

2010

Roy W. Spencer: The Bad Science and Bad Policy of Obama's Global Warming Agenda Study Guide

Steven Alan Samson

Liberty University, ssamson@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs

 Part of the [Other Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#), [Political Science Commons](#), and the [Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Samson, Steven Alan, "Roy W. Spencer: The Bad Science and Bad Policy of Obama's Global Warming Agenda Study Guide" (2010). *Faculty Publications and Presentations*. 347.

http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs/347

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Helms School of Government at DigitalCommons@Liberty University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Liberty University. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunication@liberty.edu.

ROY W. SPENCER: THE BAD SCIENCE AND BAD POLICY OF OBAMA'S GLOBAL WARMING AGENDA STUDY GUIDE, 2010 Steven Alan Samson

Outline

- A. INTRODUCTION (1-2)
 - 1. Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia
 - a. Leaked e-mails ("**Climategate**"): mid-November 2009
 - 2. **Kyoto Protocol**
 - a. **Copenhagen** meeting, December 2009: No agreement on binding targets
 - 3. **Anthropogenic Global Warming** (AGW)
- B. THE PUTATIVE REASONS FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (2-5)
 - 1. Ostensible Goal
 - a. Reduced consumption of carbon-based fuels
 - b. Carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas
 - 2. **Earth's Natural Greenhouse Effect**
 - a. Radiative lid
 - 3. Warming Tendency
 - a. Question of **sensitivity**
- C. ENERGY IS REQUIRED FOR EVERYTHING WE DO (5-9)
 - 1. Fossil Fuels
 - 2. Most Effective Way of Reducing Greenhouse Emissions: Cease All Economic Activity
 - a. Not a practical option
 - b. Industrial revolution in China and India
 - c. Huge developing markets
 - 3. Alternative Forms of Energy
 - a. A century of problem solving
 - b. It is not just an engineering problem to be solved
 - 4. **Fossil Fuels**: Stored Forms of Concentrated Energy [cf. Gold and Silver as Storehouses of Value in an Economy]
 - 5. Solar and Wind: More Diffuse and Intermittent Forms of Energy
 - 6. Hydroelectric Power: This Earlier Trend Is Reversing
 - 7. **Nuclear Power**: Greatest Potential
 - 8. Depletion of Fossil Fuel Reserves
- D. FORCING A REDUCTION IN FOSSIL-FUEL USE (9-16)
 - 1. **Al Gore**: Climate crisis
 - 2. Necessity of International Agreements
 - a. Command and control mechanisms
 - 3. Free Market Already Encourages Energy Efficiency
 - 4. Issue of Waste
 - a. Some efficiency gains can be made
 - b. Insulation, fuel economy
 - c. Upfront costs
 - 5. Energy Efficiency Savings Will Be Small Compared with Total Energy Needs
 - 6. If the Cause of Global Warming Is Anthropogenic, Then Reductions in Our Production of Carbon Dioxide Are Needed
 - 7. **2009 EPA Ruling**
 - a. Potential Regulation on Large Greenhouse Gas Emitters under the Clean Air Act
 - 8. Tax on Carbon Dioxide Emissions
 - a. Public resistance
 - b. Indirect method would be to cap emissions

9. **Cap-and-Trade** Scheme [Selling of Carbon Credit in the Marketplace]
 - a. Emissions Trading System (ETS)
 - b. Unpopularity of the idea except among those who expect to profit
 10. Danger: Encouragement of Dubious Financial Transactions
 - a. Opportunities for gaming the system
 11. **Selling Carbon Allowances:** Selling of Carbon Credits (cf. Indulgences)
 - a. Means of paying for new health care legislation
 - b. More inefficient and obscure form of a carbon tax
 - c. Increased costs will be passed along to the consumer
 12. Consequence: **Outsourcing of Businesses**
 - a. Example of California
- E. THE PUTATIVE REASONS FOR THE GREEN JOBS ILLUSION (16-18)
1. The Illusion of Green Jobs in a Green Economy
 2. Production Is More Important
 - a. Result: increased energy requirement and decreased efficiency
 3. **Green Energy:** Expensive and Insufficient
 - a. It cannot practically replace more than a small fraction of electricity from current sources
 - b. Issue of Storage and recovery
 4. Some Petroleum Companies Have Begun Pandering to Public Misconceptions
- F. THE ALTERNATIVE TO LEGISLATION (18-20)
1. Let the **Free Market** Work
 - a. Rising prices
 2. Spur to the Development of Alternatives
 3. Research and Development
 4. Harm to the Economy May Delay Development of Alternatives
 - a. R&D gets scaled back during an economic downturn
- G. THE DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS OF GLOBAL WARMING (20-25)
1. Al Gore's Claim That the Scientific Debate Is Over
 - a. Fear of any human impact on the climate system
 2. Gore's *Inconvenient Truth*
 3. What Was Conveniently Left Out
 - a. Glaciers and ice sheets are **dynamic systems**
 4. **Hurricanes**
 - a. Vulnerability of New Orleans
 - b. No long-term upward trend in hurricane activity
 5. Tornado Activity
 6. Higher Global Average Temperature
 - a. Possible exaggeration but probable significant temperature rise
 - b. IPCC claims that warming is "unequivocal"
 7. Issue of Causation by Human Activities
 8. Quickness to Assume Causation
 - a. Religious nature of the belief
- H. THE RELIGIOUS NATURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE BELIEFS (25-28)
1. Hypothetical Question
 2. Quasi-Religious **Assumption of a Delicate Balance:** Belief in a **Preferred Level** of Carbon Dioxide
 3. Evidence of the Higher Value of **Carbon Dioxide**
 - a. Benefits to plant growth and marine life
 4. Seductive Angst about Anthropogenic Harm
[cf. Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Emile*: "Everything is good as it leaves the hands of the author of things; everything degenerates in the hands of man"].
 5. Life for Much of the World Is "Dirty, Smelly, Difficult – and Short" [Allusion to the State of Nature Assumed by Thomas Hobbes]
 6. This Belief System Has Led to a Strongly Biased Body of Scientific Research
 - a. Narrow focus and incompleteness of the investigation

- b. Hypothesis development has stopped
- I. WHAT SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS? (28-30)
 - 1. **Purpose of the IPCC**
 - 2. Role of the Scientists
 - 3. Unsupported and Equivocal Findings
 - 4. What Sort of “Consensus”?
 - a. Skeptics Are Not Global Warming Deniers
 - 5. The Irony: The **Alarmists** Deny That Natural Climate Change Exists
- J. THE MISSING SCIENCE OF GLOBAL WARMING (30-33)
 - 1. Nature of Scientific “Truth”
 - a. Einstein on falsification [Karl Popper focused on falsifiability rather than verification]
 - 2. Absence of Sufficiently Accurate Long-Term Measurements
 - 3. Good Records of Carbon Dioxide Increase for the Last Half Century
 - a. Assumed climate system **sensitivity**
 - b. Alternative Supposition: Natural warming in past indicates an insensitive climate system
 - c. Alternative Conclusion: Natural warming has already ended
 - 4. What the IPCC Has Ignored: IPCC Has Ruled Out Obvious External Influences as the Mechanisms of Climate Change
 - 5. Other Potential Sources of Warming Are Ignored
 - 6. The Most Commonly Held Belief—That Warming Is Part of a Natural Cycle—May Be Proved Correct
- K. REWRITING CLIMATE HISTORY (34-36)
 - 1. Temperature Proxies Show Fluctuations
 - a. **Medieval Warm Period**
 - b. End of the **Little Ice Age**
 - 2. “Hockey Stick” Reconstruction of Temperatures
 - 3. **Hockey Stick** Shape Forced into the Data Analysis
 - a. Doubts about the results
 - b. Collusion against opposing views
 - 4. Claims That Our Present Warmth Is Unprecedented Are Mere Conjectures
 - a. But convenient for those who are intent on regulating global energy use
- L. THE PUSH TO ACT NOW (36-38)
 - 1. APW Is a Slow Process
 - a. Average future rate
 - 2. Why Such a Strong Push Now? The Reader Must Ponder These Matters
 - 3. Bottom Line: All Pain for Minimal Gain
 - 4. No Currently Available Large-Scale Replacements for **Fossil Fuels**
 - 5. Let the Free Market Handle the Solution

Review

Kyoto Protocol	Anthropogenic Global Warming	natural greenhouse effect
sensitivity	alternative forms of energy	fossil fuels
nuclear power	Al Gore	2009 EPA ruling
Cap-and-Trade	outsourcing of businesses	problems with green energy
free market approach	natural systems are dynamic	hurricanes and tornados
assumption: a delicate balance	value of carbon dioxide	purpose of the IPCC
Medieval Warm Period	Little Ice Age	hockey stick shape
importance of fossil fuels		