



Written by [Staff](#) on February 7, 2011

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Inside Track

Was Last Year *Really* the Warmest on Record?



Global-warming alarmists and their media allies have been hyping recent statements from NASA and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) that “2010 tied with 2005 as the warmest year of the global surface temperature record, beginning in 1880.”

“If the warming trend continues, as is expected, if greenhouse gases continue to increase, the 2010 record will not stand for long,” said James Hansen, the director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), in a January 12 press release. Hardly an impartial, objective scientist, Hansen is a fanatical activist who has been arrested repeatedly at demonstrations, regularly condemns the United States, and praises Communist China as “the best hope” to “lead the world through the most dangerous crisis that humanity and nature have ever faced.”

One of the biggest untold news stories in recent times concerns the admissions that the temperature data used by NOAA, NASA, Britain’s University of East Anglia Climatic Research Unit (UEA-CRU), and others in their apocalyptic scenarios are hopelessly corrupted and incapable of providing any meaningful input for policy decisions, especially decisions to impose radical, global CO₂ regulations. In one of the many “Climategate” e-mails, for instance, Ian “Harry” Harris, the CRU programmer, lamented about the “hopeless state of their (CRU) database. No uniform data integrity, it’s just a catalogue of issues that continues to grow as they’re found.” Harris again: “Aarrggghhh! There truly is no end in sight. This whole project is SUCH A MESS. No wonder I needed therapy!!”

CRU’s leading alarmist, Dr. Phil Jones, confessed to the BBC that CRU “surface temperature data are in such disarray they probably cannot be verified or replicated.” Can’t be verified or replicated? Then you have no science! Which is why Jones and his CRU colleagues have had to employ what they call “fudge factors” to come up with their scary warming scenarios.

And NASA and NOAA have fudge problems of their own. In a policy paper entitled *Surface Temperature Records: Policy-Driven Deception?*, published in August 2010 by the Science & Public Policy Institute (SPPI), meteorologists Joseph D’Aleo and Anthony Watts point out the huge discovery that *more than 75 percent of the weather stations around the globe have been inexplicably “lost”* by the “scientists” at



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NASA/NOAA. Moreover, most of those “lost” weather stations happen to be from the planet’s colder areas — from the higher altitudes, the higher latitudes, and rural areas — thereby conveniently providing NASA, NOAA, and CRU with an automatic temperature rise that more than accounts for the exaggerated “global warming” reports of recent decades.

The (Short-lived!) Return of the Death Panels

In the original *Star Wars*, rebels fighting for freedom from the Empire destroyed Darth Vader’s Death Star, which was capable of obliterating an entire planet. The Empire was reluctant to part with such an instrument of death, however, so the Death Star was rebuilt in *Return of the Jedi*. But, of course, that weapon of mass destruction was very short-lived.

Likewise, after anti-ObamaCare rebels raised a ruckus about the “death panels” they alleged to be part of the original healthcare reform legislation, that language was removed from the final version of the bill. Nevertheless, the Obama administration, reluctant to part with its own instrument of death, quietly reinstated more or less the same provision via regulation. As [the New York Times](#) reported in December: “Under the new policy, outlined in a Medicare regulation, the government will pay doctors who advise patients on options for end-of-life care, which may include advance directives to forgo aggressive life-sustaining treatment.” These discussions of end-of-life treatment were to take place during annual “wellness visits” covered by Medicare, during which “doctors can provide information to patients on how to prepare an ‘advance directive,’ stating how aggressively they wish to be treated if they are so sick that they cannot make health care decisions for themselves,” the report says.

The *Times* acknowledged that the administration’s purpose in issuing the regulation is to perform an end run around Congress: “While the new law does not mention advance care planning, the Obama administration has been able to achieve its policy goal through the regulation-writing process, a strategy that could become more prevalent in the next two years as the president deals with a strengthened Republican opposition in Congress.”

However, the end run was very short-lived, with administration officials announcing on January 4 that the new Medicare regulation, which had just gone into effect three days earlier, would be revised. “We will amend the regulation to take out voluntary advance care planning,” the *New York Times* quoted an unnamed Obama administration official as saying. The *Times* noted: “While administration officials cited procedural reasons for changing the rule, it was clear that political concerns were also a factor.”

So chalk another win up for the anti-ObamaCare rebels. But the fact of the matter is that government-run healthcare will inevitably lead to rationing of healthcare services and the denial of treatment — and the only way to win the ultimate victory against the spectre of death panels is to end government control of healthcare.

What Does Reading the Constitution on the House Floor Actually Mean?

The GOP-controlled House of Representatives spotlighted the U.S. Constitution at the beginning of the new congressional session. On January 6, Congressmen read the entire amended text verbatim on the floor. The previous day the House adopted a new rule requiring that every piece of legislation that’s introduced be accompanied by a statement citing the specific constitutional authority for the legislation.



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In terms of outward appearances at least, much has changed since Congressman Ron Paul ran for President in the 2008 elections as the “champion of the Constitution.” In the recent elections, many congressional candidates ran for election promising to support the Constitution, and many were elected with the hope — if not expectation — that they would do exactly that.

Of course, it needs to be remembered that congressional adherence to the Constitution is not a novel idea. Every member of the House and Senate has always taken an oath to uphold the Constitution as a condition of assuming office — yet much of what Congress votes for is unconstitutional. Prior to the recent 2010 congressional election campaigns, Ron Paul seemed almost alone in highlighting the Constitution as his platform. Times have changed, at least in terms of rhetoric! So the big question is: Does the (very welcomed!) rhetorical emphasis the new Congress is now placing on the Constitution signify that House passage of unconstitutional legislation is now a thing of the past?

The past provides a clue. The April 27, 1998 issue of this magazine published an article entitled “Congress and the Constitution” that described a House rule similar to the “new” rule requiring bill sponsors to cite the constitutional authority for their legislation. That article, by Gary Benoit, provided specific examples of how lawmakers, ostensibly abiding by the rule, cited the “general welfare” clause, the “interstate commerce” clause, the “necessary and proper” clause (a.k.a. the “elastic clause”), and other constitutional clauses as open-ended grants of power never intended by the framers in order to “justify” anything and everything the lawmakers wanted to do.

Will the new House of Representatives apply their “new” rule more honestly? Will they put in practice what they said on the campaign trail last year? The answer depends on the extent to which their constituents stay involved, not just at election time but all the time.

WikiLeaks (With Facebook, Twitter, & Blogs) Kills Off Tunisian Tyranny



Protestors shout slogans against former Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali in Tunis. (*Photo credit: AP Images*)

The whistle-blower website WikiLeaks has facilitated the [destruction of Tunisia’s tyrannical state](#) with its release of classified information about rampant corruption in the north African government. The 23-year reign of corrupt President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali ended January 15, when Ben Ali and his family



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[fled](#) to Saudi Arabia.

Among the U.S. embassy cables released by WikiLeaks last November were a number of cables from the U.S. embassy in Tunis [calling](#) President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and his ruling clique a “quasi-mafia” that ruled with corruption that had [spread](#) like “a dangerous cancer.” The [cables](#) contained numerous specific examples of outright theft by the ruling family.

The [cables](#) spread throughout the Internet, and into Tunisia, where they were copied and commented on by local [bloggers](#) and [Facebook members, and on tweets](#). WikiLeaks even inspired a Tunisian copycat organization, [TuniLeaks](#), which focuses upon Tunisian corruption and highlighted the U.S. embassy cables describing the Ben Ali government.

The *New York Times* observed that this WikiLeaks triumph presents the “awkward dilemma the WikiLeaks cables have posed for the [Obama] administration,” which has [strongly condemned](#) the whistle-blower organization. The Obama administration has gone into damage control mode, claiming that the Internet — and especially WikiLeaks — had nothing to do with the Tunisian revolution. “No one I spoke to in Tunis today mentioned twitter, facebook or wikileaks. It’s all about unemployment, corruption, oppression,” U.S. State Department spokesperson P.J. Crowley [tweeted](#) January 16. He [added](#) the next day that “Tunisia is not a Wiki revolution. The Tunisian people knew about corruption long ago. They alone are the catalysts of this unfolding drama.”

Of course, it’s true that the Tunisian people have long known their government was corrupt. But Crowley fails to explain why the revolution happened now, rather than long ago. Until the advent of the Internet — and WikiLeaks — the Tunisian people lacked the specifics about government corruption and (more importantly) had been denied the knowledge that most of their countrymen were equally disgusted with the corruption. Only with the publication of the WikiLeaks data, combined with the blogs, tweets, and Facebook networking, was the government brought down. This, of course, explains why Ben Ali’s Tunisian tyranny tried to stunt news about the government by [censoring the Internet](#) and [arresting journalists and bloggers](#) in the days leading up to the President’s ouster.

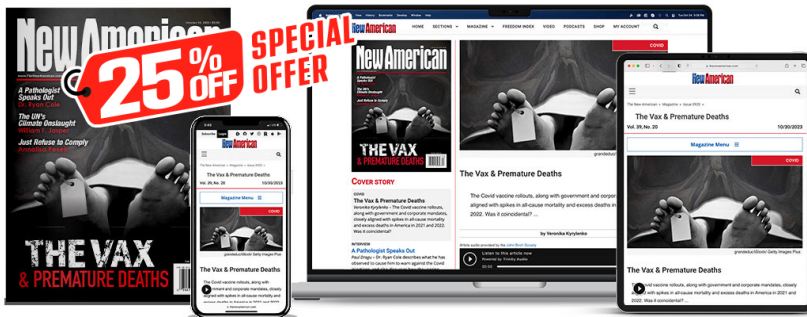


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