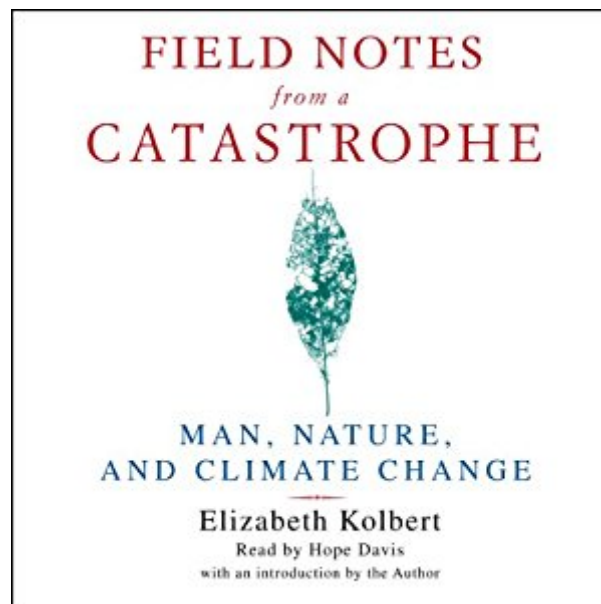




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# Field Notes From A Catastrophe: Man, Nature, And Climate Change



## Synopsis

An argument for the urgent danger of global warming in a book that is sure to be as influential as Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. Known for her insightful and thought-provoking journalism, New Yorker writer Elizabeth Kolbert now tackles the controversial subject of global warming. Americans have been warned since the late nineteen-seventies that the buildup of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere threatens to melt the polar ice sheets and irreversibly change our climate. With little done since then to alter this dangerous course, now is the moment to salvage our future. By the end of the century, the world will likely be hotter than it's been in the last two million years, and the sweeping consequences of this change will determine the future of life on earth for generations to come. In writing that is both clear and unbiased, Kolbert approaches this monumental problem from every angle. She travels to the Arctic, interviews researchers and environmentalists, explains the science and the studies, draws frightening parallels to lost ancient civilizations, unpacks the politics, and presents the personal tales of those who are being affected most—the people who make their homes near the poles and, in an eerie foreshadowing, are watching their worlds disappear. Growing out of a groundbreaking three-part series for the New Yorker, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* brings the environment into the consciousness of the American people and asks what, if anything, can be done, and how we can save our planet. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Elizabeth is an amazing storyteller and also on the ground and in the thick of it. She's got a lot of

courage in writing about this subject, but also in the time and energy she dedicates to being with these scientists in some inhospitable places. Climate change is it folks. The big IT. This will become more apparent as the decades pass and we realize that the time to act was 20-30 years ago. Our children and grandchildren will be bewildered at how inactive and/or in denial we were. Let's hope more Elon Musks (and less Jim Inhofes) pop up soon or else civilization, as we know it, is over.

Excellent read! Depressing subject matter. She does a great job organizing the information she shares, as I believe she is a journalist, not a scientist. She lays out all the information a very readable, and even interesting manner. This book is an easy quick and easy read. It definitely should be "required reading" for ALL High School Seniors.

This book outlines from many different viewpoints the nearly inevitable climate disaster looming in a very few generations. We are running out of time to take adequate corrective actions.

Kolbert as always writes clearly and convincingly of the environmental disasters we are exponentially experiencing.

It's an important book and she's an excellent writer.

As the title suggests, the author recounts her travels and sees tangible evidence of global heating (James Lovelock's apt description which is more meaningful than the euphemistic "global warming" or "climate change"). It could be easy for people in the temperate US, Europe, and Asia to dismiss receding glaciers, at least until sea levels rise about one inch a year when the significant heating gets underway (this estimate is based on the geologically proven rate from approx. 100,000 years ago during a very warm period). So, if sea levels rise about three feet (3 ft) over time the field notes from this time period will be seen as a prelude to the hot state or "hot house" climate. Also, while sea level rise could be greatly limited by geoengineering and high altitude releases of SO<sub>2</sub> by jets (see Prof. David Keith's recent book), ocean acidification would still proceed in a relentless way. Kolbert provides good examples from around the world but like Naomi Oreskes she comes up short on solutions. Apparently, France and its low-carbon footprint isn't a sufficiently advanced as a country for her to praise. Paris 2015 will really count.

Elizabeth Kolbert offers a great look into some of the many effects, research, and policies regarding

climate change. The way she has written this book, as a story of her travels, was a great way to inform the public. She really tries to engage the reader through a lot of visuals, including a brief description of each person she works with, interview, or researches just so the reader can feel that they are in the room with her experiencing these people. Whether it be her 500 mile journey driving through Alaska, looking for butterflies in England, or living at a research base in Greenland, she takes us with her so that we could have a stronger connection to why this change that is occurring is so important. Having read this book on a beach in two days, pretty fitting location I have to say to read a book about the world's rising oceans and temperatures, I can say this book is a nice, quick and easy read. This is a great choice for a book to dip your toes into the phenomena known as climate change.

Global warming is a real issue that is affecting our world today. In *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* by Elizabeth Kolbert the author travels to different places in the world and talks to people about the observed and future affects of global warming. Some of these effects include the increasing amounts of greenhouse gasses, the melting of the glaciers in the arctic, the changing of habitats for animals, and the increase of droughts. Finally, the author talks about what the countries of the world are doing to remedy the situation. This book was very informative about global warming and how it is affecting the world. The author's writing style is very comprehensive. It has allowed me to see both sides of the argument on global warming. Finally, it has shown me just how hard a problem global warming is to fix but it gives me hope that some people are working towards solutions that may be able to slow down global warming's effects in the future.

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