

Money during the Grand Solar Minimum

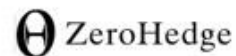


Argentina aims to hike export taxes twice in three days. This is a direct result of over-buying from China, driving prices up in Argentina and Brazil. I did a report last week recounting the 18% increase in food prices in Brazil, which were, solely, because of too much demand from China that draw down staples there.

Farmers "Deeply Worried" As Argentina's Fernandez Aims To Hike Export Taxes Twice In Three Days

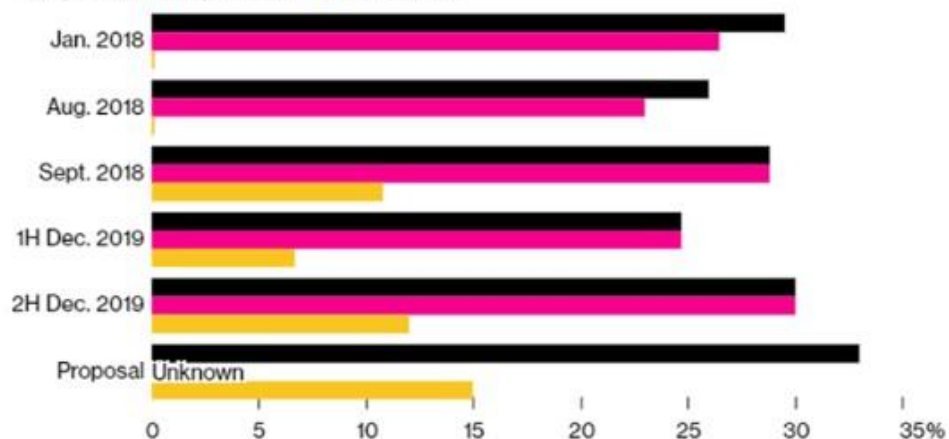
A bill sent to lawmakers proposes that taxes on soybean shipments could hike to 33%, according to Bloomberg. That compares to 30% currently and 24.7% last week. Corn and wheat would rise to 15%, from 12% currently and just 6.7% last week.

Tax Twists



Argentina has tweaked levies on crop exports for years

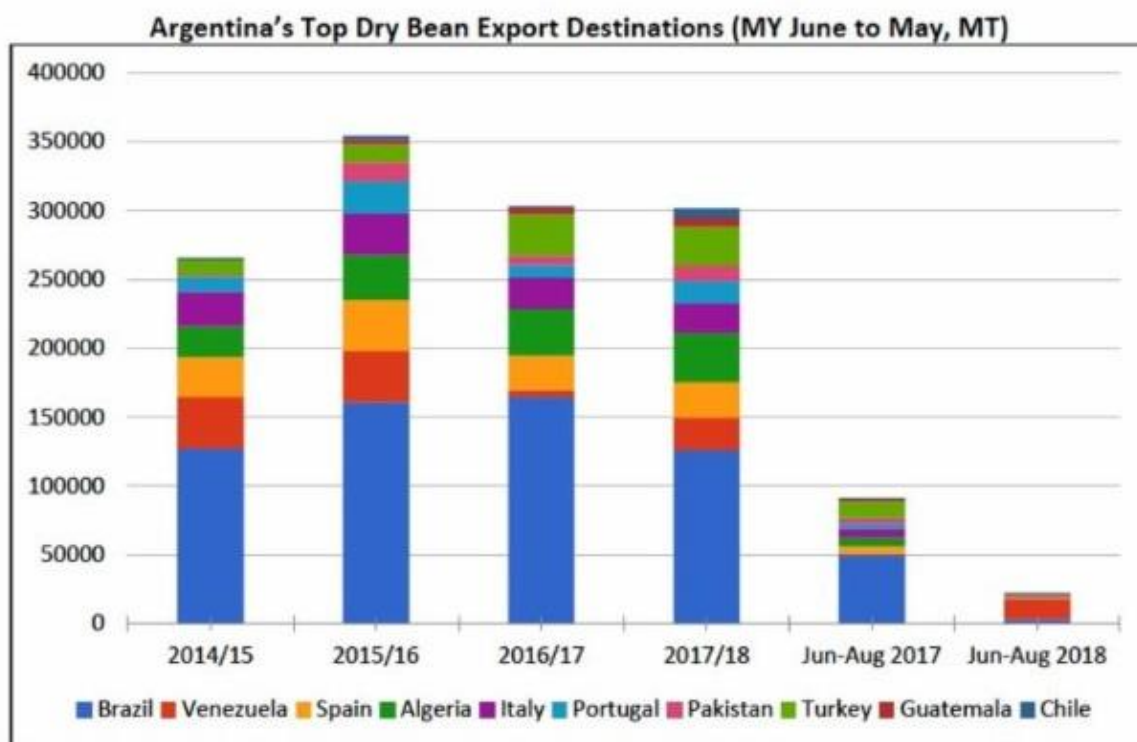
■ Soybeans ■ Soy meal, oil ■ Corn, wheat



Note: Legislation isn't clear on future rate for soy meal, oil
Source: Enrique Zeni

Now that is being seen again. Argentina, however, is trying to protect what it has without saying “No” directly, rather, they are pricing China out of the market. They understand the consequence of directly stopping China buying, but what if they still want to pay double or triple the price?

It should be noted that besides soya beans, corn, and wheat, Argentina also exports an enormous amount of dried beans. So think about this, other countries at the bottom such as Brazil, Venezuela, Spain, Algeria, Italy, Portugal, Pakistan, Turkey, Guatemala, and Chile are major buyers of these beans. With this rapid of price increase, what is going to happen to those countries? Or what if Argentina stops exporting? They are going to have to look elsewhere. Algeria hits my list of increasing grow zones, so perhaps they can transition to have their own seed sources, but what about the others?



Source: Global Trade Atlas and SoftTrade

Anyway, you can see how the uptick is in the last five years. Argentina continues to go up, but look over in the far right. Those are the most in-demand goods in China right now: corn, wheat, and soya beans. The jump on the soya beans is outstanding, and so everybody is trying to capitalize on this.

They have shifted away from corn, wheat, etc. to jump in on the soy bonanza, if you will. The transition from one crop to another is shown in the chart as a result of the rotation of crops to get a higher price for the soybeans compared to others; and soya beans is denoted by the red line.

Although, I think the government is trying to upset this balance to try to get farmers grow a different crop without spooking the public. Business is business and you can raid the trade tariffs, but having people to switch their rotational crops and grow something that is hardier, such as wheat or a different species of wheat, such as amaranth, sorghum, millet, or corn instead of soya beans or other food sources is a good option for a government.

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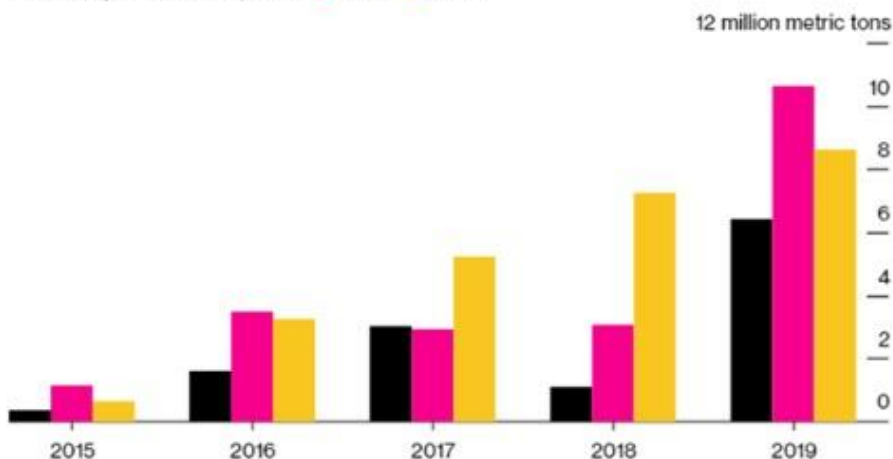
ZeroHedge

Farmers are concerned that, despite Fernandez's intentions to revive the economy, that he's instead creating a hostile attitude toward farmers. Profit margins will suffer as a result of corn and wheat shipments being charged 15% - **this could force farmers out of crop rotation strategies that came about in recent years to plant cheaper soybeans instead.**

Savvy Farmers

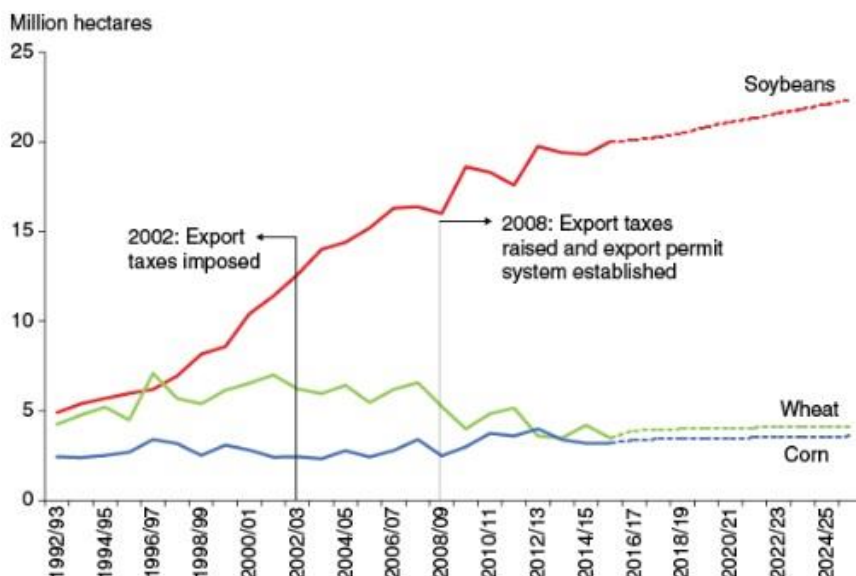
Argentine growers hastened trades in anticipation of tax hike

■ New soybeans sold & priced ■ Corn ■ Wheat



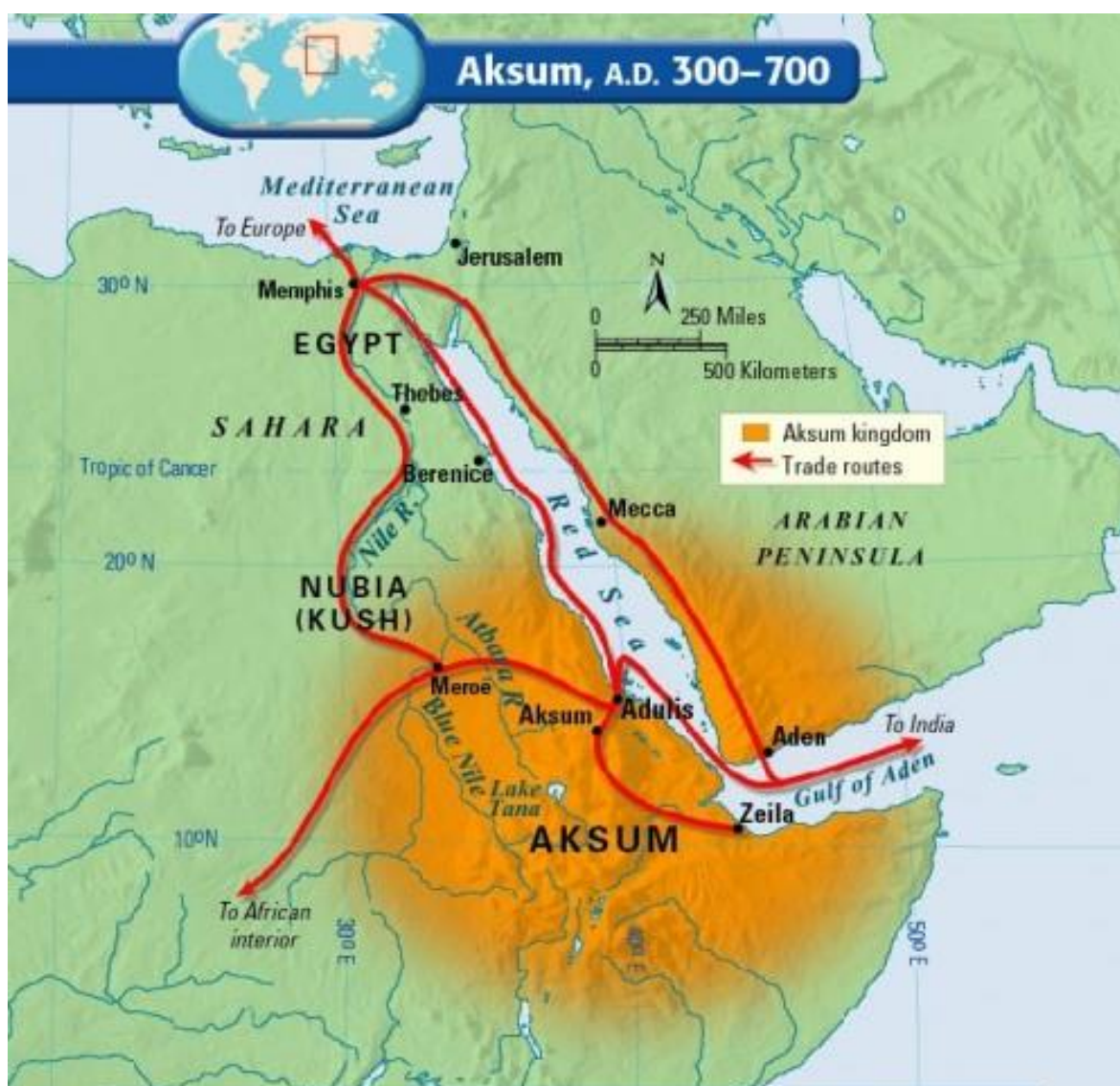
Note: Data for each year is through the end of November
Source: Argentine Agriculture Ministry

Argentina's area harvested of soybeans soars above that of wheat and corn



Note: Dashed line represents the projection period. 1 hectare = 2.47 acres.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service based on USDA's 2016 international baseline data, available at www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/international-baseline-data.aspx.

Meanwhile, if you go back in time, around the Aksum Kingdom, 300-700 AD, the colored part of the map, it is shown that Aksum controls what is now Yemen, parts of Oman, as well as Sudan, Ethiopia and the trade routes that were controlled all along the Red Sea. Aksum is on the Arabian Peninsula, and currently there would not be enough rainfall to grow their own food there. But it is now starting to get wetter, and it is really interesting the full expansion point over those 400 years, which matches the 400-year Grand Solar Minimum cycle. It seems that there were areas that must have had more precipitation than today, and that precipitation is now returning in Oman and Yemen.



What's most fascinating, nonetheless, is the Aksum's coinage. It has imprints of wheat surrounding the kings and other figures on its focal point. These gold coins control the trade routes, and were actually the standard used as the Roman coinage pre-BC era, when they were not diluted.



It is a common knowledge that gold is much more valuable than silver; but through history, we also heard about shekels, Denarius, silver pennies, sterling, and the like. I am more interested about the shekels, so let us to go back in time a little bit to the Sumerian shekel.

I have been really curious to see how much grain could be traded for the silver, or how many grains of something can we get as an equal weight. So, accordingly, the Sumerian shekel equals 180 wheat grains, and just like cryptocurrency, these things can be also divided.



The Sumerian shekel equaled the weight of 180 wheat grains; the British silver penny sterling was set at the weight of 32 wheat grains. The metric grain of 50 mg is used to weigh precious stones.

Moreover, these coins are amazing because designs of the earliest shekels feature grapes and a choice of either wheat or barley at the center of the coin. It is as if a guide on what item the shekels could be traded for, which was either for wine or for bread, or any barley- or wheat-based food. These images on either sides of the coin are very discernible that it's almost like an advertisement of what this coin was tradable for.



The later renditions of the coins included wine, on the left, and poppy, on the right, which is, again, suggestive to be tradable for those two items, alcohol and poppy or medicine.



As for the Roman coinage, the back shows a wheat image. Prior designs showed that the importance of the actual food was epitomized on the coin. It seemed to have some transition point, though, because now, the ruler's image is imprinted on the coins, which appeared to suggest that rulers were more important than the food. There must have been some switch in history somewhere, at least in my opinion. Something must have become stable enough that they relied on the ruler to grow food, versus the divinity or natural cycles.



Looking back at some of the prophecies over the next few years, it talks about getting a Denarius or silver coinage, salt, or some kind of tradable item for your work for the day. Additionally, the Smith Bible Dictionary under the barley entry states that barley is one of the most important cereal grains, and the hardiest of them all. This is a clue already, because barley can grow almost everywhere and can withstand extreme conditions. The flavor that you are used to might be missing, but this can fill you up, plus you can make bread out of this.

Smith's Bible Dictionary

Barley

is one of the most important of the cereal grains, and the most hardy of them all. It was grown by the Hebrews, ([Leviticus 27:16](#); [8:8](#); [Ruth 2:17](#)) etc., who used it for baking into bread chiefly among the poor, ([Judges 7:13](#); [2 Kings 4:42](#); [John 6:9,13](#)) and as fodder for horses. ([1 Kings 4:28](#)) The barley harvest, ([Ruth 1:22](#); [2:23](#); [2 Samuel 21:9,10](#)) takes place in Palestine in March and April, and in the hilly district as late as May. It always precedes the wheat harvest, in some places by a week, in others by fully three weeks. In Egypt the barley is about a month earlier than the wheat; whence its total destruction by the hail storm. ([Exodus 9:31](#))

You can then grow something, like sorghum barley, in places where nothing else is really growing. These are the kind of things we are switching to, hemp, hemp part proteins, etc.



In earlier times, barley bread was mainly for the poor because wheat bread has a higher protein content, but now, barley bread is special. You actually pay more for the barley bread than wheat bread in most bakeries because it is considered a specialty product, which was the opposite back then.

Smith's Bible Dictionary

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Barley, oats and wheat can also sprout abundantly, and can be grown as fodder for horses. Now they are talking about sprouting this by soaking it in water for a couple of days.



They are very specific in these passages, so even a novice who knew nothing about growing barley could read this and be able to find some barley seeds somewhere to grow. Although, they did not include the massive pounding hail storms that wiped out crops in this passage.

Smith's Bible Dictionary

Barley

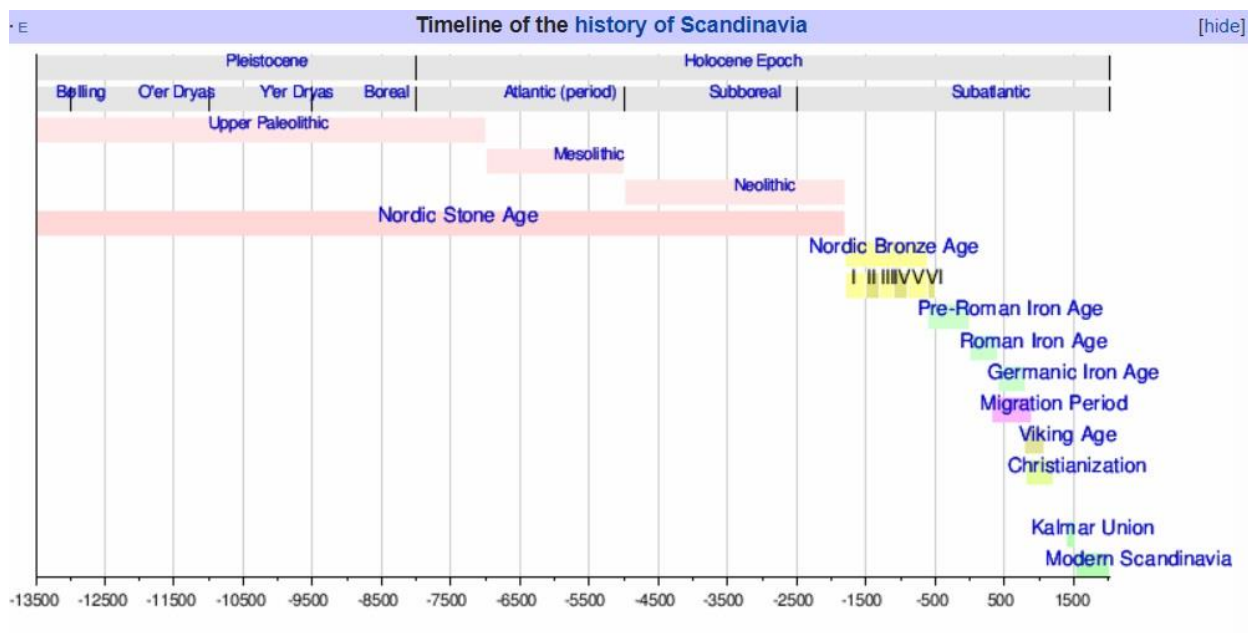
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With all these lessons from the past, the shekels captured my attention. Notice how detailed and how much focus was put on the wheat. Are those galactic cosmic rays or some kind of sun ray shining on the wheat plant?

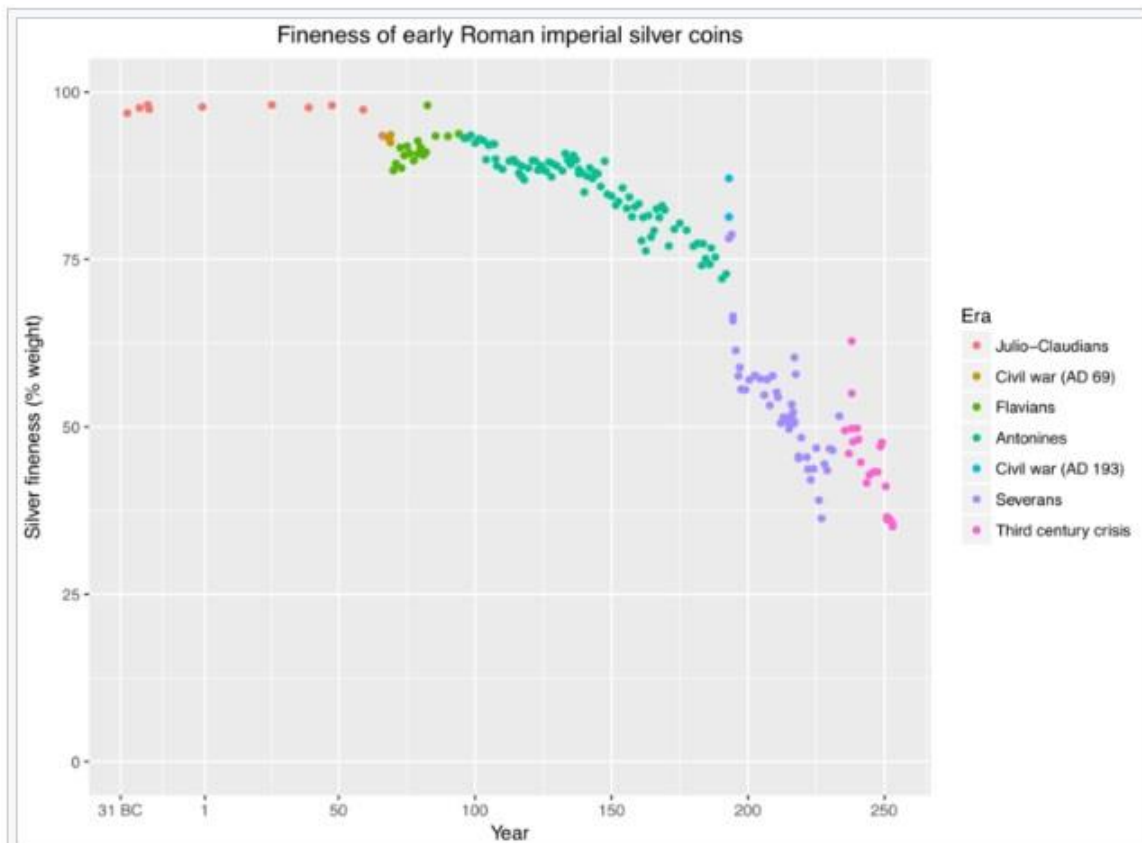
Because even some of the Mediterranean region coins, like the ones below, shows a corn image on one side of the coin and wheat, tools, and entertainment images on the other side. If you drop this on my hand at any time in the last, say, 10,000 years, I would know what this coin is for.



The images are very distinct that it carries an all-time message to persist in tens of thousands of years. I could give this to someone 100,000 years ago, or in the last interglacial, 113,000 years ago, and they would know that, that piece of metal is tradable for food, tools and entertainment. This, for me, is the most perfect representation.



Value for these types of currencies was good until problems had arisen in sound money. The data from the far left on the chart shows how long they kept the sets of standards before debasement started. The top level on the left implies good monetary policy; and as can be seen the Roman Empire continuously debase their currency based on food crop losses. The curve on the chart was around 79 AD, that was when Vesuvius went off, and from that point, it continued to decline.



Starting with Nero in AD 64, the Romans continuously debased their silver coins until, by the end of the 3rd century AD, hardly any silver was left.

This started to shrink the Roman Empire, and they had to debase their currency.

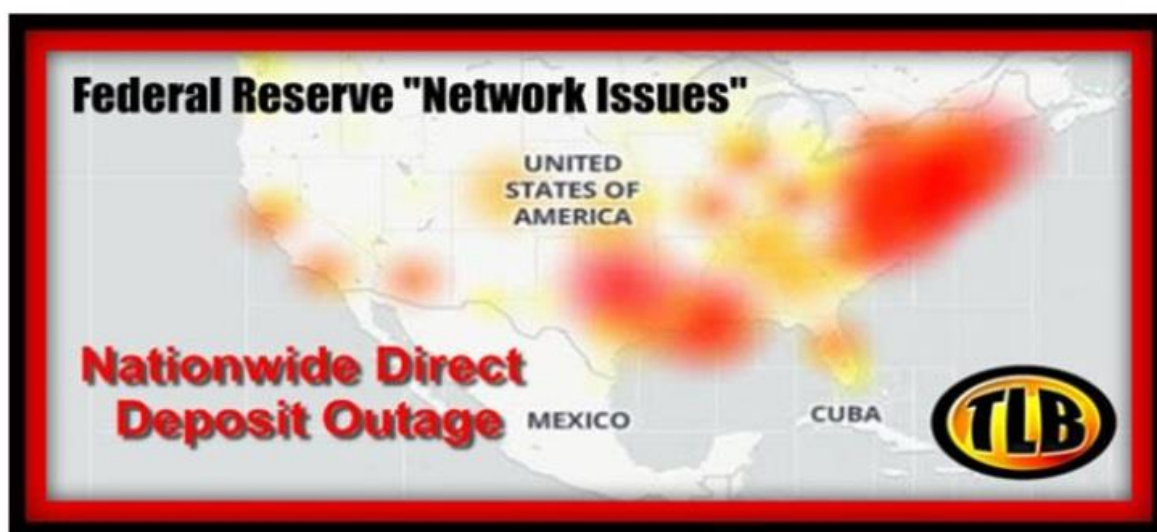


And speaking of debasing the currency, the currency with the silver certificate is used to be redeemable for that face value amount in silver over the bank counters in the United States.



Speaking of Federal Reserve "Network Issues": Nationwide direct deposit outage hits. I'm wondering in the future if there could be a shift to cryptocurrency as a transition point for smart contracts and grain deliveries. I always get comments like, if the internet goes down, you are not going to be able to access your crypto, but let me tell you, if the Internet goes down you are not going to use your ATMs either.

Everything electronic will be useless, and mind you, the internet is not even down but you can't still access your direct deposits. This happened on Thursday, so maybe the plan is to stall this when they really do crash the banking system to get an extra 12 hours before people start complaining that their money is not there.



At least we are still able to enjoy this inverted fog in Sofia Bulgaria.



severe-weather.EU @severeweatherEU · 8h

Wow! Beautiful capture of a city under an inversion fog. Taken over Sofia, Bulgaria, yesterday.

Photo sent to us by Kiril Spasov. Posted with permission.



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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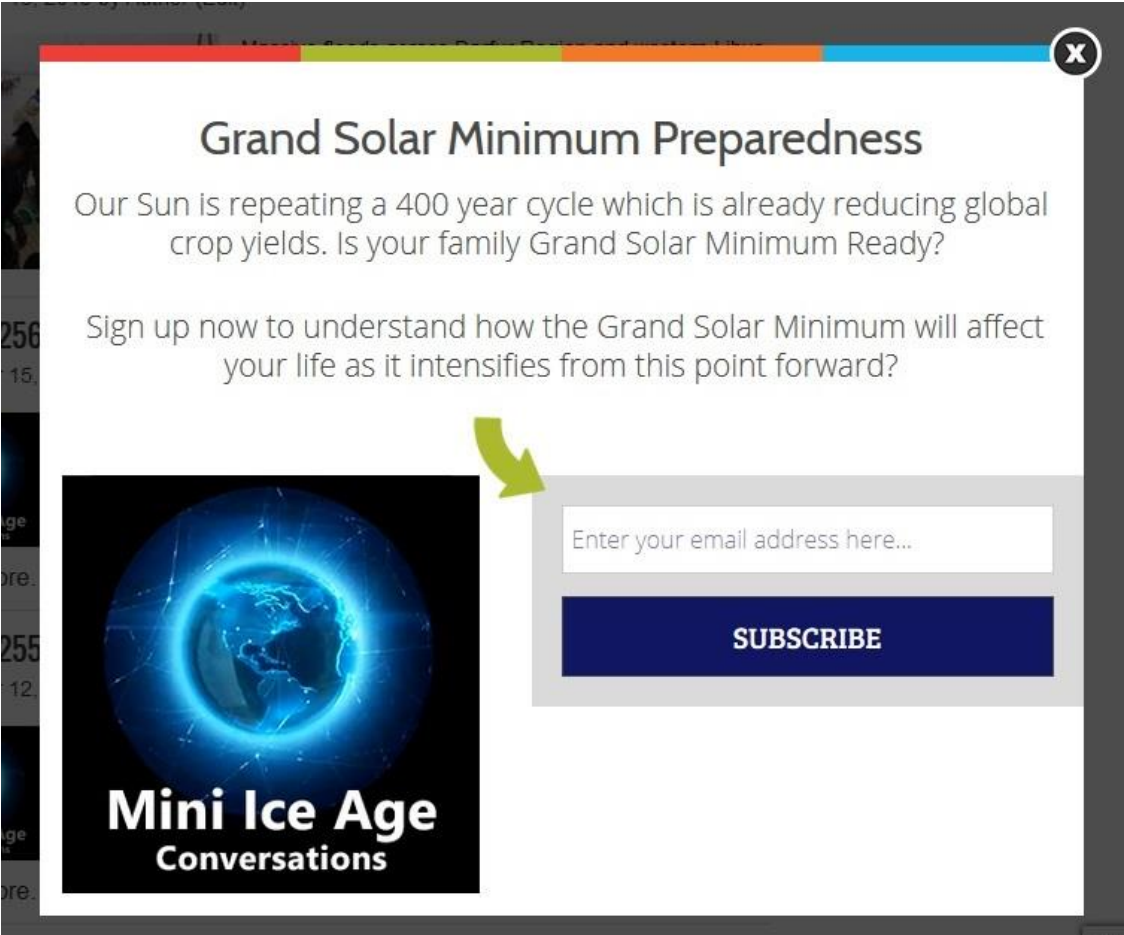
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<https://www.thelibertybeacon.com/nationwide-direct-deposit-outage-hits-due-to-federal-reserve-network-issues>

Grain UNIT OF WEIGHT

<https://www.britannica.com/science/grain-unit-of-weight>

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denarius>

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Food shekels

<https://blessedwomanofyah.wordpress.com/2014/11/28/a-shekel-for-your-thoughts/>

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