

The Little Ice Age

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only in the last decade have climatologists developed an accurate picture of yearly climate conditions in historical times this development confirmed a long standing suspicion that the world endured a 500 year cold snap the little ice age that lasted roughly from a d 1300 until 1850 the little ice age tells the story of the turbulent unpredictable and often very cold years of modern european history how climate altered historical events and what they mean in the context of today s global warming with its basis in cutting edge science the little ice age offers a new perspective on familiar events renowned archaeologist brian fagan shows how the increasing cold affected norse exploration how changing sea temperatures caused english and basque fishermen to follow vast shoals of cod all the way to the new world how a generations long subsistence crisis in france contributed to social disintegration and ultimately revolution and how english efforts to improve farm productivity in the face of a deteriorating climate helped pave the way for the industrial revolution and hence for global warming this is a fascinating original book for anyone interested in history climate or the new subject of how they interact

the evidence for the little ice age the most important fluctuation in global climate in historical times is most dramatically represented by the advance of mountain glaciers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and their retreat since about 1850 the effects on the landscape and the daily life of people have been particularly apparent in norway and the alps this major book places an extensive body of material relating to europe in the form of documentary evidence of the history of the glaciers their portrayal in paintings and maps and measurements made by scientists and others within a global perspective it shows that

the glacial history of mountain regions all over the world displays a similar pattern of climatic events furthermore fluctuations on a comparable scale have occurred at intervals of a millennium or two throughout the last ten thousand years since the ice caps of north america and northwest europe melted away this is the first scholarly work devoted to the little ice age by an author whose research experience of the subject has been extensive this book includes large numbers of maps diagrams and photographs many not published elsewhere and very full bibliographies it is a definitive work on the subject and an excellent focus for the work of economic and social historians as well as glaciologists climatologists geographers and specialists in mountain environment

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this concise and accessible new text offers original and insightful analysis of the policy paradigm informing international statebuilding interventions the book covers the theoretical frameworks and practices of international statebuilding the debates they have triggered and the way that international statebuilding has developed in the post cold war era spanning a broad remit of policy practices from post conflict peacebuilding to sustainable development and eu enlargement chandler draws out how these policies have been cohered around the problematization of autonomy or self government rather than promoting democracy on the basis of the universal capacity of people for self rule international statebuilding assumes that people lack capacity to make their own judgements safely and therefore that democracy requires external intervention and the building of civil society and state institutional capacity chandler argues that this policy framework inverses traditional liberal democratic understandings of autonomy and freedom privileging governance over government and that the dominance of this policy perspective is a cause of concern for those who live in states involved in statebuilding as much as for those who are subject to these new regulatory frameworks encouraging readers to reflect upon the changing understanding of both state society relations and of the international sphere itself this work will be of great interest to all scholars of international relations international security and development

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since the little ice age was published in 1988 interest in climatic history has grown rapidly and research in the area has flourished a vast amount of new data has become available from sources such as ice cores speleothems and tree rings the picture that we have of past climates and glacier oscillations has extended further into the past and has become more detailed however the knowledge of climate change on the decennial and centennial timescale to which glacier history can contribute is scarce and is in demand when attempting to predict future change especially with regard to global warming new chapters and material have been included throughout the book which tend to confirm and elaborate on the conclusions of the first edition the glacial evidence has been presented in the context of the oceanographic and icecap studies that have provided such exciting results little ice ages is structured in three parts part 1 details the evidence for glacier variations in the last thousand years in different parts of the world and the associated climatic fluctuations part 2 brings together the evidence for the timing of glacier variations in the course of the holocene part 3 views the holocene record in a longer time context especially as it appears in ice cores and goes on to consider the likely causes of climatic variability on a little ice age timescale and some of its physical biological and human consequences it becomes apparent in little ice ages that the glacier record provides a valuable indication of the nature of climatic fluctuations on the land areas of the globe the record points to periods of cooling which were more numerous and less continuous than was believed to be the case twenty years ago there appears to be no single explanation for the variability volcanism solar variability and ocean currents have all played their parts and prediction continues to present many problems some authorities have thrown doubt on the existence of the little ice age but little ice age makes the case for a climatic sequence that can usefully be called the little ice age and which had predecessors occurring at intervals of several centuries throughout much of the last 10 000 years

the little ice age local and global perspectives p d jones and k r briffa climatic research unit university of east anglia norwich nr4 7tj uk this volume of climatic change is devoted to the study of the climate of the last 1000 years with a major emphasis on the last few centuries the timespan encompasses what has been referred to as the little ice age bradley 1992 this term was originally coined by glaciologists with reference to the most recent major glacial advance of the holocene bradley and jones 1993 although other such advances in different parts of the world may not have been synchronous the term little ice age has come to be associated with the period of a widespread forward movement of european glaciers between about 14 50 to 1850 as well as with relatively cooler temperatures the issue of whether or not this concept is appropriate is a major theme of many of the papers included in this volume

the nature of global change in the pacific basin is poorly known compared to other parts of

the world climate environment and society in the pacific during the last millennium describes the climate changes that occurred in the pacific during the last millennium and discusses how these changes controlled the broad evolution of human societies typically filtered by the effects of changing sea level and storminess on food availability and interaction covering the entire period since ad 750 in the pacific this book describes the influences of climate change on environments and societies during the medieval warm period and the little ice age focusing on the 100 year transition between these a period of rapid change known as the ad 1300 event discusses the societal effects of climate and sea level change as well as the evidence for externally driven societal change synthesizes how climate change has driven environmental change and societal change in the pacific basin contains a comprehensive and up to date survey of the evidence for climate environmental and societal change supported by a full list of references

in recent years climate change has become recognised as the foremost environmental problem of the twenty first century not only will climate change potentially affect the multibillion dollar energy strategies of countries worldwide but it also could seriously affect many species including our own a fascinating introduction to the subject this textbook provides a broad review of past present and likely future climate change from the viewpoints of biology ecology and human ecology it will be of interest to a wide range of people from students in the life sciences who need a brief overview of the basics of climate science to atmospheric science geography and environmental science students who need to understand the biological and human ecological implications of climate change it will also be a valuable reference for those involved in environmental monitoring conservation policy making and policy lobbying

one of springer s major reference works this book gives the reader a truly global perspective it is the first major reference work in its field paleoclimate topics covered in the encyclopedia give the reader the capability to place the observations of recent global warming in the context of longer term natural climate fluctuations significant elements of the encyclopedia include recent developments in paleoclimate modeling paleo ocean circulation as well as the influence of geological processes and biological feedbacks on global climate change the encyclopedia gives the reader an entry point into the literature on these and many other groundbreaking topics

european glacial landscapes the holocene presents the current state of knowledge on glacial landscapes of europe and nearby areas over the holocene to deduce the influence of atmospheric and oceanic currents and the insolation forcing variability and volcanic activity on holocene paleoclimates the existence of asynchronies in the timing of occurrence of glacier expansion and shrinkage during the holocene time lags between the identification of oceanic and atmospheric changes and those occurring in glacial extension during the holocene the role of holocene glaciers on the climate of europe and on sea level variability and the delimitation of landscapes that need special protection students academics and researchers in geography geology environmental sciences physics and earth science departments will find this book provides novel findings of all the major european regions in a single publication with updated information about holocene glacial geomorphology and paleo climatology and clear figures that model the landscapes covered provides a synthesis and summary of glacial processes in europe over the holocene period features research from experts in palaeo climatology palaeo oceanography and palaeo glaciology includes access to a companion website with an interactive map photos of glacial features and geospatial data related to european glacial landscapes

cundill history prize finalist longman history today prize finalist winner of the roland h bainton book prize meticulous environmental historical detective work times literary supplement when europeans first arrived in north america they faced a cold new world the average global temperature had dropped to lows unseen in millennia the effects of this climactic upheaval were stark and unpredictable blizzards and deep freezes droughts and famines winters in which everything froze even the rio grande a cold welcome tells the story of this crucial period taking us from europe s earliest expeditions in unfamiliar landscapes to the perilous first winters in quebec and jamestown as we confront our own uncertain future it offers a powerful reminder of the unexpected risks of an unpredictable climate a remarkable journey through the complex impacts of the little ice age on colonial north america this beautifully written important book leaves us in no doubt that we ignore the chronicle of past climate change at our peril i found it hard to put down brian fagan author of the little ice age deeply researched and exciting his fresh account of the climatic forces shaping the colonization of north america differs significantly from long standing interpretations of those early calamities new york review of books

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