

Why was France's King Louis XIV called the “Sun King”?

Bill Howell, 29Jul2012

Casual conversations with colleagues at work confirmed my impression that the “conventional explanation” for the “Roi Soleil” (Sun King) title of Louis XIV was because he brought great wealth, culture, and influence to France during his reign. This impression about the “consensus” opinion is completely dependent on what we could remember! There is NO assurance that this perception agrees with history books in high schools, or even less with modern historians!

Here I suggest that the REAL reason for his title was that during the reign of Louis XIV, occasional, or even longer respite from the heavy clouds, darkness and cold of the Maunder solar hibernation (Grand Solar minimum 1610-1710) greatly brightened the lives (souls) and livelihood of people who may have spent much of their lives in the relative darkness and cold. While the riches would certainly help,, I suggest that we lack the creative imaginations to comprehend the impact that such a brightening (if indeed this occurred) might have had on people. This is similar to the lack of understanding of the relatively recent “Dirty Thirties” (Great Depression). My guess is that Central and Eastern Canada did not see the same impact as the prairies, and that there is a lasting difference in perceptions for my generation, although all of that may have been lost with Generation X & Y.

In turn, this ties into the theory of history of my father and I, plus the correlation between El Nino & Wars as shown by Hsiang etal.

..... note ...

In order to maintain the original form of the emails, spelling mistakes have not been corrected. Names have been coded, as I do not have the permission of the individuals to state their names in third-party emails. My ideas are open source (see the licensing conditions), but I avoid putting down the ideas of others that may be considered to be proprietary.

The record here is not complete. Other communications and notes may be added in the future.

Enjoy,

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Status as of ?date?:

- I have quite a few other comments, but I'll end it here...
- A sister note on the food storage room of the Fort St. Louis of Quebec led to this...

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From: Howell, Bill
Sent: 26 juillet 2012 11:17
To: [>VB<]
Cc: [>CG, KB<]
Subject: FW: Louis XIV - pourquoi était-il le "Roi Soleil"? ; Fort / Chateau St Louis, Québec - entreposage de nourriture

I've attached the files that go with these emails, starting with the earliest (at very "end or bottom" of this email).

(see also :

<http://www.billhowell.ca/History/Howell%20120729%20Fort%20St%20Louis%20in%20Quebec%20city%20-%20archaeological%20interpretation%20of%20food%20storage.pdf>

Key links:

- <http://archive.org/details/frenchcanadianli00granuoft>
- <http://www.billhowell.ca/Charvatova%20solar%20inertial%20motion%20&%20activity/Radioisotopes/Howell%20-%20history%20timelines%20and%20radioisotopes.jpg>

Claude - As you suggested, JM Fecteau had overlaid the satellite photo of modern Quebec city with an old drawing of the Fort St Louis and Old Quebec as of a certain date.

Bill Howell

From: Howell, Bill
Sent: 24 juillet 2012 08:50
To: Fecteau, Jean-Marie; Pelletier, Jean-Marc; Bossy, Angélique
Subject: Louis XIV - pourquoi était-il le "Roi Soleil"?

Maunder grand solar minimum :

Angélique a dit que même dans le nord de France, que les rivières (la Seine) et lacs ne congèlent pas souvent - sauf dans les Alpes (trop loin pour le transport de glace en grande quantité). Elle n'a jamais vu des histoires du temps décrivant l'utilisation de la glace pour préserver la nourriture. Par contre, on creusait des caves dans les châteaux pour créer des espaces frais. Parfois même les "mot ou phrase pour les cellules de prisons pour les criminels à long terme?" étaient utilisés pour la nourriture quand de grandes événements ou besoins demandaient plus d'espace pour la nourriture.

In effect, Angélique's comments remind me of the Maunder "grand solar minimum" (what I call a "solar hibernation") from ~1610 to 1710. It is often described as 1625 to 1700, or variants of both dates - given that an historian will base the dates on identifiable [climate, agricultural, economic, military, political] impacts, whereas a solar physicist will identify the period of anomalous solar behaviour. Based on the Maunder minimum, a change of that order (say 0.1 to 0.2% of total solar irradiance - but I may be off on that guess) may develop in a fuzzy manner over 30 to 50 years. (Climate impacts of short-term ocean circulation effects vary from 0 to 70 years or thereabouts?). Skating on the Dutch canals and Thames river in London England were common at the depth of the Maunder.

Louis XIV - pourquoi etait-il le "Roi Soleil"?

Angélique explique que l'hypothèse "normale" pour le titre "Roi Soleil" pour Louis XIV provient de la grande richesse qu'il a apporté à France. La monnaie était en or, et l'or leur faisait penser au soleil.

Permettez-moi de suggérer une raison complètement différente pour son appellation, même si je ne suis pas du tout connaisseur de l'histoire de la période de Louis XIV (Michel Plouffe est amateur de ces périodes et géographies de l'histoire, et il saurait bien plus que moi).

J'appuie aussi sur la grande richesse apportée par Louis XIV, mais je soupçonne aussi que Louis XIV était roi durant le temps, qu'au moins parfois, des périodes ensoleillées perce les nuages lourds et lumière sombre du creux du Maunder. Nous n'avons guère l'imagination pour comprendre l'impact de ceci, tel que présenté comme thème central par Isaac Asimov dans son histoire courte "Nightfall" des années 1940 (refait avec David Silverwood en ~1980?). Plus que des richesses, le soleil aurait inspiré avec l'espoir le monde de toutes les classes de la société?

War and Sun

The attached paper by Hsiang et al of Columbia shows a stunning modern-era (1955-2005) link between wars and El Niño.

<<..Y:\Data\Howell - personal\History\Hsiang, Meng, Cane 110825 - Civil conflicts are associated with the global climate.pdf...>>

At the time I was reviewing a book seeking to establish the same based on 1000+ years of history. The review request came from the authors, based on the [naive, lunatic, one-dimensional] theory of history of my father and myself, cryptically described by the chart :

<http://www.billhowell.ca/Charvatova%20solar%20inertial%20motion%20&%20activity/Radioisotopes/Howell%20-%20history%20timelines%20and%20radioisotopes.jpg>

The only group that seemed to agree with the general results were 2 of the known 20 or so Mayan calendars, including the one with 2012. In the last 7 years, more and more dissident solar physicists are proposing that recent extreme changes in the sun (crash in total solar irradiance for the current sunspot half-cycle) are indicative of an oncoming grand solar minimum - as per my comments above, you may be able to vacation in London in 30 years to go skating on the Thames <grin>.

I expect to see the El Niño results to be extended to the 60 to 90 year Pacific Decadal Oscillation (Gleisberg) quasi-cycle, and then to the grand-solar episode timescale (200 to 2400 years).

I now think that the truly great kill-offs in global history (~890 BC and even more so ~1500 BC) were NOT grand solar episodes, but something far greater. These seem to have been similar to, but smaller than, the great mammal kill-off of ~12,000 years BP (Before Present).

Did the battle on the plains of Abraham correspond to a key "Sun driver of war" period? Probably not, as it's certainly outside of the two adjacent solar minima (Maunder, and Dalton of 1790-1820), but maybe there was something there, or maybe it's just history...

Bill Howell

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