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

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# 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		