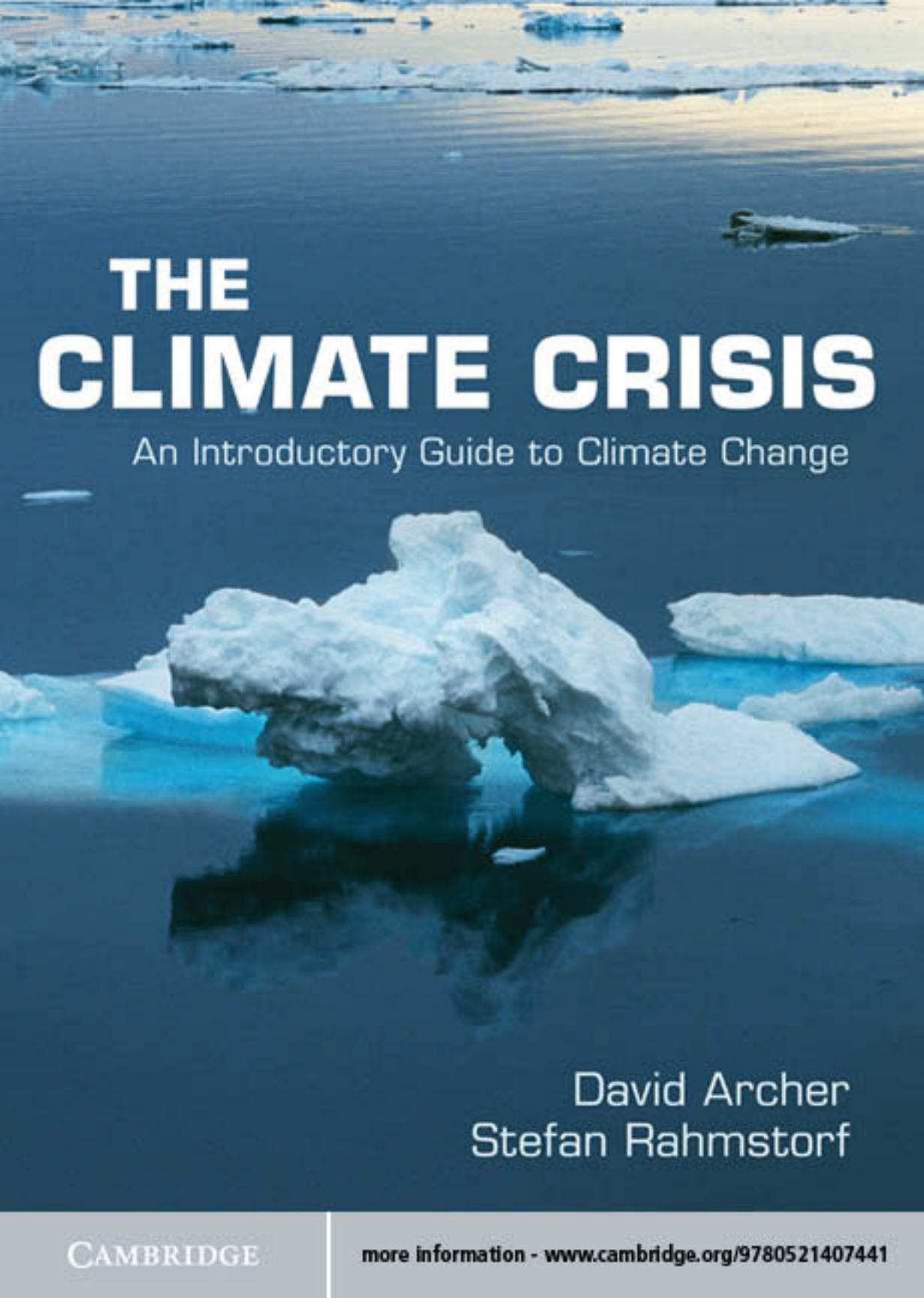
THE
CLIMATE CRISIS
An Introductory Guide to Climate Change
David Archer
Stefan Rahmstorf
CAMBRIDGE
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Table 3.1. **Linear trend in global mean temperature over the past 25, 50, 100 and 150 years. Note that the trend is accelerating. The error bars reflect the fact that trends over shorter time periods can only be determined with less accuracy, due to the random variability also seen in Figure 3.1.**

	Period Years	Rate °C per decade
	25	0.177 ± 0.052
	50	0.128 ± 0.026
	100	0.074 ± 0.018
	150	0.045 ± 0.012

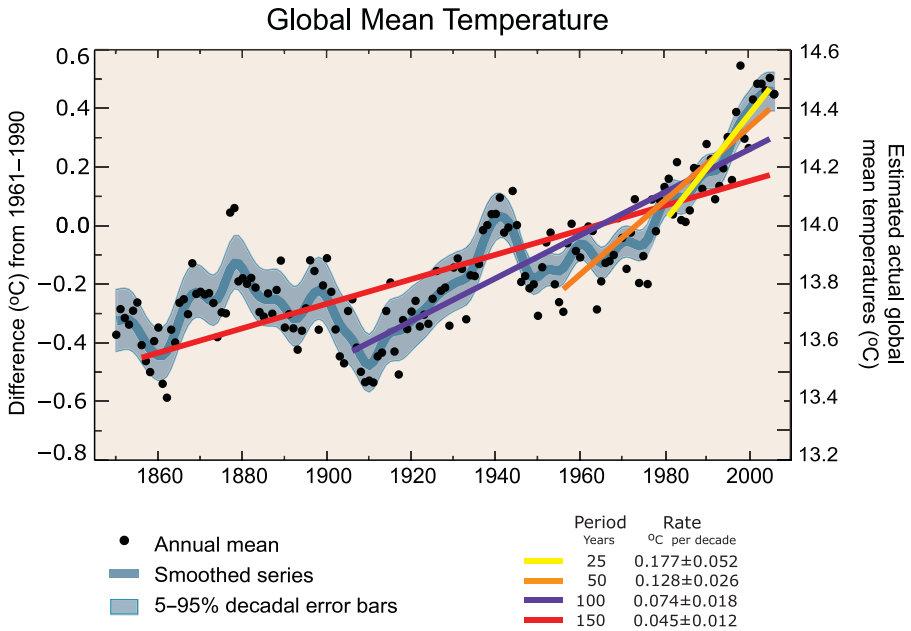

Figure 3.1 Global average surface temperature from 1850 to 2006. Dots show individual years, and the black line with its blue uncertainty range shows decadal averages. The temperature changes on the left scale are given with respect to the average over the years 1961–90.

cause the random variations from year to year. As the graph shows, these typically have an amplitude of about 0.1–0.2 °C. If one looks at just a short time interval – less than 10 years or so – such random jitters dominate temperatures, since the forced trend over such a short time is small. The table