



Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet

By Mark Lynas

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Possibly the most graphic treatment of global warming that has yet been published, *Six Degrees* is what readers of Al Gore's best-selling *An Inconvenient Truth* or Ross Gelbspan's *Boiling Point* will turn to next. Written by the acclaimed author of *High Tide*, this highly relevant and compelling book uses accessible journalistic prose to distill what environmental scientists portend about the consequences of human pollution for the next hundred years.

In 2001, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a landmark report projecting average global surface temperatures to rise between 1.4 degrees and 5.8 degrees Celsius (roughly 2 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of this century. Based on this forecast, author Mark Lynas outlines what to expect from a warming world, degree by degree. At 1 degree Celsius, most coral reefs and many mountain glaciers will be lost. A 3-degree rise would spell the collapse of the Amazon rainforest, disappearance of Greenland's ice sheet, and the creation of deserts across the Midwestern United States and southern Africa. A 6-degree increase would eliminate most life on Earth, including much of humanity.

Based on authoritative scientific articles, the latest computer models, and information about past warm events in Earth history, *Six Degrees* promises to be an eye-opening warning that humanity will ignore at its peril.

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Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet By Mark Lynas Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #202581 in Books
- Brand: Lynas, Mark
- Published on: 2008-10-07
- Released on: 2008-10-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .92" w x 6.00" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 336 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—Lynas has gathered global-warming information from an array of authoritative scientists: geologists, glaciologists, oceanographers, climate scientists, and paleoclimatologists, as well as "major scientific projections" from computer modelers. He divides his findings into six main chapters representing the consequences of a one- to six-degree shift in temperature rise. More factual than hysterical and using accessible language, the author portrays a sobering, but broad and fascinating, view of the problem. He discusses not only the environmental consequences of melting icecaps, ocean warming, coral reef bleaching, CO2 emissions, deforestation, and severe weather, but also cultural and economic reverberations—the result of population shifts, animal migrations, and societal collapse. Through computer-modeling simulations he looks back into the past (the Pliocene, the Mayan civilization) and projects into the future for CO2 comparisons. His premise: the problem is now at global scale and will not just impact the disappearance of one group alone as it did the Maya. Claiming that solutions must be political, and that it is too late for quick fixes using renewable energy sources or technology, he concludes with some cautionary possible solutions: relocalization of goods and services, less consumption, global-scale carbon rationing, and a "2 degree increase target." Anyone studying climate change will find this a helpful reference as much current research has been precompiled and interpreted within one resource.—*Jodi Mitchell, Berkeley Public Library, CA*

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Review

'Scientists predict that global temperatures will rise by between one and six degrees over the course of this century and Mark Lynas paints a chilling, degree-by-degree picture of the devastation likely to ensue unless we act now.' "Six Degrees" is a rousing and vivid plea to choose a different future.' Daily Mail 'Buy this book for everyone you know: if it makes them join the fight to stop the seemingly inexorable six degrees of warming and mass death, it might just save their lives.' New Statesman 'An apocalyptic primer of what to expect as the world heats up.' it's sobering stuff and shaming too. Despite its sound scientific background, the book resembles one of those vivid medieval paintings depicting sinners getting their just desserts.' Financial Times 'The saga of how, in the world as imagined by thousands of computer-modelling studies, global warming kicks in degree by degree. "Six Degrees", I tell you now, is terrifying.' The Sunday Times 'A chilling read.' Socialist Review

About the Author

Mark Lynas, a journalist, campaigner, and broadcast commentator on environmental issues, is the author of *High Tide: News from a Warming World*. He is a contributor to periodicals including *New Statesman*, *Ecologist*, *Granta*, and *Geographical*, and to the *Guardian* and *Observer* newspapers in the United Kingdom.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Caroline Petrie:

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Ruth Ward:

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Dale Burt:

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