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Singer, Legates, and Lupos' "Hot Talk, Cold Science: Global Warming's Unfinished Debate (3rd ed.)" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Singer, S. F., Legates, D.R. and Lupo, A.R. (2021). *Hot talk, cold science: Global warming's unfinished debate* (3rd ed.). Oakland, CA: Independent Institute. 256 pp. \$26.96. ISBN 9781598133417

Climatologists attempt to temper the current global warming debate with this technical, yet accessible work that sheds light on an issue often overshadowed by political agendas and media hype. A revised third edition written originally by the late S. Fred Singer, former U.S. Weather Satellite Center director, it has been updated by Singer, climatologist David R. Legates and atmospheric scientist Anthony R. Lupo. It is published by a non-profit Independent Institute who claims it is a non-partisan, public-policy research organization with fellows and advisors who hold various political leanings.

Authors claim there is no clear climate crisis due to inaccurate climate data, untrustworthy climate modeling, and other debatable factors. It is an enlightening opportunity to see past other alarmists and writings on the subject that appear to be focused more on drafting climate policy and hype, rather than climate science. It reviews a history of climate data and policy through present times and reveals some shocking insights into how money and environmental interest groups prevail with predictive climate disasters despite the disagreements that exist between climate scientists. Laughably, Singer notes how the climate will not even cooperate with the claims being made about it.

Scientists agree that a coupled nonlinear chaotic system prevents climate research and modeling from making long-term predictions about climate change, yet scandals prevail regardless. FCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, Climategate, International Panel on Climate Change, and Hockey Stick scenarios are all discussed in part one of the book labeled as Hot Talk. Part two covers what is termed Cold Science. A group of scientists created the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change to argue what is scientifically evidentiary. For instance, they acknowledge greenhouse gases do increase due to human activities, but on the flip side, empirical evidence reveals slight warming could benefit plant and animal life. However, what is not known outweighs what is. Surface temperature records and data are inconsistent, and gaps exist between temperature observations and model predictions. This creates only speculation, not irrefutable science. This is further exasperated by a pause in any warming at all in the past two decades, while

some claim the missing heat is hiding somewhere in the ocean. Rather, climate change should be addressed locally with certain adaptations, versus relying upon global model abstractions with costly consequences, which include more taxes and regulations that do more harm than slight warming would. Not to mention, global cooling could be a bigger risk and equal threat. Since no real conclusions can be validated by observations, at the very least, all scientists should revisit what it means to be ethically bound to the scientific method and not to political hysteria. This book accomplishes its purpose of revealing that the global warming debate is not settled.

It contains a table of contents, forewords for each edition, an afterword, a preface, a list of figures and boxes and separate sections for references, acronyms, and an index. I would recommend this for any academic library.

Reviewer

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