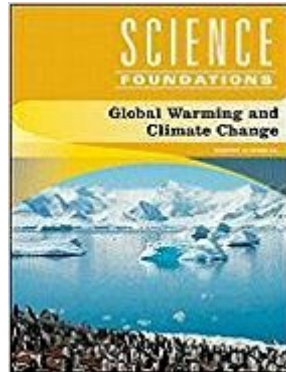




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Global Warming And Climate Change (Science Foundations)



Synopsis

Global warming has become one of the most talked-about topics in the scientific community. Many scientists believe that humans are to blame for climate change and have presented a great deal of scientific evidence that shows Earth's climate is warming at an alarming rate. Others claim that climatic changes are due to natural causes that have operated throughout Earth's history or that global warming is nothing but a hoax designed to scare people into changing their way of life. By examining the history and scientific facts behind climate change and the role humans may be playing in it, *Global Warming and Climate Change* gets to the heart of the controversy and allows readers to draw their own conclusions about one of the most important topics in science.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stephen M. Tomecek is a scientist and collector of old-time tools. He is the author of more than 30 nonfiction books for children and teachers, including *Bouncing & Bending Light*, the 1996 winner of the American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award. Tomecek works as a consultant and writer for the National Geographic Society and Scholastic, Inc.

This book is clearly intended for school children and it deals with the problem of global warming, and seeks to explain what we know so far about the climate of the earth with simple diagrams in large type, the possible solutions and where we are going in the future. There can be no doubt which side of the ongoing debate the author is on: he glibly accepts all the various IPCC reports

without serious criticism. I find this very dangerous, especially when children are the intended market. What education needs are unbiased facts, and not facts carefully chosen to suit one particular version of a subject. For example, when he discusses the Hockey Stick controversy, he deliberately understates the problem of using proxy temperatures (ie, those inferred from tree ring or ice core data before thermometers became more widely available). Michael Mann's attempts to remove the Medieval Warm period from the record shows how faulty the approach can be, especially when there is valid historic data (such as the colonisation of Greenland by the vikings) to show how important this period was for mankind (including the first landfall on the american continent). Their first settlement on Newfoundland has actually been well excavated by Helge Ingstad to prove their extensive voyaging in seas which must have been more ice-free than at present. Neither does the author mention the problems with the IPCC reports themselves, especially the last report which wrongly spoke of the imminent disappearance of Himalayan glaciers, or the proportion of the Netherlands below sea level. These omissions are inexcusable in a text destined for use in schools. Mr Tomecek has clearly and conveniently forgotten the lessons of eugenics, developed in the early part of the 20th century, when biologist reached a "consensus" that the human species could be "improved" by selecting the human population. At first scientists suggested forced sterilization for the mentally ill and other disabled groups, and programmes were adopted in many advanced countries like the USA and Sweden which were only recently suspended. In Germany, the idea of eugenics were adopted wholesale and to an extreme degree, and resulted in The Holocaust, involving the murder of millions of people by gas chamber, enforced labour and deliberate starvation. Tomecek should be reminded of how far untested ideas can and have been pushed. This book needs a serious revision before it could be used in schools or anywhere else, for that matter.

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