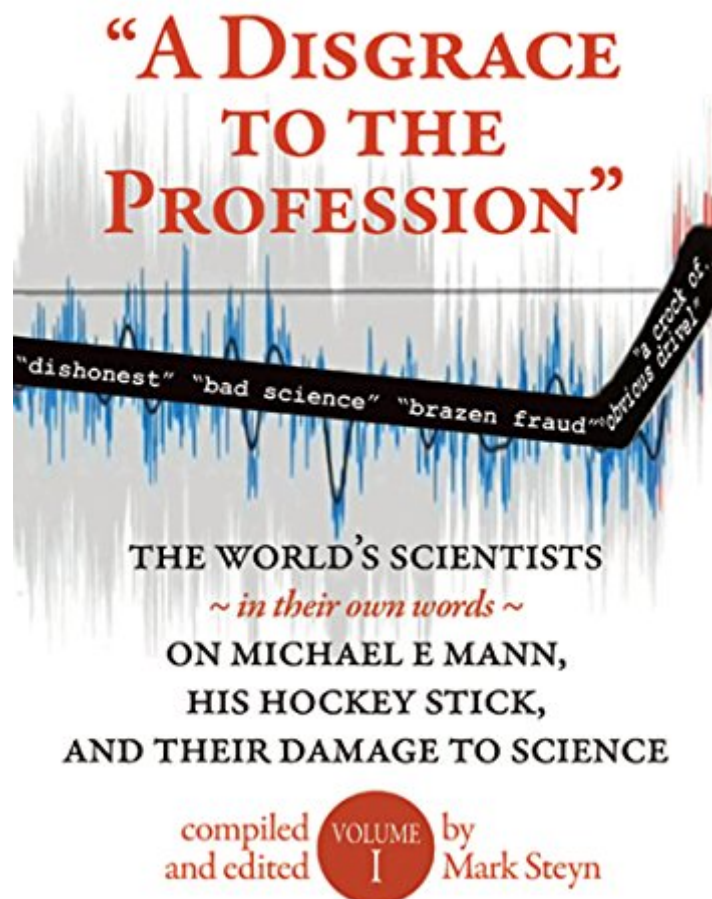




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"A Disgrace To The Profession"



Synopsis

The "hockey stick" graph of global temperatures is the single most influential icon in the global-warming debate, promoted by the UN's transnational climate bureaucracy, featured in Al Gore's Oscar-winning movie, used by governments around the world to sell the Kyoto Accord to their citizens, and shown to impressionable schoolchildren from kindergarten to graduation. And yet what it purports to "prove" is disputed and denied by many of the world's most eminent scientists. In this riveting book, Mark Steyn has compiled the thoughts of the world's scientists, in their own words, on hockey-stick creator Michael E Mann, his stick and their damage to science. From Canada to Finland, Scotland to China, Belgium to New Zealand, from venerable Nobel Laureates to energetic young researchers on all sides of the debate analyze the hockey stock and the wider climate wars it helped launch.

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Customer Reviews

Got my advance copy today and thought I'd give a review of my initial impressions as far as Chapter 83. Quite amused to see a review from RussellS - who clearly hasn't been anywhere near the

book. This very detailed and well referenced book could be a game changer in the climate debate. It's entertainingly and professionally written, as you'd expect from a journalist of Steyn's stature, but its strength is in the amazing amount of well-referenced research that has gone into it. Steyn has devoted a chapter to each scientist who has expressed an opinion on Mann's dubious science - ranging from qualified known sceptics to Nobel prize winners (real ones :-)) and even colleagues and co-workers of Mann, who are the most outspoken on his alarming character traits. Cleverly, he has managed to weave this compendium of impressively qualified opinion into a highly entertaining & readable complete narrative of the contentious climate debate - from the first IPCC report through the hockey stick and climategate sagas right up to today. For a non-specialist reader who wants to get a flavour of what the long running global warming is really about in terms of scientific competence, ethics (or lack thereof) and politics this book is unmissable. Probably some extra amusement value will unfold as more of Dr Mann's easily identified groupies turn up here to launch concerted "confusion & destruction" attacks on the book without having taken the trouble to buy it.

Steyn's book is about what OTHER PEOPLE said about Mann and his hockey stick. Other negative comments aside, whether Steyn is Liberal or Conservative or Communist or Druid or Jewish or Christian has little to no bearing on the content of the book. People should know what other scientists say about Mann's work, since prior to this they've probably been overwhelmed with only the other side of the issue. This is not an attack, it's a balance.

Mark Steyn is being sued by Michael Mann for saying bad things about him, and is in turn countersuing Michael Mann for saying bad things about him. The spectacle is profoundly silly, but also carries a certain threat to free speech, impelling the New York Times, the ACLU, and other defenders of free speech to submit *amicus curiae* to the court in support of Steyn. By contrast, Mann has no *amicus curiae*. What happened to all the scientists, scientific associations, popular journals (e.g. National Geographic), newspapers (the Guardian, not to mention the New York Times) that are on record as believing in human-caused global warming? This book provides the answer. More than 100 scientists, most of whom do indeed believe in global warming, are quoted, often at length, in opposing Mann's Hockey Stick, once the very symbol of impending disaster, shown prominently in Al Gore's Inconvenient Truth movie, making the front cover of the IPCC third report (and repeated in about 6 different illustrations throughout the report) and just generally the iconic symbol of global warming. Mann himself proudly includes the creation of the graph in his CV, and equally proudly proclaimed himself to be a Nobel Prize winner (at least until rebuked by the Nobel Prize

Foundation.) But the Hockey Stick has fallen on hard times, appears exactly nowhere in subsequent IPCC reports, and even Mann himself has since published papers that appear to include the Little Ice Age, although still refusing to admit the global reality of the Medieval Warming Period, when the Vikings found Greenland to be indeed green for a few hundred years before descending into its present year-round snow and ice. For the full story of the Hockey Stick, the indispensable book is the Hockey Stick Illusion by A.W. Montford. That is a pretty exciting (to us climate junkies) detective story showing how a Canadian mining engineer, used to investigating claims of wonderful finds of oil, turned his attention to Mann's claim of wonderful data hidden in tree rings. A terrific read. This book is more limited, just a collection of quotes about the failure of the Hockey Stick from many different angles. However, it is impressive in the breadth and depth of the criticisms and the wide scientific experience of the authors, ranging from cloud physics to oceanographers to paleontologists to geologists. Although I follow the climate debate pretty closely, I was stunned to find such a large number of well-known scientists who had criticized the Hockey Stick (and/or its creator) in such explicit ways. But now I think I understand why nobody was willing to support Mann in his suit by submitting a friend of the court brief. The book is easy to read, well edited so that the remarks of the scientists are kept on topic. Very useful as a reference book for one side in the climate debate. Also good for those on the fence and for those who just love watching a good fight.

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