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Putting the Paris Climate Summit in Context

As we go to press, the United Nations Paris Climate Summit (November 30-December 11) is winding up its first week. The New American will have foreign correspondent Alex Newman on the ground there, along with cameraman David Lewis, to report and conduct interviews during the final week of the conference. Newman, who covered the Copenhagen climate summit with me in 2009 and the Rio+20 summit in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, has written extensively on global-warming issues for both our print and online versions. While Newman and Lewis will be providing eyewitness reporting from Paris, including real-time interviews with me via Skype, I will also be busy stateside conducting live interviews on Skype with other participants at the UN extravaganza in Paris. If you have not already done so, please visit us online at

TheNewAmerican.com to see our many articles and video reports from Paris, as well as from other previous climate conferences. As with so many other issues, The New American was way out in front on this issue, exposing it decades ago (literally), while many other conservative "leaders" either failed to recognize the importance it would assume, or actually fell for the alarmist warming propaganda. The brief article that follows is but a prelude to our full-coverage special issue on climate change, *née* global warming, in our next print edition (cover date January 4) of The New American.



AP Images

The importance that the globalists are assigning to this conference — and the binding agreement they intend it to produce — is obvious from the enormity and vehemence of the media frenzy, as well as the fact that President Obama and other heads of state are converging on Paris at the start of the summit, rather than waiting until the last couple of days, as has been the practice at previous summits. The month of November saw politicians and activists worldwide in uber-hyperventilation mode, in apparent attempts to out-apocalypse one another before the start of the Paris summit.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, the presiding host for the summit, declared on November 8 at







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a press conference in Paris: "It is life on our planet itself which is at stake." Failure to enact a global environmental regime, he said, would have "catastrophic consequences" for all life on our planet.

In a November 10 speech in Norfolk, Virginia, Secretary of State John F. Kerry reiterated the claim that global warming presents a dire threat to national and global 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."

During the November 14 Democratic presidential debate — one day after the Paris terror attacks — Senator Bernie Sanders was asked if he still believed that the greatest threat to national security is climate change. "Absolutely," Sanders responded. "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 all kinds of international conflict."

Perhaps not surprisingly, after more than two decades of increasingly shrill, over-the-top predictions about the coming global-warming meltdown (predictions, by the way, that have invariably proven false), the round of crying wolf during the past year has failed to generate widespread public credibility and support. An Associated Press poll in mid-October found that worry over global warming had *dropped* in every category of respondent, compared to an identical poll taken in July. In what has to be a huge disappointment to the AGW alarmism lobby, even the UN's own MY WORLD global survey of seven million individuals found climate change running dead last among concerns of people of all walks of life. What are real people in the real world most concerned about? A good education, better healthcare, better job opportunities, access to clean water and sanitation, better transport and roads, reliable energy at home, etc. Action on climate change came in at number 16 — out of 16 issues.

Undoubtedly, public support would evaporate completely, and would even turn to outrage against the alarmists, if the horrendous economic costs of the UN climate plans were understood, the true extent of the AGW "science" fraud were known, and the dire threat to personal liberty posed by the planned global climate regime were exposed. In the interests of speeding that evaporation and feeding that justified outrage, we offer these related important items that have either been ignored or spun in a pro-AGW direction recently by the alarm choir in the "mainstream" media.

One lousy, minuscule 1/100th of one degree centigrade by the end of the century?





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Dr. Bjørn Lomborg, a Danish environmentalist/economist and director of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, points out in a new study that the UN's massive, expensive CO₂ mitigation schemes would only impact global temperatures by 1/100th degree centigrade. (*Photo credit: www.lomborg.com*)

That's how much global warming would be forestalled, theoretically, according to the UN's own climate models, says Danish economist/environmentalist Dr. Bjørn Lomborg, if all the CO₂ mitigation plans (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, or INDCs) submitted to the UN are faithfully implemented by all the countries of the world. Lomborg's study, "Impact of Current Climate Proposals," published November 10 in the journal Global Policy, is the only update to the "classic" 1998 study of global mitigation policy impacts by Dr. Tom Wigley of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. Dr. Wigley developed the Model for the Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Induced Climate Change (MAGICC) to come up with his CO₂ projections. Yes, although we are incessantly reminded that AGW alarmism is all about "science," it's really about magic, and very wiggly (Wigley) dark magic at that. Dr. Wigley, it may be remembered, was at the center of the Climategate e-mail scandal, along with Michael Mann, Phil Jones, James Hansen, Gavin Schmidt, Ben Santer, and other big names in the climate lobby. Among other things, Wigley infamously initiated an e-mail campaign among fellow warmists to destroy the career of skeptical climatologist Dr. Patrick Michaels, one of many professional scientists who are effectively exposing the alarmist magic/science. At any rate, Dr. Lomborg's new study utilizes the UN-approved magic — MAGICC 6.3, the latest version used in all five UN IPCC assessments from 1990-2014 — to demystify the magical process undergirding the claimed need for a global CO₂ regulatory regime. Lomborg finds that, even under the UN's most optimistic assumptions, the total impact to world temperature would be only .008° to .011° C by 2100. For that virtually undetectable "improvement," we should spend trillions of dollars and submit to amalgamation into a global regulatory state? The Lomborg study, the most robust of its kind, is not the only study to point out that whatever achievements can be claimed by the UN-led mitigation efforts will be so minuscule as to be statistically insignificant. But it greatly reinforces those critics who point to the horrendously disproportionate cost-to-benefit ratio (all pain, no gain) as reason enough to dump this mad scheme.



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The claimed measurements are "nonsense" and nothing to panic over, say the experts.

Dr. Richard Lindzen, emeritus professor of meteorology at MIT and a legendary authority on climate research, says the hysteria over global warming is "just nonsense." Addressing a conference hosted by the Texas Public Policy Foundation in Austin on November 20, 2015, Dr. Lindzen pointed out: "The most important thing to keep in mind is — when you ask 'is it warming, is it cooling,' etc. — is that we are talking about something tiny, and that is the crucial point." "We are speaking of small changes," Lindzen reminded the audience. "Twenty-five hundredths (of a degree) Celsius would be about 50 percent of the recent warming, and that strongly suggests a low and inconsequential climate sensitivity — meaning no problem at all."

Pointing to a temperature record graph during his presentation, Dr. Lindzen stated: "I urge you when looking at a graph, check the scales! The uncertainty here is *tenths of a degree*. When someone points to this and says this is the warmest temperature on record, what are they talking about? It's just nonsense. This is a very tiny change period, and they are arguing over hundredths of a degree when it is uncertain in tenths of a degree."

NOAA tries to hide the "pause," the inconvenient fact of no warming for the past 19 years.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is under investigation and congressional subpoena for fudging its data to support global-warming alarmism. Conveniently, right before the UN's climate summit, the federal agency came up with a "readjusted" data reading that fits what its boss, President Obama, wanted to take to the Paris confab. Specifically, the NOAA "scientists" used some sort of computer model magic to disappear the "pause" or "hiatus," the 19-year period from 1998 to present where the observed temperatures from all sources show there has been no global warming. Although this fact of a nearly two-decade pause in global warming has been admitted by even the UN's IPCC and other leading AGW alarmists, it has been largely ignored and covered over with more AGW hysteria in the major media. Thus the Obama administration probably thinks it can get away with this massive (and, yes, criminal) deception. Critiques by leading scientists, climate researchers, and policy experts began exposing the blatant NOAA deception almost immediately. (NOAA critique authors include Patrick Michaels, Richard Lindzen, Paul C. Knappenberger, Bob Tisdale, Anthony Watts, Judith Curry, E. Calvin Beisner, the Global Warming Policy Forum, Christopher Monckton, and Ross McKittrick.) Among the many flaws and deceptions employed by the NOAA authors, the most obvious pointed out by their learned critics is NOAA's unexplained dumping of the most well-known and reliable surface temperature datasets and satellite datasets that show there has been no rise in global temperatures for nearly 19 years: HadCRUT (land surface and ocean), HadSST (ocean surface only), NCDC (land surface and ocean), GISS (land surface and ocean), RSS satellite (lower troposphere), UAH satellite (lower troposphere), and Argo float arrays (ocean temperatures at 5-meter depth).

"To manufacture warming during the hiatus, NOAA adjusted the pre-hiatus data downward," write climate researchers Bob Tisdale and Anthony Watts. Displaying old and new NOAA graphs that clearly show NOAA has monkeyed with the data to "cool" the pre-hiatus temperatures, Tisdale and Watts comment: "Their intent and methods are so obvious they're laughable.... It's hard to imagine how





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anyone could take the new NOAA global surface temperature data seriously."



Where'd the satellite data go? Satellite temperature data and ocean buoy records, the most reliable sources on global temperatures, show no global warming for the past nearly two decades. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is under investigation for "readjusting" its data, just months before the UN's Paris summit, to make this "hiatus" disappear. (*Photo credit: NOAA: Allan Kung*)

Unfortunately, it's no laughing matter. This duplicity was not unexpected. In 2013, leaked documents obtained by Associated Press showed the Obama administration and European Union governments were very worried about the hiatus and impact it would have on their agenda. And they were trying to get climate researchers to censor or downplay evidence that there has been no measurable global warming in recent years, despite the continuing increase in CO_2 .

China and India plan continued explosive growth of coal-fired plants, while the EPA closes down more U.S. plants.

During the first nine months of 2015, China issued approvals to build 155 new coal-fired power plants. That's more than four per week, and it continues at a blistering pace that the communist nation has been on for long time. China burns four billion tons of coal a year, four times as much as the United States. It is the biggest coal producer, user, and importer — and the biggest emitter of CO_2 (a non-polluting natural gas) as well as other genuine pollutants. India, likewise, is pinning its development future on coal, and is expected to double its consumption of coal between 2020 and 2040, displacing China as the number-one coal consumer. Despite their pledges to pursue alternative "clean" energy, coal will continue to fuel their growth. Are China and India wrong to push coal? Not at all; they have hundreds of millions of people who still need electricity, clean water, and other basics of life. For them, as well as many other developing countries, coal is the only viable, affordable energy source that can lift these people out of poverty. However, it is beyond pointless for the United States to adopt economy-killing, genuinely painful CO_2 reductions when the increases from India, China, and elsewhere will more than completely negate any supposed global gains from our mitigation.







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