

Beacon Hill Seminars – 2016

Session 8

Where can we go from here?



Tim Weiskel

17 November 2016

Transition-Studies

Cambridge Climate Research Associates

Fall Semester 2016

Where can we turn to learn...
...*about climate?*

Some books to begin with

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

New England Edition

Today, mostly cloudy; spots snowing showers, mild, high 32. Tonight, clouds, low 33. Tomorrow, occasional flurries, rain becoming steady, mild, high 34. Weather map, Page A4.

VOL. CLXV, No. 57,079

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

\$6.00

NATIONS APPROVE LANDMARK CLIMATE DEAL



Negotiators of a climate pact achieved what had been unreachable for two decades: agreement from rich and poor countries alike.

In France, Consensus on a Need to Lower Carbon Emissions

By CORAL DAVENPORT

LE BOURGET, France — With the sudden bang of a gavel Sunday night, representatives of 195 nations reached a landmark accord that will, for the first time, commit nearly every country to lowering planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions to help stave off the most drastic effects of climate change.

The deal, which was met with an eruption of cheers and applause from thousands of delegates gathered from around the world, represents a historic breakthrough on an issue that has foiled decades of international efforts to address climate change.

Traditionally, such pacts have required developed economies like the United States to take action to lower greenhouse gas emissions, but they have exempted developing countries like China and India from such obligations.

The accord, which United Nations diplomats have been working toward for nine years, changes that dynamic by requiring action in some form from every country, rich or poor.

"This is truly a historic moment," the United Nations secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, said in an interview. "For the first time, we have a truly universal agreement on climate change, one of the most crucial problems on earth."

President Obama, who regards tackling climate change as a central element of his legacy, spoke of the deal in a televised address from the White House. "This agreement sends a powerful signal that the world is fully committed to a low-carbon future," he said, raising hopes that the world has both the will and the ability to deal with the challenge.

Plan B? If the deal fell apart, the world would be back to square one.

The new deal will not, on its own, solve global warming. At best, scientists who have analyzed it say, it will cut global greenhouse gas emissions by about half enough as is necessary

Continued on Page D3

NEWS ANALYSIS

Healing Step, If Not a Cure

An Accord Recognizes Its Own Shortcomings

By JUSTIN GILLIS

LE BOURGET, France — After the stamping and cheering died down, and the hugs and hugs ended, a question hung in the air as the climate conference came to a close: What does the new deal really mean for the future of the Earth?

Scientists who closely monitored the talks here said it was not the agreement that humanity really needed. By itself, it will not save the planet.

The great ice sheets remain imperiled, the oceans are still rising, forests and reefs are under stress, people are dying by thousands from heat waves and floods, and the agricultural system that feeds seven billion humans hangs in peril at risk.

And yet 15 years after the first international climate pact, the world has not put in place more than a few agreements, and climate change is still a distant threat.

Visa Screening Missed an Attacker's Zealotry on Social Media

This article is by Matt Apuzzo, Michael S. Schmidt and Julia Preston.

WASHINGTON — Tashfeen Malik, who with her husband carried out the massacre in San Bernardino, Calif., passed three background checks by American immigration officials as she moved to the United States from Pakistan. None uncovered what Ms. Malik had made little effort to hide — that she talked openly

on social media about her views on violent jihad.

She said she supported it. And she said she wanted to be a part of it.

American law enforcement officials said they recently discovered those ties — and previously unsupported — postings as they pieced together the lives of Ms. Malik and her husband, Syed Rizwan Farook, trying to understand how they pulled off the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil

since Sept. 11, 2001.

Had the authorities found the posts years ago, they might have kept her out of the country. But immigration officials do not routinely review social media as part of their background checks, and there is a debate inside the Department of Homeland Security over whether it is even appropriate to do so.

The discovery of the old social media posts has exposed a significant — and perhaps inevitable —

shortcoming in how foreigners are screened when they enter the United States, particularly as people everywhere disclose more about themselves online. Tens of millions of people are cleared each year to come to this country to work, visit or live. It is impossible to conduct an exhaustive investigation and secure the social media accounts of each of them, law enforcement officials say.

In the aftermath of terrorism, the

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Traditionally, such pacts have required developed economies like the United States to take action to lower greenhouse gas emissions, but they have exempted developing countries like China and India from such obligations.

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President Obama, who regards tackling climate change as a central element of his legacy, spoke of the deal in a televised address from the White House. "This agreement sends a powerful signal that the world is fully committed to a low-carbon future," he said, raising hopes that the world has both the will and the ability to deliver on this challenge.

Plan B" if the deal fell apart. The El Niño weather phenomenon was also a factor.

The new deal will not, on its own, solve global warming. At best, scientists who have analyzed it say, it will cut global greenhouse gas emissions by about half enough as is necessary

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The great ice sheets remain unimpaired, the oceans are still rising, forests and reefs are under stress, people are dying by thousands from heat waves and floods, and the agricultural system that feeds seven billion humans is being pushed to the limit.

And yet, 10 years after the first warning of a global warming crisis, the world has taken a step forward. It has agreed to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and that is a start.

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But what does the average citizen know about climate anyway?



But what does the average citizen know about climate anyway?

AND equally important, *if we want to know more...*



But what does the average citizen know about climate anyway?

AND equally important, *if we want to know more...*

Where can we turn to learn?



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AND equally important, *if we want to know more...*

Where can we turn to learn?



One obvious place to turn is the schools,
colleges & universities...





HARVARD
Extension School

Academics | Tuition & Enrollment | Resource

ENVR E-106 Envisioning a Sustainable Future: Managing and Protecting the Environment

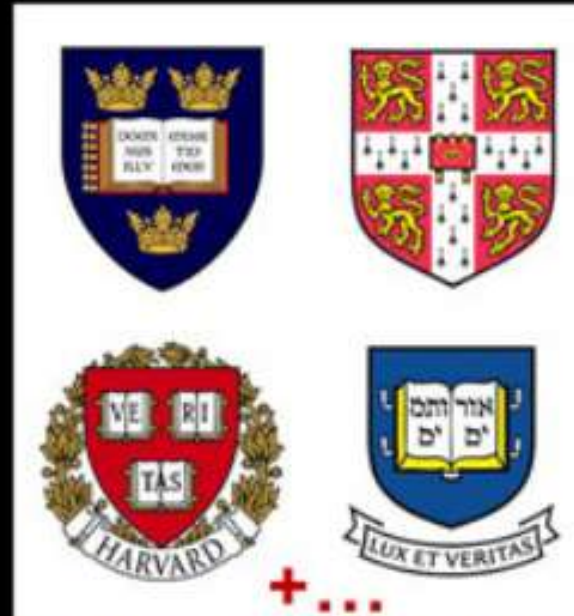
Spring Term 2017 | CRN 24808

It is widely recognized by the scientific community that current trends in our collective human behavior are not sustainable. Populations are growing at rates that cannot be maintained as food supplies per capita decline and the ecological costs of providing energy and materials for many people exceed the regenerative capacities the ecosystems upon which they depend. In addition, the waste products of our increasingly urbanized and consumer-oriented civilization have now reached the point of compromising the restorative functions of the biogeochemical cycling systems required for human survival. In response to these demonstrable trends numerous outstanding thinkers and environmental leaders have begun to envisage and implement strategies for a sustainable future. This course exposes students to innovative thinkers and inspired activists over a wide range of fields engaged in the transition to sustainability.

COURSE INFORMATION

...merging the insight & knowledge
of many...

Spanning Oceans - Bridging Traditions:
Learning About Global Climate from
Oxford Cambridge Harvard Yale... etc.



Creating new portals for
global climate learning.

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Map of Population History

Atlas of Health and Climate

Environmental Justice Atlas

Map – Human Dynamics of Climate Change – MET Office

[Climate News – Google](#)

Useful Blogs for Research

Useful YouTube Channels

EcoViews & News (EV & N)



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**A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SELECTED RESOURCES FOR
SELF-EDUCATION
IN TRANSITION STUDIES**





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Where Can We to Turn to Learn...?

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SELECTED RESOURCES FOR SELF-EDUCATION IN TRANSITION STUDIES



Some useful resources for understanding our
global climate circumstance

Compiled by

[Tim Weiskel](#)

30 January 2016

The Problem:

It can be confusing for citizens throughout the world to remain reliably informed about our global climate circumstance. This is true everywhere, in part, because of the lag time between the acquisition of scientific knowledge and its publication in peer-reviewed articles and books. These sources are then read and reinterpreted in

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...Where can we turn to learn?

Citizens' Guides to Learning

Where can we turn to learn... *...about climate?*

Some books to begin with ...

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SELECTED RESOURCES FOR
SELF-EDUCATION
IN TRANSITION STUDIES



Where can we turn to learn... *...about climate?*

Some further books – (2) ...

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SELECTED RESOURCES FOR
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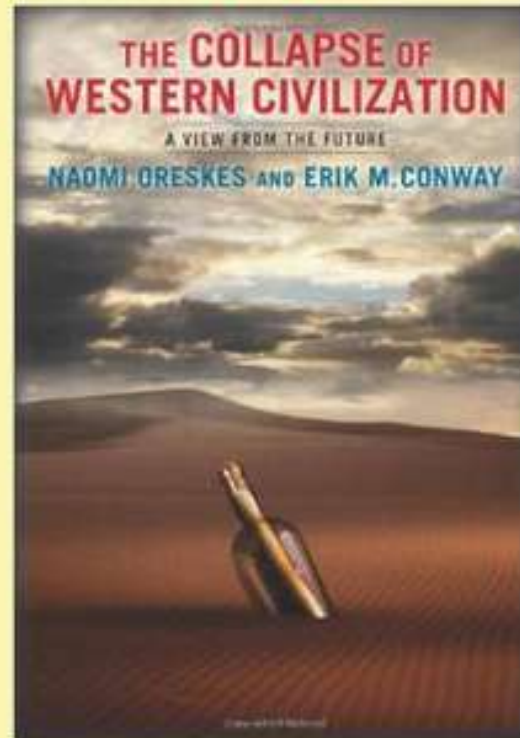
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The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future: Naomi Oreskes, Erik M. Conway

Posted on [August 7, 2014](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

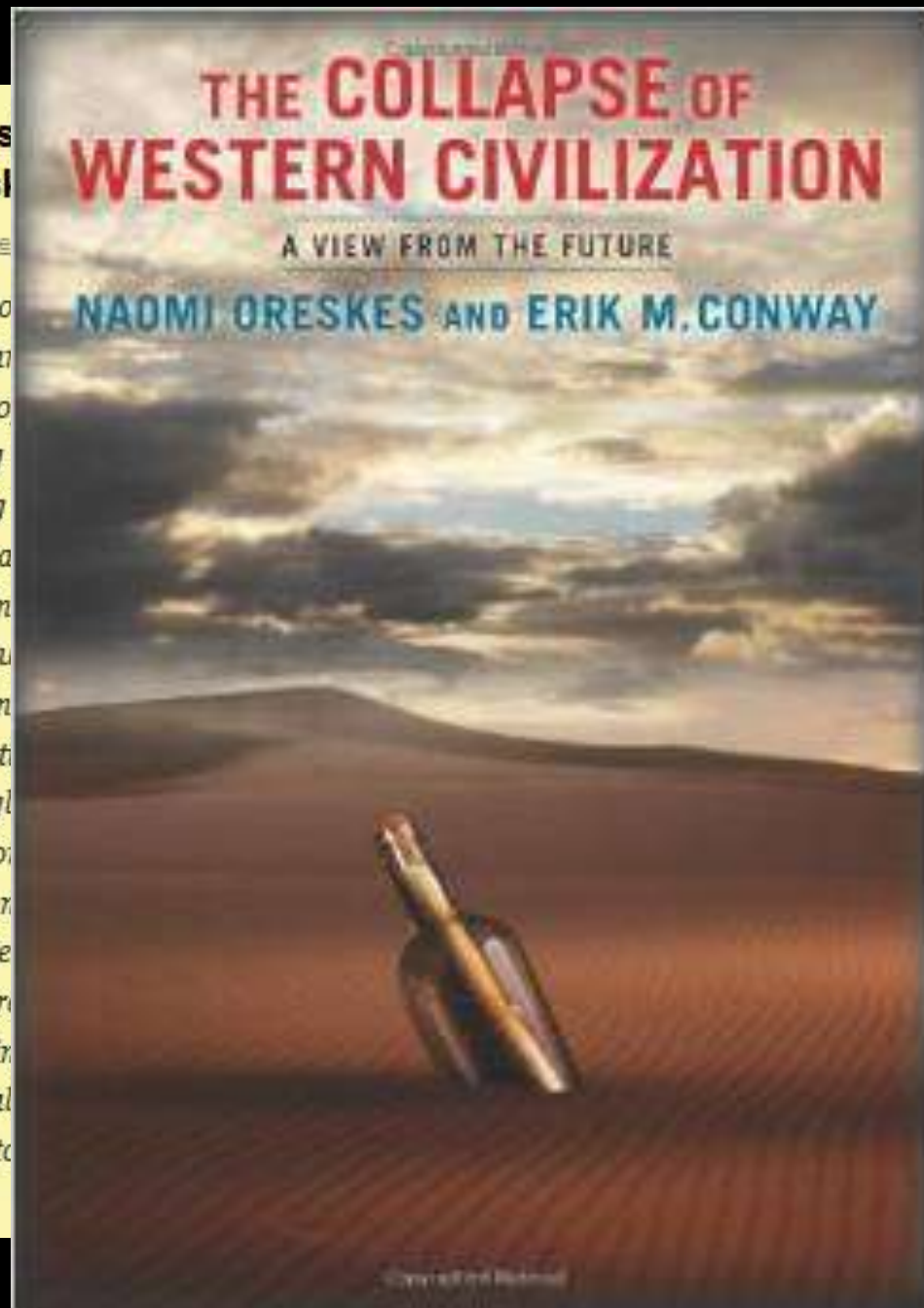
The year is 2393, and the world is almost unrecognizable. Clear warnings of climate catastrophe went ignored for decades, leading to soaring temperatures, rising sea levels, widespread drought and – finally – the disaster now known as the Great Collapse of 2093, when the disintegration of the West Antarctica Ice Sheet led to mass migration and a complete reshuffling of the global order. Writing from the Second People's Republic of China on the 300th anniversary of the Great Collapse, a senior scholar presents a gripping and deeply disturbing account of how the children of the Enlightenment – the political and economic elites of the so-called advanced industrial societies – failed to act, and so brought about the collapse of Western civilization.



The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View From the Future: Naomi Oreskes

Posted on [August 7, 2014](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

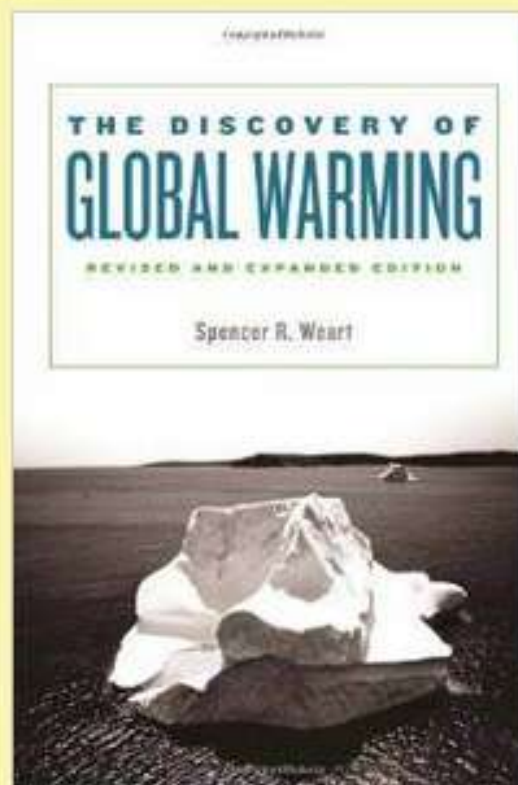
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The Discovery of Global Warming: Revised and Expanded Edition (New Histories of Science, Technology, and Medicine): Spencer R. Weart

Posted on [January 28, 2015](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

In 2001 a panel representing virtually all the world's governments and climate scientists announced that they had reached a consensus: the world was warming at a rate without precedent during at least the last ten millennia, and that warming was caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases from human activity. The consensus itself was at least a century in the making. The story of how scientists reached their conclusion—by way of unexpected twists and turns and in the face of formidable intellectual, financial, and political obstacles—is told for the first time in *The Discovery of Global Warming*. Spencer R. Weart lucidly explains the emerging science, introduces us to the major players, and shows us how the Earth's irreducibly complicated climate system was mirrored by the global scientific community that studied it.



The Discovery of Global Warming Expanded Edition Technology, and More

Posted on [January 28, 2015](#) | [1](#)

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THE DISCOVERY OF GLOBAL WARMING

REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION

Spencer R. Weart



A hypertext history of how scientists came to (partly) understand what people are doing to cause climate change.

as a single story. On this Website you will find a more complete history in dozens of essays on separate topics, occasionally updated.

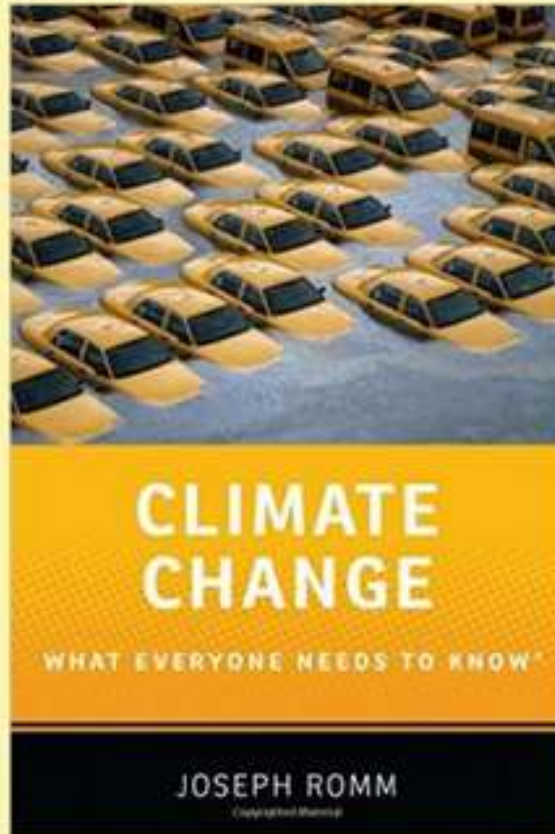
If you want basic facts about climate change, or detailed current technical information, you might do better using the [links page](#). But if you want to use history to *really* understand it all...



*Second edition, revised
and updated (2008)*

Joe Romm | Climate Change: What Everyone Needs to Know

Posted on [January 1, 2016](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



Climate change will have a bigger impact on humanity than the Internet has had. The last decade's spate of superstorms, wildfires, heat waves, and droughts has accelerated the public discourse on this topic and lent credence to climatologist Lonnie Thomson's 2010 statement that climate change "represents a clear and present danger to civilization." In June 2015, the Pope declared that action on climate change is a moral issue.

This book offers the most up-to-date examination of climate change's

foundational science, its implications for our future, and the core clean energy solutions. Alongside detailed but highly accessible descriptions of what is causing climate change, this entry in the *What Everyone Needs to Know* series answers questions about the practical implications of this growing force on our world:



CLIMATE CHANGE

WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW

JOSEPH ROMM

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<i>What fraction of recent global warming is due to human causes versus natural causes?</i>	<i>7</i>
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What are the climate system's amplifying feedbacks that turn a moderate initial warming into a big ultimate warming?

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Is the current level of atmospheric CO₂ concentration unprecedented in human history?

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Etc., etc... more than 300 pages of Q & A !

This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate: Naomi Klein

Posted on [January 28, 2015](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



The most important book yet from the author of the international bestseller *The Shock Doctrine*, a brilliant explanation of why the climate crisis challenges us to abandon the core “free market” ideology of our time, restructure the global economy, and remake our political systems.

In short, either we embrace radical change ourselves or radical changes will be visited upon our physical world. The status quo is no longer an option.



THIS CHANGES EVERY THING

Capitalism vs. The Climate:

[edit](#)

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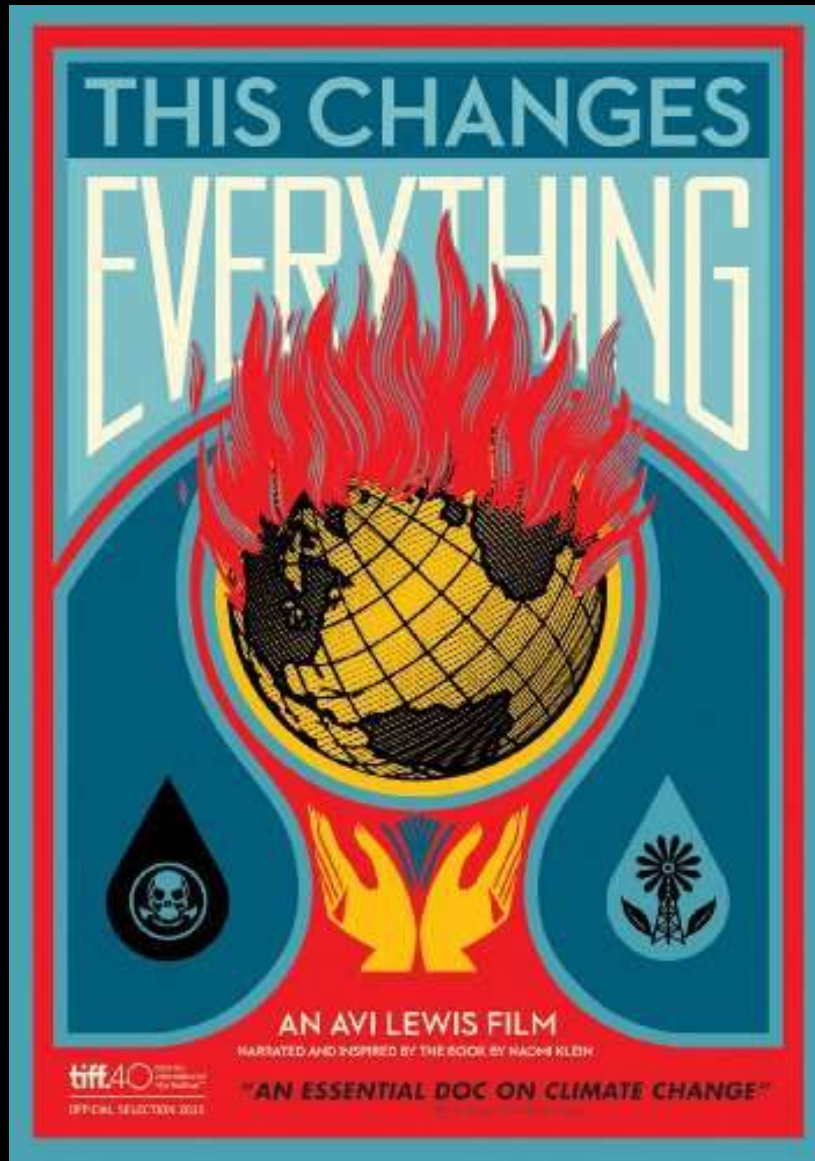
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Movie



This Changes Everything: Film Screening + Discussion Tickets, Sat, Feb 20, 2016 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite

Posted on February 7, 2016 | [Leave a comment](#)



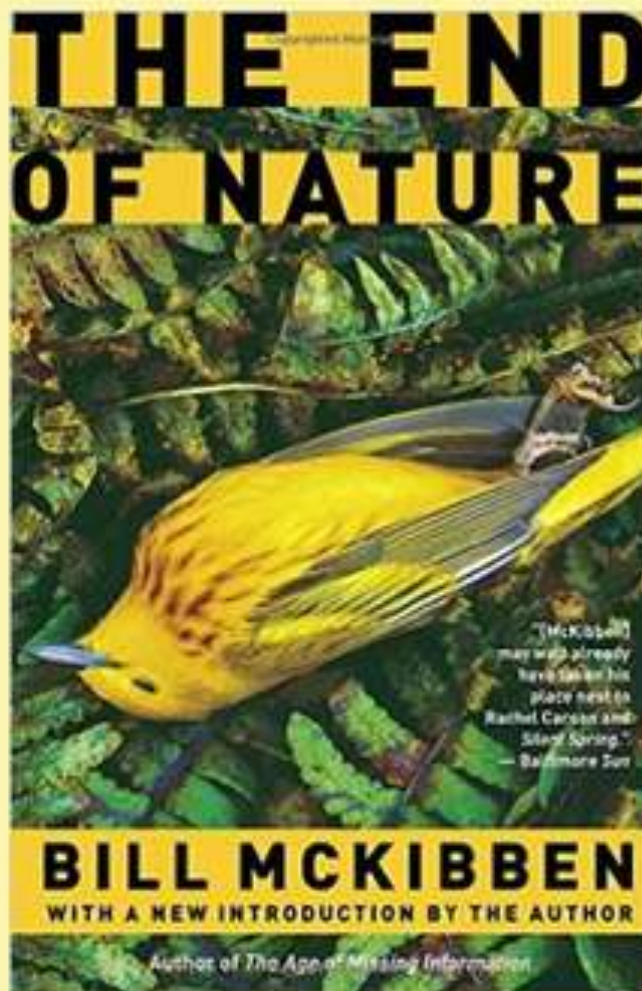
What if confronting the climate crisis is the best chance we'll ever get to build a better world?

The End of Nature: Bill McKibben

Posted on [January 30, 2016](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

Reissued on the tenth anniversary of its publication, this classic work on our environmental crisis features a new introduction by the author, reviewing both the progress and ground lost in the fight to save the earth.

This impassioned plea for radical and life-renewing change is today still considered a groundbreaking work in environmental studies. McKibben's argument that the survival of the globe is dependent on a fundamental, philosophical shift in the way we relate to nature is more relevant than ever.

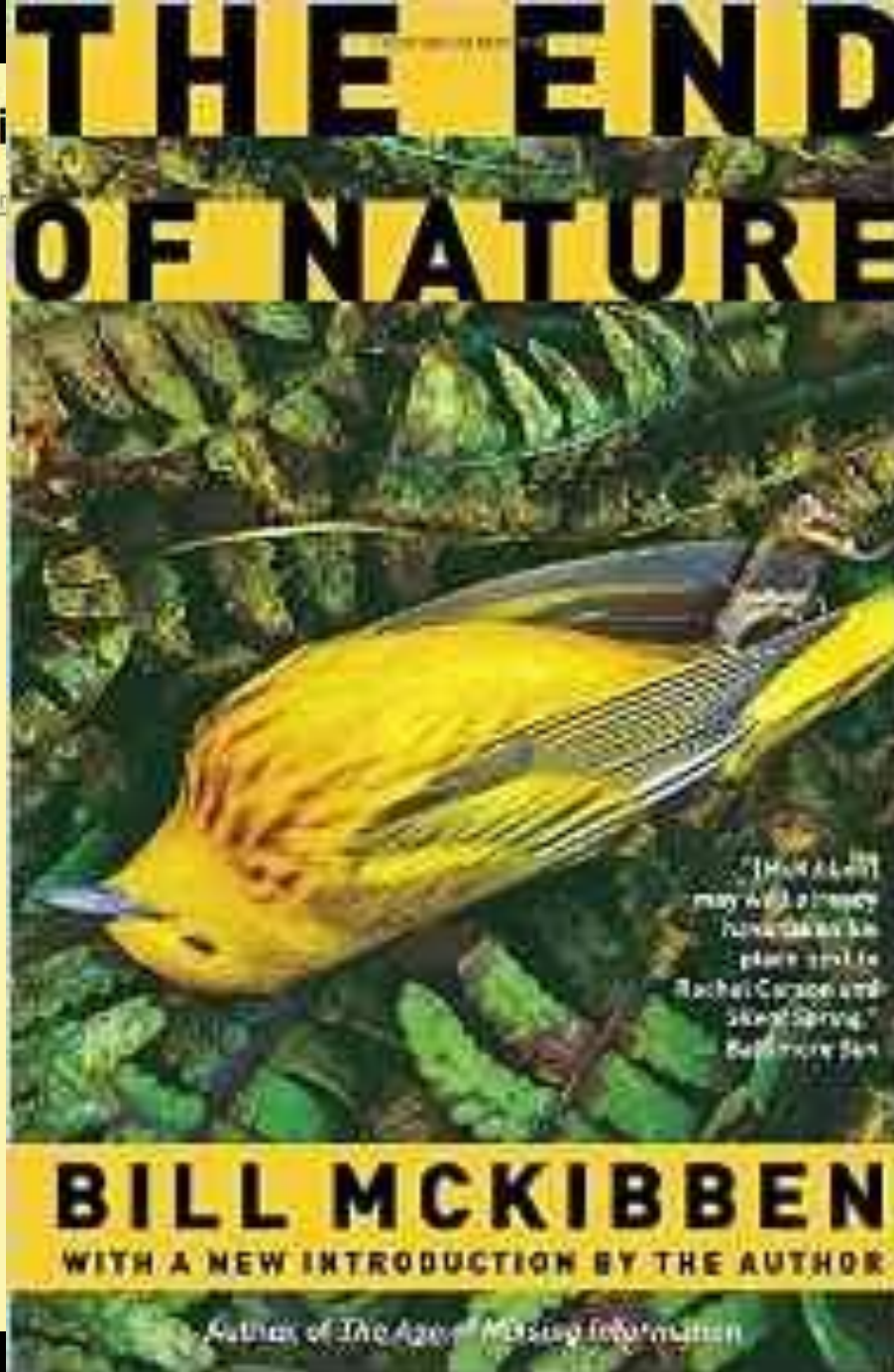


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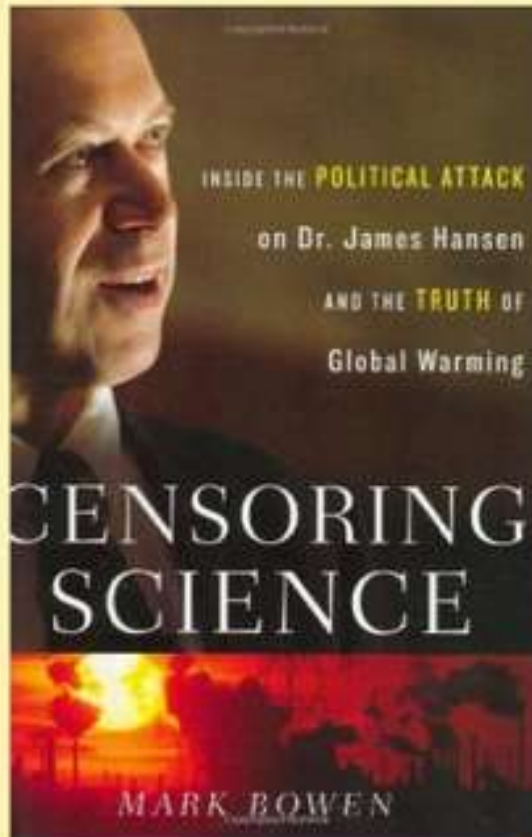
In the same year as Bill's
book...Jim Hansen testified...



23 June 1988

Censoring Science: Inside the Political Attack on Dr. James Hansen and the Truth of Global Warming: Mark Bowen

Posted on [January 30, 2016](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



From acclaimed writer and physicist Mark Bowen, *Censoring Science* tells the true story of the Bush administration's censorship of the world's preeminent climatologist, and the science behind global warming that they do not want you to know.

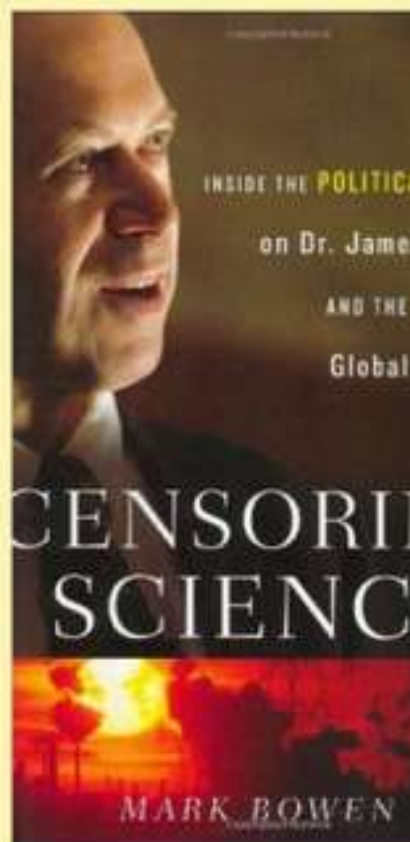
The facts don't lie:

- 2005 was the warmest year since the invention of the thermometer.
- 2006 is on track to become the hottest year ever recorded in the United States.
- The six hottest years on record have

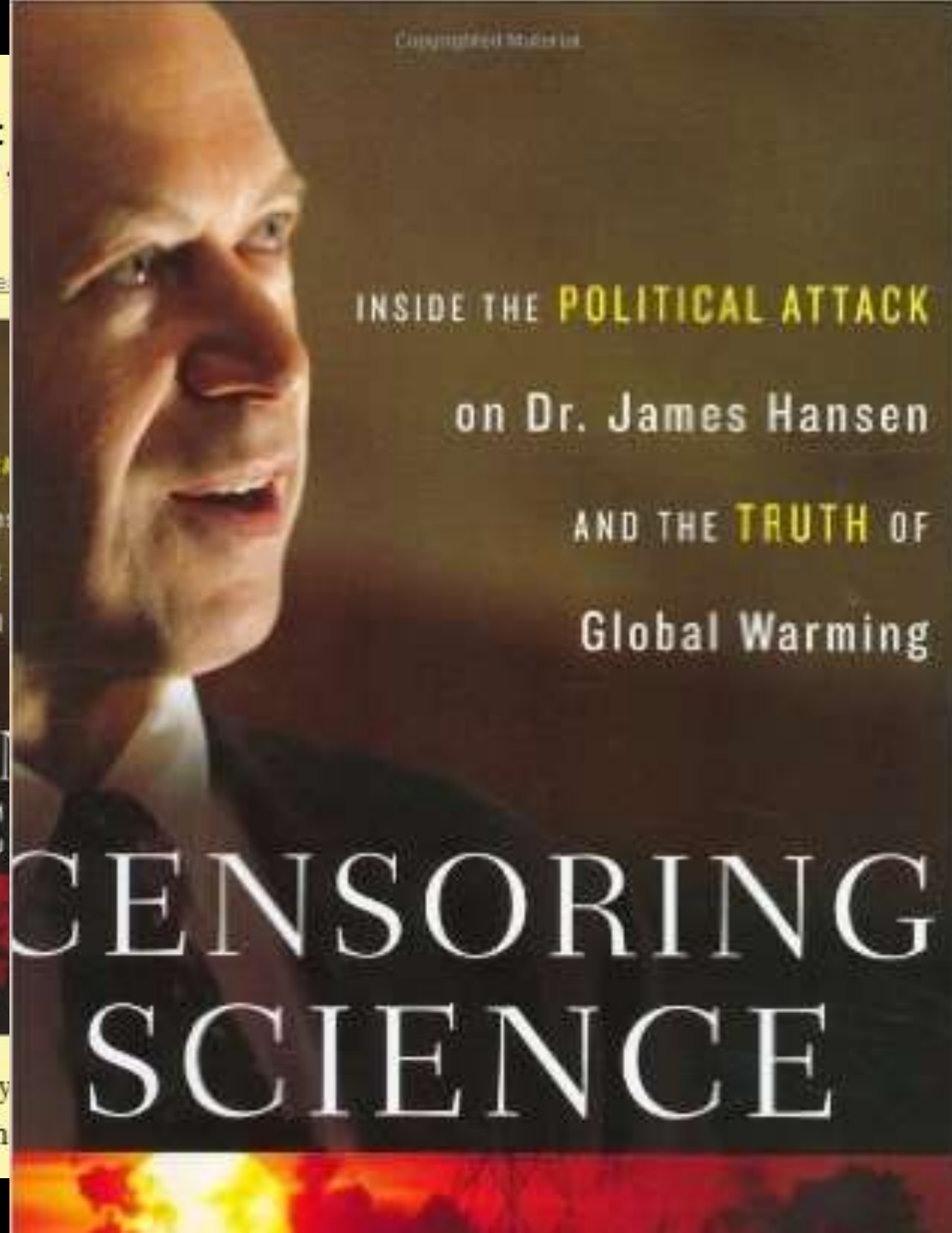
occurred in the last eight years, and the twenty-two hottest years on record have occurred in the last twenty-six years.

Censoring Science: James Hansen and Mark Bowen

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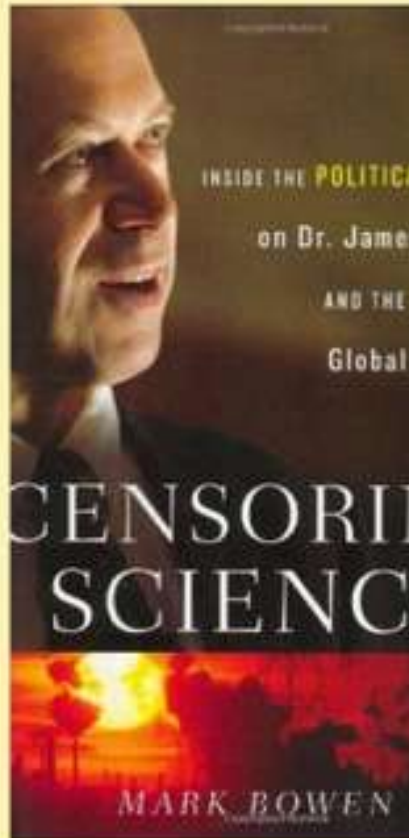


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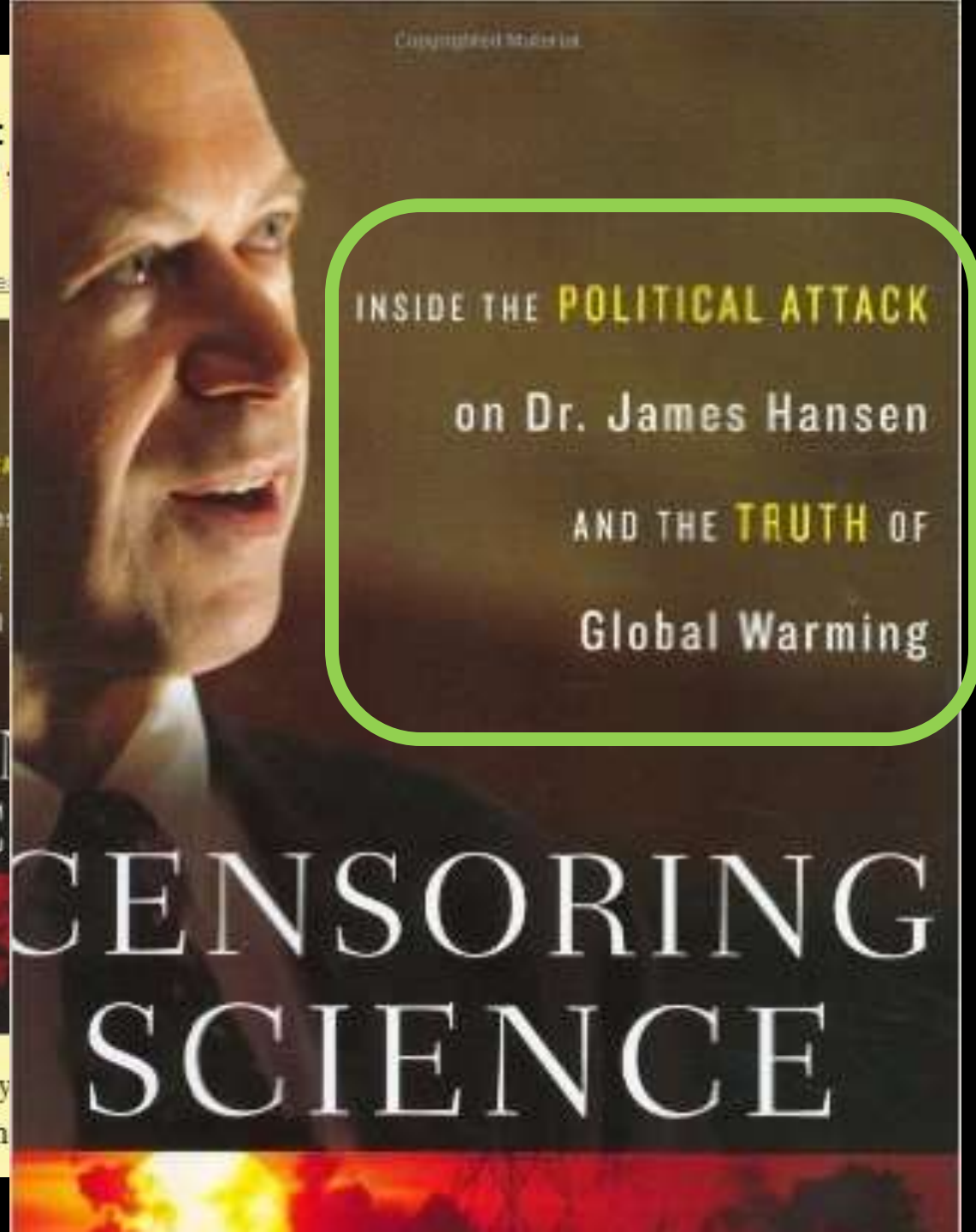


Censoring Science: James Hansen and Mark Bowen

Posted on January 30, 2016 | Le

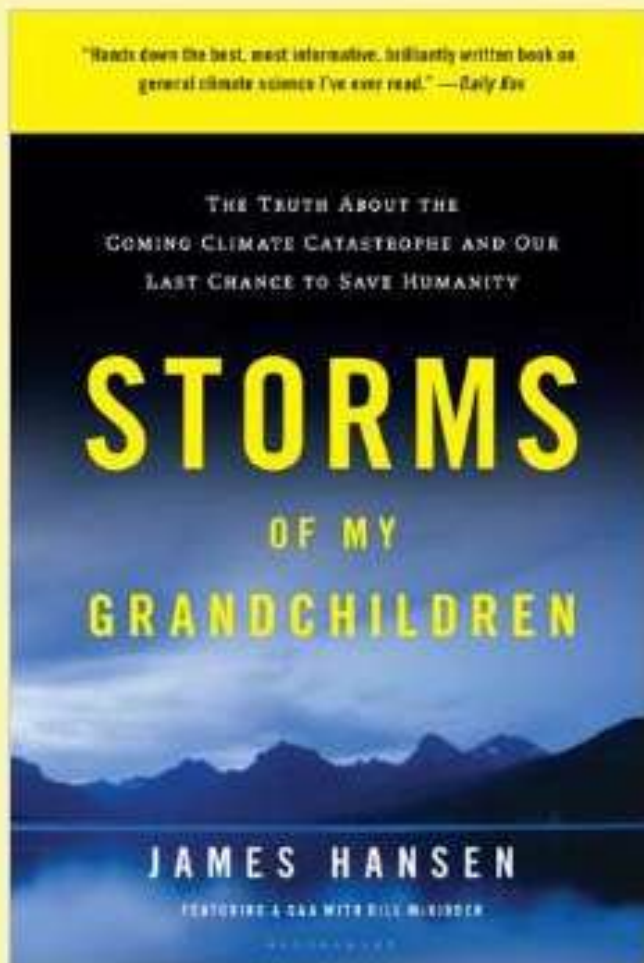


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Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity

Posted on [January 25, 2015](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



In his Q&A with Bill McKibben featured in the paperback edition of *Storms of My Grandchildren*, Dr. James Hansen, the world's leading climatologist, shows that exactly contrary to the impression the public has received, the science of climate change has become even clearer and sharper since the hardcover was released. In *Storms of My Grandchildren*, Hansen speaks out for the first time with the full truth about global warming: The planet is hurtling even more rapidly than previously acknowledged to a climatic point of no return. In explaining the science of

"Hansen is the most honest, authoritative, and clearly written book on
potential climate change I have ever read." — *Andy Auer*

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE
COMING CLIMATE CATASTROPHES AND OUR
LAST CHANCE TO SAVE HUMANITY

STORMS OF MY GRANDCHILDREN

JAMES HANSEN

FOREWORD BY HILL MCKIBBEN

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMES HANSEN

With About the Last Chance

Hill McKibben featured
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Q. With all the dedicated life-long commitment of scientists to the study of climate change why is the public still so ununiformed and just plain ignorant?

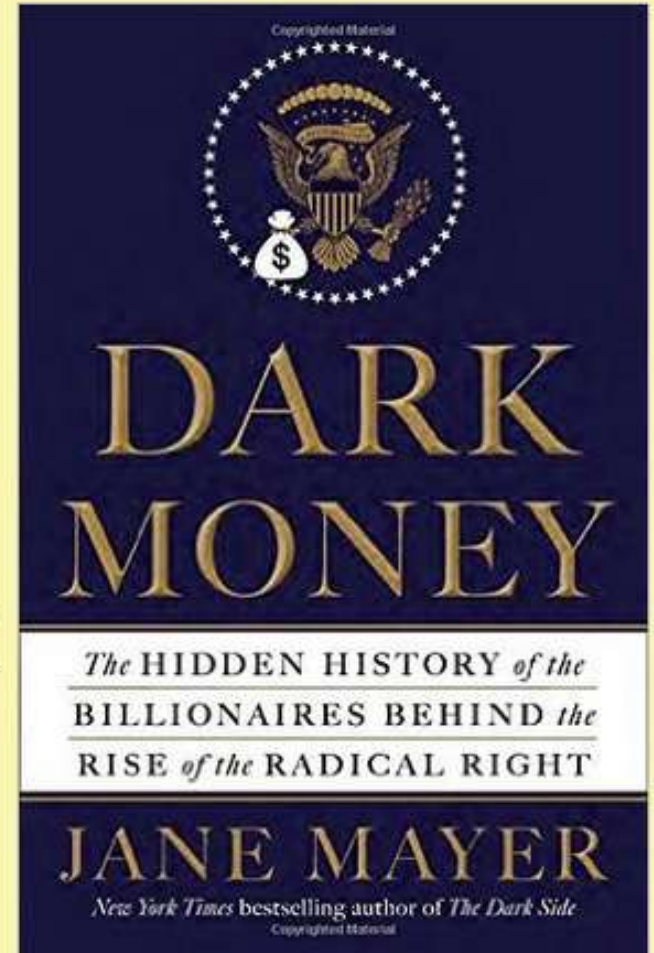
Q. With all the dedicated life-long commitment of scientists to the study of climate change why is the public still so uniformed and just plain ignorant?

Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right: Jane Mayer

Posted on [January 30, 2016](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

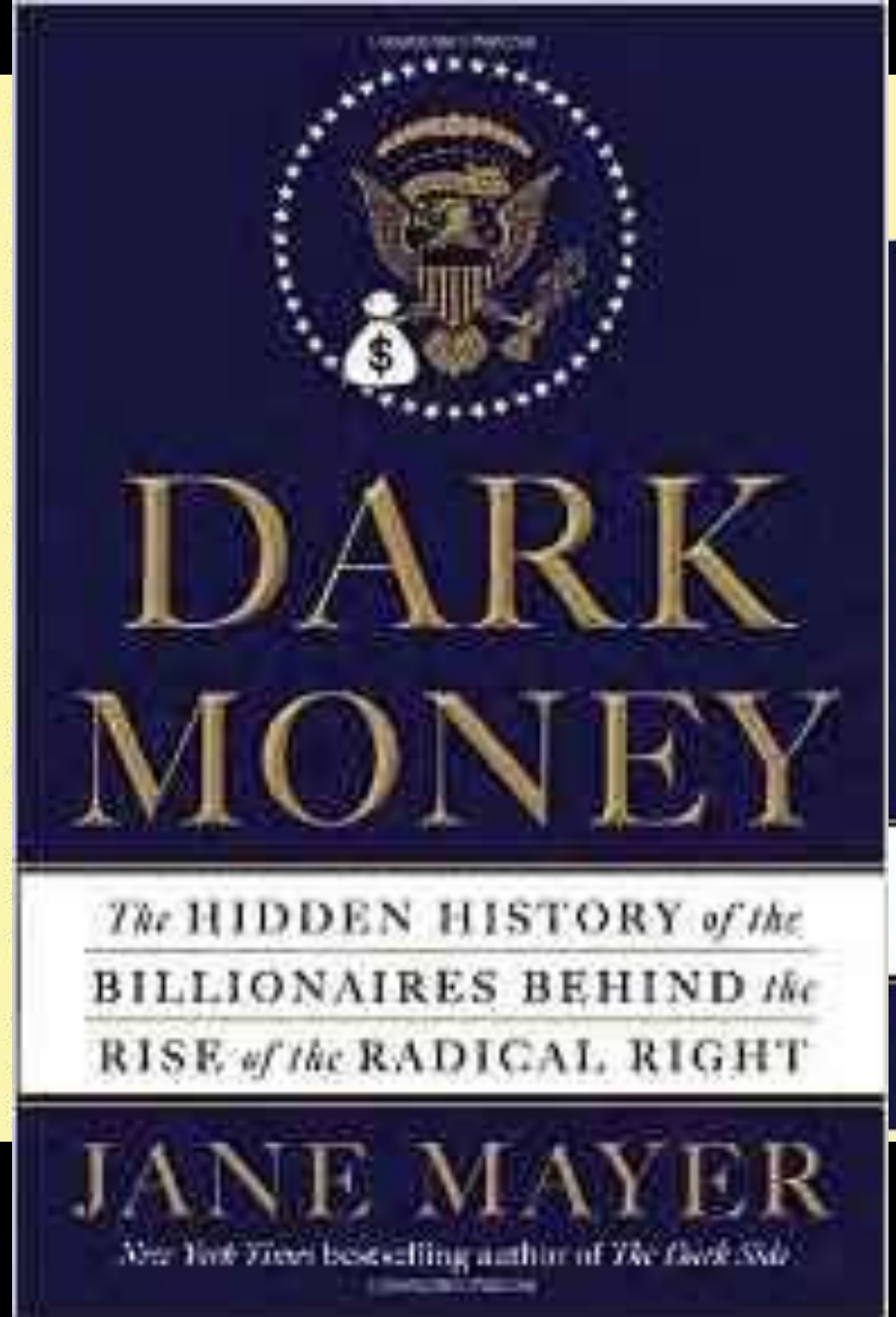
Why is America living in an age of profound economic inequality? Why, despite the desperate need to address climate change, have even modest environmental efforts been defeated again and again? Why have protections for employees been decimated? Why do hedge-fund billionaires pay a far lower tax rate than middle-class workers?

The conventional answer is that a popular uprising



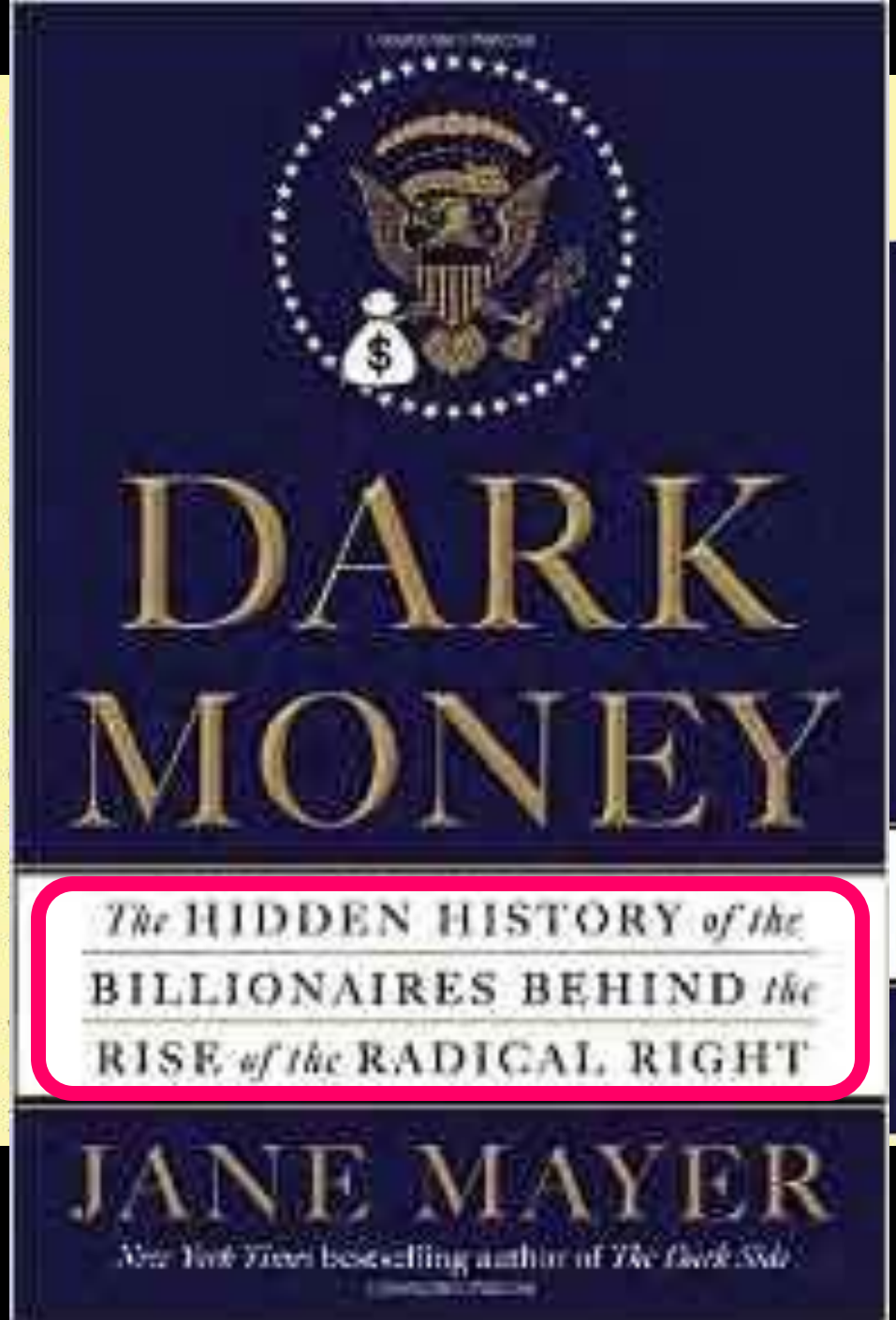
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A. “Dark Money”



Q. With all the dedicated life-long commitment of scientists to the study of climate change why is the public still so uniformed and just plain ignorant?

A. “Dark Money” Rich Corporations and rich individuals have financed public confusion...



Koch brothers - Jane Mayer (Fresh Air) 1/3



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The billionaire brothers who are waging a war against Obama
by Jane Mayer

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THE KOCH BROTHERS
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CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL MACHINE

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2013/03/02/the-koch-brothers-their-amazing-climate-change-denial-machine/>

The Kochs & the Nazis: Book Reveals Billionaires' Father Built Key Oil Refinery for the Third Reich

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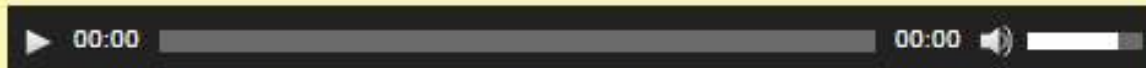


<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2016/01/21/the-kochs-the-nazis-book-reveals-billionaires-father-built-key-oil-refinery-for-the-third-reich/>

Exxon is being sued by the Rockefellers to tell the whole truth about what it has known -- and kept secret to maximize its profits -- for decades...

Exxon Mobil Vs. The Rockefellers | On Point

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What happens when the global community realizes that Exxon has lied to the world for decades?

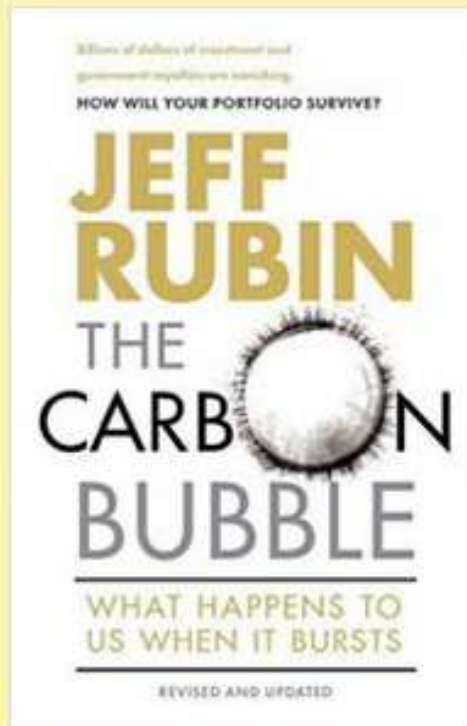
The Carbon Bubble: What Happens to Us When It Bursts: Jeff Rubin

Posted on [December 6, 2016](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

As the price of oil falls, bestselling author and economist Jeff Rubin takes us to the epicentre of the bursting global carbon bubble, and dares us to imagine a new engine for growth that does not run on oil.

For a decade, the vision of Canada's future as an energy superpower has driven the country's political agenda, as well as the fast-paced development of Alberta's oil sands and the push for more pipelines like Keystone XL across the continent to bring that bitumen to market.

Anyone who objects to pipelines and tanker-train traffic, north or south of the US border, is labeled a dreamer, or worse—an environmentalist: someone who puts the health of the planet ahead of the economic survival of their neighbours.



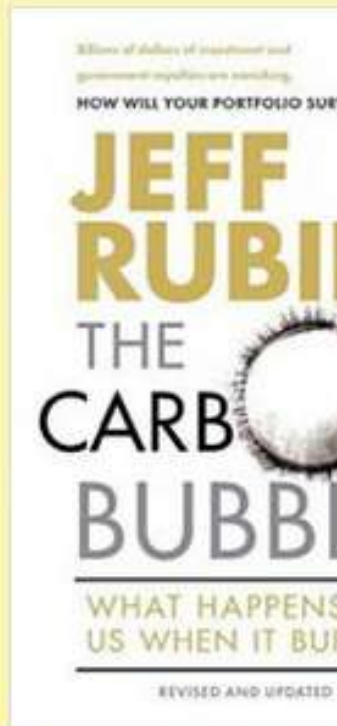
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Billions of dollars of investment and
government royalties are vanishing.

HOW WILL YOUR PORTFOLIO SURVIVE?

JEFF RUBIN THE CARBON BUBBLE

WHAT HAPPENS TO
US WHEN IT BURSTS

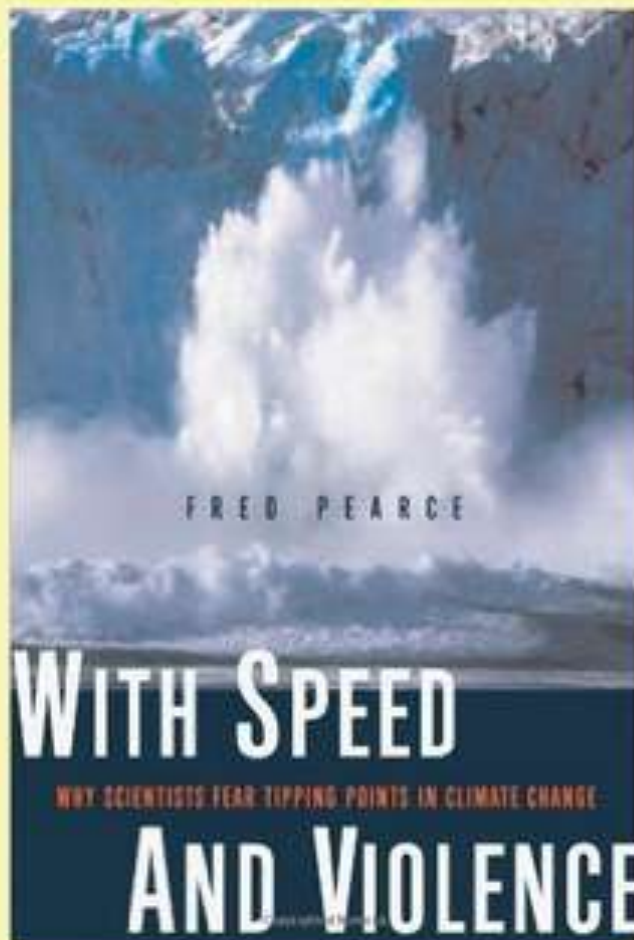
REVISED AND UPDATED

With Speed and Violence: Why Scientists Fear Tipping Points in Climate Change: Fred Pearce

Posted on [January 30, 2016](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

Fred Pearce has been writing about climate change for eighteen years, and the more he learns, the worse things look. Where once scientists were concerned about gradual climate change, now more and more of them fear we will soon be dealing with abrupt change resulting from triggering hidden tipping points.

Even President Bush's top climate modeler, Jim Hansen, warned in 2005 that "we are on the precipice of climate system tipping points beyond which there is no redemption."

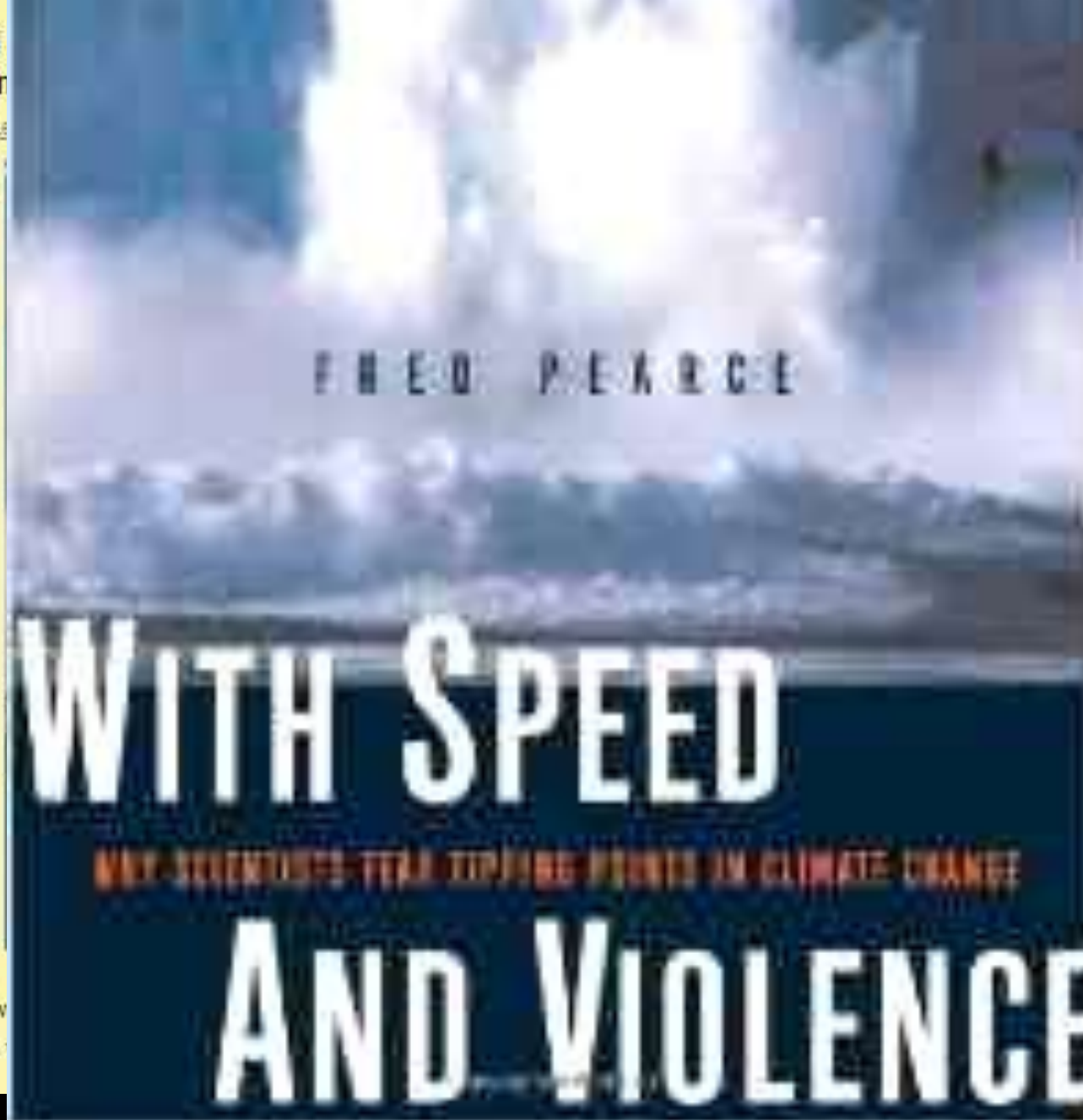


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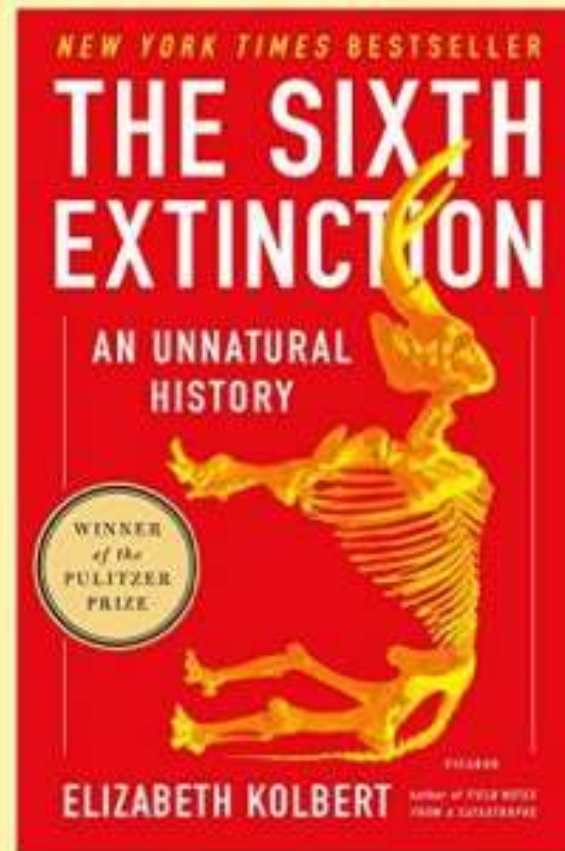
The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History: Elizabeth Kolbert

Posted on [September 22, 2015](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

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A major book about the future of the world,
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mass extinction unfolding before our eyes

Over the last half-billion years, there have
been Five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and
dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring



The Sixth Extinction: A Elizabeth Kolbert

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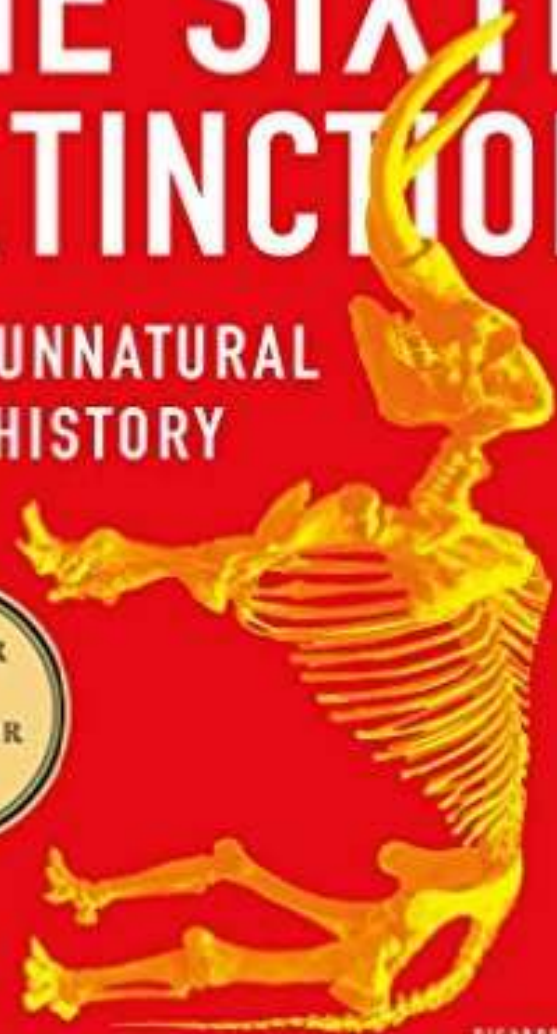
A major book about the future of life on Earth,
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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

THE SIXTH EXTINCTION

AN UNNATURAL
HISTORY



PICADOR

ELIZABETH KOLBERT

Author of *Field Notes
from a Catastrophe*

Where can we turn to learn...
...about climate?

Online “Film Festivals” for Extending Climate Awareness and Effective Action

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SELECTED RESOURCES FOR
SELF-EDUCATION
IN TRANSITION STUDIES



Need to know communication... (Short and sharp...)

350.org: Because the world needs to know

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<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2016/05/01/350-org-because-the-world-needs-to-know-3/>

Different types of movies for
“online film festivals...”

Different types of movies for “online film festivals...”

Documentaries

[“Disruption”]

Disruption (Full Movie, 2014)

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Disruption (Full Movie, 2014)



DISRUPTION



Published on Sep 7, 2014

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Biographical coverage of “climate heroes.”

[“Do the Math”]

Do the Math – The Movie

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“Frontlines of Climate Change” updates

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[Dr. James Hansen]

Climate scientist James Hansen: 'I don't think I'm an alarmist' – James Hansen

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etc., etc.

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“Online Film Festivals”

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Citizen groups, (PTA, Rotary Club, etc.)

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Church, Mosque or Synagogue groups

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“Board Room Briefings” (Zoning, School)

etc., etc.

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Cambridge, Boston and the Charles river. Photo by Alex MacLean, used with permission.

Beacon Hill Seminars – 2016

Session 8

Where can we go from here?



Tim Weiskel

17 November 2016

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Fall Semester 2016

Beacon Hill Seminars – 2016

But the real question is....

Session 8

~~Where can~~ ^{will} we go from here?



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