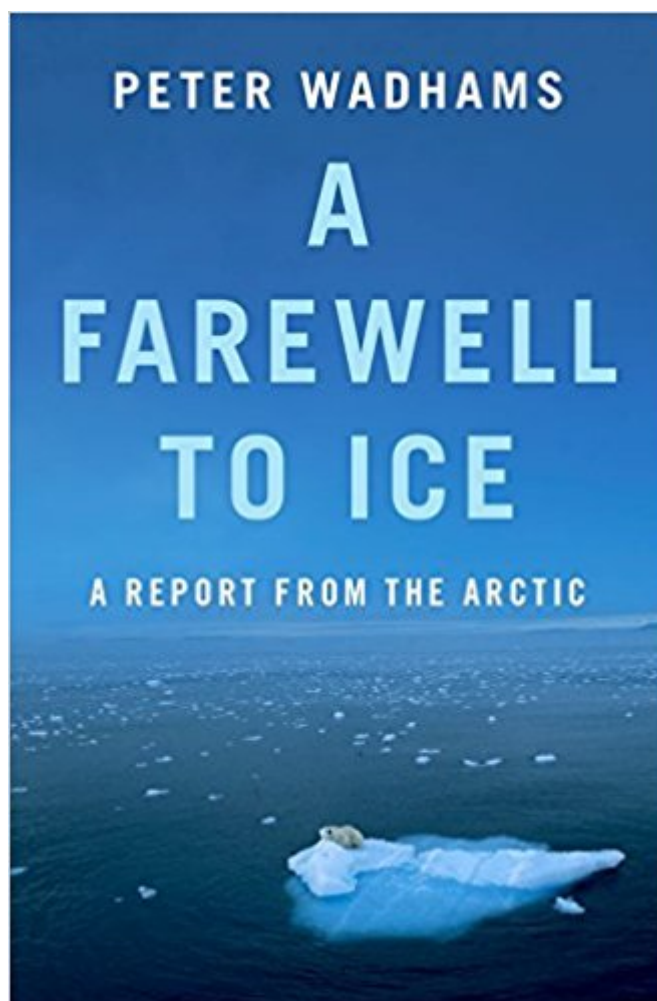


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A Farewell To Ice: A Report From The Arctic



Synopsis

Based on five decades of research and observation, a haunting and unsparing look at the melting ice caps, and what their disappearance will mean. Peter Wadhams has been studying ice first-hand since 1970, completing 50 trips to the world's poles and observing for himself the changes over the course of nearly five decades. His conclusions are stark: the ice caps are melting. Following the hottest summer on record, sea ice in September 2016 was the thinnest in recorded history. There is now the probability that within a few years the North Pole will be ice-free for the first time in 10,000 years, entering what some call the "Arctic death spiral." As sea ice, as well as land ice on Greenland and Antarctica, continues to melt, the rise in sea levels will devastate coastal communities across the world. The collapse of summer ice in the Arctic will release large amounts of methane currently trapped by offshore permafrost. Methane has twenty-three times greater greenhouse warming effect per molecule than CO₂; an ice-free arctic summer will therefore have an albedo effect nearly equivalent to that of the last thirty years. A sobering but urgent and engaging book, *A Farewell to Ice* shows us ice's role on our planet, its history, and the true dimensions of the current global crisis, offering readers concrete advice about what they can do, and what must be done.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In a new book . . . this most experienced and rational scientist states what so many other researchers privately fear but cannot publicly say - that the Arctic is approaching a death spiral which may see the entire remaining summer ice cover collapse in the near future." - John Vidal, The Guardian "Nonscientists who read his astonishing and hair-raising *A Farewell to Ice* will agree that

the interludes of autobiography it contains are engrossing, entertaining and, when one submarine suffers an onboard explosion and fire while under the ice, harrowing. Any reader should find the science of sea-ice creation and the implications for us all of its loss - explored and explained here with clarity and style - beautiful, compelling and terrifying." - Horatio Clare, The Observer

"Not only is A Farewell to Ice a clear and engaging account of how the physics and chemistry of ice work, but it also offers what may be the best chapter-length, reader-friendly account of the greenhouse effect available to date. . . . Wadhams's particular combination - of scientific passion, a lyrical sense of wonder at the natural world, an ability to pluck clear analogies from the air, and outspoken analysis of consumer-capitalist politics - marks out A Farewell to Ice as essential reading." - John Burnside, New Statesman

"Peter Wadhams brings huge expertise to his subject - and he is an excellent writer. He explains why the fate of Arctic ice is crucial for the world's climate and clarifies the controversies and complexities that confront scientists and policymakers. A fascinating book." - Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal, President of the Royal Society 2005-10

"Peter Wadhams has written a passionate, authoritative overview of the role of ice in our climate system, past, present and, scarily, the future." - Carl Wunsch, Professor Emeritus of Physical Oceanography, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

"Though the science behind global climate change can be made simple, its scientific complexities go a long way toward putting the impending catastrophe into context. A Farewell to Ice does an excellent job of laying out and explaining these complexities in all of their nuance... an excellent motivator and wake-up call..." --Foreword Reviews

Peter Wadhams is Professor of Ocean Physics and Head of the Polar Ocean Physics Group in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge University. He has completed over fifty research trips to the arctic.

Peter Wadhams first began studying the condition of the ice in the Arctic in 1979. Since then, this Professor of Ocean Physics and Head of the Polar Ocean Physics Group at Cambridge University has made annual visits to evaluate the condition of the ice at both the Arctic and at Antarctica and Greenland. When he first made his trip through the Northwest Passage, he was 21. The ship needed assistance getting through the ice. Now if you have any size ship you can get through. The body of water looks entirely different. Most of the changes have occurred recently, although a condition termed "Arctic Death Spiral", explained in the book, began in 1979. The ice, from 2012 through 2015, began rapidly rotting and strange weather began. This sort of weather will cause disastrous famines in our poorest countries. The release of Arctic methane is catastrophic, and we

need to continue to deal with CO2. I found reading this book harrowing. However, as the author says, it is "a call to arms". There are things that can be done if we don't remain in denial that can save our planet. Read this book and lend it to your friends!

The NYT review of this book promised a discussion of new and unique ways to combat climate change. Apparently the reviewer couldn't be bothered to read the entire book and skipped to the last chapter which merely mentioned, without discussing, some ideas that others have kicked around. Don't waste your time or money.

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