



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on May 21, 2021

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Correction, Please!

Scaremongering Notwithstanding, the Sky Is Not Falling



China Joe and John: President Biden picked John Kerry to be his special presidential envoy for climate. Biden has had lucrative business dealings with China, while Kerry is overlooking China’s terrible human-rights abuses and record as a world-class polluter. *(Photo credit: AP Images)*

Item: *A page-one article in the New York Times (April 23 print edition) reported that President Biden had just “moved to put four years of official climate denial behind the United States, declaring that America would cut its global warming emissions at least in half by the end of the decade.” Biden, said the left-wing paper, “cast the challenge of avoiding catastrophic warming as an economic opportunity for America, a striking contrast to his predecessor who had abandoned the [Paris] agreement.”*

Item: *Time (April 26-May 3) featured a cover story declaring (in all caps) “CLIMATE IS EVERYTHING.” Now, said the article, “spurred by alarming science, growing public fury and a deadly pandemic, government officials, corporate bosses and civil-society leaders are finally waking up to a simple idea whose time has come: climate is everything.”*

Item: *In an interview with Foreign Policy for April 26, President Biden’s climate czar, John Kerry, implied that climate negotiations with Communist China are more important than Beijing’s genocide against Uighurs in Xinjiang or the Chinese threat to U.S. national security. Said Kerry, “Right now, climate is enough of an imperative for all of our countries. China doesn’t benefit by not having America as a partner in dealing with climate. And the United States doesn’t benefit from not having China as a partner in climate.... We have differences on economic rules, on cyber. We have other differences on human rights, geostrategic interests, but those differences do not have to get in the way of something that is as critical as dealing with climate.”*

Correction: The president says he’s worried about the future. Well, we are too — in part because of the way he’s handling the present.

The problem is that fearmongering tends to become an excuse for big government to become even more intrusive. This threatens liberty and the economy.

When it comes to the issue of “climate change,” the prophets of doom have been peddling their scares



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for a long time.

The wizards at the United Nations gave us just 10 years to save the world from global warming — in 1989. Check your pulse: Methinks we survived.

That wasn't the first, or last, bogus forecast about imminent planetary catastrophe. As the folks at news website Issues and Insights recalled recently,

Dire, way-off-base predictions have been the hallmark of radical environmentalism for at least a half century. *Reason's* Ronald Bailey took "a look back" in 2020 at the first Earth Day and the forecasters "who got the future wrong." He notes that the world did not have to halve the planet's population or stop economic growth completely "to prevent the imminent ecological cataclysm."

Nor have we run out of natural resources, been forced to shut down automobile travel, ban luxury items, and wear gas masks in urban areas due to air pollution....

Despite the unbroken string of erroneous predictions, we still get nonsense from the United Nations World Meteorological Organization, which says "time is fast running out" to keep global warming at bay, and drivel from U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, who insists "we are on the verge of the abyss."

Of course, the scientific world is not of one mind when it comes to climate change. Among those who are reasonable and capable of reasoning is Dr. Steven Koonin, who was — incredibly enough — the undersecretary for science at the U.S. Department of Energy in the Obama administration. He's the author of the new book *Unsettled*, in which he shows he is not one of the (all-too-common) alarmists.

Therein he says, among other things, "Heat waves in the US are now no more common than they were in 1900" and "the warmest temperatures in the US have not risen in the past fifty years.... Humans have had no detectable impact on hurricanes over the past century.... Greenland's ice sheet isn't shrinking any more rapidly today than it was eighty years ago.... The net economic impact of human-induced climate change will be minimal through at least the end of this century."

Here's another scientist not jumping on the climate-emergency bandwagon (there are plenty, but our room is limited): Hoover Institution visiting fellow Bjørn Lomborg. In a recent piece for Toronto's *Financial Post*, Lomborg complained about how "almost every catastrophe is blamed on global warming," and we are told "that we must radically change the entire world until 2030 to avoid the apocalypse. Such irresponsible exaggerations are destroying our ability to make sensible decisions for the future."

In actuality, writes Lomborg, the evidence shows that "climate-related disasters are killing far fewer people than ever before. Over the past century, the number of dead from floods, droughts, storms, wildfire and extreme temperatures has dropped by an incredible 98 per cent."

Moreover, says Lomborg, the Paris Agreement "has been marketed as the solution to climate, yet, by the United Nations' own reckoning, it will accomplish almost nothing. In a best-case scenario, it will achieve just one per cent of what political leaders have promised. And no major nation is on-track to actually deliver on its promises."



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Indeed, in an unguarded moment, even climate czar John Kerry admitted that Joe Biden's "net-zero" climate plan will have no effect on the climate if developing countries don't fall in line. And they are not going to do so.

Here's some more of the good news about "global warming" that you probably didn't see in major newspapers or "mainstream" television. As we recall from grade-school teaching back in the day, carbon dioxide is good for plants. Moreover, plants turn out to be a plus for people as well as the environment. And, with more energy being produced, there may be a bit more CO₂.

A recent piece by Richard Lindzen (professor emeritus of atmospheric sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and William Happer (professor emeritus of physics at Princeton University) explains that more carbon dioxide "will certainly increase the productivity of agriculture and forestry. Over the past century, the earth has already become noticeably greener as a result of the modest increase of CO₂, from about 0.03 percent to 0.04 percent of atmospheric molecules. More CO₂ has made a significant contribution to the increased crop yields of the past 50 years, as well. The benefits to plants of more CO₂ are documented in hundreds of scientific studies."

But we are supposed to believe that industrialization — especially when driven by fossil fuels — is destroying the planet. Hardly — the facts demonstrate otherwise. Worldwide, details Benjamin Zycher, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, "emissions of ozone-depleting substances from economic activities have declined from 215,000 tons in 1961 to 155,000 tons in 2014. (Natural emissions are about 165,000 tons annually.)"

And we are told by the indoctrinated that wicked energy producers are poisoning us all. We'll leave such lies to the leftist propagandists. But the truth is that since the first Earth Day in 1970, there has been a marked improvement in the air quality in the United States. Nicolas Loris, an economist who focuses on energy, environmental, and regulatory issues for the Heritage Foundation, reminds us that, according to the most recent report from the Environmental Protection Agency,

pollution from the six most common air pollutants has dropped 77% from 1970-2019. We are using energy more efficiently, which saves money and reduces pollution. The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects continued improvement in energy efficiency from the industrial, commercial, transportation and residential sectors of the economy.

Through private-sector innovations, domestic companies have substantially increased our natural gas supply, catapulting the United States to the world's top energy producer. Not only are energy bills lower, saving Americans thousands of dollars per year, but so too are greenhouse gas emissions.

That is what the Biden administration and its eco-extremist friends are trying to destroy, along with eschewing fossil fuels for "renewable" energy. The latter is no panacea.

Mark Mills, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, testified earlier this year before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change that the replacement of the "energy output from a single 100-MW natural gas-fired turbine, itself about the size of a residential house (producing enough electricity for 75,000 homes), requires at least 20 wind turbines, each one about the size of the Washington Monument, occupying some 10 square miles of



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land. Building those wind machines consumes enormous quantities of conventional materials, such as concrete, steel, and fiberglass, along with less common materials, including ‘rare earth’ elements such as dysprosium.”

Even though about 80 percent of U.S. energy comes from hydrocarbons, the enemies of fossil fuels have powerful allies. John Kerry is kowtowing to Beijing — which has acquired the battery supply chain needed for electric vehicles — even while China is quietly laughing about future “agreements” about reducing emissions.

In the real world, as Reuters reported in February, China “approved the construction of a further 36.9 GW of coal-fired capacity last year, three times more than a year earlier, bringing the total under construction to 88.1 GW. It now has 247 GW of coal power under development, enough to supply the whole of Germany.” During 2020, China proposed building 73.5 gigawatts of new coal plants — more than five times that of the rest of the world *combined*.

In addition, Beijing “controls the raw material supply chains for wind turbines, solar panels, battery modules for electric vehicles and backup power systems,” notes Paul Driessen, a senior policy advisor for the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow.

Yet the Biden administration has targeted the energy industry in Alaska (among others) while it tries to buddy up to Beijing. At the same time, the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks are targeting industries in this country and elsewhere. John H. Cochrane, an economist at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University (also known as the “Grumpy Economist”), points out that the central banks “are rushing to take on climate change.” Writing in the *City Journal* in March, Cochrane noted that the New York Fed “has set up a top level ‘Supervision Committee’ on climate; its president, John Williams, stated that ‘Climate change ... impacts all aspects of the Fed’s mission.’”

Past business transitions didn’t attract this type of attention, Cochrane noted. Why, he asks rhetorically, is there such pressure

for financial firms to “disclose” absurdly fictitious “climate risks” and change investments to avoid them? Clearly, these proposals aim to defund the fossil fuel industry before alternatives are in place and to steer funds to fashionable but unprofitable investments by regulatory subterfuge, rather than politically accountable legislation or transparent rulemaking by environmental agencies.

This goal is no secret. For example, the Network for Greening the Financial System states plainly that it seeks to “mobilize mainstream finance to support the transition toward a sustainable economy.”

Regulators, as you may recall, are not supposed to boost preferred industries and defund those that have fallen out of favor.

However, the game is fixed. Consider the tax credits proposed for certain businesses — i.e., those considered to be “green.” Such green credits, explains the *Wall Street Journal*, “would enrich large corporations and billionaires. Hedge funds and tech companies are some of the biggest green energy investors. These tax credits would become more attractive as tax rates increase. Even big oil companies would benefit from credits for investing in carbon capture and ‘sustainable’ aviation fuels. This is one reason CEOs like Amazon’s Jeff Bezos are endorsing a corporate tax increase. They’ll make it up in



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subsidies.”

Yes, it helps your cronies when you write the rules. For the losers, well, Joe and his team do have something for them. Maybe a slot in the proposed Civilian Climate Corps or the Dislocated Workers Program. And John Kerry, who married into money and famously flies around the world in private planes, has graciously suggested that displaced American coal miners, for example, could switch to building solar panels.



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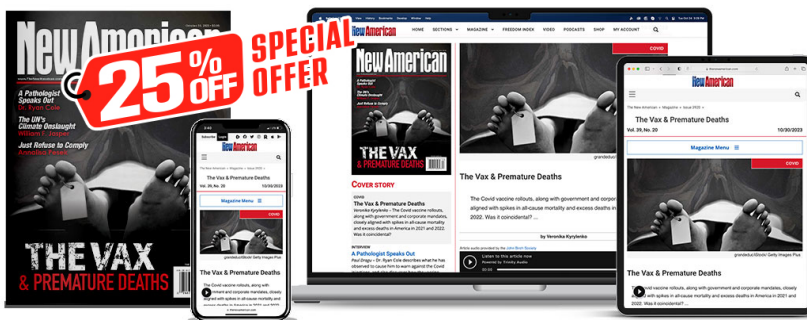
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