





Are these GHG the cause of warming?

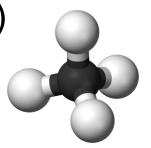
Are these GHG the effect of warming?

Are these GHG both the cause and effect?

water vapor (H₂O)



methane(CH₄)



carbon dioxide (CO₂)























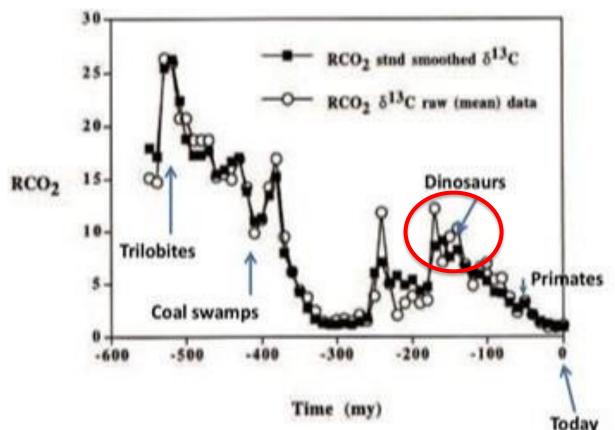






Nevertheless 150 million years ago, CO₂ levels may have far exceeded those of today

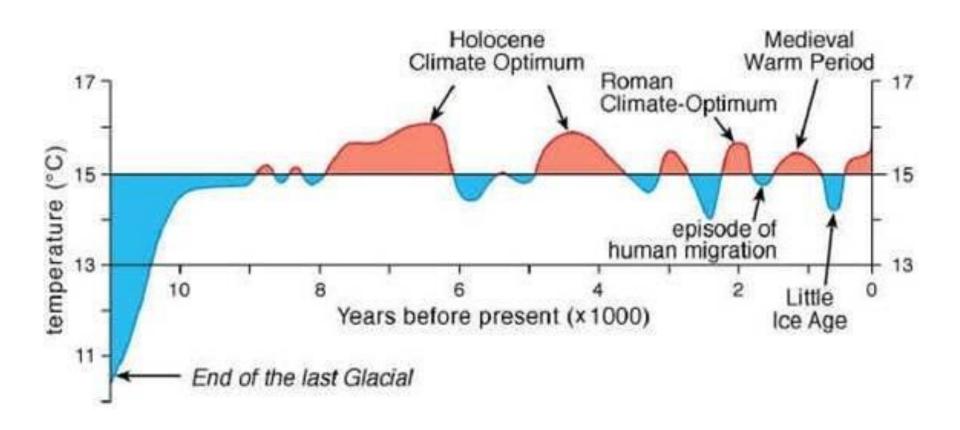
This is when dinosaurs roamed the land





R. A. Berner and Z. Kothavala, Geocarb III: A Revised Model of Atmospheric CO₂ over Phanerozoic Time, American Journal of Science, V. 301, pp. 182-204 (2001)

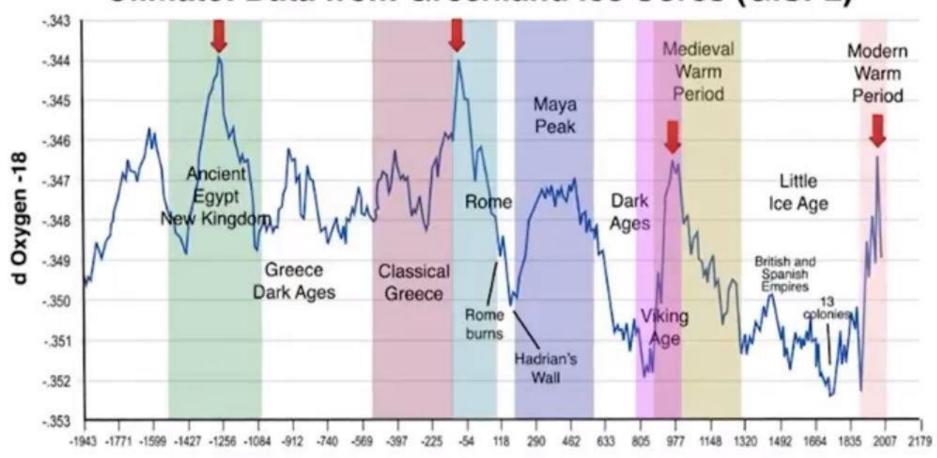
Nevertheless, the Earth was slightly warmer during earlier periods of human history



Average near-surface temperatures of the northern hemispere during the past 11.000 years (after Dansgaard et al., 1969, and Schönwiese, 1995)

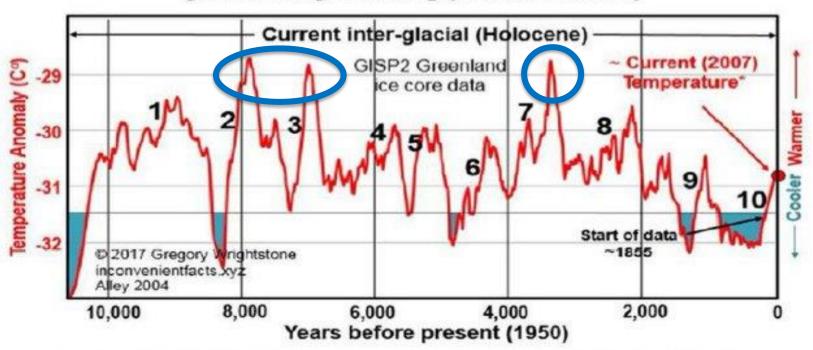
Other measurements indicate that the Earth was even warmer during the Roman Empire

Climate: Data from Greenland Ice Cores (GISP2)



Some measurements indicate the Earth was much warmer during parts of the Stone Age ...and even during parts of the Bronze Age

10,000 years and 9 warming periods remarkably similar to present-day warming (and all warmer)



Alley, R.B., 2004. GISP2 Ice Core Temperature and Accumulation Data. IGBP PAGES/World Data Center for Paleoclimatology Data Contribution Series #2004-013. NOAA/NGDC Paleoclimatology Program, Boulder CO, USA.

Current Temp: Box JE, Yang L, Bromwich DH, Bai L (2009) Greenland Ice Sheet Surface Air Temperature Variability: 1840–2007. American Meteorological Society, Journal of Climate Vol 22, pp 4029 - 4049