



## CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD  
FROM  
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We trust that you have continued to find our *Care Conversations* a welcome part of your week. The feedback has been encouraging. We want to keep supporting you in your important role in this ministry of Christian education.

In this next series of *Care Conversations*, Stephen looks at some important historical moments through the eyes of Rodney Stark, and in particular his *How the West Won: The Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity* (ISI Books, 2015). We trust that this gives you a fresh lens about some common themes in our world of education.

Please remember to contact us at The Excellence Centre if we can assist you with any of the topics raised in these Conversations.

Sincerely,

*Dr Tina Lamont*

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 3:

NOTIONS  
OF THE  
WEST



REFLECTION BY  
STEPHEN J FYSON *PHD*  
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT



Number 3:

How hot and cold  
has it already been?



Sometimes it is risky to enter into areas of controversy. Climate change is one of those. A number of years ago, after reading Blainey's *A Very Short History of the World*, I wrote to the Federal Environment Minister (who was my local member at the time) to ask for information about what I had read about a previous global warming. I got a call from one of his 'minders' – they did not want to put their response in writing (and that is another story).

Stark also noted this period of history:

*Although still ignored by most historians, dramatic changes in climate played a major role in the rise of the West – a period of unusually warm weather (from about 800 to about 1250) was followed by centuries of extreme cold, now known as the Little Ice Age (from about 1300 to about 1850). (p.3)*

There is irony in Stark's analysis. He says that historians have ignored that previous climate change actually did have an impact on the development of Western progress. Current leaders want to highlight the current changes in climate, but do not want to look back to learn the lessons from the past.

That is a sobering thought for all of us. It is too easy to become *ahistorical*. Let's remember to learn from God's grace and provision throughout all periods of history, and not just the comfortable bits from our present times.

*Grace and peace,*

Stephen J Fyson PhD  
Principal Consultant  
The Excellence Centre



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