



Written by [William F. Jasper](#) on December 7, 2015

Published in the December 7, 2015 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 31, No. 23

## Correction, Please!

### Is Global Warming the Greatest Threat to National Security?



**The new enemy:** According to liberals such as Democratic presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), climate change is the new existential threat facing humanity, and it is behind terrorism and wars worldwide. (Photo credit: AP Images)

**Item:** During the November 14, 2015 presidential debate hosted by CBS, Senator Bernie Sanders was asked, "In the previous [debate] you said the greatest threat to national security was climate change. Do you still believe that?" To which Sanders responded, "Absolutely. In fact, climate change is directly related to the growth of terrorism. And if we do not get our act together and listen to what the scientists say you're gonna see countries all over the world — this is what the C.I.A. says, they're gonna be struggling over limited amounts of water, limited amounts of land to grow their crops. And you're gonna see all kinds of international conflict."

**Item:** In his November 16, 2015 op-ed for the New York Times, following the deadly Paris terror attacks, economist Paul Krugman stated, "Finally, terrorism is just one of many dangers in the world, and shouldn't be allowed to divert our attention from other issues. Sorry, conservatives: when President Obama describes climate change as the greatest threat we face, he's exactly right. Terrorism can't and won't destroy our civilization, but global warming could and might."

**Item:** In a speech delivered at Old Dominion University in Norfolk on November 10, Secretary of State John Kerry said global warming is a threat to national security. "We have to prepare ourselves for the potential social and political consequences that stem from crop failures, water shortages, famine and outbreaks of epidemic disease," he said. "And we have to heighten our national security readiness to deal with the possible destruction of vital infrastructure and the mass movement of refugees — particularly in parts of the world that already provide fertile ground for violent extremism and terror."

**Item:** President Obama opened his September 22, 2014 speech to the United Nations Climate Summit of world leaders in New York City declaring, "For all the immediate challenges that we gather to address this week — terrorism, instability, inequality, disease — there's one issue that will define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other, and that is the urgent and growing threat of a changing climate." During his 2015 State of the Union address, Obama said, "No challenge poses a



Written by [William F. Jasper](#) on December 7, 2015

Published in the December 7, 2015 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 31, No. 23

*greater threat to future generations than climate change."*

**Correction:** For the past several years, President Obama, UN bureaucrats, numerous public officials, Hollywood celebrities, and editorialists have claimed that global warming (aka climate change, climate disruption, extreme weather) is a "national security threat," an "existential threat," a "global security threat," or "the greatest threat" to humanity and the planet. Among other things, it is the cause (directly or indirectly) of terrorism, war, and conflict worldwide, the alarmist choir claims. Over the past year, as the UN Climate Change Summit in Paris has drawn nearer, the fright-peddling rhetoric over anthropogenic (man-made) global warming (AGW) has escalated dramatically.

"Global warming is the greatest threat to your generation of anything at all, across the board," Vice President Joe Biden told college students in Iowa. Obama's former secretary of defense Chuck Hagel called climate change "a threat multiplier" that "has the potential to exacerbate many of the challenges we are dealing with today — from infectious disease to terrorism."

In reference to the war, terrorism, and refugee crisis in Syria, Susan Rice, Obama's national security advisor, told an audience at Stanford University that "even if climate change isn't the spark that directly ignites conflict, it increases the size of the powder keg."

Likewise, Hillary Clinton blames AGW for the Syrian tragedy (which in reality she and her former boss, President Obama, helped foment). "Then we have to ask ourselves, 'Why is this happening?'" Clinton said at an Iowa town hall. "Because of terrible governance, because of corruption, because of conflict, because of climate change."

Susan Rice and others have specifically blamed drought, which they say is caused by AGW, for the "conflict" in Syria. AGW-caused drought is a frequently cited villain in the war-conflict-terrorism scenarios of the alarmists. However, as we have reported in these pages many times, numerous peer-reviewed studies in leading scientific journals have confirmed that there has been no increasing trend of "extreme weather" events — droughts, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires — in recent decades. In fact, the trends for all of these event categories have been downward, the exact opposite of the predictions produced by the computer models used by the alarmists.



Droughts, for instance, have been with us since time immemorial, as recorded in the Bible, other ancient literature, and the geological record. Zengchao Hao, et al., in their 2014 study "Global integrated drought monitoring and prediction system" in *Scientific Data*, show a decline in the global



Written by [William F. Jasper](#) on December 7, 2015

Published in the December 7, 2015 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 31, No. 23

---

land area under drought over the past 30 years. And a newer study, “Old World megadroughts and pluvials during the Common Era,” in the November 6, 2015 issue of the journal *Science Advances*, reports “megadroughts reconstructed over north-central Europe in the 11th and mid-15th centuries reinforce other evidence from North America and Asia that droughts were more severe, extensive, and prolonged over Northern Hemisphere land areas before the 20th century.” According to the study, the worst megadrought in the California and Nevada regions was from 832 to 1074 A.D., a period of 242 years. The worst drought in north-central Europe was from 1437 to 1473 A.D., lasting 37 years. These “extreme weather” events obviously occurred before the industrial era and therefore can’t reasonably be blamed on man-made CO<sub>2</sub>. Dr. Roger Pielke, Jr., a professor in the University of Colorado’s Environmental Studies Program and a fellow of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, in testimony to the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in 2013, summarized the evidence showing that droughts have “for the most part, become shorter, less frequent, and cover a smaller portion of the U.S. over the last century.”

But what about the hurricanes and tornadoes? The alarmists insist AGW-caused “superstorms” are causing, and will cause, increasing strife, war, conflict, and terrorism. Well, cyclonic activity has declined in recent years. Lord Christopher Monckton, former science advisor to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, noted in a May 21, 2015 column on the popular meteorology/climatology website [WattsUpWithThat.com](#) that “the Accumulated Cyclone Energy Index has shown the combined frequency, intensity, and duration of hurricanes and other tropical cyclones to have been at or near the lowest level in the satellite era over the past five years; there have now been seven or eight years without a major hurricane making landfall in the U.S., the longest hurricane deficit in more than a century; and even the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) admits that there has been no particular increase either in tropical or in extra-tropical storminess to date.”

A 2013 NOAA report, “NOAA/NCDC US Landfalling hurricanes,” by Harold Brooks, a research meteorologist with the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Oklahoma, found “the 12-month period from May 2012 to April 2013 was remarkable for the absence of tornado activity and tornado impacts in the United States.” The number and intensity of tornadoes, and the death tolls and damages caused by them, has been far greater in times past.

An extensive study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States* in 2011 found that times of war and conflict are more readily associated with periods of global cooling, not warming. The authors of the study wrote, “Results show that cooling from A.D. 1560-1660 caused successive agro-ecological, socioeconomic, and demographic catastrophes, leading to the General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century.” In addition, the report noted: “Cooling during the Cold Phase (1560-1660 AD) reduced crop yields by shortening the growing season and shrinking the cultivated land area.... Inflating grain prices led to hardships for many, and triggered social problems and conflicts such as rebellions, revolutions, and political reforms. Many of these disturbances led to armed conflicts, and the number of wars increased 41 percent during the Cold Phase.”

The most important fact to keep in mind is that even IPCC chief Rajendra Pachauri and other prominent AGW alarmists have admitted that there has been no measurable global warming for the past nearly 20 years! This two-decade “pause” or “hiatus” — during which time the global sea ice has increased, as even the alarmists at NASA and NOAA acknowledge — is the big AGW elephant under the doily. So, if there is no provable global warming occurring, and the evidence shows that none of the “extreme



Written by [William F. Jasper](#) on December 7, 2015

Published in the December 7, 2015 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 31, No. 23

---

weather” nightmares are occurring either, and the same shows further that cooling, not warming, is more associated with war and conflict, should we not then stop the handwringing and hyperventilating over non-existent AGW?



Written by [William F. Jasper](#) on December 7, 2015

Published in the December 7, 2015 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 31, No. 23

## Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative,  
non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



**Subscribe**

### What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.