



# 'Don't Bet on Man-Made Origins of Global Warming'

*Piers Corbyn, an astrophysicist, is the originator of the revolutionary Solar Weather Technique of long-range forecasting and founder of Weather Action Long Range Forecasters.*

*From his research into the causes of weather change, he totally rejects the carbon dioxide-based theory of global warming and climate change. Corbyn is one of the scientists featured in the wagTV film "The Great Global Warming Swindle," which was shown on Channel 4 in Britain in March.*

*Corbyn was interviewed by Gregory Murphy on May 2.*

**EIR:** Could you please tell us a little of your background?

**Corbyn:** I've got a first-class degree in physics from Imperial College, and a higher degree in astrophysics from Queen Mary College, which are both part of the University of London. Prior to that, I was always very interested in weather, and I built myself an observing weather station and did experiments in science and the weather in high school.

While studying astrophysics, I knew of various supposed connections between solar activity (that is, things like sunspots) and the weather, although at the time, I was more interested in sunspots. Subsequently, I thought that the idea of trying to predict sunspots, which was something I wanted to do, was a bit silly, because, who cares? It might be more interesting if one could predict the weather using some aspects of solar activity, if I could predict them, and I set about doing that.

Now, it was too difficult, and I gave up—until the miners' strike came along in 1984. And friends involved in these things in Britain, asked me, "Piers, you were trying to do long-range weather forecasting. Is it going to be a cold winter?"

And I said, "I haven't a clue. I've given up."

And they said, "Well, have another go, see if you can tell us."

So, I did go back into trying to do this, and I said that the winter of 1984-85 in the United Kingdom would be very cold. And it was. It wasn't quite cold enough for the miners to beat the government—you know, I wanted them to win—but it was very cold.

After that, I went back into doing [weather prediction]. And to cut a long story short, I found a certain connection, a certain predictability. I tested this by doing gambling with William Hill, the bookmaker here, in the Summer of 1988.

Then, for 12 years, I carried on doing gambling every month [on weather prediction], and made a lot of money, until they stopped me from doing it.

This was things like, "April in London will be warmer than normal," or "there will there be thunderstorms in a certain time period of a few days."...

**EIR:** I noticed that on your website, that you got banned. Now the going thing is risk management services, one Bob Ward (who wants to stop the DVD of "The Great Global Warming Swindle" from being released) is running a weather derivatives operation. So, while you were doing it on a small scale, now they want to make a whole financial services industry out of it.

**Corbyn:** That's right. They want a financial services industry run on fear. They want to carry on trading carbon and energy and selling insurance and so on, running on fear. The last thing the Global Warming lobby wants, actually, is reliable long-range weather forecasts. They live on uncertainty and fear.

Now, in 1995, I set up a limited company called Weather-action Ltd, and we've been through various phases since then, onto and now off the stock exchange.... And now we're now doing long-range forecasts up to 12 months ahead, more accurately than anything we did before. We sell to farmers and the energy industry and so on. Rail operators buy them, for example, to get warning of heavy rainstorms, leaves on the line in the Autumn, and potential landslides.

**EIR:** It seems like you're producing your forecasts from actual physical observations, not like NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in the United States, which uses more computer modelling, and which tends to have high inaccuracy.

**Corbyn:** Well, as I said in a presentation I gave in January, at the Dana Centre, which is part of the Science Museum near Imperial College London: We use computers, of course, but in a different way from traditional meteorological approaches. Computer modelling for weather forecasting, and indeed for climate forecasting, has reached its limits.

No amount of improved computer power will get past the really basic climate inputs. The solar activity—especially par-

ticles—from the Sun, which affects the upper and lower atmosphere—these things are also modulated by lunar effects, for example. We do take those into account in our forecasts. We have eight weather periods every month and six or seven out of the eight will normally be essentially correct, in any one month.

**EIR:** It seems that the computer models hold the Sun's output as constant. They can't model water vapor. And what other researchers have told me, is that once you start putting up the energy input in the computer model, and the carbon cycle, the model is invalid.

**Corbyn:** That's right. The model is invalid. There are lots of clever ways at showing data in their models, and clever people involved, but overall it's "rubbish in equals rubbish out."

On the very fundamental, basic level, I think we can see it's invalid just by looking at the Ice Ages.

It's not the case that carbon dioxide drives temperatures. When you leave Ice Ages, it's the other way around: The temperatures go up first, and then carbon dioxide levels go up. And if you look at the fluctuations during the Ice Ages, you can see that, actually, temperature goes up and down, about twice as often as carbon dioxide levels go up and down.

So that means that for about half the time, they're going to be moving in opposite directions, and half the time, they'll be moving in the same direction. I mean, essentially, that they appear unconnected; or if there are any connections, those change in time so overall there is no correlation. They are probably connected in some complex way involving many things, including plant life and the sea, but there's no evidence anywhere that carbon dioxide systematically drives temperature. Where there is evidence of some sort of driving, it's the other way around.

So, that being the case, that whole theory is fundamentally a failure. Actually, since 1998, world temperatures have been falling.

**EIR:** Lately, the BBC and the U.S. press have picked up on how this is the warmest April in Central England for a while, but yet, they don't talk about the 4- to 5-year running cold period in the Southern Hemisphere, because it pokes a hole in their line that "the World is warming up, and Antarctica is going to melt and flood whole islands in the Pacific."

**Corbyn:** There are fundamental things wrong with that "warm April in Central England proving something" approach. First of all, of course, America's just had a cold winter. But the Central England data set (which they use to approximate to Britain, when it is not) occupies 1/5,000th of the global area. So, to say this warm April is evidence of global warming, is insane. It is evidence of a warm April in Central England; that is all. To talk about the World, we need to use data for the World and they don't like doing that now.

The phrase "Global Warming" is a description. It is not a cause. You often hear that some warming somewhere is

"caused by Global Warming" but this is conceptually nonsense. Warming doesn't cause itself. Its like saying a car accident on your street corner was caused by accident levels in the whole of America. That would be silly. The point is, they are creating "Global Warming" as a great bogey force in itself which has to be tackled by various measures of taxation, etc.

**EIR:** The latest news, in the *New York Times*, is that a new study shows that the ice cap will melt 30 years ahead of time. So they must have found a satellite that looks into the future.

**Corbyn:** Well, of course, there's nothing new happening in the world now, that hasn't happened before: In terms of the post-glacial period—i.e., since the end of the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago—the last 700 or so years have been the coldest part of the last 10,000 years, and 4,000 years ago, it was much warmer than now. That was the Bronze Age. It was called the "climate optimum" by historians, and since then, temperatures have actually declined, while carbon dioxide levels have gone up.

In the detail since 1910—about 100 years ago, carbon dioxide levels have gone up, and for various reasons, so have temperatures. But the general trend in the last 4,000 years is that carbon dioxide and temperature have been moving against each other.

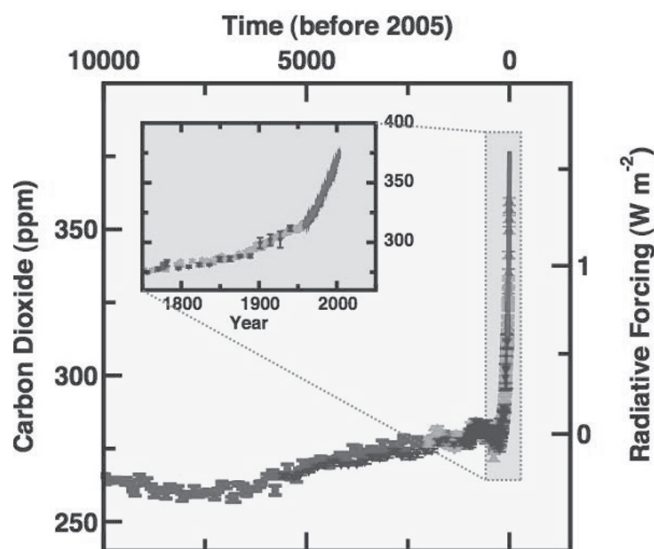
Now, in the world, the main periodicity of temperature changes is the 22-year magnetic cycle of the Sun. And we understand quite a lot about why that is. There has also been a general increase in solar activity (apart from the 11-year or 22-year fluctuations) since about 1910, which then peaked around 1940, and then declined and rose again since around 1972. World temperatures have followed the general level of solar activity throughout this time, and for millions of years before that.

The peak of the current 22-year cycle was in 2002-03, and we're now in a cooling phase of that cycle. If you take [as the Global Warmers did] the world average annual temperatures, the warmest was in 1998 and every year since then has been cooler. However, there were cold years in 1997 and 1999, so if you take a two-year moving average, the peak comes as 2002-2003. So you see the world temperature moving average peaked at the same time as the phase of the natural 22-year cycle. What we think is happening is that world temperatures since then may not now be rising much, or at all, on average.

For ten years up to 2002-03, we were in the rising phase of a natural cycle [related to the 22-year magnetic cycle of the Sun] and now we are in a cooling phase which is actually stronger than any slow warming. Warming up to 2002-03 happened to coincide with CO<sub>2</sub> levels going up, but so what? CO<sub>2</sub> is still rising while temperature is not.

In terms of climate epochs It may be, that really we're in a period overall, where temperature and carbon dioxide are actually moving in opposite directions, in terms of deviations from any driving force from outside. But for some reason,

FIGURE 1

The CO<sub>2</sub> 'Hockey Stick' Curve

Source: After IPCC 2007.

*This is the false representation of the CO<sub>2</sub> atmospheric concentration trend over the past 10,000 years. Values before the year 1958 do not represent the atmospheric concentrations, but the artifacts caused by depletion of CO<sub>2</sub> from ice, and by the arbitrary changing of the age of the samples. This curve, which is from the 2007 report of the IPCC, is discussed in Zbigniew Jaworowski's article "CO<sub>2</sub>: The Greatest Scientific Scandal of Our Time," EIR March 16, 2007.*

there is also a general increase in solar activity. That was definitely the case since 1910 or so, and that is also causing a general slow warming, both of which may also be coming to an end now, or in a few years.

In any case, carbon dioxide appears to be irrelevant.

**EIR:** What about the recent book of Henrik Svensmark and Nigel Calder, *The Chilling Stars*, about the cosmic ray connection to some formation of clouds and cooling? How does the 22-year magnetic cycle of the Sun, affect that?

**Corbyn:** I think their experimental work which shows that charged particles cause cloud nucleation and could therefore affect the development of weather fronts is of tremendous significance, and groundbreaking. That is their contribution, but I think claims that cosmic rays themselves are a driving force of any significance in climate have fundamental problems.

**EIR:** There's another meeting of the IPCC in Bangkok this week to produce another summary for policymakers. To be more honest, it's a summary *written by* policymakers. . . . And you wrote a letter requesting that certain graphs omitted by the IPCC in their "Summary for Policymakers" be included

when they present the final version for approval in Bangkok on May 4. Did you have an answer yet?

**Corbyn:** No, there are two things: One is, that I've written the letter to the leaders of the British activity on the IPCC, Sir David King, Chief Scientific Advisor, and David Miliband, the minister responsible for environment—who, I would like to add, in my personal scale of regard for the democratic process and the truth, comes at the bottom of all MPs I've ever come across.

I also sent a copy to Prof. Lord Martin Rees, President of the Royal Society, who, in previous times, advised me on questions of neutrino energies in cosmology. So, I do know him. He is a very, very good scientist, but I think he's sold his soul for something or other, in the Royal Society. We'll see.

Anyway, there's been no reply to the letter I wrote saying, "Please, by Bangkok, get the graph that was left out put into that 'Summary for Policymakers.'"

What they've done in their "Summary for Policymakers," is put in a graph showing that carbon dioxide levels have been rising, since about 5,000 years ago. So, I wrote them saying: If you're putting this in, please also put the graph, measured from official sources, which show what temperatures have been doing. We must have these comparisons; policymakers should have these comparisons.

What also happened is that one Labour Member of Parliament—Martyn Jones—has now asked Parliamentary questions to the Government on the lines I suggested, because he saw my letter. Jones is a scientist himself, and he's very distressed about what's going on.

**EIR:** There's a very interesting paper that's been published in *Energy and Environment* by Ernst Beck on the 180 years of measurements of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> that were carried out by Nobel Prize laureates and other scientists from the 1800s into the 1950s. Contrary to what is shown in ice cores, there have been periods where you had 400 parts per million [ppm], almost up to 500 ppm, for example, and a period in the 1850s, where there is a peak. But, as I remember, there were not many power plants, and other assorted man-made industries at that time to account for this CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Corbyn:** Absolutely: There's a lot of modulation of carbon dioxide and temperatures, which has nothing to do with mankind—plant growth being one of them, and volcanoes being another.

Now, it is also very important to notice that ice cores do not measure annual amounts of carbon dioxide, but the values are spread out over, maybe, centuries, because carbon dioxide is a gas; it diffuses into the ice. So, although the annual layers of ice will give you measures of temperatures then, or temperatures within a few years or so of any date, carbon dioxide levels and dates *can not* be estimated with anything like such accuracy. Reading CO<sub>2</sub> information out of ice is like reading writing in ink on blotting paper. It can be done to an extent but it is blotchy, there is a very large inherent lack of definition.

For comparison, if temperatures were represented by biro marks on blotting paper then CO<sub>2</sub> levels would be represented by using a paste brush.

This comes to another lie of the global warmers: They say, “Well, forget about the past; carbon dioxide levels are now rising faster than they’ve ever risen before and this must be dangerous.”

Now, there’s no evidence of CO<sub>2</sub> levels having risen, or not risen, faster than before, because you couldn’t see such things in the ice cores. What they put out about that is a total lie.

The paper you refer to, is very interesting and important because it gives measurements much more recently, and probably more accurately, than ice-core data which have inherently very blunt resolution. It blows more holes in CO<sub>2</sub> orthodoxy.

The key point is that carbon dioxide is not a driver of temperature. And there must have been many periods when carbon dioxide levels were very high, or put another way we have no reason to think there were never such periods. The Global Warmers’ claim is a bit like saying that on a hazy day, because you can only see one tall building out of your window, there are no others anywhere. Anyway, whatever peaks or troughs there were in CO<sub>2</sub> levels which we cannot see, it is clear that CO<sub>2</sub> itself is not the driving force of temperatures as claimed by CO<sub>2</sub> orthodoxy.

**EIR:** Yes, I asked this question in an e-mail to Phil Jones [a leading British global warming scientist] at the Climate Research Unit, in which he said, he had not read the paper, but on face value, he could tell me that the paper was “totally wrong,” and ice cores were the only way to determine CO<sub>2</sub> Period.

Then I asked about the paper on global mean temperature that a Danish professor put out, which, you know, has created a big problem for the Global Warmers. Phil Jones, again, told me that there was something wrong with the paper, that it would not have been published in a “reasonable” climate journal, and that I had to use “Google Scholar” to see how many citations the paper had. So, in essence, he said, “check on the internet to see what’s true!”

**Corbyn:** Eee-yi-yi-yi. Well, take the lie about sea level rising. Now, there have been actual measurements of the Maldive Islands that show that if you stick to actual data, they show that sea levels have gone down in the Maldives (or the Islands have risen up) in the last 70 years. But the general problem is that the [Global Warmers’] sea level measurements in the Pacific are insane, because the Pacific is in constant motion. You know, there’s a ring of volcanoes in the Pacific, and indeed, it shows that the whole area is moving. So, these islands are going to go up and down, and it has nothing to do with sea ‘level’ however it is defined. We also have to be clear that a rigid idea of sea level is stupid. The motion of tectonic plates means that trenches in the sea floor come and go and sea water goes down or up accordingly.

The overall point is, that since the last Ice Age, sea level—or to be more precise, sea volume—has been rising, because heat energy has been slowly getting into the sea. The sea as a whole used to be much colder, and as heat flows in, the depth of warmer, less dense water in the upper layers increases and the total volume goes up. It has been expanding since the end of the last Ice Age, 10,000 years ago. That expansion has nothing to do with carbon dioxide, and on the scale of things, what’s happening to temperatures this year, or last year, or the last decade, is not important. And that is why, when the Romans came to England—in much warmer times—the sea level was lower. There are ports which they built, which are now well under the sea.

**EIR:** Yes, it seems that the Warmers forget about underwater volcano activity; they especially forget about, the underwater volcano activity in the Arctic Sea! This is what creates the melt ponds, which they cry about.

**Corbyn:** Absolutely. Of course, they also don’t admit the early Medieval Warm Period—about 900-1100 A.D.—which shows clearly in Greenland ice cores. It was much warmer than now. Greenland was called Greenland when discovered by the Vikings, because it was warmer than now, habitable, and a lot of people emigrated there.

And polar bears did very well in the warmer times. They don’t live by eating snow and ice; they eat fish, birds, and animals, which do better in warmer times. Polar bears didn’t die out at all; they didn’t die out in the last 10,000 years, nor during the previous interglacial, nor the one before that, nor before that. So, they’re just used as a deceitful heartthrob; you know, to pluck your heartstrings because the “polar bears might die out.”

**EIR:** Yes, we should find a picture of a polar bear chasing one of these people trying to take its picture and publish *that*, instead of all of these cute little pictures of polar bears.

**Corbyn:** Anyway, my view is that climate changes have happened in the last 100 years, as they have done over just about any period of such length in the last million years. Since 1910, the world has got a bit warmer, although not as warm as it was in late or early Medieval times. Averaged over a century or so, it was warmer than the last 100 years in every century from about 1,000 years ago to 10,000 years ago, peaking around the Bronze Age 4,000 years ago.

The Global Warmers are presenting climate in a pixel blip at our end of the tapestry of time as something especially different from the rest. It is not special, it is pretty ordinary. Their opinion is madness.

That warming is a good thing. It leads to more prosperity. If it goes on, it could lead to the reopening of what’s called the Northwest Passages, a sea route to the North Pacific going past Greenland and through parts of Canada.

And our own idea—and we do have some climate fore-



casts based on ideas about changing solar activity—is that actually, this world warming has probably reached or is reaching its peak, and it will stay constant, or it go down a bit, until the end of our forecast, which is 2013. Beyond that, we're not sure what will happen, but the warming trend will most likely have ended by then. We need to do more work on it.

**EIR:** The Global Warming crowd talks about increased CO<sub>2</sub> as some kind of negative thing, but if you think about all the changes in plants, with photosynthesis being better produced, you will have more food output—

**Corbyn:** Yes, that's right, more food. And it's good for trees, good for grasses; good for fish, it's great! More CO<sub>2</sub> equals good, and global warming equals good. More CO<sub>2</sub> increases the bounteousness of life—although they're not calling that good. The CO<sub>2</sub> causes the plants to grow, but the CO<sub>2</sub> is not the driver of temperatures they claim. A warmer world encourages plants to grow as well. A warmer world and more CO<sub>2</sub>: That's the best.

**EIR:** Yes. Just ask anybody who moves from South Dakota in the United States, to Florida. That's what [climate scientist] Fred Singer always says, when you ask him about “Is the warmer climate better?” “Well, just ask someone who just moved South Dakota, where it's frozen a lot of the time, to Miami, where it's nice and warm. Ask them.”

The one thing the warmers don't have, is a sense of humor. And the faked data, which are probably faker than the intelligence we were told about the Iraq War—

**Corbyn:** Oh, absolutely! The so-called hockey stick [**Figure 1**] is a lie. They've known it's a lie, yet they carry on repeating it.

**EIR:** Yes, the IPCC has backed off the hockey stick in its last report, but it's still there. It's just not pointed to as if it's their Holy Grail.

**Corbyn:** The Al Gore film, as far as I could see, has got the hockey stick in it. . . . I counted 20 deliberate lies in his film—well, I say “deliberate” because Gore ought to know better. And I wrote them all down. I daresay, you've had got a few of them anyway, but I think—

**EIR:** Yes, there's been a lot of people who've gone through it and found all the misrepresentations. And the Global Warmers are crying about “The Great Global Warming Swindle” film over a small error in one little chart, while Al Gore's film is like Soviet propaganda. That's what some people have told me, that Al Gore's film was just put together like Soviet propaganda.

**Corbyn:** He could change his name to Al Gorebbels.

**EIR:** We call him Al Gordo, because he's so large.

**Corbyn:** Compared with a pixel blip?