

## DEAD HAND OF CONSENSUS: A SELF-CONTAINED CLIMATE?

**Bob Foster**

Melbourne, Australia

[fosbob@bigpond.com](mailto:fosbob@bigpond.com)

In the 1970s, when global *cooling* was catastrophe-of-the-day, no-one blaming people for climate-change, or for individual extreme events, would have been taken seriously.

But now, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its “consensus of 2,500 of the world’s top climate scientists” proclaim a people-driven climate:

1. The Mediaeval Warm Period and Little Ice Age (LIA) cold periods didn’t happen.
2. Our unchanging climate is only now disturbed, because of people burning fossil fuels.
3. Unless we decarbonise the world economy, the recent warming will accelerate.
4. We *can* regain the benign stability of pre-industrial Arcadia, but at a warmer level.

In fact, there is a plausible scientific basis for this hypothesis. Atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) has grown from 0.028 to 0.038 % since the industrial revolution; and CO<sub>2</sub> is indeed a greenhouse gas (it limits cooling, by restricting escape of long-wave radiation to Space), albeit a minor one *cf.* naturally-occurring water vapour. Furthermore, global-average temperature increased by 0.6 °C during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. IPCC sees these observations as cause and effect; and it then “projects” warming of up to 5.8 °C by 2100, depending on future CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The new catastrophe is global *warming*.

Sir David King, Britain’s Chief Scientific Adviser, warns us (*Independent* 2/5/04) that: “*Antarctica is likely to be the world’s only habitable continent by the end of this century if global warming remains unchecked, because Earth was entering ‘the first hot period’ for 60 million years, when there was no ice on the planet and ‘the rest of the globe could not sustain life’*”. South Australian Museum Director, Dr Tim Flannery, offers us (*Times* 4/3/06) an out: “*An immediate 70 per cent reduction would stabilize temperatures within about 50 years, just in time to prevent the worst-case scenario kicking in.*”

But mainstream science has got it wrong. IPCC’s iconic ‘Mann hockeystick’ shows 900 years of gentle Northern Hemisphere cooling (handle), and 100 years of abrupt 20<sup>th</sup> C warming (blade). Gone are the several LIA minima of intermittent very cold winters, and the 300-yr warming-trend since the Maunder Minimum “Quiet Sun” of 1645-1715. Decades of data-gathering, and hundreds of observation-based scientific papers, are set at naught. Crucially, 20<sup>th</sup> C warming was in two roughly-equal tranches, one in each half-century, but fossil fuel use only started to skyrocket after WW2 - just as three decades of gentle cooling began. Warming resumed with the Great Pacific Climate Shift of 1976/7, the most prominent global climatic event of the 20<sup>th</sup> C.

Cooling in the 1940s, and then warming in the 1970s, over-print the longer-term trend. These Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) regime-shifts signal the exchange of angular momentum between stony Earth and mobile overcoat of oceans and atmosphere, causing step-changes in the quantity of cold-water up-welling in the equatorial eastern Pacific. They are inertial events, as evidenced by length-of-day (LOD) changes. Notably, LOD change reflects zero phases in the rotary force applied by the giant planets to the Sun.

Mainstream science has a long-standing antipathy to a Sun-climate connection. (“Sun” means solar/planetary/galactic influences.) Both pre-industrial stability, and our ability to regain it, *demand* an autonomous Earth - with a self-contained climate. But our planet does not journey in an empty universe! While it is still unclear *how* events on the Sun influence those on Earth, we have ample observation-based correlation between earthly variation and solar-related proxies. One proxy is LOD (above), and another is sunspots. Galileo’s telescope enabled the counting of sunspots from the 1600s; and by 1800, the correlation between their variable abundance and climate had been recognised

The Sun’s widely-variable eruptive outflow of particles into the solar wind, and not little-varying solar irradiance, is the primary arbiter of Earth’s ever-changing climate - from the millennial scale, down to “weather”. The ringed outer giants (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune) hold most of the solar system’s angular momentum; and, like the Sun, they orbit the centre-of-mass of the system. Their motions perturb the Sun’s orbital progress, and drive its resultant eruptive activity. The small inner planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars) orbit the Sun; and their influence on it (led by Mercury) is through shorter term resonance-related effects – directly reflected in extreme events on Earth.

Sunspot numbers vary on a *ca.* 11-yr cycle, and are a proxy for solar eruptive activity and outflow of magnetised particles; and the double-cycle of solar magnetic-polarity reversal controls Sun/Earth coupling. The *ca.* 22-yr magnetic (Hale) and the 50 to 70-yr inertial (PDO) cycles control variations on the – also planet-driven - longer-term climatic trend.

Torque applied by the planets to the Sun can be calculated; and if both play by the rules, the 300-yr warming-trend will soon be interrupted, and another cold period will be here by 2030. There was dreadful human suffering in the (sunspot-free) Maunder Minimum; and the next such is within the planning horizon of responsible governments. How will people be kept warm and fed during the Landscheidt Minimum?

IPCC’s economics are no better than its science. Its “projection” of 1.4-5.8 °C warming in 1990-2100, is based on the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions arising from implausibly-high Third World economic growth. For instance, per-capita GDP for Australia in 1990 was US\$17,000 (market-exchange-rate basis); in 2100, according to IPCC’s “storylines”, it will be 55-61 (US\$ 1990 thousands) - compared to Afghanistan 69-78, or Zimbabwe 68-87. South Africa, with the world’s highest coal-intensity (76%) in primary energy use, will do even better. In 1990, its per-capita GDP was a minuscule 2.8, but by 2100 it will be an almost-unimaginable 394-470! IPCC’s high-end (A1FI) “scenario” has world consumption of (carbon-rich) coal increasing by an amazing 37% between 1990 and 2000. In reality, it grew only half as fast - 21% in 1990-2004.

More worrying than implausible economics, is the worship of “scientific consensus” by IPCC, science journals, learned societies, and those funding research. The dead hand of consensus – the self-contained climate is an example – inhibits imaginative research, whose different path could improve future human well-being. Accepting the Sun-climate connection *must* be the first step toward addressing crucial climatic questions, such as: When will an LIA cold period arrive? When will the Indian Monsoon fail?