

Malthusian Claims Pandemic Disease Will Stop Warming

William F. Ruddiman of the University of Virginia argues that man-made global warming began thousands of years ago, as a result of the production of CO₂ caused by the discovery of agriculture and subsequent technological innovations in the practice of farming (“The Anthropogenic Greenhouse Era Began Thousands of Years Ago,” *Climatic Change*, December 2003). He claims that the other main source of CO₂ was the cutting of forests and burning of wood and peat to heat homes in Eurasia and North America, which he maintains is why glaciers didn’t advance farther south from the Arctic, as they did in previous glacial advances. Ruddiman bases this bizarre hypothesis on fraud-

ulent ice core data and computer modeling of the extent of deforestation in Europe and North America over the past 8,000 years.

Ruddiman is a neo-malthusian and a follower of “population bomb” hoaxster Paul Ehrlich (see “Where the Global Warming Hoax Was Born,” *EIR*, June 8, 2007). Ruddiman repeatedly asserts that man created climate problems by developing new technologies which caused a slight rise in CO₂. (The amount of emissions was barely above the level of natural variation from outgassing from the oceans.)

One might laugh at the notion that early Europeans burning wood staved off the worst effects of the last ice age—which was the response among most scientists to Ruddiman’s paper. But his more important point is more blood-curdling: that pandemic diseases such as the Black Death of the 14th Century cause a decrease in CO₂ and a decrease in temperature. In other words, such diseases will reduce the population, thereby creating a cooler world.

—Gregory Murphy