
Some climate changes defy forecasting. Both air pollution and rising temperatures resulting from the release of carbon dioxide have altered climate so quickly that prediction has become almost impossible. Even so, to prevent, or at least to prepare for, such weather-related disasters as Ireland's great famine (1845–50), governments and international agencies should take climatic models into consideration when they formulate agricultural, industrial, and energy policies. Schneider and Londer acknowledge that the crystal ball that such models provide is still dim and "dirty," but they wonder how long "we should clean the glass before acting on what we see inside."

**NOT IN OUR GENES:
Biology, Ideology,
and Human Nature**
by R. C. Lewontin,
Steven Rose,
and Leon J. Kamin
Pantheon, 1984
322 pp. \$21.95

Biological determinists are those scientists who see the causes of social and individual behavior in human genes. They are also, the authors of this book insist, bad guys. Professors Lewontin, Rose, and Kamin—a Harvard geneticist, a neurobiologist at England's Open University, and a Princeton psychologist, respectively—mix analysis with polemic to argue that the determinists practice not only bad science but also unhealthy (i.e., reactionary bourgeois) politics. The authors are more persuasive when they discuss science: They explain, for instance, how the sociobiologists, led by Harvard's E. O. Wilson, have narrowed Darwin's sense of the gene-environment relationship; Darwin believed evolution was influenced by chance as well as by "optimal adaptation." Classic determinist studies of twins designed to prove the heritability of behavioral traits are, the authors contend, invalid on several counts: biased observers, inadequate sampling, and faulty reporting procedures. When the authors press their political case—that biological determinists have helped others to justify social inequalities—they transform a partial truth into a blunderbuss of generalization.

