

**\* \* \* BACKGROUND INFORMATION \* \* \***

## **LORD MONCKTON**

Christopher Walter Monckton is a retired British international business consultant, policy advisor, writer, and inventor. He served as an advisor to Margaret Thatcher and has attracted controversy for his public opposition to the mainstream scientific consensus on global warming and climate change. He is not a scientist and has no formal science background. Instead, his educational background is in the classics and he holds a diploma in Journalism from the University College, Cardiff.

In 1982 Monckton became a policy advisor for Margaret Thatcher. In 1986, he became assistant editor of the newly established, and now defunct, newspaper *Today*. He was a consulting editor for the *Evening Standard* from 1987 to 1992 and was its chief leader-writer from 1990 to 1992. Although he has in the past stated that he is "a member of the Upper House of the United Kingdom legislature," Monckton has never been a member of either the House of Lords or the House of Commons.

### Climate Change

Monckton is skeptical of the anthropogenic causes and scope of global warming, which he regards as a controversy catalyzed by "the need of the international left for a new flag to rally round" following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Although he has acknowledged that global warming is real, he has cast doubt on its provenance and the underlying science in a number of newspaper articles and papers. His views have attracted controversy and strong criticism from scientists and environmental activists, including Al Gore and George Monbiot.

In two high-profile *Sunday Telegraph* articles published in November 2006, Monckton disputed whether global warming is man-made, suggested that it is unlikely to prove catastrophic and criticized the science performed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The British writer and environmentalist George Monbiot criticized Monckton's arguments as "cherry-picking, downright misrepresentation and pseudo-scientific gibberish." Monckton's views have also been criticized by Al Gore. In an article in *The Sunday Telegraph*, Gore described Monckton's scientific assertions as "extremely misleading" and "completely wrong."

After U.S. Senators Jay Rockefeller and Olympia Snowe wrote a bipartisan letter to the Chief Executive Officer of ExxonMobil asking him to stop funding think tanks that reject global warming, Monckton wrote to them, asserting that their letter to ExxonMobil violated the corporation's right of free speech and calling on them to reverse their position or resign. "Your letter says climate change is 'a matter of urgency for all mankind'. It is not..." (Written in a letter to Senators Snowe and Rockefeller on December 11, 2006.)

In February 2007, he published a critique of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report on climate change.

A number of his writings on global warming, including his letter to Senators Snowe and Rockefeller and his IPCC critique, have been published by the **Science and Public Policy Institute (SPPI)**, part of **Frontiers of Freedom**, a conservative organization funded by ExxonMobil that has campaigned against the screening of *An Inconvenient Truth* in U.S. schools. Its web site is: <http://www.scienceandpolicy.org/>

Many of Lord Monckton's presentations and arguments will likely be taken from information on this web page of the **Science and Public Policy Institute**:  
[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/kentucky\\_climate\\_profile.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/kentucky_climate_profile.html)

### Other Controversy

Monckton's views on how the AIDS epidemic should be tackled have been the subject of some controversy. In an article entitled "The Myth of Heterosexual AIDS" written for the January 1987 issue of *The American Spectator* he argued that, "there is only one way to stop AIDS. That is to screen the entire population regularly and to quarantine all carriers of the disease for life. Every member of the population should be blood-tested every month ... all those found to be infected with the virus, even if only as carriers, should be isolated compulsorily, immediately, and permanently." Monckton has since disavowed his 1987 comments on AIDS, stating that "the article was written at the very outset of the AIDS epidemic, and with 33 million people around the world now infected, the possibility of doing this [isolation] is laughable. It couldn't work."

### **Source:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher\\_Monckton%2C\\_3rd\\_Viscount\\_Monckton\\_of\\_Brenchley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Monckton%2C_3rd_Viscount_Monckton_of_Brenchley)  
The Wikipedia site offers source information for each fact and quote listed.

## HEARTLAND INSTITUTE

The Heartland Institute is a free-market oriented public policy think tank based in Chicago. It is a non-profit organization, designated 501(c)(3) by the IRS. Contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations make up the bulk of its funding. Founded in the early 1990s, Heartland Institute claims to apply "cutting-edge research to state and local public policy issues."

The Heartland Institute's research covers a variety of issues including government spending, taxation, health care, and the environment. In the past, The Heartland Institute focused on policies relevant to the Midwestern United States although it has since become nationally focused. In addition to research, the Heartland Institute features an Internet application called PolicyBot which serves as a clearinghouse for research from other think tanks such as the Heritage Foundation, American Legislative Exchange Council, and Cato Institute. The Institute's president is Joseph L. Bast. The Board of Directors for the Heartland Institute includes Thomas Walton, an executive of General Motors Corporation.

The Heartland Institute's publications include *School Reform News*, *Budget and Tax News*, *Environment News*, *Health Care News*, *Lawsuit Abuse Fortnightly*, and *Info Tech and Telecom News*. These are primarily aimed at state legislators. *School Reform News*, *Budget and Tax News*, *Environment News* and *Health Care News* are arranged in newspaper format and include articles by experts drawn mostly from other free-market think tanks.

Its web site is: <http://www.heartland.org>

### Global warming

The Institute was a member organization of the **Cooler Heads Coalition** that questioned the impact of global warming and argued that climate control policies hurt consumers.

"We hear over and over the assertion that there is a consensus that 'global warming' is man-made and a crisis. Says who?" wrote Joseph Bast, president of The Heartland Institute, a nonprofit dedicated to discovering "free-market solutions to social and economic problems," on its web site. (Source: CSMonitor.com, special report by Moises Velasquez-Manoff, 2007)

### Funding

The Heartland Institute receives donations from more than 1,400 individuals. Source Watch lists Heartland as having received \$2.887 million (unadjusted for inflation) in grants between 1986 and 2005 from a range of foundations. No corporate entity donates more than 5% of the operating budget according to brochures from the company.

According to ExxonSecrets.org, The Heartland Institute has received annual donations from Exxon-Mobil in amounts ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000. The web site lists Heartland as having received \$791,500 from ExxonMobil from 1998 through 2006.

In its 2005 annual return to the Internal Revenue Service, Heartland disclosed its 2005 annual revenue as being \$4.52 million while its total expenses as being only \$2.368 million in expenses. While Heartland once disclosed its major supporter, it now refuses to publicly disclose its corporate and foundation funders.

**Sources:** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heartland\\_Institute](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heartland_Institute)  
[http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Heartland\\_Institute](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Heartland_Institute)  
<http://www.exxonsecrets.org>

## **JAMES TAYLOR, HEARTLAND INSTITUTE**

**Senior Fellow, Heartland Institute**

**Managing Editor of Environment & Climate News, Heartland Institute publication**

In the past, Taylor has served as a legal analyst for **Defenders of Property Rights**, an intern at the **Cato Institute**, and a member of the **Federalist Society**. Mr. Taylor is not a scientist and has no background in the sciences. He holds a B.A. from Dartmouth and a J.D. from Syracuse University.

Taylor previously served as managing editor of CCH Incorporated's disability law publications, where he became a nationally known expert and frequent speaker on a variety of employment law topics. Prior to that he was a legal analyst for Defenders of Property Rights. While at Syracuse University College of Law, he was president of the local chapter of the Federalist Society and founder and editor-in-chief of the Federalist Voice.

An editorial Mr. Taylor wrote for the Boston Globe from June 1, 2004 can be found here:  
[http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2004/06/01/hollywoods\\_fake\\_take\\_on\\_global\\_warming/](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2004/06/01/hollywoods_fake_take_on_global_warming/)

**Source:** <http://www.exxonsecrets.org/html/personfactsheet.php?id=631>

## **EXXON/MOBIL**

On the web site of the Environmental Defense Fund we read:

*In 1998, Exxon devised a plan to stall action on global warming. The plan was outlined in an internal memo that promised, "Victory will be achieved when uncertainties in climate science become part of the conventional wisdom" for "average citizens" and "the media."*

([www.environmentaldefense.org/documents/3860\\_GlobalClimateSciencePlanMemo.pdf](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/documents/3860_GlobalClimateSciencePlanMemo.pdf))

Walter F. Buchholtz, an Exxon/Mobil executive, serves as Heartland's Government Relations Advisor, according to Heartland's 2005 IRS Form 990, pg. 15.

([www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2005/363/309/2005-363309812-0295fbb2-9.pdf](http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2005/363/309/2005-363309812-0295fbb2-9.pdf))

The Union of Concerned Scientists report titled *Smoke, Mirrors & Hot Air* criticizes Exxon/Mobil for underwriting "the most sophisticated and most successful disinformation campaign since the tobacco industry" and for funneling "about \$16 million between 1998 and 2005 to a network of ideological and advocacy organizations that manufacture uncertainty on the issue."