



Global Warming: The Complete Briefing

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John Houghton explores the scientific basis of global warming and the likely impacts of climate change on human society in this comprehensive guide to the subject. He then addresses the action that could be taken by governments, industry and individuals to mitigate the effects of global warming. Previous Edition Hb (1997): 0-521-62089-9 Previous Edition Pb (1997): 0-521-62932-2

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Tim says

An excellent introductory textbook to global warming and climate change. I was hoping for a little more depth in the atmospheric physics sections (I'm geeky that way), but what Houghton presents is more than adequate for a non-major college-level class. Plus the book more than makes up for it in the breadth of topics -- paleoclimatology, international negotiations, climate impacts, sustainable energy. It's all here, and while there are other books that delve deeper into each of those topics, this is a good intro to the field.

Sadly my version is from 2004, which means that it's already quite dated, lacking even the already-aged 2007 4th IPCC report findings. Supposedly the 2009 version is more to-the-minute, so be sure to check that one out.

Colleen says

Very informative-but dry. Reads more like a textbook

Amber Dunten says

If you're tired of wondering how much to believe or doubt about global warming, and you only have the patience or will to read one relatively slim volume on the subject, it **MUST** be this book. Houghton, former chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, provides an accessible and honest summary of what we know, what we're still unsure of, how the data is collected, what the data is telling us, and different ways it can be interpreted. He addresses areas of scientific uncertainty, such as the weaknesses in the incredibly complex computer models used to forecast the effects of global warming, fearlessly and honestly. A must-read for anyone who is tired of pleading ignorance on climate change. Its major drawback is that the science is a bit dated at this point and it badly needs a new edition to be published.

Michael De Paola says

Very informative, though a bit dated and reads like a text book. This was rough. Time for brain candy!

Jood says

defniiition of global warming

Sam says

This book was my bible in my last year of study, well written with clear scientific evidence for the issues raised. This book also discusses the arguments against global warming and explains how these are disproved by science.

Sajid says

sdfdsf

Savane Nre says

very good

Joan says

It is just too hard for me. I give up.

Avijit Das says

I want to know about what's the causes of global warming. So, i badly need to help this book.

Bob says

This is a helpful book in separating fact from fiction in the climate science discussion. Sir John Houghton has chaired the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which collects climate research data and seeks to provide non-politicized assessments and recommendations for countries around the world. Houghton, for those of you in the believing community, also happens to be a deeply committed Christian.

The book was published in 2004 and some climate scientist friends indicate that recent data only strengthen its conclusions. Basically, the book begins by describing the dynamics of climate systems and the effects of various greenhouse gasses on those systems. It then details the increases in these gasses in the last century, concurrent with the burning of much of our fossil fuel reserves, demonstrates that the rise in temperatures that are concurrent with this increase are anthropogenic, and then projects various future scenarios based on business as usual as well as under efforts to reduce these gasses.

What is most sobering to me is the long life of CO₂ in the atmosphere--up to 100 years to reduce concentrations even with immediate reductions. Equally sobering are the impacts on regional climates, coral reefs, glaciers (most of which will totally disappear in the next century, eliminating much needed water runoffs), sea levels and coastal communities and the potential for increased global conflicts.

Concluding sections deal with possible countermeasures as well as ethical bases for making such changes. This does indeed provide a "complete" briefing for someone who wants to acquaint themselves with the science in this area.
