

The Week That Was: 2014-11-22 (November 22, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week: *Skepticism is the first step to Truth* -- Denis Diderot

Number of the Week: 1.42 times area of USA (all territory)

THIS WEEK:

By Ken Haapala, Executive Vice President, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)

Science Adviser: Recently, the once obscure position of official science adviser has garnered the attention in the popular press. John Holdren, President Obama's chief science adviser, has been active in the US National Climate Assessment, which is little more than the alarmist version of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR-5) of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Summary for Policymakers, with the global climate models adjusted for the United States. The certainty of the science expressed in the reports is not borne out by observations from nature; the climate models on which the Assessment is based have been shown to greatly overestimate 21st century temperature trends.

In a January 8, 2014 video, Holdren attributed the extreme cold the US was experiencing at the time to global warming causing changes to the circumpolar vortex, thereby bringing Arctic cold to the US. For this video, he was soundly criticized. Large variations (meanders) in the circumpolar vortex, known as atmospheric Rossby waves, were first identified by Carl-Gustaf Arvid Rossby in 1939 – long before the fear of global warming and major human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the purported cause of global warming. The circumpolar vortex has probably existed since the earth rotated on its axis and had an atmosphere.

The November 15 TWTW linked to reports stating that the European Commission's Chief Scientific Adviser, Anne Glover, was forced out and her position abolished apparently in response to demands by Greenpeace. Glover, a professor of molecular biology, supported genetically modified crops. Apparently, the radical green organizations prefer corn (maize) that has not been genetically modified and requires extensive processing to be consumed by humans.

Given this latest development, it is refreshing to read the first Annual Report of the [UK] Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Sir Mark Walport: *Innovation: Managing Risk, Not Avoiding It*.

The report recognizes innovation is not a linear process that starts in the laboratory and ends up in the clinic, the environment or the marketplace. Innovation is essential for economic growth, health, wellbeing, security and resilience. It describes *how many of the greatest periods of economic growth in the past have been driven by innovation. The need to innovate is a fundamental requirement for social and economic progress. Innovative economies are more competitive, respond better to change, see higher returns on investment and create increased living standards. Innovative businesses are more productive and grow faster than businesses that fail to innovate. And it is not only businesses that must innovate: governments and social organizations need to innovate, to adapt, respond to and shape the evolution of society. Governments have an essential role in shaping the legal frameworks, institutions and policies that*

in turn shape the risks and incentives faced by others. It is this balance of risks and incentives that determine what choices innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, inventors, bureaucrats and citizens will make.

As importantly, the report recognizes innovation is not an unalloyed good — almost all innovations can cause both benefit and harm. Because of this, discussion of innovation has become almost inseparable from discussion of risk. Paradoxically, this discussion has become more prominent precisely because the innovations of previous generations have made our lives much safer and free of risk. People living in advanced economies have become more risk averse compared to previous generations. A common denominator of innovation in every generation is that it solves problems, creates wealth and new employment, while at the same time potentially disrupting the status quo of existing wealth and employment, and creating new problems and challenges.

What is needed are systems of regulations that are based on rigorous evidence and well-informed public debate to balance the need for innovation with the possible harms from it. One of the biggest challenges to accomplishing such systems is the need to distinguish between hazard, exposure, risk and vulnerability. These may vary according to region and culture, making it difficult to adopt a single plan for Western Europe – or for the world.

It is interesting to speculate how the environmental organizations will react to this report. Wind and solar, the methods of electricity generation endorsed by the greens, are failing to supply modern civilization with reliable power. Innovation in electricity storage is crucial to replacing fossil fuels (as well as nuclear and hydro) as the preferred source of electricity generation throughout the world. Will the greens condemn this report and oppose necessary innovation? See links under Seeking a Common Ground, Questioning European Green, and, for the Holdren video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eDTzV6a9F4&feature=youtu.be>

Lame-Duck: In the US, congressional elections take place every two years. Sessions of Congress are called a lame-duck if the session occurs after a major election choosing the successor Congress and before the new Congress is convened. From now until January 3, 2015, any sessions of Congress will be lame-duck sessions. Although important work remains to be done by the current Congress, such as budget authorizations, such sessions often include efforts by members who were not re-elected to advance favored interests – such as renewal of the production tax credit, a major subsidy for the US wind industry. There are a number of such efforts underway. See links under Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes and Subsidies and Mandates Forever.

Keystone XL: A major portion of the Keystone pipeline that is within the US has been built. However, the portion of the extended pipeline bringing oil from the tar sands of south-central Canada to refineries on the Gulf of Mexico has been blocked by officials in Washington for six years. [There is now a local legal issue regarding the approval of the pipeline by officials in Nebraska.]

This week the Senate took up the Keystone issue. It required a major election defeat of the Democratic Party and the possible defeat in a runoff featuring Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu from Louisiana, an oil and natural gas state, before Democratic Senator Harry Reid would permit a vote on the issue. The proposal did not garner sufficient Democratic votes to overcome a Democratic filibuster on the issue, 60 votes required. The sacrifice of Ms. Landrieu is an example

of the extent to which the greens have seized control of the Democratic Party. After January 3, the new, Republican-controlled, US Senate may re-visit the issue, but the Democratic Party may no longer have the vote of Ms. Landrieu. See Article # 5 and links under Washington's Control of Energy.

Antiquated Economics: Reading statements by President Obama on the Keystone issue are reminiscent of some economic writings of the 18th and 19th century praising Mercantilism and urging that economic activity should be kept within the boundaries of a country or geographic region. Apparently, the President does not recognize that trade can benefit societies in general, or that a major issue in the American Revolution and in its founding documents came from Britain's attempts to control trade. Will the next step be a return of the British Corn laws, by placing heavy import duties on foodstuffs, thereby protecting landed interests at the expense of the general population? See Article # 4.

Learning from Failure: The high-tech company, Google, spent a great amount of money on internal research and development (R&D) to develop alternatives to fossil fuels, chiefly to develop renewable energy sources for the generation of electricity at costs lower than coal-fired power plants. After 4 years, following an internal review, it was decided that the effort was not on track to meet its target and the company shut down its initiative.

To their credit, two of the engineers published their experiences and observations including that "our society needs to fund scientists and engineers to propose and test new ideas, fail quickly, and share what they learn. Today, the energy innovation cycle is measured in decades, in large part because so little money is spent on critical types of R&D." In the view of TWTW, unfortunately, Government-funded projects do not fail until it is too late. All too often the technology is deployed, before it is properly developed.

Additional note: in the view of TWTW, the justification for the research was flawed. Google used an analysis from James Hansen, a global warming alarmist. Recent research indicates that the impact of carbon dioxide on global temperatures is far less than calculated by laboratory experiments. See link under Seeking a Common Ground.

Heavy Snows: The Great Lakes region of the northern mid-west suffered from heavy snows over the past week. As with John Holdren last year, immediately, articles appeared claiming that global warming is driving crazy winters. Roy Spencer quickly dispensed with this notion. Spencer points out that the Great Lakes are unusually cold this year, and that the storms were driven by a very cold air blast from Siberia. Where is the warming? See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Hottest Month (Year?) Since? It is November, and we are getting predictions as to how hot 2014 will be as compared with prior years. Many historic records used for such rankings, including those used by government agencies, are actually several sets of time-series data spliced together, imperfectly, using models that are not thoroughly tested. Statistician Matt Briggs has words of caution regarding such time-series data:

1) Never homogenize; 2) Carry all uncertainty forward; 3) Look at the data; 4) Define your question; 5) Only the data is the data; 6) The model is not the data; and 7) Don't use statistics unless you have to (most statistical models stink and they are never checked on new data, the only true test). See links under Seeking a Common Ground and Measurement Issues.

Comments to EPA: The deadline for the public to comment on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants is December 1. The regulations are the main feature of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, which seeks to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants to 30% below the emission level in 2005, by the year 2030. The impact of these regulations on temperatures is probably so small, it is not measurable. See comments by Patrick Michaels under Questioning the Orthodoxy.

Number of the Week: 1.42 times area of the USA (all territory). In discussing how gullible people are when confronted by deceptive use of physical features, Tim Ball points out that few people have any idea of the physical world, such as the size and shape of the Arctic Ocean. The Ocean is about 1.42 times the area of the USA [there is some disagreement among sources on the exact area of each.]

Ignorance of geography is all too common in the popular press, even though maps are readily searched on the internet. For an interesting discussion on Climate Perception, Projection and Propaganda please see link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below, please see this week's TWTW at: www.sepp.org. The articles are at the end of the pdf.

1. A Suicidal Collapse of Western Civilization?

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Nov 16, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/11/a_suicidal_collapse_of_western_civilization.html

2. EPA rules could double utility bills

By S. Fred Singer, Letters to the Editor, Richmond Times Dispatch, Nov 16, 2014

http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor-nov/article_e0b261a3-ac86-5c95-86cd-2187dc76224c.html?mode=%E2%80%A6

3. Solar flares and EMPs threaten our survival

By Charles Battig, VA-SEEE, Nov 15, 2014

Letters to the Editor: Richmond Times-Dispatch, Nov. 16, 2014

http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor-nov/article_e0b261a3-ac86-5c95-86cd-2187dc76224c.html?mode=%E2%80%A6

4. Obama's Latest Economics Lesson

He says the Keystone XL pipeline will merely transport 'their oil.'

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 14, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/obamas-latest-economics-lesson-1416009292>

5. The Tom Steyer Democrats

The Keystone XL filibuster reveals the new liberal coalition.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 20, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/the-tom-steyer-democrats-1416442845>

6. Jonathan Gruber's 'Stupid' Budget Tricks

His ObamaCare candor shows how Congress routinely cons taxpayers.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 14, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/jonathan-grubers-stupid-budget-tricks-1416009107>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

Climategate's Fifth Anniversary: Gruber Science (revisiting a controversy)

By Steve Gorham, Master Resource, Nov 19, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/climategate/climategate-fifth-anniversary/>

Climategate Anniversary

By Paul Matthews, The IPCC Report, Nov 17, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<https://ipccreport.wordpress.com/2014/11/17/climategate-anniversary/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Eco-Authoritarian Catastrophism: The Dismal and Deluded Vision of Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway

By Martin Lewis, Geo Currents, Oct 9, 2014

<http://www.geocurrents.info/physical-geography/eco-authoritarian-catastrophism-dismal-deluded-vision-naomi-oreskes-erik-m-Conway>

Is Global Warming Causing More Snowstorms? No, It Isn't

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Nov 21, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/11/is-global-warming-causing-more-snowstorms/>

Climate Perception, Projection and Propaganda

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Nov 17, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/17/climate-perception-projection-and-propaganda/>

A Member of the European Parliament Dissents on Climate

By Roger Helmer, American Thinker, Nov 20, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/11/a_member_of_the_european_parliament_dissents_on_climate.html

[SEPP Comment: EU climate policy is unnecessary, ineffectual, and ruinously expensive.]

Abbott will soon look like a genius for refusing to drag Australia to yet another climate fiasco

By Tom Switzer, The Guardian, UK, Nov 17, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/18/abbott-will-soon-look-like-a-genius-for-refusing-to-drag-australia-to-yet-another-climate-fiasco>

Australia stands firm against G20 pack on climate change

By Jane Wardell, Reuters, Nov 19, 2014

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/11/19/us-australia-france-climatechange-idUKKCN0J307K20141119>

Defending the Orthodoxy

There's growing evidence that global warming is driving crazy winters

By Chris Mooney, Washington Post, Nov 20, 2014

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/11/20/theres-growing-evidence-that-global-warming-is-driving-crazy-winters/>

[SEPP Comment: See link to Spencer above!]

Ed Miliband: Copenhagen was necessary failure on road to Paris

By Sophie Yeo, RTCC, Nov 21, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.rtcc.org/2014/11/21/ed-miliband-copenhagen-was-necessary-failure-on-road-to-paris/>

G20 urges 'strong and effective action' on climate change

By Staff Writers, Brisbane, Australia (AFP), Nov 16, 2014

http://www.spacewar.com/reports/G20_urges_strong_and_effective_action_on_climate_change_99.html

GOP, climate change is not partisan football

By Sally Kohn, CNN, Nov 14, 2014

http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/14/opinion/kohn-climate-change/index.html?hpt=op_t1

[SEPP Comment: Climate change has been occurring for hundreds of millions of years. The Clinton-Gore administration, then the EPA, made it a political football by declaring, without evidence, that human emissions of carbon dioxide are the cause.]

GOP victory: Game over for the climate?

Editorial, Washington Post, Nov 16, 2014

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/gop-victory-game-over-for-the-climate/2014/11/16/ff646834-69f0-11e4-a31c-77759fc1eacc_story.html

[SEPP Comment: Will climate end?]

Will Republican Know-Nothings Torpedo Climate Progress?

Obama's postponement of Keystone XL, EPA emissions regulations and now the China deal are in jeopardy.

By Mark Hertsgaard, The Nation, Dec 1-8, 2014

<http://www.thenation.com/article/190465/will-republican-know-nothings-torpedo-climate-progress>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Blow For Green Tories As Climate Sceptics Party Wins By-Election

By Laura Pitel, The Times, Via GWPF, Nov 21, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/blow-for-tories-as-climate-sceptics-party-wins-by-election/>

You Ought to Have a Look: The Weather According to Maue, Comments on EPA Power Plant Rules, the Government Bogarts the Weed

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Nov 21, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/you-ought-have-look-weather-according-maue-comments-epa-power-plant-rules-government-bogarts>

Climate Reporting Chaos in Oregon

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, Nov 17, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/11/climate_reporting_chaos_in_oregon.html

Energy Flotsam and Jetsam

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Nov 21, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/energy-flotsam-and-jetsam.php>

Gullible leaders, journalists, swallow advertising and cheer it on?

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 17, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/11/gullible-leaders-journalists-swallow-advertising-and-brag-about-it/>

North Korea — the ultimate low-carbon ideal

By Tom Quirk & Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 16, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/11/north-korea-the-ultimate-low-carbon-ideal/#more-39378>

The Climate Scam's Meltdown

By Walter Starck, Quadrant, Nov 20, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2014/11/climate-scams-meltdown/>

China—US Agreement?

Obama's Climate Deal Is a Man-Made Disaster

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Nov 17, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Barack-Obama-China-China-Climate-Pact-Xi-Jinping/2014/11/17/id/607742/>

Partners in Pointlessness

By Tom Quirk, Quadrant, Nov 21, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2014/11/obamas-co2-target/>

U.S., China deal includes support for carbon capture in China

Deal expands joint carbon research in China

By Wayne Barber, Generation Hub, Nov 12, 2014

<http://generationhub.com/2014/11/12/us-china-deal-includes-support-for-carbon-capture>

Buoyed by China deal, Obama seeks world climate pact

By Staff Writers, Brisbane, Australia (AFP), Nov 15, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Buoyed_by_China_deal_Obama_seeks_world_climate_pact_99.html

With Friends Like That: Obama Attacks America's Key Ally

It is a dangerous thing to be an enemy of President Obama's. It can be fatal to be his friend. - .

By Greg Sheridan, The Australian, Via GWPF, Nov 11, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/with-friends-like-that-obama-attacks-americas-key-ally/>

Social Benefits of Carbon

Boosts in productivity of corn and other crops modify Northern Hemisphere carbon dioxide cycle

Croplands help drive greater seasonal change in annual cycle

By Cheryl Dyban, NSF, Nov 19, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133162&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

[SEPP Comment: Is this further “proof” that humans are causing global warming/climate change?]

Seeking a Common Ground

Politics, precaution and science

By Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance, Nov 21, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/politics-precaution-and-science>

Link to report: Managing risk, not avoiding it

The first Annual Report (2013) of the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Sir Mark Walport, The Government Office of Science, Nov 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/376494/14-1190a-innovation-managing-risk-report.pdf

Climate change and the left

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 15, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/11/15/climate-change-and-the-left.html>

Netherlands Temperature Controversy: Or, Yet Again, How Not To Do Time Series

By Matt Briggs, His Blog, Nov 19, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://wmbriggs.com/blog/?p=14718>

[SEPP Comment: Lengthy post.]

What It Would Really Take to Reverse Climate Change

Today’s renewable energy technologies won’t save us. So what will?

By Ross Koningstein & David Fork, IEEE Spectrum, Nov 18, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://spectrum.ieee.org/energy/renewables/what-it-would-really-take-to-reverse-climate-change/?utm_source=techalert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=112014

‘Help’ that just slaps the third world

By Bjorn Lomborg, New York Post, November 19, 2014

<http://nypost.com/2014/11/19/help-that-just-slaps-the-third-world/>

[SEPP Comment: Even accepting the UN numbers, the efforts to curb CO2 will do little.]

The Answer to the Climate Problem Is Innovation—Not Empty Promises

By Bjørn Lomborg, Time, Nov 15, 2014

<http://time.com/3587188/us-china-climate-deal-empty-promises-innovation/>

Models v. Observations

Who needs an Orbiting Carbon Observatory to track it when you can model Carbon Dioxide movement?

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 18, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/18/who-needs-an-orbiting-carbon-observatory-when-you-can-model-of-carbon-dioxide/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately below.]

NASA Computer Model Provides a New Portrait of Carbon Dioxide

By Staff Writers, Pasadena CA (JPL), Nov 17, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/NASA_Computer_Model_Provides_a_New_Portrait_of_Carbon_Dioxide_999.html

Model Issues

Nature article: \$250 million should be spent on climate models able to skillfully simulate clouds & convection

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Nov 19, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/11/nature-article-250-million-should-be.html>

Fossils cast doubt on climate-change model projections on habitats

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 19, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/19/fossils-cast-doubt-on-climate-change-model-projections-on-habitats/>

Warmer Soil Will Expel Less Carbon To Atmosphere Than Modeled

By Staff Writers, Berkeley CA (SPX), Nov 18, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/As_Temperatures_Rise_Soil_Will_Relinquish_Less_Carbon_to_the_Atmosphere_Than_Currently_Predicted_999.html

Measurement Issues

Earth has warmest October on record as ocean temperatures top charts

By Jason Samenow, Washington Post, Nov 14, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/wp/2014/11/14/october-was-earths-warmest-month-on-record-as-ocean-temperatures-top-charts/>

[SEPP Comment: As if we have continuous, comprehensive surface temperature records dating to the 1880s.]

October temperatures push 2014 closer to hottest year on record

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 20, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/224878-october-temps-push-2014-toward-planets-hottest-in-135-years>

[SEPP Comment: Amusing headline as the central and eastern US suffer extreme cold.]

October 2014 Global Surface (Land+Ocean) and Lower Troposphere Temperature Anomaly & Model-Data Difference Update

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Nov 15, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/15/october-2014-global-surface-landocean-and-lower-troposphere-temperature-anomaly-model-data-difference-update/>

Changing Weather

RP Jr on disasters

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 21, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/11/21/rp-jr-on-disasters.html>

[SEPP Comment: Another review of Roger Pielke Jr's new book questioning claims of increased extreme weather.]

That Epic, Fickle, Shovel-off-to-Buffalo Snow: An All-Time U.S. Record?

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Nov 20, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/11/that-epic-fickle-shovel-off-to-buffalo-snow-an-all-time-u-s-record/>

Changing Climate

Climatologist: 30-Year Cold Spell Strikes Earth

By Clayton Reid, Newsmax, Nov 16, 2014

http://www.newsmax.com/Headline/dark-winter-cold-global-cooling/2014/11/16/id/607672/?ns_mail_uid=33788306&ns_mail_job=1595581_11172014&s=al&dkn_nbr=gliwbisr

Climate capers of the past 600,000 years

By Staff Writers, Bonn, Germany (SPX), Nov 18, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Climate_capers_of_the_past_600000_years_999.html

Climate change did NOT cause the collapse of the Bronze Age: Cold conditions occurred two generations after population decline

Cold and wet conditions occurred two generations after collapse in 800BC

Experts from Universities in Britain and Ireland think social and economic pressures were primarily to blame - but harsh weather made it worse

When iron production took over, bronze trading networks failed

This caused widespread conflict and social collapse, the experts said

By Sarah Griffiths, Mail, UK, Nov 17, 2014

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2838090/Climate-change-did-NOT-cause-collapse-Bronze-Age.html>

Lowering Standards

New term: 'Gruberling' and how it applies to Climate Alarmism

By M. Paul, WUWT, Nov 16, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/16/new-term-gruberling-and-how-it-applies-to-climate-alarmism/>

Gruber 'Stupidity' Scandal Implicates The Press, Too

Editorial, IBD, Nov 19, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-obama-care/111914-727282-media-cover-up-or-downplay-jonathan-gruber-scandal.htm>

Opinion/Letter: Academia showing its contempt

By Charles Battig, The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, VA, Nov 18, 2014

http://www.dailyprogress.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/opinion-letter-academia-showing-its-contempt/article_bb632576-6ea0-11e4-ab68-e39e204aeb42.html

Obama Administration Elitists Have Contempt For Voters

By Victor Davis Hanson, IBD, Nov 19, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-on-the-right/111914-727224-jonathan-gruber-and-other-elitist-frauds-in-white-house.htm>

Roger [Harrabin of BBC] throws down the gauntlet

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 20, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/11/20/roger-throws-down-the-gauntlet.html>

Link to article: Rich countries to discuss Green Climate Fund in Berlin

By Rober Harrabin, BBC, Nov 20, 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30123932>

[SEPP Comment: With propaganda photo of cooling towers emitting condensing steam.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague?

Fortune Magazine Bias

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 18, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/11/18/fortune-magazine-bias/>

Study: Polar Bear Populations Have Plummeted 40 Percent in Alaska and Canada

By David Kirbby, Yahoo, Nov17, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer.]

<http://news.yahoo.com/study-polar-bear-populations-plummeted-40-percent-alaska-234011207.html>

Link to paper: Polar bear population dynamics in the southern Beaufort Sea during a period of sea ice decline

By Jeffrey Bromaghin, et al, ESA, No Date

<http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/14-1129.1>

[SEPP Comment: The headline writers are ignorant of geography. See link immediately below!]

S Beaufort polar bears largely recovered from known 2004-2006 decline, says new study

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 18, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/11/18/s-beaufort-polar-bears-largely-recovered-from-known-2004-2006-decline-says-new-study/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Creating a New Myth

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 21, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/11/21/creating-a-new-myth/>

Green disinformation: worse than we thought

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 17, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/11/17/green-disinformation-worse-than-we-thought.html>

[SEPP Comment: Normal expenses and capital costs termed as subsidies.]

Hollande raises specter of war over climate change

By Geert De Clercq, Reuters, Nov 16, 2014

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/hollande-raises-specter-war-over-climate-change-133133544.html>

Why does Lord Deben misreport the science of extreme weather?

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 17, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/11/17/why-does-lord-deben-misreport-the-science-of-extreme-weather.html>

Questioning European Green

Wind Power Push Has Blown Up In Europe's Face

By Cormac Lucey, Sunday Times, Via GWPF, Nov 16, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/wind-power-push-has-blown-up-in-europes-face/>

Germany's CO2 Reductions "Fetish" Causing National Policy Turmoil: Economics And Environment Ministries Collide

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 17, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/11/17/germanys-co2-reductions-fetish-causing-national-policy-turmoil-economics-and-environment-ministries-collide/>

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Climate change investment falls for second year in 2013

By Megan Rowling, Reuters, Nov 21, 2014

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SEPP Comment: Could it be that the rate of return on such investments is less than 1?]

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop chides Barack Obama over Great Barrier Reef climate change remarks

By Staff Writer, Radio Australia, Nov 20, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2014-11-20/foreign-minister-julie-bishop-chides-barack-obama-over-great-barrier-reef-climate-change-remarks/1391635>

The poorest will suffer if we force renewable energy on the developing world

By Benny Peiser and Daniel Mahoney, City A.M., Nov 20, 2014

<http://www.cityam.com/1416512685/poorest-will-suffer-if-we-force-renewable-energy-developing-world>

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Obama: 'We Are Going to Contribute \$3 Billion to the Green Climate Fund'

By Terence Jeffrey, CNS News, Nov 15, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/terence-p-jeffrey/obama-we-are-going-contribute-3-billion-green-climate-fund>

Nations pledge \$9.3 bn for Green Climate Fund: Germany

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 20, 2014

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Britain Pays Twice Its Fair Share To Green Climate Fund

By Ben Webster, The Times, Via GWPF, Nov 21, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/britain-pays-twice-its-fair-share-to-green-climate-fund/>

GWPF Calls For Halt To UK Low Carbon International Climate Funding

By Staff Writers, GWPF, Nov 18, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/gwpf-calls-for-halt-to-uk-low-carbon-international-climate-funding/>

Climate Research needs Re-direction

By Viv Forbes, AUCSP, Nov 22, 2014

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Secret Science Reform Act of 2014: a step towards transparency

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Nov 20, 2014

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Why Does Washington Want to Hide Science Data From the Public?

By Nicolas Loris, The Daily Signal, Nov 18, 2014

http://dailysignal.com/2014/11/18/washington-want-hide-science-data-public/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailydigest&mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRokva7PZKXonjHpfsX66O0pUKOylMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4CRM RnI%2BSLDwEYGIv6SgFQrLBMa1ozrgOWxX0TD7slJfbfYRPF6Ba2Jwyr%2Fs%3D

White House taunts GOP on climate change: ‘I don’t believe they can stop us’

By Ben Wolfgang, Washington Times, Nov 17, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/nov/17/white-house-taunts-gop-climate-change/>

Podesta Says Congress Can't Stop Obama On Climate

Editorial, IBD, Nov 18, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/111814-727028-podesta-says-dont-believe-they-can-stop-us.htm>

The Insiders: Congress can derail Obama’s global warming fantasies

By Ed Rogers, Washington Post, Nov 14, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/wp/2014/11/14/the-insiders-congress-can-derail-obamas-global-warming-fantasies/>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Carbon taxes would be ATM for Congress

By William O’Keefe, George Marshall Institute, Letter, Nov 16, 2014

http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor-nov/article_e0b261a3-ac86-5c95-86cd-2187dc76224c.html?mode=%E2%80%A6

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Worldwatch Institute’s Case Against the PTC (1984 vs. 2014)

By Robert Bradley, Jr, Master Resource, Nov 21, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/worldwatch-institute-environmental-pressure-groups/worldwatch-vs-ptc-extension/>

“How is it that wind, with a 4000-year head start, is such a small player in the energy scene?” asked Howard Hayden. “Could it be—just possibly—that the answer has something to do with physics instead of economics and politics?”

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Business boiled over EPA’s water rule

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Nov 18, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/energy-environment/224471-business-boiled-over-epas-water-rule>

EPA’s next regulatory tsunami

By Paul Driessen, WUWT, Nov 18, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/18/epas-next-regulatory-tsunami/>

EPA chief Gina McCarthy vows to push major initiatives despite GOP threats

By Joby Warrick, Washington Post, Nov 17, 2014

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EPA Finalizes Changes to MATS Startup and Shutdown Rules

By Sonal Patel, Power, Nov 19, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/epa-finalizes-changes-to-mats-startup-and-shutdown-rules/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2984627&hq_l=18&hq_v=5e660500d0

EPA moves on new slate of emissions standards

By Lydia Wheeler, The Hill, Nov 21, 2014

<http://thehill.com/regulation/225070-epa-moves-on-new-slate-of-emissions-standards>
[SEPP Comment: The manufacture of sinks and toilets is a threat to human health?]

Energy Issues – Non-US

China Invest \$73Bn In Global Oil Production

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Nov 21, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/11/21/china-invest-73bn-in-global-oil-production/>

Ineos to invest £640m in UK shale gas exploration

By Staff Writers, BBC, Nov 20, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

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Lower Oil Prices Carry Geopolitical Consequences

Analysis, Stratfor Global Intelligence, Nov 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.stratfor.com/analysis/lower-oil-prices-carry-geopolitical-consequences#axzz3JcUBKjyd>

Overoptimistic

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 18, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/11/18/overoptimistic.html>

[SEPP Comment: Does the UK National Grid windpower capacity estimate fail to account for cold, windless nights?]

Energy Issues -- US

Fossil Fuels Industries: Time to Stand Tall! (book review of Alex Epstein's The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels)

By Erin Connors, Master Resource, Nov 20, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/fossil-fuel-utility/fossil-fuel-manifesto-proud/>

Using Coal, Oil and Gas, the Moral Choice

By H. Sterling Burnett, Heartland, Nov 18, 2014

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2014/11/18/using-coal-oil-and-gas-moral-choice>

[SEPP Comment: Another review of Epstein's book.]

Cheap-Oil Era Tilts Geopolitical Power to U.S.

By Rich Miller, Bloomberg, Nov 19, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-11-20/cheap-oil-era-tilts-geopolitical-power-to-u-s-.html>
[SEPP Comment: *If Washington does not prevent it.*]

If You Like Your Utility Rates, You Can Keep Your Utility Rates

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Nov 19, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/if-you-like-your-utility-rates-you-can-keep-your-utility-rates.php>

Chinese Threat To U.S. Power Grid Closer Than Thought

Editorial, IBD, Nov 21, 2014

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Winter Gas Crunch Again Threatens New England

By Thomas Overton, Power, Nov 18, 2014

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Decline and fall of coal

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Nov 17, 2014

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/decline-and-fall-of-coal/article/2556187>

ERCOT: EPA Clean Power Plan Will Further Complicate Reliability in Texas

By Sonal Patel, Power, Nov 19, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/ercot-epa-clean-power-plan-will-further-complicate-reliability-in-texas/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2984627&hq_l=14&hq_v=5e660500d0

Fracking to be permitted in Virginia national forest

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Nov 18, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/224483-fracking-to-be-permitted-in-virginia-national-forest>

Washington's Control of Energy

3 Reasons to Build the Keystone XL Pipeline

By Meredith Bragg & Nick Gillespie, Reason, Feb 17, 2014

<http://reason.com/blog/2013/02/17/3-reasons-to-build-the-keystone-xl-pipel>

Keystone Senate Defeat Shows Which Party Is Extreme

Editorial, IBD, Nov 19, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/111914-727281-keystone-defeat-in-senate-puts-gop-in-good-light.htm>

Senate Democrats stiff Mary Landrieu on Keystone XL pipeline; green lobby wins

By Stephen Dinan and Ben Wolfgang, Washington Times, Nov 18 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/nov/18/keystone-xl-pipeline-senate-dems-filibuster/>

Power Sector Fossil Fuel Revenues Decrease While Renewable Energy Grows Rapidly

By Aaron Larson, Power, Nov 19, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/power-sector-fossil-fuel-revenues-decrease-while-renewable-energy-grows-rapidly/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2984627&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Growth in renewables are due to subsidies and mandates.]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

NARUC Addresses the Marriage of Gas and Renewables

By Bentham Paulos, Power, Nov 19, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/naruc-addresses-the-marriage-of-gas-and-renewables/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2984627&hq_l=8&hq_v=5e660500d0

“Power system demands are changing to put a premium on flexible grid operations, and gas-fired power is the best choice for increasing flexibility.”

[SEPP Comment: What is flexible about a system, such as wind, that fails without notice?]

Lower Oil Prices Slow Fracking, but Kill Solar

By Bill Gunderson, American Thinker, Nov 18, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/11/lower_oil_prices_slow_fracking_but_kill_solar.html

Nuclear Energy and Fears

UK’s Nuclear Future In Danger Amid Mounting Areva Losses

By Adam Sage & Tim Webb, The Times, Via GWPF, Nov 19, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/uks-nuclear-future-in-danger-amid-mounting-areva-losses/>

IAEA Issues 2014 Edition of Climate Change and Nuclear Power

According to IAEA Director General Amano: Energy Demand to Grow Dramatically, But Carbon Footprint Must Be Reduced

By Bruna Lecossois, IAEA, Nov 20, 2014

<http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-issues-2014-edition-climate-change-and-nuclear-power>

Link to report: Climate Change and Nuclear Power 2014

By Staff Writers, IAEA, 2014

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/books/IAEABooks/10771/Climate-Change-and-Nuclear-Power-2014>

[SEPP Comment: Playing on the fears of global warming/climate change to promote nuclear power.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Eco-Paradise Lost: Wind Power Bleeds Investors

By Alexander Wendt, Focus Magazin, Trans by Philipp Mueller, GWPF, Nov 20, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/eco-paradise-lost-wind-power-bleeds-investors/>

Huge solar plant lags in early production

By Michael Blood, AP, Nov 17, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/s/huge-solar-plant-lags-early-192346351.html>

Solar – the greatest market opportunity world has seen

By Giles Parkinson, RE New Economy, Nov 14, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/solar-seen-greatest-market-opportunity-world-seen-48873>

Solar farms will still need subsidies far beyond 2020, industry admits

Solar Trade Association says large solar farm will need subsidies until 2025-2028, despite claiming last month that all solar panel projects could be subsidy-free by 2020

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Nov 19, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/solarpower/11242069/Solar-farms-will-still-need-subsidies-far-beyond-2020-industry-admits.html>

[SEPP Comment: Few things are as permanent as a temporary government subsidy program. See link immediately above!]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy -- Other

EPA punts on renewable fuel mandate decision

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 21, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/225002-epa-punts-final-2014-renewable-fuel-mandate>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Germany’s Sole Electric Car Battery Plant To Be Closed...Yet “Another Setback” For Germany’s CO2 Reduction Target

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 16, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/11/16/germanys-sole-electric-car-battery-plant-to-be-closed-yet-another-setback-for-germanys-co2-reduction-target/>

Carbon Schemes

Carbon Capture and Burial -- a Biocidal Policy

By Viv Forbes, American Thinker, Nov 18, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/11/carbon_capture_and_burial_a_biocidal_policy.html

California Dreaming in Texas

Japanese bullet train in Texas in seven years

Private company plans to build high-speed rail line between Houston and Dallas, America's fourth and fifth largest cities.

By Larry Ewers, Spero News, Nov 11, 2014

http://www.speroforum.com/a/QWZVQYXUSF25/75322-Japanese-bullet-train-in-Texas-in-seven-years#.VGoMQ_nF98E

Health, Energy, and Climate

Claim: Climate change will slow China’s progress in reducing infectious diseases

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 20, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/20/claim-climate-change-will-slow-chinas-progress-in-reducing-infectious-diseases/>

[SEPP Comment: Early 20th century warming did not slow America’s progress on infectious diseases.]

Health Canada Windpower Study: Playing Politics (Grubered up North)

By Lisa Linowes, Master Resource, Nov 18, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/health-safety-wind/health-canada-politics/>

Oh Mann!

Feverish Times for Climate Change Analyses in Virginia

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, Nov 19, 2014

[http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/11/feverish times for climate change analyses in virginia.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/11/feverish%20times%20for%20climate%20change%20analyses%20in%20virginia.html)

Environmental Industry

First DDT, now neonics—the harmful effects of “environmentalist”-sponsored, baseless pesticide bans

By Staff Writer, ACSH, Nov 20, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/11/first-ddt-now-neonics-harmful-effects-environmentalist-sponsored-baseless-pesticide-bans/>

Other Scientific News

Jurassic climate was far more complex than previously known

By Staff Writers, Dallas TX (SPX), Nov 19, 2014

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Jurassic climate of large swath of western US was more c omplex than previously known 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Jurassic%20climate%20of%20large%20swath%20of%20western%20US%20was%20more%20c%20omplex%20than%20previously%20known%20999.html)

Seventy years ago today, a science policy milestone

By Jessica Arriens, NSF, Nov 17, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133384&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Link to Roosevelt Letter:

The White House, Nov 17, 1944

<https://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/nsf50/vbush1945.htm#letter>

Virus fingered as top suspect in West Coast sea star wasting disease

By Cheryl Dybas, NSF, Nov 17, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133281&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Other News that May Be of Interest

China’s New Global Leadership

By Jeffrey Sachs, Project Syndicate, Nov 21, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/china-global-leadership-by-jeffrey-d-sachs-2014-11>

[SEPP Comment: The International Monetary Fund projects China will overtake the US as the world’s largest economy by the end of 2014.]

Ten Arguments against Obama's Executive Action

By Robert Charles, American Thinker, Nov 17, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/11/ten_arguments_against_obamas_executive_action.html

Returning bears pose dilemma in Europe

By Staff Writers, Nals, Italy (AFP), Nov 16, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Returning_bears_pose_dilemma_in_Europe_999.html

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Claim: ‘the pause’ is caused by small volcanic eruptions

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 19, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/19/claim-the-pause-is-caused-by-small-volcanic-eruptions/>

If 97% of Scientists Say Global Warming is Real, 100% Say It Has Nearly Stopped

By Paul C. “Chip” Knappenberger and Patrick J. Michaels, CATO, WUWT, Nov 18, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/18/if-97-of-scientists-say-global-warming-is-real-100-say-it-has-nearly-stopped/>

The New Consensus: 100 Percent Of Scientists Agree That Global Warming ‘Stopped’ Or ‘Slowed Down’

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Nov 19, 2014

http://dailycaller.com/2014/11/19/the-new-consensus-100-of-scientists-agree-that-global-warming-stopped-or-slowed-down/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter?print=1

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ARTICLES:

1. A Suicidal Collapse of Western Civilization?

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Nov 16, 2014

<http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/11/a-suicidal-collapse-of-western-civilization.html>

My background is basically European -- and more specifically, Western European. I have lived and worked in many of those countries, and I know most of the major cities intimately -- from Stockholm in the north, Newcastle, London, Paris, The Hague, Munich, Vienna, to Rome and Erice, Sicily in the south. I have also spent several months in Moscow and in Jerusalem as a guest of academic institutions.

Economic Suicide

The ongoing economic suicide of Europe is based on a faulty understanding of the climate issue by most Western politicians and on their extreme policy response, based on emotion rather than logic and science. The major European economies have reacted irrationally to contrived, unjustified fear of imagined global-warming disasters

Perhaps I should explain that the climate has not been warming for the past 18 years -- and even if it had been warming, it would be no disaster. The EU wants to cut emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, a natural plant-fertilizer, by 40% within 15 years -- by 2030. This insane drive to replace energy sources from fossil fuels that release plant-friendly CO2 into the atmosphere has led to greatly increased costs of energy. As is well understood, such actions not only hurt economic growth, but they increase poverty levels and therefore threaten the social fabric of these nations.

There are some exceptions. of course: France and Belgium rely heavily on nuclear energy; Austria and Norway rely heavily on hydro. Poland has actively resisted the general trend to demonize CO2, but the UK and Germany, which has been the power-house of European economic growth, are severely threatened by their insistence on installing wind and solar energy. The latter is especially inappropriate to the Continent and to Great Britain.

The pity of it all is that these economic sacrifices in Western Europe will hardly affect the level of atmospheric CO2 -- which is controlled globally by huge emissions from China -- and soon also from India.

Unfortunately, during the past few years, and even during the White House administration of George W. Bush, the United States has tended to move in the same direction -- and energy costs have gone up markedly.

The regulatory burdens created by the EPA's "War on Coal," by holding up permits for pipelines and for exploration-production of fuels on Federal lands, etc, are imposing real costs on US households, which are the equivalent of a large energy tax -- except that none of these increased costs flow into the US Treasury.

Cultural, plus even more dangerous Demographic Suicide,

But it is cultural suicide, which adds to economic suicide and spells doom for the future of Western Europe. I have in mind here the heavy immigration from Islamic nations -- with most immigrants unwilling to adjust to the prevailing culture of the host country.

Examples are rampant. In Great Britain, the dangerous immigration has come mostly from Pakistan and Bangladesh, Islamic successors to the British rule over India; Hindu immigrants present no special problem. In Southern Europe, the Low Countries, and most of Scandinavia, much of the immigration has been from Somalia and North Africa. France has experienced massive immigration from North Africa and other African French-speaking former colonies.

In many of these nations now, these immigrant communities have formed enclaves that the native inhabitants can no longer enter safely; even the police have great difficulty controlling law and order in these enclaves. Examples exist in cities like Birmingham, Amsterdam, Malmo (Sweden), Paris and Marseille. Germany seems slightly better off, with immigrants from Turkey making some effort to become good Germans. Of course, the aim of many in these enclaves is to take over the host country -- using available democratic means -- and institute Sharia (Islamic law).

It is clear that these immigrants are taking advantage of the democratic nature of the host nations and their willingness to grant asylum status and lavish economic subsidies to any who declare themselves as refugees. A prime example is Sweden, where multi-culturalism runs wild and is supported by the government-subsidized and beholden media. So far, no real revolt yet -- except for some grumbling from the indigenous population (whom the compliant media denounce as "racists.")

Least affected have been the Slavic nations, which were formerly under Soviet domination. Perhaps because of their delayed economic development, they have not been as attractive a destination for immigrants. Ironically, these East-Europeans may yet save Western civilization.

The United States faces a rather special situation. There is much immigration, mostly illegal, from south of the border. But these Latino immigrants are not Islamic; they share similar cultural values with native-born Americans -- and most are making an effort to adapt to the prevailing culture. The main danger is one of national security. With porous borders, potential terrorists can easily slip into the United States and create mayhem.

A peculiar problem exists in Israel, which has experienced illegal Islamic (!) immigration, mainly from Sudan and Eritrea. We are told that some southern suburbs of Tel Aviv now resemble a Third-World nation. Efforts are underway to deport these illegal immigrants; but standing in the way is Israel's Supreme Court, a group of unelected liberal lawyers, who personally oppose the Parliament-passed law of deportation -- certainly an anomalous situation by US standards.

Russia has experienced problems of its own, mainly from Islamic provinces in the Caucasus. The suppression of the Chechen revolt has caused a violent reaction, leading to major terror acts, even in Moscow.

Exacerbating the Islamic “conquest“ of Western Europe is the fact that the indigenous people -- from Swedes to Spaniards -- are not reproducing themselves. Whatever the cause may be, the number of children per family is well below the replacement level of 2.11; in some countries it is as low as 1.30. The statistics are frightening -- as seen in records of births, welfare rolls, and school attendance. By mid-century, parts of Europe will have a Moslem majority -- and even before then it will be too late to rectify the situation.

What of the future?

With ongoing internal battles within Islamic groups, it is not easy to predict the future. In Syria, some 200,000 have been killed and millions have been turned into refugees. The rise of the “Islamic State” in the last few months promises a brutal suppression of any who hold even a slightly different Islamic view. Their announced goal is to set up a theocratic Caliphate in any lands that have ever been under Islamic rule -- including most of the Balkans, Andalus-Spain, and of course Israel.

At the battle of Tours in 732, Charles Martell stopped the advance into France of Moslem armies from the Iberian peninsula. In 1571, in the great naval battle of Lepanto, off Greece, a Spanish-Italian fleet defeated the Turks. In their farthest advance into Central Europe, a Turkish army besieged Vienna in 1683. Christian forces, under the command of King John Sobieski of Poland, defeated the invaders decisively and saved Western civilization.

Americans have twice saved Europe in the 20th century and may soon be forced to defend Europe again against a new threat. The first assault on Western European civilization came from Nazi Germany and its allies; it took a bloody World-War-II (1939-1945) to defeat them. Certainly, without US intervention, Western Europe, and even Britain, might now be part of a German-ruled dictatorship, a sort of involuntary European Union. It is doubtful also whether the Soviet Union could have withstood Hitler’s onslaught without the active material assistance of the United States.

The second threat to Europe came from the post-1945 Soviet Union; it was dominated by the specter of ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons. The “Warsaw Pact” encompassed even a large part of Germany. This “Cold-War” threat was neutralized thanks to the steadfastness of the United States -- but also by the internal economic problems brought about by the planned economy of the Soviet empire.

The new threat of course is Islamo-Fascism and its aim to introduce Sharia -- in at least those parts of Europe that had been Muslim lands in the past, but aiming really at all of Europe -- and eventually the rest of the world. This new threat uses a method of warfare that is different from the past and more insidious. Terrorism has come into its own, partly based on large Islamic populations in Western Europe.

Coupled with this external threat is the internal one from Islamic fanatics, many of them born in Europe -- and even from converts. We have seen this happen in Spain, and more recently in Britain. Their methods have been crude and their weapons have been primitive; but with nuclear proliferation and with the possibility of chemical and biological warfare, these threats have to be taken very seriously.

Fighting these threats takes resources for surveillance, intelligence, sundry military expenditures, and weapons, both offensive and defensive. Resilience requires above all a strong economy. And one cannot have a strong economy without adequate energy resources – which gets us back to the issue of climate fears.

The problem now is that while the threat of terrorism is growing, so is the suicidal drive to limit the use of energy and thereby also economic growth. This internal threat is particularly strong in Europe and has been called, quite properly, eco-Bolshevism. It would have all the earmarks of the failed Soviet system, with government involvement in every facet of the economy and with energy restrictions reducing economic growth.

There is no question that the policies being discussed now in Europe and in the United States would be extremely costly, would force industrial cutbacks and of course massive job losses. All of these exacerbate social tension in nations that have a large number of immigrants, who traditionally have the highest unemployment levels.

Will the US step up again and save Europe? Doubtful

One may ask: Is there any way to stop this steamroller? There's probably little hope that such an initiative can come from Europe; it may have to come from the United States. Somehow we would have to convince European leaders that their policies, based on global-warming fears, are mistaken. That job may prove to be very difficult -- unless there is a drastic change in current US policy. But it is something that has to be done if we want Europe to survive economically, as an ally against the threat of Islamo-Fascism.

I don't believe that the US is prepared to save Europe; just listen to our Secretary of State: Speaking in Boston on Oct 9, John Kerry pronounced that climate change, if left unaddressed, will result in the end of times: "Life as you know it on Earth ends," Kerry said. Last February, Kerry claimed that climate change was the world's "most fearsome weapon of mass destruction." Not nuclear bombs in the hands of the terrorist-sponsoring regime of Iran -- or in the hands of ISIS or al Qaeda; not Ebola or some fearsome epidemic of a lethal disease. According to Kerry, climate change is the real number-one national-security threat.

US media, academia, and other opinion-makers are chiming in. In her latest work of science-fiction, Harvard's Naomi Oreskes, co-author of the mendacious *Merchants of Doubt*, imagines a future world devastated by climate change. She generously gives the West another 80 years -- well beyond her own life span, of course. But she totally ignores the dangers of rising Islamo-Fascism and of demography. Just listen:

The year is 2393, and the world is almost unrecognizable. Clear warnings of climate catastrophe went ignored for decades, leading to soaring temperatures, rising sea levels, widespread drought and -- finally -- the disaster now known as the Great Collapse of 2093, when the disintegration of the West Antarctica Ice Sheet led to mass migration and a complete reshuffling of the global order. Writing from the Second People's Republic of China on the 300th anniversary of the Great Collapse, a senior scholar presents a gripping and deeply disturbing account of how the children of the Enlightenment -- the political and economic elites of the so-called advanced industrial societies -- failed to act, and so brought about the collapse of Western civilization.

So don't look to the US to come to the rescue of a doomed Western Europe. It is unlikely that our children or grandchildren will be fortunate enough to experience the charms of great cities like London, Paris, Amsterdam, and Rome – or what's left of them.

S. Fred Singer is professor emeritus at the University of Virginia and director of the Science & Environmental Policy Project. His specialty is atmospheric and space physics.

2. EPA rules could double utility bills

By S. Fred Singer, Letters to the Editor, Richmond Times Dispatch, Nov 16, 2014

http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor-nov/article_e0b261a3-ac86-5c95-86cd-2187dc76224c.html?mode=%E2%80%A6

In his letter "Utility bills will decrease under new EPA rules," Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator Shawn Garvin makes two points: one is true, the other is not.

He says that if one uses electric power more efficiently, your monthly bill will go down — which is kind of obvious. By extension, if you use no electric power, your utility bill will go to zero.

But the EPA also requires power plants to capture carbon dioxide emissions and sequester them underground — which certainly lowers efficiency, and will roughly double your electric bill. That calculation is a no-brainer.

Garvin also suggests that carbon dioxide is bad for your health. That's quite untrue. The carbon dioxide we breathe out is at about 40,000 parts per million, a hundred times the ambient level. Breathing is not considered to be unhealthy.

3. Solar flares and EMPs threaten our survival

By Charles Battig, VA-SEEE, Nov 15, 2014

Letters to the Editor: Richmond Times-Dispatch, Nov. 16, 2014

http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor-nov/article_e0b261a3-ac86-5c95-86cd-2187dc76224c.html?mode=%E2%80%A6

Amid the recent flurry of political activity, another event occurred that was more likely to cause widespread global turmoil. Perhaps many readers missed it amongst the election focus. Not Ebola, not the latest climate change scare-propaganda, not the latest Hollywood or D.C. scandal, but an event entirely natural, literally out of this world, absolutely out of our control and able to disrupt modern civilization and basic survival.

NASA reported the sun emitted a series of intense solar flares beginning Oct. 19, 2014, and culminating when "a giant active region on the sun erupted on Oct. 26, 2014 ... its sixth substantial flare since Oct. 19 ... classified as an X2-class flare ... erupting from the largest active region seen on the sun in 24 years."

In 2012, NASA reported: "A powerful coronal mass ejection (CME) tore through Earth orbit on July 23, 2012 ... If the eruption had occurred only one week earlier, Earth would have been in the line of fire."

When the electromagnetic radiation generated by such solar events reaches Earth, it can produce radio blackouts, disrupt satellite communications and bring down our electrical power grid. The 1859 Carrington Event remains the most powerful such event in 160 years. It burned up telegraph wires and connected operators.

We face similar man-made threats from electromagnetic pulse (EMP) nuclear devices. Small nuclear devices, designed to explode high over the U.S. and emit high-intensity radio-wave

energy, are capable of destroying unprotected solid-state devices and our electric power grid. That means no electricity, no computers, no cars, no communication, no stock market and no food or water.

While government spends billions to combat hypothetical man-made climate change, it has spent little to protect us from real EMP threats from rogue nuclear powers and terrorists. Demand prudent measures from your elected officials.

4. Obama's Latest Economics Lesson

He says the Keystone XL pipeline will merely transport 'their oil.'

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 14, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/obamas-latest-economics-lesson-1416009292>

Sometimes we wonder if President Obama has even the vaguest idea how a private economy works. The latest reason to doubt came Friday in Burma, where Mr. Obama was asked at a press conference about the Keystone XL pipeline, which has been waiting for approval for the length of his Presidency. The pipeline would allow oil to flow from Canada all the way to the Gulf Coast.

In off-the-cuff remarks, Mr. Obama managed to insult our great northern neighbors while suggesting that the project would be no help to U.S. workers or consumers. "Understand what this project is: It is providing the ability of Canada to pump their oil, send it through our land, down to the Gulf, where it will be sold everywhere else. It doesn't have an impact on U.S. gas prices."

Someone should tell the President that oil markets are global and adding to global supply might well reduce U.S. gas prices, other things being equal. A tutor could add that Keystone XL will also carry U.S. light oil from North Dakota's Bakken Shale. So even if he thinks that bilateral trade only helps Canada, he's still wrong about Keystone.

"If my Republican friends really want to focus on what's good for the American people in terms of job creation and lower energy costs," the President added, "we should be engaging in a conversation about what are we doing to produce even more homegrown energy." Mr. Obama routinely entreats Congress to spend taxpayer money on "infrastructure" to create jobs, yet he implies that the 1,179-mile Keystone infrastructure project won't create jobs. Perhaps (see editorial ~~above~~ [below]) Mr. Obama really does think the American people are stupid.

5. The Tom Steyer Democrats

The Keystone XL filibuster reveals the new liberal coalition.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 20, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/the-tom-steyer-democrats-1416442845>

It looks as if Tom Steyer did get something for the \$74 million he spent on the midterm elections. The billionaire environmentalist bought what is left of the Democratic Senate. That's the story behind the remarkable display Tuesday night in which 41 Democrats voted to abandon a Senate seat rather than cross Mr. Steyer and the big green money machine.

Louisiana Democrat Mary Landrieu wanted a vote on the Keystone XL pipeline to show her clout before a runoff election against Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy on Dec. 6. Majority Leader Harry Reid gave her the vote after months of refusing, only to join most other Democrats and filibuster Ms. Landrieu's bill.

Only 13 Democrats supported their comrade and 45 Republicans to approve Keystone, and four of those have lost their seats. Ms. Landrieu is now contemplating the undercarriage of her party's bus, while Mr. Cassidy can credibly tell Louisiana voters he'll deliver the votes if he joins 53 other GOP Senators next year.

Ms. Landrieu will no doubt prosper as a former Senator, so the vote is more important for what it says about the Democratic Party. The party of the private union working class is gone. Green money rules.

Mr. Steyer made that clear when he refused to support any Democrat who backed the Keystone XL. This also explains why some of us have been wrong in thinking that President Obama would eventually support Keystone. How could he give up on an \$8 billion investment and so many jobs in a weak economy? The reason is that the church of climate change carries a bigger check book. Now Mr. Obama is promising to veto a Keystone XL bill even if it does pass Congress.

Note the bitter reaction from Terry O'Sullivan, president of the Laborers' International Union, who said Tuesday's vote "took food off the table of our members." He added that "the majority of Democrats in the Senate and the White House just don't get it, even though the recent election results surely should have sunk in by now. They have lost their way, their purpose and their base."

Sorry, Terry. They do get it. You're simply not part of the "base" that matters to the new liberal "coalition of the ascendant." That coalition is composed of minorities, single women who look to government for economic security, public unions and what political writer Michael Barone calls "gentry liberals." Pipelayers aren't gentrified enough.

For these liberals, climate change has become a totemic cultural issue, like abortion rights and gay marriage. It therefore doesn't matter if the oil from Alberta will still be developed even if Keystone is never built, or that the oil will be transported by trains that are more dangerous and more carbon-intensive. What matters is that they are on the right side of the cultural and political symbolism.

With a few exceptions, the Democrats who will remain in the Senate next year are either gentry liberals themselves or are too afraid to risk losing the green cash on which they have become dependent. Either way, Tom Steyer owns them.

6. Jonathan Gruber's 'Stupid' Budget Tricks

His ObamaCare candor shows how Congress routinely cons taxpayers.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 14, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/jonathan-grubers-stupid-budget-tricks-1416009107>

As a rule, Americans don't like to be called "stupid," as Jonathan Gruber is discovering. Whatever his academic contempt for voters, the ObamaCare architect and Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist deserves the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his candor about the corruption of the federal budget process.

In his now-infamous talk at the University of Pennsylvania last year, Professor Gruber argued that the Affordable Care Act "would not have passed" had Democrats been honest about the income-redistribution policies embedded in its insurance regulations. But the more instructive moment is

his admission that “this bill was written in a tortured way to make sure CBO did not score the mandate as taxes. If CBO scored the mandate as taxes, the bill dies.”

Mr. Gruber means the Congressional Budget Office, the institution responsible for putting “scores” or official price tags on legislation. He’s right that to pass ObamaCare Democrats perpetrated the rawest, most cynical abuse of the CBO since its creation in 1974.

In another clip from Mr. Gruber’s seemingly infinite video library, he discusses how he and Democrats wrote the law to game the CBO’s fiscal conventions and achieve goals that would otherwise be “politically impossible.” In still another, he explains that these ruses are “a sad statement about budget politics in the U.S., but there you have it.”

Yes you do. Such admissions aren’t revelations, since the truth has long been obvious to anyone curious enough to look. We and other critics wrote about ObamaCare’s budget gimmicks during the debate, and Rep. Paul Ryan exposed them at the 2010 “health summit.” President Obama changed the subject.

But rarely are liberal intellectuals as full frontal as Mr. Gruber about the accounting fraud ingrained in ObamaCare. Also notable are his do-what-you-gotta-do apologetics: “I’d rather have this law than not,” he says.

Recall five years ago. The White House wanted to pretend that the open-ended new entitlement would spend less than \$1 trillion over 10 years and reduce the deficit too. Congress requires the budget gnomes to score bills as written, no matter how unrealistic the assumption or fake the promise. Democrats with the help of Mr. Gruber carefully designed the bill to exploit this built-in gullibility.

So they used a decade of taxes to fund merely six years of insurance subsidies. They made-believe that Medicare payments to hospitals will some day fall below Medicaid rates. A since-repealed program for long-term care front-loaded taxes but back-loaded spending, meant to gradually go broke by design. Remember the spectacle of Democrats waiting for the white smoke to come up from CBO and deliver the holy scripture verdict?

On the tape, Mr. Gruber also identifies a special liberal manipulation: CBO’s policy reversal to not count the individual mandate to buy insurance as an explicit component of the federal budget. In 1994, then CBO chief Robert Reischauer reasonably determined that if the government forces people to buy a product by law, then those transactions no longer belong to the private economy but to the U.S. balance sheet. The CBO’s face-melting cost estimate helped to kill HillaryCare.

The CBO director responsible for this switcheroo that moved much of ObamaCare’s real spending off the books was Peter Orszag, who went on to become Mr. Obama’s budget director. Mr. Orszag nonetheless assailed CBO during the debate for not giving him enough credit for the law’s phantom “savings.”

Then again, Mr. Gruber told a Holy Cross audience in 2010 that although ObamaCare “is 90% health insurance coverage and 10% about cost control, all you ever hear people talk about is cost control. How it’s going to lower the cost of health care, that’s all they talk about. Why? Because that’s what people want to hear about because a majority of Americans care about health-care costs.”

Both political parties for some reason treat the CBO with the same reverence the ancient Greeks reserved for the Delphic oracle, but Mr. Gruber's honesty is another warning that the budget rules are rigged to expand government and hide the true cost of entitlements. CBO scores aren't unambiguous facts but are guesses about the future, biased by the Keynesian assumptions and models its political masters in Congress instruct it to use.

Republicans who now run Congress can help taxpayers by appointing a new CBO director, as is their right as the majority. Current head Doug Elmendorf is a respected economist, and he often has a dry wit as he reminds Congressfolk that if they feed him garbage, he must give them garbage back. But if the GOP won't abolish the institution, then they can find a replacement who is as candid as Mr. Gruber about the flaws and limitations of the CBO status quo. The Tax Foundation's Steve Entin would be an inspired pick.

Democrats are now pretending they've never heard of Mr. Gruber, though they used to appeal to his authority when he still had some. His commentaries are no less valuable because he is now a political liability for Democrats.

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