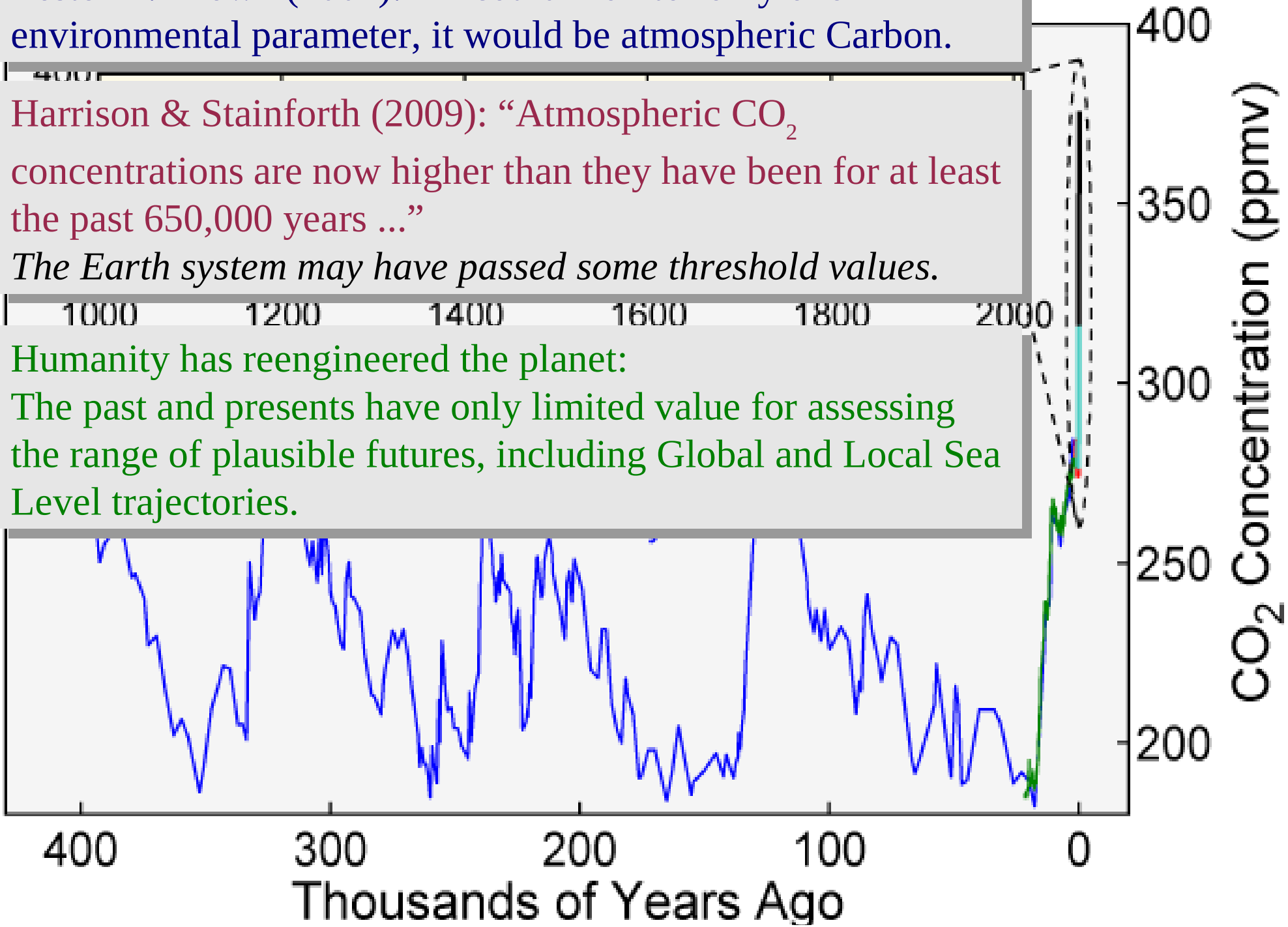
Lester R. Brown (2007): If I could monitor only one environmental parameter, it would be atmospheric Carbon.

Harrison & Stainforth (2009): "Atmospheric CO_2 concentrations are now higher than they have been for at least the past 650,000 years ..."

The Earth system may have passed some threshold values.

Humanity has reengineered the planet:
The past and presents have only limited value for assessing the range of plausible futures, including Global and Local Sea Level trajectories.