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Global Warming, Climate Change and the Unknown

**The second largest hurricane on record, Hurricane Sandy, ravaged the Northeastern United States in 2012, seven years after the largest hurricane on record, Hurricane Katrina, devastated southern states. (Hook to catch reader's interest) The intense nature and paths of these storms have caused many Americans to seriously scrutinize whether the acts of mankind are the nexus for climate change that lays at the root of these disasters. While the possible disastrous effects that could be caused by global warming are being considered seriously by many Americans for the first time, experts have been considering the possibility that human actions are causing global warming that may result in global catastrophe, but their positions on the issues vary. (Transition to topic) William H. Calvin**

**argues in “The Great Climate Flip-Flop” that if the world does not make changes to combat global warming, the climate could ultimately "flip-flop" into an ice age. Ken Caldeira in “The Great Climate Experiment” considers mankind’s acts as contributing to global warming and resulting in devastation to the world, but he sees a different end result. He asserts that if we continue to dump carbon into the environment, global warming will increase about 5 to 10 degrees Celsius, causing the flooding of islands, the death of sea life and risk the extinction of man as well(1).**

**While scientists disagree what the result of the current global warming situation might be, they agree that global disasters are imminent if mankind does not change its irresponsible consumption of world resources. However, while these scientists work to put the world on notice, politicians like Ron Unz in “Two Cheers for Heresy on Global Warming: Climate change is a Cycle--of Faddish Opinions” contend that**

**insufficient evidence exists to support the argument that global warming is caused by man. Because the science is clear that the results of climate change will be devastating, Americans should accept that climate change is happening and put aside and condemn the arguments of politicians in order that we can get serious about changing the way we live to preserve the world for our children.**