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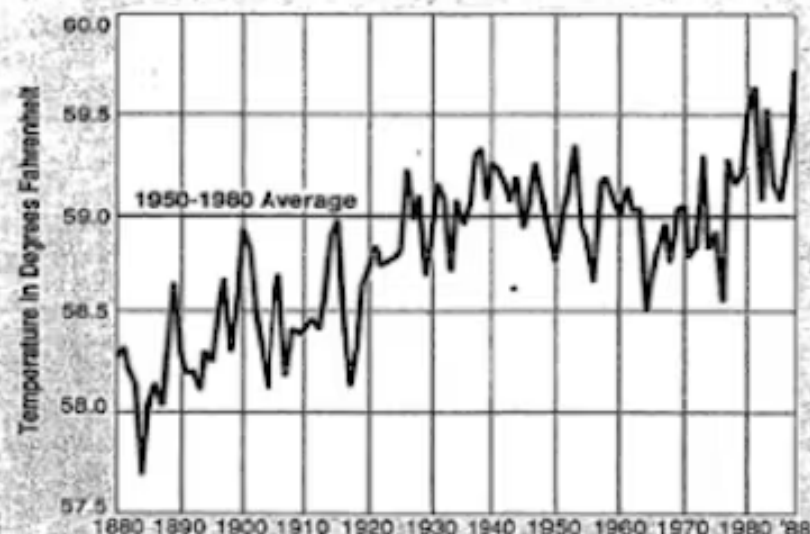
# The New York Times

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## Global Warming Has Begun, Expert Tells Senate



### Global Warming: Greenhouse Effect?

Average global temperatures through the first five months of 1988. As a baseline, scientists use the global average from 1950 to 1980.

Source: James E. Hansen and Sergei Lebedeff

The New York Times / June 24, 1988

## Drought Raising Food Prices; Inflation Effect Seems Minor

By ROBERT D. HERSCHEV Jr.  
Special to The New York Times

### Sharp Cut in Burning of Fossil Fuels Is Urged to Battle Shift in Climate

By PHILIP SHABECOFF

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 23 — The earth has been warmer in the first five months of this year than in any comparable period since measurements began 130 years ago, and the higher temperatures can now be attributed to a long-expected global warming trend linked to pollution, a space agency scientist reported today.

Until now, scientists have been cautious about attributing rising global temperatures of recent years to the predicted global warming caused by pollutants in the atmosphere, known as the "greenhouse effect." But today Dr. James E. Hansen of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration told a Congressional committee that it was 99 percent certain that the warming trend was not a natural variation but was caused by a buildup of carbon dioxide and other artificial gases in the atmosphere.

#### An Impact Lasting Centuries

Dr. Hansen, a leading expert on climate change, said in an interview that there was no "magic number" that showed when the greenhouse effect was actually starting to cause changes in climate and weather. But he added, "It is time to stop waffling so much and say that the evidence is pretty strong



Cañon Zapata in Tijuana, Mexico, the busiest illegal crossing point.