

A Discernible Human Influence?

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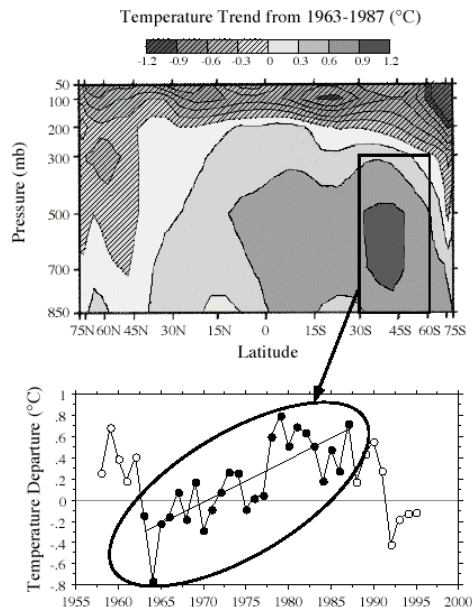
Claim: An "imprint of human influence" on the earth's climate has been found in observational temperature data of the upper troposphere, as recorded by sonde balloons.

This statement in Chapter 8 of the 1995 IPCC report has been **proven unsupportable**, having relied upon a then **unpublished** paper employing **data truncation and manipulation**. Yet, it is still faithfully and widely quoted.

In a major paper published in the British science journal "*Nature*" (Vol.382, 4 July 1996, p.39-46) Santer et al. claimed to have found the imprint of human influence in observations of upper troposphere temperatures as recorded by sonde balloons. This result then inspired the much quoted claim that there was "... **a discernible human influence on global climate**", a remark surreptitiously slipped into Chapter 8 of the 1995 IPCC Report **after** the meeting of drafting scientists in Madrid. Here is how the "discernible influence" was produced:

Santer et al. **choose** their dates (circled in the chart below) as a basis on which to compare observed conditions against those that the models would predict. Since the models predict upper troposphere warming under enhanced Greenhouse conditions, it was necessary to show that observed data agreed with the models, thus validating those models and proving that the Greenhouse human fingerprint was already evident.

However, when the **full** available time period of radio sonde data is shown (*Nature*, vol.384, 12 Dec 96, p522) we see that the warming indicated in Santer's version is **just a product of the dates chosen**. The full time period **shows little change** at all to the data over a longer 38-year time period extending both before Santer *et al*'s start year, and extending after their end year. The simple rule in science ignored by Santer is: **The longer the time span of a data series, the more reliable is the underlying trend.**



It was **5 months** before 'Nature' published two **rebuttals** from other climate scientists, exposing the **faulty science** employed by Santer et al. (*Vol.384, 12 Dec 1996*). The first was from Prof. Patrick Michaels and Paul Knappenberger who observed the warming portrayed was "largely an artifact of the time period chosen."

The second rebuttal was from a German scientist, Gerd R. Weber, who drew attention to the fact that even the period of warming chosen by Santer et al. was largely explainable by known natural events (the eruption of Mount Agung, and several strong El Nino events) and not induced through any man-made cause.

So, did Santer et al. really discover a "discernible human influence on global climate"? Apparently not when the full record utilized in their paper is examined.

(For a fuller report, see <http://www.john-daly.com/sonde.htm>)