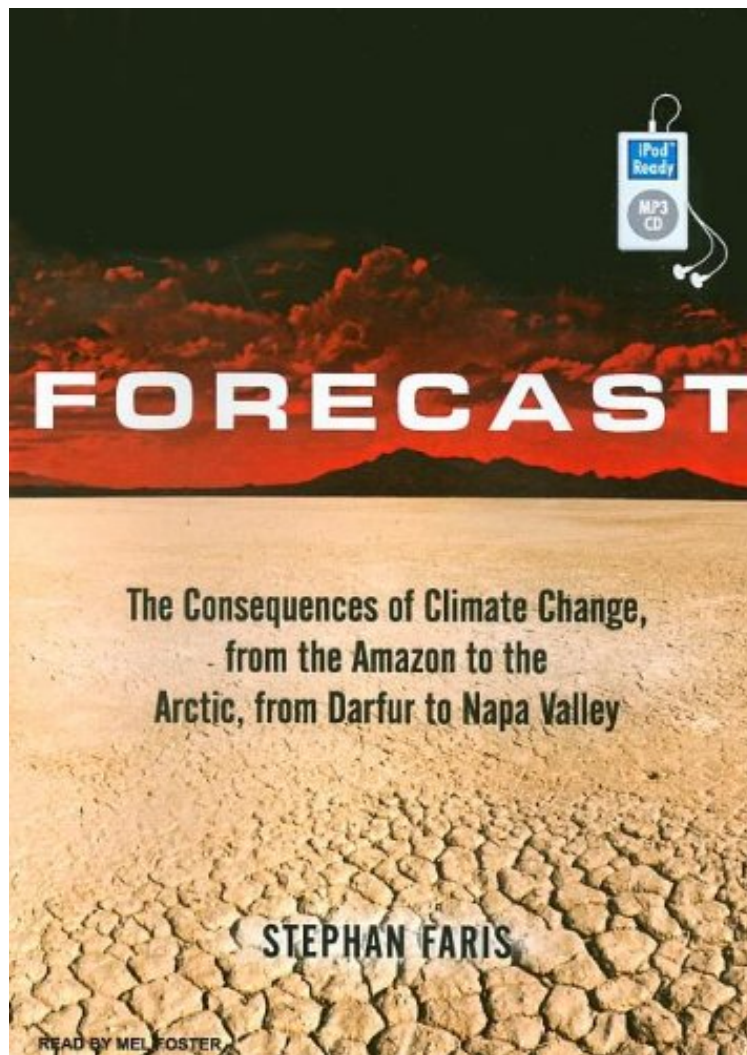


(Read free) Forecast: The Consequences of Climate Change, from the Amazon to the Arctic, from Darfur to Napa Valley

## Forecast: The Consequences of Climate Change, from the Amazon to the Arctic, from Darfur to Napa Valley

*Stephan Faris*

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**Stephan Faris : Forecast: The Consequences of Climate Change, from the Amazon to the Arctic, from Darfur to Napa Valley** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forecast: The Consequences of Climate Change, from the Amazon to the Arctic, from Darfur to Napa Valley:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Climate Change is Occurring: Are These Results of That or Normal Variations? By Frederick S. Goethel The author takes readers on a trip around the world to look at what is, according to the author, the results of the start of climate change. While I am not a climate change skeptic, and believe some

changes resulting from climate change can already be seen, I am just not sure all of the examples given by the author are really examples of change caused by climate change. Several of the author's examples can readily be seen as changes caused by climate change. Changes in location and productivity of wine grapes are a very good example. We know where they have grown in the past and how they have produced grapes. We also now know where they can be planted successfully that were not productive previously. Given no other changes, this really must be indicative of climate change. The same can be said for the massive changes that are occurring in the Arctic regions of the world. It gets a little more complicated when you are trying to pin hurricane frequency and strength on climate change. The data is just not strong enough, nor has it been recorded for long enough to be able to make a certain link between the two events. Similarly, the burning of the and movement of malaria cannot be linked directly to climate change. Any student of malaria knows that it has had a very broad range in the past (including as far north as Russia) and that the disease can be very hardy as long as the proper mosquitoes are present. It is a disease best transmitted by tropical mosquitoes, but is not confined to those species. Overall, the book is well written and may very well be a very early forward looking peek at what is in store. The data, however, leaves a lot open and we may not know if the author's assumptions were correct until after things have declined.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Readable, thoughtful book with a focus on the present

By Sydney MA well-written and very readable book that describes present impact of climate change on human life in locations around the globe, from the conflict in Darfur to the interior of Brazil to vineyards in the American west to a remote port in northern Canada. Each chapter deals with a new region, and the book describes, vividly, what has happened in the past and is happening right now in human terms, rather than dire predictions for the future. An informative book that gives much food for thought.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Global warming seen from a human perspective

By Dennis Littrell Journalist Stephan Faris goes around the world to see for himself up close and personal what climate change means to the lives of people. He begins in Darfur where the rising temperature is allowing the Sahara Desert to extend its reach, the immediate result of which is bloody war between herders and farmers. (People are wonderful as long as they get what they need. Should the crops dry up and their animals find no grazing, they'll kill you.) Chapter 2 finds Faris in Florida (where the waters are rising and the hurricanes are getting really frequent and fierce); from there in Chapter 3 he examines the immigration problem in Europe where the brown and often Muslim folk from equatorial lands encroach upon the relatively rich whites of the north and cause incipient nationalism (read fascism) to begin its rise again. In Chapter 4 the is burning and malaria is moving north. In Chapter 5 Faris arrives in Napa Valley to taste the wines and hear how the warmer weather will chase the wine grapes north, perhaps to Alaska. (Well, southern England is now, as it once was in the 14th century, wine grape country.) In Chapter 6 Faris is in Churchill where the polar bears roam and near where the arctic ice is melting and staying melt for so long that a Northwest Passage year round is becoming possible. (Some good yet may come of this global warming, at least for the town of Churchill, although the polar bears will be considerably inconvenienced.) In Chapter 7, we learn about the water rising in Bangladesh and how the Himalayas do not feed the rivers as they once did, thereby threatening the grain harvest in Pakistan, and how the coming conflict over water between Pakistan and India may result in nuclear war. The aquifers are falling. It costs more all the time to pump that water up from farther and farther down; and someday it will be gone and the crops will wilt and die and famine with spread across the land. In an epilogue Faris muses about the challenge of climate change and how unlikely it is that we will solve it before the really harsh pain sets in. He asks, "If the richest people on the planet won't make economic sacrifices to address the problem, what chance is there that the rest of the world will?" Actually the richest people are in denial and they don't really care about the rest of world. This is another book on global warming, engagingly and gracefully written, that will become a target of the deniers, who, like creationists, close their eyes to the science and celebrate willful ignorance. Let them (the people of the future) eat cake is what they effectively say--or actually it will be dirt--and in some places it already is dirt. But I have to say that some of the problems that Faris addresses--starving people in Africa in particular, and also the poor people in Bangladesh who face the rising waters--are more the result of political mismanagement and greed than they are of global warming. And most significantly in many places in the world there are just too many people for the land to reliably support. Indeed many of the problems of the world would be greatly alleviated, or at least made tractable, if there were say half a billion people on the planet instead of six and a half billion. Unless this truth is realized and acted upon, humanity and the creatures of our stewardship are in for some horrific times to come.

While reporting just outside of Darfur, Stephan Faris discovered that climate change was at the root of that conflict, and he began to wonder what current and impending--and largely unanticipated--crises such changes have in store for the world. Forecast provides the answers. Global warming will spur the spread of many diseases. Italy has already experienced its first climate-change epidemic of a tropical disease, and malaria is gaining ground in Africa. The warming world will shift huge populations and potentially redraw political alliances around the globe, driving environmentalists into the hands of anti-immigrant groups. America's coasts are already more difficult places to live, as increasing insurance rates make the Gulf Coast and other gorgeous spots prohibitively expensive. Crops will fail in previously lush places and thrive in some formerly barren zones, altering huge industries and remaking traditions.

Water scarcity in India and Pakistan have the potential to inflame the conflict in Kashmir to unprecedented levels and draw the United States into the troubles there and elsewhere. Told through the narratives of current, past, and future events, the result of astonishingly wide travel and reporting, *Forecast* is a powerful, gracefully written, eye-opening account of this most urgent issue and how it has altered and will alter our world.

From Publishers Weekly The latest communique from the emerging genre of traveling the world in the footsteps of climate change is an intelligent, nuanced report on the complex relationships between increasingly unstable weather patterns and politics, ecology and lifestyles. Journalist Faris shows how the genocide in Darfur has roots in desertification and may be a canary in the coal mine, a foretaste of climatically driven political chaos, and how the resulting emigration of Africans to Europe is causing economic pressures that are being met with fascistic movements in Italy and Britain. Locals are abandoning Key West and New Orleans due to unsustainable insurance premiums; Bangladesh is likely to be flooded out of existence; and drought may wipe out the rain forest within 70 years. Faris cites a study predicting a world depicted by *Mad Max*, only hotter, with no beaches and perhaps with even more chaos. But, depressingly, he admits that his travels researching this book released nine times an average person's annual carbon use and that the world many have opened its eyes to climate change, but we're far from taking effective action. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist A journalist concerned with on-the-ground evidence of global warming, Faris reports on what he learned in visits to various regions around the world. A global climatic component is involved in local environmental situations, Faris finds, the details of which he expands in presenting the explanations of scientific or policy experts. What counts most in this work, however, are the impressions of climate change Faris gathered from his interviews with local inhabitants. They make tangible the abstractions of the issue in Sudan, Key West, Brazil, California, Canada, and India. In addition to covering local peoples observations about desertification, coral bleaching, and the temperature-sensitive wine-making industry, Faris looks into local political ramifications, especially those concerning people forced to move because of environmental stresses. He presents background to the violence in Darfur and notes the concerns of insurers about Americas hurricane-prone southern coasts. Faris reportorial techniques work well in his narrative, priming readers for his recommendation for urgent action on climate change. --Gilbert Taylor Bad news is good news if it gets us to act. *Forecast* should--it shows that this is not a crisis for our children, but the central question of our time. Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature* and *The Bill McKibben Reader* Stephan Faris has traveled everywhere, holding his journalist's looking glass up for everyone to see the same carbon-crazed climate monster looming in every reflection. Reader, that mirror is now in your hands: Your world, too, is peering from these pages. Better pay attention. Alan Weisman, author of *The World Without Us* Stephan Faris has written a superb, first-hand account of the imminent results of climate change. His exceptional writing provides a vivid sense of the impact of global warming happening now. *Forecast* is a must read for all those who want to understand the seriousness of this growing problem threatening our planet. General Anthony C. Zinni USMC (Retired), author of *The Battle for Peace* *Forecast* takes us beyond the computer-generated doomsday maps and *Mad Max*-like theories, giving us instead real stories of the devastating effects climate change has already had on our most precious resource ourselves. Through compelling and vigorously-researched storytelling, Stephan Faris shines a light in uncomfortable places, tracing calamities as varied as the Darfur conflict and grapes withering on their Napa Valley vines back to global warming. *Forecast* makes it clear that this crisis has been upon us for way longer than we realize, and the stakes are raised with every carbon-laced breath we take Kelly McMasters, author of *Welcome to Shirley: A Memoir from an Atomic Town* The possible effects of global warming can seem vague and far away: will ocean levels rise six inches or six feet, and in twenty years or two-hundred? But as Stephan Faris's *Forecast* so powerfully illustrates, global warming is already playing a crucial role in a number of issues besetting the planet, in everything from the explosion of illegal immigration into Europe, to the brutal conflict between nomadic and agrarian tribes in Darfur. With a very deft hand, and even a touch of ironic wit, Faris shows that global warming comes at real cost to real people - and the future is already upon us. Scott Anderson, author of *The Man Who Tried to Save the World* An intelligent, nuanced report on the complex relationships between increasingly unstable weather patterns and politics, ecology and lifestyles. Publishers Weekly