

RESOURCES

“Global Warming Confronts Worldviews”

Sciences (Evidence for human-induced global warming)

-Mark Binelli, “Greenland Is Melting: a report from the ground-zero of global warming,” Rolling Stone, July 10-24, 2008, pp. 88-101.

-Ecological Internet’s news source “Climate Ark” at www.climateark.org/

- Al Gore, An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It (Emmaus, PA: Rodale, 2006), 328 pp. Book and film present for non-specialists a user-friendly survey of the sciences of climate change.

-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued 4 reports during 2007, each including a Summary for Policymakers, at: www.ipcc.ch.. “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal...” IPCC has “very *high confidence* that the globally averaged net effect of human activities since 1750 has been one of warming...” (Italics theirs) “Global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values determined from ice cores spanning many thousands of years...” The IPCC, comprised of 2,500 scientists, has made many peer-reviewed reports since 1990, having been founded by the UN in 1988.

-Millennium Ecosystem Assessment has 4 reports pub. 1-19-06, www.maweb.org. A panel of 1,360+ scientists worldwide wrote these peer-reviewed reports in 2001-05. Non-experts would best consult the “Synthesis Reports.”

-National Academy of Sciences’ “Free Executive Summary” of Climate Change Science: An Analysis of Some Key Questions, 42 pp. at www.nap.edu/catalog/10139.html.

-Naomi Oreskes, “Global Warming – Signed, Sealed and Delivered,” Los Angeles Times, July 24, 2006.

-Stern Review Report on the Economics of Climate Change [ISBN 0-521-70080-9] was submitted to HM Treasury in England in Nov. 2006: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm. [Notice: underlining obscures the _ that occurs within each blank space.]

-The film “The Great Warming” is limited by the evangelical lens that it added in its adaptation of the book by Lydia Dotto, Storm Warning (Doubleday Canada, 2000). For ecumenical balance see “Web Links” at the film’s website in its section for “Faith Communities” at: <http://www.thegreatwarming.com/calltoaction/faithcommunities.html>.

Denials of Global Warming and Scientific Critiques of Them

-*Funding* of these denials: Sharon Begley, “Global-Warming Deniers: A Well-Funded Machine,” Newsweek, August 13, 2007; Ross Gelbspan, The Heat Is On (Perseus Books, 1998), especially chapters 2 and 4.

-*Social and Ideological Sources* of these denials (hyper-individualism, and fixations on growth and efficiency): Thomas Friedman, Hot, Flat, and Crowded (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008), Ch. 5 “Global Weirding”; Gelbspan, The Heat Is On, chapters 3 and 5; Bill McKibben, Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future (Times Books, Henry Holt and Co., 2007), consult Index for efficiency, growth, hyper-individualism, individualism.; “Cornwall Declaration on Environmental Stewardship,” 3 pp at www.stewards.net/CornwallDeclaration (denial by religious ICES)

-*Scientific Critiques*: Gelbspan’s Appendix; IPCC reports; others cited above.

Effects initiated or exacerbated by Global Warming

Lester R. Brown, Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing To Save Civilization (W.W. Norton, 2008), “I. A Civilization in Trouble,” pp. 27-127 presents these effects. Cf. also Thomas L. Friedman, Hot, Flat, and Crowded (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008), Parts I and II; Elizabeth Kolbert, Field Notes from a Catastrophe (Bloomsbury, 2006).

-*Water Losses:* Vandana Shiva, Water Wars: Privatization, Pollution, and Profit (Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2002), especially Ch. 2, “Climate Change and the Water Crisis”; World Wildlife Fund (March 2007), “Executive Summary” of report titled World’s Top 10 Rivers at Risk.

-*Deforestation, Desertification, Melting Ice and Ice Shelves and Glaciers, More and Worse Storms, Warmer Rising Oceans, Exhausted Aquifers:* Binelli, Gore, Shiva, MEA Reports of 2006, IPCC Reports since 1990 (all cited above).

-*Poverty, Hunger, and other economic consequences:* Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, “Our Global Warming Rage Lets Global Hunger Grow,” The Telegraph UK, April 14, 2008; Jared Diamond, Collapse (Viking, 2005), Part Four “Practical Lessons,” pp. 417-525; Andrew C. Revkin, “Poor Nations to Bear Brunt as World Warms,” New York Times, April 1, 2007; C. Ford Runger and Benjamin Senauer, “How Biofuels Could Starve the Poor,” Foreign Affairs, May/June 2007; Stern Review Report on the Economics of Climate Change (2006).

-*Environmental Racism:* Rebecca Barnes-Davies, Environmental Racism: An Ecumenical Study Guide (National Council of Churches USA’s Eco-Justice Program Office, 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002; 2004, 17pp.); Aruna Gnanadason, “The Integrity of Creation and Earth Community: An Ecumenical Response to Environmental Racism,” Union Seminary Quarterly Review, 58:1/2 (2004), 97-119.

-*Failed and Failing States:* Brown, Plan B 3.0, pp. 9-19, 123-27, 132, 276-78; Diamond, Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed.

[*These and other effects pose ethical challenges to multiple worldviews, including: scientific, pragmatic, multicultural, nationalist, idealist, individualist, socialist, capitalist, conservative, liberal, religious, non-religious.*]

Reducing Anthropogenic Global Warming

-*Websites:* www.arborday.org (plant trees) www.carcare.org (care of tires, oil, etc.) www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction (reduce your ecological footprint) www.livinggreen.org www.mnenergychallenge.org/pdf/calculations.pdf (detailed lists of “Energy and Cost Savings Calculations”) www.nasonline.org (National Academy of Sciences) www.nrel.gov/solar (National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s Solar Research) www.ela.doe.gov/olaf/aeo/ (Annual Energy Outlook 2008) www.ucsusa.org (Union of Concerned Scientists)

-*Books:* Lester R. Brown, Plan B 3.0 (2008), “II. The Response – Plan B” and “III. An Exciting New Option,” pp. 131-287; Thomas L. Friedman, Hot, Flat, and Crowded (2008), “Part III: How We Move Forward,” “Part IV: China,” “Part V: America,” pp. 203-412; Bill McKibben, Deep Economy (2007) urges us to recover “the wealth of [our] communities,” and thereby to discover “the durable future”; David de Rothschild, The Live Earth Global Warming Survival Handbook (NY: Rodale for

Melcher Media, 2007), for mass audience, this is an illustrated list of “77 essential skills to stop climate change – or live through it.”

Ecumenical Ecology

-*Websites:* www.butler.edu/clergyproject/religion_science_collaboration.htm (for “Evolution Sunday” on 2nd Sunday in February); www.env-steward.com (website of Minnesota Episcopal Environmental Stewardship Commission); www.nccecojustice.org (National Council of Churches’ Eco-Justice Working Group); www.nyo.unep.org/ifp.htm (UNEP’s Interfaith Partnership for the Environment); www.oikumene.org (World Council of Churches); www.prcweb.org (Presbyterians for Restoring Creation); www.protectingcreation.org (Interfaith Climate Change Network); www.webofcreation.org (Ecology Resources to Transform Faith and Society).

-*Theological Books and Articles:* Thomas Berry, The Dream of the Earth (Sierra Club Books pb, 1990), xv, 247 pp.; Eberhard Busch, The Great Passion: An Introduction to Karl Barth’s Theology (Eerdmans, 2004), 302 pp. “The Good Creation – Its Basis and Preservation,” 176-98; Fragomeni & Pawlikowski (eds), The Ecological Challenge (Liturgical Press, 1994), ix and 140 pp.; Interpretation, vol. 50/1 (Jan. ’96) on “Theology and Ecology”; Hugh T. Kerr (ed), Calvin’s Institutes: A New Compend (Louisville: W/JKP, 1989), 180 pp; Book One, “God the Creator” (pp. 17-57); Episcopal Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori, “Reflections on Poverty and Climate Change,” San Francisco Chronicle, May 20, 2007, p. D – 5; David and Eileen Spring (eds.), Ecology and Religion in History (Harper & Row Torchbook, 1974).

-*Biblical Studies:* -*Overview:* Brevard S. Childs, Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993), 745 pp.; Terence E. Fretheim, God and World in the Old Testament: A Relational Theology of Creation (Nashville: Abingdon, 2005), xvii & 398 pages; John G. Gibbs, “Creation Texts in Scripture,” (www.northernplainspresbytery.com, look under “Resources” > Scripture > Creation Texts in Scripture); Norman Habel (ed.), The Earth Bible in 5 vols. (www.pilgrim@ucc.org); Carol Johnston, And the Leaves of the Tree Are for the Healing of the Nations (38pp., 2006; PDS #72433-06-001 at 1-800-524-2612, or www.pcusa.org/environment).

-*Genesis:* Walter Brueggemann, Genesis (Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching); (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982), 384 pp.; Conrad Hyers, The Meaning of Creation: Genesis and Modern Science (John Knox, 1984), 203pp.

-*Revelation:* M. Eugene Boring, Revelation (Interpretation commentaries series; John Knox, 1989), 236 pp.; Interpretation, A Journal of Bible and Theology (3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23230; 1-800-229-2990, email@interpretation.org);, vol. 53/2 (Apr. ’99) on “Apocalypse 2000”; Barbara R. Rossing, The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation (Westview, 2004 hb; also Perseus, 2005 pb); Rossing challenges ideas about end-time destruction of earth (such as the “Left Behind” series of books emphasizes).

Science and Religion (general interest)

Ian G. Barbour, Issues in Science and Religion (Harper Torchbook, 1966); Loren Eiseley, The Immense Journey (NY: Vintage Book by Knopf, 1946); Frederick Elder, Crisis in Eden (Abingdon, 1970); Werner Heisenberg, Physics and Beyond (Harper Torchbook, 1971); C. F. von Weizsaecker, The History of Nature (Univ. of Chicago Phoenix Book, 1949).

-John G. Gibbs, 10-21-2008 gibbs@wcta.net
For Headwaters Center for Lifelong Learning, Park Rapids, MN nleistik@unitelc.com