

TAKING SCIENCE'S TEMPERATURE

A handbook for skeptics

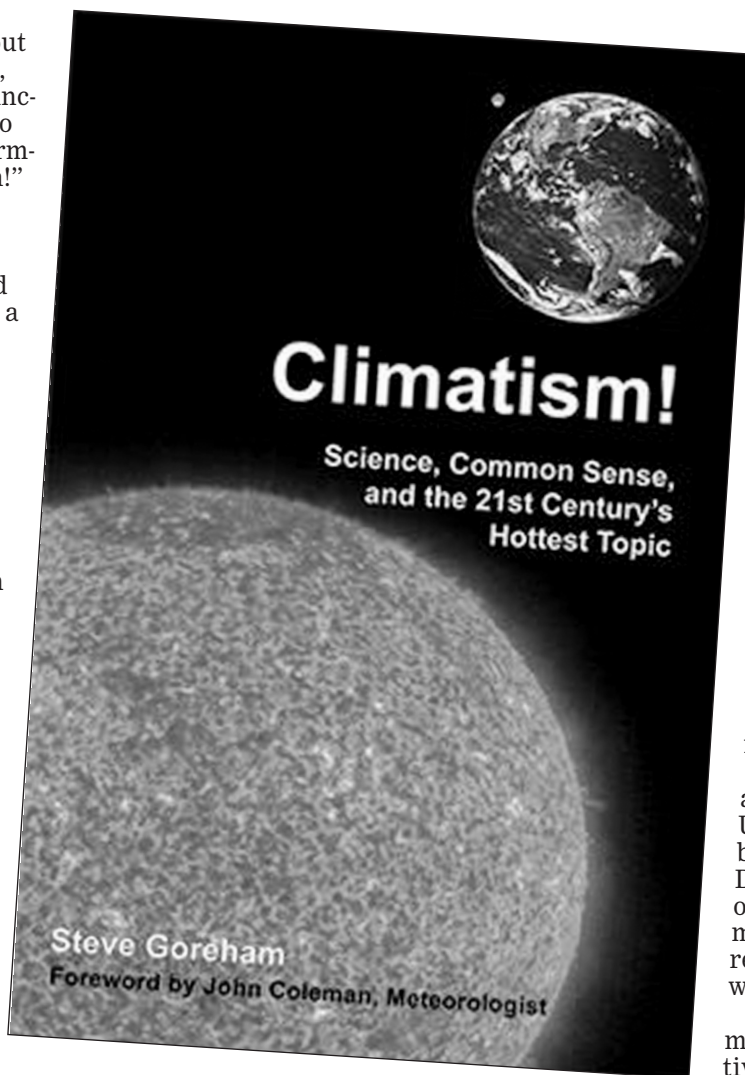
'Climatism!' finds the evidence for man-made global warming unconvincing

It took Steve Goreham about a year to build the logical, comprehensive and convincing case against those who blame mankind for global warming he presents in "Climatism!" (New Lenox Books), his first book.

A whitewater kayaking enthusiast, father of three and business executive who holds a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois and an MBA from the University of Chicago, Goreham began researching the topic in December 2008 and finished the book, except for some late additions dealing with Climategate and the Copenhagen conference, in November 2009.

"I began on the skeptical side," he said in an e-mail exchange, "but was uncertain where the preponderance of the evidence lay."

About two months into the project, he had made up his mind. Goreham was swayed by facts: Carbon dioxide accounts for "only about 1 to 2 percent" of "the man-made portion of the greenhouse effect" because water vapor makes up about 95 percent of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide is "only about 5 percent"), the Earth has warmed "only 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit since the Civil War," and science done "over the last 18 years shows that natural cycles are the big driver and that CO₂ is small." Goreham "read about 20 books and



dozens of articles" in writing the book, which "became a project of about a hundred four- to five-page research papers." He based his conclusions on the evidence he reviewed — which

makes his approach exactly opposite that of the movement "Climatism!" debunks.

He doesn't shy away from technical terms or abstruse concepts, making them understandable and accessible without "dumbing down" anything. "It seems I have somehow developed the ability to research large volumes of information, evaluate it, and distill it down to something readable."

"Climatism!" sticks to a scientific perspective — deliberately. "I do not use Democrat, Republican, liberal, conservative, labor or other political terms. Neither do I think this is some scam or plot. Most proponents of man-made climate change policies believe they are doing good and trying to prevent catastrophe. Nevertheless, mankind is in the grip of a madness."

He also gave the book global appeal by discussing not just U.S. climate science and policies, but also those of the U.K., Spain, Denmark, the Philippines and other nations. "Another goal of mine was to provide a valuable resource for citizens across the world, and not only in the U.S." Goreham is optimistic that "Climatism!" will help make a positive difference.

"I hope that the book's chances are good to reach a broad group of world citizens," he said. "Climate policy and renewable energy should be based on sound science and good economics, not politics."

"Humanity is in the grip of a madness. It's a madness driven by fear and based on mistaken science. It's a madness now adopted by most of the governments of the world, trumpeted by the press, and taught in our schools and universities. It's a madness that, left to run its course, will steal our freedoms, destroy our standard of living, and result in the deaths of millions of people in the developing world."

"A new ideology — Climatism — drives this madness. Climatism is the belief that man-made greenhouse gases are destroying Earth's climate. Climatism is an extreme form of environmentalism that is using the natural climatic changes of Earth to re-define our societies. Climatism has adopted the mantle of science and uses fear of global catastrophe to alarm the public and achieve its objectives."

— from Steve Goreham's introduction to "Climatism!"

Eight False Beliefs of Climatism

#1: Greenhouse gases emitted from man's industrial activities are causing global warming.

#2: The climate of Earth was optimum prior to the growth and industrialization of human population.

#3: Human activities are destroying the climate of the Earth.

#4: The climate is the top priority. It's more important than human lives, freedom, Western industrial civilization, and prosperity in the developing nations.

#5: We can save the planet if we all work together.

#6: Carbon dioxide is a pollutant.

#7: Fossil fuels are dirty and should not be used.

#8: Wind and solar power are free and should become our energy sources.

— from "Climatism!" (Chapter 9, "The Beliefs, Objectives and Tactics of Climatism")



A Page of Books, written and compiled by Alan Wallace, appears on the last Sunday of each month.