

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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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

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

first published in 2004 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 ages 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

first published in 2004 routledge is an imprint of taylor francis an informa company

we investigate by how much the little ice age reduced the harvests on which pre industrial europeans relied for survival we find that weather strongly affected crop yields but can find little evidence that western europe experienced long swings or structural breaks in climate instead annual summer temperature reconstructions between the fourteenth and twentieth centuries behave as almost independent draws from a distribution with a constant mean but time varying volatility while winter temperatures behave similarly until the late nineteenth century when they rise markedly consistent with anthropogenic global warming our results suggest that the existing consensus about a little ice age in western europe stems from a slusky effect where the standard

climatological practice of smoothing data prior to analysis induces spurious cyclicity in uncorrelated data

the debate is over science has been proven right by the events of the last eighteen years climate is changing global warming does not exist but a new little ice age has already started the author one of b c s leading trial lawyers now retired has assembled all the evidence to convince even the most devout global warming believer including the opinions of dozens of scientists who predict a return to little ice age conditions an explanation of the connection between low sunspots and cold weather analysis of the solar cycles that bring climate change and ice ages to earth discussion of the conditions during the last little ice age 1300 1850 comparison of today s weather events with past ice ages a complete debunking of the global warming theory he discusses the totally corrupt practices of the u n ipcc the organization that delivered the global warming and ocean acidification scares to the world and warns of the certainty of mass starvation disease and social unrest particularly among the poor in canada and the u s and in the third world there is hope for north americans warm zones exist and based on his own experiences as a back to the land advocate in the 1970s he suggests ways to survive and prosper during the next 50 difficult years part of the proceeds of the sale of this book will go to the homeless and hungry in canada and the united states

explores the resilience of the dutch republic in the face of preindustrial climate change during the little ice age

the effects of climate change are reshaping the arctic profoundly landscapes are being radically transformed animal habitats are disappearing and natural resources are being revealed to an energy starved world veteran arctic journalist ed struzik took eleven trips throughout the north to document this rapidly changing land gaining unprecedented access to scientific expeditions native communities and security and sovereignty experts the product of those trips the big thaw is the only book that looks at global warming s wide ranging impact on the arctic struzik melds the vivid stories of his experiences with fascinating explorations of the arctic s past from the alligators and giant tortoises that inhabited the north 55 million years ago to the 19th century explorers who died searching for the open polar sea and its possible future as the center of international struggle underground smuggling and ecological disaster

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