

crisis. It was not only the farmers in India who were excited by the results of Dr. Borlaug's wheat: India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi turned a flowerbed at her house into a test plot for Borlaug's wheat! She was not alone; most ministers of the government and most college professors did the same.

This should be a lesson to today's youth, that by applying human creativity there is no problem that can not be solved.

Nobel Prize

Norman Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his efforts to

fight world hunger. There is a funny story of how he found out that he had been awarded the Nobel. Borlaug was working in the field, as he did every day, and he was told that he had a phone call from the Nobel Committee. He thought it was a prank and didn't take the call right away. The Committee called back later in the day, and still Norman thought it was a joke. After the third call, his wife finally convinced him that he really had won the Nobel Peace Prize.

In his Nobel acceptance speech, Borlaug voiced concerns that population

might outstrip resources, which was the popular Malthusian line of the time. But, to his credit, now Borlaug tells young people in his speeches at colleges that he was wrong for repeating that line about population outstripping resources, because, as he stresses, it is through human discovery that solutions to problems can be found.

Borlaug goes on to say that the next Green Revolution will be a "Gene Revolution," as increasing advances in biotechnology add to the quality and quantity of the food supply.

Six Degrees of Climate Porn

by Gregory Murphy

Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet

Mark Lynas

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2008

Hardcover, 335 pp., \$26.00

Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet is an extreme example of "climate porn." This term was coined by the Tyndall Center at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England, itself a promoter of global warming, to describe any overly dramatic and fatalistic scenarios of climate change. This description, inaugurated in a Tyndall Center white paper,¹ would include, for example, the statement from Sir John Houghton, first chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that "We have to talk about disasters, or no one will listen."

It would also apply to Stanford University's Stephen Schneider, who said, "... we have to offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements, and make little mention of any doubts we might have..."²

The present work does not let us down on this account. The author of *Six Degrees* is Mark Lynas, the green columnist for the Fabian Society's magazine *The New Statesman*, and a frequent contributor to Teddy Goldsmith's deep ecology magazine, *The Ecologist*. Lynas's scary book is based entirely on the computer models of

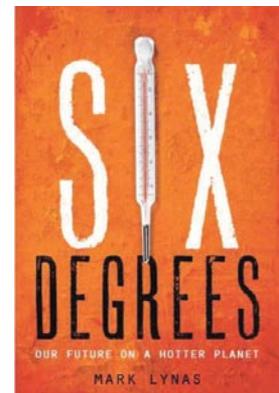
the U.S. chief global warmer, James Hansen, of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, and the computer models produced by the International Institute of Applied System Analysis in Laxenburg, Austria. (IIASA, it should be noted, is in the cybernetics tradition of denying a role for human creativity.)

These IIASA models are also the basis for the reports of Working Groups 2 and 3 in the Third Assessment Report of the IPCC, released in 2001. Working Group 2 deals with the impacts of global warming, and Working Group 3 covers mitigation and adaptation scenarios.

The IPCC's Working Group 3 concludes in Chapter 2 of the Third Assessment Report, that a doubling of CO₂ in the atmosphere would lead to a temperature rise of between 2° and 6°C, and it gives a scenario for what will happen at each degree of temperature rise.

Lynas uses this outline to give the reader a shock and awe tour of what could happen to the Earth at each and every degree. This same tour is mind-numbing, when one views the companion *Six Degrees* video, which contains computer-generated footage of New York, London, and Venice drowning in 25 feet of water. To make sure viewers don't miss the shock effect, the same computer-generated footage is repeated several times.

In the chapter titled "The Future We Will Choose," Lynas advocates cutting carbon emissions by 80 percent or more.



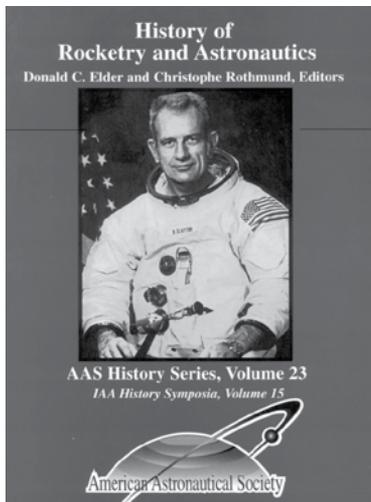
He also pushes the Middlebury College monster Bill McKibben's local control and fascist model of neo-feudalism, which includes forcing the population to adapt to shopping only at local stores and local farmers markets.

The Mussolini Factor

We agree with the assessment of British climate researcher Richard Courtney, in his paper "Crystal Balls, Virtual Realities, and 'Storylines.'" Working Group 3 begins Chapter 2, stating that it considers "societal visions of the future" that "most share a common goal: to explore how to achieve a more desirable future state." Courtney rightly asks, "Do they mean a more desirable future state like that of Mussolini?"

The conclusion of that same Chapter 2, calls for changes to socio-economic policies that are not climate policies. (At the very least, this IPCC conclusion provides an excuse for such changes.) We can see the sort of changes intended in Lynas's book.

In *Six Degrees*, Lynas calls for cutting back on building infrastructure, and he rules out nuclear power as not needed. The energy needs of the world could be



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Climate Porn: Washington, D.C. under water in this scene from the video of Six Degrees

met with wind and solar, he says. Lynas, however, writes that he is an optimist because we can solve the global warming problem by following his prescription of necessary carbon emission cuts of 80 percent. In truth, the policy Lynas is peddling is nothing but genocide.

As one would expect, the only groups to give positive endorsement of this book and video have been Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and the high priest of the Dionysian cult of global warming, Al Gore. The premiere of the *Six Degrees* video on the National Geographic Society channel was almost a total flop, and so far there has been little mention of the video except in the publications and blogs linked to the Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the Fabian Society's *New Statesman*, which continue to praise the book and the video.

A Separate Standard of Truth

Around the same time in 2007 that *Six Degrees* was launched, WAG TV producer Martin Durkin premiered "The Great Global Warming Swindle" on British television's Channel 4, a documentary that created a sensation overnight, and was widely viewed on websites like YouTube.com and Google Video. It is of note that Mark Lynas was one of the members of the media to savage Martin Durkin's film, and demand that it not be released in DVD format because it had several "errors." (Durkin did correct some small errors.)

Lynas's book and companion video, meanwhile, both repeat several large er-

rors that Al Gore was told to correct by a British court in October 2007, which Gore has still failed to do. To this day, Gore repeats things like "sea level will rise 21 to 25 feet," because of global warming. We suggest that Lynas apply the same amount of rigor to his writing (and that of his friend Al Gore) that he demands of Martin Durkin.

The good news is that the success of Durkin's "Great Global Warming Swindle" shows that Mark Lynas and Sir John Houghton are dead wrong when they say that the public will only learn and take action by being scared to death. You can sell a movie without climate porn.

Notes

1. "Is This Climate Porn?: How Does Climate Change Communication Affect Our Perceptions and Behaviour?" by Thomas D. Lowe, Tyndall Centre Working Paper 98, December 2006: http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/publications/working_papers/twp98.pdf
2. The full quotation from Schneider is: "On the one hand, as scientists we are ethically bound to the scientific method, in effect promising to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but which means that we must include all the doubts, the caveats, the ifs, ands, and buts. On the other hand, we are not just scientists but human beings as well. And like most people we'd like to see the world a better place, which in this context translates into our working to reduce the risk of potentially disastrous climatic change. To do that we need to get some broad-based support, to capture the public's imagination. That, of course, entails getting loads of media coverage. So we have to offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements, and make little mention of any doubts we might have. This 'double ethical bind' we frequently find ourselves in cannot be solved by any formula. Each of us has to decide what the right balance is between being effective and being honest. I hope that means being both" (Quoted in *Discover* magazine, October 1989).