

# CLIMATE CRASH

Abrupt Climate Change  
and What It Means  
for Our Future



**JOHN D. COX**

Why ain't the future what it  
used to be?

*The past ain't what it used to  
be.*

Because the past ain't what it used  
to be, the *natural behavior* of  
climate ain't what it used to be.

# Key assumptions...

- Change comes at a “geological” pace
- If we broke it, we can fix it
- Natural climate change is benign

# Mother Theresa



We are  
In our  
Mother's  
Arms

# Dirty Harry



“Feeling  
Lucky,  
Punk?”

# Abrupt climate change...

- Change can be fast and radical
- It will come as a surprise
- We may not be able to control it

*Anything* that forces our climate system to move increases the likelihood that it will cross a threshold of abrupt and unwelcome change.

# Steady-State Climate

*“The first striking fact in the geological history of climate is that the present climate of the world has been maintained since the date of the earliest, unaltered, sedimentary deposits.”*

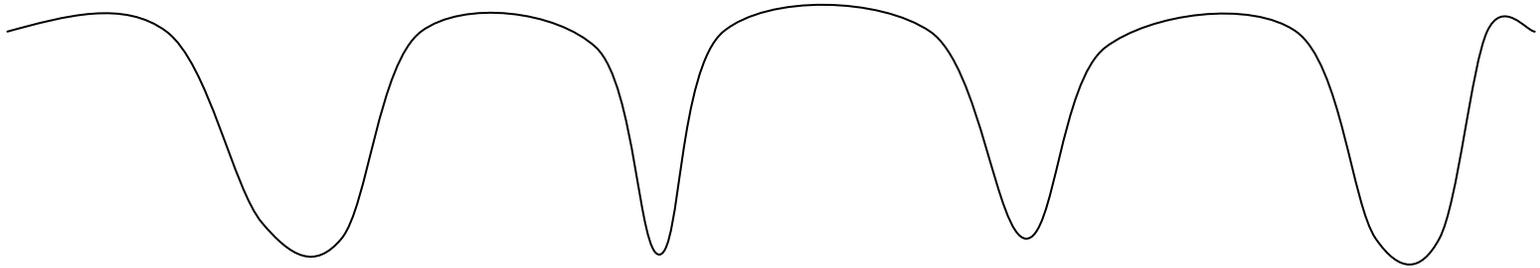
—Professor John Walter Gregory, 1906

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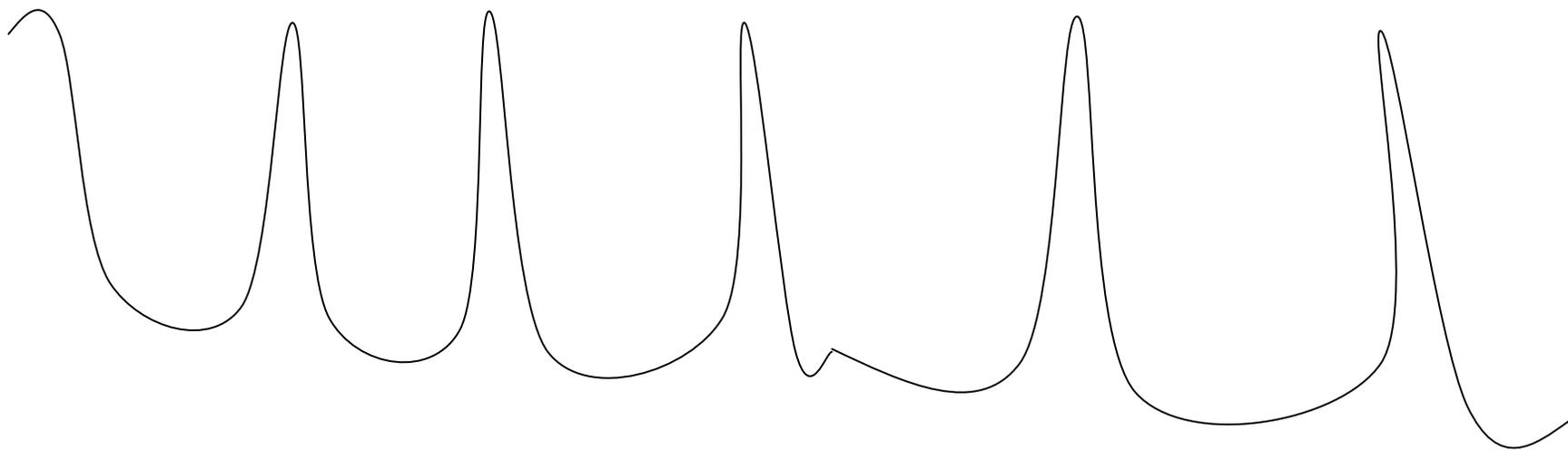
Present

Time Immemorial

# Climate Profile by German Geographers circa 1920s



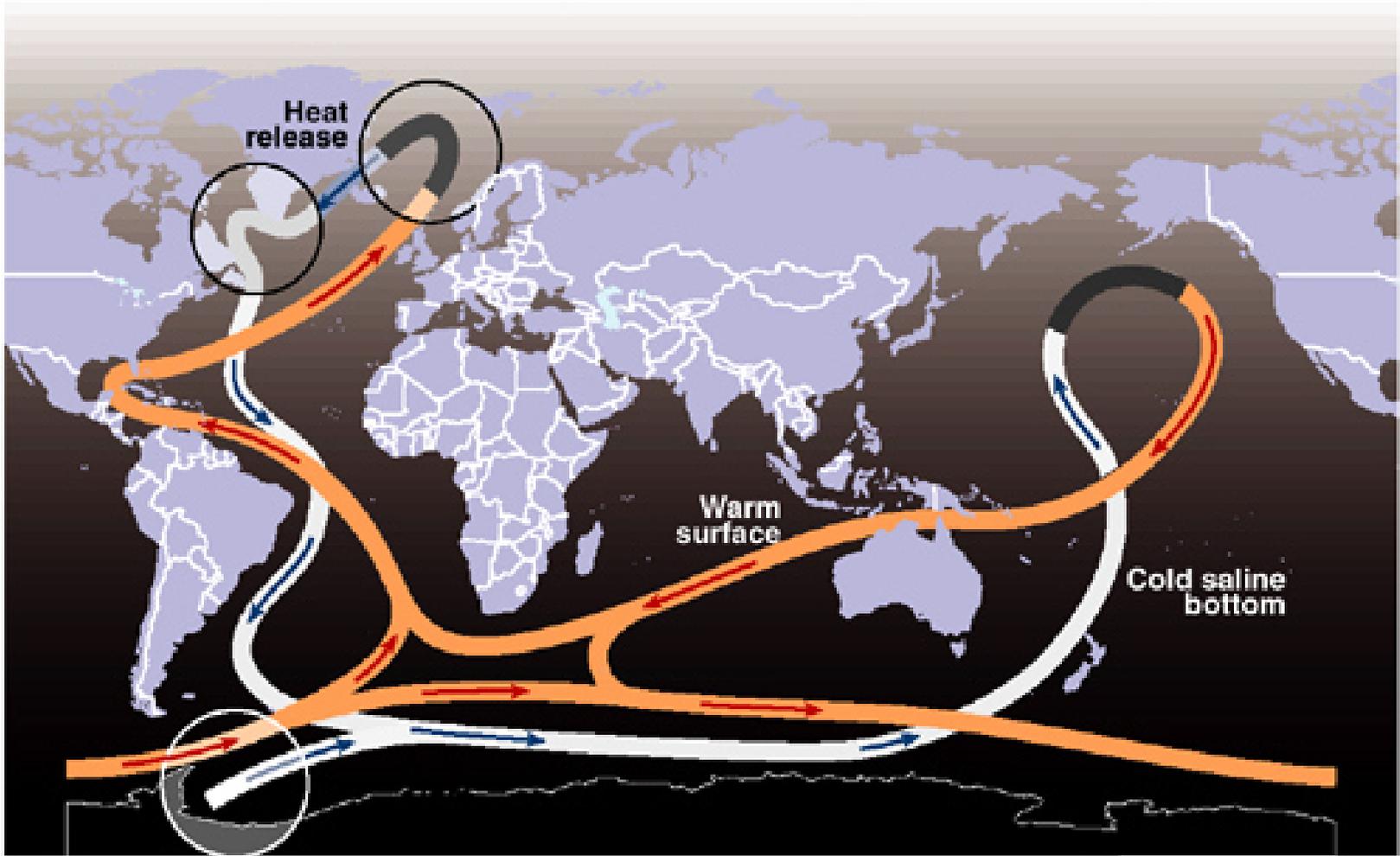
# Emiliani's Climate Profile



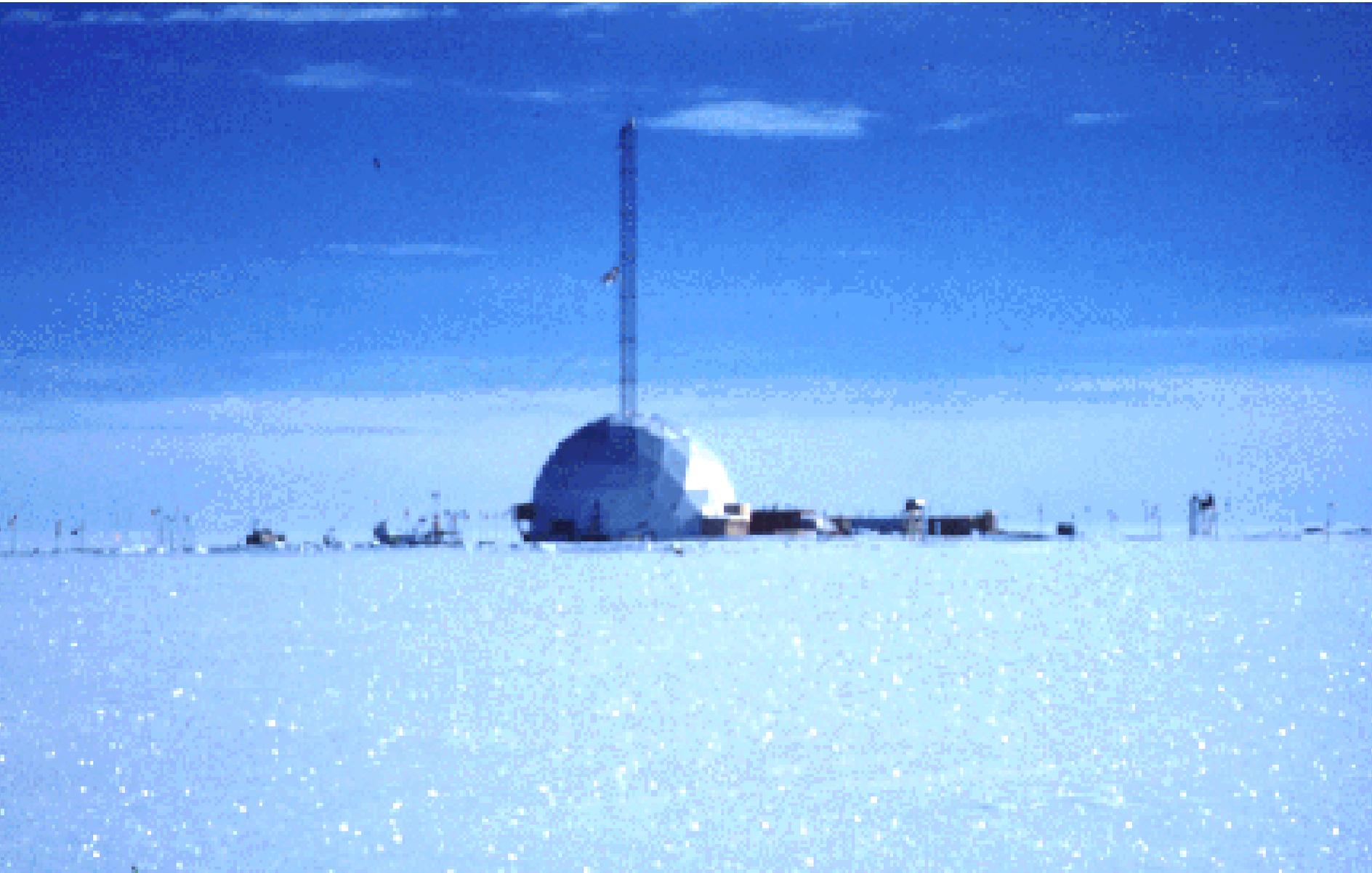


# Dansgaard, Langway and Oeschger





# GISP2 Summit, Greenland

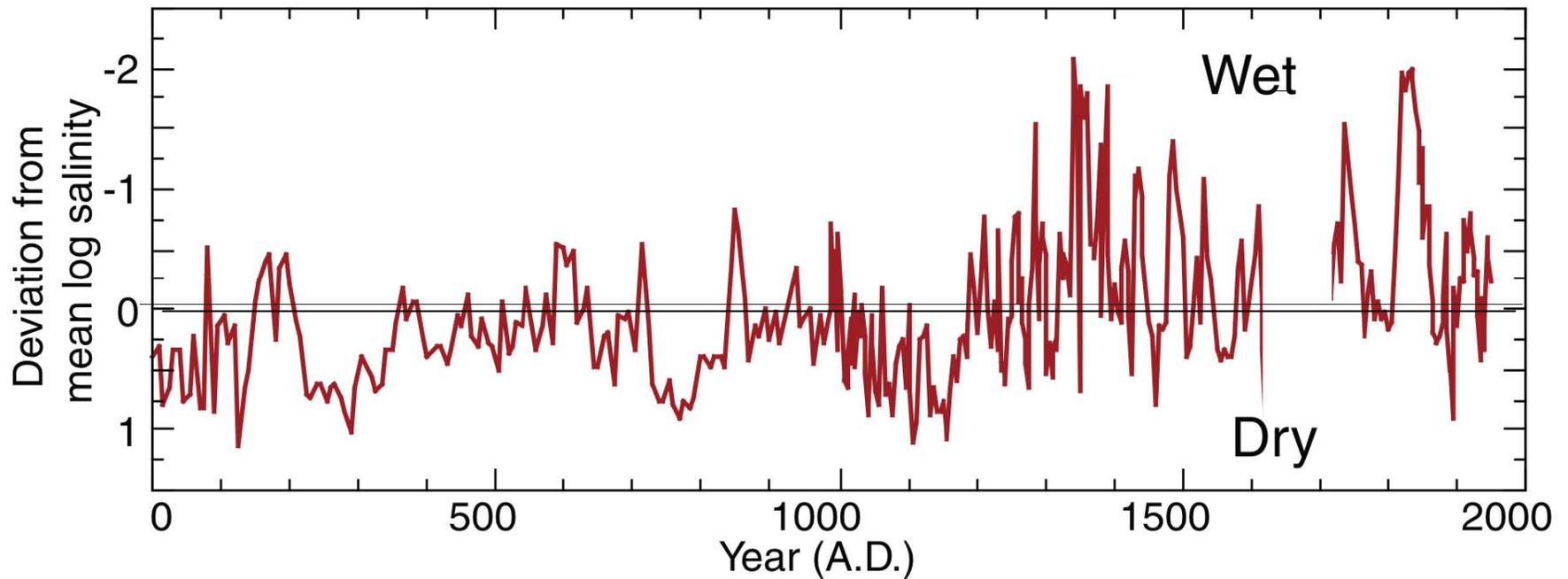


# Greenland's Climate Profile

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

# Precipitation record

Drought Record from Moon Lake, ND, USA



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