

## Hysteria Continues

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Mere weeks after terrorist attacks claimed 130 lives, Paris is once again a-flutter in certain precincts and boardrooms. Thousands of climate-change alarmists have converged upon the City Of Lights to tackle — says Bill McKibben, an environmentalist at Middlebury College — "the greatest problem the planet has ever faced."

Hyperbole reigns, as does absolute certainty, in a venue Dr. McKibben maintains is flush with "victory" — i.e., President Obama's killing the Keystone XL pipeline, New York state's banning fracking, and Shell's quitting the Arctic.

Such "victories" are lost on Americans distressed, even worried, about a still-sluggish economy, low labor participation rates, and the threat of Islamist terrorism. Climate change ranks low on their list of priorities, Mr. McKibben's prediction of a cataclysmic 5-degree Celsius increase through this century.

Americans can be hectored, cowed, and even scammed for just so long. They know that climate data has been manipulated to fuel the warming hysteria and that through the past quarter-century world temperatures have risen but slightly. And they know, as noted by Matt Ridley and Benny Peiser wrote Friday in *The Wall Street Journal*, "it is increasingly clear ... the planet was significantly warmer than today several times during the past 10,000 years."

Thus, they look askance at such "news" that October was the hottest month ever, or that November positively sizzled.

Still, climate absolutists persist in certainty even when new doubts surface within the scientific community itself. Doubts, by the way, that arise naturally, with each revised assessment of how much warmer the warmers at the IPCC say the Earth will eventually get. Now the range is between 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius by the latter part of the century. Or, as Messrs. Ridley and Peiser say, "That is, anything from mildly beneficial to significantly harmful" — a range of possibilities suggesting near total uncertainty.

And so, as economist Richard Tol says, "[s]tatements that climate change is the biggest problem of humankind are unfounded: We can readily think of bigger problems."

Like Islamic terrorism, which recently manifested itself in the city the summit is being held.

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