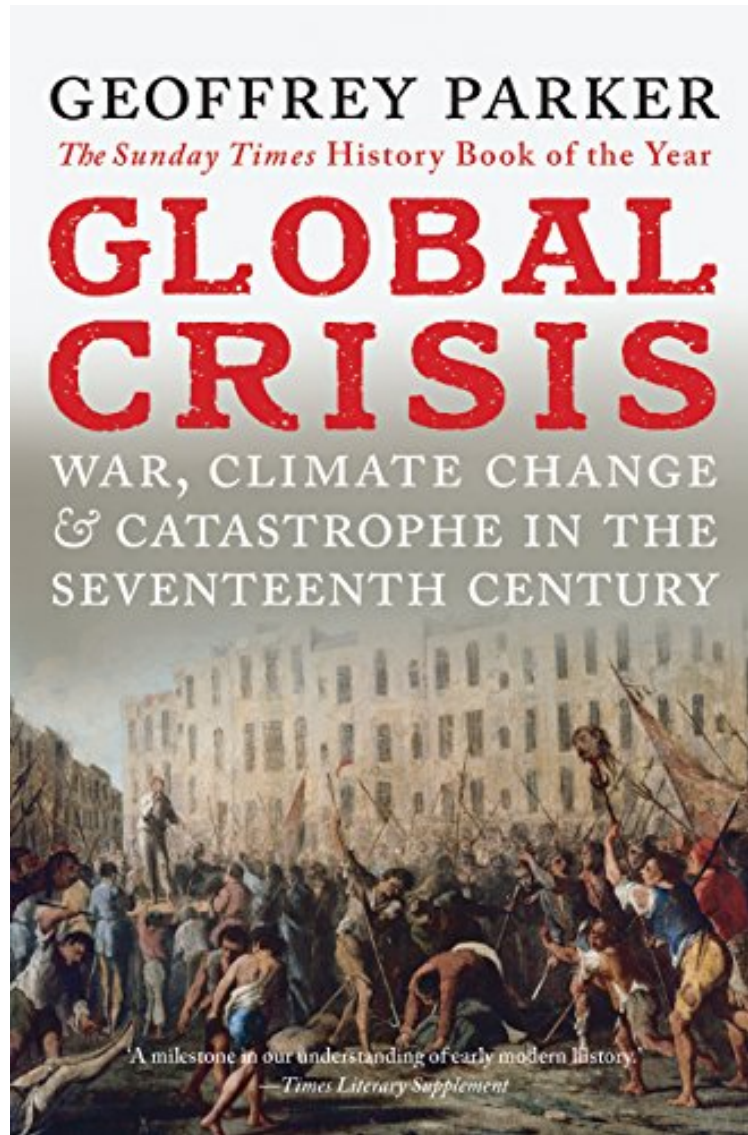


# Global Crisis: War, Climate Change and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century

Geoffrey Parker

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**Geoffrey Parker : Global Crisis: War, Climate Change and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Global Crisis: War, Climate Change and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A sharp dose of historic realityBy kinmontThis is a serious work of both the history of the time specified, namely the seventeenth century, and brings long overdue scholarship to the events that are encompassed in the phrase "climate change", a more than often over emotionally discussed question.. This is particularly so when within a nanosecond the topic is linked to "global warming" without the least attention paid to the history of what has actually happened in our sort period of observations of climate change and indeed that endlessly fascinating topic for us, namely the weather!However, one of the main reasons for reading this book is that this is a serious work of scholarship and no-one should simply see it as work that relates solely to those words in the title namely "the Seventeenth Century". The author ranges widely over the observed history of climate change starting out in his Prologue with the observation that "Climate change has almost extinguished life on earth on three occasions". The thesis that that simple word "weather" and all it connotes can and has led to social and governmental change often violent and usually unanticipated is rigorously explored and set out before us.The research that forms the spine of this book is exemplified by one hundred and twenty six pages listing sources and bibliography. To any of those scientists who have sought to make their reputation by the endless exploitation of some minimal science, futile conjecture on the subject of global warming, I would just say, "Read this book and reflect on your false premises."Kinmont2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A wonderul data base that helps explain the explosion of the Elightenment and technology in response to starvationBy BG-expatA massive book that is clearly written and ties The 30 Years War, Plagues, Revolutions around the world, and population crises and crash together. Not a Grand Theory book so much as it is an impressive mining of many sources of data to explain how and why the Western World changed so radically and the Enlightenment and technological developments exploded in the 18th Century.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Compelling support for pro-active response to "Climate Change"By Lucien B.Superb! Provides deep and convincing evidence of beep to cope pro-actively with increasing real mounting frequency of natural disasters from many causes (such as: volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, low solar activity, El Nio events resulting in destructive storms and flooding) which can be usefully be termed "climate change". A "must read" for all thinking people!

Revolutions, droughts, famines, invasions, wars, regicides the calamities of the mid-seventeenth century were not only unprecedented, they were agonisingly widespread. A global crisis extended from England to Japan, and from the Russian Empire to sub-Saharan Africa. North and South America, too, suffered turbulence. The distinguished historian Geoffrey Parker examines first-hand accounts of men and women throughout the world describing what they saw and suffered during a sequence of political, economic and social crises that stretched from 1618 to the 1680s. Parker also deploys scientific evidence concerning climate conditions of the period, and his use of natural as well as human archives transforms our understanding of the World Crisis. Changes in the prevailing weather patterns during the 1640s and 1650s longer and harsher winters, and cooler and wetter summers disrupted growing seasons, causing dearth, malnutrition, and disease, along with more deaths and fewer births. Some contemporaries estimated that one-third of the world died, and much of the surviving historical evidence supports their pessimism. Parkers demonstration of the link between climate change and worldwide catastrophe 350 years ago stands as an extraordinary historical achievement. And the contemporary implications of his study are equally important: are we at all prepared today for the catastrophes that climate change could bring tomorrow?

"Mr. Parker tells [the story] with verve. . . . [his] novel interpretation, emphasizing climate instead of individual agency, helps to explain socio-economic change and revolution in ways that future historians will inevitably have to take into account."Wall Street Journal