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A World Without Ice



Synopsis

A co-winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize offers a clear-eyed explanation of the planet's imperiled ice. Much has been written about global warming, but the crucial relationship between people and ice has received little focus until now. As one of the world's leading experts on climate change, Henry Pollack provides an accessible, comprehensive survey of ice as a force of nature, and the potential consequences as we face the possibility of a world without ice. *A World Without Ice* traces the effect of mountain glaciers on supplies of drinking water and agricultural irrigation, as well as the current results of melting permafrost and shrinking Arctic sea ice—a situation that has degraded the habitat of numerous animals and sparked an international race for seabed oil and minerals. Catastrophic possibilities loom, including rising sea levels and subsequent flooding of lowlying regions worldwide, and the ultimate displacement of millions of coastal residents. *A World Without Ice* answers our most urgent questions about this pending crisis, laying out the necessary steps for managing the unavoidable and avoiding the unmanageable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A fascinating look at what may happen as the world's climates warm and the ice melts. Appears to be good science and thoughtful projections.

Great book. Lots of good information about what we are doing to our world.

A World Without Ice is certainly an important and informative book, as the author makes the case that without immediate and substantial action into curtailing our combustion of coal, natural gas, and petroleum fuels, we will undoubtedly melt all the polar ice and glaciers in the world this century. This, of course, will raise our sea level hundreds of feet, resulting in God knows what types of problems in the world. Imagine starving refugees flooding the borders, and that's probably just a start. Rather than being an alarmist, the author strikes me as level-headed and "having done his homework". One could say "balderdash", or some other stronger language, but the reality is that in the earth's near past, high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have done exactly what the author predicts - melt all the ice caps in the world. The reasons why this "natural" event is no longer acceptable include: 1) We are the cause of the carbon dioxide build-up this time; and we can stop the CO₂ build-up if we wanted to; 2) Lots and lots of people live below two hundred feet elevation, and they will want somewhere else to live; and 3) A hotter world is not that great for growing food for billions of people, due to droughts at times, and unstoppable flooding at other times. (A warming planet is both drier when it doesn't rain, and wetter when it does finally get around to raining, due to more heat in the air, and also more water vapor in the heated air). And yes, I've studied climate science since 1978, long before it became fashionable, so I know what I'm talking about, as does the author. Be a skeptic at your own peril. The book can lapse into a type of academic approach at times, although it is certainly readable to the average person. Also recommended are the following four books on global warming and its consequences: "Hell and High Water" by Joseph Romm; "With Speed and Violence - Why Scientists Fear Tipping Points in Climate Change" by Fred Pearce; "Boiling Point" by Ross Gelbspan; and "Storms of My Grandchildren" by James Hansen.

This is an essential read for study into climate change and anthropogenic causes. Lots of data, but well written with some fascinating history as a bonus.

Fabulous book if you are interested in learning about climate change. It is an easy read, funny at times, yet covers the background to climate change very well. This is the first book on climate

change I read, and still the best. I have read several since then, but none as good. I now work part-time in climate change and this is the book that got me started.

Time is not on our side. Trump towers will be gone and a golf course in Florida. Help us all.

I enjoyed reading the history of man's exploration of ice. Causes of climate variation through history are presented with understandable scientific findings.

Author kept the price down by not having spectacular pictures. Pictures would be nice but then the book can be made available to more people by not adding the extra cost. The book is reader-friendly; not just science but tells a story and uses metaphors and imagery to mentally illustrate the beauty of ice. It would be a good additional book to assign an environmental science course that is more enjoyable to read than a textbook on the issue of climate change.

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