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The Politically Incorrect Guide To Global Warming (and Environmentalism)

You've heard plenty about “global warming.” But did you know:

- The Earth has often been hotter than it is now
- Only a tiny portion of greenhouse gases are man-made
- Most of Antarctica is getting colder
- The media only recently abandoned the “global cooling” scare
- “Global warming” hasn’t made hurricanes worse

Christopher C. Horner  Senior Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute

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Global warming": the Left’s last best chance to gain a stranglehold on our political system and economy

For decades, environmentalism has been the Left’s best excuse for increasing government control over our actions in ways both large and small. It’s for Mother Earth! It’s for the children! It’s for the whales! But until now, the doomsday-scenario environmental scares they’ve trumped up haven’t been large enough to justify the lifestyle restrictions they want to impose. With global warming, however, greenhouse gasbags can argue that auto emissions in Ohio threaten people in Paris, and that only "global governance" (Jacques Chirac’s words) can tackle such problems. Now, in The Politically Incorrect Guide(tm) to Global Warming and Environmentalism, Christopher C. Horner tears the cover off the Left’s manipulation of environmental issues for political purposes—and lays out incontrovertible evidence for the fact that catastrophic man-made global warming is just more Chicken-Little hysteria, not actual science. He explains why, although Al Gore and his cronies among the media elites and UN globalists endlessly bleat that "global warming" is an unprecedented global crisis, they really think of it as a dream come true. It’s the ideal scare campaign for those who hate capitalism and love big government. For, as Horner explains, if global warming really were as bad as the Leftist doomsayers insist it is, then no policy imaginable could "solve" it. According to the logic of the greens’ own numbers, no matter how much we sacrifice there would still be more to do. That makes global warming the bottomless well of excuses for the relentless growth of big government. Horner (an attorney and senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute) reveals the full anti-American, anti-capitalist, and anti-human agenda of today’s environmentalists, dubbing them "green on the outside, red to the core." He details how they use strong-arm legal tactics—and worse—against those who dare to point out the weakness of their arguments for global warming. Along the way, he explodes ten top global warming myths, carefully examining the evidence to determine how much warming there really is and what is actually causing it. He exposes the lies that the environmental lobby routinely tells to make its case; the ways in which it is trying to impose initiatives such as the Kyoto Protocol on an unwilling American public; and much more—including the green lobby’s favorite politicians (John Kerry, John McCain, Joe Lieberman, and others). It’s time to stand up to the environmentalist industry and insist: human beings are not the enemy. In breezy, light-hearted, and always entertaining fashion, The Politically Incorrect Guide(tm) to Global Warming and Environmentalism gives you the facts you need to do so.
Christopher Horner's book is one of the best commentaries on the politicized nature of science to come out this decade. The book tackles the so called scientific "consensus" on global warming from just about every conceivable angle. He brings up a variety of little known (or at least rarely reported) facts that should give anyone pause before swallowing the all the claims routinely offered as evidence of manmade global warming. Readers will learn, for example, that concurrent with the rise in global mean surface temperature during the 1990s (the "hottest decade on record") there was a dramatic drop in the number of surface reporting stations, especially in Arctic regions of the former Soviet Union. Not surprisingly, when you eliminate a significant number of lower temperatures from the set of global reported temperatures, you obtain a higher mean. Readers will also learn about the fraudulent nature of the now infamous "hockey stick," a graph created by Michael Mann, which purported to show that after 900 years of steady temperatures, the last 100 years have witnessed a dramatic rise in temperature resulting in a graph shaped like a hockey stick. This graph, first published in the journal Nature, and then republished in numerous UN Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) press releases, was one of the most popular and convincing pieces of evidence ever marshalled in favor of global warming. Of course, in producing a graph showing no climate change for 900 years, Mann had to completely ignore the well established medieval warm period from 1000 to 1300AD and the subsequent "Little Ice Age" which lasted into the mid 1800s and from which we have just recently emerged.
What a shame that this penetrating, sarcastic yet accurate polemic has to be made available as something "politically incorrect". Since it was written by a Senior Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, this by itself might have been enough to make an old "tree-hugger" avoid it. Part I is an exposé of the true motivations of today’s self-proclaimed enviros, who are shown to take seriously the line: "We’re from the government, and we’re here to help you!" Their priorities are shown by Horner to be global government, tight controls over individuals, and, very oddly for Americans, leveling the playing field for business by transferring wealth from developed countries to the rest. This is shown to be the only result so far among the 15 countries participating in the Kyoto Treaty to lower carbon dioxide emissions. Actually the Treaty is said to be aimed at lowering carbon dioxide concentrations, which is a stretch. Emissions among the 15 have not been lowered at all, but wealth has been transferred. Since human-caused warming has little basis in science, as shown below, enviro beliefs must be considered to be a strange religion, according to Horner. Claims of consensus for the enviros’ alarmist views are dismissed by showing how certain literature searches were woefully incomplete and how many climatologists with credentials, as well as other scientists, do not agree with the alarmist view even though they are not "Holocaust deniers". Part II deals with the claims made for the effect of carbon dioxide on "global warming". Changes in near-surface temperatures of the Earth are presented in clear form with adequate graphs. Horner depicts enviro efforts to control temps as requiring lying about what actual temps are and have been.

Mr. Horner did a very thorough analysis of current popular and widely believed commentary about global climate change. Due to the fact that the media tends to oversimplify the topic in order to create fear and impact for ratings, most of his work was about putting cogent, rational perspective into this debate. Science is complicated, tricky and slow and also its method is part of a long tradition of cautious inquiry. Suffice it to say that to think of it in terms of the Academy Awards, ratings or popularity is to trivialize science. This trivialization is due to the fact that those who propagate presumed facts about the earth and even probabilities of future events are not always, in fact, scientists. Nonetheless, Mr. Horner does the IPCC great justice and shows it great respect because the oft-quoted political summary of that report does not refer to the lack of scientific consensus and even very deliberate, reasoned language that is not alarmist contained in the report. I was also not aware that the vast majority of scientists who commented on this were not specialists in the earth sciences. (I recall the mention of OB/GYN.) To claim that the science is unsettled is not denying anything. The temperature of the earth, the average will always change, either up or down. Stasis is not the expected condition of nature. Although I don’t regard it as a demerit, there is some
repetition of facts throughout the book. One example is the closing of the Siberian temperature stations after the collapse of the Soviet Union which made the average global temperature, predictably, go up immediately, showing higher averages for the 1990's. In Mr. Horner's defense, the book is divided into distinct sections that could be read independently and would be complete unto themselves.

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