



CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL

Heads in the Sand



HAYDN WASHINGTON
and JOHN COOK

WITH A FOREWORD BY PROFESSOR NAOMI ORESKES,
AUTHOR OF *MERCHANTS OF DOUBT*

‘Ignorance of science is one blockade to effective action on the human predicament. But corporate-financed disinformation campaigns, such as those claiming that climate disruption is a hoax, are equally important. This excellent book will help solve both those problems.’

Paul R. Ehrlich, co-author of *Humanity on a Tighrope*, Bing Professor, Stanford University

‘This book is a must have for anyone trying to understand the climate change issue. Washington and Cook use impressive skill to peel back the lies and deceit associated with a well-oiled machine, used for selling tobacco and now selling manufactured doubt about climate change.’

Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Director of Global Change Institute, University of Queensland

‘*Climate Change Denial* reveals the crossroads we face as a society: do we let denial and confusion continue to derail solutions, leaving us vulnerable to runaway climate change, or do we accept reality and forge a truly sustainable path for future generations?’

James Hoggan, author of *Climate Cover-Up* and President of DeSmogBlog

‘Climate change denial is the biggest single obstacle to achieving a sustainable future. This book provides all the evidence and arguments you need to counter the campaign of misinformation. Read it, study it and spread its message widely.’

Ian Lowe, Emeritus Professor, School of Science, Griffith University

‘This is a major contribution to the growing body of well-reasoned analyses of climate change denial. It’s a must read for anyone interested in understanding the tactics used by the “denial industry” to attack scientific evidence of anthropogenic climate change.’

Riley E. Dunlap, Regents Professor of Sociology, Oklahoma State University

‘Washington and Cook shine a bright light on the charlatans, organizations, and funders behind the climate change denial industry. This clear and compelling book will make it easier for the general public to see through their tricks, and more likely that the world will move faster to take action on the most urgent environmental problem we have ever faced.’

Peter Gleick, MacArthur Fellow, President, Pacific Institute

‘Washington and Cook offer the best available guide to recognizing and combating climate change denial. Their book is compact, lucidly written, and based on recent research in climate science, psychology and sociology. Anyone concerned with reality-based policy in any area can profit from reading this excellent work.’

Spencer Weart, author of *The Discovery of Global Warming*

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Humans have always used denial. When we are afraid or guilty we tend to deny it. Yet denial is a delusion. When it impacts on our health or that of society or the world, then it becomes a pathology. Climate change denial is such a case. Paradoxically, as the climate science has become more certain, denial about the issue has increased.

There is a denial industry, funded by fossil fuel companies, that seeks to confuse the public. There is denial within governments, who pretend they are taking action. There is also denial within most of us. We let denial prosper and we resist the science. This book explains the social science behind denial. It also examines the main climate change denial arguments.

Climate change can be solved – but only when we cease to deny that it exists. This book shows how we can break through denial, accept reality, and thus solve the climate crisis. It will engage scientists, university students, climate change activists as well as the general public seeking to roll back denial and act.

Dr Haydn Washington is an environmental scientist of 35 years experience. His PhD 'The Wilderness Knot' was in social ecology, examining the tangled meanings (and denial) around 'wilderness'. He has been researching climate change since his 1991 book *Ecosolutions*.

John Cook created www.skepticalscience.com, a website that examines the arguments of global warming 'skepticism'. His background is in physics at the University of Queensland. His focus is on making climate science accessible to the general public.

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Ostrich drawing by Rodney Falconer

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