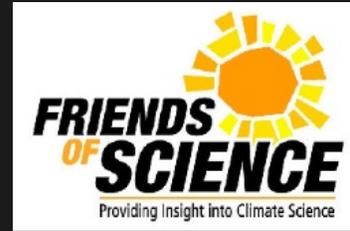


# Friends of Science

[friendsofscience.org](http://friendsofscience.org)  
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## Press Release



July 15, 2020

### Facebook Fact Checkers Fail on Shellenberger Apology

(Calgary, Alberta, Canada) Facebook has relied on two fact-checking bodies, Science Feedback and Climate Feedback to assess a recent article by author and environmentalist Michael Shellenberger, about his new book "[Apocalypse Never: Why Environmental Alarmism Hurts Us All](#)". The fact checkers rate it as 'partly false news'. Facebook now blocks the distribution of Shellenberger's article and downgrades any Facebook page that posts it. **Video: [Facebook Fact Checkers Fail](#)**

Friends of Science Society called Facebook out with this post - [Facebook: Act Thoughtfully to Maintain Freedom of Speech and the Integrity of Scientific Inquiry](#) - denouncing this insidious censorship.

Ironically, one of the third-party Science Feedback and Climate Feedback reviewers that Facebook relies upon for 'false news' ratings is Kerry Emmanuel from MIT. Emmanuel posted a positive review of "Apocalypse Never" on the book's Amazon site, stating "...in this engaging and well-researched treatise, Michael Shellenberger exposes the environmental movement's hypocrisy in painting climate change in apocalyptic terms..." By contrast, in his Science Feedback/Climate Feedback critique, Emmanuel says of the claim that climate change is not making natural disasters worse, "*Shellenberger's statement is not defensible.*"

Indeed, Roger Pielke, Jr. and Madhav Khandedkar and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2012 Special Report on Extreme Weather all show that extreme weather events are integral to climate, no human attribution is possible at this time. Extreme weather is certainly frightening and destructive. However, so far we have not seen the [years of extreme winters and cyclical, incessant rainfall through summers](#), as seen in the UK and Europe in the 1300's at the beginning of the Little Ice Age, long before there was any human influence on climate through fossil fuel use.

Wildfire expert Stefan Doerr, claims that Shellenberger's statements that wildfires are down worldwide are "patently false" yet a Doerr & Santin (2016) paper "[Global trends in wildfire and its impacts: perceptions versus realities in a changing world](#)" seems to exactly confirm Shellenberger's statements.

Hilariously and accurately, one critic, Ryan Sriver states "*First off, it is largely an opinion piece*"; another critic, Gerardo Ceballos writes: "*This is not a scientific paper. It is intended, I guess, to be an article for the general public*" - which is quite true. It is Shellenberger's own journey, summarizing his findings of the 432-page book, in a ~1600-word essay. Why should an opinion piece be banned for being 'partly false'?

when the correct detail is found in the book? This seems contrary to Facebook's mission as described on their [investor relations](#) page as: "... People use Facebook to stay connected with friends and family, to discover what's going on in the world, and to share and express what matters to them."

Recent media reports show that [many people](#), especially children, [live in fear of an existential apocalyptic end of the world](#), as every extreme weather event is incorrectly tied to climate change by the media and environmentalists. Following the publication of the IPCC SR1.5 report, which was wildly skewed by media and ENGOs, many people began [falsely thinking the end is only a decade away](#). This fear was amplified thanks to the [vast media promotion of the carbon-offset billionaire-backed Greta Thunberg social media/social engineering campaign](#) which Facebook did not ban.

In interviews, Shellenberger says his motivation for the book came from seeing children frightened by fear of the end of the world.

Facebook claims that by identifying and blocking what it calls 'false news' it is "[Reducing the distribution of content rated as false by independent third-party fact-checkers](#)". But, based on the above evidence, the parties critiquing Shellenberger's work cannot be said to be factual, or non-partisan.

Zeke Hausfather, another Climate Feedback critic, is a frequent contributor to Carbon Brief, an organization that has been funded through the European Climate Foundation by the very partisan [ClimateWorks 'green' billionaires](#). This is a group that includes John Podesta as a director, and their "Design to Win" plan [funds ENGOs to push the ClimateWorks agenda for global cap and trade, carbon pricing and vested interests in renewables](#).

Facebook should lift the ban on Shellenberger's article and stop falling for the mob rule of 'groupthink' that is informing its 'machine learning model'. Machines fail where human common sense and reason triumphs. Facebook needs to let the people "*share and express what matters to them*" – and to uphold the principle of freedom of speech.

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About:

Friends of Science Society is an independent group of earth, atmospheric and solar scientists, engineers, and citizens who are celebrating its 18th year of offering climate science insights. After a thorough review of a broad spectrum of literature on climate change, Friends of Science Society has concluded that the sun is the main driver of climate change, not carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

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