate of 0.06 deg. C/yr. Extrapolation of the data suggests that the total human heat effect will reach as high as 8 deg. C by 2050. Such a large temperature signal associated with only a modest-sized city dwarfs predicted greenhouse-gas-induced warming. It also suggests that the simplest explanation of the conflict between the satellite-radiosonde and ground-based temperature records is an UHI bias in the latter.

Velazquez-Losada, A., Gonzalez, J.E. & Winter, A., 2006. Urban heat island effect analysis for San Juan, Puerto Rico. *Atmospheric Environment* 40, 1731-1741.

Polar bears not going extinct, but thriving

The polar bear is used by environmental NGOs as an iconic species with which to create public alarm about Arctic warming. For the last five years there has been widespread speculation in the press that bear populations are in decline, or even endangered. In 2005, Greenpeace and other environmental groups requested that polar bears be upgraded to “threatened” on the US Endangered Species List.

In response, the US Fish and Wildlife Service commissioned leading wildlife biologist Dr. Mitchell Taylor to advise them. In a 12 page [report](#) released on May 12, 2006, Dr. Taylor said: “*Of the 13 populations of polar bears in Canada, 11 are stable or increasing in number. They are not going extinct, or even appear to be affected at present*”. A World Wildlife Fund [report](#) had come to similar conclusions in 2001, but received little publicity.

<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2006/05/15/polar-bears.html>

World Wildlife Fund, 2001. *Polar Bears at Risk*, 28 pp.
(http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/climate_change/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=3345)

Arctic no warmer now than it was in the 1930s: Greenland and Antarctica cooling

Parts of the Arctic region have experienced steady warming over the late 20th century, leading to alarmist speculation about melting of the polar ice pack and Greenland ice cap. Strong warming has also been experienced along the West Antarctic Peninsula.

Regarding the Arctic, the phase of warming since 1965 is of slightly less than the warming of similar magnitude that occurred between 1916 and 1939. The volume of ice stored in Greenland is close to balanced. The interior temperature of Greenland is cooling and the ice across the top of the icecap thickened between 1992 and 2003 at an average rate of 5.4 cm/yr (Khvorostovsky et al., 2005).

Regarding Antarctica, the volume of ice stored is close to balanced (Remy & Frezzotti, 2006), and the interior of Antarctica is cooling. Between 1992 and 2003, the ice cap thickened at an average rate of 1.8 cm/yr (Davis et al., 2005). Between 1979 and 1998, sea-ice around the continent increased in area by 212,000 sq km (Zwally et al., 2005).

The world's two major icecaps appear to be stable, and there is no compelling evidence that modern glacial changes fall outside natural climate cyclicality.

Davis, C.H. et al. 2005. Snowfall-driven growth in East Antarctic ice sheet mitigates recent sea-level rise. *Science* 308, 1898-1901.

Khvorostovsky, K.S., Bobylev, L.P. and Johannessen, O.M. 2005. Greenland ice sheet elevation variations from 1992 to 2003 derived from ERS-1 and ERS-2 satellite altimeter data. *Geophysical Research Abstracts* 7, 02055. SRef-ID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU05-A-02055.

Remy, F. and Frezzotti, M. 2006 Antarctica ice sheet mass balance. *Comptes Rendus Geosciences*, in press.

Zwally, H.J. et al. 2005 Mass changes of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets and shelves and contributions to sea-level rise: 1992-2002. *Journal of Glaciology* 51, 509-527.

Experimental confirmation of a possible cosmic ray-climate connection mechanism

In 1997, Danish meteorologists Henrik Svensmark and Eigil Friis-Christensen demonstrated an empirical relationship between an increased amount of low-level cloud (which causes cooling) and levels of cosmic ray influx. Because levels of cosmic ray influx also correlated with solar cycles, being as much as 25% lower during solar minima. A link was postulated between earth's decadal-scale climate cyclicality and solar cyclicality, as modulated by a varying nucleation of clouds as cosmic ray flux varied in sympathy with the changing solar magnetic field.

Other researchers were skeptical that such a mechanism existed. In 2006, Svensmark and his colleagues performed laboratory experiments which showed that ionizing radiation does indeed create aerosol particles. Because the size of the particles was much smaller than typical cloud condensation nuclei (CCN), and because the modulated natural cosmic ray flux operates on an atmosphere that contains many other sources of CCN and ionized radiation, this work does not "prove" a cosmic ray/climate connection, but it certainly establishes that a viable mechanism for such a link exists.

Svensmark, H. & Friis-Christensen, E., 1997. Variation of cosmic ray flux and global cloud coverage - a missing link in solar-climate relationships. *Journal of Atmospheric, Solar and Terrestrial Physics* 59, 1225-1232.

Svensmark, H., Pedersen, J.O.P., Marsh, N.D., Enghoff, M.B. & Uggerhoj, U.I. 2006 Experimental evidence for the role of ions in particle nucleation under atmospheric conditions. *Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical & Engineering Sciences* DOI: 10.1098/rspa.2006.1773

60 scientists debunk global warming alarmism

On April 6, 2006, a group of 60 scientists [wrote](#) to the new Canadian Prime Minister urging that the government review Canada's climate policy and membership of the Kyoto Protocol. The group included highly qualified experts in all major branches of climate science. They advised that:

"Climate change is real" is a meaningless phrase used repeatedly by activists to convince the public that a climate catastrophe is looming and humanity is the cause. Neither of these fears is justified. Global climate changes all the time due to natural causes and the human impact still remains impossible to distinguish from this natural "noise".

<http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/financialpost/story.html?id=3711460e-bd5a-475d-a6be-4db87559d605>.

40 scientists contradict the President of the Royal Society regarding warming alarm

On April 16, 2006, Lord Rees of Ludlow, President of the Royal Society, wrote to the Sunday Telegraph regarding his concern about human-caused global warming.

In response, a group of 40 expert climate scientists [replied](#):

"The president of the Royal Society, Lord Rees of Ludlow, asserts that the evidence for human-caused global warming "is now compelling" and concerning".

"In a public letter, we have recently advised the Canadian Prime Minister of exactly the opposite - which is that 'global climate changes all the time due to natural causes and the human impact still remains impossible to distinguish from this natural noise'".

“We also noted that ‘observational evidence does not support today's computer climate models, so there is little reason to trust model predictions of the future’”.

Distinguished French geophysicist confirms his climate scepticism

Claude Allegre is a Member of the French Academy, a Foreign Member of the U.S. Academy of Sciences, and a former French government Minister for Education (1997-2000). He is a distinguished geophysicist who has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed papers, and was awarded the Crafoord Prize for Geoscience in 1986.

On September 21, 2006, Allegre wrote an [editorial](#) in the French newspaper *L'Express* regarding the declining snowfields on Mt. Kilimanjaro. He pointed out that the mountain was losing snow because of local land use and precipitation changes, and not because of global warming. Allegre asserts that the degree to which human activities are affecting modern climate remains unknown, and he accuses proponents of human-caused global warming of being alarmist and motivated by financial interests.

<http://www.lexpress.fr/idees/tribunes/dossier/allegre/dossier.asp?ida=451670>

President of the Czech Republic critical of global warming alarmism

The European Union has for many years been a leading protagonist for alarmism regarding global warming, and a strong supporter of the Kyoto Protocol.

In 2006, for the first time a head of state of an EU country, President Klaus of the Czech Republic, indicated strong scepticism that global warming is a danger risk. He [said](#) at a press conference at an October summit meeting in Finland that "*what is concisely referred to as global warming, is a fatal mistake of the present time*", adding that first a reply must be given to the question whether something like this exists or not; and, if it does, whether it is connected with human activities.

http://www.ceskenoviny.cz/news/index_view.php?id=215869

BOX C

The Human-caused Global Warming Hypothesis

Five Fatal Flaws

1. Global average temperature

Since 1998, global average temperature has flat-lined or slightly decreased (Fig. C1), despite increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

2. Magnitude and rate of temperature change

There is no evidence that the magnitude (Fig. C2a) or rate (Fig. C2b) of temperature change in the late 20th century fell outside geological norms.

3. Unvalidated computer modeling

Computer attribution studies (Fig. C3), no matter how sophisticated, cannot serve as evidence of a particular cause of climate change (such as increasing CO₂), nor are current generation computer models able to make validated predictions.

Deterministic computer modeling is a heuristic, not real-world-deterministic, tool and can show only (i) that a nominated cause of climate change is feasible; and (ii) a possible range of future climate gedankenwelts.

As evidence continues to mount for the importance of solar variation as a climate control, and given that there are still many climate feedbacks and effects that are incompletely or not at all understood, the current generation of GCMs remain inadequate for making policy predictions.

4. Climate sensitivity to carbon dioxide increase

Empirical evidence suggests that once all feedbacks are accounted for, and given the current 380 ppm atmospheric concentration, the warming effect of additional carbon dioxide is at best minor.

Because of the logarithmic relationship between increased CO₂ and increased temperature (Fig. C4), human greenhouse gas additions to the atmosphere of 280 to 380 ppm have already caused 75% of the theoretical warming associated with the complete doubling to 560 ppm; the final increase to doubling will at most add another few tenths of a degree of warming.

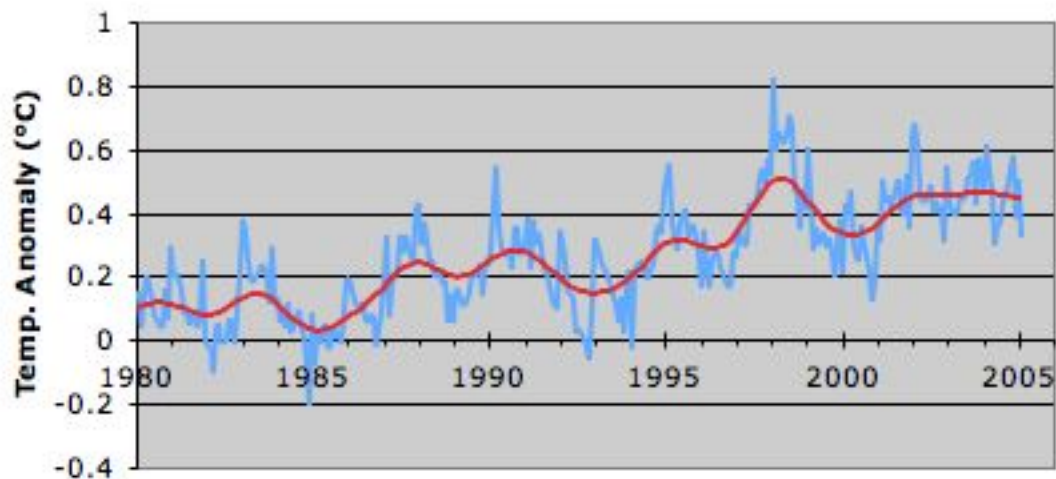
5. Net effect of warming is probably beneficial

Global climate changes have different manifestations in different places, and create winners and losers in particular locations (Fig. C5 a, b).

The assertion that minor warming will be harmful overall, though supported by endless contrived computer models, is a statement of faith not science. All things considered, cooling is likely to be more damaging to human interests than warming. Yet the economics of cooling are not even considered by such studies as the Stern Report.

Any one of these arguments, and others, constitutes a serious flaw in the popularly accepted view that dangerous, human-caused global warming is underway. Together, they are fatal.

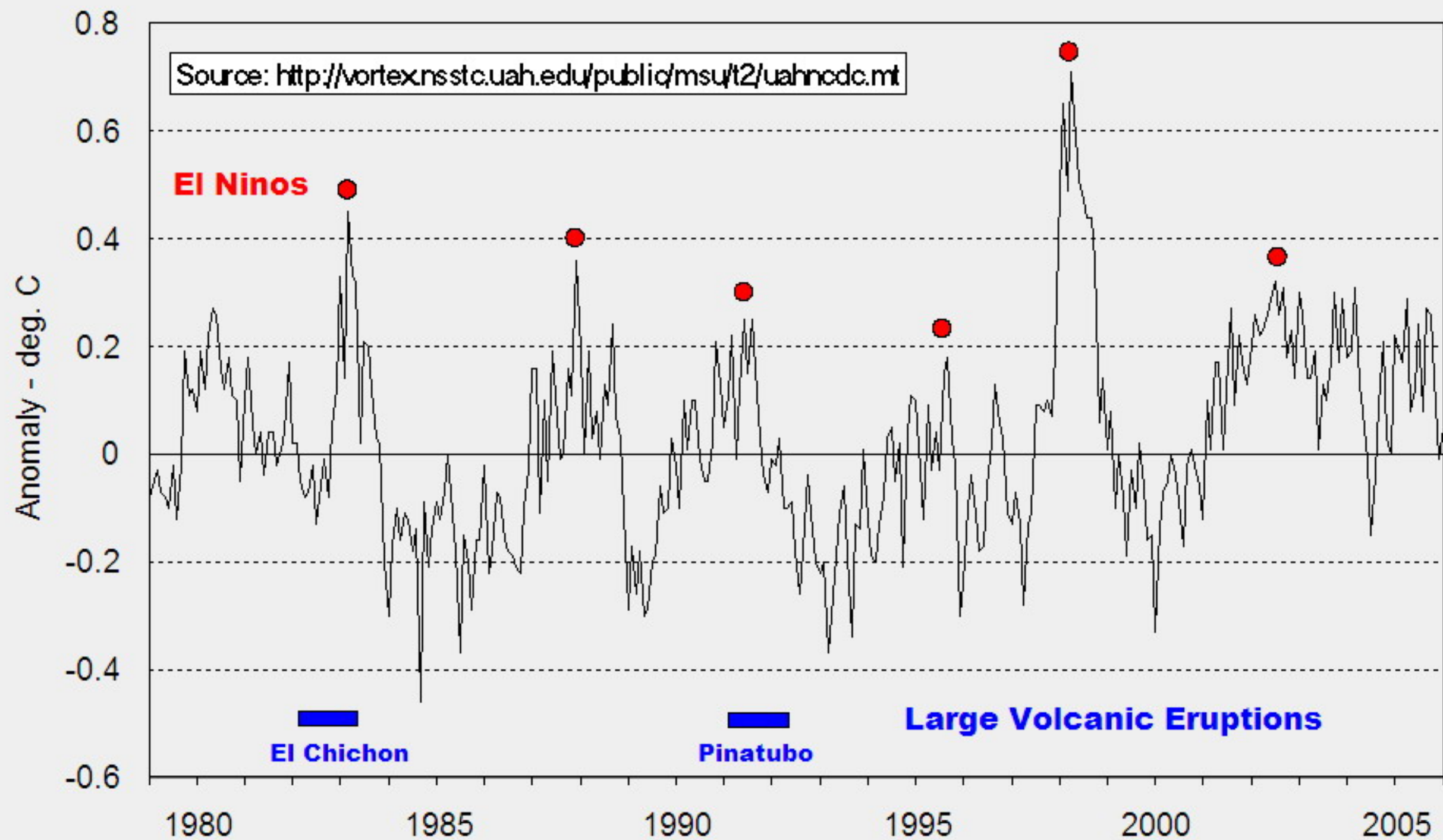
CRU Global Ground Based Temperatures



SOURCE: <http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/ftpdata/tavegl2v.dat>

— Monthly Temp. — 25 mo. Gaussian avg.

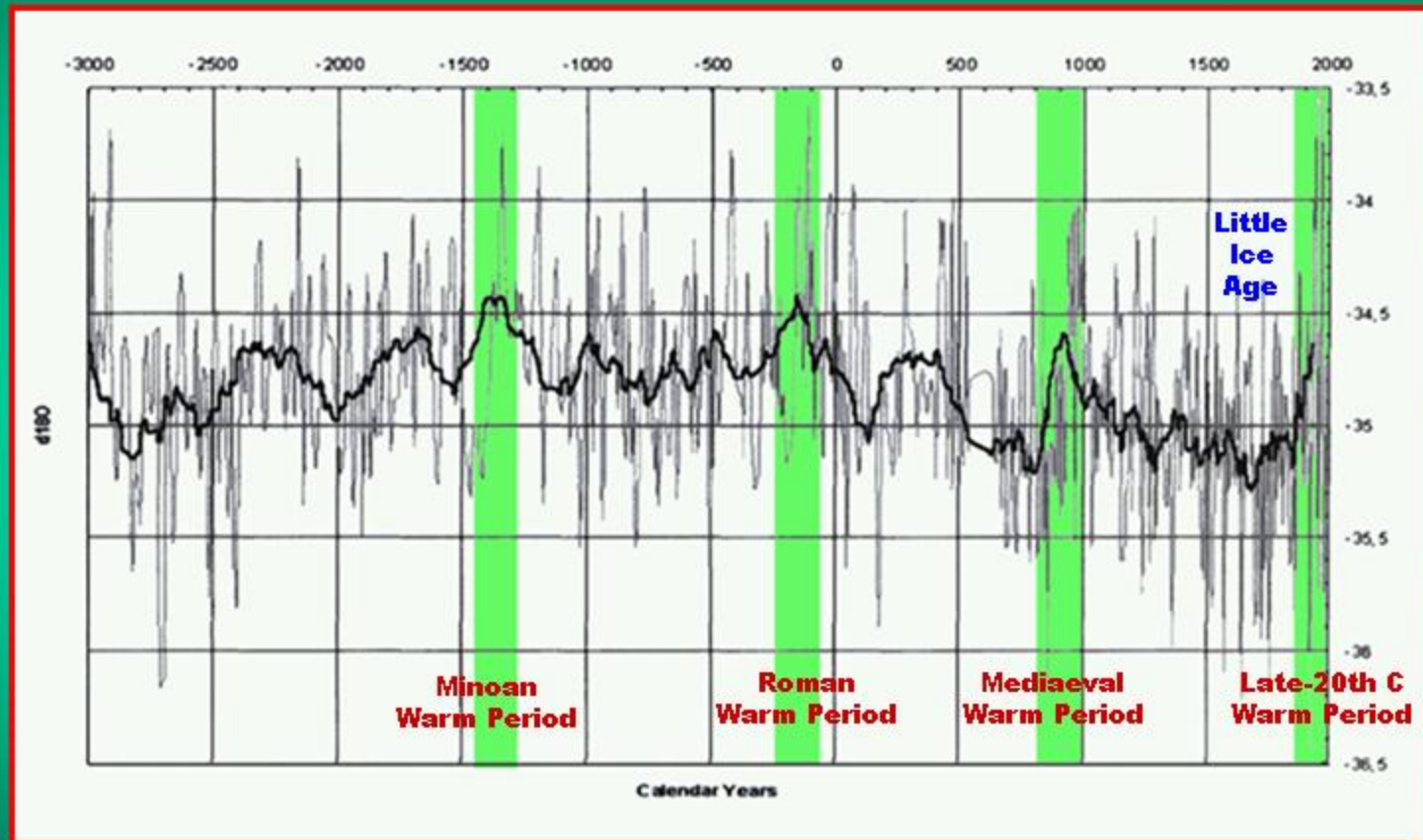
Global average temperature, 1979-2006



Variation in **MAGNITUDE** of polar temperature, last 5000 years

(estimated from the distribution of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ for the last 5,000 years from the GISP2 ice-core)

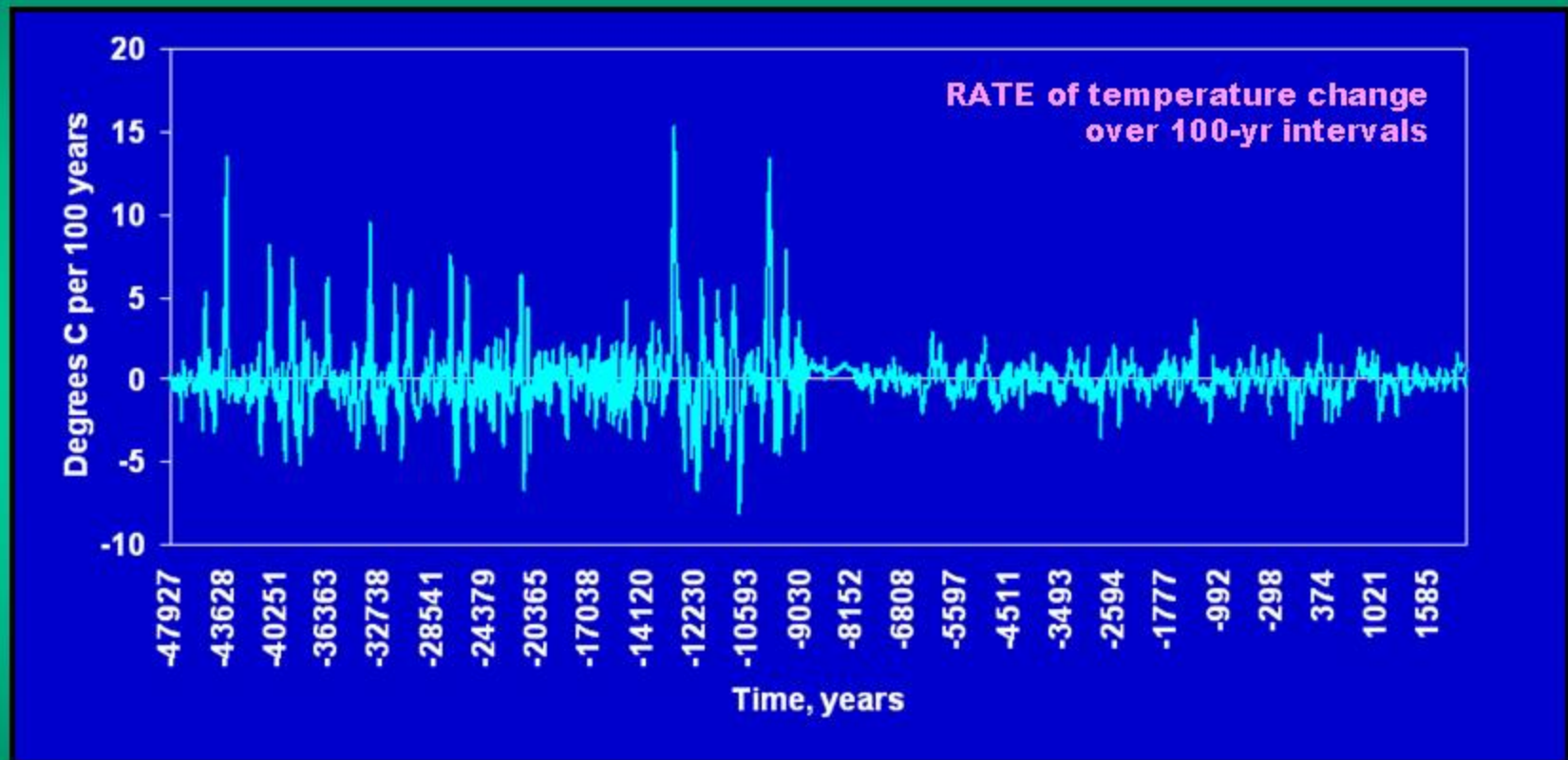
Grootes, P.M., Stuiver, M., White, J.W.C., Johnsen, S.J., Jouzel J., Comparison of oxygen isotope records from the GISP and GRIP Greenland ice cores. Nature 366, 1993, pp. 552-554.



Late 20th century warming is not unique, nor is it the most pronounced in the history of civilization, i.e. over the last 5 thousand years.

RATE of temperature change in Central Greenland (GISP2 ice-core) for the last 50 thousand years

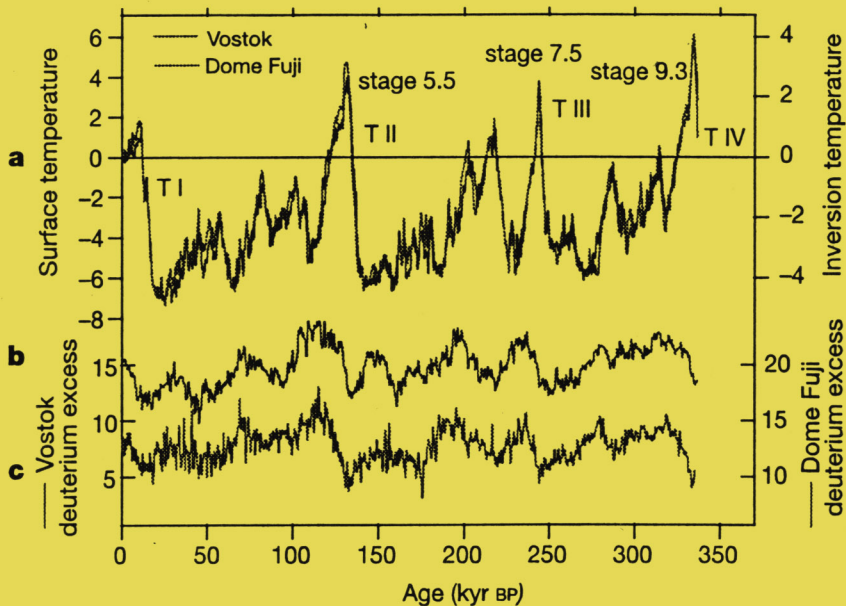
(After NOAA, GISP2 Ice Core Temperature and Accumulation Data, Alley, R.B., 2004)



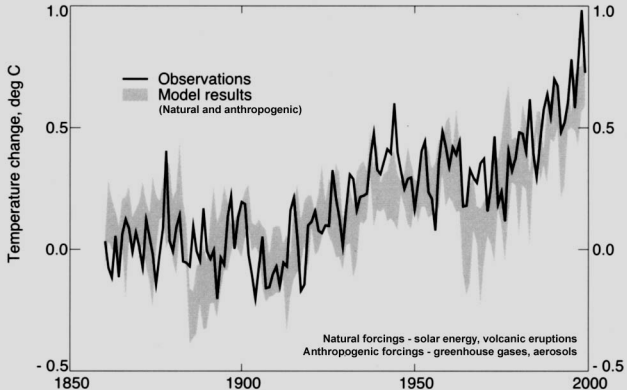
**The rate of temperature rise has been many times
higher in the past than it is in the 20th century.**

Antarctic (Vostok, Dome Fuji) Temperatures Last 350,000 years

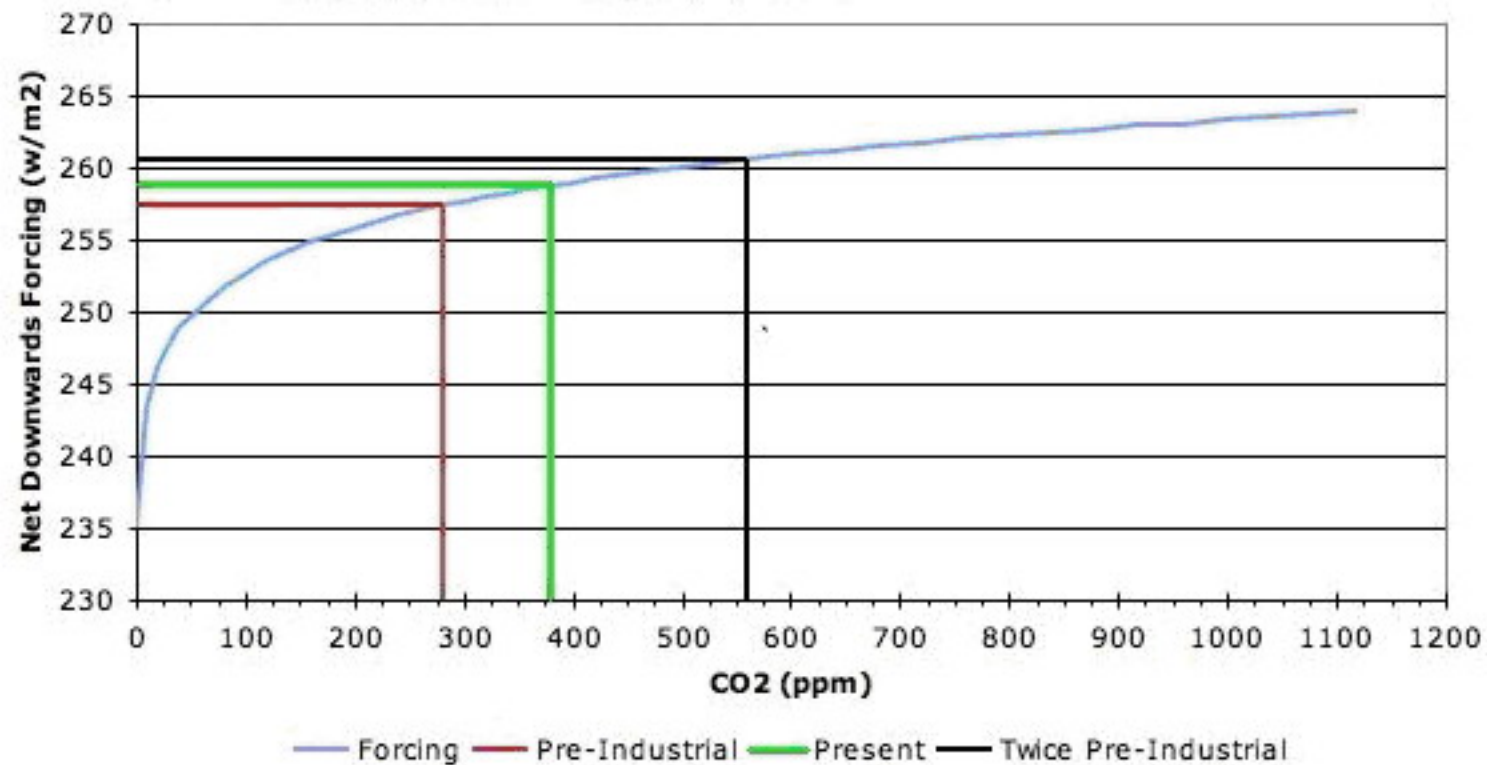
(after Watanabe et al., 2003, Nature 422, p. 511, Fig. 3)



Modelled Global Average Temperature, 1860-2000

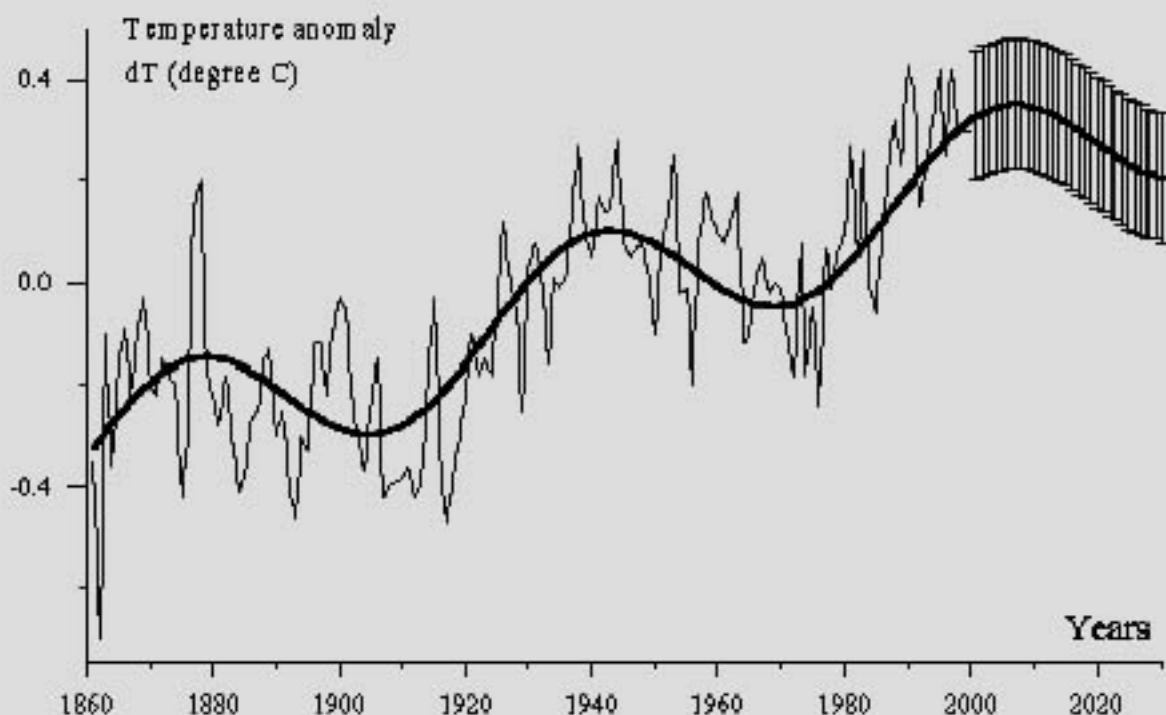


After P. Stott, in UKCIP02 Report, April 2002



60 Year Cyclicality in Global Surface Temperature

Klyashtorin & Lyubushin, 2003
Energy & Environment 14, 773-783.



The dynamics of instrumentally measured and modeled Global dT trend, 1861-2030s Thin line—annual global dT; Bold line - cyclic modeled trend with period of 64.13 years; bold line with error bars - modeled predicted trend for 2000-2030s