

## OPINION

Letters to the editor: On baroclinic instability

Las Cruces Sun-News

<https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/opinion/2022/10/16/letters-to-the-editor-on-baroclinic-instability/69562402007/>

Climate change a shelter from uncertainty?

We're all prone to confirmation bias, such as casting recent floods in Pakistan as evidence of climate change. "Climate weirding" is not a scientific term, but "baroclinic instability", meaning the atmosphere flows in waves which vary chaotically, is. One such chaotic variation is that of El Niño and La Niña. Of La Niña, NASA writes: "... Indian monsoon rainfall tends to be greater than normal, especially in northwest India." We are currently experiencing La Niña.

Things are multi-factoral, the concept of global warming appears valid, and one cannot preclude changes in precipitation. However, the year to year variability of the Indian monsoon is large while modeled trends of precipitation to date are small. This suggests that La Niña was much more significant than climate change in flooding Pakistan. Because "baroclinic instability" occurs regardless of CO<sub>2</sub>, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> will not prevent events such as monsoon floods, nor any other weather events that occur from fluctuations of motions.

Nietzsche lamented that through science we had killed god but also warned that we would seek replacements to shelter us from uncertainty as previous gods had. Climate change may be one of these religions, with fossil fuels unambiguously evil and low CO<sub>2</sub> a supposed utopia. But with its forcing limited as logarithmic, CO<sub>2</sub> is not such a potent devil, and satellites indicate that with increased CO<sub>2</sub>, plant life has increased globally. While global warming is a kernel of truth, many presumed resultant adverse phenomena are increasingly contradicted by the observational record.

Be wary of absolutist ideologies, especially those dripping with moralism.

Steve McGee, Las Cruces