

## Climate Change Deniers

I got feedback to the effect that climate change is indeed real – how can I possibly be a denier? That wasn't the question. The question was whether the government document [here](#) (Fig 1.2, View Static Image) was cherry picking start dates for their graphics to make climate change look worse than it is, as claimed [here](#). I think the answer is that they were. I find it inconceivable that it was by accident. It begs the question, why did they do it? Why do they so compromise their integrity? If we can't believe the integrity of government science, we will have a difficult time dealing with any tough technical issues.

Climate change is a huge question, and those of you who wrote pretty much said there aren't any simple answers. I have to agree. As I say in my [movie from two years ago](#) on the subject it is indisputable that carbon dioxide has gone up from 280 ppm to over 400 ppm since the dawn of the industrial age. It is moreover indisputable that carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas which forces warming. I furthermore agree that we are schmutzing up our planet through fracking, the extraction of tar sands in Canada, and mountaintop removal to get coal. Whether or not global warming is a dire threat, we should be looking for alternatives to fossil fuels.

It also seems pretty clear that the dire predictions of the 1990s have not come to pass. There are many other factors at play. Among the ones that work more or less continually are changing cloud cover, changing sunspots, changes in the Earth's axis, distance from the sun and so on. Periodic massive changes – the ones that caused the five great extinctions over the past 600 million years – are due to huge volcanic releases of carbon dioxide due to tectonic activity. As my movie notes, these have been orders of magnitude larger than would be created even if we burned all of the fossil fuels remaining in the earth. The movie includes a bibliography.

The epitaph "global warming denier" is applied to people who don't buy the entire story hook line and sinker. Just as people who don't accept the entire Holocaust story – which nobody had even if heard of until I was in high school in the 1950s – as gospel (or Talmud?) are called "Holocaust deniers," people who believe that race is something other than a pure social construct are called "racists" and people who believe that there is some biological basis to sex differences are called "sexists." There – I have just open myself up to every slander in the contemporary lexicon. Sock it to me. Fundamentally, just like Mario Savio in 1964, I hate to be told what to think, or to shut up. I'm too old and curmudgeonly to start now.