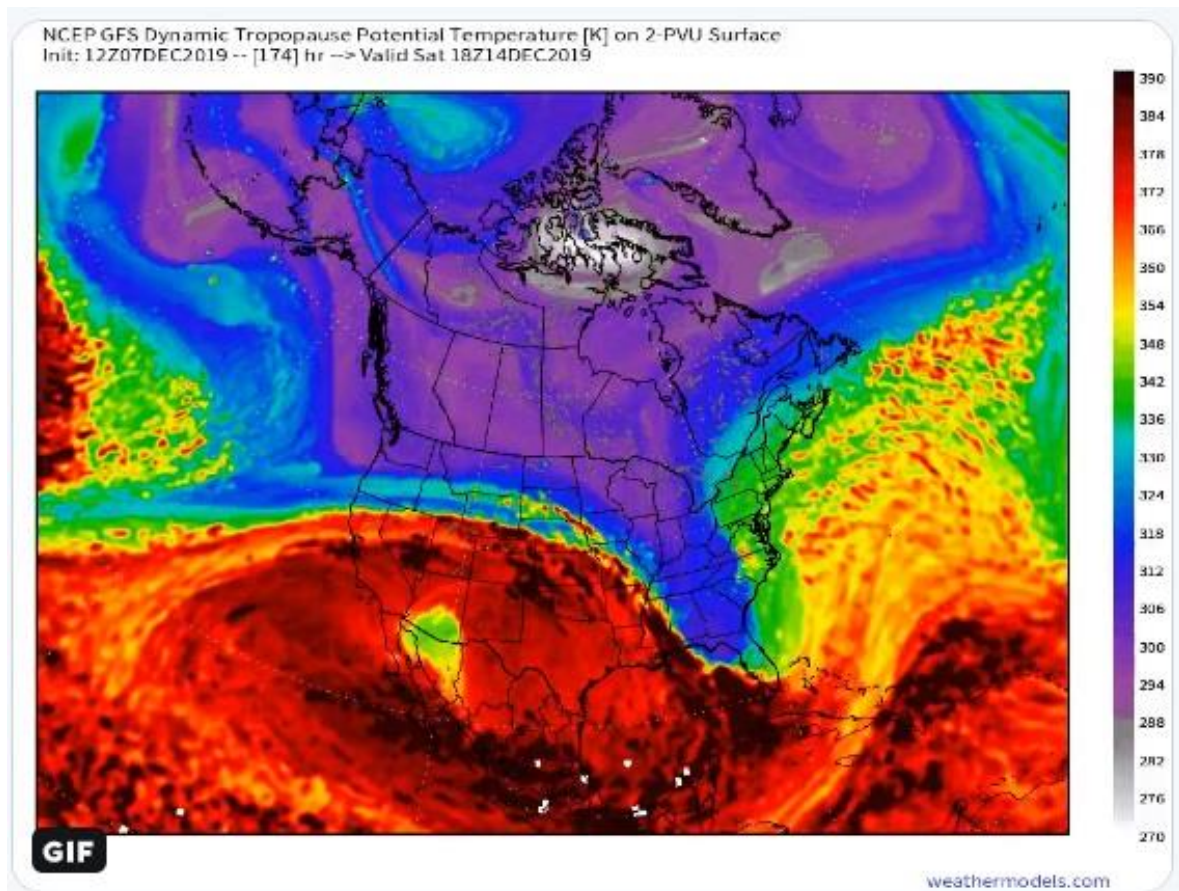
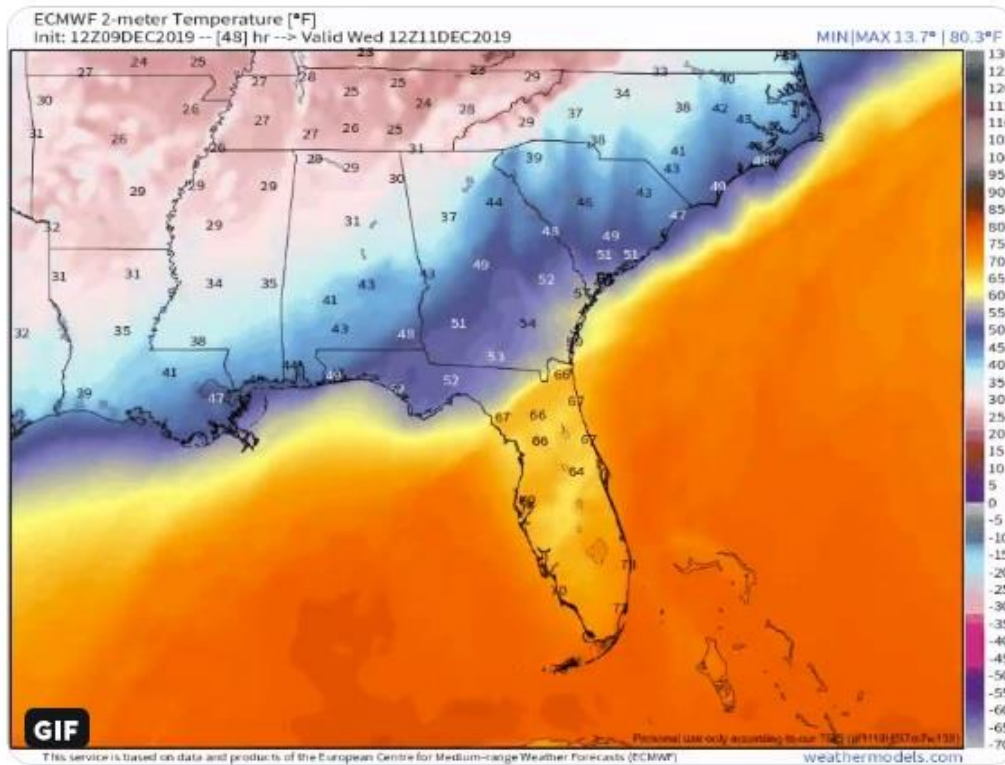


Is the Great Freeze Returning to Our Planet?



I really appreciate Ryan Maue putting out blast from the 2019 past chart, the tongue of this Arctic plunge all the way to the Northern Florida, Panhandle.





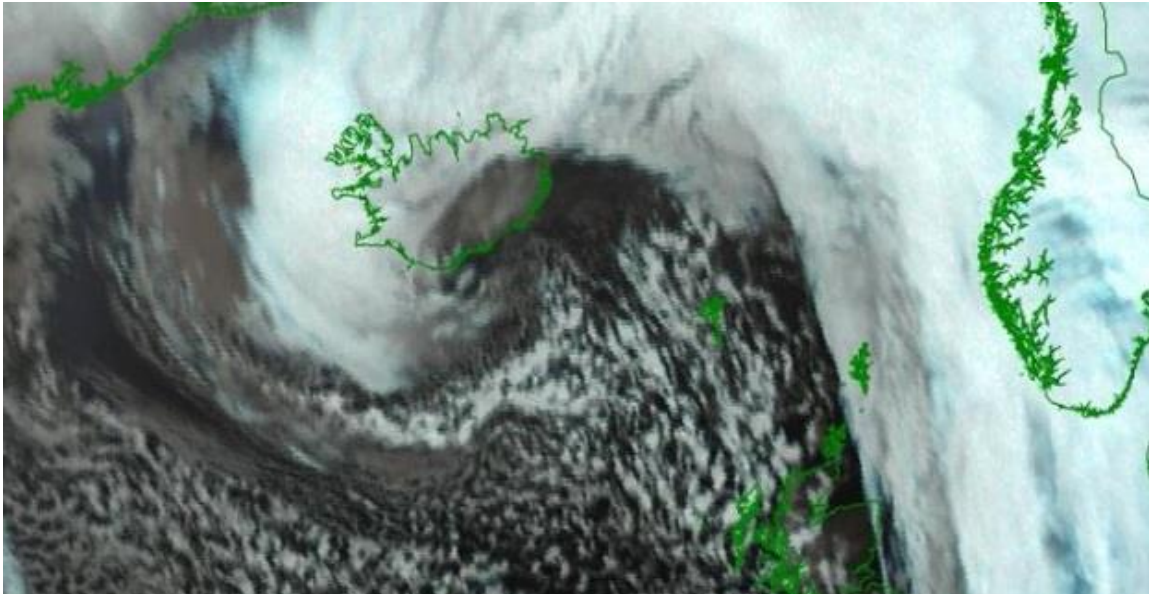
Looking back, 1709 is the year that Europe froze. I have been digging into older writings from monasteries, traders from that time and to penned accounts from the scribes of the kings looking for extreme temperature accounts. These are recorded on heavy parchment, not on computer screens, so it survived for centuries.

1709: The year that Europe froze

By Stephanie Pain



The question is, how did this jive with this incredible category III ice hurricane that just swept over Iceland? If you notice, some of the similarities are very stark, so this could be a distant early warning that we are coming back into a mega-freeze era in North America.



The *NewScientist* published an article entitled, “1709: The year that Europe froze.” This winter of 1709 is called the Great Frost; and even in France, they called this *Le Grand Hiver*, which means the great shake, the shiver, the freeze. A three-month long unbelievable cold event leading to crop failures, which was followed by food riots later in the same year.

NewScientist

1709: The year that Europe froze

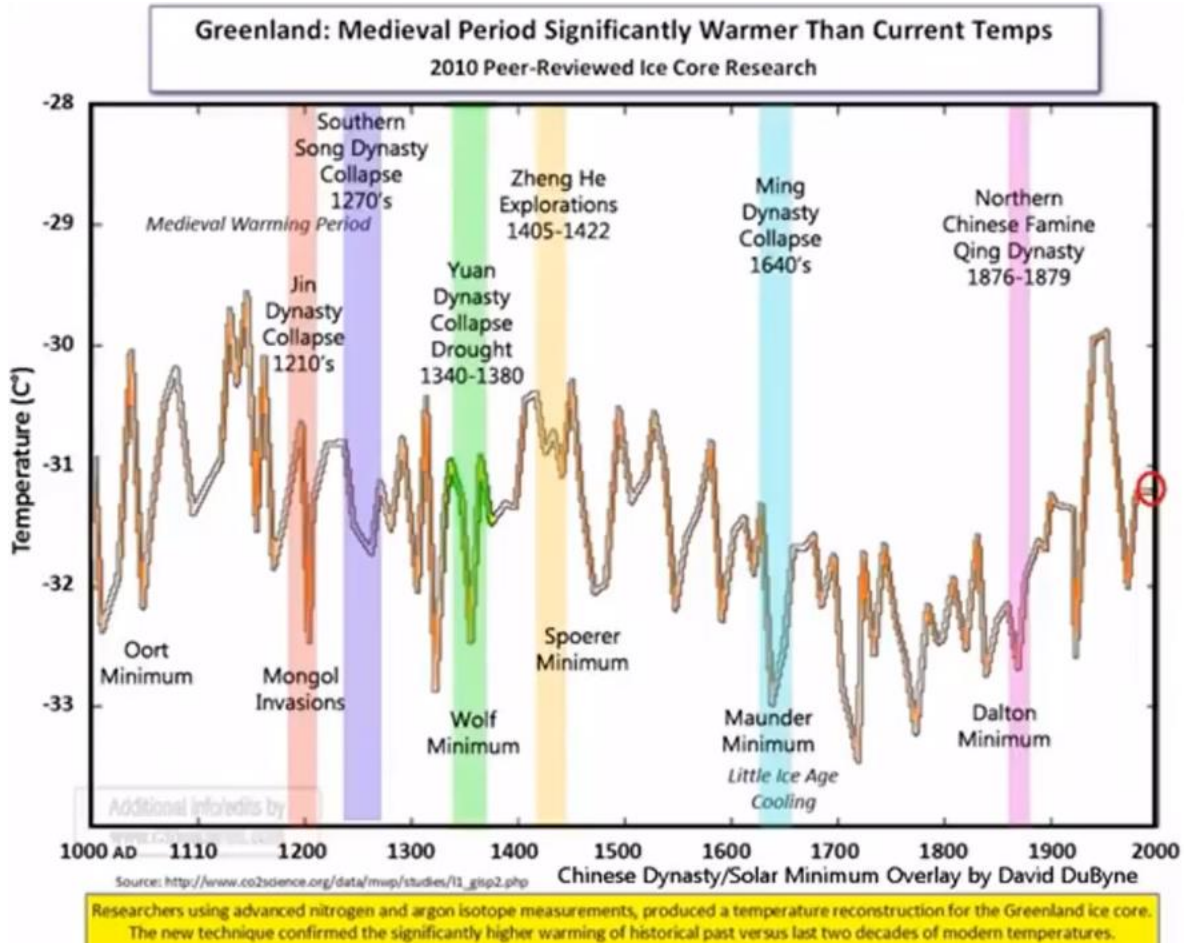
IN ENGLAND they called the winter of 1709 the Great Frost. In France it entered legend as *Le Grand Hiver*, three months of deadly cold that ushered in a year of famine and food riots. In Scandinavia the Baltic froze so thoroughly that people could walk across the ice as late as April. In Switzerland hungry wolves crept into villages. Venetians skidded across their frozen lagoon, while off Italy's west coast, sailors aboard English men-of-war died from the cold. “I believe the Frost was greater (if not more universal also) than any other within the Memory of Man,” wrote William Derham, one of England's most meticulous meteorological observers. He was right. Three hundred years on, it holds the record as the coldest European winter of the past half-millennium.

This was so historical at that time that anybody recording the event remembered it as the coldest winter in the last 500 years, at that time in Europe back to 1200 A.D, when the Yuan Dynasty in China collapsed.

Winter Is Coming: Europe's Deep Freeze of 1709

French Freeze

The country most affected by the terrible cold was undoubtedly France. The year 1709 had already started badly. French peasants had been hit by poor harvests, taxes, and conscription for the War of the Spanish Succession. The cold snaps of late 1708 were as nothing to the crash in temperatures that took place over the night of January 5 to 6. In the following two weeks, snow would fall and thermometers in France would drop to a low of -5°F .



In this 1709 event, they talked about the cold that froze Scandinavia, all the way to Italy and everything in between. Everything turned into ice back then, including seas, lakes, and rivers. Even soil froze up to a depth of (one meter / 3 feet) or more.

NewScientist

1709: The year that Europe froze

*People across Europe awoke on 6 January 1709 to find the temperature had plummeted. A three-week freeze was followed by a brief thaw – and then the mercury plunged again and stayed there. From Scandinavia in the north to Italy in the south, and from Russia in the east to the west coast of France, everything turned to ice. The sea froze. Lakes and rivers froze, and the soil froze to a depth of a metre or more. Livestock died from cold in their barns, chicken's combs froze and fell off, trees exploded and travellers froze to death on the roads. **It was the coldest winter in 500 years.***

Livestock were also frozen solid. This is so far beyond any anomaly, that it needs to have a category of its own. The lithographs at that time, called *WHITEOUT*, gave an indication of how some of the landscapes looked. I mean, there has always been ice during winter in Europe, but this was so extreme which was why it had made into this painting.



WHITEOUT

Deadly snow and ice paralyzed Europe in 1709. Anonymous 18th-century painting from the Castello Sforzesco, Milan

PHOTOGRAPH BY MONDADORI/ALBUM

King Louis XIV wrote that the cold was so fierce that the wine bottles next to roaring fires, froze. He recounted that he had fur around his neck and a bearskin sack on his feet, but he was still shivering so badly that he could barely hold his pen. A winter such as this one has never been seen since.



Winter Is Coming: Europe's Deep Freeze of 1709

King Louis XIV, wrote to a relative in Hanover: "The cold here is so fierce that it fairly defies description. I am sitting by a roaring fire, have a screen before the door, which is closed, so that I can sit here with a fur around my neck and my feet in a bearskin sack, and I am still shivering and can barely hold the pen. Never in my life have I seen a winter such as this one, which freezes the wine in bottles."

Another account talks about how church bells broke when rung. This is because metal cast bells cracked when rung due to extreme cold that made them brittle. Even tree trunks were shattered into splinters because of the cold.

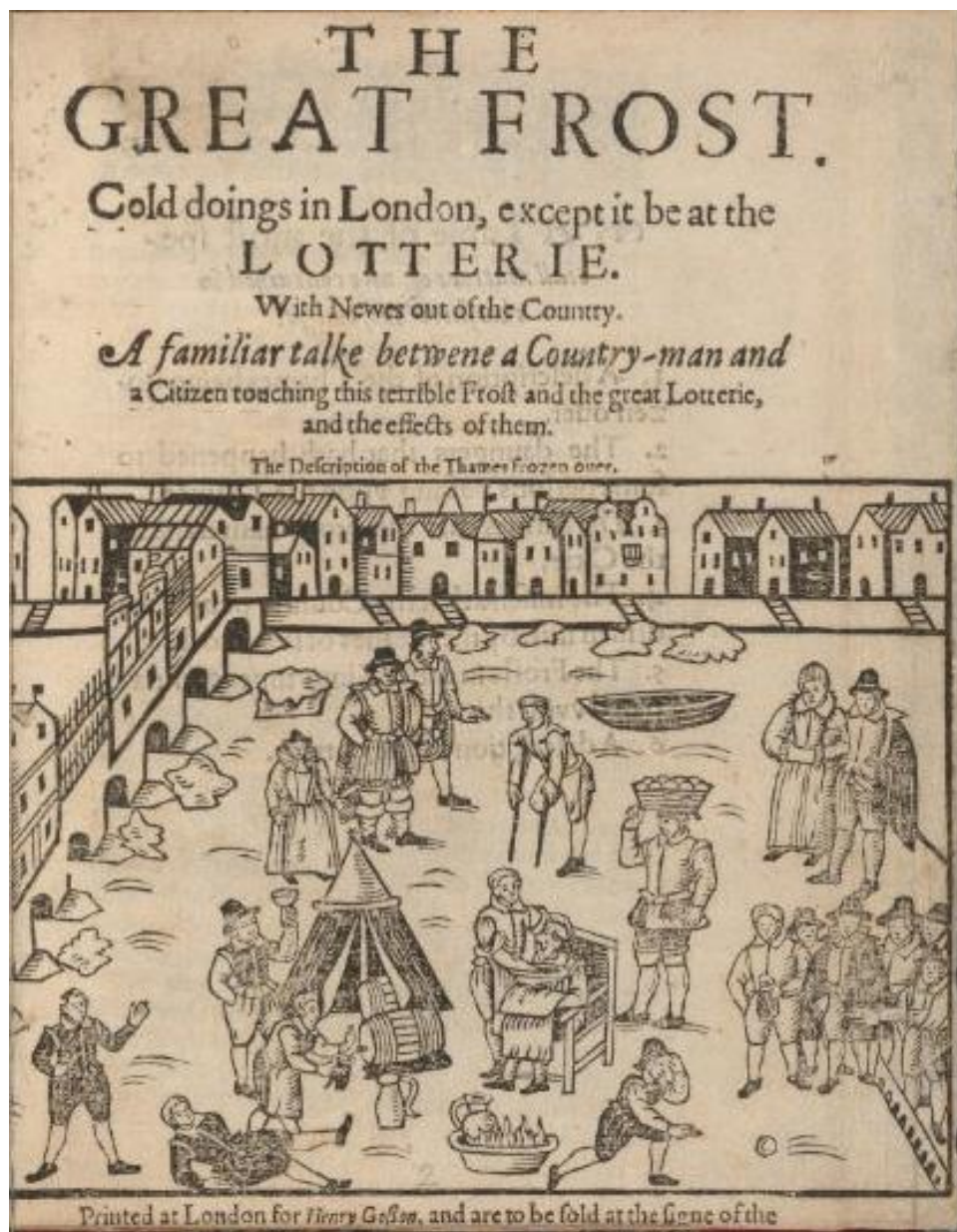


Winter Is Coming: Europe's Deep Freeze of 1709

Across the rest of Europe, many strange effects of the cold were observed. Numerous witnesses recorded how the abrupt drop in temperature made seemingly solid items brittle. Tree trunks would shatter with a startling cracking sound, as if an invisible woodcutter were hacking them down. Church bells when rung also fractured due to the extreme cold temperatures.

Apparently, a crackling sound from trees being shattered and brought down by extreme cold could be heard. And for that to happen, temperatures had to be below zero degrees Fahrenheit. The thing is, that was far south in Europe, so this had to be something special, The Great Frost in literature.

Some of the temperatures, according to records, did go down to 5°F below zero, and interestingly, these temperatures are being mimicked today. This hit the French peasants with poor harvests, huge taxes and conscription.



Consequently, runaway taxes for fuel and everything else in daily life sparked the French Revolution, just like today we see the Yellow Vest Movement. Aside from tax demands, poor harvests and terrible protein content for wheat this year, vineyards and vegetable harvests are down due to cyclone after cyclone that has been ripping across the coasts in France. 2019 was described as a dismal agriculture in France.

Winter Is Coming: Europe's Deep Freeze of 1709

French Freeze

The country most affected by the terrible cold was undoubtedly France. The year 1709 had already started badly. French peasants had been hit by poor harvests, taxes, and conscription for the War of the Spanish Succession. The cold snaps of late 1708 were as nothing to the crash in temperatures that took place over the night of January 5 to 6. In the following two weeks, snow would fall and thermometers in [France would drop to a low of -5°F.](#)



Pulling from a couple of PDFs while doing research, one is about Germany's temperature record over the last 1,000 years. Sure enough, it matches up with the cold that was registered back in 1709.

Looking at the ECHO-G Erick2 Europe model, bottom line shows how deeply it dropped in the 1500s as well as in the 1700s, 1500s being cooler. But I am still wondering as to what happened during that time because we do not have many accounts regarding that year of epic cold events. Suppressed history perhaps?

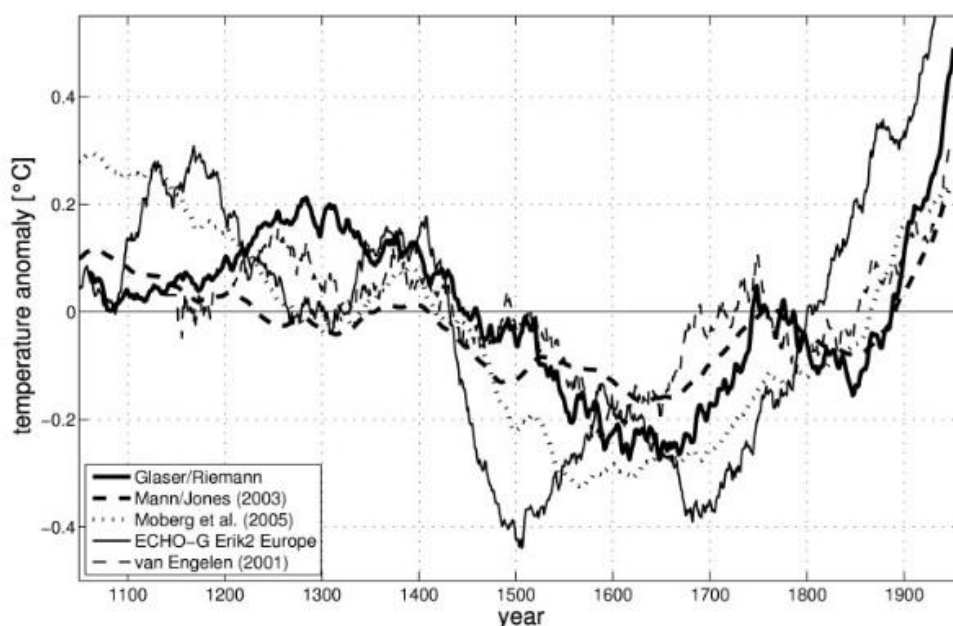


Figure 7 Comparison of the temperature series for Germany with other annual mean temperature reconstructions and simulations (101-year moving average). See text for identification of the various series

The further we go back in history, although we had great empires and kingdoms and all the societies across the planet that were at their apex, we still have so few records or accounts of what went on back then.

We only have a smidgen, maybe one-fifth of one-eighth of one-thousandth of a percent. On top of that, these records are controlled by historians with just a very narrow segment of the academia. Maybe these academic institutions could easily control, change or disappear history.



Continuing onto the 11-year smoothed average temperature highs and lows, an incredible drop was seen around the 1790's. It does seem to roll through the same time period for about 10 years.

A THOUSAND-YEAR RECORD OF TEMPERATURE VARIATIONS FOR GERMANY

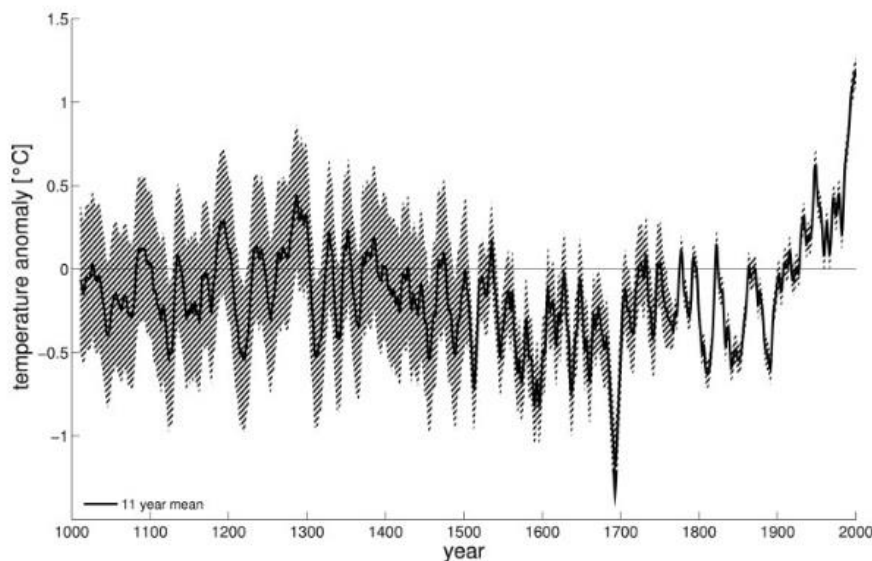


Figure 6 Thousand-year record of 11-year moving average temperature anomalies derived from historical sources (AD 1000–1750) and instrumental data (AD 1751–2007). The hatched area shows the estimated error (± 1 STD, adapted for 11-year averages) using a Monte Carlo (MC) approach. This error is $\pm 0.49^\circ\text{C}$ during AD 1000–1500, and 0.24°C during AD 1500–1750. The comparable error in the instrumental data is 0.09°C

Moving on, the *National Geographic* article about 1709 much more in depth than what the *NewScientist* published. N.G included the consequence of food shortages in their discussions, where they had explained that the freezing of the ground to a great depth killed the plants to their roots. This meant that everything that grew back then was reset to zero. Nothing survived, from the vines, trees, roots, tubers, etc.

Additionally, because it was so cold, their attempt to plant the following year was not effective, resulting in a very late planting season, which led to food shortages. Back in 1709 food price spikes reached six-fold. Imagine, if our food prices spiked six-fold today, how would that ripple through the economy?



Winter Is Coming: Europe's Deep Freeze of 1709

But of all the ills stalking Europe, hunger was, in many ways, the worst. The consequences of the food shortage lingered throughout that year and into the next. Cereals, vines, vegetables, fruit trees, flocks, and herds were all laid to waste, and the next summer's harvest had not even been planted. The situation sparked hikes in grain prices, with prices rising sixfold during 1709.

A doubling of prices is bad enough, but add in a six-fold price increase means that people will, literally, be starving in the streets, and no help will be coming for them.

The question is, how close are we to this supply chain break down? Remember, the accounts in England during the *Maunder Minimum* stated that King Louis XIV also attempted to register all the grains, and this is being seen now with blockchain technology and Real I.D 2020 with inspectors to double check everything.

Winter Is Coming: Europe's Deep Freeze of 1709

In France, King Louis XIV organized handouts of bread and obliged the aristocracy to do the same. He also attempted to register all grain stores in order to avoid hoarding, sending out inspectors to ensure that the rules were obeyed. But against the unrelenting misery of the times, such measures must have seemed paltry. Episodes of violence ensued, and peasants who had been reduced to eating soup made of ferns formed gangs to raid bakeries and ambush grain convoys.

Peasants of the day were reduced to eating soup made from ferns, just like the vegan movement.



These peasants who had been reduced to eat fern soup formed gangs, and eventually raided bakeries and ambushed grain convoys. During the *Maunder Minimum*, every grain shipment was accompanied by the British military across England and working on the grain shipments was considered the most dangerous post, because most of the time they were attacked.



Winter Is Coming: Europe's Deep Freeze of 1709

In France, King Louis XIV organized handouts of bread and obliged the aristocracy to do the same. He also attempted to register all grain stores in order to avoid hoarding, sending out inspectors to ensure that the rules were obeyed. But against the unrelenting misery of the times, such measures must have seemed paltry. Episodes of violence ensued, and peasants who had been reduced to eating soup made of ferns formed gangs to raid bakeries and ambush grain convoys.

When you look at lithographs of that time, grain storage houses were terrible. I mean how many rats and mice could get in there, as well as mold & fungus? Storage conditions in 1710 compared to what we have today, including international shipping is not even comparable.



I dug into a different report with tree rings in extremes, and sure enough, precipitation anomalies and cold spoken about in the 1700's can be observed. Extreme rain and cold seasons are not good for vegetation; and this happened in April, May, and June.

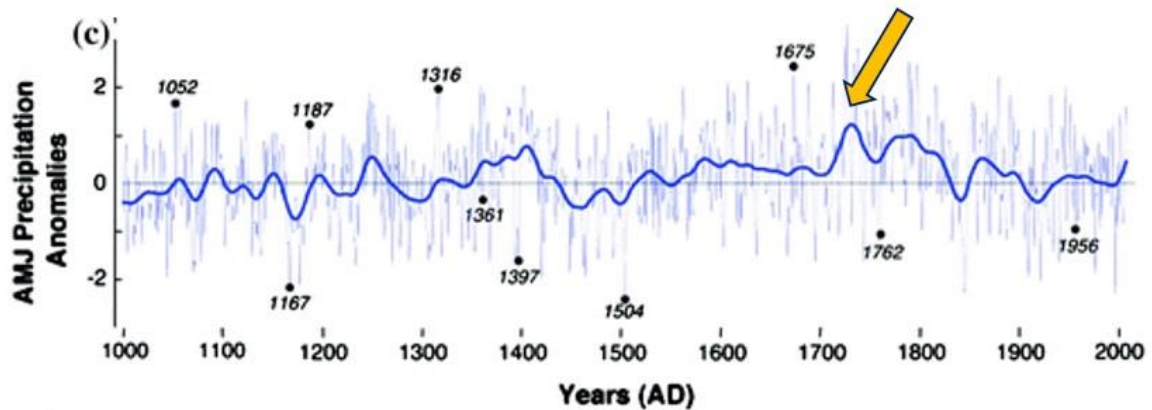


Fig. 3.6

a Central European and regional fir TRW (Tree Ring Width) extremes, and **b** their centennial changes over the past millennium (network extremes were double weighted), compared to **c** annual-resolve and 40-year low-passed Central European April–June precipitation variability (Büntgen et al. [2011c](#))

During the 2019 and 2020 planting seasons, there was too much rain. So, how many parallels should we draw before we finally accept that something magnificent not been seen in centuries, might occur again as a repeating cycle?



We might as well be at the very edge of that black bar in 400 A.D, if not at the middle; because we have been mimicking several eras from the past.

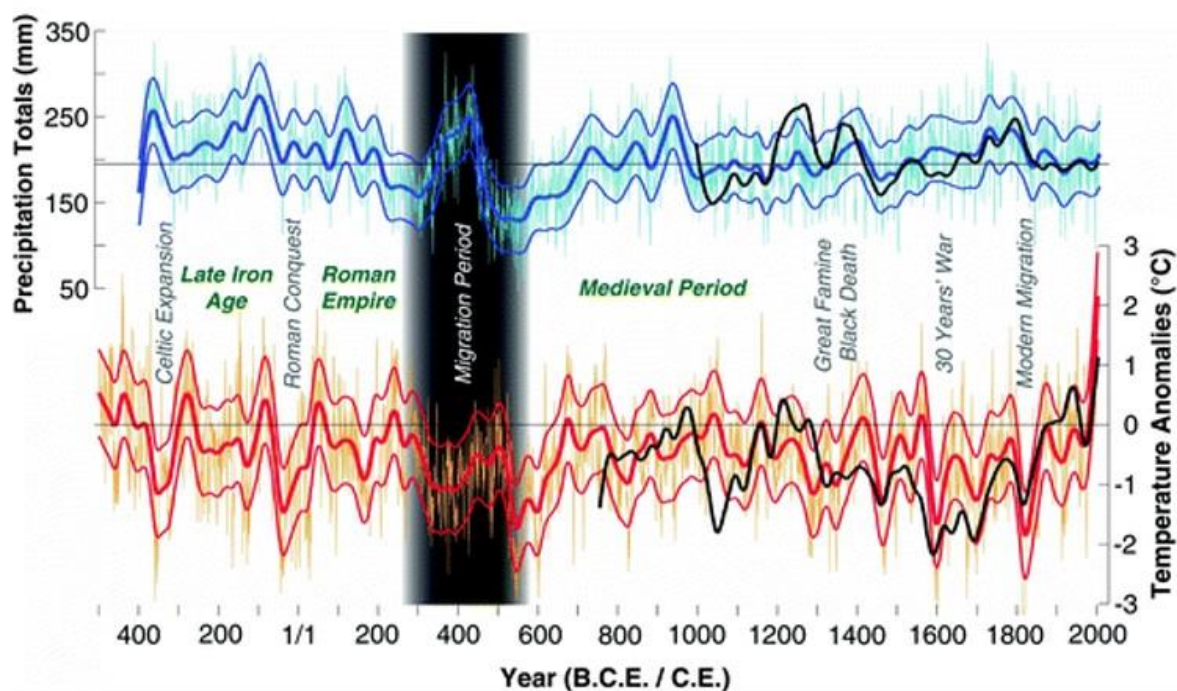


Fig. 3.1

Reconstructed April–June (AMJ) precipitation totals (*top*) and summer (June–August) temperature anomalies (*bottom*) for central Europe with respect to 1901–2000.

This is an example of once in a 500-year event, so, how prepared are you for emergencies and events like this?

Thanks for reading, I hope you got something out of the article. If you like more content like this, I produce the tri-weekly Mini Ice Age Conversations podcast of a 30-minute in-depth analysis on the GSM you can take on-the-go through out your day.

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1709: The year that Europe froze

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20126942-100-1709-the-year-that-europe-froze/>

<https://climatechangepsychology.blogspot.com/2009/02/1709-year-that-europe-froze-coldest.html>

A thousand-year record of temperature variations for Germany and Central Europe based on documentary data

https://www.academia.edu/14359500/A_thousand-year_record_of_temperature_variations_for_Germany_and_Central_Europe_based_on_documentary_data

Central European and regional fir TRW (Tree Ring Width) last 1000 years

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-16006-1_3

White Out 18th-century painting from the Castello Sforzesco, Milan

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/magazine/2017/01-02/1709-deep-freeze-europe-winter/>

1709 Temperature anomaly

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Frost_of_1709#/media/File:Winter1709.png

Iceland Blizzard and Winter Hurricane

https://twitter.com/search?q=iceland%20storm&src=typeahead_click

Violent winter storm across Iceland is underway, intense snowfall (N Iceland) and 150-190 km/h gusts

<https://www.severe-weather.eu/mcd/violent-winter-storm-underway-iceland-getting-worse-mk/>

Cyclone tracking wind speeds Iceland

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ELYoSXpXkAAAdA4A?format=jpg&name=small>

Iceland cyclone

<https://twitter.com/severeweatherEU/status/1204747702510202880>

Iceland whiteout

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ELhHfVeXUAlzoXv?format=jpg&name=small>

Iceland buried door

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ELh7Cz4WoAE1cAs?format=jpg&name=360x360>

Iceland trees bent in snow

https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ELh7Cz_X0AIGf8S?format=jpg&name=small

USA winter forecasts

<https://twitter.com/RyanMaue>

Cold blast USA

[https://pbs.twimg.com/media/EK9M9w0WsAERAsi?format=png&name=s
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