

strong pillars: prosperity, power and security. In order to solidify China's foundations and pillars the Government decided to invest heavily into education and research, infrastructure, the strengthening of institutions, overseas business development via sovereign funds, state banks, joint ventures and so on, and by developing a mighty military (air force, army and navy) [2: 4].

The short- and long-term rationale behind these expenditures is prosperity through economic growth, which ensures social stability and prolongs the continuity of a single-party state governed by a privileged few in the capital, Beijing. Obviously that for these reasons the natural and energy resources are essential. This is what keeps China buoyant and moving forward. And since it is believed that the South China Sea holds the promise of vast reserves of oil and gas, as well as an important sea conduit, the China's Government is focused on controlling the territories, resources and waters in the South China Sea. Not to mention the benefits which the South China Sea holds for the international trading.

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GLOBAL WARMING

Introduction. Global warming is the current increase in temperature of the Earth's surface (both land and water) as well as its atmosphere. Average temperatures around the world have risen by 0.75 ° C (1.4 ° F) over the last 100 years. About two thirds of this increase has occurred since 1975. In the past, when the Earth experienced a rise in temperature it was the natural causes but today it is being caused

by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere produced by human activities [6]. Global warming occurs when carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other air pollutants and greenhouse gasses collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the earth's surface. Normally, this radiation would escape into space—but these pollutants, which can last for years to centuries in the atmosphere, trap the heat and cause the planet to get hotter. That's what's known as the greenhouse effect [2]. The "greenhouse effect" is the warming that happens when certain gases in Earth's atmosphere trap heat. These gases let in light but keep heat from escaping, like the glass walls of a greenhouse.

That is, **in this paper we have got the following objectives:** to explore the stages of climate change; to discuss how the climate has changed throughout life on the planet; to find out the current global warming situation and what global warming is threatening in the future.

First, sunlight shines onto the Earth's surface, where it is absorbed and then radiates back into the atmosphere as heat. In the atmosphere, "greenhouse" gases trap some of this heat, and the rest escapes into space. The more greenhouse gases are in the atmosphere, the more heat gets trapped. Scientists have known about the greenhouse effect since 1824, when Joseph Fourier calculated that the Earth would be much colder if it had no atmosphere. This greenhouse effect is what keeps the Earth's climate livable. Without it, the Earth's surface would be an average of about 60 degrees Fahrenheit cooler[5]. Global warming doesn't just mean warming — which is why "climate change" has become the trendier term among researchers and policy makers. While the globe is becoming hotter on average, this temperature increase can have paradoxical effects, such as more serious snowstorms. There are several big ways climate change can and will affect the globe: By melting ice, by drying out already-arid areas, by causing weather extremes and by disrupting the delicate balance of the oceans [3].

The atmosphere today contains more greenhouse gas molecules, so more of the infrared energy emitted by the surface ends up being absorbed by the atmosphere. Since some of the extra energy from a warmer atmosphere radiates back down to the surface, Earth's surface temperature rises. By increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases, we are making Earth's atmosphere a more efficient greenhouse[1]. On Sept. 6, 2017, Hurricane Irma slammed into the Leeward Islands on its way toward Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the U.S. mainland. As the Category 5 storm approaches the Bahamas and Florida, it will be passing over waters that are warmer than 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius)—hot enough to sustain a Category 5 storm. Warm oceans, along with low wind shear, are two key ingredients that fuel and sustain hurricanes [4].

Wondering how to stop global warming? Reduce your own carbon footprint by following a few easy steps. Make conserving energy a part of your daily routine and your decisions as a consumer. When you shop for new appliances like refrigerators, washers, and dryers, look for products with the government's Energy Star label; they meet a higher standard for energy efficiency than the minimum federal requirements. When you buy a car, look for one with the highest gas mileage and lowest emissions.

You can also reduce your emissions by taking public transportation or carpooling when possible. And while new federal and state standards are a step in the right direction, much more needs to be done. Voice your support of climate-friendly and climate change preparedness policies, and tell your representatives that transitioning from dirty fossil fuels to clean power should be a top priority—because it's vital to building healthy, more secure communities[2].

Conclusion: change only happens when individuals take action. Carbon dioxide is the climate's worst enemy. It is released when oil, coal, and other fossil fuels are burned for energy—the energy we use to power our homes, cars and smartphones. By using less of it, we can curb our own contribution to climate change while also saving money.

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FOREIGN POLICY OF REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION OF GEORGE W.BUSH ON THE EXAMPLE OF MIDDLE EAST

Introduction. The goal of the US foreign policy consists in maintaining and strengthening its privileged position using already declared open global hegemony. America continues to prove its superiority over other countries and makes sure steps to demonstrate its advantage over the Eurasian continent. The main actors in Eurasian