



Clearing the PR Pollution That Clouds Climate Science

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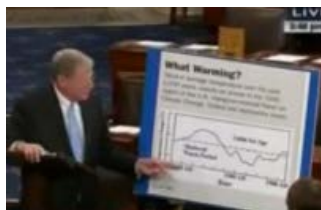
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Mon, 2015-01-26 11:22

JOHN MASHEY



MedievalDeception 2015: Inhofe Drags Senate Back To Dark Ages



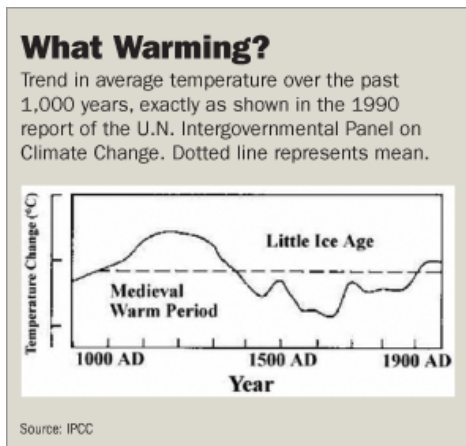
On January 21, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) again displayed the same deception/incompetence that pervaded his book, *The Greatest Hoax* (2012). In this [video segment \(3:00-5:20\)](#), he presented a poster on the Senate floor that matches the [image below](#) from "*Kyoto by Degrees*," an anonymous *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) Opinion piece, June 21, 2005. Both contained claims plausibly called [academic](#) or [journalistic](#) deception, created for public confusion.

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Regardless of ancient temperatures, modern temperature rise is human-caused, not just natural variation: *you damaged your furnace so it now ignores the thermostat. Heat varies erratically, room by room, and day by day, but each week the house is overall warmer than the last. Your attic Arctic fridge's ice cubes are melting and even the basement freezer is starting to struggle. The furnace will take months to fix, and you need to start, whether or not you believe rumors that some previous owner experienced warmer weather.*

Following is the *WSJ* image Inhofe used without mentioning that source:



"Trend in average" : Deception. The original curve was [sketched in 1965](#) by [Hubert Lamb](#), who grafted estimates of 900-1680AD with [1680-1961AD measurements](#) compiled by [Gordon Manley](#). It covered a 21x34-mile patch of England. **"exactly as shown": Falsification. false citation.** Real science uses captions and caveats, ignored here by cherry-pickers who plucked the graph out of context and even altered the image. **"mean": Fabrication.** See below.

Lamb MWP curve

never global, real science improves

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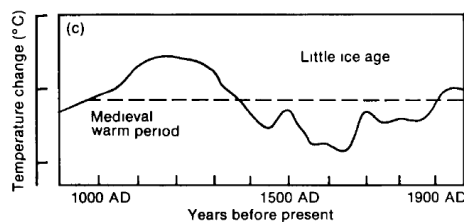


DESMOG TIP JAR

Help us clear the PR pollution that clouds climate science.



The attached 4-page excerpt from IPCC(1990) includes the real p.202 image in context, shown below for easy comparison with this altered version. Someone changed "Years before present" (*sic*) to "Year," deleted (c), capitalized all words and converted sans-serif to serif font. The resulting image was copied along murky paths, including onto p.33 of Inhofe's *Greatest Hoax* book, where it is cited as "Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Climate Change, the IPCC *Scientific Assessment 202* (1990). His story there is clearly refuted by IPCC's surrounding text pp.199-203. Perhaps he never read that.



The real image was clearly captioned a schematic, i.e., a sketch. The 1990 scientists said the LIA was global, but they stated clear reservations about MWP as global and synchronous. IPCC(1992) had other curves, not this. By 1993 [real reconstructions](#) were being published, reservations had evolved into strong doubt, and [leading experts explicitly disavowed the graph as anything broadly representative](#).

Figure 7.1: Schematic diagrams of global temperature variations since the Pleistocene on three time scales (a) the last million years (b) the last ten thousand years and (c) the last thousand years. The dotted line nominally represents conditions near the beginning of the twentieth century.

WSJ's "mean" was total fabrication to explain an unprovenanced image.

Jones, et al(2009) Appendix A, p.36 gave the long history behind Fig.7.1(c), and their p.34 Figure below is instructive. The blue line was an up-to-date Central England measured series. Lamb(1965, 1982) used rainfall and botanical information to estimate everything earlier (red), including all of the putative MWP. IPCC(1995) Fig.3.20, p.175 combined a much better 1993 reconstruction with modern measurements. It is good science to put both on a graph, clearly labeled, to compare overlaps, and it is done often. Inhofe(2012) p.32-33 fiercely denigrated Mann for it, **while using a schematic that did the same thing**, but with far less accuracy and no visual distinction. Lamb was clear in his texts, but obviously many people never read them. Even if his estimates were accurate ... it is already now warmer in England, not that it actually matters to human causes of modern temperature rise.

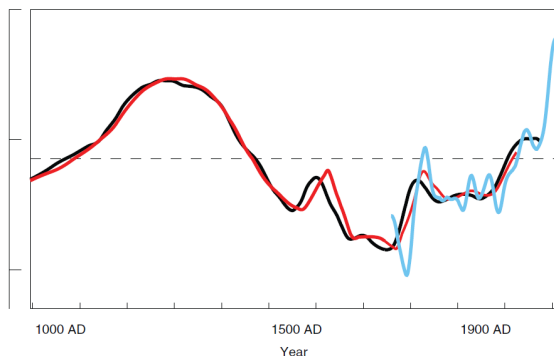


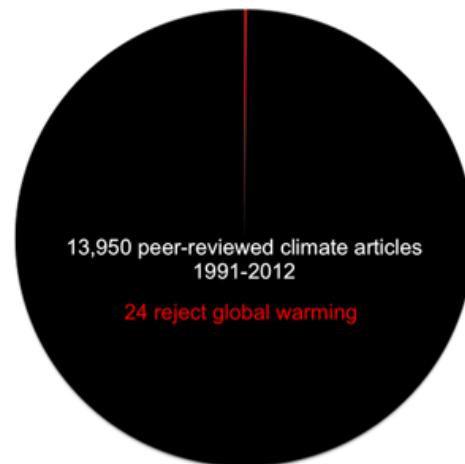
Figure 7 The black curve and the x- and y-axes are a redrawn version of figure 7.1c from the First Working Group of IPCC Report (Folland *et al.*, 1990). The y-axis originally had only unnumbered tick markings and was labelled 'temperature scale'. The red curve is from Lamb (1982: figure 30, the upper (annual) curve). The amplitude of this curve has been scaled to correspond to that of the black curve. The Lamb (1982) time series does have an explicit temperature scale, and the best-fit scaling between this curve and the IPCC curve indicates that one tick-mark interval on the IPCC figure corresponds almost exactly with 1°C. The degree of smoothing for both these curves is unknown, but Lamb (1982) states that the red curve is based on 50-yr means (supported by earlier publications). The blue curve is a smoothed version of the annual instrumental Central England Temperature record from Manley (1974, updated) including the last complete year of 2007. This has been smoothed with a 50-yr Gaussian weighted filter with padding (Mann, 2004). The blue curve is plotted with the same scaling as used for the red curve, further supporting the conclusions that the red curve is based on the same data after the start of the instrumental record in 1659. The red and blue curves illustrate the differences that can occur between a filtered curve and one composed of non-overlapping 50-yr averages, and also that recent measured warming may be comparable with presumed earlier warmth.

Normal real science kept creating better approximations to reality. Reconstructing the past greatly helps scientists better understand climate processes and improve models, as per IPCC(1990), p.xxv. It helps bound climate sensitivity and improves insight into important regional variations. Regardless of 1000AD's temperatures, the human cause of modern warming is a fact, as per [Stefan Rahmstorf](#) or [Gavin Schmidt](#). See also [Skeptical Science](#) list of commonly-repeated false memes, #2 (Climate's changed before), #18 (The hockey stick is broken), #56 (Medieval Warm Period was warmer). Actually, humans may well have been altering climate for thousands of years, [as per Bill Ruddiman](#), but we are certainly doing it much faster now.

DESMOGBLOG SPECIAL REPORT



How Unconventional Gas Threatens our Water, Health, and Climate



Why Climate Deniers Have No Scientific Credibility

DeSmog Blog: Revealing the CLIMATE COVER-UP

Democracy is utterly dependent upon an electorate that is accurately informed. In promoting climate change denial (and often denying their responsibility for doing so) industry has done more than endanger the environment. It has undermined democracy.

There is a vast difference between putting forth a point of view, honestly held, and intentionally sowing the seeds of confusion. Free speech does not include the right to deceive. Deception is not a point of view. And the right to disagree does not include a right to intentionally subvert the public awareness.

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False narratives to be exposed in detail

Over the same decades, climate deniers created a false narrative, often based around variants of this graph, 25 years after IPCC(1990) or 50 years after Lamb(1965), or as William Connolley calls it, [Adoration of the Lamb](#).

This post starts a series (hashtag #MedievalDeception) to expose the decades of abuse of this graph, starting with Richard Lindzen (1991), John Daly (2001), Fred Singer and Dennis Avery (2007), Steven McIntyre and Ross McKittrick (2005, at least 3 times), Edward Wegman and Yasmin Said (2006), Andrew Montford (2010), and many others.

Even as they usually got the curve correct, the not-quite-right images are almost certainly false citations or misrepresentations, depending on the claims. Either they had no IPCC(1990) to copy, or they did and altered it, but ignored and thus misrepresented the surrounding text. For some, cherry-picking text or graphs seems a way of life, but it is not science.

John Daly(2001) even cited the same image as *WSJ*, but as IPCC(1995). So did McIntyre and McKittrick(2005, 3 times), showing none had either IPCC report. The latter's false 1995 date helped make a never-supported tale by David Deming(2005) slightly less silly, later involving Inhofe. Fred Singer and Dennis Avery(2007) invented a nonexistent **IPCC(1995) Fig 22**, copied but unattributed in books by Ralph B. Alexander(2009) and Steve Goreham(2010, 2013). This process illustrates the intellectual bankruptcy of [pseudoskeptics](#) who eagerly seek and repeat unchecked falsehoods that confirm their views. That brings us back to Inhofe's talk for a few more examples of such behavior.

More examples from Inhofe Senate Video

03:20 Discusses hockey-stick, says "what they forgot was to put these two things (*MWP and LIA*) in the hockey stick, supposed to be level." **False.** The hockey stick in Mann, Bradley and Hughes(1999) has a sloping regression line from warmer around 1000AD to cooler during LIA. It is not and never has been level, despite the false horizontal line on the cover of *The Hockey Stick Illusion*. There is good evidence for a warm MWP in a few areas, especially around the North Atlantic, a small fraction of Earth. Credible reconstructions of large areas usually show modest MWPs, unlike the Lamb(1965) curve. Conspiracy theorists not only cling to that curve, but deny any scientific progress as a plot to hide the truth. Anyone who actually studies IPCC(1990, 1992, 1995, 2001, 2007, 2013) knows better.

03:33 "Medieval Warming Period between 1000 and 1500. ... left off the charts." **False.** The hockey stick covered the Northern Hemisphere, rather more than Lamb's 1965 estimations for the rectangle below. Larger areas vary less quickly, because some local temperature changes are caused by ocean oscillations that just move heat around, warming and cooling different areas.

04:00 "This actually is IPCC's chart. ..." **False.** This was *WSJ's* chart, they certainly did not scan it from IPCC(1990), and it likely passed through someone who couldn't recall where he got it, as will be seen later in this series. Inhofe made this long-obsolete, dubiously-provenanced graph the centerpiece of his Senate talk.

04:05 "They're (*IPCC*) the ones who dreamed up this whole idea." **False.** Lamb considered the MWP issue decades earlier. I think [Lamb\(1965\)](#) was heroic work, and I own a copy of [Lamb\(1982\)](#), but I'd guess few deniers have studied either. Inhofe and many others have seriously misrepresented the work of this fine scientist, who was quite clear his curve described a small area of England. He may have thought the MWP to be more widespread, but was careful to report counter-examples to a global synchronous MWP. and explain how much was then unknown. Perhaps may be an accident of England's N. Atlantic location and leading early role in climate research.

Area for Central England
Temperature series, the longest measured series in the world, but no

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earlier than 1659 at best. Gordon Manley updated this series for years.

Improved reconstruction of the world's temperature is a great scientific detective story. It is hard work by thousands.

It is much easier to invent deceptive stories.

The Lamb curve is a flat-Earth map, but some cling to it, without ever reading IPCC(1990) pp.199-203. Some actually cite p.202, but perhaps they copied the citation without reading it.

Even with acknowledged Medieval warmth around the North Atlantic, Vikings in Greenland and grapes in England (but not as far North as today), this rectangle is not the world or even the Northern Hemisphere, no matter what some Senators think. Why would Senator Inhofe spend so much time on this deception? Why does he promote an ill-informed anonymous *WSJ* Opinion as though it were science? Why might he not want your furnace back in control, using less fuel?

Perhaps a hint is found at OpenSecrets' [James Inhofe Career Funding](#):

Top 5 Contributors, 1989 - 2014

Contributor	Total	Indivs	PACs
Koch Industries	\$101,150	\$53,550	\$47,600
Murray Energy	\$90,500	\$55,500	\$35,000
Aircraft Owners & Pilots Assn	\$64,869	\$0	\$64,869
National Assn of Realtors	\$61,700	\$0	\$61,700
National Rifle Assn	\$60,500	\$0	\$60,500

Tags: [U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe \(R-OK\)](#) [medieval warm period the greatest hoax](#) [global warming climate deniers](#)

[...view more data](#)

Top 5 Industries, 1989 - 2014

Industry	Total	Indivs	PACs
Oil & Gas	\$1,734,471	\$915,119	\$819,352
Retired	\$866,071	\$866,071	\$0
Leadership PACs	\$743,800	\$2,000	\$741,800
Electric Utilities	\$583,217	\$48,954	\$534,263
Health Professionals	\$534,750	\$390,935	\$143,815

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