

Big Money and the End of the Golden Age

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*“She will be consumed by fire,
for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.” (Rev 18:8b)*

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Gaia at Work

2005. New Scientist magazine (Dec 2005) reported that: “*Jim Hansen, director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies and President George Bush’s top climate modeler, is not alone in thinking, as he said last week, ‘at the most we have 10 years to make drastic cuts in emissions that might head off climate convulsions’.*” In the same issue, the magazine reported record lows in Arctic sea ice. There were also predictions that as global warming melts the ice less heat will be reflected so warming will accelerate. There were similarly bleak views about forests, that as warming increases more forests will die and burn, releasing more carbon and accelerating the process.

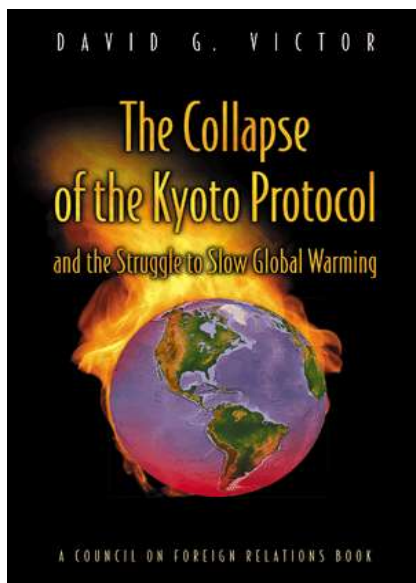
This sort of evidence led Professor James Lovelock, who developed the “Gaia Hypothesis” (the hypothesis named after the Greek earth-mother goddess that sees the Earth and its biosphere as a self-regulating system), to predict a climate eight degrees Celsius hotter in Europe and to make the statement, “*Before this century is over, billions of us will die, and the few breeding pairs of people that survive will be in the Arctic where the climate remains tolerable.*” He is no longer calling for Government efforts to counter climate change but to begin large scale preparations for survival (NZ Herald 17 Jan 06).



2009. In 2009 (14 March), the headline article in the NZ Herald reported, “*Climate change scientists say worst-case scenarios for the planet are coming true.... In what was described as a watershed moment, more than 2,500 leading environmental experts agreed on a statement that called on governments to act before the planet becomes an unrecognisable – and, in places, impossible - place to live.... The plea came as Lord Nicolas Stern, the former economist of the World Bank whose report two years ago drew attention to the possibility of global warming, told the conference (in Copenhagen) that unless politicians grasped the gravity of the situation it would be devastating.*”



‘Increases in average temperatures of 6C by the end of the century were an increasing possibility and would produce conditions not seen on earth for more than 30 million years’, he said.’ That could mean huge rises in sea levels, whole areas devastated by hurricanes and others turned into uninhabitable desert.... Much of Southern Europe would look like the Sahara. Many of the major rivers of the world, serving billions of people, would dry up in the dry seasons or re-route.... What would be the implication?... Extended conflict, social disruption, war essentially, over much of the world for many decades....’”



In New Scientist magazine (Jan 2009) Lovelock said: “....At 4 degrees C (world average temperature increase) we could not survive with even one-tenth of our current population. The reason is that we would not find enough food, unless we synthesized it. Because of this, the cull during this century is going to be huge, up to 90 percent. The number of people remaining at the end of this century will probably be a billion or less.... I don't think humans are fast enough or are clever enough to handle what's coming up. Kyoto was 11 years ago. Virtually nothing's been done except endless talk and meetings.”

However, when the comment was made to Lovelock that this was “a depressing outlook”, he replied: “Not necessarily..... For the first time in its 3.5 billion years of existence, the planet has an intelligent, communicating species that can consider the whole system and even do things about it. They are not yet bright enough, they still have to evolve quite a way, but they could become a very positive contributor to planetary welfare.”

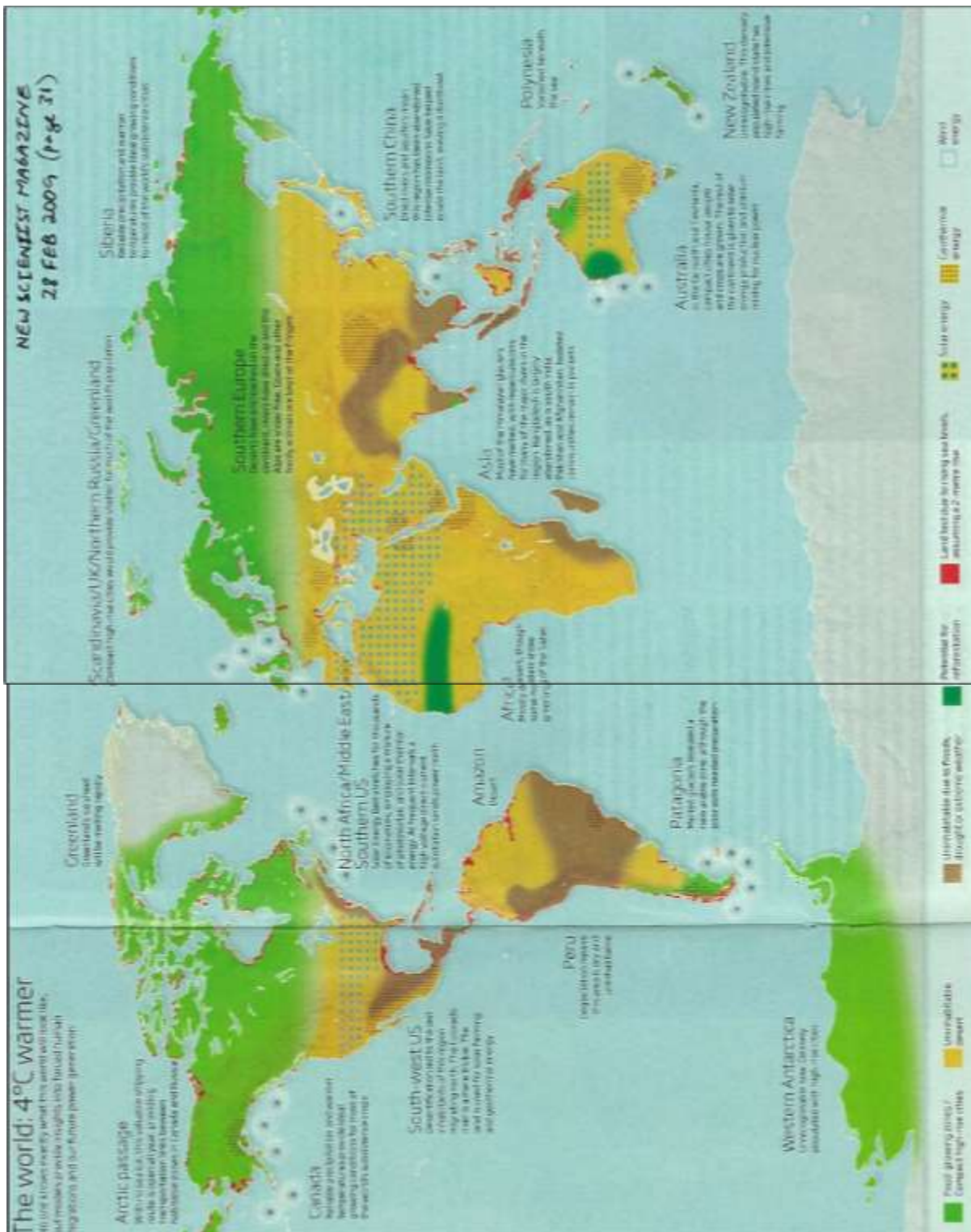
2010. Under the title “Global Warming”, Wikipedia states: *Since the early 20th century, the global air and sea surface temperature has increased about 0.8 °C (1.4 °F), with about two-thirds of the increase occurring since 1980.... In its fourth assessment (AR4 2007) of the relevant scientific literature, the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that scientists were more than 90% certain that most of global warming was being caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases produced by human activities. In 2010 that finding was recognized by the national science academies of all major industrialized nations. Affirming these findings in 2013, the IPCC stated that the largest driver of global warming is carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuel combustion, cement production, and land use changes such as deforestation. Its 2013 report states: “It is extremely likely (95-100%) that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.”*

2014. And a quote that sums it up from American Environmentalist Bill McKibben, founder of “350.org” and author of “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math”, published in *Rolling Stone* magazine. In speaking to NZ Herald 14 Feb 2014 he states. *“The basic problem fossil fuel companies’ face is they can’t deny the math we’ve laid out. Their business plans make clear they are going to break the planet. That they’re going to raise the temperature of the earth 3 or 4 degrees Celsius this century. A small group of rich people. And that math is their weakness. They no longer have any intellectual case to make. All they have now is their power.”*



What a Warmer World May Look Like

The map below makes a prediction of what the world will look like four degrees Celsius warmer.



“The Pale Green Horseman”

Climate Change Liars and Deniers

There are numerous examples of massive damage to our world environment. There is the continued destruction of the world's forests like the Amazon; the Shell Oil pollution in Nigeria, the plundering of the world's fisheries; the drying up of the Aral Sea, and so on. However, perhaps it could be argued that these examples are driven more by ignorance, greed and corruption rather than some malicious plan by selfish capitalists.

Therefore let us consider the following article entitled, "*CASH vs CLIMATE SCIENCE – Billionaire businessmen secretly funding American counter climate-change campaign.*" This article by Steve Connor was taken from the front page of the World section of the *NZ Herald*, Sat 26 Jan 2013 (& originated with the *Independent*). The article is as follows:

A secretive funding organisation in the United States that guarantees anonymity for its billionaire donors has emerged as a major operator in the climate "counter movement" to undermine the science of global warming, according to the Independent.

The Donors Trust, with its sister group Donor's Capital Fund, based in Alexandria, Virginia, is funnelling millions of dollars into the effort to cast doubt on climate change without revealing the identities of its wealthy backers or that they have links to the fossil fuel industry.

However, an audit trail reveals that Donors is being indirectly supported by the American billionaire Charles Koch who, with his brother David, jointly owns a majority stake in Koch Industries, a large oil, gas and chemical conglomerate based in Kansas.



**The Koch Brothers
Charles and David**

(The combined wealth of the Koch brothers in 2014 was listed in *Forbes* magazine as more than US\$80 billion, greater than Bill Gates, who was listed as the world's richest man). According to Wikipedia the Kochs primarily support Republican candidates and pledged to donate \$60 million in the 2012 election season to defeat Democrat President Barack Obama. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, of \$274 million in anonymous 2012 contributions, at least \$86 million is "attributed to donor groups in the Koch network".)

Millions of dollars have been paid to Donors through a third-party organisation, called the Knowledge and Progress Fund, which is operated by the Koch family but does not advertise its Koch connections.

Some commentators believe that such convoluted arrangements are becoming increasingly common to shield the identity and backgrounds of the wealth supporters of climate scepticism – some of whom have vested interests in the fossil-fuel industry.

The Knowledge and Progress fund, whose directors include Charles Koch and his wife Liz, gave US \$1.25 million to Donors in 2007, a further US \$1.25 million in 2008 and a further US \$2.00 million in 2010. It does not appear to have given money to any other group and there is no mention of the fund on the websites of Koch industries or the Charles Koch Foundation.

The Donors Trust is a ‘donor advised fund’, meaning that it has special status under the US tax system. People who give money receive generous tax relief and can retain greater anonymity than if they had used their own charitable foundations because, technically, they do not control how Donors spends the cash.

Anonymous private funding of global warming sceptics, who have criticised climate scientists for their lack of transparency, is becoming increasingly common. The Kochs, for instance, have overtaken the corporate funding of climate denialism by Exxon/Mobil.

One such organisation, Americans for Prosperity, established by David Koch, claimed that the “Climategate” emails illegally hacked from the University of East Anglia in 2009 proved that global warming was the “biggest hoax the world has ever seen”.

Dr Robert Brulle, a sociologist at Drexel University in Philadelphia, has estimated that over the past decade about US \$500 million has been given to organisations devoted to undermining the science of climate change, with much of the money donated anonymously through third parties.

The Donor’s Trust has given money to the American Enterprise Institute which is currently being sued for defamation by Professor Michael Mann of Pennsylvania University, and eminent climatologist, whose affidavit claims that he was accused of scientific fraud and compared to a convicted child molester.

Brulle said; We really have anonymous giving and unaccountable power being exercised here in the creation of the climate countermovement. There is no attribution, no responsibility for the actions of these foundations to the public.”

“By becoming anonymous, they can remove a political target. They can plausibly claim that they are not giving to these organisations, and there is no way to prove otherwise.”

Note that the issue here is not whether one currently believes in climate change or not, or believes it is caused by human actions or not. The issue is that selfish capitalists are apparently pouring in **huge amounts of funding to undermine science** so they can continue to make billions of dollars, and this may cost billions of lives!

Climate change predictors are saying that the world is on track for as much as a six degree Celsius increase in temperature by the end of the century and that with a temperature increase of even four degrees not even one tenth of the world’s human population will survive (NZ Herald 14 March 2009 reporting on statements made at a gathering of 2500 environmental experts in Copenhagen). This isn’t even considering the mass extinction of species and destruction of ecosystems.

The issue is that if there is even a minor risk this is correct, then anyone who undermines the science that may help identify and prevent what could be the greatest catastrophe in all human history can accurately be classified as being in the worst category of criminals.



The End of the Golden Age

*The soil is taken by the wind,
The ground is ripped and torn,
The great trees are falling to the earth,
And each second, another human is born.*

*Fouled seas and rivers raped by our greed,
So many species soon to be gone,
Great creatures that will roam no more,
And still we go on and on and on.*

*Now the air grows hot and sick,
Drought and storms spread across the land.
We're about to see our great age die,
To pass away by our own hand.*

*Ruined cities strewn along every coast,
The Apocalypse of our deepest fears.
Torments of a dying beast,
Billions dead in a few short years.*

*This is our song of blistered hate,
Our limb of bloodied folly,
Our rhyme endorsed by nature's fate,
Twisted by our fattened belly.*

*We've grown so fat we cannot see,
What is in truth, man's God-cursed reality;
That for every human there is only want and now,
And each human child is bred to this instinctive vow.*

“Cursed is the ground because of you....” (Genesis 4:17)



Bob Boardman (1990)