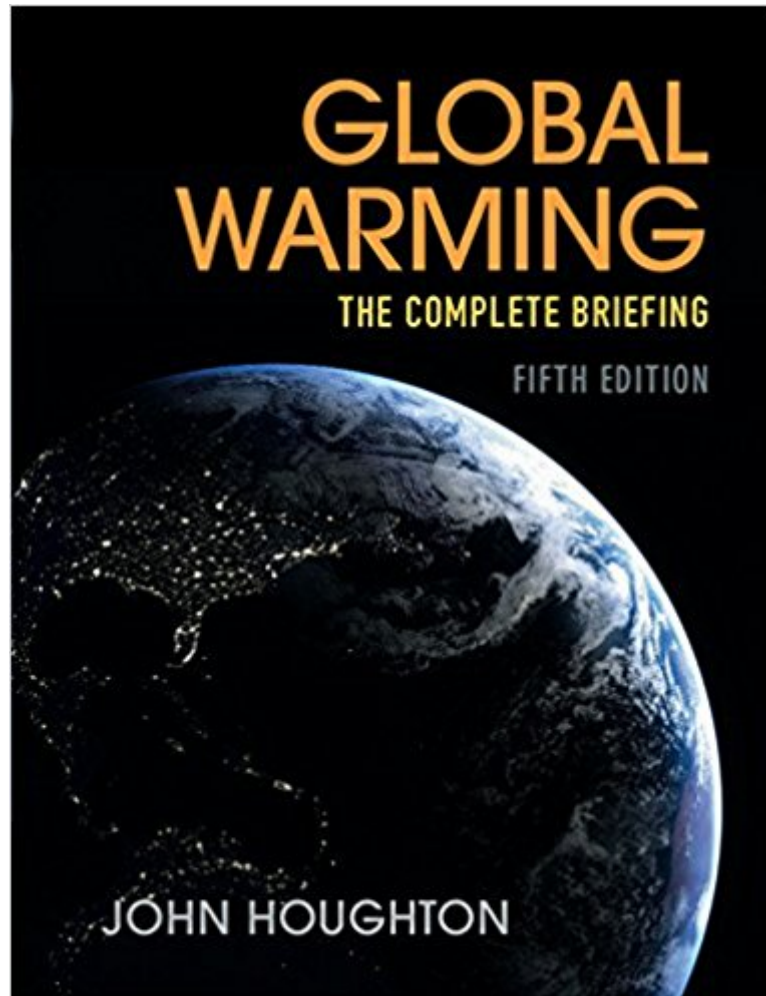




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Global Warming: The Complete Briefing



Synopsis

How much of global warming is due to human activities? How far will it be possible to adapt to changes of climate? Sir John Houghton's definitive, full colour guide to climate change answers these questions and more by providing the best and latest information available, including the latest IPCC findings. The simple, logical flow of ideas gives an invaluable grounding in the science, as well as the physical and human impacts of climate change for undergraduate students across a wide range of disciplines. Accessible to both scientists and non-scientists, the text avoids mathematical equations and includes more technical material in boxes, while simple figures help students to understand the conclusions the science leads to without being overwhelmed by vast amounts of data. Questions for students to consider and test their understanding are included in each chapter, along with carefully selected further reading to expand their knowledge.

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Customer Reviews

"This book undoubtedly lives up to its billing as The Complete Briefing, comprehensively outlining the many areas encompassed in the debate regarding global warming in a clear, accessible and informative manner that I feel cannot be matched. This new edition was definitely required in light of the advances made in the recent IPCC Assessment Report, and you can really see how that work has been integrated into this updated version. It is an essential resource for anybody wishing to learn more or who is educating students about the vast, complex and interdisciplinary topic of global warming." Peter M. Abbott, The Holocene

"This book, accurately subtitled The Complete Briefing, summarizes 4,700-plus pages of the latest IPCC assessment. It covers atmospheric physics and

past climate variation, explaining the relevancy of paleoclimatic changes to current global warming. The author goes on to describe the increasingly sophisticated climate models and the great differences between them and models for meteorological forecasting. Houghton also explores the impacts expected as the climate warms, including the actions and technologies that might limit those changes. Because the climate is already changing, the author surveys adaptation required of ecosystems and our civilization, even if the causes of climate change are eliminated soon. The book is clearly written, and excellent graphics make the voluminous data understandable to a wide audience. Houghton appropriately dedicates the book to his grandchildren, a viewpoint that policy makers should note ... Highly recommended." M. K. Cleaveland, Choice

Sir John Houghton's definitive, full-colour guide to climate change is brought fully up-to-date with the latest IPCC findings for students across a wide range of disciplines. The simple, logical flow of ideas gives an invaluable grounding in the science, physical and human impacts, and need for action on global warming.

I give this book five stars because Dr. Houghton provided a very thoroughgoing description of the scientific status of global warming together with a convincing series of very rational and complete rebuttals to all the arguments used by climate change deniers. It is quite readable even though it contains fairly complex science, which is explained in a very understandable way.

The title of the book "Global Warming - The Complete Briefing" is aptly named, as it is an excellent briefing, or primer, on the subject of global warming. The book avoids the politics of global warming, which can grow tiresome to those of us who actually work in the climate change field. Instead, the book focuses on the basic science behind global warming, and is a very balanced, non-partisan approach to causes, effects, uncertainties, and potential impacts. The reading level of the book is college level science, similar to a beginning or intermediate level physical science or meteorology class. If you are looking for an over-all guide to the science of global warming, this is a great book. If you are looking for a less academic, more popular-culture point of view on global warming, look into "Hell and High Water - Global Warming - The Solution and the Politics and What We Should Do" by Joseph Romm for an eminently enjoyable, easily readable guide to some of political and cultural aspects of global warming.

Used as a textbook in my college course, this book is well-written and provided excellent information

as to the geothermic processes and conditions conducive to life on Earth. It really brought my understanding of climate change to a completely new level.

I have to take immediate issue with the [anonymous] reviews below that claim that this book doesn't address the difference between natural climate cycling and anthropogenic climate change: that difference, in a nutshell, is PRECISELY what this book deals with. Those reviewers never read it, or failed completely to follow its line of reasoning. This is NOT a partisan, political, ideological book. It is simply a guided tour of the science of climate change, revised in 2004. It carefully parses the current research. Read the table of contents [you can click on it at the top of the page] and see that the book is organized around the following inevitable questions: Is climate changing? How much is it changing? How much of that change is caused by people? What are the likely effects, short- and long-term, of these changes? What can we do about it? In the case of climate change, despite all of the political complications that have accrued to what was originally science, these questions are PRECISELY the ones a thinking person needs to ask. To have a book structured around them, referring, as it does, to the best [scientific, independently-refereed] research is a gift. It seems that almost everybody today picks their position on climate change as part of an ideological package-deal: most American conservatives almost automatically disdain the science because the Bush White House and Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter disdain it. Most American progressives almost automatically embrace the NOTION of climate change without actually knowing the science, because Al Gore, et al, have told them to. Both positions, taken in ignorance of the science, are ideological and symptomatic of the worst party-line politics. I urge you to read the science. It will take some effort, but that effort is our civic duty. This book has no agenda other than compiling the research and putting it before the reading public in an accessible format.

It's a great overview of the challenges we face and the history that has gotten us to this point. Also a good way to have at least a basic understanding of the topic for conversations.

The book is well put together with many visuals and to-the-point facts. A good source to learn more on Global Warming and generally the world we inhabit.

Once again beats the college bookstore! Truly the best place to purchase books! This book itself was a very easy read and gave you a good primer on climate change.

This is a great book. It really clears up some questions I had concerning global warming and climate change. Its easy to read and understand for the average person. I made an A in the class because its clear, concise and the material is easy to retain.

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