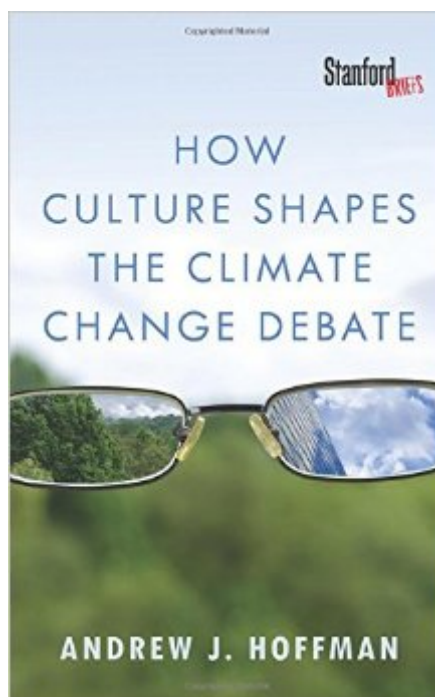


The book was found

How Culture Shapes The Climate Change Debate



Synopsis

Though the scientific community largely agrees that climate change is underway, debates about this issue remain fiercely polarized. These conversations have become a rhetorical contest, one where opposing sides try to achieve victory through playing on fear, distrust, and intolerance. At its heart, this split no longer concerns carbon dioxide, greenhouse gases, or climate modeling; rather, it is the product of contrasting, deeply entrenched worldviews. This brief examines what causes people to reject or accept the scientific consensus on climate change. Synthesizing evidence from sociology, psychology, and political science, Andrew J. Hoffman lays bare the opposing cultural lenses through which science is interpreted. He then extracts lessons from major cultural shifts in the past to engender a better understanding of the problem and motivate the public to take action. *How Culture Shapes the Climate Change Debate* makes a powerful case for a more scientifically literate public, a more socially engaged scientific community, and a more thoughtful mode of public discourse.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book serves as a practical handbook for anyone seeking to meaningfully engage in the climate change debate. Hoffman tackles the question, “Why is American public opinion at such variance with that of the scientific community?” • Hoffman dissects the current state of the climate change debate in America and pinpoints precisely where and why discourse breaks down. As the title suggests, Hoffman posits that the “key to engaging the debate is addressing the deeper ideological, cultural, and social filters that are triggered by this issue.” • This book enumerates the

multiple concurrent arguments and debates that surround the issue, calling attention to the fact that as a nation we are not all engaged in the same conversation. This book serves as a how-to guide full of tactical guidance for anyone seeking to have more productive discussions about climate change.

Andrew Hoffman's book delves into an important disconnect between natural sciences, social sciences, and the American public in relation to the climate change debate. It presents information that is easily accessible and provides a valuable tool to advance the discussion of climate change. Coming from an educational background in ecology and anthropology myself, I was very pleased to see that he makes an important distinction between why scientists and academics see this debate through different lenses. Whether you want to learn how to more effectively speak to broader audiences about climate change, or whether you are looking to learn more about the often murky waters between social and natural sciences, this book serves as a great tool in advancing your understanding of the climate change debate.

If some of your well-educated thoughtful friends believe the country is in grave danger from human-caused climate change while other well-read intelligent friends are equally adamant that no such process or danger exists, you may be puzzled by this disconnect across America. If so, this book is for you. Hoffman explains the underlying causes of this division (which have almost nothing to do with evidence) and gives concrete advice about how these two groups can discuss the subject, find common ground, and maybe even agree on concerted action. While the book provides advice for leaders pushing our country to take the first steps to slow climate change, it will be particularly helpful to a much larger audience. Millions of regular citizens are destined to help craft community decisions about how best to protect their families and neighborhoods against flood dangers, threats to their water supplies, health impacts, and the many other threats from warming to the local economy. Anyone speaking to a city council meeting, writing a letter to the editor, joining a neighborhood committee, or talking across the backyard fence about climate change should read this short book first.

I purchased this book to see if it would work as a resource in a class on human impact on/ of climate change I am teaching next fall. I am really glad I did! *How Culture Shapes the Climate Change Debate* explores the social and political dimensions of resistance to thinking about climate change, identity politics, and the importance of considering the words we use to discuss scientific topics in

order to make them less threatening and more accessible to our audience. With examples that show parallels between public/ political climate change discussions and those on the ozone hole, smoking and cancer, and other sciencey social issues, and practical advice for communicating effectively about these issues, this book has a lot to offer anyone engaged in the discussion - maybe especially those of us who teach about it.

Climate-change deniers do so due to their beliefs, culture, values. These personal biases cause their opposition to accepting climate change. This is the argument of this book that Hoffman presents fully, documenting it. His argument is presented carefully, thru logical steps and thoughts.

Don't let the self-serving brief Preface put you off, this really is a worthwhile book. It is a good summary of the current literature on sociological / psychological factors that go into the resistance of certain segments of our population to the consensus scientific observation of anthropogenic global warming. Its brevity is a major advantage (90 pages of text) when so many authors feel the need pad their works to three or four hundred pages. We all have more reading than we can possibly keep up with. This book helps us to better understand the origins of thinking of those who disagree with our own point of view (whatever that is) and just might contribute to better communication. This in turn might help us to make more constructive choices to deal with global warming.

This book explains more than just climate denial. The authors' reasoning can be applied to many things in life that make you scratch your head and wonder "why can't they see the writing on the wall?"

Excellent social psychology examination. In my mind we experience the same psychology in the debate over creation, Noah's ark, inerrant scripture and even abortion. We are not as logical as we think we are. Or, as one friend of mine said, "Logic is the wellspring of fallacy, not the reliable arbiter of truth."

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