

EXCLUSIVE PREMIUM REPORTS

# INFOGRAPHIC: Climate Scientists' Credibility Hurt

As climate experts warn of looming catastrophe, faulty past forecasts hurt their message.

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(Illustration by The Epoch Times, Shutterstock)

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By **Petr Svab** | December 25, 2023 Updated: December 26, 2023

Humanity has only a few years to act before the world may irreversibly plunge into an environmental catastrophe of global proportions, climate experts warned in a recent report. Their calls are muffled, however, by dozens of past dramatic predictions that have failed to pan out.

Environmental experts have been predicting doom for many decades. Most, though not all, of the prognostications involve climatic cataclysm that appears to be just around the corner, only to fizzle out as the deadline approaches.

As the failed predictions pile up, climate experts appear to be more cautious in making their predictions too specific. The current general consensus among climate change proponents is that weather events such as droughts and storms will become more prevalent or intense.

The recently released short-form report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that unless carbon emissions are cut drastically and promptly, the planet will warm roughly an additional 1.1 to 2.4 degrees Celsius by 2100. That would lead to “high” or “very high” risk of wildfire damage, permafrost degradation, biodiversity loss, dryland water scarcity, and tree mortality on the land, and loss of warm-water corals in the sea. Most of the severe risks are asserted with moderate or low confidence, meaning that underlying evidence is lacking or inconclusive.

The full IPCC report hasn't been released yet.

One of the most famous climate experts, Michael Mann, criticized the IPCC for being “overly conservative” in predicting catastrophic consequences of climate change, “including ice sheet collapse, sea level rise, and the rise in extreme weather events,” Inside Climate News reported.

However, it's been exactly these kinds of bold predictions that have undermined experts' credibility in the past.



Environmentalist Bjorn Lomborg has collected some such failed predictions in his book, “False Alarm: How Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions, Hurts the Poor, and Fails to Fix the Planet.” Geologist and electrical engineer Tony Heller, who frequently criticizes what he considers fraud in current mainstream climate research, has made it a recurring theme of his climate science blog to point out failed and dubious predictions.

Examples are plentiful, stretching back almost a century.

**TIMELINE**

# CLIMATE SCIENTISTS' CREDIBILITY HURT

As climate experts warn of looming catastrophe, faulty past forecasts hurt their message







## The Glaciers Are Collapsing!

"All the glaciers in Eastern Greenland are rapidly melting," the Harrisburg [Pennsylvania] Sunday Courier reported.

"It may without exaggeration be said that the glaciers—like those in Norway—face the possibility of a catastrophic collapse," professor Hans Ahlmann, a Swedish geologist, said in a report to the Geographical Society after his Arctic expedition, as cited by the paper.

In fact, Arctic ice had been receding since 1918, according to a 1923 New York Time article.

"Last Winter, oceans did not freeze over even on the north coast of Spitzbergen," the article said.

By comparison, this winter, sea ice did reach the shore of Spitzbergen, though in low concentrations.

Back then, however, the meltdown seemed nowhere near done.







## The Oceans Will Inundate Us!

“The possibility of a prodigious rise in the surface of the resultant widespread inundation, arising from an Arctic phenomenon[,] was discussed yesterday by Dr. Hans Almann, a noted Swedish geophysicist at the University of California Geophysical Institute,” an article in The West Australian

“The Arctic change is so serious that I hope an international can speedily be formed to study the conditions on a globe,” Ahlmann said.

## Ships Will Sail Over the North Pole!

“Some scientists estimate that the polar ice pack is 40 percent thinner and 12 percent less in area than it was a half-century ago, and that even within the lifetime of our children, the Arctic Ocean may open, enabling ships to sail over the North Pole,” The New York Times reported, noting that the Arctic ice sheet was about 7 feet thick at the time. Currently, the ice is about 7 feet thick, too.

By the 1960s, it appears that worries about a melting Arctic became not so immediate, only to be supplanted by other environmental





not as immediate, only to be supplanted by other environmental concerns.



## World Famine Unavoidable!

“It is already too late for the world to avoid a long period of famine,” The Salt Lake Tribune reported, citing Paul Ehrlich’s prediction of global famines by 1975.

Ehrlich, a Stanford University biologist and author of “The Bomb,” proposed lacing staple foods and drinking water with sterilizing agents to cut the growing population of the United States according to the report.

## A New Ice Age Is Upon Us!

“Scientist predicts a new ice age by 21st century,” The Boston Globe reported, saying that pollution expert James Lodge predicted that “air pollution may obliterate the sun and cause a new ice age in the first third of the new century.”







## Expect Water and Food Rationing!

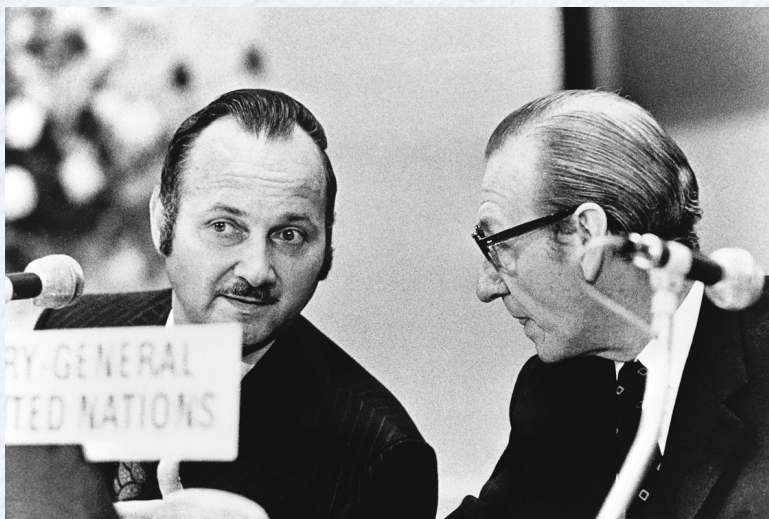
Ehrlich went on to predict that America would be rationed  
1974 and food by 1980, California's Redlands Daily Fact

## Disastrous New Ice Age Is Coming!





"The world could be as little as 50 or 60 years away from a disastrous new ice age," said atmospheric scientist S.I. Rasool of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Columbia University, The Washington Post reported.



## 'We Have 10 Years to Stop the Cata

"We have 10 years to stop the catastrophe," said Maurice Strong, then-U.N. environmental secretary, regarding the world's environmental problems, according to Swedish newspaper Nyheter.



## We're Going to Freeze!

Two Brown University geologists wrote a letter to President Richard Nixon, reporting that a conference attended by "42 top American and European investigators" concluded "a global deterioration of climate, by order of magnitude larger than any hitherto experienced by civilized mankind, is a very real possibility and indeed may be due very soon."

"The present rate of cooling," they said, "seems fast enough to bring glacial temperatures in about a century, if continuing at the present pace."



## Ice Age Coming Fast!

“Space satellites show new Ice Age coming fast.”

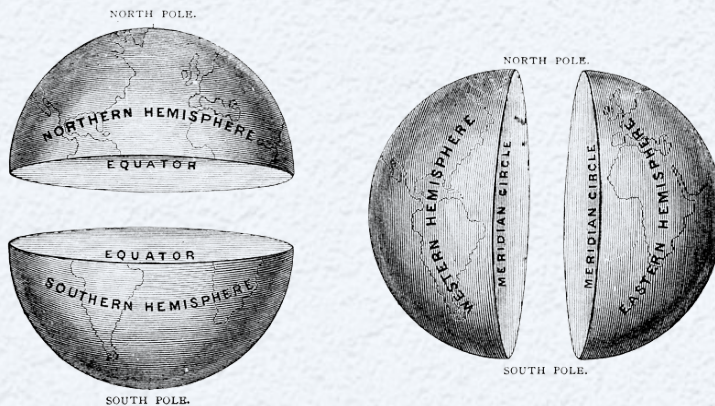
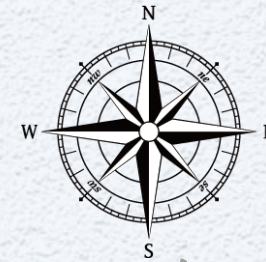
————— *The Guardian*



# Ice Age Signs Are Everywhere!

"Another Ice Age?" a Time Magazine headline asked.

"Telltale signs are everywhere—from the unexpected persistence and thickness of pack ice in the waters around Iceland to the southward migration of a warmth-loving creature like the armadillo from the Midwest," the article said.



# No End in Sight to Cooling Trend!

"An international team of specialists has concluded from indexes of climate that there is no end in sight to the cooling trend over the last 30 years, at least in the Northern Hemisphere," Times reported.



## The North Pole Is Melting!

"There is a real possibility that some people now in their infancy will live to a time when the ice at the North Pole will have melted, a change that would cause swift and perhaps catastrophic changes in climate," The New York Times said.



## An Environmental Holocaust!

Mostafa Tolba, then-executive director of the U.N. environmental program, said that if the world didn't change course, it would witness an environmental catastrophe which will witness devastation complete, as irreversible, as any nuclear holocaust" by 2050, according to The New York Times.



## The Maldives Will Be Gone by 1992!

The small island nation of the Maldives was threatened to be completely covered by “a gradual rise in average sea level” in 30 years, Agence France-Presse reported, noting that “the end of the Maldives and its people could come sooner if drinking water supplies dry up by 1992, as predicted.”

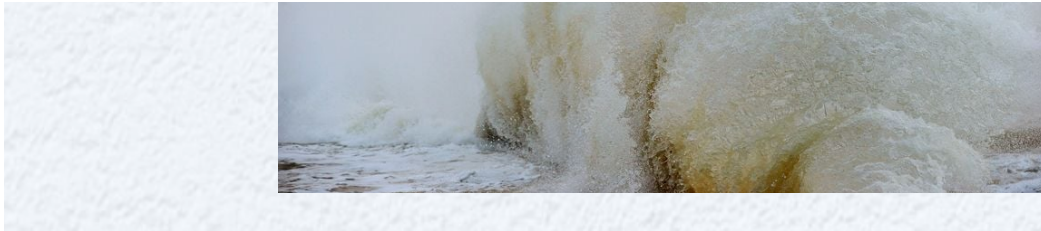
The Maldives are still nowhere near underwater. In fact, despite the COVID-19 pandemic’s decimation of tourism, the nation still attracts new developments. In March, an Emirati development company awarded a \$148 million contract to build 120 luxurious over-water and beachfront villas on the Maldives’ South Male Atoll, Hotelier Maldives reported.



## Entire Nations Will Be Underwater

“A senior environmental official at the United Nations, N says entire nations could be wiped off the face of the earth if sea levels rise 6.6 feet (2 meters) by 2100, the sea levels if global warming is not reversed by the year 2050, California’s San Jose Mercury News reported.





“Coastal flooding and crop failures would create an exodus of refugees, threatening political chaos,” said Brown, then New York office of the U.N. Environment Program.

## Children Won't Know What Snow Is!

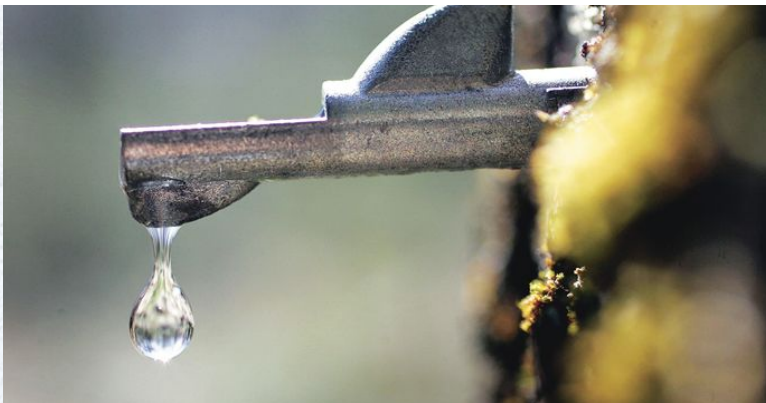
“Snowfalls are now just a thing of the past,” The Independent wrote. “Children just aren't going to know what snow is,” said David Viner, a senior research scientist at the climatic research unit of England's University of East Anglia, noting that within a few years, winter snowfall would become “a very rare and exciting event.”

While snow is rare in southern England, it still comes pretty much every winter.



In 20 Years, No Maple Syrup in New





## IN 20 YEARS, NO Maple Syrup in New England

“The changes in climate could potentially extirpate the maple syrup industry in New England” within 20 years, according to a report by a co-author of a 2001 global warming report commissioned by the U.S. Congress, according to Albuquerque Journal.

Today, New England still produces plenty of maple syrup.

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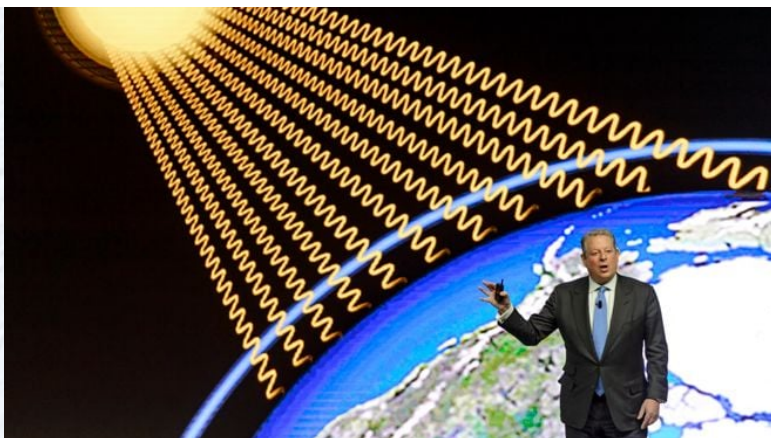
## By 2020, European Cities Underwater!

The Guardian reported on a secret Pentagon report that predicted climate change will lead to nuclear war, major European cities will sink into the ocean, and Britain would descend into “Siberian” climate by the year 2020.



## Greenhouse Gases Will Kill Us in 100 Years

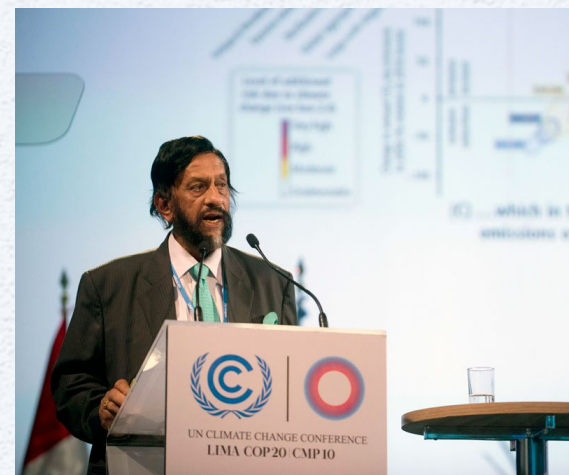




“Unless drastic measures to reduce greenhouse gases within the next 10 years, the world will reach a point of no return,” the Associated Press wrote, paraphrasing Al Gore, a prominent global warming advocate.

## After 2012, It's Too Late!

This year was the “defining moment” of the climate change fight, according to Rajendra Pachauri, then-head of the U.N. climate panel. “If there is no action before 2012, that’s too late,” the official said, according to The New York Times.







## Ice-Free Arctic Ocean as Soon as 2

“The Arctic Ocean could be free of ice in the summer as early as 2015—something that hasn’t happened in more than 100 years,” Canada’s Canwest News Service reported, paraphrasing researcher Louis Fortier.

“Arctic Sea Ice Gone in Summer Within Five Years?” said an Associated Press headline the following month.

“At this rate, the Arctic Ocean could be nearly ice-free at the end of the summer by 2012,” said Jay Zwally, a NASA climate scientist, according to the article.

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## Ice-Free Arctic by 2013!

“Arctic summers ice-free ‘by 2013’” the BBC reported.

“Our projection of 2013 for the removal of ice in summer is not accounting for the last two minima, in 2005 and 2007,” a researcher from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, told the BBC.

“So given that fact, you can argue that maybe our projection of 2013 is already too conservative.”







## Arctic Will All Melt Away!

“If Norway’s average temperature this year equals that cap in the Arctic will all melt away, which is highly possible from current conditions,” said Olav Orheim, head of the International Polar Year Secretariat, according to Xinhua official propaganda mouthpiece.

Norway’s average temperature did slightly increase from 2008. The ice didn’t melt.

## North Pole Ice-Free in 2008!

“North Pole could be ice free in 2008,” reported New Scientist.

“There is this thin first-year ice even at the North Pole at the moment,” said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center, according to the article. “That raises the specter—the possibility—that





According to the article, that raises the specter "the possibility that you could become ice-free at the North Pole this year."

"We're actually projecting this year that the North Pole may be free of ice for the first time [in history]," said David Barber, of the University of Manitoba, in June 2008, according to National Geographic News.



## Arctic Will Be Ice-Free in 5–10 Years

"In five to 10 years, the Arctic will be free of ice in the summer," the Associated Press reported, paraphrasing James Hansen of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Sciences.

## Ice-Free Arctic Ocean as Soon as 2014!

"The Arctic Ocean may be nearly ice-free in summer as early as 2014."

“The Arctic Ocean may be nearly ice-free in summer as early as 2014.”



THE ARCTIC OCEAN MAY BE NEARLY ICE-FREE IN SUMMER AS EARLY AS 2014, Al Gore said, according to USA Today.

**as early as 2014.”**

————— Al Gore, prominent global warming advocate



## No Snow by 2020!

“Enjoy snow now ... by 2020, it’ll be gone,” The Australia still snows in Australia. Last year’s snowfall was, in fact above average.

## Ice-Free Arctic in 2 Years!

“Ice-free Arctic in two years heralds methane catastrophe—scientist,” The Guardian reported.







## No More Snow!

“The End of Snow?” asked a New York Times op-ed head about declining snowpack in the Western United States decade overall has marked no significant snowfall decline in any region.

## We Will Become Like Venus at 250 Degrees Celsius and Sulfuric Acid Rain!

After then-U.S. President Donald Trump pulled the United States out





of the U.N. Paris Climate Agreement, physicist Stephen Hawking said, according to BBC: "We are close to the tipping point, where global warming becomes irreversible. Trump's action could push the Earth over the brink, to become like Venus, with a temperature of 250 degrees [Celsius] and raining sulfuric acid."



## Climate Change Will End Snow!

"Snowy retreat: Climate change puts Australia's ski industry on a downhill slope," The Sydney Morning Herald reported. It noted that while it is snowing quite as usual in Australia in recent years, weather models indicate that this will change.

## No Permanent Arctic Ice by 2022!

"The chance that there will be any permanent ice left in the Arctic





after 2022 is essentially zero," said James Anderson, a Harvard University professor of atmospheric chemistry, according to Forbes.



## The End of Snow!

"The end of snow," said an Australian Geographic head, "warming climate be putting Australia's magnificent alpine at risk?"

There was no significant lack of snow in Australia in either 2021 or 2022.

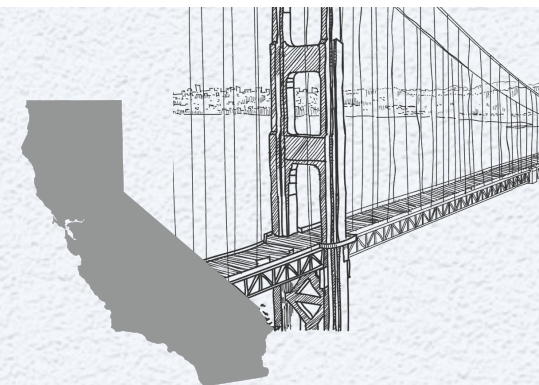
## A 'No Snow' California!





The Los Angeles Times ran a story headlined, "A 'no snow' California could come sooner than you think."

A few weeks later, the UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab announced that California just had the snowiest December on record.



## The End of Snow!

"The End of Snow Threatens to Upend 76 Million American Lives," Bloomberg reported, referring to predictions of snow drought in the western United States.

A few months later, the Sierra Nevada mountains had its snowiest winter on record.



# Arctic Ice 'Irreversible' Thinning!

"Arctic ice has seen an 'irreversible' thinning since 2007, study says," The Washington Post reported.

The ice hasn't thinned much over the past decade.

Since 1979, the summer minima have seen a record low every five to seven years. Since 2012, however, there has been no new record, the data show.



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