

# The Frigid Golden Age

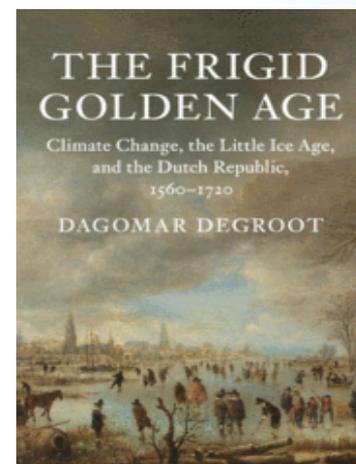
Climate Change, the Little Ice Age, and the Dutch Republic, 1560–1720

**Dagomar Degroot**

*Georgetown University, Washington DC*

Dagomar Degroot offers the first detailed analysis of how a society thrived amid the Little Ice Age, a period of climatic cooling that reached its chilliest point between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. The precocious economy, unusual environment, and dynamic intellectual culture of the Dutch Republic in its seventeenth-century Golden Age allowed it to thrive as neighboring societies unraveled in the face of extremes in temperature and precipitation. By tracing the occasionally counterintuitive manifestations of climate change from global to local scales, Degroot finds that the Little Ice Age presented not only challenges for Dutch citizens but also opportunities that they aggressively exploited in conducting commerce, waging war, and creating culture. The overall success of their Republic in coping with climate change offers lessons that we would be wise to heed today, as we confront the growing crisis of global warming.

Introduction: crisis and opportunity in a changing climate; 1. The Little Ice Age; Part I. Commerce and Climate Change: Part I. Preface; 2. Reaching Asia in a stormy, chilly climate; 3. Sailing, floating, riding, and skating through a cooler Europe; Part II. Conflict and Climate Change: Part II. Preface; 4. Cooling, warming, and the wars of independence, 1564–1648; 5. Gales, winds, and Anglo-Dutch antagonism, 1652–1688; Part III. Culture and Climate Change: Part III. Preface; 6. Tracing and painting the Little Ice Age; 7. Texts, technologies, and climate change; Conclusion: lessons from ice and gold; Appendices.



## February 2019

229 x 152 mm c.386pp

Paperback 978-1-108-41041-0

*Original price*      *Discount price*

£22.99

£18.39

\$29.99

\$23.99

'Degroot offers surprising insights into links between weather variations during the chilliest phase of the Little Ice Age and the Dutch Golden Age by exploring how merchants, soldiers and investors exploited new opportunities resulting from to climate change. The book is well-researched and exciting to read.'

**Christian Pfister**

*Universität Bern, Switzerland*



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