



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary: Marlea Sheridan

Editor: Penny Esplin

2012-2013 Officers:

-President: CLAUDIA WISE

-Vice-President: DELMAN RAY

-Treasurer: JOE GREENE

DATE: January, 23, 2014

Short and Sweet from the Prez: Joe and I have spent a lot of time the last few years trying to keep our members educated and up-to-date on the mining issues affecting our activities. Many Issues this past year were directly aimed at taking us out of the water... even though they got SB 838 passed they are not done yet. Behind the scenes they have continued to try and get amendments to the bill to include all streams in Oregon as Essential Salmon Habitat (ESH). A severe limit on 85% of Oregon streams is not enough for Senator Bates, DSL and their gang green troops. I just heard they have hopefully been stopped for this session but only because the ESH streams are not mapped in a way to make it convenient for officers to easily police the miners. The most important thing we can do now is making sure our votes count. Elections do have consequences!!!!

Now it's time for me to step aside and let others direct the course of our clubs activities. I've really enjoyed my time as Millennium Digger president but it is time to pass the torch. I am looking forward to sitting at the round tables.

Our new officers have a different experience set and new ideas they will bring to our group keeping our association moving forward and interesting to our membership. They already have plans for some awesome outings and programs. Having a great group doesn't stop with electing officers we all need to help out where we can and let them know what you are interested in and consider stepping up to volunteer, organize and share an event. All of us working together as a family are what makes our association special.

Signing out,

Claudia Wise
Former, President
Millennium Diggers Association

Call to Order: Claudia called the meeting to order, and welcomed members and guests.

In Attendance: There were 15 members present. We welcomed new members: David Schmidt and Christof Schmidt.

Meeting Minutes: Past minutes were not shared at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Joe gave us a short report. Our club has been helping fund mining causes.

Please update your yearly information and pay club fees for 2014 if you have not done so yet. Membership is still only \$20.00!

Claims Report: Tim Kelly and his son were not present.

Millennium Diggers Raffle: Delmon encouraged members to buy tickets for the 50/50 Raffle; the drawing will be on February 27th.

Our General Raffle had several lucky members that won some great prizes from the table.

Notice to members: Please consider donating some items to bring to upcoming meetings for the General Raffle table. If they are for "rocking", detecting or mining of any kind, all the better! Any interesting items are appreciated.

Old Business:

-PLG'S ½ pound of Gold Raffle. Tickets are for sale at

<http://www.waldominatingdistrict.com>

Next drawing to be held in July at the Miner's Jubilee in Baker City 2014

Our new claims: The Big Creek claim is now null and void, due to the "wildlife habitat" connected with Elkhorn Park. The Jeeter's Creek claim is pending while we wait for a report from the FERC (Federal Energy Regulation Commission), even though we can legally claim mineral entry in this area they get a 60 day evaluation period to determine if our claim will cause any problems to any planned energy projects that need to be coordinated in the area. This claim sits on an "Energy Corridor".

The club discussed the new mining regulations and obstacles for 2014. Delmon read off the conditions of DSL'S new permit; listing 27 issues (all ridiculous and overreaching).

Karen proposed that we support the new organization, "**Stream Savers**" which could involve miners in a state-wide river clean-up. She is the CEO of Stream Savers, and had a booth at the Gold Show in Roseburg Jan 31 - February 1st.

The club agreed to donate \$25.00 to help her with her booth. We also agreed that half of the proceeds from the Miner Sculpture (donated by Shelly Stumbo of Armadillo Mining Company, Grants Pass, OR) raffle would be donated to support Stream Savers, because of the direct positive influence it will have for the miners. The drawing for that will be at the Miner's Jubilee in Baker city in July.

Check out the Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/streamsaverson> or contact Karen Darnell at: streamsaverson@gmail.com

New Business: The club voted and elected new officers for 2014:

PRESIDENT: Penny Esplin

VICE PRESIDENT: Ken Orndorff

SECRETARY: Marlea Sheridan

TREASURER: *Position Open* – (Joe is still Treasurer pending) –

Volunteers for treasurer? Please contact Penny Esplin pennysn2rox@yahoo.com

And we welcome our newly appointed:

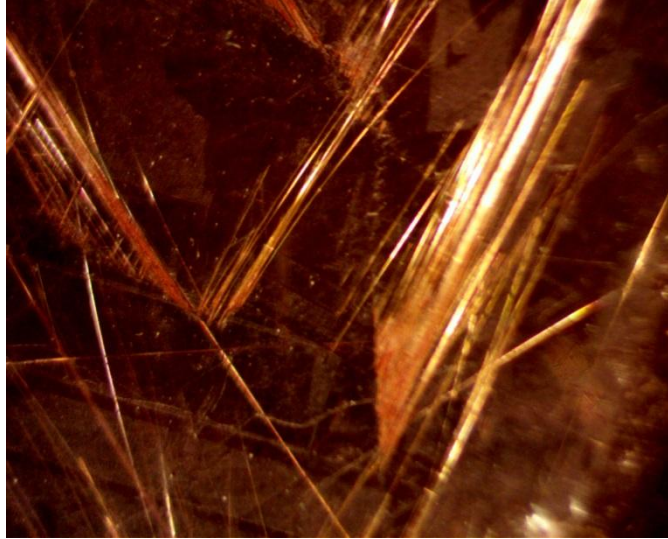
OUTINGS/EVENTS COODINATOR: Karen Darnell

All newly elected officers become official at our next meeting in February.

We want to thank Claudia Wise, Joe Greene and Delmon Ray for doing such a fantastic job with our club these past years! We know they will continue to help with the club activities, as needed this year also.

Next month's meeting is on Feb 27th, and will be our **POTLUCK DINNER** (since our Christmas party was cancelled due to snowy weather). Please come around 6:30 and **bring your favorite dish!** Please bring ideas for future outings, too! We will have door prizes! We will draw the winning ticket for the 50/50 raffle.

Rocks shared letter "Q": Ken brought some nice examples of cut and polished thundereggs and petrified wood. Penny brought several examples of quartz, including: druzy quartz, quartz crystals of varying sizes, chrysoprase (apple green quartz), and rutilated quartz (quartz w/golden rutile hairs inside, also called "*Venus Hair Stone*"). The rutile is composed of *titanium dioxide*). Rutile is the mineral responsible for the 4 and 6 ray asterism seen in star sapphires and star rubies.



Close up of rutile hairs in quartz

Next Month's letter is "R": Which could include: Rhodonite, Rhodochrosite, Rutile, Rutilated Quartz, Rose Quartz, Ruby, Ruby-Jack (sphalerite), Rubellite (tourmaline), Rhyolite, Rock Crystal (clear quartz), Rainbow Rocks? Really Radical Rocks! Bring any riches from your treasure hunting adventures?



View of Joe's place in early December. Everywhere south of Salem was snowed in for many days!



Then, along came February 2014. There were more than 18-inches of snow. Deepest snowfall in the past 40-years.

Our Next Club Meeting: Thursday, February 27th, 2014

This meeting will be a potluck

Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

The Millennium Diggers Club is a group based in Keizer, Oregon, which is near Salem, Oregon. The club is for people that share an interest in searching for things of value. The club's charter is to provide members with a club that will help promote the hobbies of metal detecting, prospecting, rock hounding, and treasure hunting. Part of our yearly dues pay for mining claims that are available for all club members to use. We use club meetings to share information about locating gold, silver, coins, jewelry, gemstones, fossils and metal detecting. We plan club outings each month where we can help each other learn all aspects of our hobbies. This is a great family activity, bring the kids! Please feel free to drop in on one of the monthly meetings or outings.

We meet the 4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m, at:

Clear Lake United Methodist Church

920 Marks Drive

Keizer, OR 97303

We meet in the church's Fellowship Hall; a real a nice meeting place complete with tables, chairs and a kitchen. The church is located across the street from the Clear Lake Fire Station. There's plenty of parking in the church's parking lot.

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GOLD and GOLD MINING

Treasure Hunting in our own back yard

Martin Schumann, In El Dorado County, Placerville Newswire, Dec 23 2013

<http://www.inedc.com/1-7296>



The best thing about dredging is that you can find gold sometimes large quantities of it, not always but the thrill of finding it is beyond comprehension. My folks knew the care takers of Chili Bar Camping grounds and they let us dredge there, the gold was unbelievable I found my first ½ oz nugget there, what a great vacation paid for with gold.

Youth really don't what they are missing by not getting involved in hunting for gold, the gold is out there you just need to find it and it isn't always that hard to find.

I am a 66 year old business man and gold prospector and at this age I still have a yearning for finding the big one. Hunting for gold is a way of getting away from the hustle bustle of city life and becoming part of nature. All you hear today are diehard environmentalist talking about how gold mining has destroyed our habitat which is the farthest thing from the truth. True in the old days when they washed away mountains and cut every piece of timber, harm was done. But today's miners are 90% environmentalist; there isn't anyone that does more for the rivers than a dredger. "Think about it" dams that are in place don't leave the rivers run wild like they used to, the rivers no longer tear up the hard packed gravels so that the fish can spawn, they don't clean the silt away like they used to do. Dredging dislodges the packed gravels along with cleaning the sands from the accumulated silt so that fish can thrive. In the course of dredging you stack rocks which small fish and crawdads can hide from pray fish, the lose gravels are perfect spawning grounds for all fish.

The best thing about dredging is that you can find gold sometimes large quantities of it, not always but the thrill of finding it is beyond comprehension.

The first time that you find nuggets you will go to sleep in your tent or camper seeing nuggets in your dreams and you can't wait to wake up and start dredging. It used to be gold when I started dredging was \$35.00 an ounce and now it is over \$1200.00 per oz. I would travel from Benicia to the Middle Fork of the American river when I was only 17, that was 1964 and set up a small sluice box and shovel gravel all weekend. Hell Hole Reservoir washed out and moved all the gravel 40' up both sides of the river depositing gold everywhere; this was a treasures hunters dream!

I used to come home with at least two sometime 3 ozs of gold. I did this for a couple of years before I was called to duty with the Army. After getting out of the Army I ended up starting a business in Ohio, but that never kept me away from my dream. I was so mesmerized with thought of mining for gold that during the winter I would come to California, my parents lived here so it made it a perfect place to visit. My folks knew the caretakers of Chili Bar Camping grounds and they let us dredge there, the gold was unbelievable I found my first ½ oz nugget there, what a great vacation paid for with gold.

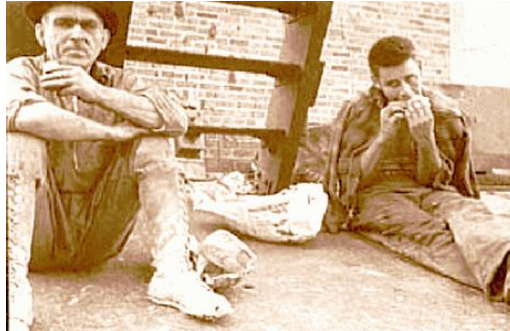


All that I have to say is you need to hold on to our rights so that you can have the experience that I have had throughout my life and that your kids will also have that right. They are trying to take away something that I and our forefathers have done all their lives all because someone got jealous and figured that they could stop us from a constitutional right by using faulty scientific studies that were performed by the Sierra Club and the Karuk Tribe. They are using the ploy that we cause mercury to be distributed in the rivers when in fact we collect the mercury along with tons of lead and other heavy metals, not mentioning the gold. They have found that if they can stop us they can mine the rivers for the mercury using millions of our dollars to do so; this is absolutely a travesty to our freedom. Join the Public Lands for the People or the Western Mining Alliance we need your participation to win this fight.

Blue Christmas for California Miners

Craig Lindsay, Western Mining Alliance | Dec 27 2013

<http://www.inedc.com/1-7325>



Layed-off coal miners, with no work, no money, and no means of support Gold mining controversy enters its fourth year. As the California ban on gold mining drags on, gold miners fall on hard times.

There are no presents under Rick's tree this year, the same as the previous three years. Rick is a gold miner. In 2009 California banned miners like Rick from working their mining claims. Before the ban, he could recover enough gold to last him through the year. During the summers he ran a suction dredge on the American River looking for gold, the same as miners before him dating back to 1849. His equipment now sits idle, awaiting the outcome of a series of lawsuits to determine his fate.

In response to pressure from environmental groups, the state conducted their third review of suction gold mining in 2009. The study concluded the miners could be stirring up silt, and the noise might disturb protected birds or frogs. The 2009 report reversed course from a 1994 report which found the gold miners had minimal impact when operating within the regulations.

At the center of the controversy is the equipment used, known as a suction gold dredge. Gold is recovered from the river using a suction hose. The dredge sucks up gold like a vacuum cleaner. Miners claim they have removed tons of garbage, mercury and lead from the waterways. According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) the average size of a gold dredge is 4", or about twice the size of a vacuum cleaner hose.

Since the 1950's the image of these small machines, floating on bright yellow pontoons, greeted the visitor to the Yuba and American Rivers. Rural towns like Happy Camp, in the northern part of the state, relied on the summer influx of miners to support their economy. In a recent lawsuit filing, Happy Camp business owners contend the state has destroyed their economy by continuing the ban despite reports indicating there are no lasting environmental effects from suction dredging.

From gold to food stamps

The California suction dredging ban prohibits the use of any motorized equipment to recover gold. According to statements issued by CDFW they still allow the use of gold pans and non-motorized equipment to search for gold.

“That’s not mining,” says Craig Lindsay, president of the Western Mining Alliance. “It’s wasting time. A lot of people depended on some or all of their income from gold mining. The state has managed to destroy 150 years of history with the stroke of a pen.”

“I know guys who were making good money,” added Lindsay, “enough during the summer to carry them through the year. Those guys are now on food stamps. The environmental groups just say, ‘oh, they can find other work.’ But that’s all they’ve done, is mine gold. This type of mining goes back 50 years. We have 2nd and 3rd generation miners working the family claim. The studies show all traces of mining is erased after the next flood, but even that’s not good enough.”

Environmental impacts

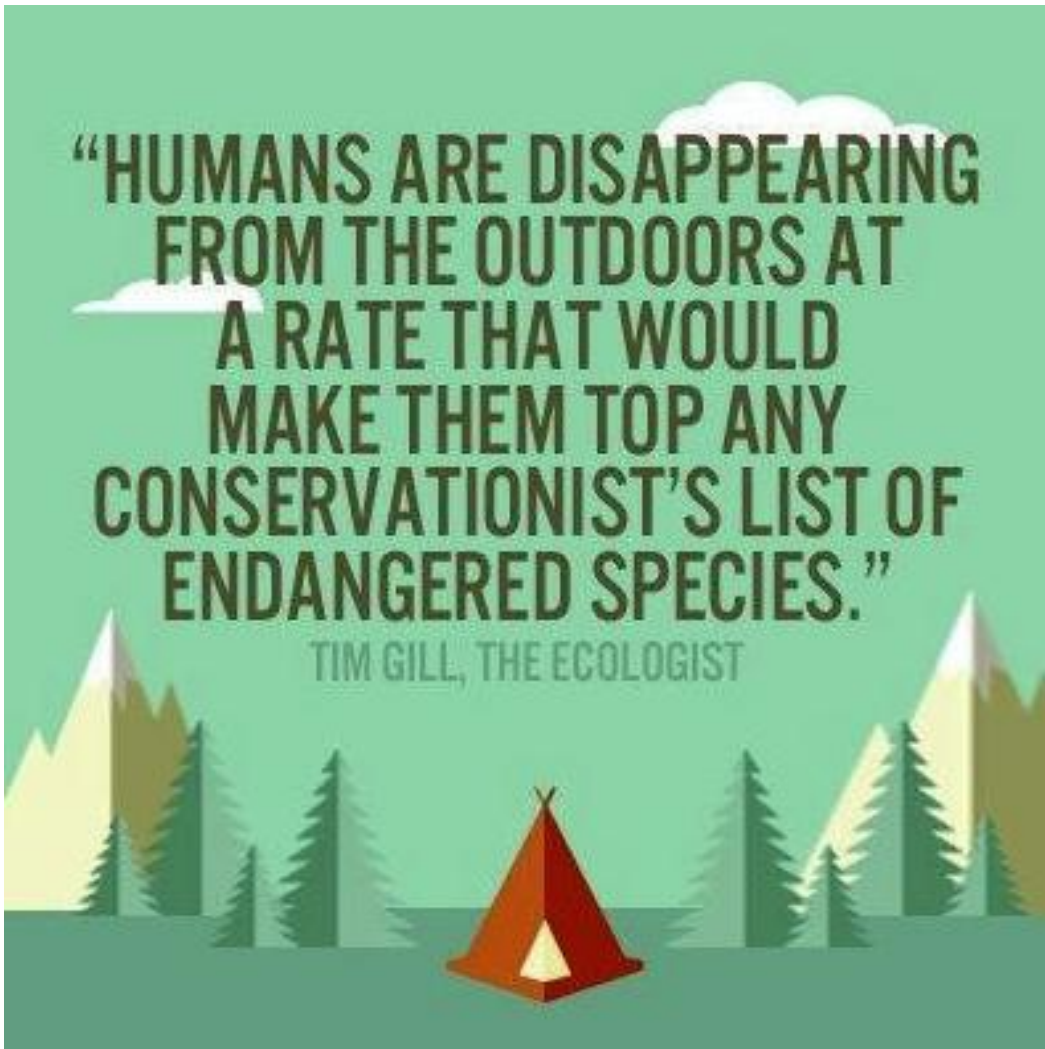
Environmentalists argue the fifty year old practice is harmful to the environment. Miners respond it’s not true and claim the recent environmental impact report wildly exaggerated the impacts by ignoring the vast majority of research. They point to regulations which prohibit them from stepping on grass on the river bank as an example of how extreme the state has gone in trying to protect everything.

At issue is a state requirement which only applies to gold miners requiring complete mitigation for all effects. Miners claim it’s impossible to meet this requirement when some of the effects include a prohibition on moving rocks. They claim the environmental impact report is biased and misled the public.

In 2005 environmentalists sued to stop gold dredging, claiming the small operations could cause harm to the endangered salmon. The lawsuit claimed the recent listing of the salmon warranted a new environmental impact report to evaluate the effects of people on the salmon and the state agreed. This unprecedented approach led to the prohibition on suction dredge mining while the effects were studied. The rest of California industry nervously awaits the final outcome of this decision.

Millions lost to the ban

One thing both sides agree on: it’s expensive. According to public records, the state has spent over \$4 million on the environmental impact report and related litigation. Prior to the ban, suction dredging was the second largest producer of gold in California, with a combined annual production of over 14,000 ounces. Miners point to studies which show no lasting effects from vacuum dredging and say the current ban is a waste of taxpayer money. “We took guys who were earning a living and put them on the welfare rolls, how’s that a good deal?” Questions Lindsay.



Suction Dredge Mining Legal Update from The New 49ers

Dave McCracken, January 2014

The main briefs have been filed with the Third Appellate District of California in the Brandon Rinehart case. Many of you will recall that Brandon was cited last year for operating a suction dredge in California without a permit. With financial assistance from PLP and others, Brandon hired our attorney, James Buchal, to defend against the criminal citation. Brandon's defense was largely based upon our federal preemption argument in San Bernardino Superior Court. We do not believe that the State has the authority to prohibit the only effective method of mining submerged streambeds on our federal mining claims. Our position is that their refusal to issue a permit amounts to an outright prohibition. The judge

in that case rejected the preemption argument on the presumption that we would appeal to the Appellate Court.

Now that the Appellate Court will consider federal preemption, we are on a fast track to get this very important issue decided. James Buchal did a fantastic job in presenting opening and closing arguments. I encourage you guys to read them, because they are very enlightening. The State basically argues that congress never intended for the State to be prevented from stopping mining on the public lands. I suggest if we were able to get these arguments properly in front of a federal judge (tried and failed), we would have overcome California's moratorium several years ago.

Just in the last week, the Karuk Tribe and our extremist environmental adversaries have filed an Application with the Third Appellate Court to submit a friend of the court brief in support of the State's position. It is filled with the same old lies and misrepresentations they have been using for quite some time. Having said that, my guess is that the arguments pose compelling challenges to uninformed people who are trying to understand the issues. The brief provides a good review of what we are up against.

And then, just in the last few days, Pacific Legal Foundation, which is a substantial conservative player in the legal arena, has submitted a brief on behalf of Brandon in the Third Appellate District of California! It is clear that there will be serious ramifications as a result of the Decision in this case!

In the event that we win the federal preemption argument, my guess is that suction dredge permits will again immediately be available in California. This, because the Appellate in California will have ruled that we can dredge if California fails to issue permits. We can only hope for a Decision before this next season. We are also providing financial assistance to pursue the preemption argument in the Appellate Court since that outcome is likely to resolve many of the unsettled matters in San Bernardino Superior Court.

The State of Oregon has passed a similar statewide moratorium (SB 838) on suction dredging, except that it does not take full effect until 2016. The new law does affect the 2014 and 2015 seasons in several very important ways:

1) They are reducing the number of suction dredging permits to 850. This is approximately down to a third of the number of permits issued during the 2013 season. The big question at the moment is who will get the permits? Our members have substantial dredging opportunities in Oregon!

- 2) The new law only allows the operation of a suction dredge between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm.
- 3) Suction dredges cannot be operated within 500 feet of each other.
- 4) No suction dredges may be left unattended on the waterway. This is generally being interpreted as a requirement to remove all dredging equipment from the waterway every evening.

At the time we are publishing this newsletter, the State of Oregon has yet to issue final regulations how they will administer these changes. Although I was just informed this morning that they are now accepting permit applications.

To a large degree, our very same arguments to overcome California's moratorium will also apply in Oregon. How can a State promote mining (which is the mandate from congress) when they require a miner to remove his mining equipment from his work site every day? Or when a miner is prohibited from operating a motor at times when anyone else in the world is allowed to do so?

EPA Shoots Down Pebble Mine Before It Even Begins

By Michael Bastasch , The Daily Caller, January 16, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/01/16/epa-shoots-down-pebble-mine-before-it-even-begins/>

The Environmental Protection Agency says in a new report that large-scale mining operations in Alaska's Bristol Bay would put salmon fisheries and native tribes at risk.

This is the third report issued by the agency that the proposed Pebble Mine would harm the environment.

The EPA's final assessment of the impact of mining on Bristol Bay has been criticized Pebble Mine supporters who say that the agency has abused its power in order to stop a major project that would benefit Alaska's economy.

The EPA's final assessment does not evaluate the actual mine. Instead, the agency looked at hypothetical mines based on mining scenarios and preliminary plans published by Northern Dynasty Minerals, the company backing the project.

"It is a disappointing day when an agency charged with upholding a science based regulatory process ignores its own rules and regulations, and does not take the time nor expend the effort needed to fully assess impacts in the vast

Bristol Bay region,” said John Shively, CEO of the Pebble Partnership. “We had higher expectations for the EPA.”

Environmentalists were thrilled with the EPA's findings. Activists are urging the agency to use its power under the Clean Water Act to block the mine from getting a water pollution permit necessary for it to operate.

“The assessment documents what we've feared for years — Pebble Mine would destroy the world-class wild salmon fishery, cost jobs and endanger the communities and wildlife that depend on it,” said Joel Reynolds, western director of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Is the largest gold deposit in Europe within reach?

Jeff Opdyke, Sovereign Investor, January 12, 2014

<https://us-mq5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=d0s012411hmtn#mail>

“That's the one thing you have to remember about WASPs,” Gordon Gecko told Bud Fox, “they love animals and hate people.” That scene from my favorite movie, *Wall Street*, resonated with me the first time I heard it, and it has stuck with me now for more than a quarter century. I am regularly reminded of Gecko's words as I travel the world and hear about all the “do-gooders” protesting or fighting to save indigenous cultures or preserve trees or protect the habitat of the yellow-breasted booby-footed flying titmouse or whatever the cause du jour happens to be. The needs of people, I've noticed far too many times, are rarely part of the equation. It's always – silently – about what the do-gooders want, what they value, what they think is unique and worth preserving from their personal point of view ... which makes theirs a false altruism. And that brings me to a tiny community of 2,600 souls in the Apuseni Mountains in western Romania ...

It was in October 2012 that I told you about a world-class mineral vein holding nearly 25 million ounces of gold as well as a boatload of silver. This mine has been a source of precious metals dating to the Stone Age more than 4,000 years ago. Romans, Medieval Germans and Habsburg Austrians mined the site at various points, as well. Today, that mine is shuttered, though a U.K.-based and Canadian-listed junior miner, known as Gabriel Resources, is all set to restart modern mining operations – if only the do-gooders would get out of the way.

We owned shares of Gabriel for a while, and all was going swimmingly until the do-gooders intervened in Romanian politics. And then we got stopped out of the shares. I told you at that point that I would spend more time digging into this issue because of the opportunity I see. So, I am in Romania as you read this, headed to the mine site on Monday morning to meet with local officials and residents of a rural village known as Roșia Montană. The people here are poor. Eight out of every 10 people are jobless. Running water is available sporadically in some areas. Outhouses still dot the landscape. Nearly 70% of the locals support a restart of the mine because of all the benefits it will bring: Jobs, money to the local economy, electricity, water, new and modern homes to replace the dilapidated stone and wooden houses that will be lost to the mining operations. And, yet, if the do-gooders have their way – and so far they have – sunlight will never again shine on this mine and the local countryside will remain as it is today. The do-gooders would call that preserving nature and culture. I would call it a laboratory for human misery.

What galls me the most – and this happens in almost every instance when do-gooders inject their saccharine altruism into a situation – is that the people who would benefit the most from a project, the truly impoverished, are disregarded. The voices of the poor are drowned out by the shrill protests of the rich and the middle class who have the luxury of protesting and spending their discretionary income on preserving their version of idealism, to hell with those who want a better life. In this case, the do-gooders have raised such a ruckus in Bucharest and other urban centers that Romania's parliament – which had signed off on the project and the billions in revenue it would generate for the country – reneged on its word. Now, the mine, the impoverished locals and the company are in limbo. As a free-marketeer, this state of affairs infuriates me. The great bulk of protestors – mainly eco-Nazis without a clue, idealistic university students and anarchist agitators who will protest a sunrise for the hell of it – have never been to Roșia Montană. Of those who have, few will ever return. They spend their days fighting to preserve mountain scenery and a rural lifestyle they know little about and which impacts their city lives in no discernible way. Yet, those whose lives would be forever improved continue to struggle with daily hardships the do-gooders cannot even imagine in their urban existence.

I am heading to Roșia Montană because I am convinced this situation will change – that the mine will open ... that gold will once again flow ... that poor locals will be given the chance to work for the mine and earn an income that

gives them greater financial security in life and affords them some of the niceties that do-gooders back in Bucharest take for granted. Romania's government will see the error of its ways and permit the mine to open. Simply put: This is the largest and most significant gold mine in Europe and too much money is at stake in the second-poorest country in the European Union. And investors with the patience of water battling a stone will reap vast rewards. My goal is to potentially re-recommend Gabriel shares because of the opportunity they represent. But I will have more on all of this after my trip and after my research is done.

Bringing fair trade to artisanal gold mining

by Paula Dupraz-Dobias in Peru, [swissinfo.ch](http://www.swissinfo.ch), January 8, 2014

http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/business/Bringing_fair_trade_to_artisanal_gold_mining.html?cid=37653264

A Swiss-sponsored responsible mining initiative is offering artisanal gold miners direct access to markets, better environmental respect and more transparency. [swissinfo.ch](http://www.swissinfo.ch) investigates whether the Better Gold Initiative (BGI) can live up to its promises.

Feliciano Quispe arrived in the coastal desert in 1988 with only a backpack, a shovel, a compass and a water bottle. The Peruvian economy was a shambles at that time and Quispe needed work. So he began to look for gold.



The Peruvian gold mining landscape is barren, dusty and devoid of plant life (swissinfo)

"I didn't have anything, not even a bicycle to move around," he explained. "We had to live in the desert, in a hole or a cave."

Together with a few other pioneering miners, he began by selling a few kilos of ore to refiners.

Quispe, now the general manager of the Españolita mine in the southern desert, some 600 kilometres south of the capital, Lima, recalled how together with 47 other artisanal miners, he founded a small mining company, after feeling cheated by gold ore buyers.

The cooperative mine now processes its own gold, about 14 kilograms (kg) a month.

Cutting out middlemen

Españolita, or Medsursa as the company is also known, expects to soon begin supplying the BGI. It's the latest responsible gold project formed through an alliance between Switzerland's State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the Swiss Better Gold Association, a group of major refiners and jewellers, alongside Max Havelaar Switzerland, a fair trade organisation.

The programme aims at bringing gold miners closer to customers in Switzerland, thus offering producers better prices through the elimination of intermediaries, and creating greater transparency and traceability of the mineral for the end buyer. It also promises miners access to special funds as well as financing for sustainable development projects.

Switzerland's involvement in the initiative stems from its key role in the international gold trade, with some 70% of all gold globally transiting through the country. And gold represents 97% of Swiss exports from Peru, the world's fifth largest producer of the metal.

According to official Peruvian statistics, 190 tons were exported from Peru to Switzerland in 2011.

But so far only a small amount of that - about 50kg - was exported from the programme's first producer, Sotrami. Thomas Hentschel, BGI director, says though his expectation is to reach two to three tons annually in four to five years.

Christoph Wiedmer, director of the Bern-based Society for Threatened Peoples, praised BGI's work on the chain of custody and for its focus on specific producers, but added that it was a very niche market and the initiative needed greater funding than the initial CHF2.9 million.

Certification

Third-party certification groups, Fairmined and Fairtrade, offer certification to small and artisanal miners, while respecting certain social and environmental standards. Fairmined and Fairtrade are similar in promoting decent working

conditions, human rights and the gradual elimination of mercury in small-scale mining. The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), which most high-end jewellery businesses are signed up to, provides standards that are essentially applicable to large-scale miners. The World Gold Council, too, offers certificates for conflict-free gold, valid for large mining companies.

Ethics cost

One problem for end buyers interested in clean gold is that there are a number of certification programmes – not just the BGI - and a limited supply of certified gold. While it is estimated that 15-25% of gold worldwide comes from artisanal and small miners, Fairtrade activist Greg Valerio, told swissinfo.ch that only 600kg annually originates from Fairtrade and Fairmined sources.

“Everyone is fighting over the same stuff,” Assheton Carter, an expert on responsible gold, explained. “The big [jewellery] brands take a lot of gold - tons rather than ounces - and that comes from the four major [Swiss] refineries, who have a high quality product that the brands want.”

He says jewellers “don't want to make claims that what they sell is green or fair [since] the public will ask what percentage of the product is actually fair trade”.

Costs involved in the responsible gold supply chain are another issue. Until the BGI was launched, purchases of certified fair trade gold had been complicated by the steep premiums charged to buyers, to up to 25% above the international gold spot price, according to Carter.

The BGI's launch in November comes just months before the Peruvian government's programme to certify small-scale miners enters into effect and amidst a growing polemic within the gold industry over its environmental footprint, as well as concern over health and labour issues.

Bettering the gold supply

Lima, which will host the COP20 climate change conference in November 2015, has given informal miners until April to concord with environmental, social and fiscal measures or face sanctions.

Peru estimates that there were 100,000 illegal miners before the process was started two years ago. Widespread deforestation, mercury pollution, alleged people trafficking and forced labour practices are amongst the issues generated by illegal mining that the formalisation process wants to curb.

In the southeastern jungle region of Madre de Dios, the government is expected

to come down particularly hard on illegal miners due to wide-ranging environmental damage that was brought to the public's attention by the Carnegie Institute in October.

On a visit to Huepetuhe, at the heart of the region's mining activities, informal miners told swissinfo.ch about how, after decades of government support in the form of granting mining concessions or easy credit, they believed Lima was now determined to obliterate domestic artisanal miners in favour of large-scale foreign mining enterprises.

According to the World Gold Council, just the top four mines in Peru, which are majority foreign-owned, contributed 14% of government tax revenues in 2011.

Beyond Huepetuhe's shantytown composed of trading posts, bodegas and cheap bars and across the enlarged silted up river, the land has been razed of its vegetation, transformed into a dusty, sandy landscape.



There's nothing exciting about living conditions for miners in Madre de Dios (swissinfo)

Throughout Madre de Dios, excavators and other heavy equipment dig for gold before the miners "wash" the soil with high-pressure hoses and separate the ore with the use of highly-toxic mercury.

Informal vs formal miners

The distinction between informal and illegal miners can be rather vague. Informality generally refers to miners who work beyond the margin of the law, yet who have commanded a certain degree of staying power. Miners may lack property rights, or fail to pay taxes, respect basic environmental or social standards, or all of the above. Officials tend to speak about illegal mining once a certain threshold of abuses is exceeded.

Accommodating informal miners

While the Españolita mine has already been formalised, few others from Madre de Dios are expected to be certified by April, according to Ernesto Ruez Luna, an advisor to the environment ministry.

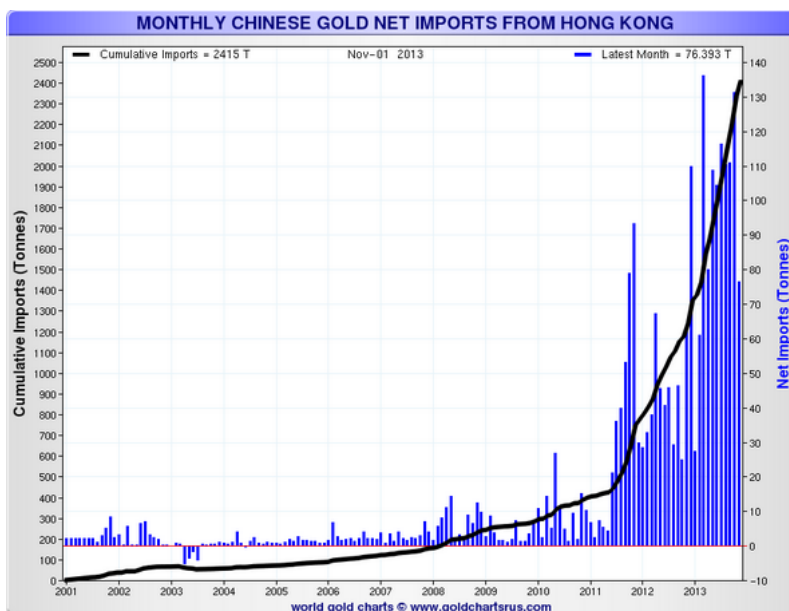
Already, there is concern that many illegal miners will continue to move to areas beyond official control deeper into the jungle.

Quinn Kepes of the labour non-governmental organisation, Verité, which recently published a report on illegal mining in Peru, told swissinfo.ch how he suspected illegal miners in the southern region of Arequipa would bring gold to processors, who in turn sell the product as originating from legal sources.

In the Madre de Dios capital, Puerto Maldonado, gold dealers told swissinfo.ch how their suppliers fudge their paperwork.

For Miguel Santanilla, chief researcher at the Instituto del Peru, document trafficking is a known fact. He says that since the introduction of the new government policies “illegal gold is turned into legal gold through the paperwork, with the help of authorities”.

For people like Quispe and the Españolita mining cooperative, the BGI plan has nonetheless provided hope, as well as recognition for their vision. As Casiano Palomino, another Españolita associate, puts it: “The Swiss responsible gold initiative is a force that allows us to move ahead, and provide inspiration to others involved in this activity... that we can also help others.”



A new warning on gold

Porter Stansberry, *S&A Digest*, April 26, 2013

<http://www.thedailycrux.com/Post/42639/porter-stansberry-a-new-warning-on-gold>

I have no idea what the price of gold will be by the end of the year. Of course, neither does anyone else.

I've recommended owning gold and silver bullion for many years. My company began recommending it repeatedly in the early 2000s because we saw the government's efforts to weaken the dollar as a bullish sign for gold prices.

Then, in 2006, I began to see that we were inevitably heading for a currency crisis. These weak-dollar policies had continued for far too long and were joined by huge increases to both public and private debts. That's when I began warning about the ultimate loss of our dollar's world reserve currency status, something I've called the "End of America."

So for nearly seven years, I've been telling people that, whether gold looked expensive or not, it was prudent... or even necessary... to own some as insurance. I still believe that's true. I personally own gold. I've never sold a single ounce.

I hold gold because I believe the entire global system of paper money and central banking is in the process of self-destructing. And I believe in a relatively short time – perhaps five or 10 years – the existing monetary system will collapse. During this period of turmoil, I expect gold and silver will maintain their purchasing power, while all forms of paper money will be rendered worthless.

I see gold as a form of savings... a universally recognized form of money that is no one else's liability. In that way, it is far superior to any other form of money currently available today.

At the same time... I am fully aware that as the public's awareness of the risks associated with our paper-money system grow, volatility in gold prices will spike. Worse, I knew that as the public began to invest in gold, the likelihood increased for a wicked bear market designed to separate the foolish, the leveraged, and the ignorant from their savings.

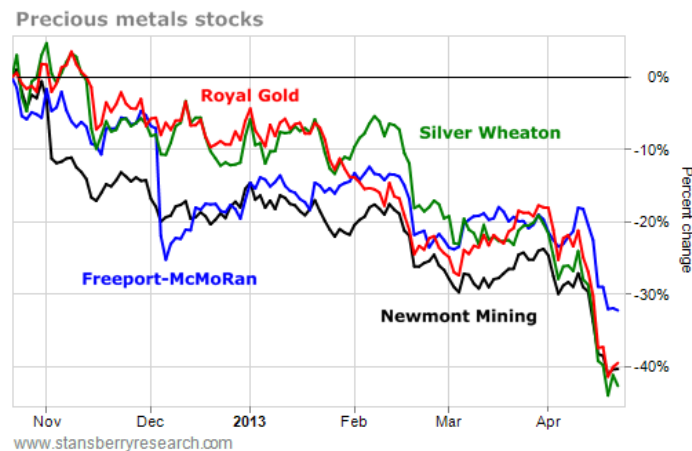
Just remember... nothing goes up for 12 years in a row. Nothing. When my driver in Baltimore asked me if he should buy some gold in 2011, I figured we had to be near the top. But... gold continued to rise.

I've never seen any other company or commodity go up for 12 straight years like gold has done. (That happened, by the way, not because anything about the gold market changed, but because of incredibly stupid government policies.)

The Bank of Japan was the last major central bank to resist the inflationary policies embraced by the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank. That changed with the election of new Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

You would have thought that just as the last major central bank in the world (the Bank of Japan) had announced a policy of essentially unlimited money printing, the price of gold would soar. Japan's decision to inflate away its debts – along with the U.S. and Europe – means there's no major form of paper money left with any credibility at all.

The world has begun a "race to the bottom" – a race designed to rob creditors and wage earners. And so... why is gold collapsing? And why would the share prices of the highest-quality gold and silver companies – Newmont Mining (NEM), Freeport-McMoRan (FCX), Silver Wheaton (SLW), and Royal Gold (RGLD) – be essentially in freefall?



When I look at the precious-metals complex – the commodity prices, the production companies, the collectibles, and the royalty companies – I see a huge boom over the past dozen years.

When a sector booms, a lot of interesting things happen. People who are suddenly making a lot of money come to believe they're smart. They inevitably start doing foolish things. And so I've watched as people began to sell regular bullion coins as collectibles from China... and took huge commissions to do so. I've seen investors mortgage their homes to buy gold. (Yes, really.)

I've watched well-run, conservative miners lose their footing, too. Many large mining companies have made horrendously expensive (and foolhardy) acquisitions over the past decade.

Stillwater Mining, for example, bought a \$263 million mine in Argentina... a country not well-known for respecting the rule of law. Yes, as you probably know, we recommended shares of Stillwater recently in my Investment Advisory. We did so because the stock was so cheap. Even after writing off Argentina completely, it still seemed attractive. But we were early. We stopped out of that position this week. (Likewise, we may still be proven wrong about our valuation of Newmont Mining, which seems incredibly cheap to us.)

And worst of all, in my view, were the many companies in the sector that replaced their conservative leadership and strategies to become far more aggressive. Silver Standard (SSRI) is perhaps the best example. In 2006, it decided to abandon its carefully constructed strategy of buying and holding silver in the ground – a strategy it had followed successfully for decades. As I explained in my November 2006 issue (where I recommended closing out of the position)...

Silver Standard's business to date has been focused on acquiring high-quality silver properties in the ground. However, it recently announced it will put one of its mines into production... This makes me uncomfortable.

I didn't recommend the stock because I wanted to invest in a mine. I recommended the stock because I wanted to hold silver assets as a hedge against the dollar. We might be leaving a lot of money on the table here, but I've found that when your reason for buying a stock changes, you should sell.

My subscribers pocketed 15% gains in five months. And I was right when I said we might be leaving money on the table, too... A year later, shares had nearly doubled. But ultimately, my thesis was proven correct. Over the next five years, shares tumbled from more than \$45 per share to less than \$7, where they sit today.

My point is... a lot of precious-metals companies have gotten carried away. They've made bad decisions. As with any other sector of the market, a bear market will surely follow a bull market, just as sure as the sun rises and the sun sets.

I've tried to warn people along the way that precious metals are not immune to the iron laws of the market. And sadly, the sector seems to have more "true believers" than any other area of the market. That might be because,

fundamentally, they are correct. There is no doubt that gold is the best and only reliable form of money. There is no doubt that the price of silver is a fantastic barometer of the overall health of the banking sector. But... the facts don't exempt the sector from bear markets.

Like I said at the beginning of today's *Digest*... I don't know what the price of gold will be at the end of this year. Nor do I know what will happen to the share prices of the many high-quality stocks in the sector.

I've personally been "nibbling" at the highest-quality producers this year – unsuccessfully, so far. And so, I've told my analysts we won't recommend any more precious-metals companies until we see some significant signs of progress in the metals' prices.

I'm cautious here – not bullish. I'm cautious because with the world's central bankers printing faster than ever before, the price of gold should be rising. But it's not. That's troubling. It's a sign that the excesses in the sector are significant... and need to be corrected.

Remember what I said earlier... bear markets follow bull markets. We've seen a 12-year, raging bull market in gold. All the signs of excess and poor judgment have developed, just as they do in other sectors during wild bull markets. This is a time for caution. And that's why I'm not urging folks to buy gold stocks today, despite their low valuations

One last point to remember. The price of gold may well fall this year – even significantly. But the value of gold won't change at all. For gold investors who understand gold's most unusual feature – its timeless and unchanging utility – a bear market in the nominal price is a wonderful gift. But for most, it will bring heartache.

There is too Little Gold in the West

The history of gold's flight to the developing world

by Alasdair Macleod, December 6, 2013

<http://www.peakprosperity.com/blog/83626/there-too-little-gold-west>

Western central banks have tried to shake off the constraints of gold for a long time, which has created enormous difficulties for them. They have generally succeeded in managing opinion in the developed nations but been demonstrably unsuccessful in the lesser-developed world, particularly in Asia. It is the growing wealth earned by these nations that has fuelled demand for gold since the late 1960s. There is precious little bullion left in the West today to supply

rapidly increasing Asian demand. It is important to understand how little there is and the dangers this poses for financial stability.

An examination of the facts shows that central banks have been on the back foot with respect to Asian gold demand since the emergence of the petrodollar. In the late 1960s, demand for oil began to expand rapidly, with oil pegged at \$1.80 per barrel. By 1971, the average price had increased to \$2.24, and there is little doubt that the appetite for gold from Middle-Eastern oil exporters was growing. It should have been clear to President Nixon's advisers in 1971 that this was a developing problem when he decided to halt the run on the United States' gold reserves by suspending the last vestiges of gold convertibility.

After all, the new arrangement was: America issued the petrodollars to pay for the oil, which were then recycled to Latin America and other countries in the West's sphere of influence through the American banks. The Arabs knew exactly what was happening; gold was simply their escape route from this dodgy deal.

The run on U.S. gold reserves leading up to the Nixon Shock in August 1971 is blamed by monetary historians on France. But note this important passage from [Ferdinand Lips'](#) book *GoldWars*:

Because Arabs did not understand bonds and stocks they invested their surplus funds in either real estate and/or gold. Since Biblical times, gold has been the best means to keep wealth and to transfer it from generation to generation. Gold therefore was the ideal vehicle for them. Furthermore after their oil reserves are exhausted in the distant future, they would still own gold. And gold, contrary to oil, could never be wasted.

According to Lips, Swiss private bankers, to whom many of the newly-enriched Arabs turned, recommended that a minimum of 10% and even as much as 40% should be held in gold bullion. This advice was wholly in tune with Arab thinking, creating extra demand for America's gold reserves, some of which were auctioned off in the following years. Furthermore, Arab investors were unlikely to have been deterred by high dollar interest rates in the early eighties, because high interest rates simply compounded their rapidly-growing exposure to dollars.

Using numbers from [BP's Statistical Review](#) and contemporary U.S. Treasury 10-year bond yields to gauge dollar returns, we can estimate gross Arab petrodollar income, including interest from 1965 to 2000, to total about \$4.5 trillion. Taking average annual gold prices over that period, ten percent of this would equate to about 50,500 tonnes, which compares with total mine

production during those years of 62,750 tonnes, over 90% of which went into jewellery.

This is not to say that 50,000 tonnes were bought by the Arabs; it could only be partly accommodated even if the central banks supplied them gold in very large quantities, of which there is some evidence that they did. Instead, it is to ram the point home that the Arabs, awash with printed-for-export petrodollars, had good reason to buy all available gold. And importantly, it also gives substance to [Frank Veneroso's conclusion in 2002](#) that official intervention – i.e., undeclared sales of significant quantities of government-owned gold – was effectively being used to manage the price in the face of persistent demand for physical gold as late as the 1990s.

Transition from Arab demand

Arabs trying to invest a portion of their petrodollars would have left very little investment gold for the advanced economies. As it happened, U.S. citizens had been banned from holding bullion until 1974, and British citizens were banned until 1971. Instead, they invested mainly in mining shares and Krugerrands, continuing this tradition by using derivatives and unbacked unallocated accounts with bullion banks in preference to bullion itself. This meant that, until the mid-seventies, investment in physical gold in the West was minimal, almost all gold being held in illiquid jewellery form. Western bullion investors were restricted to mainly Germans, French, and Italians, mostly through Swiss banks. The 1970s bull market was therefore an Arab affair, and they continued to absorb gold through the subsequent bear market.

By the late-nineties, a new generation of Swiss investment managers, schooled in modern portfolio theory and less keen on gold, persuaded many of their European clients to reduce and even eliminate bullion holdings. At the same time, a younger generation of Western-educated Arabs began to replace more conservative patriarchs, so it is reasonable to assume that Arab demand for gold waned somewhat, as infrastructure spending and investment in equity markets began to provide portfolio diversification. This was therefore a period of transition for bullion, driven by declining Western investment sentiment and changing social structures in the Arab world.

It also marked the beginning of accelerating demand in emerging economies, notably India, but also in other countries such as Turkey and those in Southeast Asia, which were rapidly industrialising. In 1990, the Indian Government freed up the gold market by abolishing the Gold Control Act of 1968, paving the way for Indians to become the largest officially-recognised importers of gold until overtaken by China last year.

Lower prices in the 1990s stimulated demand for jewellery in the advanced economies, with Italy becoming the largest European manufacturing centre. At the same time, gold leasing by central banks increased substantially, as bullion banks exploited the differential between gold lease rates and the yield on short-term government debt. This leased gold satisfied jewellery demand as well continuing Asian demand for gold bars.

So, despite the fall in prices between 1997-2000, all supply was absorbed into firm hands. When gold prices bottomed out, Western central banks almost certainly had less gold than publicly stated, the result of managing the price until 1985, and through leasing thereafter. This was the background to the London Bullion Market Association, which was founded in 1987.

The LBMA

In 1987, the unallocated account system became formalized under London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) rules, allowing the bullion banks to issue gold IOUs to their customers, making efficient use of the bullion available. The ability to expand customer business in the gold market without having to acquire physical bullion is the chief characteristic of the LBMA to this day. Futures markets in the U.S. also expanded, and so derivatives and unallocated accounts became central to Western investment in gold. Today the only significant bullion held by Western investors is likely to be a small European residual plus exchange-traded fund (ETF) holdings. In total (including ETFs), this probably amounts to no more than a few thousand tonnes.

The LBMA was established in 1987 in the wake of the Financial Services Act in 1986. Prior to that date, the twice-daily gold fix had become the standard pricing mechanism for international dealers, whose ranks grew on the back of the 1970s bull market. This meant that international banks established their bullion dealing activities in London in preference to Zurich, which was the investment centre for physical bullion. The establishment of the LBMA was the formalization of an existing gold market based on the 400-ounce "good delivery" standard and the operation of both allocated and unallocated accounts.

During the twenty-year bear market, attitudes to gold diverged, with capital markets increasingly taking the view that the inflation dragon had been slain and gold's bull market with it. At the same time, Asian demand – initially from the Arab oil exporters but increasingly from other nations led by Turkey, India, and Iran – ensured that there were buyers for all the physical gold available. Mine supply, which benefited from the introduction of heap-leaching techniques, had increased from 1,314 tonnes in 1980 to 2,137 tonnes in 1990 and 2,625 tonnes by 2000. Together with scrap supply, London was in a strong

position to intermediate between a substantial increase in gold flows to Asian buyers, and it was from this that central bank leasing naturally developed.

Gold backed by these physical flows was the ideal asset for the carry trade. A bullion bank would lease gold from a central bank, sell the gold, and invest the proceeds in short-term government debt. It was profitable for the bullion bank, governments were happy to have the finance, and the lessor was happy to see an idle asset work up some extra income. However, leasing only works so long as the bullion bank can hedge by accessing future supply so that the lease can eventually be terminated.

Before 2000, this was a growing activity, fuelled further by Swiss portfolio disinvestment in the late 1990s. As is usual in markets with a long-term behavioral trend, competition for this business extended the risks beyond being dangerous. This culminated in a crisis in September 1999, when a 30% jump in the price threatened to bankrupt some of the bullion banks who were in the habit of running short positions.

Post-2000

Bull markets always start with very little mainstream and public involvement, and so it has proved with gold since the start of this century. So let us recap where all the gold was at that time:

- Total above-ground gold stocks were about 129,000 tonnes, of which 31,800 tonnes were officially monetary gold. Of the balance, approximately 85-90% was turned into jewellery or other wrought forms, leaving only 10-15,000 tonnes invested in bar and coins and allocated for industrial use.
- Out of a maximum of 15,000 tonnes, coins (mostly Krugerrands) accounted for about 1,500 tonnes and other uses (non-recovered industrial and dental), say, 1,000 tonnes. This leaves a maximum of 12,500 tonnes and possibly as little as 7,500 tonnes of investment gold worldwide at that time.
- After Swiss fund managers disposed of most of the bullion held in portfolios for their clients in the late 1990s, there was very little investment gold left in European and American ownership.
- Frank Veneroso in 2002 concluded, after diligent research, that central banks had by then supplied between 10-15,000 tonnes of monetary gold into the market. Much of this would have gone into jewellery, particularly in Asia, but some would have gone to the Middle East. This explains how

extra investment gold may have been supplied to satisfy Middle Eastern demand.

- Middle Eastern countries must have been the largest holders of non-monetary gold in bar form at this time. We can see that 10% of petrodollars invested in gold would have totalled over 50,000 tonnes, yet there can only have been between 7,500-12,500 tonnes available in bar form for all investor categories world-wide. This may have been increased somewhat by the addition of monetary gold leased by central banks and acquired through the market.

It was at this point that the second gold bull market commenced against a background of very little liquidity. Investment bullion was tightly held, the central banks were badly short of their declared holdings of monetary gold, and from about 2004 onwards, ETFs were to grow to over 1,500 tonnes. Asian demand continued to grow (led by India), and China began actively promoting private ownership of gold at about the same time.

Other than through physically-backed ETFs, Western investors were encouraged to satisfy their demand for bullion through derivatives and unallocated accounts at the bullion banks. There are no publicly available records detailing the extent of these unallocated accounts, but the point is that Western demand has not resulted in increased holdings of bullion except through securitised ETFs. Instead, the liabilities faced by the bullion banks on uncovered accounts will have increased to accommodate growth in demand. Therefore, the vested interests of the bullion banks and the central banks overseeing the gold market call for continued suppression of the gold price, so as to avoid a repeat of the crisis faced in September 1999 when the price increased by 30% in only two weeks.

Where are the sellers?

Price suppression can only be a temporary stop-gap, and there has never been sufficient supply to allow the central banks to retrieve their leased gold from the bullion banks. Therefore, Frank Veneroso's conclusion in 2002 that there had to be existing leases totalling 10-15,000 tonnes is a starting point from which leases and loans have increased. There are two events which will almost certainly have increased this figure dramatically:

1. When the price rose to \$1900 in September 2011, there was a concerted attempt to suppress the price from further rises. The lesson from the 1999 crisis is that the bullion banks' geared exposure to unallocated accounts was forcing a crisis upon them; if they had been forced to cash-settle these accounts, the gold price would almost certainly have risen further, risking a widespread monetary crisis.

2. Through 2012, Asian demand, particularly from China, coinciding with continued investor demand for ETFs, was already proving impossible to contain. In February this year, the Cyprus bail-in banking crisis warned depositors in the Eurozone that all bank deposits over the insured limit risked being confiscated in the event of a wider Eurozone banking crisis. This drove many unallocated account holders to seek delivery of physical gold from their banks, forcing ABN-AMRO and Rabobank to suspend all gold deliveries from their unallocated accounts. This was followed by a concerted central- and bullion-bank bear raid on the market in early April, driving the price down to trigger stop-loss sales in derivative markets and subsequent liquidation of ETF holdings.

It is widely assumed that the unexpected rise in demand for bullion that resulted from the April take-down was satisfied through ETF sales, but an examination of the quantities involved shows they were insufficient. The table below includes officially reported demand for China and India *alone*, not taking into account escalating demand from the Chinese diaspora in the Far East and from elsewhere in Asia:

The global context of Chinese and Indian gold demand (tonnes)						
Identified demand	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	April - May 2013
Shanghai Gold Exchange	284	267	278	310	458	461
Fabricated exports from HK to China	57	57	57	57	38	26
India	297	176	198	323	257	305
	638	500	533	690	753	792
Global supply						
World mine supply ex-China	565	565	565	565	565	377
Western scrap supplies est.	125	125	125	125	125	83
ETFs	-50	0	-135	-85	150	175
	640	690	555	605	840	635
Available for rest of the world	-2	-190	-22	85	-88	157

Notes: 1) India 2012 figures from Reserve Bank BoP stats, 2013 figures from *Economic Times*.
 2) April-May supply and scrap projected from Q1 pro rata.
 3) HK exports to China in 2012 226.15 tonnes allocated quarterly pro rata
 4) Scrap recycling US and Europe at 500 tonnes pa

These figures do not include Chinese and Indian purchases of gold in foreign markets and stored abroad, typically carried out by the rich and very rich. Nor do they include foreign purchases by the Chinese Government and its agencies. Despite these omissions, in 2012, recorded demand from these two

countries left the world in a supply deficit of 131 tonnes. Furthermore, ahead of the April smash-down in the first quarter of this year, the deficit had jumped to 88 tons, or an annualised rate of 352 tonnes.

Demands for delivery by panicking Europeans in the wake of the Cyprus fiasco could only provoke one reaction. On Friday 12th April, 400 tonnes of paper gold were dumped on the market in two orders, triggering stop-loss sales and turning market sentiment bearish in the extreme. Western investors started to think about cutting their losses, and they sold down ETF holdings to the tune of 325 tonnes in 2013 by the end of May. However, this triggered record demand among those who looked on gold as insurance against currency and systemic risks.

Later that year, in July, Ben Bernanke told the Senate Banking Committee he didn't understand gold. That was probably a reference to the April gold price smash orchestrated by the central banks and how it unleashed record levels of demand. It was an admission that he thought everyone would follow the new trend by acting like portfolio investors, forgetting that if you lower the price of a commodity, you merely unleash demand. It was also an important admission of policy failure.

Since those events in April, someone has been supplying the market with significant quantities of gold to keep the price down. We know it is not Arab gold, because I have discovered through interviewing a director of a major Swiss refiner that Arab gold is being recast from LBMA specification bars into one-kilo .9999 bars, which has become the new Asian standard. Arab gold does not appear to be being sold, only recast, and anyway, it is only a small part of their overall wealth. We also know from our long-term analysis that any European gold bullion is relatively small in quantity and tightly held. There can only be one source for this gold, and that is the central banks.

I discovered that there was a discrepancy in the Bank of England's custodial gold of up to 1,300 tonnes between the date of its last Annual Report (28th February) and mid-June, when a lower figure was given out to the public on the Bank's website. This fits in well with the additional amount of gold needed to manage the price between those months. Furthermore, the Finnish Central Bank recently admitted that all its gold held at the Bank of England was "invested" – i.e., sold – and further added that the practice "was common for central banks."

Bearing in mind Veneroso's conclusion in 2002 that there must be 10,000-15,000 tonnes out on lease and loan from the central banks at that time, one could imagine that this figure has increased significantly. Officially, the signatories of the Central Bank Gold Agreement, plus the U.S. and U.K. own 20,393 tonnes. A

number of other central banks are likely to have been persuaded to “invest” their gold, but this is bound to exclude Russia, China, the Central Asian states, Iran, and Venezuela. Taking these holders out (amounting to about 3,000 tonnes) leaves a balance of 8,401 tonnes for all the rest. If we further assume that half of that has been deposited in London, New York, or Zurich and leased out, that means the total gold leased and available for leasing since 2002 is about 12,000 tonnes. And once that has gone, there is no monetary gold left for the purpose of price suppression.

Could this have disappeared since 2002 at an average rate of 1,000 tonnes per annum? Quite possibly, in which case, the central banks are very close to losing all control over the gold price.

In [Part II: The Very Real Danger of a Failure in the Gold Market](#), I discuss why the Chinese are buying so much gold and why the Reserve Bank of India is trying to suppress gold demand. I show that gold is substantially undervalued and why that undervaluation is likely to correct itself spectacularly, precipitating a financial crisis.

The Very Real Danger of a Failure in the Gold Market **And why it's increasingly likely to happen**

Alasdair Macleod, December 6, 2013

<http://www.peakprosperity.com/insider/83630/very-real-danger-failure-gold-market>

Executive Summary

- Central planning are colluding – but failing – to diminish world demand for bullion
- The BRICS are planning a future of less dependence on the West, and gold will play a role
- The East sees gold as "on sale" at today's prices
- Analysis shows they're right; gold is much cheaper than it should be compared to pre-QE levels

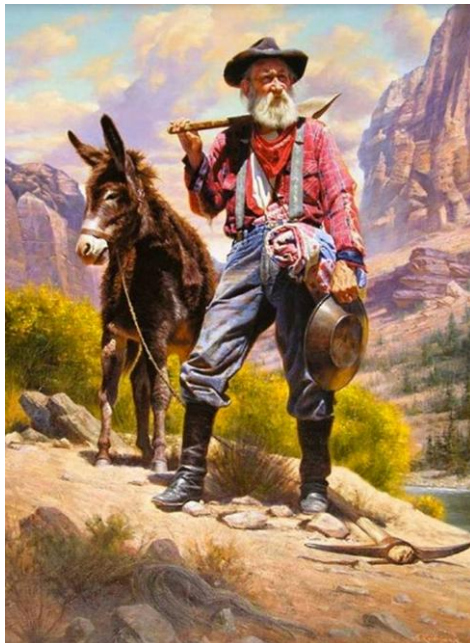
In [Part I](#), I went through the history of Asian demand for gold, starting with the Arabs' need to find a home for increasing quantities of petrodollars from the late 1960s onwards. My conclusion was that there is very little bullion in private ownership left in the West, there is an unmanageable short position in the unallocated gold accounts held with the bullion banks, and the bulk of accessible monetary gold controlled by central banks is already leased and has been sold into the market to satisfy Asian demand.

Obama in his state of the Union address made the following statement that should put mining and other resource development executives on edge, "...I'll use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future

The result is that merely suppressing the gold price to enhance credibility of the dollar as a reserve currency is no longer the problem. The problem is now one of crisis management. Western central banks have done everything they can, even persuading the Reserve Bank of India to suppress India's gold imports. We know this is most probably the case because the Indian authorities have already learned the lesson that gold imports could not be controlled, which is why the Gold Control Act was abolished in 1990. Furthermore, the newly-appointed RBI Governor, Raghuram Rajan is an ex-IMF chief economist, has spent a significant part of his career in the U.S., and is therefore likely to be fully sympathetic with Western central bank objectives. He appears to be the West's place-man.

Other than the question of Indian demand, there are two possible reasons for the flows of gold from West to East: geo-political, whereby one or more Asian nations are deliberately creating a potential crisis for the West, and different valuation criteria. Both are true and...

The Old Prospector



An old prospector shuffled into the town of El Indio, Texas leading a tired old mule. The old man headed straight for the only saloon in town, to clear his parched throat.

He walked up to the saloon and tied his old mule to the hitch rail.

As he stood there, brushing some of the dust from his face and clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other.

The young gunslinger looked at the old man and laughed, saying, "Hey old man, can you dance?" The old man looked up at the gunslinger and said, "No son, I don't dance. Never really wanted to".

A crowd had gathered as the gunslinger grinned and said, "Well, you old fool, you're gonna dance now!" and started shooting at the old man's feet. The old prospector, not wanting to get a toe blown off, started hopping around like a flea on a hot skillet.

Everybody standing around was laughing..

When his last bullet had been fired, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon. The old man turned to his pack mule, pulled out a double-barreled 12 gauge shotgun and cocked both hammers.

The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air. The crowd stopped laughing immediately. The young gunslinger heard the sounds too, and he turned around very slowly.

The silence was deafening. The crowd watched as the young gunman stared at the old timer and the large gaping holes of those twin 12-gauge barrels.

The barrels of the shotgun never wavered in the old man's hands, as he quietly said; "Son, have you ever kissed a mule's ass?" The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "No sir.. but.... I've always wanted to"

There are a few lessons for all of us here:

- ✳ Don't be arrogant.
- ✳ Don't waste ammunition.
- ✳ Whiskey makes you think you're smarter than you are.
- ✳ Always make sure you know who is in control...
- ✳ And finally, Don't screw around with old folks; they didn't get old by being stupid....

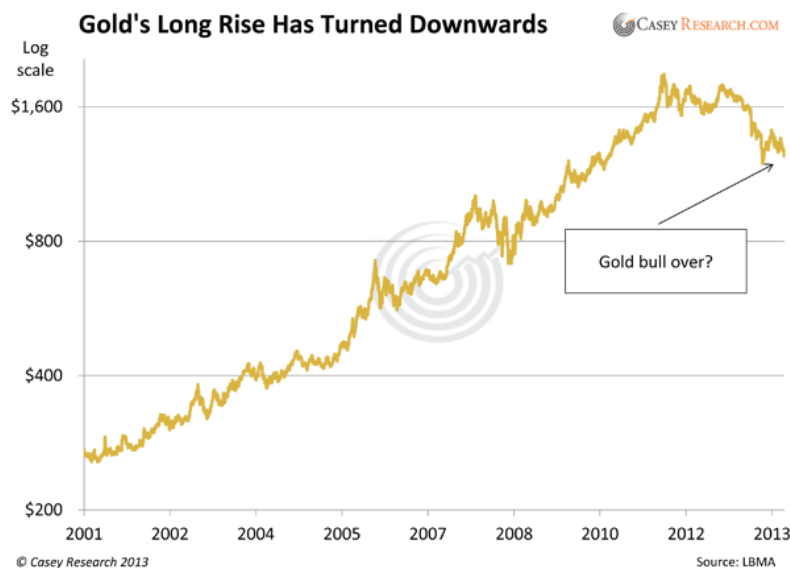
I just love a story with a happy ending, don't you?

Time for Goldbugs to Admit Defeat?

Jeff Clark, Senior Precious Metals Analyst, December 2, 2013

<http://www.caseyresearch.com/articles/time-for-goldbugs-to-admit-defeat>

After a 12-year run, it looks like gold's wave has truly crested, and many bears are arguing that it's all downhill from here. A quick glance at a long-term gold price chart can certainly seem to confirm this impression.

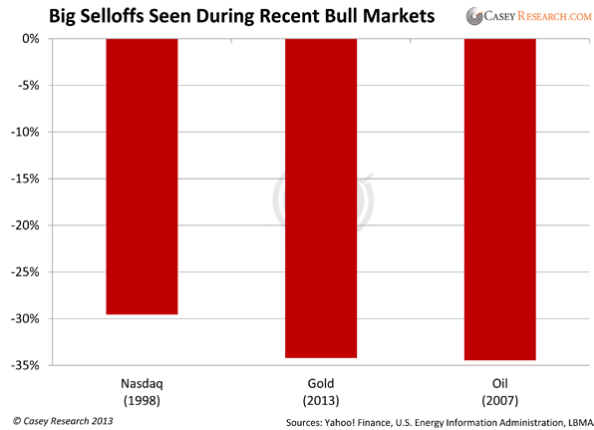


Gold's price has fallen by more than a third since its 2011 high. The downturn exceeds the 2008 waterfall selloff. Many technical analysts are saying that the "damage" on the charts is too great for gold to recover. The rout is so bad, even hardened goldbugs have grown quiet lately.

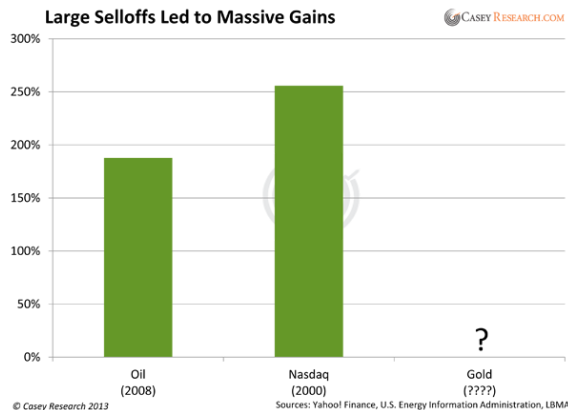
Is it time for gold investors to admit defeat?

Well, if it were true that "damage" on a chart such as we've seen signals the end of a bull market, perhaps it might be. But is it so? Or is this just a correction?

One of the greatest bull markets in modern times was the Nasdaq in the 1990s. The Nasdaq composite rose a whopping 1,150% over the span of a decade. But did you know it had a major correction in the middle of that run? The same is true of oil's big surge in the mid-2000s. Consider this chart of the big corrections oil and the Nasdaq experienced:



After seeing prices crash in both the Nasdaq and oil, most investors assumed those bull markets were over—but they weren't. Here's the subsequent rise in each after prices bottomed:



The Nasdaq and oil *did* recover from their large corrections—despite all the technical "damage" many pointed to as proof that those bull markets were over. Investors who sold their positions during the downdrafts missed out on some fantastic profits.

Given that all the reasons gold rose from 2001 to 2011 are still in force, I am convinced gold's current correction is the setup for a second big surge—and, ultimately, a true gold mania of historic proportions.

Just because gold doesn't seem to be reacting to Fed money-printing at the moment doesn't mean it won't. Sooner or later, reality trumps fantasy. Reason says that you can't quintuple your balance sheet in five years and expect no repercussions. The Fed keeps hinting it will taper its money printing, but it still has not. We've had QE1, QE2, Operation Twist, and now QE3... none of them has worked, and the new Fed chair wants to print even more money.

It's pure fantasy to believe there will be no consequences to these actions—and the reality is that whatever else happens, gold will react positively.

Should gold investors admit defeat? I say it's reckless central bankers who should declare defeat

Will You Be on the Wrong Side of History?

To anyone who has sold their gold in recent months, I say this: Big, big mistake.

Why is it that central banks the world over refuse to sell their gold reserves? Why is it that many continue to add to their holdings – officially Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Indonesia, and, unofficially, China?

The wrongheaded nincompoops on Wall Street, inside the Fed, and wandering around looking for a Dairy Queen and a Coke in Omaha, Nebraska, would have you believe that gold has no intrinsic value. Yet all over the world, central banks in countries giant and small cling to their gold, are adding to their gold reserves and are increasingly demanding that their gold be returned to national treasuries. Those that have parted with any gold have sold off just the tiniest fractions of what they own.

No country has sold a meaningful amount of its gold reserves – though I am betting the U.S. has sold a very large sum of gold from Fort Knox that, to date, has gone unreported by the Federal Reserve, but which will come to light soon enough.

Is owning gold such a crazy notion that central bankers in 100 countries are all delusional?

Or, might it be that gold really is of value as the ultimate insurance policy

against the destruction of fiat money that is now necessary to help the West manage a half-century's worth of excesses?

POSITIVE ACTION IN MINING SHARE INDEXES

By Leonard Melman, MELMAN MINUTE, January 22nd, 2014

<http://www.themelmanreport.com/minutes/minute1032.html>

As reported in our "Melman Minute" of January 20 which was written following the first day of the Cambridge House "Vancouver Resource Investment Conference", the high level of participation Sunday provided us with the sense that numerous investors and miners could have reached the belief that the metals markets were near a bottom and it was time to do a little bargain hunting. Well, Monday's crowds continued at high levels, re-enforcing that perception.

Regrettably, the metals markets themselves have not immediately followed through to the upside, as evidenced by the short-term chart on gold which dropped by almost \$20 early Tuesday morning before beginning a sideways drift.



POSITIVE ACTION IN MINING SHARE INDEXES

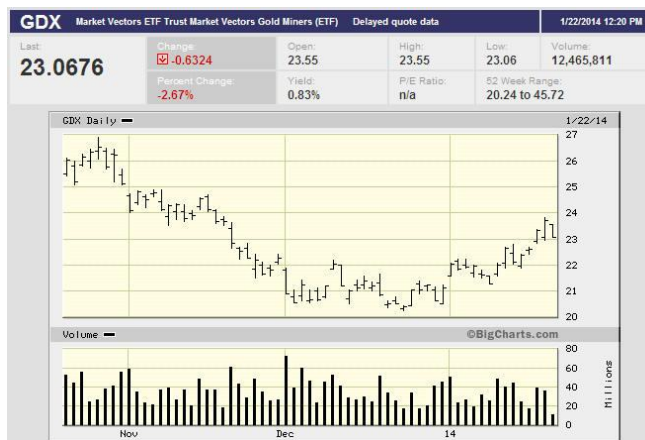
One of our most valuable historic indicators of future precious metals price action has been the relationship between metals prices themselves and the performance of mining share indexes. The generally accepted theory is that current commodity prices are primarily based on considerations-of-the-moment, but activity in the mining shares frequently mirrors anticipated long-term prospects for the metals which, presumably, would then be reflected in the performance of for mining shares.

If the generally accepted outlook was for higher future metals prices, investors could be expected to be loading up on mining shares with a resultant positive impact on important mining share indexes - and vice versa.

The expectation, then, is that if mining share indexes **outperform the underlying metal**, the outlook for the metal itself could be interpreted as positive while if the shares **underperform the underlying metal**, the outlook for the metal itself could be interpreted as negative.

With that in mind, please note the relative performance of gold and the GDX ETF since the lows recorded in late December.

Since its late December low of \$1,183, gold has rallied by approximately \$70 to its recent peak just above \$1,250, a gain of about **four percent**. In the same interval, as noted on the accompanying chart, the GDX ETF has rallied by about three points from near 20.5 to close to 23.5 at present - a gain of approximately **fourteen percent!**



In our opinion, this comparatively positive action in the GDX ETF - closely matched by other closely-watched indexes such as XAU and HUI - could be an indication of positive future action in gold itself.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY CRISIS REVISITED

MELMAN MINUTE, By Leonard Melman, January 27th, 2014

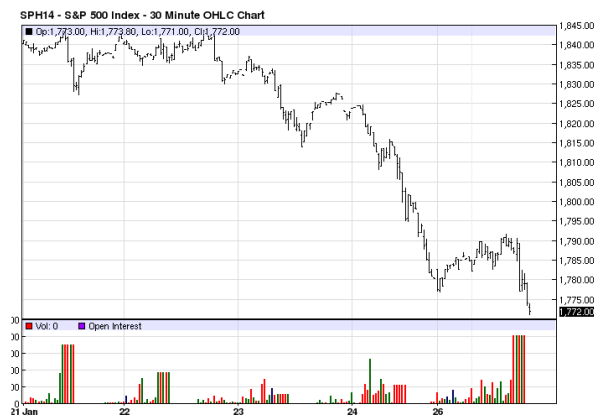
<http://www.themelmanreport.com/minutes/minute1034.html>

Suddenly, with little advance notice, a full-blown international currency crisis may be upon us as one emerging nation after another is seeing deep devaluations in the quotes on their home currencies. Some such reductions may be self-imposed in order to achieve trade advantages while others may be

a reflection of internal economic difficulties. In any case, they do bear watching and, from our point of view, they could become instrumental in the future direction of our precious metals prices.

The list of countries mentioned in foreign dispatches where sharp currency declines have recently taken place is growing ever-more lengthy and now includes nations such as Argentina, Venezuela, Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, India, South Korea, Thailand and South Africa. It might be noted that several of these countries are among the world's most populous and others - specifically including Brazil, South Africa and South Korea are of considerable economic importance internationally.

These coordinated declines have somewhat unnerved many financial leaders and the net result has been sizeable declines on major financial markets, as evidenced by the steep declines in the USA major general stock indexes such as the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500. The S&P chart appears below.



The very steep nature of Thursday and Friday's declines is evidence and it is also interesting to note that an early attempt this morning to rally the market has faded with the S&P 500 Index once again headed lower as of 9:00 AM PST.

Although many analysts seem to favour rapid devaluations in home currencies as a means to gain trade advantages, at The Melman Report we note three particular reasons why those depreciating values could spell difficulties for the host nations.

First, sharp devaluations in home currencies lead to corresponding increases in the price of imported goods, thereby causing upticks in the rate of price inflation. Second, those same price increases combined with rising levels of economic uncertainty could easily lead to escalation of interest rates which, by themselves, could dampen or even eliminate any real economic progress.

Third, and perhaps most important, many of these developing countries owe massive amounts to foreign governments and as their own currencies decline, that magnifies the difficulties in servicing those debts via prompt payment of principle and interest.

There are no apparent "easy answers" to the growing list of problems now being faced by emerging nations. Historically, difficult problems which raise the level of international concern have been factors in previous major precious metals bull markets.

ARCHEOLOGY

Oldest Rock Art in North America Revealed

By Megan Gannon, News Editor , LiveScience, August 14, 2013
<http://www.livescience.com/38865-oldest-petroglyphs-rock-art.html>



Researchers found that petroglyphs discovered in western Nevada are at least 10,500 years old, making them the oldest rock art ever dated in North America.

On the west side of Nevada's dried-up Winnemucca Lake, there are several limestone boulders with deep, ancient carvings; some resemble trees and leaves, whereas others are more abstract designs that look like ovals or diamonds in a chain.

The true age of this rock art had not been known, but a new analysis suggests these petroglyphs are the oldest North America, dating back to between 10,500 and 14,800 years ago.

Though Winnemucca Lake is now barren, at other times in the past it was so full of water the lake would have submerged the rocks where the [petroglyphs](#) were found and spilled its excess contents over Emerson Pass to the north. [[See Photos of Amazing Cave Art](#)]

To determine the age of the rock art, researchers had to figure out when the boulders were above the water line.

The overflowing lake left telltale crusts of [carbonate](#) on these rocks, according to study researcher Larry Benson of the University of Colorado Boulder. Radiocarbon tests revealed that the carbonate film underlying the petroglyphs dated back roughly 14,800 years ago, while a later layer of carbonate coating the rock art dated to about 11,000 years ago.

Those findings, along with an analysis of sediment core sampled nearby, suggest the petroglyph-decorated rocks were exposed first between 14,800 and 13,200 years ago and again between about 11,300 and 10,500 years ago.

"Prior to our study, archaeologists had suggested these petroglyphs were extremely old," Benson said in a statement. "Whether they turn out to be as old as 14,800 years ago or as recent as 10,500 years ago, they are still the oldest petroglyphs that have been dated in North America."

Researchers previously believed the oldest rock art in North America could be found at **Long Lake, Ore.**, in carvings that were created at least 6,700 years ago, before being covered in ash from the [Mount Mazama](#) volcanic eruption.

The deeply carved lines and grooves in geometric motifs in the petroglyphs at Winnemucca Lake [share](#) similarities with their cousins in Oregon. As for what the petroglyphs represented to their Native American creators, researchers are still scratching their heads.

"We have no [idea](#) what they mean," Benson said. "But I think they are absolutely beautiful symbols. Some look like multiple connected sets of diamonds, and some look like trees, or veins in a leaf. There are few petroglyphs in the American Southwest that are as deeply carved as these, and few that have the same sense of size."

The findings will be detailed in the December 2013 issue of the Journal of Archaeological Science.

The United States Dollar

It's Not "If;" It's "When"

By Jeff Thomas / December 16, 2013

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=3n4dr2tj6l17t#mail>

Cicero had it right when he described the Sword of Damocles.

To be the leader of a country is like having a sword constantly dangling over your head from a single horse hair. You never know if or when the sword is going to cause your demise, but you know that the danger is ever-present.

That is just as true today as it was in Cicero's time, but the modern-day Sword of Damocles hangs over the heads of not just the world's leaders. It hangs over the heads of the populations as well.

If we rely on the conventional media for our interpretation of world economic and political conditions, we may well be scratching our heads continuously as to what needs to be done to "save" the situation.

Whether the discussion is over the debts of nations, the likelihood of war, or the increase in the loss of rights, the governments of much of the world are heading in a similar direction.

And that direction is not a positive one.

However, the pundits in the media offer a wide variety of solutions for the problems being discussed.

The solution to national debt is either to expand monetisation or to back off on it, depending upon who is speaking at the moment. Whether debt monetisation is the right thing to do in the first place is rarely discussed.

The solution to the Middle East problem is either to arm the rebels or send in the military.

The solution to domestic terrorism is either to build up the power of the various authorities, or to pass more dramatic laws restricting basic freedoms.

And so, we are to be forgiven if we imagine that the solution to such problems lies in whether we choose one destructive approach or another.

Truth be told, the most difficult assessment for us to make is that we should sit very far back from the rhetoric and ask ourselves, "Is a solution even possible at this point, or have the powers-that-be gone past the point of no return?"

Here's why the problems won't be solved:

As regards the debt of the most prominent countries of the world, the point of no return has certainly been reached by most.

Historically, once the present level of debt has been reached, no amount of monetisation will save the economy. It may be possible to give the addict yet another injection of heroin to stave off the immediate withdrawal symptoms, but at some point, it becomes necessary to go cold turkey.

It may be a very painful thing to do, but it truly is the *only* solution. **A country cannot reach solvency through increased debt.**

However, political leaders are loath to go cold turkey. To do so is to cut the horse hair that holds the sword hanging above their careers. Better to push the situation further into ruin, if it can buy a little more time.

As regards the rapid deterioration into police states that is occurring in so many countries, no amount of discussion by the pundits in the media will reverse the present destruction of basic rights. After all, the decision is not in their hands. It is in the hands of congresses, parliaments, presidents, and prime ministers.

They know that, very soon, the façade of "economic recovery" will come tumbling down, and they have no intention of allowing the populace to have the basic freedom of removing them from power, once the veil has been removed from the lie that a solution is in the works.

Political leaders, whose hold over power is in danger, will always do whatever is necessary to retain that power.

As regards warfare, it is interesting that none of the pundits who discuss the subject in the media ever raise the question, "How can a country that is facing bankruptcy possibly fund a war—traditionally the most expensive undertaking for any country in any era?"

Yet, throughout history, political leaders have often used warfare as a distraction when a government has reached the tipping point economically. As Hermann Goering said,

"The people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country."

The disconnect here seems to be that the populace seems to believe that the governments of the West sincerely hope to avoid war, so the discussion in the media revolves around what can be done to that end.

However, far from seeking peace, the governments of the day consciously seek to create war. After all, a populace that is otherwise unhappy with its government tends to toe the line if the country is at war. Further, the government has a greater ability to silence domestic detractors in time of war.

Thus, the ability to hold power is assured. **A state of war is the single most effective tool in silencing dissent in any country.**

In considering all of the above, not only as a present-day anomaly, but as a recurrent theme throughout history, any discussion of "if" there will be an economic collapse, "if" there will be an increase in the loss of basic freedoms, "if" there will be a ramping up of warfare, becomes a non-starter. It is a question of "when."

Of course, in spite of this, there will be those individuals who will say, "I like to be positive. I'm going to hope for the best."

But, in truth, this is not positive thinking at all. If we see the truth before our eyes and then cover our eyes in order to be positive, we are merely delving into self-deception.

Positive thinking begins with truth. Once we accept what is true, we may then be as positive or as negative as we wish regarding what that truth means to us.

If we are faced with the fact that much of the world is, once again, passing through the classic cycle of economic decline / removal of rights / distraction of war, we can either shut our eyes to that fact and hope for the best, or we can open our eyes and recognise that the one choice left to us is to try to step aside of coming events.

As Benjamin Ola Akande wrote, "*Hope is not a strategy.*"

If we recognise that the sword of Damocles is indeed hovering above our own heads, we would be unwise to continue to sit below it and ponder whether the horse hair may break.

Instead, we should understand that our very first move should be to put some physical distance between ourselves and the potential harm that unquestionably hangs over us.

Editor's Note: When you are dealing with a desperate government, it is *always* better to be proactive than reactive. Internationalization is your ultimate insurance policy. You can find specific guidance from Casey Research on this critically important topic—so that you can take action before it's too late—by [clicking here](#).

Our Country is on a Collision Course

(This information is a sales promotion to sell books but, the video is full of valuable information if you are trying to understand what has happened to our national debt and how we got here. JCG)

The media is doing everything it can to distract you from a single brutal truth...

Our country is heading towards a meltdown on scale with Hiroshima.

Don't believe me? Watch this, then tell me I'm wrong...

<http://www.survivallife.com/huge-cover-up>

Whether you believe it or not, it is a mathematical certainty that it WILL happen.

In case you missed it in the news recently (and you probably did), here are 4 facts that prove what is coming:

Fact #1: 26 once bustling American cities are now bankrupt for the first time in history.

Fact #2: Warren Buffett, John Paulson and numerous other billionaires are now dumping U.S. stocks as fast as they can sell them.

Fact #3: Germany, Switzerland and Denmark are in the process of pulling ALL of their gold OUT of the United States.

Fact #4: Russia, China and Brazil are moving quickly towards creating a new central bank with one purpose... to replace the dollar...

But that's not the worst of it... On top of all of this, China and Japan are now boycotting the U.S. dollar for trading purposes...

These are financial bombshells that should have the hair on your neck standing up.

Why are so many well informed entities trying to get out of the U.S. economy?

It's simple. They know our country is on a collision course and they're bracing for impact.

Maybe you should be too...

Facts Sheet

The Chinese yuan, in October, emerged as the world's second-most used currency in global trade finance. To some degree that reflects China's massive presence in international trade, given that it's still a factory floor for much of the world. But it also reflects an emerging reality: The dollar is increasingly less relevant, even to major Western countries.

Countries generally trade through the dollar. They convert euros (or whatever the local currency happens to be) into greenbacks to buy some load of widgets from the Chinese. Then, China takes those dollars and converts them into yuans.

But now countries are increasingly bypassing the buck and just dealing directly in the yuan. Yes, the dollar still plays a role in 81% of world trade, and the yuan is only at 8.7%. But all big trends start off small – the yuan was less than 2% of trade as recently as January 2012 – and this, mark my words, is part of a much bigger trend.

And it will impact your life.

#####

If you want to invest in growth at a dirt-cheap price... look no farther than China.

China is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. According to the World Bank, China's economy is expected to grow north of 7% in 2014. Sure, that's slower than the double-digit growth China saw less than three years ago. But its economy is still growing at more than twice the rate of the U.S. economy.

That's why every investor should have at least some exposure to this emerging market.

The End of America has arrived

Porter Stansberry, June 07, 2013, *S&A Digest*

<http://www.thedailycrux.com/Post/42858/porter-stansberry-the-end-of-america-has-arrived>

Bear with me...

Today's *Digest* addresses what I believe is the core financial issue of our generation. These concerns are so important, they dwarf all other financial considerations.

Unfortunately, few journalists have any idea what these things mean. That means you likely haven't heard of most of these things. So please... allow me a bit of basic reporting.

Last April... in a little-noticed move... Australia announced it was transferring 5% of its currency reserves from the U.S. dollar to the Chinese yuan. The deal was part of a broader currency agreement between the two countries that allows Australia's leading banks to handle trade settlements between the two countries *without the use of the U.S. dollar* as a reserve currency.

As CBS Marketwatch explained, "The agreement does away with the need for companies and currency traders to first convert their Australian dollars or yuan into U.S. dollars."

Similar direct-exchange agreements, swap lines, and bilateral trade agreements have now been established between China and virtually every major economy

in the world: Japan, Brazil, Russia, India, Britain, and France – not to mention every economy in Asia. These agreements will allow China, the world's dominant consumer of commodities, to completely avoid using the U.S. dollar in virtually all of its raw-material sourcing.

Similar "dollar exclusion" agreements have been formed by Russia with its major trading partners. London-based HSBC, one of the world's largest banks, now predicts that by 2015, the Chinese yuan will equal the U.S. dollar and the euro in cross-border transaction volume.

In December 2008, I began warning about the risk that the U.S. could lose its "world reserve currency status," something I termed the "End of America." It's worth looking at what I wrote almost five years ago because so much of what I feared would happen has come true. Here's precisely what I wrote in my *Investment Advisory* in the days following the huge crash of the stock market and the near-collapse of the world's banking system...

It seems redundant at this point to tell you massive changes are taking place worldwide in the structure of capitalism. It is difficult to know what impact these changes will have on stocks, but I believe in general they will drive up stock prices...

The United States, has become fantastically indebted at every level of society. Entire industries exist today purely because of the widespread availability of easy credit – a trend that has ended. U.S. consumers have refused to save any significant portion of their earnings for more than a decade. This trend was unsustainable and has come to an abrupt end.

As I've covered previously, fueling the debt and consumption binge in America were phony insurance schemes (AIG's bogus default swaps), record-high levels of mortgage debt, and global investors (primarily Asian) buying American mortgage paper. In the most basic analysis, China and Japan lent us endless sums of money so we could keep buying their exports. America's real estate bonds became the world's collateral, supporting ever-greater amounts of borrowing. This global game of credit expansion has come to a crashing halt because the creditworthiness of American consumers and financial firms collapsed...

With a currency and a budget process totally untethered to any reality, nothing limits the amount of foolish spending Congress can (and will) authorize... It controls the world's only reserve currency – meaning it is the only country in the world that can print money to cover all of its debts, bar none. And yet, for all of this power, [the U.S. dollar] is still doomed. It is only a matter of time now before our creditors realize America's government is just as bankrupt as Iceland's.

We are witnessing the end of the paper-dollar standard.

Like every experiment with paper money in history, our paper dollar will be destroyed in an all-out attempt to paper over deficit spending, bad investments, and war debts...

Federal spending is now up 48% over last year. I hope for your sake you understand this is completely unsustainable. At some point, America's creditors will balk.

In addition to the Treasury's vast increase in spending, the Federal Reserve has opened the monetary floodgates...

By the end of November (2008), the Fed had purchased almost \$900 billion worth of questionable assets via its new "Maiden Lane" facility. It also increased its lending to banks (and, for the first time ever, brokers) to more than \$700 billion, up from a mere \$481 million in November 2007. The result has been a truly fantastic expansion of the Fed's total assets, from less than \$900 billion to more than \$2.1 trillion. [Editor's note: As we know now, the Fed also lent tens of billions to European banks without disclosing these actions to the American people, or even to Congress.]

What you must understand is these assets form the basis of our currency. As the Fed's balance sheet expands, so does the lending capacity of the money-center banks. At the moment, they're not lending. But sooner or later, these resources will find their way into the economy. (The money will most likely be recycled back into Treasury bonds.) This huge increase to our money supply and the inevitable huge, new stimulus spending plan by the Obama administration, positions our economy for cataclysmic inflation...

Folks worried about a lasting deflation (as opposed to a temporary liquidity crisis) simply don't understand there are no limits to the amount of money and credit the Federal Reserve can create at will... No other central bank in the world wields this amount of power. The Fed is the ultimate source of the world's money and credit because the dollar is the world's reserve currency.

The huge inflation underway right now will be what I call the "End of America." I don't mean an end to our political union. I mean an end to the special role America has played in the global economy since World War II. The coming great inflation will destroy America's economic leadership. It will lead – eventually – to the return of settling international obligations in gold instead of paper dollars. And this will happen much faster than anyone expects.

By the time Obama leaves office, you will not be able to exchange dollars for any sound currency in the world without permission from the U.S government. The price of gold will be well over \$2,500 per ounce. Most importantly, commodities will no longer be priced in dollars either, but instead in the currencies of the leading producer. Americans haven't experienced anything like this since the Great Depression.

As you now know, almost everything I foresaw in December 2008 has happened. The Fed went on to print and spend more than \$3 trillion. The prices of stocks and commodities soared. The dollar fell versus sound currencies around the world. And the prices of U.S. goods and services, even domestically made products, soared.

Now, some folks who have followed my research from the beginning might point out that I predicted the U.S. would begin suffering from severe inflation as early as 2009. With the consumer price index hovering around 1%, isn't that inflation overdue?

If you look beyond the government's manipulated numbers and focus on the real prices people are paying... you'll see price inflation is here and getting worse...

As I've written extensively... inflation is found everywhere in our economy, except

in the government's statistics. Corn, the most important food crop in America, is up 75% since 2008. Gasoline is up from \$2.25 a gallon to more than \$3 a gallon – an increase of more than 30%. The nationwide minimum wage is up by 40%. Rents are up by 25% nationwide and up 40% in most urban markets.

And my favorite example, the base price of a Ford F-150, the best-selling passenger vehicle in America, has gone from \$18,225 to \$23,670 – a 30% increase. That's a domestically sourced and manufactured product... something whose price is completely dominated by the value of the U.S. dollar.

Meanwhile... the government says there is no inflation... and that continuing to print \$85 billion to buy government and mortgage debt is merely "interest-rate policy by other means." What could go wrong?

Billionaire investor Warren Buffett has sagely warned that buying all of those bonds and manipulating interest rates to stupidly low levels will prove to be much easier than selling them. The fact is, the moment our central bank begins to sell U.S. Treasury bonds, the whole world will follow. After all, our dollars aren't needed in trade for most of the big commodity countries. So the free ride will be over. All the traders who've enjoyed the free ride on the back of the Fed's buying will surely change course the moment it starts to sell.

And what, you might wonder, have our noble leaders done with all the money and credit they've created? Mostly, they have expanded the welfare state at the fastest pace in history, creating more dependency in your fellow citizens than has ever existed before in the history of our country. There are now almost 100 million people collecting food stamps, disability, or long-term unemployment. Barely 60% of the adult population of America bothers to go to work, even on a part-time basis.

On the backs of the poor schleps in America who paid their mortgages and still go to work, a gargantuan pile of debts and obligations have been piled higher and higher over the last five years. Total debt now approaches \$60 trillion. Federal debt has nearly doubled in the last five years, from \$9 trillion to \$17 trillion. And our governments (state, local, and federal) continue to take up more and more of our economy – comprising more than 40% of our roughly \$15 trillion gross domestic product (GDP) today.

It seems completely obvious that none of this is sustainable. The few Americans who still work and pay taxes can't possibly support the income demands of nearly 40% of the population... especially considering the debt load our economy suffers under. We cannot possibly afford our existing debts, if we were to pay them back at a fair rate of interest in sound money.

And so... we race toward a day of reckoning when the Fed cannot continue to print new dollars to bail us out because our trading partners have abandoned our currency.

Of course, not every American is an economist. Most people don't understand why the real value of their wages continues to fall, even as the government swears there's no inflation. I doubt even one in 100 Americans understands the risks our country faces as we attempt to manage total debts (public and private) that represent about 400% of GDP (not counting any of the future costs of the entitlement programs) while our trading partners abandon our currency as the reserve standard.

But... most people know *something* is wrong.

Gun ownership in America now stands at 47% of all adults – that's near the highest percentage ever recorded by Gallup. It marks a significant increase since 2008. The percentage of self-described liberals who own guns has grown from 30% to 40% in that period. So even folks who don't believe you should own a gun have been buying them.

I believe most people know that something isn't right... that we can't go on like this forever... printing money day after day. Most people simply know that far too many people are on the dole. And they can see that our Treasury has fallen into the hands of the voters, a fact that has spelled doom for every democracy in history.

So while they might not fully understand all the factors that I've written about here... they can see the hallmarks of a crisis. And that's why... despite the central banks' efforts to manipulate the paper price of gold down... there are never any gold coins left to buy. That's why the price of farmland has soared (as I

predicted it would). That's why more and more wealthy people are leaving America. And that's why... I firmly believe... this ongoing bull market will end very, very badly.

Many people who read my End of America warnings over the years replied that it would take decades for America to lose its world reserve currency status. But if you simply look at the data on cross-border currency exchanges, you'll find that so far this year, more than 40% of the exchanges involved the euro. Only 33% involved the dollar.

Today, more than 60% of bank reserves around the world are still held in U.S. dollars. Mark my words: In less than a year, the dollar will no longer make up even a majority of these reserves.

The End of America isn't coming. It is here.

As many of you know, I released my first video almost three years ago detailing my research on the End of America. It became one of the most watched financial presentations ever... attracting more than 20 million views.

I've continued studying these issues closely in the years since and have just released a follow-up video that describes how I expect the End of America to play out from here.

The End of America is already having serious consequences for millions of Americans. To view this presentation and learn how to protect your wealth and safety, [click here](#).

Fed is Reducing its Quantitative Easing (QE) bond-buying program

By Leonard Melman, MELMAN MINUTE – December 20th, 2013

<http://www.themelmanreport.com/minutes/minute1022.html>

One cannot help but wonder at the rejoicing being felt worldwide - if financial markets are any measure - following the Fed's recent statement that it is reducing its Quantitative Easing (QE) bond-buying program from \$85 billion per

month to \$75 billion per month. Based on the reaction to this news one could believe that the world now considers the USA to be in robust economic health.

Compare this to how you would feel if your doctor told you words to the effect that, "I'm so pleased to tell you that you are so healthy we will finally be able to cut your eight medications down to seven!" Wouldn't you wonder why you still needed so much medication if you were in such good shape?

Could it be that after five years of massive stimulation, the US economic recovery is still so frail that the Fed realizes that it still requires massive doses of stimulation in order to function?

This question appears to be even more valid in light of the just-released report that the American economy's Third Quarter 2013 growth rate was just revised upward to 4.1% - a figure which by historic standards would reflect an economy enjoying robust growth. It was also reported that business spending during the same period grew at a vigorous rate of 4.8%. Why then is so much stimulation still required?

In our opinion, it just doesn't add up - but perhaps the onrushing new year will provide some reliable answers.

Alarming Gov't Plan to Confiscate Your Savings

Written by Damon Geller

<http://www.wholesaledirectmetals.com/index.php/gold-blog/590-the-governments-plan-to-confiscate-your-money/?cid=IndependentLivingSponsored>

(Another advertisement with worthwhile information JCG)



Governments have been confiscating citizens' savings for decades through deficits, inflation and outright theft, and it's about to get worse. Bankrupt governments will do whatever is necessary to survive and feed the welfare state, and they have never been more bankrupt than they are right now. Look no further than [Poland confiscating half of citizen pensions](#). If you knew the government was going to steal your savings from you, would you do anything differently to protect your savings now? It's an important question to think about

now, because they ARE coming for your money, and some newly-discovered facts prove it.

“In the absence of the gold standard, there is no way to protect savings from confiscation through inflation. Deficit spending is simply a scheme for the confiscation of wealth. Gold stands in the way of this insidious process.” -- Alan Greenspan

The Fatter the Government, The Skinnier the People

The U.S. Debt, not including unfunded liabilities, is over \$17 trillion dollars. The sociopaths who are driving the titanic will be [arguing over raising the debt ceiling again](#). If we look back to September of 2011, which was the last loud debt-ceiling argument, gold rose 21% in a period of three months while politicians caused a major corrosion of confidence in our leaders. When governments are broke, everything is fair game.

Government officials are parasites; they don't produce anything. They only feed off of those who do. As one person said, the fatter the government, the skinner the people. And when government officials cannot meet their obligations or fulfill the promises they made to the public, they'll figure out ways to appropriate the public's money to fund their projects. Government officials don't produce wealth; they only redistribute your wealth. Desperate government officials will always resort to expropriation, which is outright confiscation.

If the Federal Reserve is currently buying 90% of the U.S. Treasury market and they are going insolvent, who do you think the government will lean on to pick up the slack? The answer is YOU. Ten thousand Baby Boomers will turn 65 years-old every day until 2030. And while the government has a debt problem of \$17 trillion, not so coincidentally, our country's IRAs, 401Ks and retirement accounts amount to that same number: \$17 trillion. What a convenient resource for the Federal Government.

So here's the plan: The government will nationalize retirement accounts like IRAs, 401Ks, pensions, 403Bs, etc. so that you will be forced to use a portion of your retirement wealth to purchase U.S. government debt – debt that will ultimately default, as it is not possible to sustain our astronomical debt nor the deficits that create it.

Plan to Nationalize Private 401K and IRA Retirement Accounts

If you do some research on [US Bill “HB5337,”](#) you will find the plan to nationalize retirement wealth. *On May 6, 2012 Lauren Schmitz, a research analyst at the*

Bernard L Schwartz Center for Economic Analyst (SCEPA), introduced HB5337. This 401(k)/IRA de-privatization is the brainchild of Teresa Ghilarducci, whom through funding from the White House and the Ford & Rockefeller Foundations engineered a new "Regulatory & Tax Incentive." The purpose is to force Americans to convert their Retirement Accounts into Government Managed accounts.

This plan to nationalize private 401K and IRA retirement accounts is being deceptively publicized as the government protecting the public against business failings or state bankruptcies. Your cash, your retirement funds, your bank deposits and your investments are at huge risk of being confiscated by the government through some contrived reason or another.

The IRS Greases the Wheels of Confiscation

The IRS is refusing to issue tax ID numbers for single-member LLCs that are owned by an IRA, which is the specific structure that U.S. taxpayers create in order to ship their retirement savings overseas. Of course, the IRS simply decided using its sole discretion to stop allowing Americans to create this structure, and hence, force them to keep their retirement savings in the U.S. Without getting into too much detail on these structures, the bottom line is that the methods by which you could manage your own IRA and keep it out of the hands of the too-big-to-fail banks, and thus away from the grabbing hands of government, are being blocked in an effort to keep all that wealth accessible to the government.

Many People Have Been Robbed Already

Detroit's bankruptcy destroyed many people's pensions. In Cyprus, the government raided people's savings accounts in an example of outright theft. And right here at home our too-big-to-fail banks, like BofA, Citigroup, HSBC, Goldman, Wells Fargo, JP Morgan Chase, Goldman Sachs and several others, are right now being investigated for robbing pensions via the rigging of interest benchmarks, among other investigations of fraud. JP Morgan Chase, in the last two years, has paid \$7 billion dollars in fines for fraud.

Yet these parasites remain in power, have had no further regulation placed upon them, and continue the same (or worse) risk tactics that led to the financial implosion of 2008 and subsequent taxpayer-funded bailouts. These criminal organizations look more like organized crime syndicates than legitimate businesses. Yes, these are the same folks who are in charge and in possession of your wealth. Whether you have your retirement funds in a money market, the stock market or the bond (debt) market, a bank or bank holding company hold and controls your wealth. This means that when Wall Street, which relies on an incestuous relationship with the U.S. government, is asked to hand over access to your money, it'll be as simple as a keystroke.

Your IRA Savings May Be At Risk of Government Takeover

Jan Johansen December 20, 2013

<http://www.newswire.net/newsroom/financial/00079064-ira-401k-takeover-risk-by-government.html>

Is the US government considering confiscating citizens' savings accounts? Governments have been using tactics to confiscate your money for decades through deficits, inflation and outright theft, and it's about to get worse.

([Newswire.net](http://www.newswire.net) -- December 20, 2013) Portland, OR -- Currently the plan is for the government to nationalize retirement accounts like IRAs, 401Ks, pensions, 403Bs, etc. in order to force you to use a portion of your retirement wealth to purchase U.S. government debt – debt that will ultimately default, as it is not possible to sustain our astronomical debt nor the deficits that create it.

US Bill “HB5337” is where you will find the plan to nationalize retirement wealth.

On May 6, 2012 Lauren Schmitz, a research analyst at the Bernard L Schwartz Center for Economic Analyst (SCEPA), introduced HB5337. This 401(k)/IRA de-privatization is the brainchild of Teresa Ghilarducci, whom through funding from the White House and the Ford & Rockefeller Foundations engineered a new “Regulatory & Tax Incentive.” The purpose is to force Americans to convert their Retirement Accounts into Government Managed accounts.

This plan to nationalize private 401K and IRA retirement accounts is being publicized as the government protecting the public against business failings or state bankruptcies.

However is nationalizing the retirement plans of American citizens and put them under control of the Federal Government really "protection".

In February of 2012 The U.S. Senate, under the leadership of Democratic Senator Harry Reid, held hearings that resulted in the Conclusion that privately managed 401K's and IRA accounts should be converted to Government managed accounts.



In fact the Obama Administration has included moves in the general direction of taking control of Americans Retirement plans in their 2013 budget proposal. They want to force us to use our retirement money to fund their irresponsible spending.

Your cash, your retirement funds, your bank deposits and your investments are at huge risk of being confiscated by the government through some contrived reason or another.

Sources:

<http://www.bubblews.com/news/1301628-us-bill-hb5337quot-intended-to-give-federal-government-access-and-control-over-our-retirement-money>

<http://www.wholesaledirectmetals.com/index.php/gold-blog/590-the-governments-plan-to-confiscate-your-money/?cid=WNDdedicated>

A Key Piece of the Big Picture...

There is no evidence socialism works. It's not a system, it's an experiment. They've been running this experiment on us for a century - Obamacare and the Federal Reserve are parts of it - and now it is failing.

Sue and Settle

Con- Tactic ensures EPA ignores politics, fulfills its mission

Tseming Yang, GazetteXtra, December 19, 2013

<http://gazettextra.com/article/20131219/ARTICLES/131219658/1034#sthash.XxUisOZb.dpuf>

EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer is addressing the question, "Does EPA's sue-and-settle policy circumvent the legislative and regulatory process?"

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- "Sue and settle" is the ominous phrase that has been attached to cases where an environmental organization sues a federal agency, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, and then settles the matter without going through a full-blown trial.

These tactics, while not ideal, are important to our environmental system because they hold agencies like EPA accountable for the important regulatory work they are required to do by law, but sometimes do not undertake because of politics or other reasons that the laws do not accept as a basis for delay.

It's true that litigation is rarely optimal for good policy-making. When agencies avoid resolution of important environmental policy issues through unreasonable delay or other illegitimate means, however, they also avoid public accountability for their responsibilities.

Judicial intervention then becomes necessary to prompt them to do what they should be doing anyway. Only after agencies have followed the regulatory process required by law, rather than avoiding it, can the public, green groups, polluters and others scrutinize and debate the merits of "green policies."

There is nothing nefarious about "sue and settle." In the American legal system, the reality is that most cases—from simple slip-and-fall personal-injury suits to complex environmental enforcement actions—are settled to avoid the cost and uncertainties of trial.

"Sue and settle" cases usually involve EPA's failure to take actions legally required by Congress, such as developing regulations by a certain deadline. When an agency knows that it is virtually certain to lose, as is characteristic of these cases, and the issues involved are serious environmental health or pollution problems, it makes little sense for the agency to run up legal costs and waste staff time just to delay the inevitable.

Take one environmental regulation pushed for by the American Lung Association: the mercury and air toxics regulation. It was adopted in 2011 to solve power-plant emissions of toxic substances like mercury and other pollutants that are hazardous to human health.

Polluters, who are vigorously fighting this regulation in the courts now, have argued that compliance costs will run into several billion dollars for the industry as a whole.

What is usually not mentioned is that the regulation will also prevent up to 11,000 premature deaths annually and save up to \$90 billion in quantifiable health care costs each year.

Regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with the regulation, the public process to promulgate the air toxics regulation has allowed everyone to scrutinize the agency's decision and permitted those who object to get their day in court.

Without the American Lung Association's original 2008 "sue and settle" lawsuit, such a public process might not have happened for a long time.

Polluters say their objection to "sue and settle" is all about "transparency"—the possibility that agencies like EPA might do something untoward in the settlement with less accountability than going through regular agency processes.

Such criticism seems ironic given that EPA settles litigation, such as enforcement actions, with polluters all the time, and judges must frequently approve environmental settlements.

More importantly, the result of such a lawsuit is almost always a very rigorous and very public rulemaking action in which all stakeholders can participate, contrary to what these suits typically forestall—unilateral and opaque agency commitments to inaction.

At the heart of the issue, however, is the fact that these settlements are primarily about actions that agencies are already legally required to take. By bringing these cases, environmental organizations seek to hold EPA accountable for properly protecting the health and environment of Americans.

Congress gave the public the right to sue, as a last resort for ensuring accountability for federal agency responsibility to protect the health and environment of all Americans. And that is what these cases do.

Tseming Yang is professor of international environmental law at Santa Clara University, and a former deputy general counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Readers may write to him at SCU Law, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, Calif. 95053; email: tyang@scu.edu.

'Sue and Settle' bypasses democratic process

William Kovacs, GazetteXtra, December 19, 2013

<http://gazettextra.com/article/20131219/ARTICLES/131219660/1034#sthash.1g1KnAnf.dpuf>

EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer is addressing the question, "Does EPA's sue-and-settle policy circumvent the legislative and regulatory process?"

WASHINGTON -- When legislation was passed to improve visibility in federal National Parks and Wilderness areas, Congress directed the states to decide how to implement their visibility programs.

Instead, starting in 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency took control of many state visibility programs, costing states millions of dollars with no discernible visibility improvement.

And the states were not even told it was happening. It was authorized by a Consent Decree between EPA and an outside environmental advocacy group. EPA claimed that it had no choice but to follow the legally binding settlement and override the states' plans.

This practice, known as "sue and settle," gives special-interest groups a legal mechanism to reprioritize and control agency rulemaking activities with little or no public participation.

While this process has been used occasionally since at least the Carter administration, advocacy groups have turned "sue and settle" into a major policy tool to advance their agendas, inducing agencies to issue more than 100 key rules since 2009. These settlements all occurred without notifying or allowing key stakeholders—the public, the states, the regulated community or Congress—to participate.

How do special-interest groups take control of an agency's rulemaking activities and circumvent congressional funding priorities?

An advocacy group sues an agency to enforce a missed statutory deadline for agency action. Rather than defend against the lawsuit, the agency simply agrees to settle and take the action or issue the new rule demanded by the group, within a deadline set by the group.

Without any notice to the public, the settlement agreement and draft Consent Decree are filed with a court. Only after the Consent Decree is filed does it become public.

Once the court signs the draft Consent Decree, the agency is legally bound to comply with the settlement agreement and pay attorneys' fees.

In addition, its future actions remain under the court's jurisdiction, including being liable for contempt should it not comply with the order.

In short, the federal agency agrees to do exactly what the group demands and to pay the interest group for demanding it.

As the advocacy group assumes control of the agency's priorities, it also reorders congressional priorities.

Congress has placed many mandates on federal agencies. Congress also funds each agency's activities. Each agency must balance meeting the deadlines imposed by Congress with its appropriated resources.

EPA, for example, may be responsible for meeting 900 congressional deadlines over a four-year period. In reality, however, EPA has only been able to meet about 14 percent of its congressionally imposed deadlines over the past 20 years.

Therefore, 100 new rules EPA issued pursuant to "sue and settle" agreements take immediate precedence over the remaining 800 mandates with deadlines.

For this reason, once an agency like EPA decides not to defend against a deadline lawsuit and agrees to an advocacy group's demands, the agency must abandon its efforts to balance the many congressional directives in favor of achieving the specific demands of the advocacy group that are mandated by the agency agreeing to the court order.

"Sue and settle" allows a special interest group to take control of the priorities of the agency by refocusing its workload.

What's more insidious is that once the agency is under the Consent Decree, future administrations are bound by it. That means the agency not only loses its own discretion and disregards congressional priorities, but it deprives future presidents of the ability to change the agency's policy.

“Sue and settle” is a process that distorts policymaking. At a minimum, agencies agreeing to the tactic must make the process public so citizens know how policy is truly being made.

William Kovacs is senior vice president for the environment, technology and regulatory affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Readers may write to him at [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](http://www.uschamber.com), 1615 H Street NW, Washington D.C. 20062.

The EPA is Helping Environmental Groups Sue the EPA

Heather Ginsberg, Townhall, Feb 06, 2014

<http://townhall.com/tipsheet/heatherginsberg/2014/02/06/the-epa-is-helping-environmental-groups-sue-the-epa-n1790671>

Why is it not surprising to see extensive collaboration between federal agencies and private groups? Especially when it's the EPA and environmental groups doing it. Emails released earlier show this relationship.

Emails show EPA used official events to help environmentalist groups gather signatures for petitions on agency rulemaking, incorporated advance copies of letters drafted by those groups into official statements, and worked with environmentalists to publicly pressure executives of at least one energy company.

This is a major issue because this basically shows that the EPA worked with these private groups in order to make these strict regulations on carbon, which effectively killed many coal projects. But what's funny is that this relationship is not new.

Basically every major federal law regarding the environment has provisions that allow private organizations to sue the EPA if they don't think the EPA is doing enough to protect the air quality. But the EPA is most often sued by environmental groups! And of course it folds to the pressure without putting up a fight.

This type of corruption is completely out of control. As if we didn't already know the EPA is a complete waste of federal funds, now we know that they are also crooked. Talk about a not so hidden agenda!

The DOJ spent \$43 million on defending the EPA against suits brought by environmental groups in a 12 year period of time. What a waste of tax dollars! And additionally, this certainly makes it look like the EPA is using the activist lawsuits as a way to increase regulations.

Whatever happened to the government being accountable to the American people instead of special interests? And remind me, which party is it that is the one that represents the special interests more? Yeah, that's what I thought.



There Oughta be a Law — But Not 40,000 of 'Em

By Bob Bauman JD, Offshore and Asset Protection Editor

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=907okjg9klje2#mail>

A mere 65 pieces of federal legislation were passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in 2013. It has been claimed that 2013 was the least productive year ever for our legislative branch. Well, good show, I say — the fewer laws, the better!

Unfortunately, Congress isn't the only game in town. President Obama's increasingly imperial administration issued 3,640 new federal regulations last year.

And while Congress bickered, state, county and municipal legislators passed no less than 40,000 new laws.

This is an annual occurrence, and I regard it as an outrage. Every year, our liberty is reduced by tens of thousands of new laws, only a fraction of which originate with Congress. Even taking into account the fact that many of them

are amendments to existing laws, does a civilized nation really require this sort of legislative overkill?

This is especially concerning since most of us are only dimly aware of law-making at the state and local level. Do you know what your state or county government is up to? Transfixed as we are by the spectacle of bipartisan combat in Washington, many of us would be forced to answer "no."

It doesn't have to be this way. The path to liberty starts with knowledge. With that in mind, I've done some preliminary legwork for you on 2014's new laws. Here are some of the most ridiculous ...

Often, laws that appear innocuous are actually cover-ups for rip-offs.

In Oregon, for example, a new law forbids commercial photo studios from offering expectant parents a noninvasive ultrasound video or photo keepsake of gestating "Junior."

Doctors in "The Beaver State" argue that untrained individuals are unequipped to interpret these grainy images, so only medical personnel should be able to provide them.

What Oregon doctors really want is to restrict competition, so they can continue to make people pay through the nose for an ultrasound, plus the cost of an appointment. The medical and legal professions have been using this tactic for years to increase their earnings at our expense.

Other new laws don't even meet the common-sense test. Rhode Island now prohibits employers from asking whether job applicants have a criminal record. This is one of the most basic pieces of information required by an employer, but the powers-that-be in Providence have denied businesses this right.

Meanwhile, California now gives elementary and high-school kids the right to choose which restroom, locker room or sport they want, based on their self-assessed "gender identity." One is left to wonder how kids who don't want to share the toilet with kids of the opposite sex will enforce their rights.

Illinois law now stipulates six years in prison for inciting "riots" via Facebook, Twitter or other social media. It's not clear whether riots caused by police overreaction will qualify. This is a serious question, given the militarized preparations prior to the city's 2012 NATO/G8 Conference. The Chicago Police Department planned to deploy \$1 million worth of sound cannons, tear-gas

canisters, and stun grenades to counter the “threat” of constitutional public assembly.

These and many other new state and local laws have one thing in common: No matter how trivial or inane, they restrict our individual rights, granting the government power to invade our privacy and possessions or to override our sovereign decisions.

We spend so much time focusing on federal-government dysfunction that **we often fail to note the egregious violations of our liberties happening at the state and local level.**

So this new year, make it your resolution to stay informed about what is being done in your name at all levels of government.

And above all, you should be working on your Plan B — your escape to a new life of financial and personal liberty abroad — because each new year brings further encroachment on our constitutional freedoms.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Bauman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Bauman JD
Editor, *Offshore Confidential*

EXPOSE!!!

Global Warming a.k.a. Global Climate Change

Oregon Senator Merkley Opines On Climate Change, PhD in Physics Responds



"This is typical hysteria from Senator Merkley."

[Benjamin Nanke](#), WatchDogWire.com, January 8, 2014

Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore) has lately been holding town hall meetings across the State of Oregon, something he does regularly around the turn of the new year. Yet due to the approaching high-profile election this year, with a field of Republican candidates seeking to unseat the incumbent Democrat Merkley, the first set of town halls the Senator hosted have gained increased attention from candidates, citizens, and citizen journalists.

Daylight Disinfectant's Dan Sandini attended a town hall held in Multnomah County this past weekend, and recorded video footage here of a concerned citizen in the crowd voicing her desire to see Senator Merkley supporting efforts to legislate carbon use through carbon taxes and other government initiatives in order to stop the release of elemental carbon into the atmosphere, an emission that happens anytime carbon-based materials are burned. Scientists are currently in a heated debate over whether carbon emissions, from sources like wood-burning stoves, automobile exhaust, and even breathing, are significant contributors to change in the Earth's climate.

Sandini, interested in getting another take on the issue, sent the video to **Dr. Gordon Fulks**, a PhD in Physics and known skeptic of significant man-made climate change and it's alleged disastrous effects.

Watch the video of the concerned citizen's question and Merkley's congruous response, and then read Dr. Fulks' response. You can decide for yourself, and as

always, we encourage you to be active participants in our governmental system by attending these town hall meetings and engaging in discussion with public servants over whether or not it is the government's place to pass legislation in accordance to emergent and complex scientific theories.



Go here to watch video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLOchWe-LQY>

This is typical hysteria from Senator Merkley. He uses the now familiar arguments that have no validity in establishing a link between man-made carbon dioxide and the various phenomena he mentions. Merkley offers NO arguments supporting his contention that man-made CO₂ causes catastrophic warming, probably because he believes it is self-evident. He cannot see how inconsistent this is with most scientific arguments on both sides of this issue that point to the enormous complexity of the climate system. That's the rationale for the billion dollar climate models that fail so spectacularly. Alarmists cannot have it both ways: self-evident and extremely complex. The reality is of course closer to extremely complex.

Are Merkley's bark beetle infestations, catastrophic forest fires, droughts, and alleged declining mountain snow related to an alleged warming in the Pacific Northwest? NO! As with all the fables that the scientifically illiterate weave about Global Warming, there is a shred of truth to some allegations but no truth to the inferences they draw from them.

The most obvious nonsense from Merkley is the allegation that our Pacific Northwest climate has warmed in recent decades. It has in fact cooled for the several decades where he alleges ill effects from warming. We are now back to the average annual temperatures typical of the early 1900s. This alone negates everything he said.

Other nonsense from Merkley:

- 1) Bark beetle infestations are not significantly affected by warmer or colder winters.*
- 2) Catastrophic forest fires have much more to do with poor forest management than with summer droughts. Summer droughts are the norm around here.*

- 3) Severe Droughts in the Pacific Northwest, like warm periods, follow cyclical patterns related to ocean cycles. Our least annual precipitation in the historical record occurred in 1929, with several other dry years through the Dust Bowl up to 1953. Over the last ten years, we have been very close to normal.
- 4) Mountain snow pack did decline on average from the high about 1950 but has since recovered.
- 5) Oysters probably do not like "carbolic acid" (phenol) but that is not what you get when CO₂ dissolves in water. Merkley needs to get the terminology correct!
- 6) Alleged 'ocean acidification' is also largely nonsense. Any minute changes in ocean pH from carbon dioxide are far less than changes from natural causes.

In short, Merkley needs to learn something about Global Warming before displaying profound ignorance.

Gordon J. Fulks, PhD (Physics, Corbett, Oregon USA)

Why Global Warming Science Is Nothing but Fraud

Gary Novak, Pravda.ru., December 4, 2013

http://www.lewrockwell.com/2013/12/no_author/from-assumption-to-absurdity/



There is no real science to be found in the subject of global warming. Modern studies of global warming could be traced back to Charney et al, 1979 . This paper was produced by a study group created by the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Climate Research Board, USA, charged with the task of producing an assessment of the "carbon dioxide/climate issue". The paper of Charney et al , 1979, consists of nothing but modeling. It's exactly the same as dozens of other modeling studies on the complexities of the atmosphere, each having its own peculiarities on minutia. Such modeling is nothing resembling science. Numerous factors are admitted to be too vague to be included. The factors which are included are so complex that the numbers

used are nothing but guesses. If politicians want the best guess possible, that doesn't make it science.

(http://www.atmos.ucla.edu/~brianpm/download/charney_report.pdf)

Modeling is the opposite of science, as it is a method of imposing subjective motives onto people. Science has the purpose of putting an end to that fraud.

The most significant fact about these studies, and hence the rest of global warming science, is that there is no valid starting point. Before a model can be created, a number must be used to represent the heat produced by carbon dioxide. That number is not even mentioned in the papers describing the models including Charney et al, 1979. To not mention it is scientific fraud.

Commenter's will sometimes state that there is such a number referring to it as climate sensitivity and stating that it is $3 \pm 1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ with doubling of CO2 as indicated by Charney et al, 1979. That number is given by Charney et al, 1979, but it is not the starting point of their modeling, it is the end result. So where does the starting point come from? There is no clue in Charney et al, 1979, nor in Hansen et al, 1984 or 1988.



House GOP bill aims to end 'secret science' in EPA rulemaking

FoxNews.com, February 07, 2014

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/02/07/house-gop-bill-aims-to-end-secret-science-in-epa-rulemaking/>

Republican lawmakers in the House are pushing legislation that would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing new regulations based on science that is not transparent or not reproducible.

The Secret Science Reform Act, introduced Thursday by Rep. David Schweikert, R-Ariz., would bar the agency from proposing or finalizing rules without first disclosing all "scientific and technical information" relied on to support its proposed action.

"Public policy should come from public data, not based on the whims of far-left environmental groups," Schweikert said in a statement. "For far too long, the EPA has approved regulations that have placed a crippling financial burden on economic growth in this country with no public evidence to justify their actions."

Several of Schweikert's fellow House Science Committee members have signed onto the bill as co-sponsors, including Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas., Rep. Jim Bridenstine, R-Okla., and Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Texas.

In December, members of the House Science Committee accused agency of disregarding ignoring dissenting voices on its independent science advisory review board in its push to impose carbon dioxide limits on new power plants.

Smith said the proposal "prohibits EPA from using secret science to justify new regulations."

"The American people foot the bill for EPA's costly regulations, and they have a right to see the underlying science. Costly environmental regulations should be based upon publicly available data so that independent scientists can verify the EPA's claims," Smith said in a statement.

Meanwhile, some states are considering legislation aimed at banning or curtailing future environmental regulations that would be costly to local energy industries.

In Idaho, Rep. Paul Shepherd, a conservative legislator, has introduced a proposal to declare restrictions handed down by the EPA unconstitutional, touting the bill as a way for Idaho to call the shots while disregarding federal regulations on air and water pollution.

In particular, his bill would help dredge miners whose work was being impeded by what they say is unnecessarily restrictive pollution rules.

Although the House State Affairs Committee voted Thursday to send the proposal to a full hearing, it was met with deep skepticism from lawmakers who questioned its legality.

The Idaho Legislature has a history of using largely symbolic legislation as a gesture of defiance against what they view as oppressive government controls.

In Indiana, the Republican-controlled Indiana House approved a bill that would bar state environmental regulators “from adopting a rule or standard that is more stringent than” corresponding federal rules or standards.

If the bill passes the Legislature, it could reportedly have numerous ramifications, including limiting what rules the Indiana Department of Environmental Management could propose to address the large amounts of manure produced by the state's big livestock farms.

Americans Spent \$7.45B in 3 Years Helping Other Countries Deal With ‘Climate Change’

Patrick Goodenough, CNSNews.com, January 3, 2014

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/patrick-goodenough/americans-spent-745b-3-years-helping-other-countries-deal-climate#sthash.6GzvUXtr.dpuf>

American taxpayers spent \$7.45 billion to help developing countries cope with climate change in fiscal years 2010 through 2012, according to a federal government report submitted to the United Nations on a subject that Secretary of State John Kerry described as “a truly life-and-death challenge.”

That sum of \$7.45 billion, which reached more than 120 countries through bilateral and multilateral channels, met President Obama's “commitment to provide our fair share” of a collective pledge by developed nations to provide a total of nearly \$30 billion in “fast start finance” (FSF), the report stated.

The pledge was made at a Dec. 2009 U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen, and the FSF funding aims to support developing countries adapt to and cope with phenomena blamed on climate change, such as droughts and rising sea levels.

“International assistance for climate change continues to be a major priority for the United States,” the administration said in its “[Climate Action Report](#),” submitted to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on Wednesday.

It noted that since the U.S. ratified the convention in 1992, its international climate funding had increased from “virtually zero” to an average of \$2.5 billion each year in the 2010-2012 FSF period.

“During the period, average annual appropriated climate assistance increased fourfold compared with 2009 funding levels,” the report said. “U.S. climate assistance has increased in the context of an overall increasing foreign assistance budget.”

According to [UNFCCC data](#), of the \$7.45 billion in U.S. funding, \$4.7 billion was congressionally-appropriated assistance while development finance and export credit support accounted for a further \$2.7 billion of public money.

It's time to 'do what our faiths require of us'

In a cover letter accompanying the report, Kerry underlined the high priority the administration – and himself personally – accords to the issue.

“Climate change is one of the most urgent and profoundly complex challenges we face,” he wrote. “That’s why, everywhere I travel as Secretary of State – in every meeting, here at home and across the more than 280,000 miles I’ve traveled since I raised my hand and took the oath to serve in this office – I have made this issue a top priority.”

Without directly mentioning those scientists and others who [question the “consensus”](#) on climate change, Kerry reiterated his view that the science is incontrovertible and implied that anyone arguing otherwise lacked “conscience or common sense.”

“Today, all the scientific evidence is telling us that we cannot afford to delay the reckoning with climate change,” he said. “With each passing day, the case grows more compelling and the costs of inaction grow beyond anything that anyone with conscience or common sense should be willing to contemplate.”

Kerry pointed to the most report by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released last September, and summed it up as follows: “Bottom line: Climate change is real, it’s happening now, and human beings are the cause.”

(The report’s actual wording was, “It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.” The language was somewhat stronger than the previous IPCC report, in 2007, which asserted that global warming was “very likely” man-made.)

“In the face of these risks and these warnings, it is time for all of us to do what the science tells us we must, to do what our faiths require of us, and to do what our fragile planet demands of us: It’s time to take strong action to combat a truly life-and-death challenge,” Kerry stated.

Much more to come

FSF programs funded by the U.S. cover a wide range, including helping Peru and Nepal to deal with glacier-related risks, working on making Mozambique's coastal cities more resilient to "sea level rise and other climate change stresses," and assisting Pakistan to address its power shortage, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and its reliance on fossil fuel.

The funding directed to the FSF channel in 2010-2012 is a drop in the bucket compared to what is to come. At that same 2009 conference in Copenhagen the U.S. and other developed nations in a longer-term commitment undertook to set up a \$100 billion-a-year Green Climate Fund by 2020. The money is meant to come from public and private sources.

"The United States is prepared to work with other countries toward a goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion a year by 2020 to address the climate change needs of developing countries," then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said at Copenhagen. "We expect this funding will come from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources of finance."

Since the GCF was launched in 2011 few nations have begun to direct money to its coffers (as of June 30, 2013 it had received just \$7.5 million, from seven European countries plus South Korea, Japan and Australia.)

But officials want that to change this year, as UNFCCC executive secretary Christiana Figueres made clear while speaking at the opening of the GCF's new headquarters in South Korea on Dec. 4.

"Governments now have a crucial tool at their disposal to leverage billions in finance for developing countries to green their economies and increase their resilience to the inevitable effects of climate change," she said.

"As soon as the final modalities are clarified in 2014, governments must capitalize the fund. This is essential so that developing countries know that the developed world will deliver on its promise to help the poor and vulnerable gain access to the finance and technology they need."

In the report sent to the UNFCCC this week the administration outlined its commitment in mobilizing public and private funding in working towards the GCF goal.

“Maintaining a strong core of public climate finance is essential, and the United States intends to maintain its commitment to climate change as an important component in the U.S. assistance budget,” it said.

“Private investment will inevitably play an increasingly important role as developing countries put mitigation and adaptation policies and actions into place. The nation is working to combine its significant, but finite, public resources with targeted, smart policies to mobilize maximum private investment into climate-friendly activities.”

‘Climate Change’, Unpacking a Political Term (looking through the looking glass)

by Wayne Lusvardi, MasterResource, January 15, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/01/climate-change-political-term/#sthash.697DiBQT.dpuf>

“Climate Change. A term, which attempts to take the natural weather pattern and attribute it to the activities of humans. Heavily adopted recently for use to promote cave living, the idea that humans are a noxious virus on planet Earth, and the practice of greater separation between the rich and the poor. I know the weather pattern is natural and everything we’re experiencing now has been experienced before, but I still feel all warm, fuzzy knowing that electricity companies are responsible for Climate Change and are being taxed accordingly because of it.” **Excerpt, [UrbanDictionary.com](#) (satirical).**

A *Wall Street Journal* editorial earlier this month, “[It Isn’t Climate Change](#)”, makes a valid point that recent “polar vortex” of subzero temperatures in the Midwest, East Coast, and Southern U.S. is not “climate change.” But this begs the question: *what is climate change?*

The term is used with such vagueness that it could never be used in a scientific experiment to meet Karl Popper’s test of falsifiability. The term has been made so politically correct that it has become Orwellian doublespeak.

In elementary school I learned that areas of the world that once were tropical jungles are now deserts and vice versa. So there is “climate change.” That no one denies, not even so-called climate- change “deniers.” James Hansen, himself associated with the alarmist wing of climate science, made this point clearly:

“Climate is always changing. Climate would fluctuate without any change of climate forcings. The chaotic aspect of climate is an innate characteristic of the coupled fundamental equations describing climate system dynamics.”

Climate change is historical and empirical. But that doesn't seem to be the same climate change that “climate change” modelers seem to be referring to.

I once worked for the largest water district in California where I studied the vast regional network of dams, reservoirs, lakes, pipelines, canals, and rivers in the Southwestern U.S. built to alleviate sub-regional droughts. This is the *water hydraulic system* that makes modern industrial society thrive in places where it otherwise couldn't on the same scale and density.

So there is *sub-regional* climate change too. And due to modern engineering and the master resource of man-made energy generation to pump water uphill, civilization does not need to be dependent on gravity for where water flows or local climate and drought cycles. The water and power engineers that built Hoover Dam and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 100 years ahead of the current brand of climate-change scientists. And they didn't need computer models to do it.

Today's New Definition

Consider the conventional definition of climate change can be found at Google.com:

The change in global climate patterns apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards, attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

This isn't so much a scientific definition as a *postmodern sociological definition*. Of all the definitions of climate change I could find online, the one that seemed to make the most sense was found at UrbanDictionary.com, a sort of sarcastic dictionary compiled by volunteer editors of street lingo to show the absurdity of conventional definitions. Here it is:

A term, which attempts to take the natural weather pattern and attribute it to the activities of humans.

It is the contention of climate change scientists that “climate change” will certainly be induced in the future as a result of industrialization. This is obviously not the same historical “climate change” or the hydrological “climate change” mentioned above. It is more like religious prophecy under the guise of scientism.

But even this version of climate change requires further exploration of yet another layer of meaning of climate change. Following sociologist Max Weber and American philosopher William James, there are multiple layers of meaning for everything even though there is an objective reality.

Democrats Plan to Pressure TV Networks into Covering Climate Change

Sens. Sanders and Schatz are gathering colleagues' signatures on a letter asserting that the shows are ignoring global warming.

By [Ben Geman](#), January 14, 2014

Senate Democrats pledging to [get more aggressive](#) on climate change will soon pressure the major TV networks to give the topic far greater attention on the Sunday talking-head shows.

Sens. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, are gathering colleagues' signatures on a letter to the networks asserting that they're ignoring global warming.

"It is beyond my comprehension that you have ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox, that their Sunday shows have discussed climate change in 2012, collectively, for all of eight minutes," Sanders said, citing [analysis](#) by the liberal watchdog group Media Matters for America.

Sanders mentioned the letter during a press conference with most other members of Senate Democrats' new, 19-member [Climate Action Task Force](#), and he elaborated on it in a brief interview afterward.

"Sunday news shows are obviously important because they talk to millions of people, but they go beyond that by helping to define what the establishment considers to be important and what is often discussed during the rest of the week," he said.

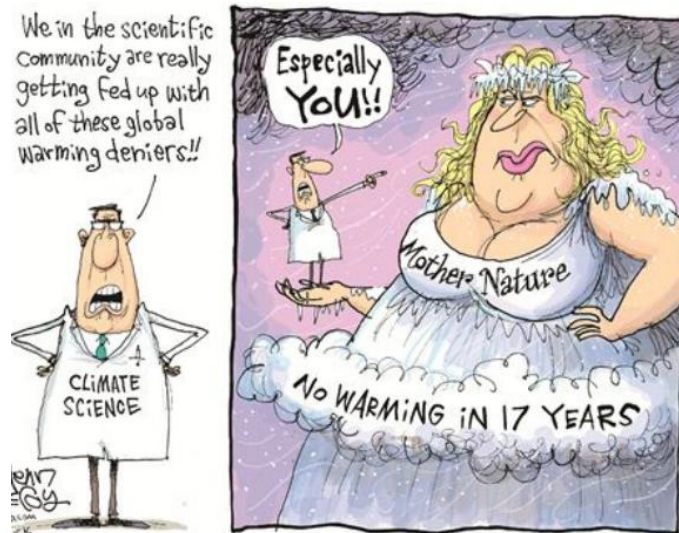
It's unclear how many senators will ultimately sign the letter.

Sanders said lawmakers plan to send the letter within days. The amount of Sunday TV coverage is way out of whack with the topic's weight, he added.

"What [the networks] are saying is, climate change is a non-important issue, it is an irrelevant issue, and yet the scientific community tells us that it is the greatest crisis facing this planet," he said.

Democratic members of the new task force say they'll embark on a wide array of activities to raise the visibility of climate change.

Members' goals include battling GOP efforts to block federal carbon emissions standards for power plants, and, longer term, creating political space for major climate legislation that's currently going nowhere in Congress.



Government is doing its best to drive up energy prices, the lifeblood of a vibrant economy. The excuse is catastrophic, man-made climate change, a lie as big as "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor."

To perpetuate frauds like this requires a citizenry unable to distinguish right from wrong and truth from fiction, so you can be sure the systematic dumbing down of the populace will continue. **Joseph Farah, January 01, 2014**

Read more at <http://www.wnd.com/2013/12/good-news-for-2014/#0jVj0OILtrtJOfY.99>

Global Warming Gone AWOL

By Jeffrey Folks, December 20, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/12/global_warming_gone_awol.html#ixzz2oVvZa0cj

On Tuesday morning, Bostonians awakened to a temperature of 9 degrees, with a predicted high of 23. Another [5 inches of snowfall](#) was expected. Obviously, it was the result of global warming.

It's not just Boston. So far this year, the entire eastern two thirds of the country has experienced one of the coldest autumns on record, and winter has not even begun.

It was the same last year, and has been for much of the past decade. On balance, temperatures have been colder than normal for most of the country. Yet the media is fixated on reports of polar ice shrinking (it expanded this year, with Antarctic sea ice increasing to a [35-year high](#)) and superstorms threatening America's coastal communities (in fact, [no major hurricane](#) has struck the U.S. since Wilma in 2005 -- "superstorm" Sandy being an "extra-tropical cyclone" not of hurricane strength).

Ensnared in their comfy New York studios, or traveling to more glamorous locales, mainstream news anchors don't seem to realize what is happening in the country they're reporting on. During the recent mid-continental ice storms, historic in their effects on Dallas and other population centers, every major anchor was firmly entrenched in Johannesburg, South Africa, days before the Mandela funeral. The arctic blast, which directly affected 100 million Americans, got about two minutes' coverage each night.

Is it just that the networks are stubborn and refuse to admit they're wrong? Or is there an underlying agenda that has nothing to do with the facts of the Earth's climate?

Probably both. But greater damage results from the underlying agenda. The media, and the governmental, academic, and non-profit establishment behind it, refuse to admit defeat because of vested interests greater than anything one can imagine. What is at stake is nothing less than the future of American democracy, and the environmental left is dead-set against its survival.

The fundamental nature of environmental thinking, as it has evolved from the efforts of earlier, well-intentioned leaders to reform air and water standards, involves an obsession with regulation and control. A corollary of this controlling mentality is a reflexive opposition to economic growth. Instead of developing our resources and seeing the nation prosper, the modern-day environmental goal is reversion to something resembling the state of nature. It is not only "no growth"; it is negative growth, dragging us back to the Stone Age.

But it is not just freeing the Earth of the footprint of man -- it is the relationship among men that the environmental left is most interested in. Or to be more precise, what they are seek is the *control* of the mass of men by a self-appointed elite.

That vision of the future is apparent in countless books, articles, and online posts familiar to anyone who delves into environmentalist literature. Paul Ehrlich popularized the message in books like *The Population Bomb* in 1968 (arguing that population growth would overwhelm the Earth's resources) and *The End of*

Affluence in 1975 (with warnings of catastrophic food shortages and destruction resulting from pesticides). From "peak oil" (wrong) to the "death of capitalism" (even more wrong), environmental leaders have sought excuses to block every attempt at industrial and resource development. In the name of climate change and other pretexts, they have managed to slow if not stop countless projects that would have brought job growth and prosperity to millions.

It's not just the Keystone XL pipeline that is at risk. It's all existing coal-fired power plants, for which the EPA is set to issue new guidelines in 2014. In addition, as the *Daily Caller* reported, the EPA is preparing [134 new regulations](#), and the EPA is only one of many Obama agencies working to restrict resource development.

Things have gotten a lot worse with the recent appointment of John Podesta as senior advisor to the president. As the *Wall Street Journal* [pointed out](#), Podesta has long been a supporter of environmentalist causes. Now that he is officially advising the president, we can expect increased control of the private sector in the name of regulating carbon emissions. Step by step, the left is proceeding with the nationalization of the energy sector -- along with health care, banking, transportation, education, and the rest of the economy.

None of this activity has anything to do with the threat of climate change. Over the long term, the Earth's climate oscillates through grand cycles of warming and cooling. Humans cannot stop climate variation -- not unless they can stop volcanoes, ocean currents, forest fires resulting from lightning strikes, variations in cloud cover and water vapor levels, and solar flare cycles. The U.K.'s *Express* recently published a list of [100 reasons](#) as to why global warming (and cooling) are natural rather than man-made. Altogether, there is incontrovertible evidence that natural forces are a major cause of climate change.

Environmentalists are not listening to this evidence. Even when reasonable scientists assert that both natural and man-made forces contribute to global temperature levels, the left insists that man-made forces must be the decisive factor. And this even when past changes in global temperatures, vastly more dramatic than those taking place today, were unquestionably the result of natural factors alone.

Environmentalists are not listening because their real intent is not to stop climate change. The left's goal, as always, is to enslave the world's population in the name of protecting them.

Protecting the world's population from climate change, protecting them from "greedy capitalists," protecting them from "systemic risk" -- it doesn't matter what the excuse is. Most modern-day environmentalists are leftists, and the central

belief of the left, going back to Karl Marx, is that all power must be transferred to a political elite that will rule, and rule forever, in the name of the people. That "vanguard" of the proletariat now gathers daily at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, plotting its next assault on the American people. And it has found environmental causes a convenient pretext for the expansion of its power.

Jeffrey Folks is the author of many books on American politics and culture, including *Heartland of the Imagination* (2013).

Of Meteorology and Morality

By Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, [December 24, 2013](#)

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/24/monckton-of-meteorology-and-morality/#more-99873>

To those of us who have dared to question on scientific and economic grounds the official story on global warming, it is a continuing surprise that there is so little concern about whether or not that story is objectively true among the many who have swallowed it hook, Party Line and sinker.

For the true-believers, the Party Line is socially convenient, politically expedient, and financially profitable. Above all, it is the Party Line. For those who think as herds or hives, it is safe. It is a grimy security blanket. It is the dismal safety in numbers that is the hallmark of the unreasoning mob.

But is it true? The herd and the hive do not care. Or, rather, they do care. They care very much if anyone dares to ask the question "But is it true?" They are offended, shocked, outraged. They vent their venom and their spleen and their fury on those of us who ask, however politely, "But is it true?"

Their reaction is scarcely distinguishable from the behavior of the adherents of some primitive superstitious cult on learning that someone has questioned some egregiously, self-evidently barmy aspect of the dogma that the high priests have handed down.

They have gotten religion, but they call it science. They have gotten religion, but they do not know they have gotten religion. They have gotten religion, but they have not gotten the point of religion, which, like the point of science, is objective truth.

The question arises: can science function properly or at all in the absence of true religion and of its insistence upon morality? For science, in searching for the truth, is pursuing what is – or very much ought to be – a profoundly moral quest.

Yet what if a handful of bad scientists wilfully tamper with data, fabricate results, and demand assent to assertions for which there is no real scientific justification? And what if the vast majority of their colleagues cravenly look the other way and do nothing about their bent colleagues? What you get is the global warming scare.

As every theologian knows, the simplest and usually the clearest of all tests for the presence of a moral sense is whether or not the truth is being told. The true-believers in the New Superstition are not telling the truth. On any objective test, they are lying, and are profiteering by lying, and are doing so at your expense and mine, and are bidding fair to bring down the Age of Enlightenment and Reason, flinging us back into the dumb, inspissate cheerlessness of a new Dark Age.

Nothing is done about the many lies, of course, because the many lies are the Party Line, and no one ever went to jail who safely parroted the Party Line.

“The Science Is Settled! There’s A Consensus! A 97.1% Consensus! Doubters Are As Bad As Holocaust Deniers! Global Temperature Is Rising Dangerously! It Is Warmer Now Than For 1400 Years! Well, 400 Years, Anyway! Tree-Rings Reliably Tell Us So! The Rate Of Global Warming Is Getting Ever Faster! Global Warming Caused Superstorm Sandy! And Typhoon Haiyan! And 1000 Other Disasters! Arctic Sea Ice Will All Be Gone By 2013! OK, By 2015! Or Maybe 2030! Santa Claus Will Have Nowhere To Live! Cuddly Polar Bears Are Facing Extinction! Starving Polar Bears Will Start Eating Penguins! Himalayan Glaciers Will All Melt By 2035! Er, Make That 2350! Millions Of Species Will Become Extinct! Well, Dozens, Anyway! Sea Level Is Rising Dangerously! It Will Rise 3 Feet! No, 20 Feet! No, 246 Feet! There Will Be 50 Million Climate Refugees From Rising Seas By 2010! OK, Make That 2020! The Oceans Will Acidify! Corals Will Die! Global Warming Kills! There Is A One In Ten Chance Global Warming Will End The World By 2100! We Know What We’re Talking About! We Know Best! We Are The Experts! You Can Trust Us! Our Computer Models Are Correct! The Science Is Settled! There’s A Consensus!”

And so, round and round, *ad nauseam, ad ignorantiam, ad infinitum.*

Every one of those exclamatory, declamatory statements about the climate is in substance untrue. Most were first uttered by scientists working for once-respected universities and government bodies. For instance, the notion that there is a 1 in 10 chance the world will end by 2100 is the fundamentally fatuous assumption in Lord Stern’s 2006 report on climate economics, written by a team at the U.K. Treasury for the then Socialist Government, which got the answer it wanted but did not get the truth, for it did not want the truth.

Previously, you could count on getting nothing but the truth from the men in white coats with leaky Biro's in the front pocket. Now, particularly if the subject is global warming, you can count on getting little but profitable nonsense from your friendly local university science lab. They make the profits: you get the nonsense.

The central reason why what Professor Niklas Mörner has called "the greatest lie ever told" is damaging to civilization arises not from the staggering cost, soon to be \$1 billion a day worldwide. Not from the direct threat to the West posed by the avowedly anti-democratic, anti-libertarian policies of the UN, the IPCC, and the costly alphabet-soup of unelected busybody agencies of predatory government that live off the taxpayer's involuntary generosity. Not from the dire environmental damage caused by windmills and other equally medieval measures intended to make non-existent global warming go away.

The damage caused by the Great Lie arises from the fact that just about the entire global governing class has found it expedient or convenient or profitable to adopt the Great Lie, to peddle it, to parade it, to parrot it, to pass it on, regardless of whether anything that it says on the subject of the climate has any truth in it whatsoever.

The fundamental principle upon which Aristotle built the art and science of Logic is that every individual truth is consistent with every other individual truth. The truth is a seamless robe. Religion – or at any rate the Catholic presentation to which I inadequately subscribe (practising but not perfect) – is also built upon that fundamental principle of the oneness of all truth.

Science, too – or at any rate the classical scientific method adumbrated by Thales of Miletus and Al-Haytham and brought to fruition by Newton, Huxley, Einstein, and Popper – was also rooted in the understanding that there is only one truth, only one physical law, and that, therefore, every truth unearthed by the diligence of the curious and hard-working empiricist or theoretician must, if it be truly true, be consistent at every point and in every particular with every truth that had ever been discovered before, and with every truth yet to be discovered.

It is in the understanding of that central principle of the remarkable oneness and self-consistency of all truth that men of true religion and of true science ought to have become united. For there is an awesome beauty in the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. As Keats put it, "Beauty is truth, truth beauty – that is all."

The beauty of the truth is sullied, the seamless robe rent in sunder, if not merely a few individual scientists but the entire *classe politique* not merely of a single nation but of the planet advantages itself, enriches the already rich and impoverishes the already poor by lying and lying and lying again in the name of Saving The Planet by offering costly and environmentally destructive non-solutions to what is proving to be a non-problem.

The very fabric of the Universe is distorted by so monstrous and so sullenly persistent a lie. Those scientists who have been caught out trampling the truth, and those universities in which it has become near-universally agreed that the best thing to keep the cash flowing is to say nothing about the Great Lie, are by their actions or inactions repudiating the very justification and *raison-d'être* of science: to seek the truth, to find it, to expound it, to expand it, and so to bring us all closer to answering the greatest of all questions: how came we and all around us to be here?

We who are not only men of science but also men of religion believe that the Answer to that question lay 2000 years ago in a manger in Bethlehem. The very human face of the very Divine was "perfectly God and perfectly Man", as the Council of Chalcedon beautifully put it.

We cannot prove that a Nazarene made the Universe, or that any Divine agency takes the slightest interest in whether we tell the truth. But, for as long as there is no evidence to the contrary, we are free to believe it. And it is in our freedom to believe that which has not been proven false that the value of true religion to true science may yet come to be discerned. For our religion teaches us that truthfulness is right and wilful falsehood wrong. We cannot prove that that is so, but we believe it nonetheless.

Science, though, is not a matter of belief (unless you belong to Greenpeace or some other Marxist front organization masquerading as an environmental group). It is a matter of disciplined observation, careful theoretical deduction, and cautious expression of results. The true scientist does not say, "I believe": but he ought, if there is any curiosity and awe in his soul, to say "I wonder ...". Those two words are the foundation of all genuine scientific enquiry.

Yet the global warming scare has shown how very dangerous is science without morality. The scientist, who takes no one's word for anything (*nullius in verba*), does not accept *a priori* that there is any objectively valuable moral code. He does not necessarily consider himself under any moral obligation either to seek the truth or, once he has found it, to speak it.

Science, therefore, in too carelessly or callously rejecting any value in religion and in the great code of morality in which men of religion believe and which at least they try however stumblingly to follow, contains within itself the seeds of its own destruction.

Yea, truth faileth (Isaiah, 59:15). The Great Lie persists precisely because too many of the scientists who utter it no longer live in accordance with the moral yardstick that Christianity once provided, or any moral yardstick, so that they do not consider they have any moral obligation to tell the truth.

That being so, we should no longer consider ourselves as laboring under any obligation, moral or other, to pay any particular heed to scientists seeking to meddle in politics unless and until they have shown themselves once more willing to be what al-Haytham said they should be: seekers after truth.

Two hundred and forty-six feet of sea-level rise, Dr. Hansen? Oh, come off it!



Where Does the Carbon Dioxide Really Come From?

Professor Ian Plimer could not have said it better!

If you've read his book you will agree, this is a good summary.

PLIMER: "Okay, here's the bombshell. The volcanic eruption in Iceland . Since its first spewing of volcanic ash had, in just FOUR DAYS, NEGATED EVERY SINGLE EFFORT you have made in the past five years to control CO2 emissions on our planet - all of you.

Of course, you know about this evil carbon dioxide that we are trying to suppress - it's that vital chemical compound that every plant requires to live and grow and to synthesize into oxygen for us humans and all animal life.

I know....it's very disheartening to realize that all of the carbon emission savings you have accomplished while suffering the inconvenience and expense of driving Prius hybrids, buying fabric grocery bags, sitting up till midnight to finish your kids "The Green Revolution" science project, throwing out all of your non-green cleaning supplies, using only two squares of toilet paper, putting a brick in your toilet tank reservoir, selling your SUV and speedboat, vacationing at home instead of abroad, nearly getting hit every day on your bicycle, replacing all of your 50 cent light bulbs with \$10.00 light bulbs....well, all of those things you have done have all gone down the tubes in just four days.

The volcanic ash emitted into the Earth's atmosphere in just four days - yes, FOUR DAYS - by that volcano in Iceland has totally erased every single effort you have made to reduce the evil beast, carbon. And there are around 200 active volcanoes on the planet spewing out this crud at any one time - EVERY DAY.

I don't really want to rain on your parade too much, but I should mention that when the volcano Mt Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines in 1991, it spewed out more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the entire human race had emitted in all its years on earth.

Yes, folks, Mt Pinatubo was active for over One year - think about it.

Of course, I shouldn't spoil this 'touchy-feely tree-hugging' moment and mention the effect of solar and cosmic activity and the well-recognized 800-year global heating and cooling cycle, which keeps happening despite our completely insignificant efforts to affect climate change.

And I do wish I had a silver lining to this volcanic ash cloud, but the fact of the matter is that the bush fire season across the western USA and Australia this year alone will negate your efforts to reduce carbon in our world for the next two to three years. And it happens every year.

Just remember that your government just tried to impose a whopping carbon tax on you, on the basis of the bogus 'human-caused' climate-change scenario.

Hey, isn't it interesting how they do **not** mention 'Global Warming' anymore, but just 'Climate Change' - you know why? It's because the planet has COOLED by 0.7 degrees in the past century and these global warming bull shit artists got caught with their pants down.

And, just keep in mind that you might yet have an Emissions Trading Scheme - that whopping new tax - imposed on you that will achieve absolutely nothing except make you poorer. It **will not** stop any volcanoes from erupting, that **is** for sure.

But, hey, relax! Give the world a hug and have a nice day!

Author's credentials:

Ian Rutherford Plimer is an Australian geologist, professor emeritus of earth sciences at the University of Melbourne, professor of mining geology at the University of Adelaide and the director of multiple mineral exploration and mining companies. He has published 130 scientific papers, six books and edited the Encyclopedia of Geology.

Born : 12 February 1946 (age 67)

Residence: Australia

Nationality: Australian

Fields: Earth Science, Geology, Mining Engineering

Institutions: University of New England, University of Newcastle, University of Melbourne, University of Adelaide

Alma mater: University of New South Wales, Macquarie University

Thesis: The pipe deposits of tungsten-molybdenum-bismuth in eastern Australia (1976)

Notable awards: Eureka Prize (1995, 2002), Centenary Medal (2003), Clarke Medal (2004)

Clinton Insider Cashes In On Green Cronyism

Jack Inglewood, EPAAbuse.com, January 16, 2014

http://epaabuse.com/15330/editorials/clinton-insider-cashes-green-cronyism/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=clinton-insider-cashes-green-cronyism&utm_source=EPA+Abuse&utm_campaign=4f88e033f7-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bdf7c53c9e-4f88e033f7-305309409



Want to see green cronyism in action? Look no further than Clintonista and former General Wes Clark.

Clark has been on the forefront of efforts to pressure Congress to reauthorize the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), the government mandate that forces ethanol into our gasoline. He has testified before Congress claiming "the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is an overwhelming success. It has reduced our dependence on foreign oil and made our nation more energy independent, created American jobs, revitalized rural America, injected much-needed

competition into a monopolized vehicle-fuels market, lowered the price at the pump, and improved the environment. That is a great record of accomplishment – one that I would call a brilliant success. It is wise policy, and a tribute to its bipartisan passage.”

But Mr. Clark has not been as forthright about his role in profiting from the mandate. Mr. Clark is an investor in the biofuels industry. He is the co-chairman of the ethanol trade group Growth Energy. He sits on the Board of Directors of the biofuel company Rentech; he serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Wesley K. Clark & Associates, a strategic consulting firm he founded in March 2003 and as Chairman of investment bank Rodman & Renshaw. General Clark also serves as Chairman of Clean Terra, a firm he co-founded that is dedicated to financing, developing, and managing “clean energy/fuel projects.” When Congress subsidizes green energy programs, some of the money goes right into Mr. Clark's pockets.

In addition to being a corporate capitalist crony, Mr. Clark serves on the board of directors of the progressive group VoteVet. Recently VoteVet began running a six figure ad buy supporting the Renewable Fuels Standard. It's clear that Mr. Clark has hijacked the group to push his personal and business agenda.

Even environmentalists have begun to realize that ethanol is damaging the environment, driving up food prices, and even destroying the engines using the product. None of that matters to VoteVets and Mr. Clark, who puts cronyism before anything else.

Catastrophe? What Catastrophe?

MIT's Richard Lindzen, the unalarmed climate scientist

Ethan Epstein , *assistant editor at The Weekly Standard*, January 3, 2014
http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/what-catastrophe_773268.html?page=1



When you first meet Richard Lindzen, the Alfred P. Sloan professor of meteorology at MIT, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, leading climate “skeptic,” and all-around scourge of James Hansen, Bill McKibben, Al Gore, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and sundry other climate “alarmists,” as Lindzen calls them, you may find yourself a bit surprised. If you know Lindzen only from the way his opponents characterize him—variously, a liar, a lunatic, a charlatan, a denier, a shyster, a crazy person, corrupt—you might expect a spittle-flecked, wild-eyed loon. But in person, Lindzen cuts a rather different figure. With his gray beard, thick glasses, gentle laugh, and disarmingly soft voice, he comes across as nothing short of grandfatherly.

Granted, Lindzen is no shrinking violet. A pioneering climate scientist with decades at Harvard and MIT, Lindzen sees his discipline as being deeply compromised by political pressure, data fudging, out-and-out guesswork, and wholly unwarranted alarmism. In a shot across the bow of what many insist is indisputable scientific truth, Lindzen characterizes global warming as “small and . . . nothing to be alarmed about.” In the climate debate—on which hinge far-reaching questions of public policy—they’re fightin’ words.

In his mid-seventies, married with two sons, and now emeritus at MIT, Lindzen spends between four and six months a year at his second home in Paris. But that doesn’t mean he’s no longer in the thick of the climate controversy; he writes, gives myriad talks, participates in debates, and occasionally testifies before Congress. In an eventful life, Lindzen has made the strange journey from being a pioneer in his field and eventual IPCC coauthor to an outlier in the discipline—if not an outcast.

Lindzen wasn’t a climatologist from the start—“climate science” as such didn’t exist when he was beginning his career in academia. Rather, Lindzen studied math. “I liked applied math,” he says, “[and] I was a bit turned off by modern physics, but I really enjoyed classical physics, fluid mechanics, things like that.” A few years after arriving at Harvard, he began his transition to meteorology. “Harvard actually got a grant from the Ford Foundation to offer generous fellowships to people in the atmospheric sciences,” he explains. “Harvard had no department in atmospheric sciences, so these fellowships allowed you to take a degree in applied math or applied physics, and that worked out very well because in applied math the atmosphere and oceans were considered a good area for problems. . . . I discovered I really liked atmospheric sciences—meteorology. So I stuck with it and picked out a thesis.”

And with that, Lindzen began his meteoric rise through the nascent field. In the 1970s, while a professor at Harvard, Lindzen disproved the then-accepted theory of how heat moves around the Earth’s atmosphere, winning numerous

awards in the process. Before his 40th birthday, he was a member of the National Academy of Sciences. In the mid-1980s, he made the short move from Harvard to MIT, and he's remained there ever since. Over the decades, he's authored or coauthored some 200 peer-reviewed papers on climate.

Where Lindzen hasn't remained is in the mainstream of his discipline. By the 1980s, global warming was becoming a major political issue. Already, Lindzen was having doubts about the more catastrophic predictions being made. The public rollout of the "alarmist" case, he notes, "was immediately accompanied by an issue of *Newsweek* declaring all scientists agreed. And that was the beginning of a 'consensus' argument. Already by '88 the *New York Times* had literally a global warming beat." Lindzen wasn't buying it. Nonetheless, he remained in the good graces of mainstream climate science, and in the early 1990s, he was invited to join the IPCC, a U.N.-backed multinational consortium of scientists charged with synthesizing and analyzing the current state of the world's climate science. Lindzen accepted, and he ended up as a contributor to the 1995 report and the lead author of Chapter 7 ("Physical Climate Processes and Feedbacks") of the 2001 report. Since then, however, he's grown increasingly distant from prevalent (he would say "hysterical") climate science, and he is voluminously on record disputing the predictions of catastrophe.

The Earth's climate is immensely complex, but the basic principle behind the "greenhouse effect" is easy to understand. The burning of oil, gas, and especially coal pumps carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere, where they allow the sun's heat to penetrate to the Earth's surface but impede its escape, thus causing the lower atmosphere and the Earth's surface to warm. Essentially everybody, Lindzen included, agrees. The question at issue is how sensitive the planet is to increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases (this is called climate sensitivity), and how much the planet will heat up as a result of our pumping into the sky ever more CO₂, which remains in the atmosphere for upwards of 1,000 years. (Carbon dioxide, it may be needless to point out, is not a poison. On the contrary, it is necessary for plant life.)

Lindzen doesn't deny that the climate has changed or that the planet has warmed. "We all agree that temperature has increased since 1800," he tells me. There's a caveat, though: It's increased by "a very small amount. We're talking about tenths of a degree [Celsius]. We all agree that CO₂ is a greenhouse gas. All other things kept equal, [there has been] some warming. As a result, there's hardly anyone serious who says that man has no role. And in many ways, those have never been the questions. The questions have always been, as they ought to be in science, how much?"

Lindzen says not much at all—and he contends that the “alarmists” vastly overstate the Earth’s climate sensitivity. Judging by where we are now, he appears to have a point; so far, 150 years of burning fossil fuels in large quantities has had a relatively minimal effect on the climate. By some measurements, there is now more CO₂ in the atmosphere than there has been at any time in the past 15 million years. Yet since the advent of the Industrial Revolution, the average global temperature has risen by, at most, 1 degree Celsius, or 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit. And while it’s true that sea levels have risen over the same period, it’s believed they’ve been doing so for roughly 20,000 years. What’s more, despite common misconceptions stoked by the media in the wake of Katrina, Sandy, and the recent typhoon in the Philippines, even the IPCC concedes that it has “low confidence” that there has been any measurable uptick in storm intensity thanks to human activity. Moreover, over the past 15 years, as man has emitted record levels of carbon dioxide year after year, the warming trend of previous decades has stopped. Lindzen says this is all consistent with what he holds responsible for climate change: **a small bit of man-made impact and a whole lot of natural variability.**

The real fight, though, is over what’s coming in the future if humans continue to burn fossil fuels unabated. According to the IPCC, the answer is nothing good. Its most recent Summary for Policymakers, which was released early this fall—and which some scientists reject as too sanguine—predicts that if emissions continue to rise, by the year 2100, global temperatures could increase as much as 5.5 degrees Celsius from current averages, while sea levels could rise by nearly a meter. If we hit those projections, it’s generally thought that the Earth would be rife with crop failures, drought, extreme weather, and epochal flooding. Adios, Miami.

It is to avoid those disasters that the “alarmists” call on governments to adopt policies reducing the amounts of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. As a result of such policies—and a fortuitous increase in natural gas production—U.S. greenhouse emissions are at a 20-year low and falling. But global emissions are rising, thanks to massive increases in energy use in the developing world, particularly in China and India. If the “alarmists” are right, then, a way must be found to compel the major developing countries to reduce carbon emissions.

But Lindzen rejects the dire projections. For one thing, he says that the Summary for Policymakers is an inherently problematic document. The IPCC report itself, weighing in at thousands of pages, is “not terrible. It’s not unbiased, but the bias [is] more or less to limit your criticism of models,” he says. The Summary for Policymakers, on the other hand—the only part of the report that the media and the politicians pay any attention to—“rips out doubts to a large extent. . . .

[Furthermore], government representatives have the final say on the summary.” Thus, while the full IPCC report demonstrates a significant amount of doubt among scientists, the essentially political Summary for Policymakers filters it out.

Lindzen also disputes the accuracy of the computer models that climate scientists rely on to project future temperatures. He contends that they oversimplify the vast complexity of the Earth’s climate and, moreover, that it’s impossible to untangle man’s effect on the climate from natural variability. The models also rely on what Lindzen calls “fudge factors.” Take aerosols. These are tiny specks of matter, both liquid and solid (think dust), that are present throughout the atmosphere. Their effect on the climate—even whether they have an overall cooling or warming effect—is still a matter of debate. Lindzen charges that when actual temperatures fail to conform to the models’ predictions, climate scientists purposely overstate the cooling effect of aerosols to give the models the appearance of having been accurate. **But no amount of fudging can obscure the most glaring failure of the models: their inability to predict the 15-year-long (and counting) pause in warming—a pause that would seem to place the burden of proof squarely on the defenders of the models.**

Lindzen also questions the “alarmist” line on water vapor. Water vapor (and its close cousin, clouds) is one of the most prevalent greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. According to most climate scientists, the hotter the planet gets, the more water vapor there will be, magnifying the effects of other greenhouse gases, like CO₂, in a sort of hellish positive feedback loop. Lindzen disputes this, contending that water vapor could very well end up having a cooling effect on the planet. As the science writer Justin Gillis explained in a 2012 *New York Times* piece, Lindzen “says the earth is not especially sensitive to greenhouse gases because clouds will react to counter them, and he believes he has identified a specific mechanism. On a warming planet, he says, less coverage by high clouds in the tropics will allow more heat to escape to space, countering the temperature increase.”

If Lindzen is right about this and global warming is nothing to worry about, why do so many climate scientists, many with résumés just as impressive as his, preach imminent doom? He says it mostly comes down to the money—to the incentive structure of academic research funded by government grants. Almost all funding for climate research comes from the government, which, he says, makes scientists essentially vassals of the state. And generating fear, Lindzen contends, is now the best way to ensure that policymakers keep the spigot open.

Lindzen contrasts this with the immediate aftermath of World War II, when American science was at something of a peak. “Science had established its

relevance with the A-bomb, with radar, for that matter the proximity fuse," he notes. Americans and their political leadership were profoundly grateful to the science community; scientists, unlike today, didn't have to abase themselves by approaching the government hat in hand. Science funding was all but assured.

But with the cuts to basic science funding that occurred around the time of the Vietnam war, taxpayer support for research was no longer a political no-brainer. "It was recognized that gratitude only went so far," Lindzen says, "and fear was going to be a much greater motivator. And so that's when people began thinking about . . . how to perpetuate fear that would motivate the support of science."

A need to generate fear, in Lindzen's telling, is what's driving the apocalyptic rhetoric heard from many climate scientists and their media allies. "The idea was, to engage the public you needed an event . . . not just a Sputnik—a drought, a storm, a sand demon. You know, something you could latch onto. [Climate scientists] carefully arranged a congressional hearing. And they arranged for [James] Hansen [author of *Storms of My Grandchildren*, and one of the leading global warming "alarmists"] to come and say something vague that would somehow relate a heat wave or a drought to global warming." (This theme, by the way, is developed to characteristic extremes in the late Michael Crichton's entertaining 2004 novel *State of Fear*, in which environmental activists engineer a series of fake "natural" disasters to sow fear over global warming.)

Lindzen also says that the "consensus"—the oft-heard contention that "virtually all" climate scientists believe in catastrophic, anthropogenic global warming—is overblown, primarily for structural reasons. "When you have an issue that is somewhat bogus, the opposition is always scattered and without resources," he explains. "But the environmental movement is highly organized. There are hundreds of NGOs. To coordinate these hundreds, they quickly organized the Climate Action Network, the central body on climate. There would be, I think, actual meetings to tell them what the party line is for the year, and so on." Skeptics, on the other hand, are more scattered across disciplines and continents. As such, they have a much harder time getting their message across.

Because CO₂ is invisible and the climate is so complex (your local weatherman doesn't know for sure whether it will rain tomorrow, let alone conditions in 2100), expertise is particularly important. Lindzen sees a danger here. "I think the example, the paradigm of this, was medical practice." He says that in the past, "one went to a physician because something hurt or bothered you, and you tended to judge him or her according to whether you felt better. That may not always have been accurate, but at least it had some operational content. . . .

[Now, you] go to an annual checkup, get a blood test. And the physician tells you if you're better or not and it's out of your hands." Because climate change is invisible, only the experts can tell us whether the planet is sick or not. And because of the way funds are granted, they have an incentive to say that the Earth belongs in intensive care.

Richard Lindzen presents a problem for those who say that the science behind climate change is "settled." So many "alarmists" prefer to ignore him and instead highlight straw men: less credible skeptics, such as climatologist Roy Spencer of the University of Alabama (signatory to a declaration that "Earth and its ecosystems—created by God's intelligent design and infinite power and sustained by His faithful providence—are robust, resilient, self-regulating, and self-correcting"), the Heartland Institute (which likened climate "alarmists" to the Unabomber), and Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma (a major energy-producing state). The idea is to make it seem as though the choice is between accepting the view of, say, journalist James Delingpole (B.A., English literature), who says global warming is a hoax, and that of, say, James Hansen (Ph.D., physics, former head of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies), who says that we are moving toward "an ice-free Antarctica and a desolate planet without human inhabitants."

But Lindzen, plainly, is different. He can't be dismissed. Nor, of course, is he the only skeptic with serious scientific credentials. Judith Curry, the chair of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Georgia Tech, William Happer, professor of physics at Princeton, John Christy, a climate scientist honored by NASA, now at the University of Alabama, and the famed physicist Freeman Dyson are among dozens of scientists who have gone on record questioning various aspects of the IPCC's line on climate change. Lindzen, for his part, has said that scientists have called him privately to thank him for the work he's doing.

But Lindzen, perhaps because of his safely tenured status at MIT, or just because of the contours of his personality, is a particularly outspoken and public critic of the consensus. It's clear that he relishes taking on the "alarmists." It's little wonder, then, that he's come under exceptionally vituperative attack from many of those who are concerned about the impact of climate change. It also stands to reason that they might take umbrage at his essentially accusing them of mass corruption with his charge that they are "stoking fear."

Take Joe Romm, himself an MIT Ph.D., who runs the climate desk at the left-wing Center for American Progress. On the center's blog, Romm regularly lights into Lindzen. "Lindzen could not be more discredited," he says in one post. In another post, he calls Lindzen an "uber-hypocritical anti-scientific scientist."

(Romm, it should be noted, is a bit more measured, if no less condescending, when the klieg lights are off. “I tend to think Lindzen is just one of those scientists whom time and science has passed by, like the ones who held out against plate tectonics for so long,” he tells me.) Seldom, however, does Romm stoop to explain what grounds justify dismissing Lindzen’s views with such disdain.

Andrew Dessler, a climatologist at Texas A&M University, is another harsh critic of Lindzen. As he told me in an emailed statement, “Over the past 25 years, Dr. Lindzen has published several theories about climate, all of which suggest that the climate will not warm much in response to increases in atmospheric CO₂. These theories have been tested by the scientific community and found to be completely without merit. Lindzen knows this, of course, and no longer makes any effort to engage with the scientific community about his theories (e.g., he does not present his work at scientific conferences). It seems his main audience today is Fox News and the editorial board of the *Wall Street Journal*.”

The Internet, meanwhile, is filled with hostile missives directed at Lindzen. They’re of varying quality. Some, written by climate scientists, are point-by-point rebuttals of Lindzen’s scholarly work; others, angry ad hominem screeds full of heat, signifying nothing. (When Lindzen transitioned to emeritus status last year, one blog headlined the news “Denier Down: Lindzen Retires.”)

For decades, Lindzen has also been dogged by unsubstantiated accusations of corruption—specifically, that he’s being paid off by the energy industry. He denies this with a laugh. “I wish it were so!” What appears to be the primary source for this calumny—a *Harper’s* magazine article from 1995—provides no documentation for its assertions. But that hasn’t stopped the charge from being widely disseminated on the Internet.

One frustrating feature of the climate debate is that people’s outlook on global warming usually correlates with their political views. So if a person wants low taxes and restrictions on abortion, he probably isn’t worried about climate change. And if a person supports gay marriage and raising the minimum wage, he most likely thinks the threat from global warming warrants costly public-policy remedies. And of course, even though Lindzen is an accomplished climate scientist, he has his own political outlook—a conservative one.

He wasn’t reared that way. “Growing up in the Bronx, politics, I would say, was an automatic issue. I grew up with a picture of Franklin Roosevelt over my bed.” But his views started to shift in the late ’60s and ’70s. “I think [my politics] began changing in the Vietnam war. I was deeply disturbed by the way vets were being treated,” he says. He also says that his experience in the climate debate—and the rise in political correctness in the universities throughout the

'70s and '80s—further pushed him to the right. So, yes, Lindzen, a climate skeptic, is also a political conservative whom one would expect to oppose many environmental regulations for ideological, as opposed to scientific, reasons. By the same token, it is well known that the vast majority of “alarmist” climate scientists, dependent as they are on federal largesse, are liberal Democrats.

But whatever buried ideological component there may be to any given scientist's work, it doesn't tell us who has the science right. In a 2012 public letter, Lindzen noted, “Critics accuse me of doing a disservice to the scientific method. I would suggest that in questioning the views of the critics and subjecting them to specific tests, I am holding to the scientific method.” Whoever is right about computer models, climate sensitivity, aerosols, and water vapor, Lindzen is certainly right about that. Skepticism is essential to science.

In a 2007 debate with Lindzen in New York City, climate scientist Richard C. J. Somerville, who is firmly in the “alarmist” camp, likened climate skeptics to “some eminent earth scientists [who] couldn't be persuaded that plate tectonics were real . . . when the revolution of continental drift was sweeping through geology and geophysics.”

“Most people who think they're a Galileo are just wrong,” he said, much to the delight of a friendly audience of Manhattanites.

But Somerville botched the analogy. The story of plate tectonics is the story of how one man, Alfred Wegener, came up with the theory of continental drift, only to be widely opposed and mocked. Wegener challenged the earth science “consensus” of his day. And in the end, his view prevailed.

Emails Show Extensive Collaboration Between EPA, Environmentalists

Lachlan Markay, The Washington Free Beacon, January 18, 2014
<http://freebeacon.com/emails-show-extensive-collaboration-between-epa-environmentalist-orgs/>

Internal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emails show extensive collaboration between top agency officials and leading environmentalist groups, including overt efforts to coordinate messaging and pressure the fossil fuel industry.

The emails, obtained by the Energy and Environment Legal Institute (EELI) through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, could fuel an ongoing controversy over EPA policies that critics say are biased against traditional sources of energy.

Emails show EPA used official events to help environmentalist groups gather signatures for petitions on agency rulemaking, incorporated advance copies of letters drafted by those groups into official statements, and worked with environmentalists to publicly pressure executives of at least one energy company.

Nancy Grantham, director of public affairs for EPA Region 1, which covers New England, asked an organizer for the Sierra Club's New Hampshire chapter to share the group's agenda so EPA could adjust its messaging accordingly in an [email](#) dated March 12, 2012.

"If you could, it would great [sic] if you can send me an email describing what you would like to do in early April in NH—that way I can coordinate messaging with our air offices here and at HQ," Grantham wrote.

[Read more at The Washington Free Beacon. http://freebeacon.com/emails-show-extensive-collaboration-between-epa-environmentalist-orgs/](http://freebeacon.com/emails-show-extensive-collaboration-between-epa-environmentalist-orgs/)

EPA silenced scientists that challenged their agenda

Michael Bastasch, The Daily Caller, December 20, 2013

<http://dailycaller.com/2013/12/20/muzzled-epa-silenced-scientists-that-challenged-their-agenda/>

The Environmental Protection Agency silenced scientific advisers who expressed concerns over the agency's proposed carbon dioxide emissions limits for coal-fired power plants, House Republicans claim.

Republicans on the House's science committee wrote a letter to EPA administrator Gina McCarthy expressing concern that the agency ignored scientists charged with reviewing carbon emissions limits for new power plants. Scientists said that the agency rushed through the regulatory process and that the underlying science of the rule lacked adequate peer review.

"We are concerned about the agency's apparent disregard for the concerns of its science advisors," the Republican lawmakers wrote. "Science is a valuable tool to help policymakers navigate complex issues."

"However, when inconvenient facts are disregarded or when dissenting voices are muzzled, a frank discussion becomes impossible," the lawmakers continued. "The EPA cannot continue to rush ahead with costly regulations without allowing time for a real-world look at the science."

Republicans previously asked the EPA about how it responded to the scientific reviewers' concerns, but agency officials distanced themselves from their own

advisers, according to the letter. Specifically, lawmakers questioned the agency's requirement that coal plants must install carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology in order to be built. The agency, however, said that their new power plant rule does not need to address such concerns about CCS.

"The claim that the rule doesn't need to address storage concerns highlights your agency's continued lack of transparency and consistent attempts to avoid accountability," the Republicans added..

"The EPA's proposed power plant regulations will put Americans out of work and will make electricity more expensive and less reliable," they continued. "It is misleading and dangerous for EPA to quietly dismiss inconvenient facts and ignore the consequences of its costly regulations. Americans deserve honesty."

The EPA's proposed power plant emissions limits would essentially require that all new coal-fired power plants be built using CCS technology, which is not a commercially proven technology.

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“Carbon capture and sequestration technology can help us reduce carbon pollution and move us toward a cleaner, more stable environment,” said Mathy Stanislaus, EPA’s assistant administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

The agency justified imposing CCS requirements on U.S. coal plants based on three government-backed projects — one under construction in Mississippi and two planned in Texas and California. The agency also cited one Canadian government-backed project under construction.

However, the coal industry argues that there are no commercial-scale coal plants using CCS operating in the country. Republicans also argue that the EPA violated the Environmental Policy Act by mandating technology where the only examples of it are government-supported.

“In light of these statutory prohibitions, we request that the EPA’s proposed rule, which has not yet been published in the Federal Register, be withdrawn,” reads a letter to the EPA from Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. “This will ensure that the agency does not propose standards beyond its legal authority. This will also ensure that stakeholders and the public will not have to incur additional costs to respond to a proposal that contravenes applicable law.”

Even former Obama administration officials have expressed skepticism about CCS technology’s commercial viability.

“[I]t is disingenuous to state that the technology is ‘ready,’” said Charles McConnell, who was the assistant secretary of energy until January. He now serves as the executive director of the Energy & Environment Initiative at Rice University.

“Studies have verified that implementation of [CSS] technology is necessary to comply with EPA’s proposed [EPA carbon-emissions limits] regulation and meet the [greenhouse gas] targets necessary for limiting CO² emissions to our atmosphere,” McConnell said in his prepared congressional testimony. “However, commercial [CSS] technology currently is not available to meet EPA’s proposed rule. The cost of current CO² capture technology is much too high to be commercially viable.”

Stop Clear Cutting Trees

Global warming is one thing but, look what happens when we cut down too many trees! This might happen if we continue to clear our forests! We have to stop cutting down trees! This is getting serious!



GLOBAL WARMING FRAUD EXPOSED, UNDER OATH!!

TurnerRadioNetwork.com, January 22, 2014

<http://www.turnerradionetwork.com/news/211-global-warming-fraud-exposed-under-oath->

In stunning testimony, under Oath, before the U.S. House of Representatives, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, a former executive of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revealed the EPA's goal is to "modify the DNA of Capitalism." Put another way, the entire "Global Warming" crusade has been a complete lie from the start -- to attack the free market system -- and the people telling this lie KNEW it was a lie when they started telling it! This former EPA executive is now on his way to jail.

TRN has obtained the Certified Transcript directly from the federal government and now it is published here for all the world to see.

A former high-ranking EPA official who recently was sentenced to prison for fraud told lawmakers last month that, before he left the agency, he was working on a "project" examining ways to "modify the DNA of the capitalist system."

The startlingly blunt comment was included in [newly released transcripts of John Beale's deposition before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee](#). One group that is frequently critical of the Obama administration's energy policy, the Institute for Energy Research, said the claim is a "smoking gun" that reveals the administration's true intentions.

Beale's credibility is not exactly ironclad. He was sentenced last month to 32 months in prison for bilking taxpayers out of nearly \$1 million by pretending to be a CIA agent.

But, in the transcripts, he spoke in great detail about meetings he supposedly had with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, back when she was heading the Office of Air and Radiation.

Beale said they started meeting in mid-2009. At a lunch, he claimed his "fabricated story about working at CIA came up," but that they also discussed various projects. Beale recalled telling her about a project he wanted to work on, which he described as "green economics."

He argued that environmental regulation was reaching its "limits" because "the fundamental dynamic of the capitalistic system is for businesses and individuals to try to externalize all costs." So he said he began working on his plan.

This, he said, involved "coming up with specific proposals that could be -- could have been proposed either legislatively or things which could have been done administratively to kind of modify the DNA of the capitalist system."

Beale said this "is not new" and has happened "tens of times" in the history of capitalism.

"It's not a God-given system that was created once and never changes. It changes all the time," he said. He said McCarthy was aware of the project and "we met frequently to talk about it and had actually quite deep discussions." He said, though, that the project was eventually "scrapped."

He also claimed the project began under the George W. Bush administration.

But, at a time when oil and gas companies are complaining about crushing EPA regulations, the IER seized on the comments as proof that the administration is pursuing a power grab.

"This is the smoking gun. For years, we have been saying the real agenda behind this administration's energy and environmental policies is the just what President Obama has said it is: to fundamentally transform America," Senior Vice President Dan Kish said in a statement. "In his testimony under oath, Beale, perhaps unwittingly, has laid bare the administration's end goal. The President's policies are not about carbon, they are not about coal, they are not even about energy and the environment. ... These policies are not about energy, but power."

In releasing the 263 pages of documents, the leaders of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee did not comment on that section of the transcript. They focused instead on the fraud Beale committed by lying about working for the CIA.

"This is an egregious example of fraud on the highest levels of management at the EPA," Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., chairman of the committee, said.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., top Democrat on the committee, said Beale "spun an elaborate web of lies" to fool his EPA supervisors.

The EPA has not responded to a request for comment.

Beale's case was one of the more bizarre schemes run against the government in recent memory. Beale's trickery began more than a decade ago and was largely a scheme to collect unearned pay over roughly 13 years -- essentially by saying he needed to take off one workday a week for CIA missions.

In the committee documents, Beale acknowledged this was a "fantasy."

SOURCE: U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Transcripts
([Click to read from the government's own web site.](#))

Global Warmists Aim to Disempower America

By [Ron Arnold](#) | JANUARY 23, 2014 AT 5:43 PM

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/global-warmists-aim-to-disempower-america/article/2542789>

Erich Jantsch was an Austrian astronomer and technology forecaster, the one man who can plausibly be branded as the scientist who corrupted science into today's global warming monster.

As one of the seven men who, at dinner on the evening of April 8, 1968, founded the Club of Rome, he possessed the gravitas to evangelize his radical belief that science cannot be neutral.

In order to prevent ecological and social collapse, Jantsch said, Western countries must halt their economic growth and surrender their goods for equitable distribution throughout the world. The alternative: "an eventual worldwide class war."

His ideas permeated the development of the club's sensational 1972 work, *The Limits to Growth*, the hugely influential book of doom which first explained to a mass audience the three things that must be accepted to prevent the apocalypse: computer modeling, anthropogenic global warming, and strong government control. It reeked of Jantsch's "science cannot be neutral."

Jantsch faded into obscurity, but his ideas gained fame as sales of the book soared to 12 million, and it remains the best-selling environment book ever. It was the textbook for the obscene blend of science and politics that is the Intergovernmental Panel on [Climate Change](#) and the insanity that climate scientists are the only bearers of truth.

Austrian philosopher of science Paul Feyerabend, who wrote an introduction to one of Jantsch's books, was leery of the artificial certainty inherent in computer modeling. He was indignant that science was obsessed with its own mythology, making claims to truth well beyond its actual capacity.

He wrote that scientists who trust too much in "method" risk turning into "miserable, unfriendly, self-righteous mechanisms without charm or humor."

Read the rest of the article at: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/global-warmists-aim-to-disempower-america/article/2542789>

Lack of science literacy helps global warmists spread their gospel

By RON ARNOLD, Washington Examiner, December 19, 2013

http://epaabuse.com/15141/news/lack-science-literacy-helps-global-warmists/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=lack-science-literacy-helps-global-warmists&utm_source=EPA+Abuse&utm_campaign=389ab0ba80-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bdf7c53c9e-389ab0ba80-305309409

Would it make any difference to the public whether the climate gurus in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are right or wrong about dangerous human-caused global warming if only a weak minority of Americans knew what carbon dioxide is? Or what the carbon in their carbon footprint is? Or that their own body is built with carbon-based molecules? Or what a molecule is?

Answer: No. That "if" is the real state of science literacy in the United States, according to nearly two decades of National Academy of Sciences studies. Most of us don't know any of those things, nor does most of the world, for that matter, says an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development 2008 survey.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change can say anything it wants because only a literate minority is listening, much of which is listening with its attitudes and emotions and really, really wants catastrophic global warming to happen, as a number of IPCC scientists admit of themselves in private.

If the IPCC believers sound a bit like excitement-starved teenagers, that might be explained by the fact that literacy studies tend to focus on "what is learned by the time a student graduates from high school," when learning contains fewer chemistry and physics courses than it does raging hormones and dominance fights.

College graduates aren't much better. Universities seem to indoctrinate more than educate, which probably helps whip up educated ignorance into the brand of fear marketed by IPCC scientists.

The United States National Center for Education Statistics tells us that "scientific literacy is the knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts and

processes required for personal decision making, participation in civic and cultural affairs, and economic productivity."

We're not inundated with that. Popular culture has no clue or care what scientists say anyway, and pop types probably think that IPCC is a new street drug. Climate fear certainly rates lower on the popular panic scale than would Kanye West leaving Kim Kardashian for Miley "Wrecking Ball" Cyrus because of Kim's new facelift.

You can argue endlessly about the content of IPCC reports – what's fact and what's not – and IPCC denizens will keep on saying what the paymaster wants, because they're human too, and need the personal income, the career advancement, and public recognition.

So, quarreling over "content" is pointless. "Context" is what's important – the vast organizational structure with its self-serving rules and snooty hierarchy that shapes the IPCC and determines what content it produces.

Most importantly, IPCC science isn't scientific. It is based upon consensus, a non-scientific process from decision-making theory. That's politics.

Also, IPCC findings depend largely on computer models, which are notoriously wobbly. GIGO applies – the 1963 hacker acronym for "garbage in, garbage out." The IPCC first turned GIGO into "garbage in, gospel out," then after some experience, "gospel in, gospel out." That's delusional.

IPCC scientists defend their gospel with envenomed fangs, for they have inserted into their computer models the long-sought Finagle's variable constant, that number which, when added to, subtracted from, multiplied by or divided by the Wrong Answer, gives the Right Answer. That's supernatural.

Not only is climate gospel protected by the god Finagle, but it also has a free pass from the power of his mad prophet, Murphy, whose law says, "Anything that can go wrong, will—at the worst possible moment," thus assuring us of IPCC gospel infallibility.

You may recognize by now that this is humor, a heresy unknown among IPCC believers.

Lack of Accountability Clouding the Climate Change Debate

The world's so-called authority on climate change engages in exaggerated science and has become a political tool.

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/lack-of-accountability-clouding-the-climate-change-debate-20140102-307ja.html#ixzz2pSMO3SQH>

John McLean, TheAge.com., January 3, 2014



We've recently seen comments about climate matters from Maurice Newman, the chairman of the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council, and David Karoly, professor of atmospheric science at the University of Melbourne and a member of the Climate Change Authority.

Newman wasn't completely correct about the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Karoly failed to mention some critical issues about the IPCC's operation and function. The IPCC certainly has faults and its publicity material doesn't always accord with the facts, but the bigger issues are its narrow charter and how various bodies encourage us to believe that the IPCC is an authority on all climate matters.

Journalists are supposed to be sceptical about all claims on all matters but that scepticism is usually absent when dealing with climate issues.

The IPCC's charter from the outset has been "to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation".

The IPCC's focus is therefore very specific – any human influence on climate. It has no mandate to examine other causes of climate change. IPCC assessment reports claim that the human influence is significant but look closely and we find the claims are based on the output of climate models that the IPCC admits are seriously flawed, that the IPCC often asserts a level of certainty that the data cannot sustain and that as "Climategate" showed us, a clique of scientists has in the past sought to control the material cited by these reports.

What starts out being a scientific report becomes a political instrument because after a hard-core group of IPCC supporters draft the Summary for Policymakers, government representatives discuss, negotiate and eventually agree on the wording of each sentence. The scientific component of the report is then modified to better align it with the thinking of government representatives.

If the IPCC reports were accepted for exactly what they are - exaggerated science with a large dollop of politics - this would be the end of the matter. Unfortunately, various bodies actively encourage us to believe the reports are entirely scientific, accurate and completely authoritative on all climate matters, this despite the IPCC's charter and the political interference.

Foremost among those who imply that the IPCC has a wider remit than it does is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At its inaugural meeting in 1992 the UNFCCC declared that anthropogenic emissions of CO₂ were causing significant and dangerous climate change. This statement had no factual basis. It was the IPCC's role to determine if this was correct. It certainly hadn't done so by 1992 and despite its assertions it still hasn't produced credible evidence to support that claim.

The UNFCCC's deceit continues via its annual conferences that try to pressure countries into reducing carbon dioxide emissions despite the absence of any clear evidence that warrants such action. Each conference is wrapped in a publicity blitz before, during and after the event, each time exaggerating the IPCC's findings and certainty, staying mum about the influence of politics on IPCC reports and falsely implying that the IPCC's investigative scope extends far beyond its mandate. The executive secretary of the UNFCCC is appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and reports to him, which implies UNFCCC deceit is endorsed at the upper levels of the UN.

There is no higher authority to which one can complain.

Not far behind the UNFCCC we have government bodies, such as the Department of Climate Change and now-privatised Climate Commission, that ardently promote the IPCC view. In some cases these bodies were created

specifically for that purpose and in most cases their action is to support government policy. As with the UNFCCC, these bodies falsely imply the IPCC's remit covers all aspects of climate science.

Next are environmental organisations, such as Greenpeace and WWF, others such as the sustainable energy industry that have vested interests and push the IPCC view, implying it's the ultimate authority on climate matters.

We should also not forget the scientists who publicly endorse the IPCC view. Ascribing a specific motive to a large number of people is futile, but among them are likely to be people holding various levels of belief and of course people whose income and reputation rest on the IPCC's position.

The public would hardly be aware of the statements made by all of the above if it wasn't for the mainstream media. Journalists are supposed to be sceptical about all claims on all matters but that scepticism is usually absent when dealing with climate issues. Whatever the cause, journalists appear unwilling to question claims, unwilling to ask for the data so they might verify the findings and unwilling to follow-up predictions to see if they were correct. The silence on all these matters tacitly and falsely implies that the IPCC's view is correct and it's an authority on all climate issues.

The reality is that the IPCC is in effect little more than a UN-sponsored lobby group, created specifically to investigate and push the "man-made warming" line. With no similar organisations to examine other potential causes of climate change, it's only the IPCC voice that is heard. But the IPCC's voice isn't heard in context and with all the necessary caveats; it's distorted via the UNFCCC and others who imply that the IPCC is the sole scientific authority on climate matters.

Of course those with vested interest support it, which include governments, politicians, government bodies, "green" groups and many scientists. Ultimately it's the unquestioning media, or perhaps a media unwilling to admit that the UN and its agencies might be dishonest or wrong, that misleads the public into believing the IPCC is something it's not.

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/comment/lack-of-accountability-clouding-the-climate-change-debate-20140102-307ja.html#ixzz2pSMQ3SQH>

Media Punking Global Warming Skeptics

By Dave Blount , Absolute Rights, December 26, 2013

<http://www.absoluterights.com/media-punking-global-warming-skeptics/>



Changing the name from “global warming” to “climate change” was a tacit admission by progressives that it is not getting significantly warmer and consequently their theory has collapsed. Yet still they cling to it. So high were their hopes that Al Gore’s convenient lie would usher in a new era of Soviet-style planned economies and unchallenged power for the liberal elite.

Recently we learned the arctic ice that Gore had predicted would be all melted and gone by now has [increased 50 percent in the past year](#). The **Los Angeles Times**, a major pillar of the liberal information establishment, has responded to revelations of this type by [banning](#) letters to the editor that dispute the official position that the hoax is real:

Paul Thornton, editor of the paper’s letters section, recently wrote a letter of his own, stating flatly that he won’t publish some letters from those skeptical of man’s role in our planet’s warming climate. ...

“Simply put, I do my best to keep errors of fact off the letters page; when one does run, a correction is published,” [Thornton wrote](#). “Saying ‘there’s no sign humans have caused climate change’ is not stating an opinion, it’s asserting a factual inaccuracy.”

Actually, it is committing a thought crime. [Phil Robertson](#) can tell you what happens to people who do that.

As an editor at a left-wing newspaper, Thornton’s specialty is political correctness, not science. Unsurprisingly, scientists aren’t buying his spin.

“In a word, the LA Times should be ashamed of itself,” William Happer, a physics professor at Princeton, told **FoxNews.com**.

"There was an effective embargo on alternative opinions, so making it official really does not change things," said Jan Breslow, head of the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics and Metabolism at The Rockefeller University in New York.

"The free press in the U.S. is trying to move the likelihood of presenting evidence on this issue from very low to impossible," J. Scott Armstrong, co-founder of the Journal of Forecasting and a professor of marketing at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, told **FoxNews.com**.

The Times isn't alone. Writes blogger Graham Readfearn at Britain's **Guardian** newspaper:

"Wrongheaded and simplistic views like this [i.e., acknowledging that anthropogenic global warming is a hoax] are a regular feature on ... no doubt hundreds of other newspapers around the world where readers respond to stories about climate change," Readfearn wrote. "Thornton's decision could well leave a few editors wondering if they should follow suit."

Professor Armstrong sums up the establishment media's strategy:

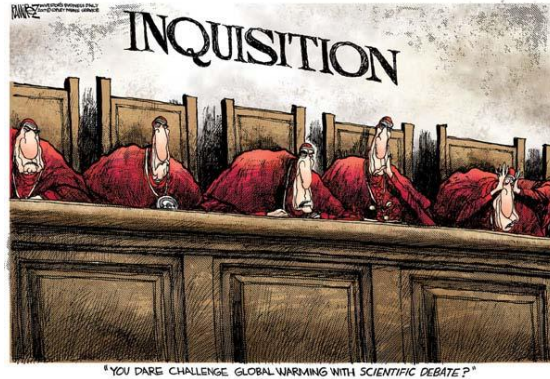
"My research on persuasion shows that persuasiveness of messages is higher when both sides of an issue are presented, but only when one has good arguments to defeat the other side. If not, it is best to try to prevent the other side from being heard."

Fortunately the other side will be heard whether leftists like it or not, because thanks to the Internet a small cadre of ideologically homogeneous newspapers and networks no longer have total control over the flow of information. But gatekeepers in the online world are [working on that](#):

Critics are slamming Reddit over a single moderator's decision to ban climate-change skeptics from contributing to its science forum, attacking the move as "political censorship."

In an op-ed titled "Reddit's science forum banned climate deniers. Why don't all newspapers do the same?" Nathan Allen — who described himself a Ph.D. chemist for a major chemical company and a moderator on Reddit's "/r/science" forum — explained his decision to wipe comments from some users he dismissed as "problematic."

"These people were true believers, blind to the fact that their arguments were hopelessly flawed, the result of cherry-picked data and conspiratorial thinking," Allen said in his article, which is posted on [Grist.org](#).



If hypocrisy could generate heat, a warmist ideologue dismissing critics of his faith as "true believers" wouldn't just melt the expanding icecaps; it would cause the planet to burst into flames.

Allen called for other news outlets to follow his example, asking "if a half-dozen volunteers can keep a page with more than 4 million users from being a microphone for the antiscientific, is it too much to ask for newspapers to police their own editorial pages as proficiently?"

Thought must be policed proficiently, if phony ideologies are to withstand the onslaughts of reality. But the more rigidly leftists attempt to block out opposing views, the harder their entire ideology will come crashing down when it becomes evident to one and all that they have zero credibility.

Dave Blount has been exposing the excesses of the Left at Moonbattery.com since 2004.

Europe Starts To Run, Not Walk, Away From Green Economics

Investors Business Daily Editorial, 02/05/2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/020514-689033-europe-finds-anti-co2-policies-are-destroying-the-economy.htm#ixzz2salG5kxq>

Energy Policy: The media aren't paying much attention, but in recent weeks Europe has decided to run, not walk, as fast as it can away from the economic menace of green energy.

That's right, the same Europeans who used to chastise us for not signing the Kyoto climate change treaty, not passing a carbon tax and dooming the planet to catastrophic global warming.

In Brussels last month, European leaders agreed to scrap per-nation caps on carbon emissions. The EU countries — France, Germany, Italy and Spain — had promised a 40% reduction in emissions by 2030 (and 80% by 2050!). Now those caps won't apply to individual nations.

Brussels calls this new policy "flexibility." Right. More like "never mind," and here's why: The new German economic minister, Sigmar Gabriel, says green energy mandates have become such an albatross around the neck of industry that they could lead to a "deindustrialization" of Germany.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said earlier this year that overreliance on renewable energy could cause "a problem in terms of energy supply" — and she's always described herself as a green politician and a champion of these programs.

But green dreams have collided with cold economic reality. Green programs aren't creating green jobs but green unemployment at intolerable double-digit rates. The quip in economically exhausted Europe these days is that before we save the planet, we have to save ourselves.

Now European leaders are admitting quietly that they want to get into the game of fracking and other new drilling technologies that have caused an explosion of oil and gas production in the U.S.

According to energy expert Daniel Yergin, if Europe wants to remain competitive, these nations must tap the fountain of abundant and cheap shale gas and oil. He recently wrote that European leaders now realize a major factor behind the economic woes in euroland is that electric power costs are "two to three times more expensive" than in the U.S.

Consider the price of natural gas in the U.S. vs. other nations in the chart below. U.S. prices are about three to four times lower, and in states like Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania this is causing a renaissance in manufacturing. German engineering and manufacturing firms are looking to relocate to the U.S. where power costs are lower.

The Frack Advantage	
Natural gas prices in Europe far exceed North America's	
Per million BTU in December	
1. Japan	\$16.75
2. Germany	11.03
3. United Kingdom	9.46
4. United States	3.50
5. Canada	2.27

Source: Energy Information Administration, 2013

What's amazing about this story is that so few American politicians get it. President Obama talked in his State of the Union speech about doubling renewable energy output over the coming years. Mr. President, these are exactly the goals the Europeans are abandoning. Why chase the losers?

Why not try a different approach to energy policy? Get rid of all taxpayer subsidies for energy — oil, gas, wind and solar power, biofuels, electric-battery-operated cars and others — and create a true level playing field where every energy source competes on efficiency and cost rather than political/corporate favoritism?

The answer is that the green lobby knows it can't possibly compete on a level playing field. Not with natural gas at \$4 and 150 years' worth of this power source in Appalachia's Marcellus shale basin and more out West.

The Europeans made nearly a \$100 billion wrong bet on renewable energy, and their economies and citizens have taken a big hit. Now they've awakened to their mistakes. The shame is Washington is still slumbering.

The Church of Global Warming Hearts Communism

EPAAbuse.com, January 17, 2014

http://epaabuse.com/15348/news/church-global-warming-hearts-communism/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=church-global-warming-hearts-communism&utm_source=EPA+Abuse&utm_campaign=80b4424f1e-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bdf7c53c9e-80b4424f1e-305309409




Quick show of hands: who's surprised to learn the global warming fanatics think communism is super-awesome?

Oh, I know what you're thinking, People Who Have Your Hands Down. You've seen what communist countries look like. They're absolute environmental disasters, horrifying wastelands of garbage and toxic pollution. You're wondering how anyone could possibly review the history of communism and come to the conclusion that it's a political philosophy that leads to wise stewardship of the planet.

You need to switch off your critical thinking skills, People Who Have Your Hands Down, and master the crucial global warming skill of ignoring evidence that contradicts your ideology. That's what this scam has been all about since the beginning. Ignore 70 percent of the data, declare what remains "science," and treat anyone who disagrees as the moral equivalent of a Holocaust denier. If you don't actually look at communist China, whose capital is currently enveloped in a choking cloud of pollution that's literally driving people off the streets, you can come to the ideologically motivated conclusion that they're the best little global warming fighters on the whole planet.

Why Weather Affects Climate Change Belief

 *By Stephanie Pappas, Senior Writer, January 13, 2014*
<http://news.yahoo.com/why-weather-affects-climate-change-belief-171650579.html>

When frigid temperatures set much of the country shivering last week, pundits took the opportunity to scoff at the concept of climate change.

"This very expensive [GLOBAL WARMING](#) bull**** has got to stop," Donald Trump tweeted. "Our planet is freezing, record low temps, and our GW scientists are stuck in ice."

The final comment referred to an Antarctic research vessel that got stuck in ice driven by high winds in late December.

Researchers rushed to point out that despite the short-term cold, [winters have been getting warmer](#), on average (and that Australia is currently in the grips of a brutal heat wave). But the weather-related denial of global warming is a pernicious pattern that troubles climate scientists: When the weather is hot, the public believes more in climate change. When it's cold, people shrug off their concerns.

"It's striking that society has spent so much time and effort educating people about this issue, yet people's beliefs can shift so easily," said Lisa Zaval, a graduate student in psychology at Columbia University in New York. [[8 Ways Global Warming is Already Changing the World](#)]

The root of the problem

Zaval is the lead author of a new study that delves into why the weather so easily sways people's climate beliefs. It turns out that when making decisions, people tend to lean on the most accessible information available — even when that information is not particularly accurate or relevant.

According to an April 2013 poll by Gallup, 58 percent of Americans worry a fair or great deal about climate change, and 57 percent say they believe climate change is caused by human activities. But 41 percent say that the scientific and media message about climate change is largely exaggerated.

But belief shifts with the seasons. In June 2013, after a cold winter in the United States, 63 percent of Americans [believed in global warming](#), according to a survey by the National Surveys on Energy and Environment (NSEE). In the fall before that brutal winter, 67 percent believed.

A number of studies have looked at climate change opinion and found that the weather (or simply a person's perception of the weather) influences how concerned people are about a warming world, Zaval told LiveScience. She and her colleagues wanted to find out why.

To do so, they conducted a series of surveys. At first, they thought the phrasing of the question might make a difference. People might be more swayed by the [weather](#) if asked about "global warming," which triggers thoughts of temperature, versus the more neutral "climate change."

A study of 686 people given identical surveys with only those terms swapped out revealed no differences, however. The warmer the day, the more likely the respondents were to be concerned about both "climate change" and "global warming."

Perhaps the effect is caused by a lack of knowledge, the researchers reasoned. If people mistakenly believe weather and climate are the same thing, they might be unduly swayed by the local forecast. To test the idea, Zaval and her colleagues gave 330 people surveys on their climate change beliefs. Half of the surveys included a paragraph on the difference between short-term weather and long-term climate change.

Unfortunately, even educating respondents made no difference. The current weather continued to influence their climate concerns. [[Weather vs. Climate: Test Yourself](#)]

Uncovering an answer

Finally, the researchers tested a third hypothesis. What if today's weather makes similar days more accessible in people's memory? If it's hot and humid, for example, someone might be primed to recall other hot, humid days. If it's cold and blustery, perhaps sunshine and heat are hard to bring to mind.

The researchers conducted another survey of 300 more people. This time, participants completed sentence-scrambling tasks before answering the climate questions. The sentences they were asked to unscramble either had to do with heat, cold or a neutral topic.

The respondents who focused on heat-related sentences before thinking about climate change became more concerned about [global warming](#), the researchers found.

A further series of surveys cemented the findings. People who believed that the current weather was unusually warm also believed that a greater percentage of days over the previous year had been hotter than average, compared with people who thought it was cool outside.

This priming effect could explain why the current weather is so influential. As people consider their own experience while mulling over their climate change concerns, their memories return weather similar to that given day's. In essence, a hotter day makes all the days in the past seem hotter, too. A cooler day makes every other day feel a bit chillier.

The researchers aren't sure whether this local weather effect extends across the political spectrum (conservatives are [less likely than liberals](#) to believe that climate change is a problem). Nor are they sure how to deal with people's biases, given that public opinion shapes public policy on climate change.

"Unfortunately, we have not found a method to combat this effect," Zaval said.

The researchers reported their findings Sunday (Jan. 12) in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

Tough days for the "Global Warming" theory supporters

MELMAN MINUTE – December 11th, 2013

By Leonard Melman

<http://www.themelmanreport.com/minutes/minute1018.html>

These are increasingly tough days for the "Global Warming" theory supporters. Not only has North America seen two virtually non-existent hurricane seasons in a row, but yesterday it was announced that the world's lowest temperature record was shattered, not once, but twice.

The previous cold record was set in 1983 at a station in Antarctica named Vostok when a temperature of -89.2 C (-128.6 F) was recorded. New data satellite data confirmed by the National Snow and Ice Data Center shows that in August of 2010, a new record low of -94.7 C (-135.8 F) was set. Their data showed that the previous cold record was also exceeded in 2010 with a new record low at that time of -92.9C (-132.4F).

I wonder exactly how Al Gore and David Suzuki can explain away this new information which appears to fly directly into the face of their cherished positions.

In terms of the world of metals mining, perhaps this new development will give some of the over-regulating bureaucracies pause for second thoughts and thereby (hopefully?) lead to the removal of some obstacles to the efficient and cost-effective development of resources.

Al Gore Forecasted “Ice-Free” Arctic by 2013; Ice Cover Expands 50%

Written by Alex Newman, New American, 18 December 2013

<http://www.thenewamerican.com/tech/environment/item/17207-al-gore-forecasted-ice-free-arctic-by-2013-ice-cover-expands-50>



Self-styled “global-warming” guru Al Gore (shown) and a gaggle of supposed “climate scientists” have egg all over their faces — big time. In 2007, 2008 and 2009, Gore publicly and very hysterically [warned](#) that the North Pole would be “ice-free” by around 2013 because of alleged “man-made global warming.” Citing “climate” experts, the government-funded BBC hyped the mass hysteria, running a now-embarrassing article under the headline: “[Arctic summers ice-free ‘by 2013’.](#)” Other establishment media outlets did the same.

Well, 2013 is almost over, and contrary to the alarmist “[predictions](#)” by Gore and what critics refer to as his “doomsday cult,” the [latest satellite data](#) show that Arctic ice cover has actually expanded 50 percent over 2012 levels. In fact, during October, sea-ice levels [grew at the fastest pace](#) since records began in 1979. Experts predict the expansion to continue in the years to come, leaving

global-warming alarmists scrambling fiendishly for explanations to save face — and to revive the rapidly melting climate hysteria.

In September, meanwhile, data also showed that sea ice levels in Antarctica had [expanded to record levels for the second year in a row](#). Of course, by now, virtually everyone who has been following news about “global warming” — now more often referred to as “climate change” owing to public-relations concerns — also knows that [global temperatures have not risen for some 17 years](#). The spectacular lack of warming demolished all 73 of the “climate models” used by the United Nations to push its controversial theories.

According to the dubious theories and predictions advanced by Al Gore and other alarmists, though, none of this should be happening. Speaking to an audience in Germany five years ago, Gore — sometimes ridiculed as “The Goracle” — alleged that “the entire North Polarized [sic] cap will disappear in 5 years.” While the original video of that particular failed prediction appears to have been scrubbed from the Internet, conservative bloggers managed to track down [the same footage](#) from other sources. “Five years,” Gore emphasized again, is “the period of time during which it is now expected to disappear.”

The following year, Gore made similar claims at a [UN “climate” summit in Copenhagen](#). “Some of the models ... suggest that there is a 75 percent chance that the entire north polar ice cap, during some of the summer months, could be completely ice-free within the next five to seven years,” Gore claimed in 2009. “We will find out.” Indeed, the bogus prediction appears wildly off the mark, to put it mildly, but the establishment press and Gore apparently do not want the world to find out.

In fairness, Gore was hardly the only hysterical climate-doomsday proponent to be left looking foolish. In December of 2007, the BBC highlighted alleged “modeling studies” that supposedly “indicate northern polar waters could be ice-free in summers within just 5-6 years.” Incredibly, some of the supposed “experts” even claimed it could happen before then, citing calculations performed by “super computers” that the BBC noted “has become a standard part of climate science in recent years.”

“Our projection of 2013 for the removal of ice in summer is not accounting for the last two minima, in 2005 and 2007,” claimed Professor Wieslaw Maslowski, described as researcher from the Naval Postgraduate School who was working with co-workers at NASA to come up with the now-thoroughly discredited forecasts about polar ice. “So given that fact, you can argue that may be [sic]

our projection of 2013 is already too conservative.” Other “experts” quoted in the BBC article agreed with the hysteria.

In the real world, however, the scientific evidence demolishing the global-warming theories advanced by Gore, the UN, and government-funded “climate scientists” continues to grow, along with the ice cover in both hemispheres. In the Arctic, for example, data collected by Europe’s Cryosat spacecraft pointed to about 9,000 cubic kilometers of ice at the end of the 2013 melt season. In 2012, which was admittedly a low year, the total volume was about 6,000 cubic kilometers — some 50 percent less than the 2013 total. Polar bear populations are thriving, too.

Across the southern hemisphere, the data have proved even more devastating to what supposed “climate scientists” were caught referring to as their “cause” in the deeply embarrassing [ClimateGate e-mails](#). First, the figures from 2012 showed a record high level of sea-ice cover — more than at any point since records began in 1978. This year set another new record, with ice covering more than 19.5 million square kilometers of ocean around Antarctica by September.

Around the world, meanwhile, record low temperatures continue to make a mockery of “global warming” theories. While anecdotal, to be sure, Cairo, Egypt, just saw its [first snowfall in more than 100 years](#). In the United States there have been [thousands of new records](#) for cold temperatures and snowfalls just in the month of December. In an extremely bizarre twist, some “climate scientists” have even started claiming that the freezing temperatures are actually more evidence of “global warming.”

To explain the universally acknowledged lack of warming over the last 17 years in defiance of all UN climate theories, government-funded “climate scientists” and the UN have increasingly touted what critics ridicule as “The Theory of The Ocean Ate My Global Warming.” Under [heavy political pressure from the Obama administration and other governments](#), the UN ran with the theory, despite the lack of any observable evidence to suggest the deep ocean is actually eating the UN’s predicted global warming.

Appearing [increasingly detached from reality](#) to independent scientists, the UN claimed in its latest global-warming report [to be 95 percent sure](#) that human emissions of carbon dioxide were to blame for rising temperatures. Those claims, now widely laughed at around the world, were made despite the fact that every single one of its computer models has been entirely discredited by the lack of warming for the last 17 years. Many experts are now even [predicting global cooling](#).

Top scientists and experts around the world — even many who have served on the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — have been [ridiculing the global outfit and its discredited “climate” report](#). Most governments and dictators, however, continue playing along with what some experts call the climate “charade” or “hoax,” mostly due to built-in incentives and taxpayer funds that help perpetuate the unjustified alarmism.

For third-world dictators, the goal appears to be [securing trillions in Western taxpayer money](#) under the guise of “climate” reparations and “justice.” For governments ruling wealthier nations, the end-game seems to be carbon taxes and a [planetary “climate” regime with unprecedented powers over humanity](#). Assembled in Warsaw for the latest UN climate summit, even as the implosion of the “science” behind global-warming theories was [accelerating](#), member regimes [agreed to finalize a global climate treaty by 2015](#).

Polls show that despite hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars squandered on global-warming alarmism, the American public still refuses to widely accept the man-made warming theories advanced by an increasingly discredited UN and its allies. A September Rasmussen survey of likely voters, for example, [found](#) that just 43 percent of likely U.S. voters believe alleged “global warming” is caused by human activity. About the same number believe it is not.

Despite vicious attacks and threats — some of it exposed in the [ClimateGate scandal](#) — scientists are [increasingly jumping off the sinking “climate” ship](#) as well. Even some major governments are working to rein in the out-of-control alarmism, with authorities in Australia, elected in a landslide earlier this year, promising to [liberate the nation from “carbon taxes” while quashing](#) much of the taxpayer-funded “global-warming” juggernaut. Calls for prosecuting “fraud” by “climate scientists” are growing, too.

So far, despite hyping the absurd claims five years ago, the establishment press has failed to inform its dwindling readership that Al Gore and his fellow alarmists were proven embarrassingly wrong. No apologies have been forthcoming from Gore, either, and none of the “scientists” who made the ridiculous predictions has apologized or lost his U.S. taxpayer-funded job. In fact, almost unbelievably, the establishment press is now [parroting](#) new claims from the same discredited “experts” suggesting that the Arctic will be “ice-free” by 2016.

As Gore put it in 2009, “We will find out.”



Finding Climate Change

Vox Day , [Absolute Rights Contributor](http://www.absoluterights.com/finding-climate-change/), January 1, 2014
<http://www.absoluterights.com/finding-climate-change/>

There are some who doubt that God exists. They obviously haven't been paying much attention to the events at the South Pole, where the MV Akademik Schokalskiy was carrying a group of true believers in the gospel of Al Gore to document environmental changes there. For we now know beyond any shadow of a doubt that God not only exists, but has a rather puckish sense of humor.

As it happens, the MV Akademik Schokalskiy will not reach its destination. The "climate scientists" on board are unable to reach the century-old base camp of Douglas Mawson and observe how the climate has changed because their ship is stuck in so much ice that one icebreaker after another has been unable to break through to them.

"The scientists have been stuck aboard the stricken MV Akademik Schokalskiy since Christmas Day, with repeated sea rescue attempts being abandoned as icebreaking ships failed to reach them. Now that effort has been ditched, with experts admitting the ice is just too thick. Instead the crew have built an icy helipad, with plans afoot to rescue the 74-strong team by helicopter."

It will be interesting to see if the scientists, led by one Chris Turney, is capable of observing that the climate has indeed changed now that the Chinese icebreaker, Snow Dragon, was unable to even get within five miles of the trapped ship. One would assume that if it was possible to reach the camp by sea one hundred years ago, but the camp is no longer accessible due to the expanding ice cap, the obvious conclusion is that the climate has changed for the colder.

I'm afraid it is unlikely, though. One hallmark of modern science is its amazing ability to ignore any observations that don't confirm its hypotheses. The failed mission to the South Pole is only the latest embarrassment for climate science, and appears that more embarrassments will follow because the climate scientists don't seem inclined to abandon their insistence that the Earth is getting warmer no matter how cold it gets.



At this point, one gets the impression that even if glaciers were to cover Canada and begin to ice over the northern United States, the climate scientists would still claim that this unexpected turn of events was merely a momentary pause before the imminent boiling of the planet.

The scientific team on the icebound MV Akademik Schokalskiy have discovered climate change. They just haven't recognized it yet. Is it any wonder that God laughs at the foolishness of Man?

Ship of Fools—What Happened to Global Warming?

By Kelly OConnell, Canada Free Press, January 6, 2014
<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/60256>

Always a theory at risk of imminent exposure, Man-made Global Warming (AGW—*Anthropomorphic* Global Warming), we should be surprised that AGW lasted as long as it did. For Global Warming is popular, anecdotal “science,” wholly dependent upon the credulity and popular support of the masses. In fact, Global Warming is no different than phrenology, the notion that bumps in the skull determine personality.

The theory behind Global Warming is that the rise in atmospheric carbon would inexorably lead to a rise in global temperature. One attractive aspect of this theory is that it is so large its almost impossible to verify. Yet one easy proof was needed—overall, global temperatures had to rise, on average. But, when this did not occur, the Global Warming crew had to argue that it was not warming,

but climate change which was the issue. Yet, this created a problem of there being no way to prove Global Warming, any longer. And a science, without proof, is no science at all.

Yet, it took an academic scandal, in the release of private emails from East Anglia University, to cast doubts on the intentions of the experts. Once the emails were hacked, the public began to realize all was not as it seemed. Instead of neutral and high-minded scientists, toiling in happy obscurity, letting the facts lead where they would, something else appeared to be afoot. Instead of pure science, a seething hotbed of politics, publicity, power and ego boiled beneath the surface, like a madman's laboratory.

Read the entire article at: <http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/60256>

Global warming scientists forced to admit defeat... because of too much ice: Stranded Antarctic ship's crew will be rescued by helicopter

- **Chris Turney, a climate scientist and leader of the expedition, was going to document 'environmental changes' at the pole**
- **In an interview he said he expected melting ice to play a part in expedition**
- **MV Akademik Schokalskiy still stuck among thick ice sheet 1,500 nautical miles south of Hobart, the Tasmanian capital**
- **Called for help at 5am Christmas morning after becoming submerged in ice**
- **Australia's back-up ship, Aurora Australis could not break through**

By [Mia De Graaf](#) and [Hayley O'keeffe](#), 30 December 2013

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2531159/Antarctic-crew-build-ice-helipad-help-rescuers.html>

They went in search evidence of the world's melting ice caps, but instead a team of climate scientists have been forced to abandon their mission ... because the Antarctic ice is thicker than usual at this time of year.

The scientists have been stuck aboard the stricken MV Akademik Schokalskiy since Christmas Day, with repeated sea rescue attempts being abandoned as icebreaking ships failed to reach them.

Now that effort has been ditched, with experts admitting the ice is just too thick. Instead the crew have built an icy helipad, with plans afoot to rescue the 74-strong team by helicopter.



This image, taken by passenger Andrew Peacock, shows the ship MV Akademik Shokalskiy still stuck in the ice off East Antarctica, as it waits to be rescued



A thin fresh coat of snow on the trapped ship



Australian Green Party Senator-elect Janet Rice up early doing some stretching on the top deck of the MV Akademik Shokalskiy

The expedition is being lead by Chris Turney, a climate scientist, who was hoping to reach the base camp of Douglas Mawson, one of the most famous Antarctic explorers, and repeat observations done by him in 1912 to see what impact climate change had made.

It is thought that the group, which includes scientific researchers and a journalist, will now be able to escape by air after two sea rescues failed.

Australian icebreaker Aurora Australis was unable to reach them because it was not strong enough to break through.

A top-of-the-range Chinese icebreaker, the Snow Dragon ('Xue Long'), was deployed earlier in the week, and hoped to reach the ship by saturday.

However just after midnight on Friday it too got stuck just six nautical miles from the ship.



The Chinese icebreaker Xuelong - meaning Snow Dragon - was deployed to rescue the Russian science ship



However just before midnight on Friday Captain Wang Jianzhong's ship (pictured) also became trapped



Scientists on board the Xuelong, including Liu Shunlin (left), are now studying the condition of the Russian ship while they wait to be freed themselves



A photograph sent in by the captain of the Russian ship suggests that the two vessels can actually see each other, albeit as a tiny speck on the horizon

The Academic Shokalskiy set off from New Zealand on November 28 to recreate a 100-year-old Australasia expedition first sailed by Sir Douglas Mawson to see how the journey changes using new technology and equipment.

But on Wednesday morning, the boat hit a mass of thick ice sheets and today remains at a stand still.

Chris Turney, an Australian professor who helped organise the voyage on the Russian ship, yesterday posted a photograph on Twitter apparently showing the Chinese vessel, a speck on the horizon beyond an expanse of ice.



Today, passengers waved as a helicopter sent from China's retreated Snow Dragon flew by to check the snow levels. Australia's back-up vessel, the Aurora Australis, is expected to arrive tonight but if that fails, helicopters may be sent to the rescue



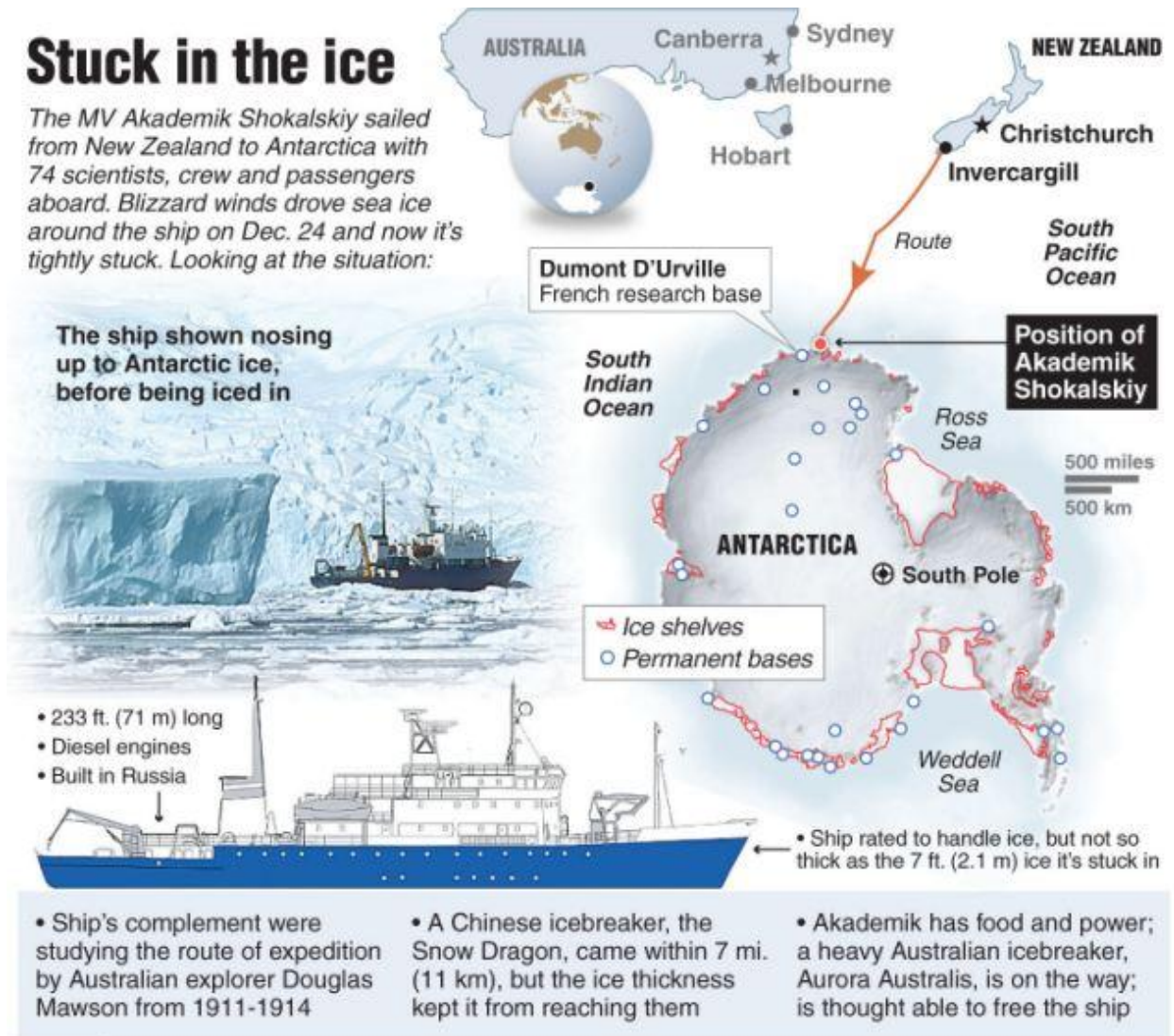
The 26 researchers on board have managed to get messages out saying they are well-stocked and continuing their research despite being trapped in five metres of ice sheets 1,500 miles south of Tasmanian capital Hobart



Failed: This picture, tweeted by passenger Chris Turney, shows the top-of-the-range icebreaker, China's 'Snow Dragon' which also got stuck and was forced to retreat on Friday

Stuck in the ice

The MV Akademik Shokalskiy sailed from New Zealand to Antarctica with 74 scientists, crew and passengers aboard. Blizzard winds drove sea ice around the ship on Dec. 24 and now it's tightly stuck. Looking at the situation:



Source: AP, The Age, Maritime News, University of New South Wales

Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2013 MCT

'Everyone well,' Turney added.

He said trying to break through ice that was too thick would be 'like driving your car into a brick wall'.

Just before 5am on Wednesday, Australia deployed The Snow Dragon to free the group into open water.

French vessel L'Astrolabe was sent out for back up, alongside Australia's Aurora Australis, which is carrying food and first aid professionals.

After two days being stranded, passengers hoped to be rescued by the Snow Dragon as it powered through horrific conditions.

Unique view from deck of ship TRAPPED in Antarctic ice



Russia's Academic Shokalskiy is recreating Mawson's 100-year-old Australasia expedition using new tools



Blizzards could hamper the rescue mission, but the ship is well-stocked and the scientists are continuing their research on the snow around them

But on Friday the heavy winds became too great, and built up an impenetrable pile of snow.

Academic Shokalskiy, an ice-strengthened ship built in 1982, was originally used for oceanographic research before being refurbished to be used as a passenger vessel in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Marooned 1,500 nautical miles south of Hobart - the capital of the Australian state of Tasmania - the thick ice sheets built up during a bout of severe wind.

The Russian embassy in Australia has been in constant contact with the captain and said everyone on board was in good health and there was 'no threat to their lives or safety'.

On board are scientists from the University of New South Wales, a journalist from The Guardian and dozens of tourists who have paid to be part of the recreation of Mawson's expedition.

The research team has made contact with local stations from the Commonwealth Bay to say they are well-stocked with food.



The ship had been on a multi-day tour from New Zealand to visit several sites along the edge of Antarctica before getting trapped in sea ice



France's L'Astrobe, also been deployed to save the ship, has now turned back



Bleak: The ship has been stranded in the barren, frozen landscape since Christmas

'We all know that there's a possibility of this becoming quite a protracted sit and wait,' said Andrew Peacock, a passenger onboard the Akademik Shokalskiy, speaking via satellite phone.

'I think people are just looking at that next step when that second icebreaker arrives.

'We really are just hoping that the two powerful icebreaker ships will provide the breakage of ice that we need.'

However, he said the ice floes appear to have built up dramatically overnight.

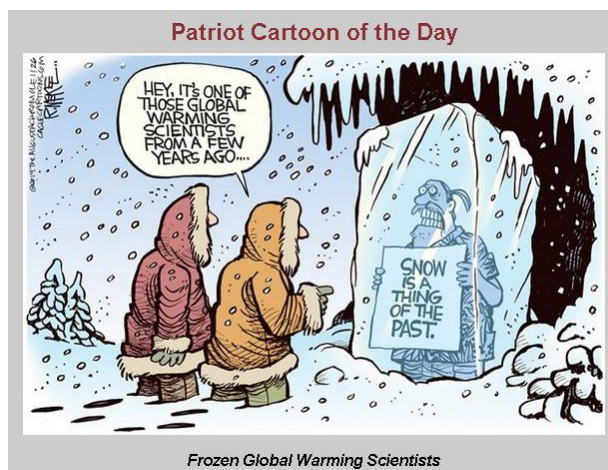
They are also continuing their research while stranded by testing the temperature of the surrounding ice sheets.

A spokesman for Australia's Maritime Safety Authority told Australia's Associated Press: 'It is quite a remote part of the world, but we have everyone safe. The vessel isn't in any immediate danger.'

The spokesman said the ship was visiting a number of sites along the edge of Antarctica.

One has managed to send a tweet.

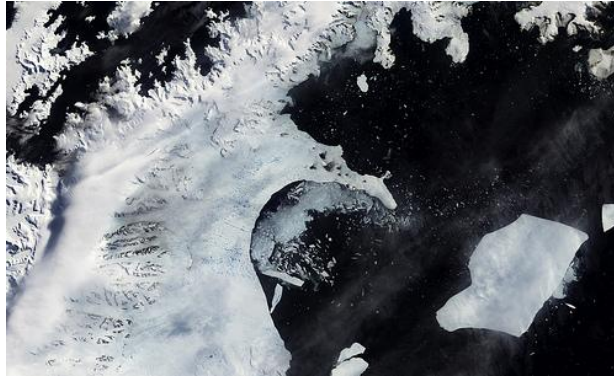
Chris Turney, of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, wrote: 'Heavy ice. Beautiful; light wind. Only -1degC. All well. Merry Xmas everyone from AAE.'



Everything You Know About Antarctic Ice Shelf Melting Is Wrong

Lewis Page , The A Register, January 3, 2014

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2014/01/03/antarctic_ice_shelf_melt_lowest_ever_recorded_just_not_much_affected_by_global_warming/



Scientists at the British Antarctic Survey say that the melting of the Pine Island Glacier ice shelf in Antarctica has suddenly slowed right down in the last few years, confirming earlier research which suggested that the shelf's melt does not result from human-driven global warming.

The Pine Island Glacier in West Antarctica and its associated sea ice shelf is closely watched: this is because unlike most of the sea ice around the austral continent, its melt rate has seemed to be accelerating quickly since scientists first began seriously studying it in the 1990s.

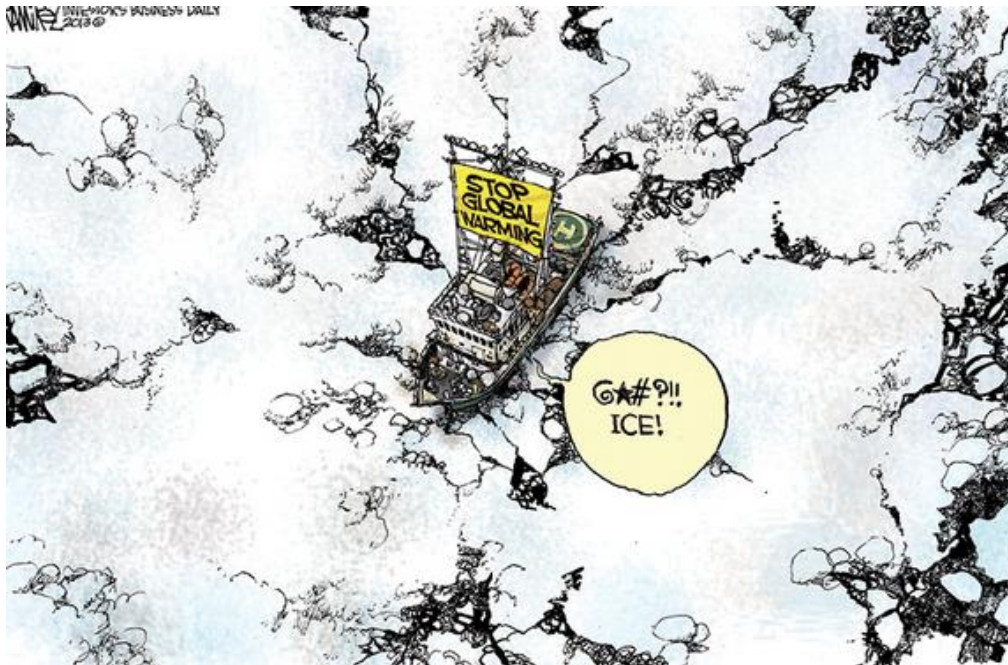
Many researchers had suggested that this was due to human-driven global warming, which appeared to be taking place rapidly at that time (though it has since [gone on hold for 15 years or so](#), a circumstance which science is still assimilating).

However back in 2009 the British Antarctic Survey sent its Autosub robot probe under the shelf (famously powered by some 5,000 ordinary alkaline D-cell batteries on each trip beneath the ice, getting through no less than four tonnes of them during the research). The Autosub survey revealed that a previously unknown marine ridge lay below the shelf, over which the icepack had for millennia been forced to grind its way en route to the ocean. However in relatively recent times the ice had finally so ground down the ridge that the sea could flow in between shelf and ridge, freeing the ice to move much faster and warming it too.

As we [reported at the time](#), this caused BAS boffins to suggest that the observed accelerating ice flow and melt seen since the '90s was actually a result of the ridge's erosion and sea ingress, rather than global warming.

[Read the entire article at The Register](#)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2014/01/03/antarctic_ice_shelf_melt_lowest_ever_recorded_just_not_much_affected_by_global_warming/



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