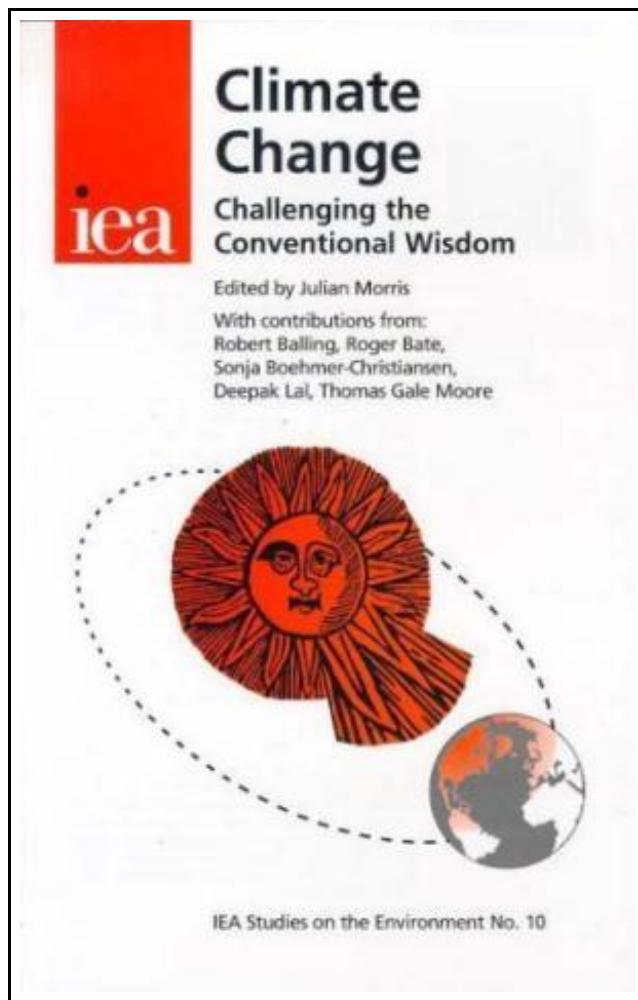


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CLIMATE CHANGE: CHALLENGING THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

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Institute of Economic Affairs. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Climate Change: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom, Julian Morris, The world's climate is in constant flux: on time-scales from days to millennia, global and regional temperature, wind and rainfall patterns are changing. Over periods of decades and centuries, the most significant factor affecting climate appears to be changes in the output of the sun. Man's emissions of 'greenhouse gases' (GHGs) also play a role in altering climate. However, estimates suggest that only 30 to 40 per cent of the warming seen over the past century was caused by GHGs. Predictions made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assume that most of the warming of the past century was caused by man's emissions and therefore overestimate the likely effect of future emissions. Better estimates suggest that if CO₂ concentrations double, global-mean temperatures would rise by about 1.3 degrees centigrade with an upper limit of 2 degrees centigrade. Estimates by some of the world's most respected climate scientists suggest that even if a warming of 2 degrees centigrade does occur the impact on humankind will not be catastrophic; indeed agricultural productivity is likely to increase in many parts of the world, due to longer growing seasons and increases in uptake of CO₂. IPCC lead authors have exaggerated the likely impacts of climate change in order to heighten public perception of the issue and thereby encourage governments to spend more on climate research. Between 1990 and 1995, annual US Government spending on climate research rose from \$600m to \$1.8bn. Estimates suggest that the cost of reducing CO₂ emissions to 1990 levels by 2010 could be around 1 per cent of global output. Even assuming costs were only half that, the result would be less investment in the development of new technologies and...

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