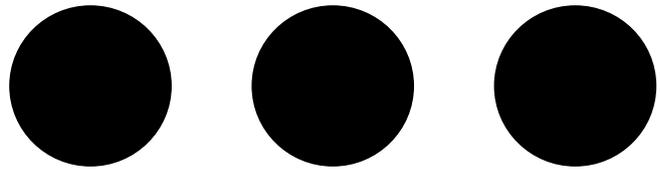




Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on October 31, 2024

Climate Change? Be Very Afraid of CDS — Carbon Derangement Syndrome

In 2013, astrobiologist Jack O'Malley-James predicted that visible life on Earth would end due to too *little* atmospheric CO₂. No, that's not a typo. The gas' levels will ultimately decline over time (the dinosaur age saw levels five to 10 times today's), O'Malley-James explained. Eventually, they'll drop so low that plants won't be able to photosynthesize, which, of course, will collapse the food chain. And, sorry, but you won't be the "last man standing" — unless you happen to be a microbe.



Oh, don't reorganize your investment strategy around this eventuality. Don't resolve to "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." O'Malley-James [says](#) that this deadly CO₂ famine won't befall us for another billion years. And this helps explain, of course, why politicians won't be talking about it. (It's a bit beyond their period of concern — i.e., the next election cycle.) The good news, too, is that it's also nothing to *ever* worry about. We'll no doubt destroy ourselves in some other, perhaps novel way, long before then.

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CDS

Regarding our demise's author, however, could it be CO₂-induced global warming? The mainstream media say yes. In fact, carbon dioxide has become the Donald Trump of the gas world, with CDS (Carbon Derangement Syndrome) afflicting many. Just consider the following ominous headline:

[“Almost no carbon dioxide absorbed by trees and land in 2023, new study warns.”](#)

(By the way, if the trees are on strike, that's another rap against the Biden-Harris administration.)

But that story ran five days ago. Just two days ago, however, was the following:

[Climate Models Fall Short as Plants Absorb 31% More Carbon Than Expected.](#)

Then, just a day before the latter was this title:

[“Global Greenhouse Gases Surge.”](#)



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(So, yes, “follow the science”; just be ready to switch directions fast, on *really* short notice.)

Yet is CDS warranted at all? Should we worry about how much CO₂ is produced or absorbed? Not a bit, says American Thinker (AT), in an [article last Friday](#) titled “Simple Facts Expose The Climate Change Hoax.”

Much Maligned Gas of Life

AT presents five CO₂ myths, along with the site’s refutations. The first (all quotations/emphasis are AT’s):

CO₂ is the “control knob” for the climate. This has been proven to be ridiculous. CO₂ makes up only about 0.04% of the atmosphere, while 96–99% of the atmosphere is oxygen and nitrogen. Water vapor, a much larger determinant of temperature, varies from 1-4%. But what determines temperature more than anything else? Changes in the Earth’s solar orbit (obviously). [NASA has admitted this](#).

The second:

CO₂ is harmful. *Wrong!* CO₂ is plant food. Humans inhale oxygen and exhale CO₂. Plants do the reverse. It is scientific fact that *higher levels of CO₂ lead to greater plant growth*. This is essential if we are going to continue to be able to feed an increasing world population and one of the reasons why the planet now supports 8 billion humans.

In fact, it is because the gas facilitates plant growth that botanists actually pump it into their greenhouses. Moreover, the Earth has [actually gotten greener](#) during the last 35 years owing to higher CO₂ levels.

(Note: Australia’s Great Barrier Reef has also, surprising scientists, [experienced rapid growth](#) in recent times. The point is that not everything environmental is doom and gloom.)

How High Are CO₂ Levels, Really?

Then there’s the third myth:

We are at historically high levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Again, not true. *We are actually at historically low levels of CO₂*. Before the Industrial Revolution, the *seminal* starting point for climate hysteria (often cited by climate hysterics), the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere was approximately **290 ppm** (parts per million). Plant life begins to succumb (it dies) around **150ppm**. The amount of CO₂ currently in the atmosphere is roughly **420ppm**.

During the dinosaur age, the gas’ level was approximately 3600ppm — about 8.5 times as high as now. This at least helps account for the copious lush foliage blanketing the Earth at the time.

AT then quotes an Armstrong Economics [article](#) about warmist sleight-of-hand. To wit:

The data clearly establishes that there has always been a cycle to CO₂ long before man’s industrial age. This is data government wants to hide. As long as they can pretend CO₂ has



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never risen in the past before 1950, then they can tax the air and pretend it's to prevent climate change. Moreover, while we can clean the air with regulation as we have done, under global warming, they allow "credits" to pollute as long as you pay the government. It is the ultimate scam where they get to tax pollution and people cheer rather than clean up anything.

In reality, the U.S.'s air and water are cleaner than they were 60 years ago. We Americans have done a good job with the environment. In contrast, the warmist agenda has actually damaged the environment by [causing the destruction of forest](#).

Where's the Crystal Ball?

Finally, there are AT's last two points:

It's nonsensical to create government policies based on future hypotheticals about natural processes. Does it make sense that anybody would base policy (and spend money) on predicting what could happen in the future? Are there not infinite possibilities as to what could happen?

... If we can't even predict the weather, how can we control it? If you still have arrived at a point where you believe that CO₂ is the weather control knob, it's harmful, we're at historically high levels of it, and that the US government (or any other entity on earth, perhaps maybe the UN) *can predict the weather, then how would they go about controlling it?*

Late author Michael Crichton made the second-to-last point, about prognosticator folly, beautifully in [a 2003 lecture](#). "Look," he said, if "I was selling stock in a company that I told you would be profitable in 2100, would you buy it? Or would you think the idea was so crazy that it must be a scam?" He then illustrated how people in 1903 *had no idea* what 2003's world would look like. Likewise, do you really think *we* have any accurate idea what the world will be like in 2100?

Can Industrial Emissions Be Good?

AT also provides the following video about our CO₂ famine.

So assuming man's activities *are* elevating CO₂ levels, a very serious question is raised. What if this is a *good* thing? What if industrial emissions are staving off CO₂ deprivation's frightening effects?

This gets at a deeper, philosophical error characterizing our time, a misanthropic spirit virtually everyone displays, left, right, and center. That is, an assumption that man's effects on the environment are always negative.

Considering this mindset, one would think man is something apart from nature, an unnatural, alien agent inflicted upon the world. But whether you believe we're mere products of evolution — and hence just intelligent animals — or that we're divinely created, it comes out essentially the same: We're either part of nature or part of God's creation. We're as "natural" as any species of flora or fauna.

This doesn't mean we can't do damage; it does mean that we can also do good. The bottom line is that man's actions aren't always bad. But our Carbon Derangement Syndrome can be deadly.



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