



The Inquisition of Climate Science

By James Lawrence Powell

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Modern science is under the greatest and most successful attack in recent history. An industry of denial, abetted by news media and "info-tainment" broadcasters more interested in selling controversy than presenting facts, has duped half the American public into rejecting the facts of climate science?an overwhelming body of rigorously vetted scientific evidence showing that human-caused, carbon-based emissions are linked to warming the Earth. The industry of climate science denial is succeeding: public acceptance has declined even as the scientific evidence for global warming has increased. It is vital that the public understand how anti-science ideologues, pseudo-scientists, and non-scientists have bamboozled them. We cannot afford to get global warming wrong?yet we are, thanks to deniers and their methods.

The Inquisition of Climate Science is the first book to comprehensively take on the climate science denial movement and the deniers themselves, exposing their lack of credentials, their extensive industry funding, and their failure to provide any alternative theory to explain the observed evidence of warming. In this book, readers meet the most prominent deniers while dissecting their credentials, arguments, and lack of objectivity. James Lawrence Powell shows that the deniers use a wide variety of deceptive rhetorical techniques, many stretching back to ancient Greece. Carefully researched, fully referenced, and compellingly written, his book clearly reveals that the evidence of global warming is real and that an industry of denial has deceived the American public, putting them and their grandchildren at risk.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The most comprehensive, illuminating and searing account yet of the murky world of climate change denial and the charlatans who populate it." -- Irish Times

"Powell consistently brings the sharp insight of a knowledgeable insider melded with the skepticism of a critical outsider to the most important issues in science. In his latest book--his best yet--he shows us the path to understanding climate change."--Peter D. Ward , The University of Washington

"James Lawrence Powell's must-read book is a welcome addition to the growing literature debunking fossil fuel-funded, anti-science disinformation. As Powell makes clear, it is time for scientists to stand up and be counted."--Joseph Romm, editor of Climate Progress and senior fellow at American Progress

This book is a winner, written in an easy, logical style with thorough and fascinating discussions of major deniers.

(Orrin Pilkey, Duke University, coauthor of *The Rising Sea* 7/9/2011)

With the evidence for global warming so strong, why, Powell asks, does half the American public doubt it? His answer is a history of the campaign of denial, the most comprehensive and up-to-date history available. It is well written and well worth reading: this is the most important issue facing our generation.

(Spencer Weart, author of *The Discovery of Global Warming*)

This courageous and well-researched book exposes how ideologues and money combined to attack sound climate science.

(Richard Somerville, University of California, San Diego, author of *The Forgiving Air: Understanding Environmental Change, second edition*)

... this is a highly authoritative and accessible book that should be read by everyone who has any doubts about the reality of climate change.

(*Irish Times*)

About the Author

James Lawrence Powell received his Ph.D. in Geochemistry from MIT and is presently director of the National Physical Science Consortium. He has taught at Oberlin College and has served as its acting president. He has also served as president of Franklin and Marshall College, Reed College, the Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Both presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush appointed Powell to the National Science Board. Asteroid 1987 SH7 is named for him.

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