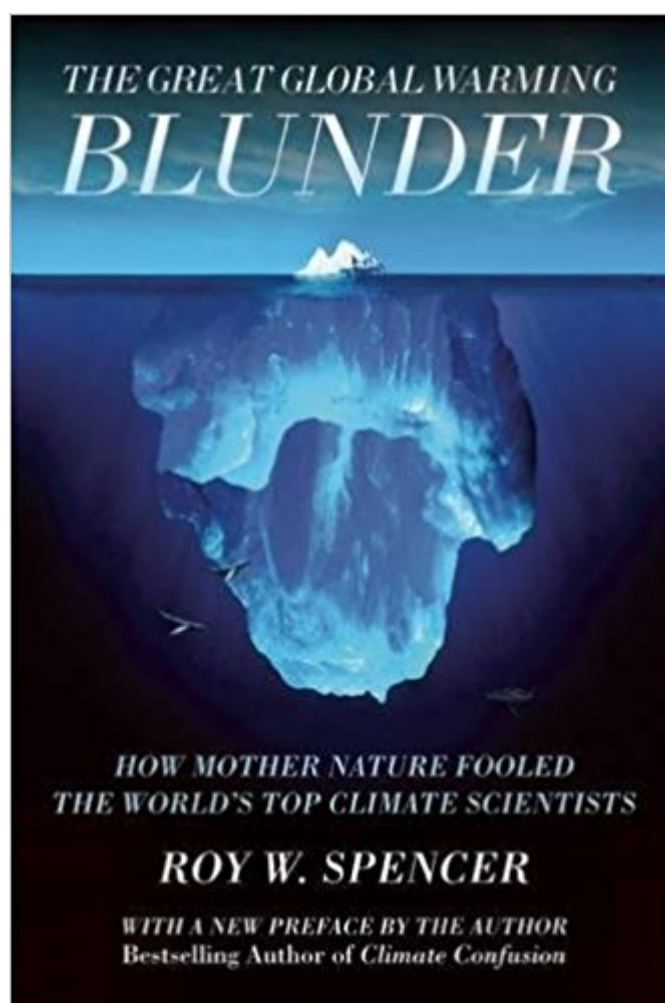


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The Great Global Warming Blunder: How Mother Nature Fooled The World's Top Climate Scientists (Encounter Broadside)



Synopsis

The Great Global Warming Blunder unveils new evidence from major scientific findings that explode the conventional wisdom on climate change and reshape the global warming debate as we know it. Roy W. Spencer, a former senior NASA climatologist, reveals how climate researchers have mistaken cause and effect when analyzing cloud behavior and have been duped by Mother Nature into believing the Earth's climate system is far more sensitive to human activities and carbon dioxide than it really is. In fact, Spencer presents astonishing new evidence that recent warming is not the fault of humans, but the result of chaotic, internal natural cycles that have been causing periods of warming and cooling for millennia. More carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is not necessarily to be feared; The Great Global Warming Blunder explains that burning of fossil fuels may actually be beneficial for life on Earth. As group-think behavior and misguided global warming policy proposals threaten the lives of millions of the world's poorest, most vulnerable citizens, The Great Global Warming Blunder is a scintillating exposé and much-needed call for debate.

Book Information

Series: Encounter BroadSides

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Encounter Books (September 4, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594036020

ISBN-13: 978-1594036026

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.6 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 124 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #78,403 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Rivers #91 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Environmental Policy #97 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Weather

Customer Reviews

Roy W. Spencer is a Principal Research Scientist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He was formerly a Senior Scientist for Climate Studies at NASA. He is co-developer of the original satellite method for precise monitoring of global temperatures from Earth-orbiting satellites. He has provided congressional testimony several times on the subject of global warming and authored the 2008 New

York Times bestseller, *Climate Confusion*.

As someone who is doing his level best as a layman to get a firm grasp on the state of climate science, I found this book very engaging. However, if you're "brand new" to the topic, I wouldn't start here. Spencer explores in great detail a particular theory of his regarding clouds, one that has opened a promising line of inquiry, though it isn't likely to be the "last word" on the subject. On the other hand, his general approach to the topic of climate change is in line with other "giants" among the skeptics, such as Lindzen and Michaels, and his own contribution has been noted by his fellows. Spencer continues to study and publish on the issue of clouds and their relation to El Niño, La Niña, and Pacific Decadal Oscillation to this day. While Spencer is generally careful not to mislead the reader in the body of the book, in the Summary & Conclusions section, he makes a lamentable mistake. Here is a quote that confused and disappointed me from that section: "The first conclusion is that recent satellite measurements of the Earth reveal the climate system to be relatively insensitive to warming influences, such as humanity's greenhouse gas emissions. This insensitivity is the result of more clouds forming in response to warming, thereby reflecting more sunlight back to outer space and reducing that warming." The first sentence makes sense to me, and he defends it well in the book. The second sentence bothers me. Having gone back and re-read the part of the book where he lays out his cloud theory, I can now see that this statement would be misleading for a sloppy reader, and confusing to someone who follows his arguments carefully. Spencer didn't defend this statement in the body of the book. Rather, I thought that his argument was simply that a decrease in low cloud cover causes warming, and an increase in low cloud cover causes cooling, and also that clouds were acting as a "forcing" rather than a "feedback." The consensus view of clouds (based on models) has assumed that they act as a positive feedback, amplifying global warming. I thought he demonstrated logically that clouds almost certainly do not decrease as a result of warming (cloud feedback) but rather global warming is caused by decreasing clouds (cloud forcing). But nowhere in the book did he defend the notion that clouds increase "in response" to warming. In fact, Spencer has repeatedly affirmed (in public appearances) that the behavior of clouds remains mysterious. Perhaps the words "in response" were a "slip of the pen," albeit a significant one. One other issue I had with this book was its failure to adequately defend (with data) the truth of the devastating impact of the green movement's energy and climate policies on the world's poor. I loved Spencer's passion here, but I wanted more facts. While his conclusions about clouds are debatable, the important takeaway is this--the consensus view that says that the climate system is dominated by positive feedbacks (hence, the system is "unstable") is

almost certainly wrong. Climate scientists need to explore natural internal variability in the climate system much more carefully.

This was a fascinating read for me. I am a PhD chemist who is no expert in climatology but I read as much as I can find on this topic. I know that the CO₂ greenhouse effect is real. My interest is in the feedback loops in climate systems, since this determines the magnitude of the ultimate effects of greenhouse warming, and clouds are the major feedback factor. In all I have read previously the feedback from clouds was simply described as either: a) more clouds form as the atmosphere warms (negative feedback), or b) fewer clouds form as the atmosphere warms (positive feedback). A few months ago I wrote to a leading scientist on the IPCC with my questions about this. He returned a friendly email that said "Of the many feedbacks in the system, the cloud feedback has proved most vexing. As you pointed out in your message, we are not even confident that we know the sign of the feedback, globally". He also said in one of his lectures that cloud feedback is entered into the global circulation models as a single parameter, since these models do not estimate the cloud feedback. The uncertainty in the model predictions, just from this one parameter, is so large that the worst case greenhouse warming is obtained if strong positive feedback is input, and zero warming occurs if a strong negative feedback is input. The Author's approach I found to be fully valid scientifically, and he is innovative in his approach. The science he does is exactly typical of the methods that I learned, and are the methods that have been used by scientists for hundreds of years. He is an expert in his field, and a leading expert in satellite monitoring of greenhouse warming. His concept that clouds have a dual function in greenhouse warming is insightful, and really opened my eyes to the concept of cloud formation as a chaotic process. His use of simple column models to explore the system is the same method as is favored by many climatologists. Prof. Spencer's concept of cloud feedback&forcing with a time delay between the forcing event and the climate effect cannot be modeled as a simple parameter. It is obvious to me that the 'overwhelming majority of climate scientists' don't bother to read, much less consider all information that is in the available literature. This is something that should raise concern among citizens. To end my review here I have to recommend everyone read the 'one star' reviews of this book. One review recommends that people should read only the government websites to learn the 'science'. Others admit they didn't read the book, and would -never- read the book out of principal, yet feel fully qualified to review it. Most are just bitter and nasty without any substance. Hard to imagine how science can inspire ignorance like this. I suppose these are the same sort of people that persecuted Galileo for having an alternate viewpoint.

This book is a MUST READ for those truly interested in the data and science behind the anthropogenic global warming debate. It's unfortunate that this matter has devolved into one driven by political dogma on both sides rather than one based on the scientific method. Intellectually honest people should read this in order to gain a deeper understanding of the state of the research and, to some extent, the politics driving the discourse. Sad that billions, if not trillions, of dollars are being expended on very shoddy science. While I'm certain I don't know whether or not the current 400 year warming trend is caused by man, after reading this book I do know that no one else knows that for certain either. The data and science is unequivocally not there to support either side.

I think Roy Spencer's book is just great! Understanding the variability of our complex climate is not hard to understand when all the different systems are considered. Spencer makes it clear that the climate is always changing because there are climate systems that we do not fully understand or even measure properly. He makes it clear that the science is not settled even though claims otherwise are constant and just wrong. I hope he can continue to testify before Congress to enlighten policy people before they spend our hard earned money on wasteful endeavors. After all CO2 is necessary for life on this planet. I know more about bad political science opinions from this book. He is right. It is such a shame that (bad) politics banned DDT--a life saving pesticide. Read *The Lies of Rachel Carson* by Dr. J Gordon Edwards.

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