

4.9) DOCUMENTARY: *COOL IT*

Questions

Scenes 1-3

1. What is the name of the organization founded by Bjørn Lomborg?
2. What is the title of his first book?
3. Does Lomborg believe that humans play a role in climate change?
4. How do Lomborg's views on climate change differ from those presented in the media?
5. According to Lomborg, how much "worth of good" is generated for each dollar spent on current policies for mitigating climate change?
6. Why are most of the proposed solutions to climate change so unpopular?
7. How does carbon trading hurt consumers?
8. What product was manufactured by China and India in order to profit from carbon trading?
9. What did they do with this product in order to "offset" carbon emissions?
10. List three concerns/priorities expressed by the African schoolchildren in the documentary.
11. How are their concerns/priorities different from those of schoolchildren in the UK?

Scene 4-5

12. What “scary movie” does Lomborg refer to in the documentary?

13. Why do some policymakers approve of scaring the public?

14. According to Lomborg, what is the main human threat to polar bears?

Scenes 6-7

15. List two major disadvantages of photovoltaic panels:

16. What is the biggest advantage of offshore wind?

17. What is the biggest disadvantage of offshore wind?

18. What is the purpose of using solar panels to generate hydrogen?

19. What biofuel was discussed in the documentary?

20. What advantage do “Terra” reactors have over conventional nuclear reactors?

21. According to the documentary, what special interest played a role in making it more difficult for researchers of wave energy to secure funding?

Scene 9

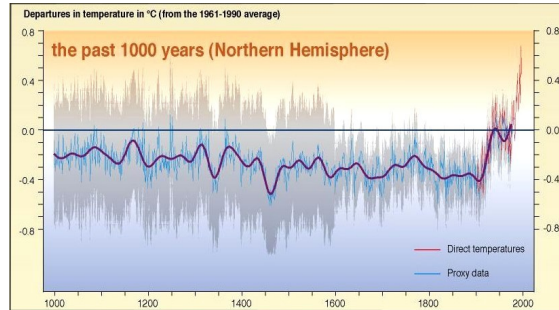
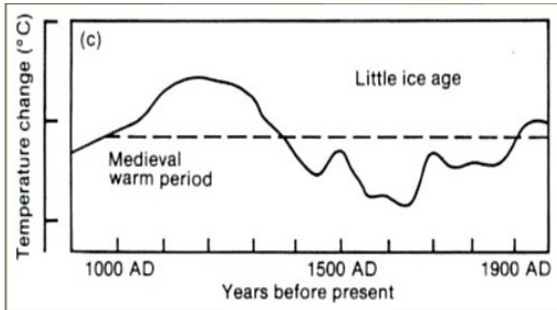
22. List two examples of geoengineering strategies to counter global warming:

23. According to the documentary, what is the “moral hazard” of geoengineering?

For online discussion:

1. First Post (choose one of these three questions):

- a. According to Lomborg, most of the current proposals for transitioning away from fossil fuels only serve to further impoverish people who are already struggling to make ends meet. Describe a strategy for transitioning away from fossil fuels that you believe minimizes these unintended consequences and explain the reasoning behind your choice:
- b. While we can all agree that car manufacturers and fossil fuel producers benefit from climate change skepticism, who benefits from climate change alarmism? Provide an example of how climate change alarmism empowers other special interest groups at the expense of the general public and explain the reasoning behind your choice:
- c. The graph on the left was presented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 1992. The graph on the right was presented by the same institution in 2001. The most notable changes in the revised version (aka “Hockey Stick”) are the dramatic upward trend on the right and the minimizing of the warming and cooling trends in the past. Which graph do you believe is more credible? For full credit you need to explain the reasoning behind your choice:



- 2. Second post: Respond to a post from another student. Generic responses like “Nice post!” get no credit. You need to specify what you think about the post for full credit. Disagreement is encouraged but please keep it civil!

Disclaimer: This activity was designed for the *sole purpose* of researching the interplay between science, politics, and special interests. It should not be misconstrued as an endorsement or rejection of Bjørn Lomborg’s views on climate change.