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EGU 2020 Session CL1.20: Historical climatology and hydrology: the role of documentary evidence in the reconstruction of past (hydro)climate and its variabilities



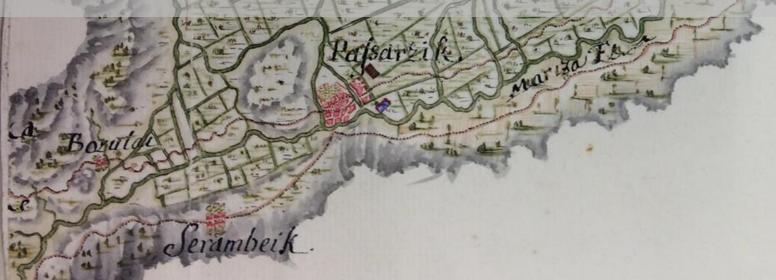




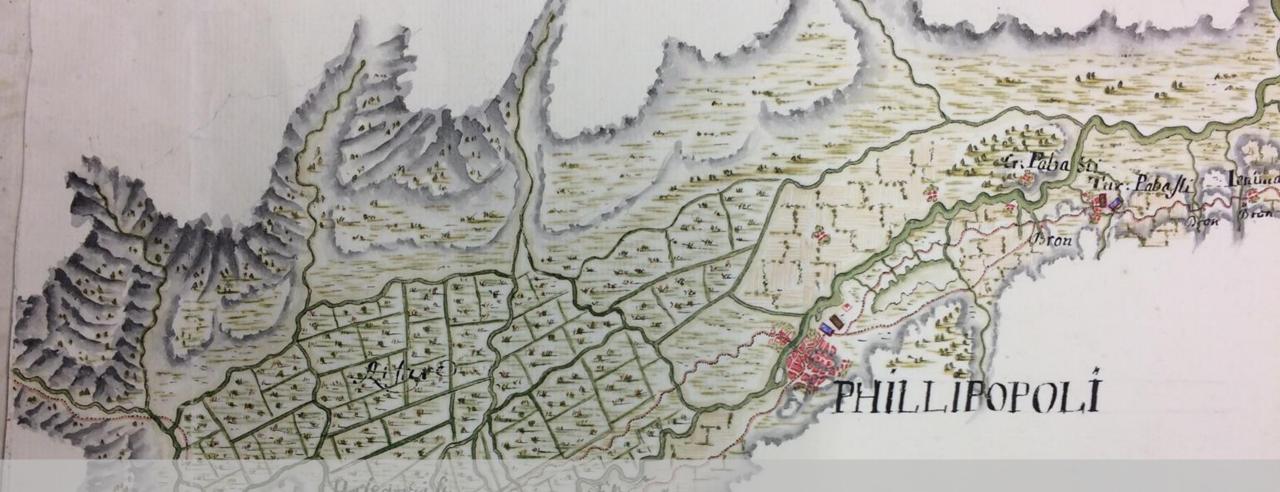


Summary

The study demonstrates the responsiveness of Ottoman rice plantations to climate changes depending on archive data and OWDA June July precipitation data. Tax entries, records concerning malaria, organization of the paddies and workforce, as well as one sample study of accounting books of a rice farm in Plovdiv (Filibe, Philipolis), show that rice data is important for research on climate, disease and landscape.







The story of rice in the Ottoman Balkans is an entangled history of living beings, water, land, and the climate in Southeast Europe and the

Middle East.

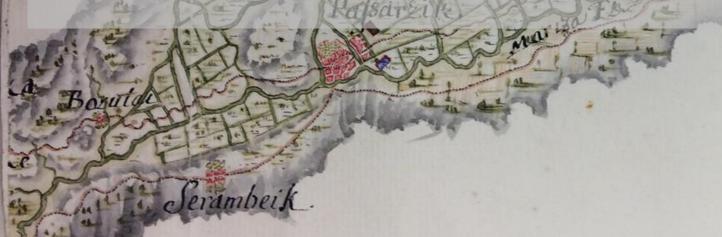


In Early Modern times, anthropogenic intrusions into the environment grew significantly. New institutional bodies in Absolutist states enforced larger-scale displacements or replacements of plants, animals, human beings and raw materials. They introduced new plants and usages carrying them over continents and promoted the production and trade of some. The Ottomans promoted the agriculture of rice as a lucrative cash crop. Although known in Europe before, there was no mass production, until the Ottomans founded institutionalized state-owned rice plantations. A group of experts for the cultivation of rice called celtikcis implemented rice production in Anatolia and in the newly conquered Balkan lands. Consequently, rice plantations with kilometers-long canals directing the water of Balkan rivers such as Maritsa, Nishava, Vardar, Struma, and Mesta multiplied rapidly after the fifteenth century.

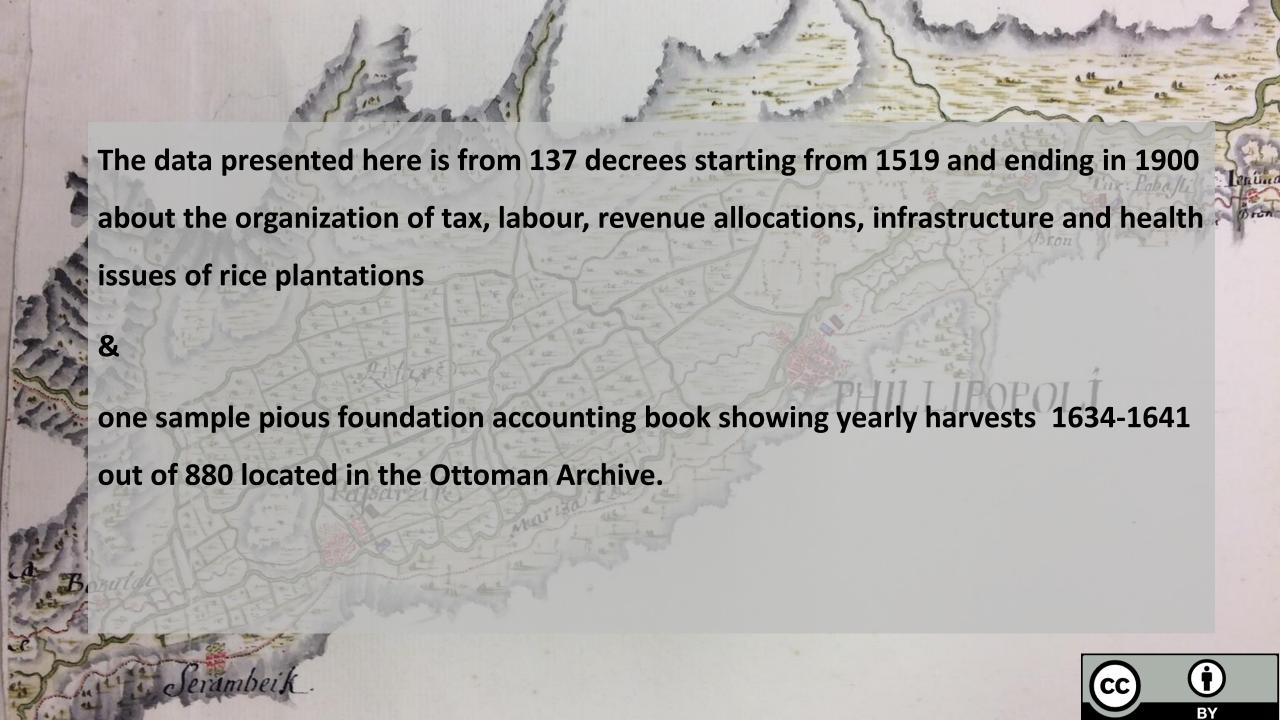


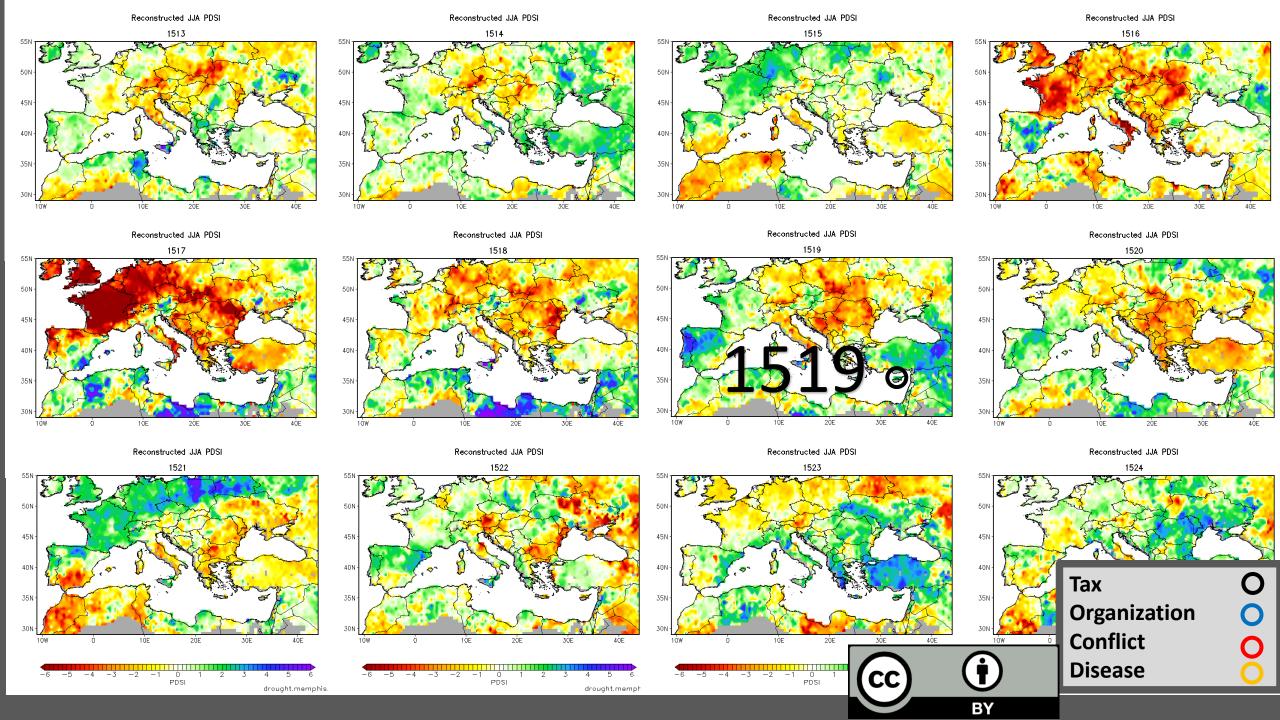


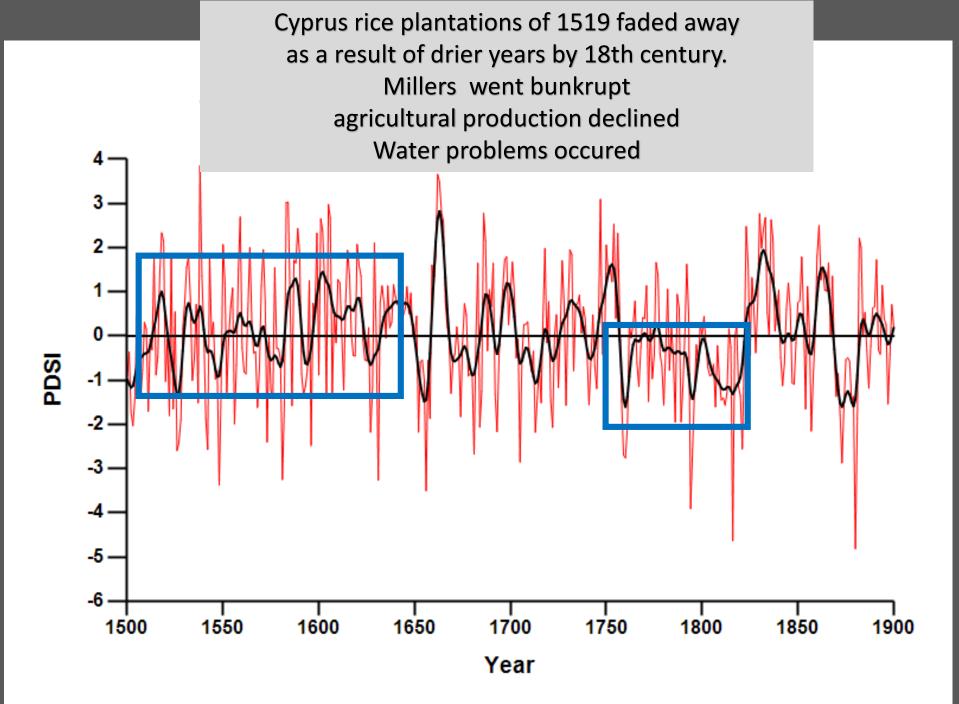
production had a fundamental social and environmental impact: Manpower had to be organized on a large scale; land reclamations, deforestation, and kilometres-long irrigation work changed the landscape, produced seasonal miasma and aquatic pests. The organization of the canals was an intrusion into the environment. Both deforestation and the muddy ground along the paddies was an invitation for mosquitos as the vectors carrying malaria. Farmers left their villages. Workforce became the most urgent problem in rice farms by the nineteeth century.



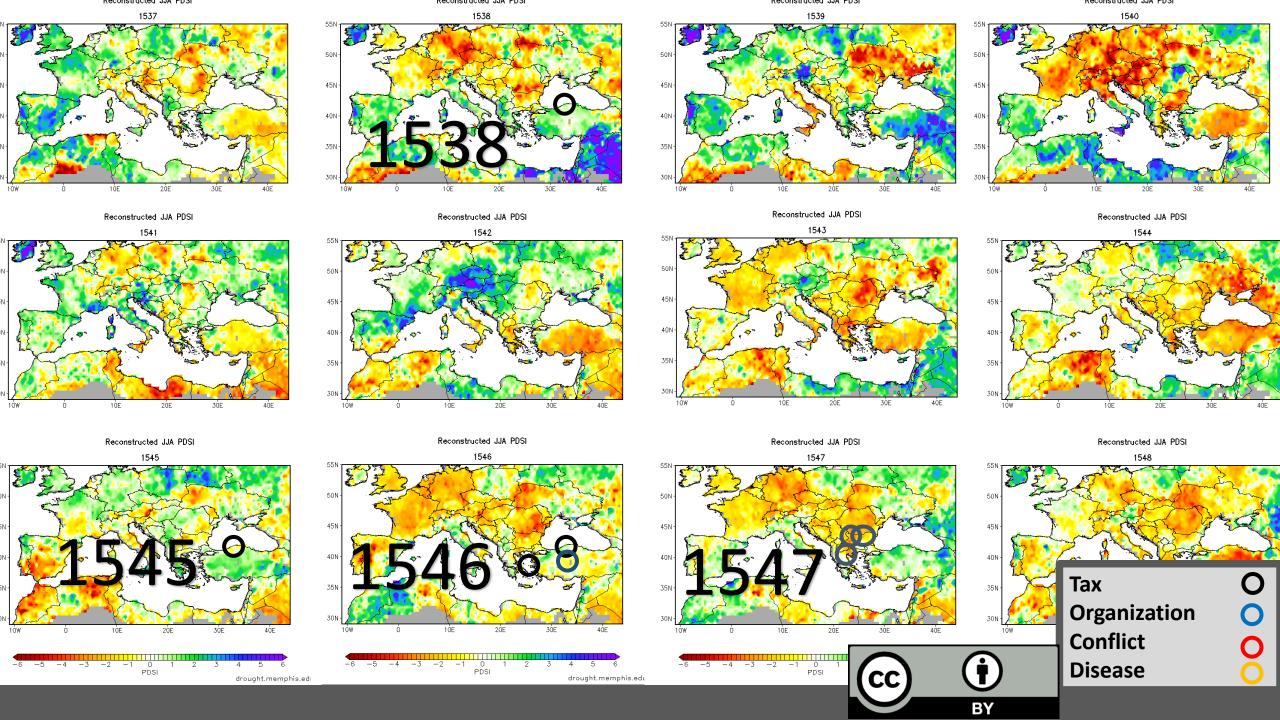


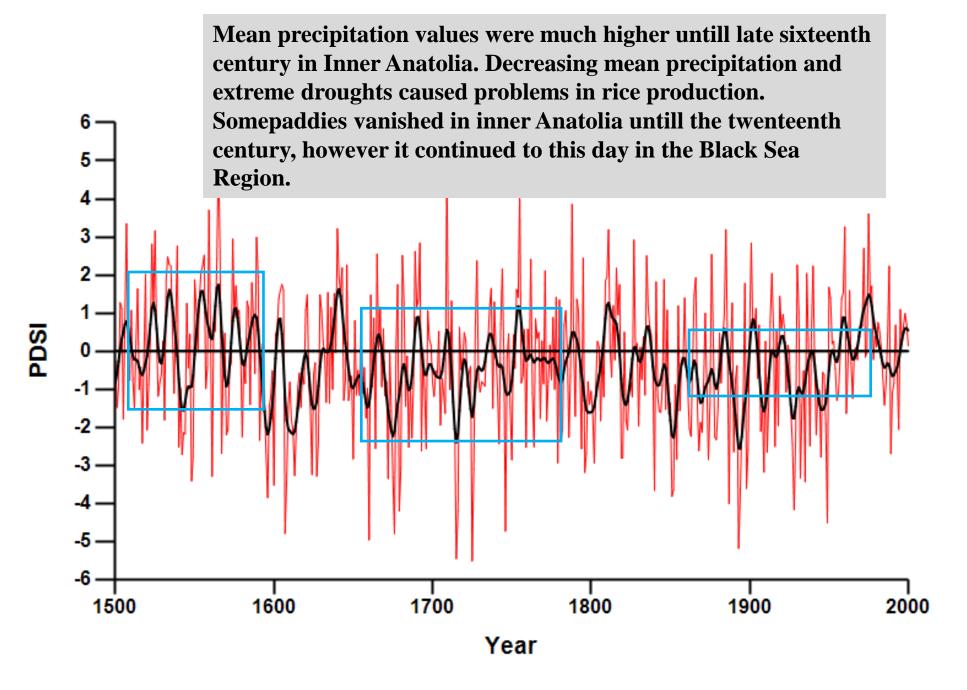


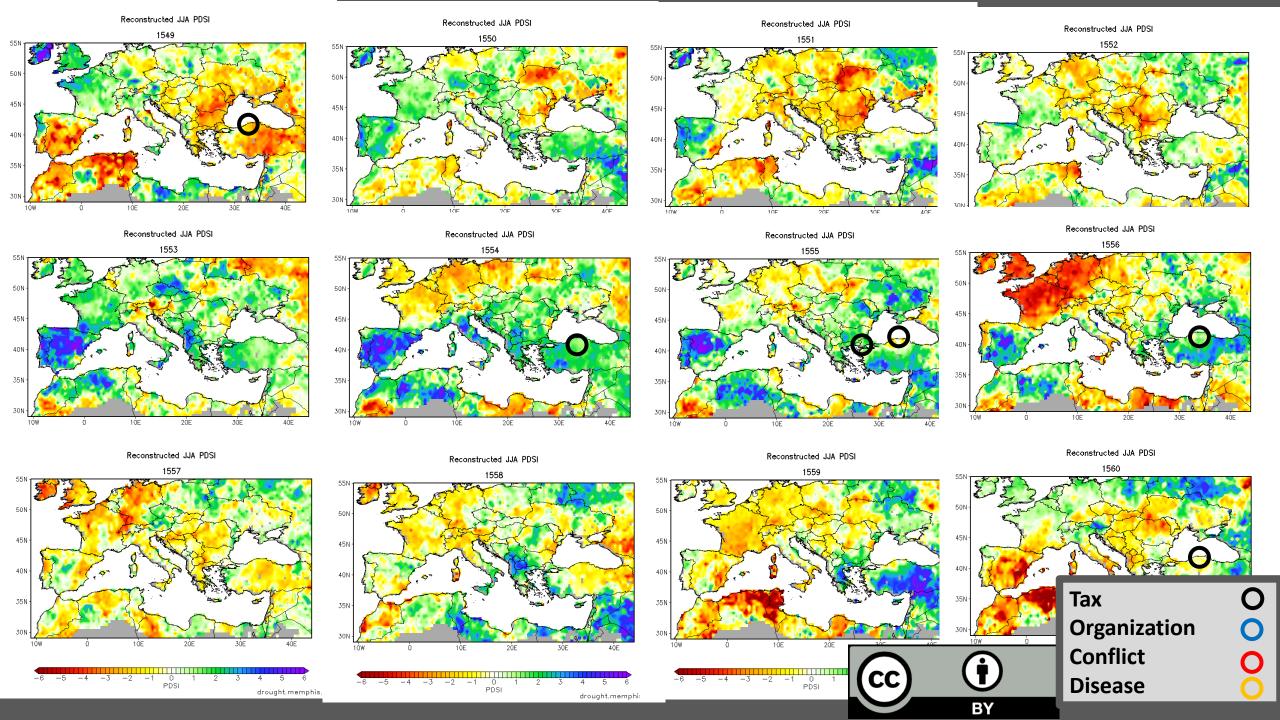


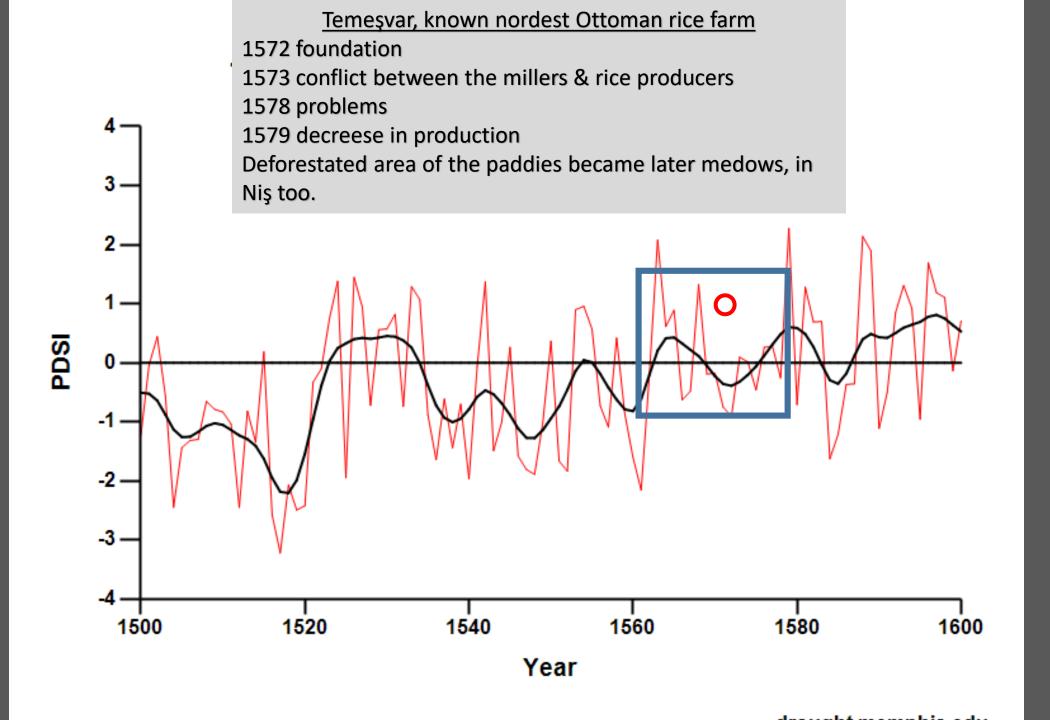




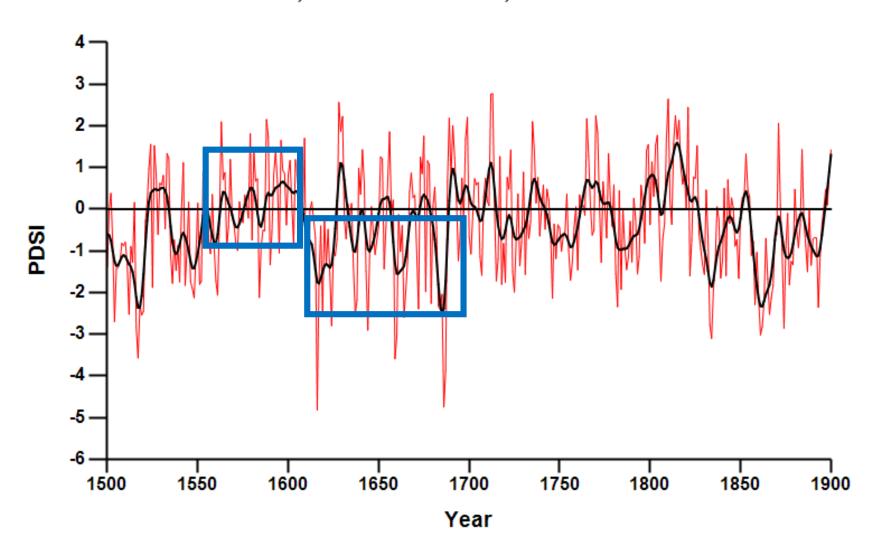




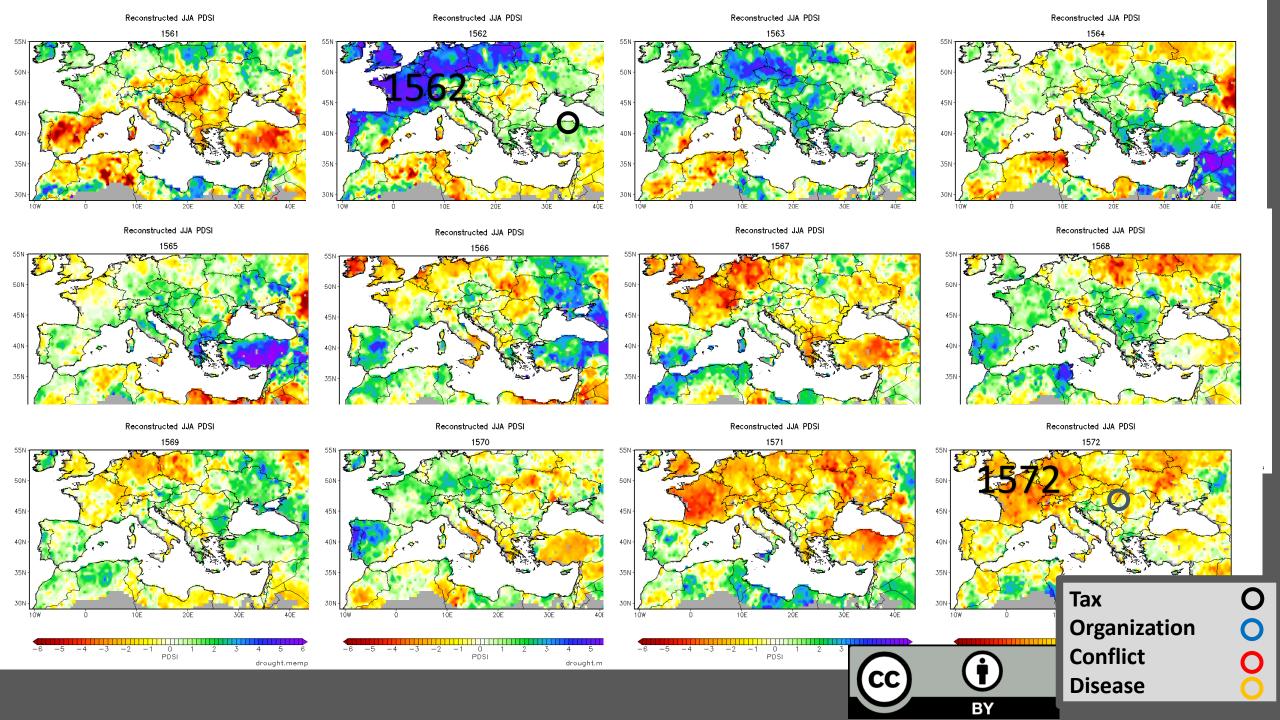


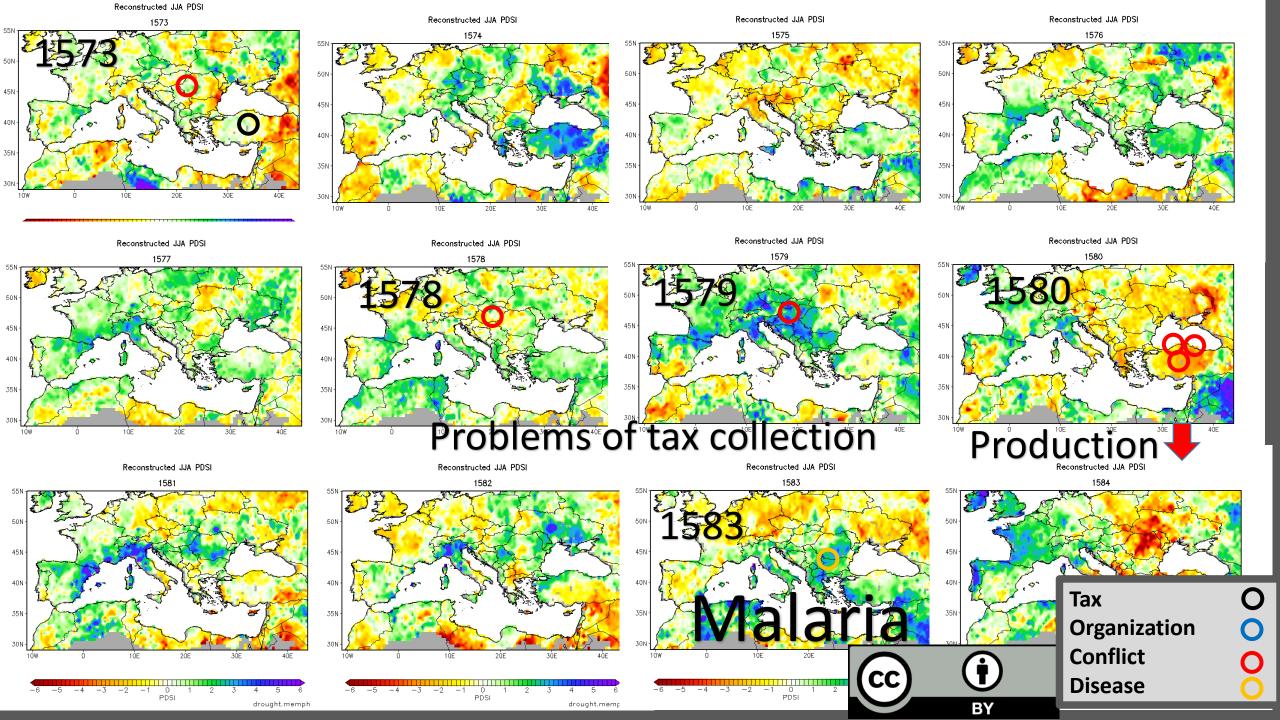


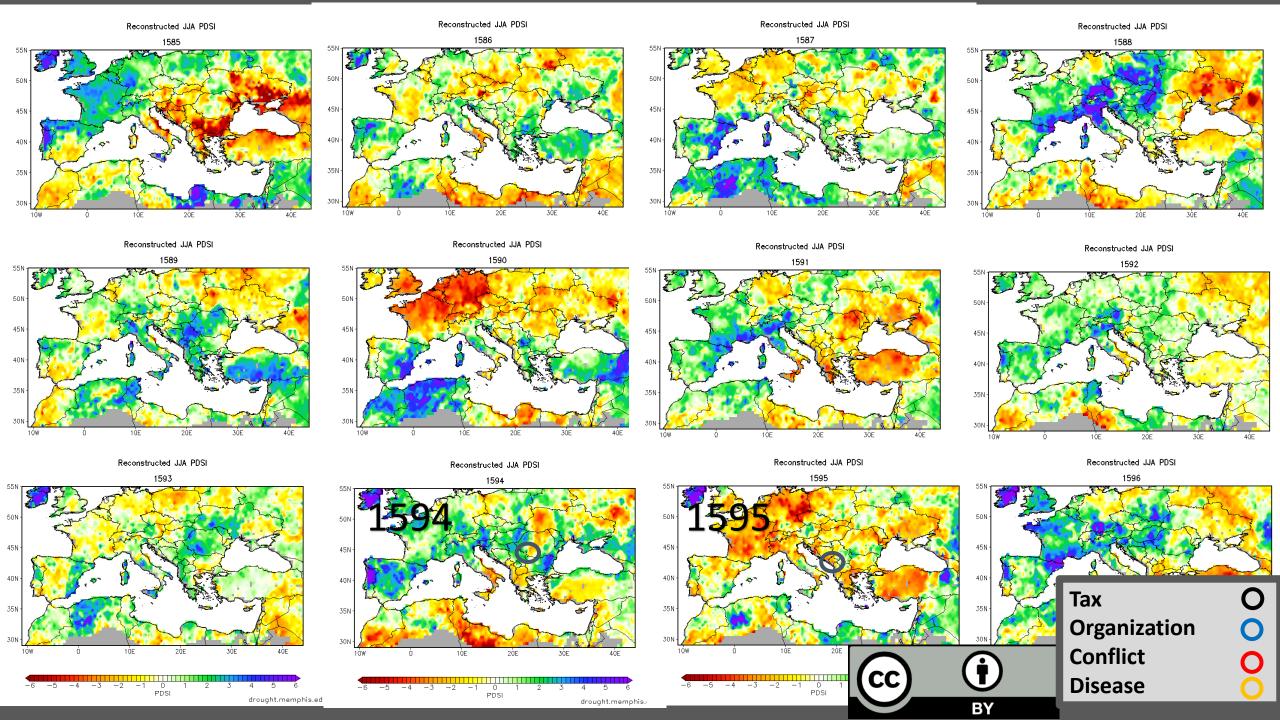
Reconstructed JJA PDSI 1500 - 1900, 44.47°N - 49.34°N, 17.89°E - 26.31°E

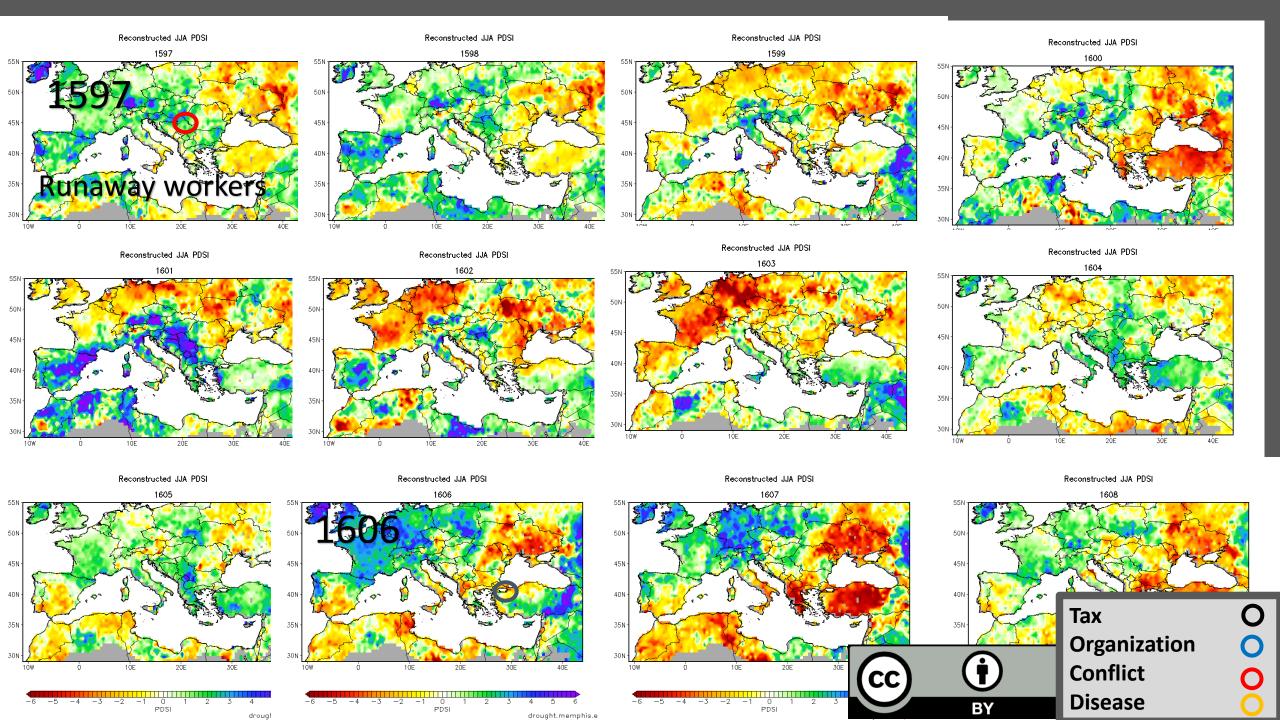


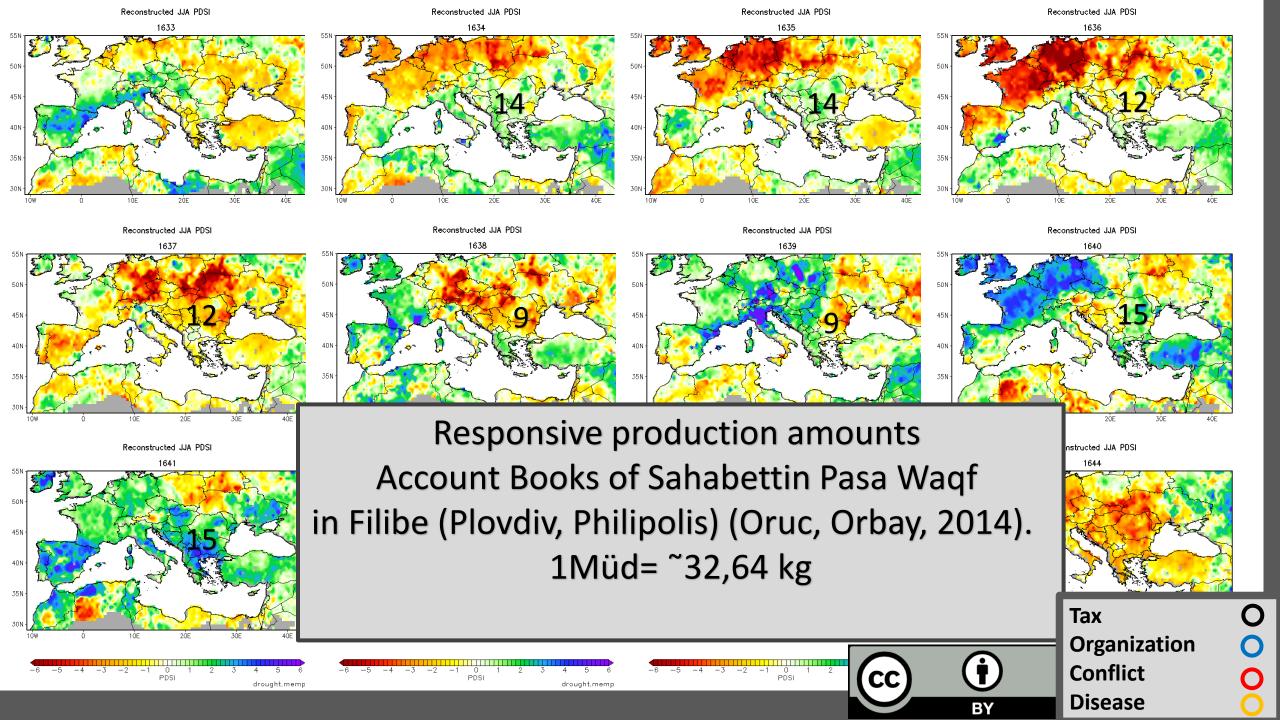
drought.memphis.edu

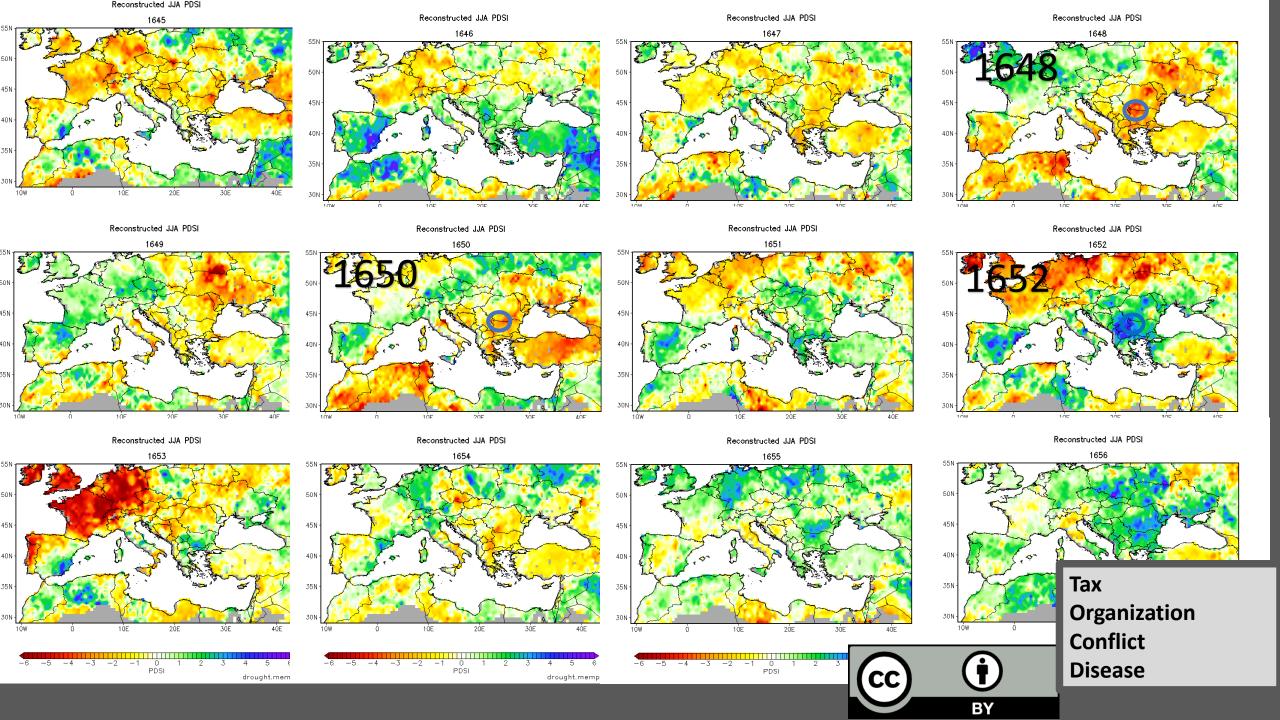


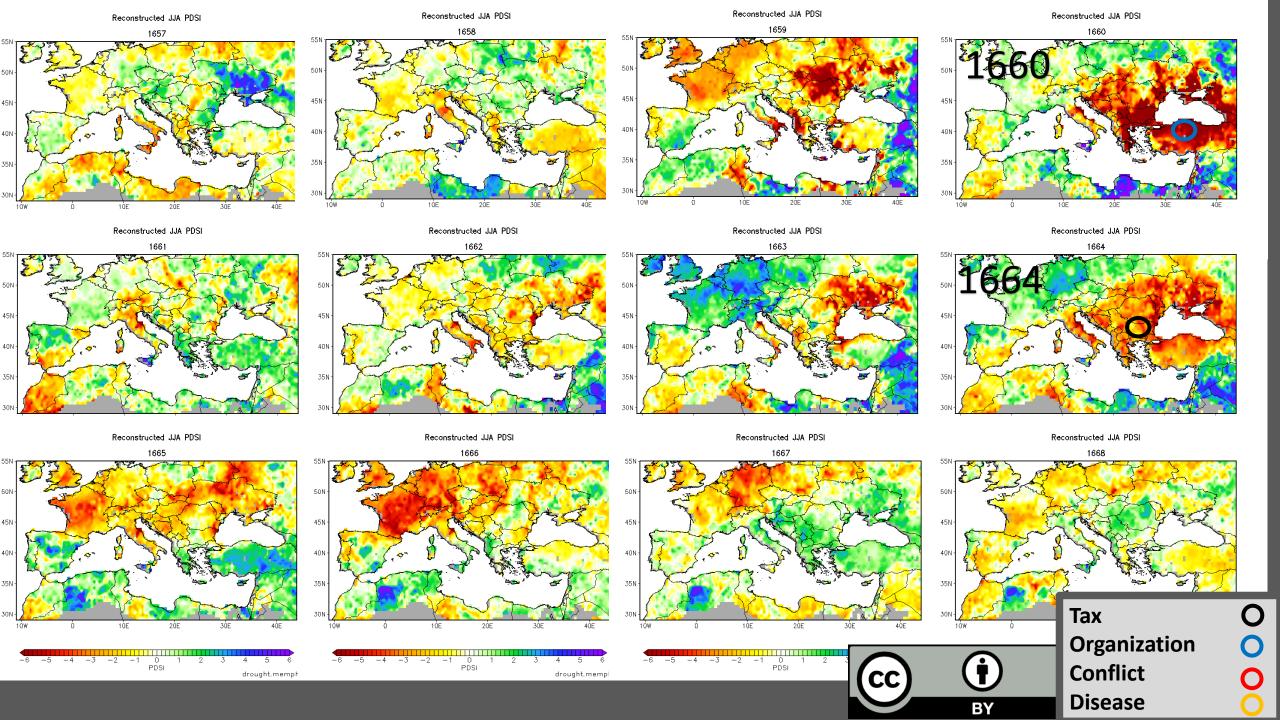


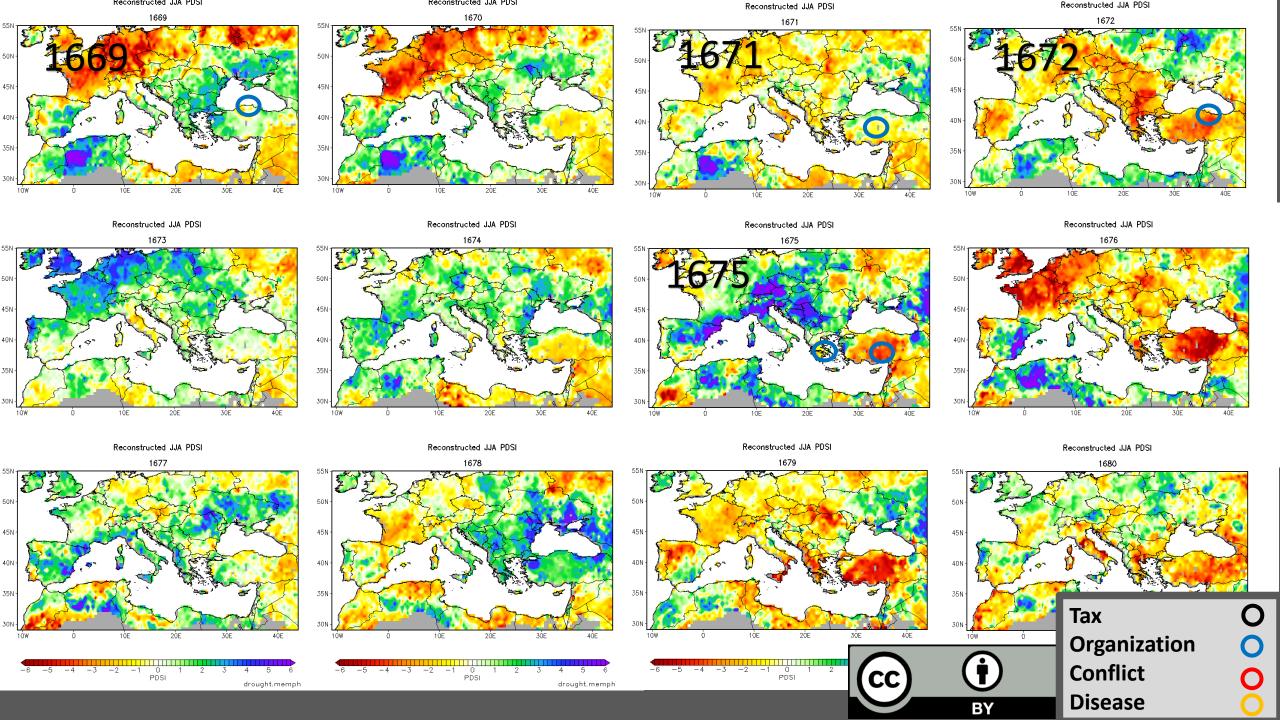


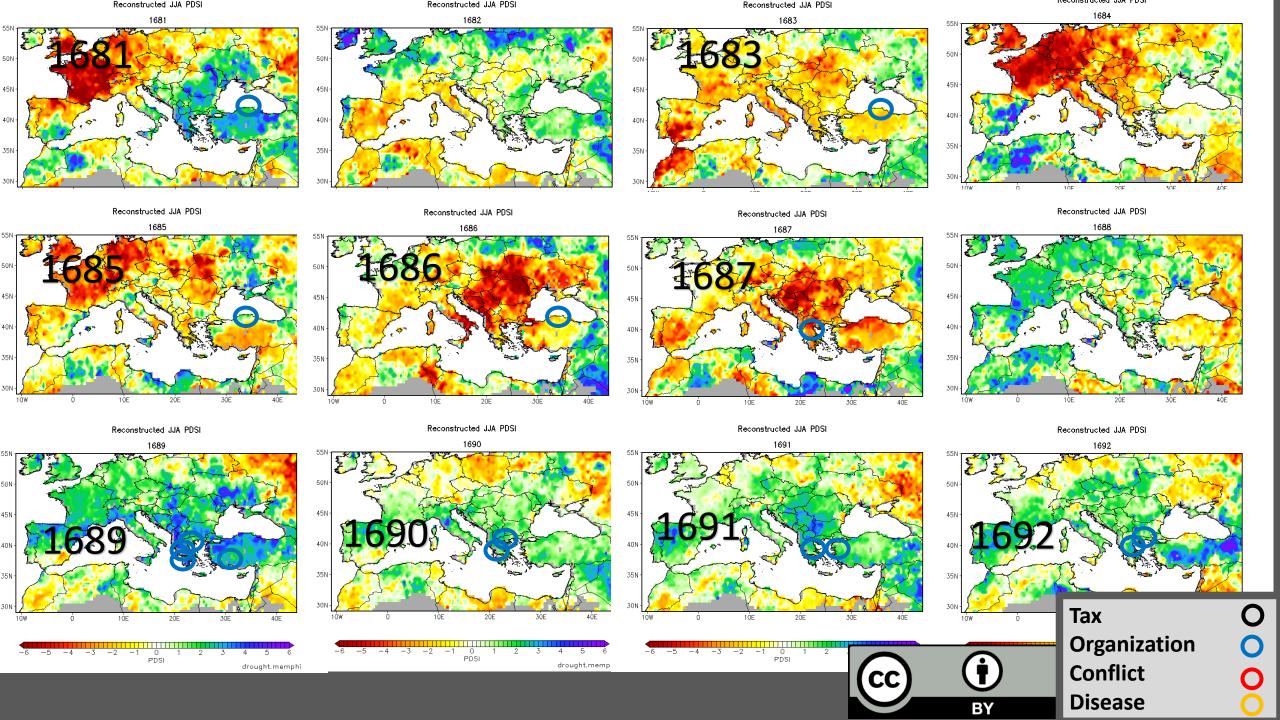


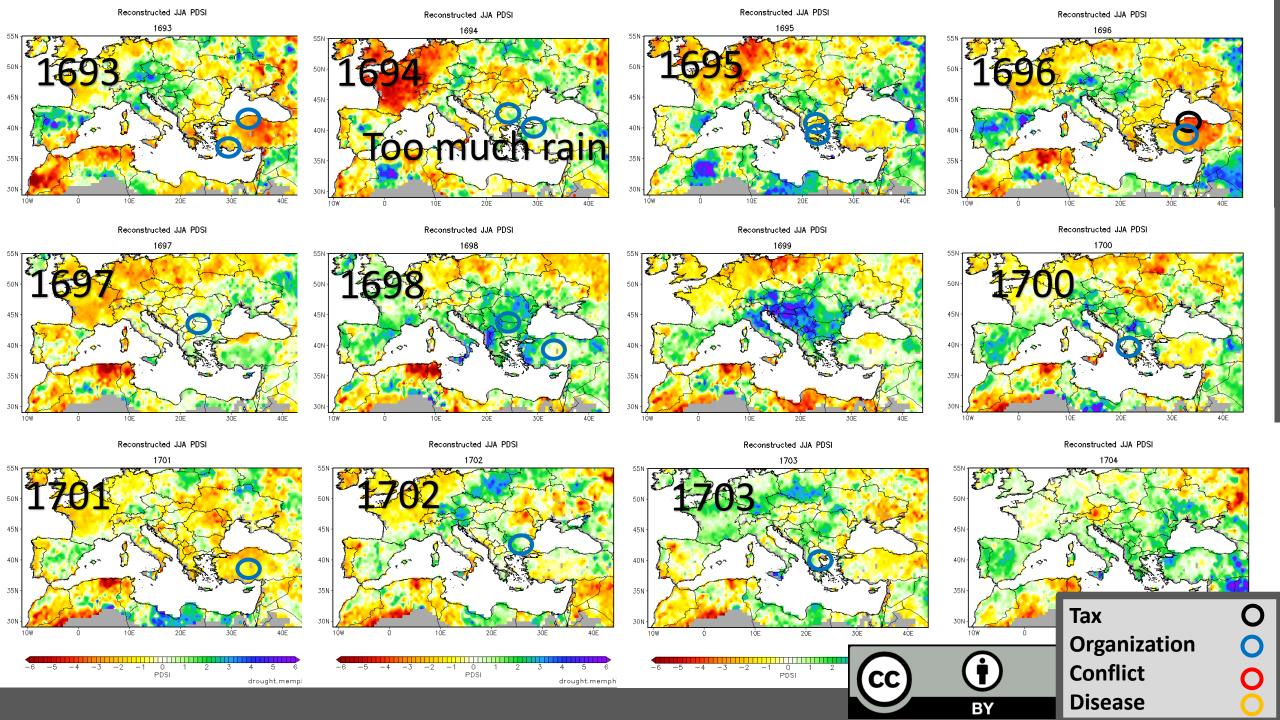


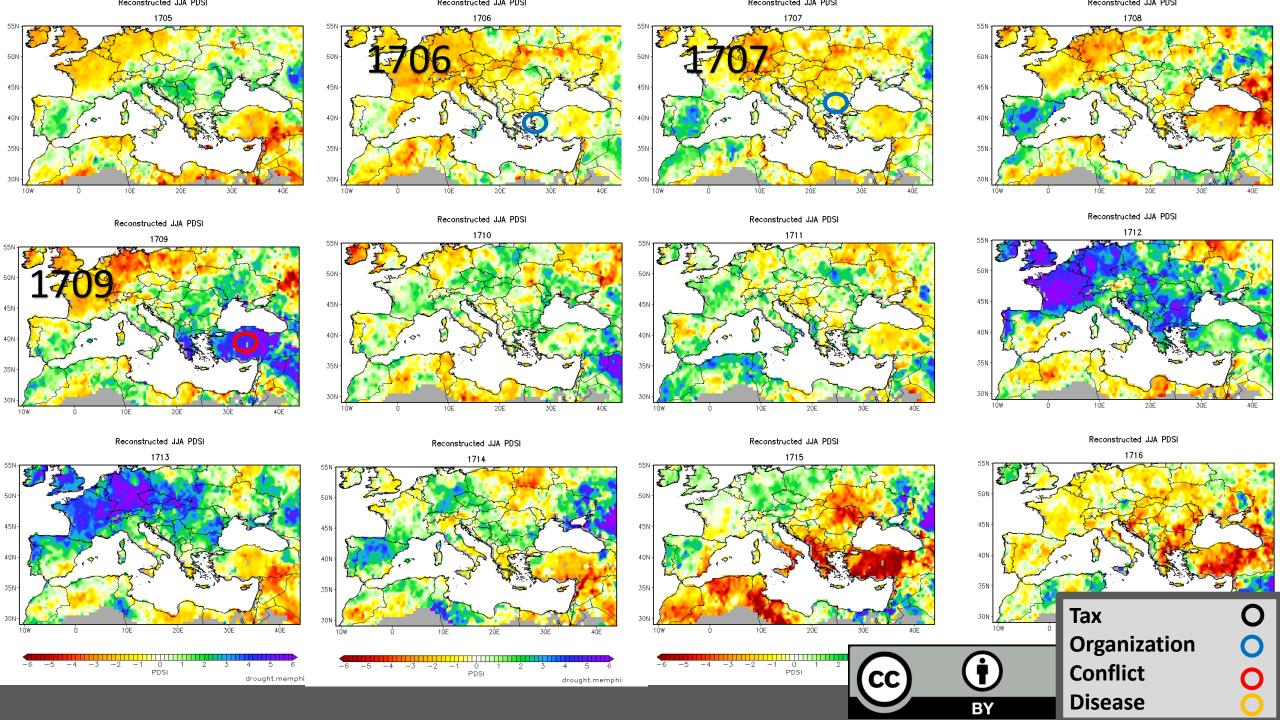


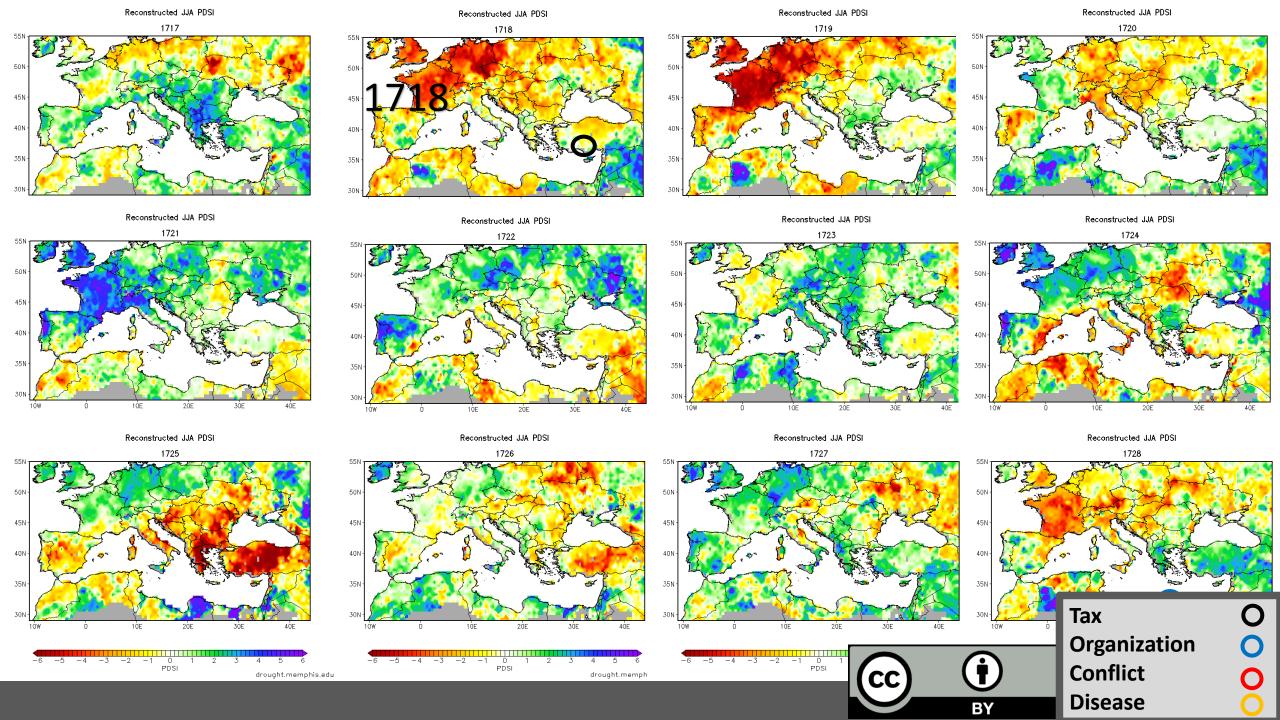


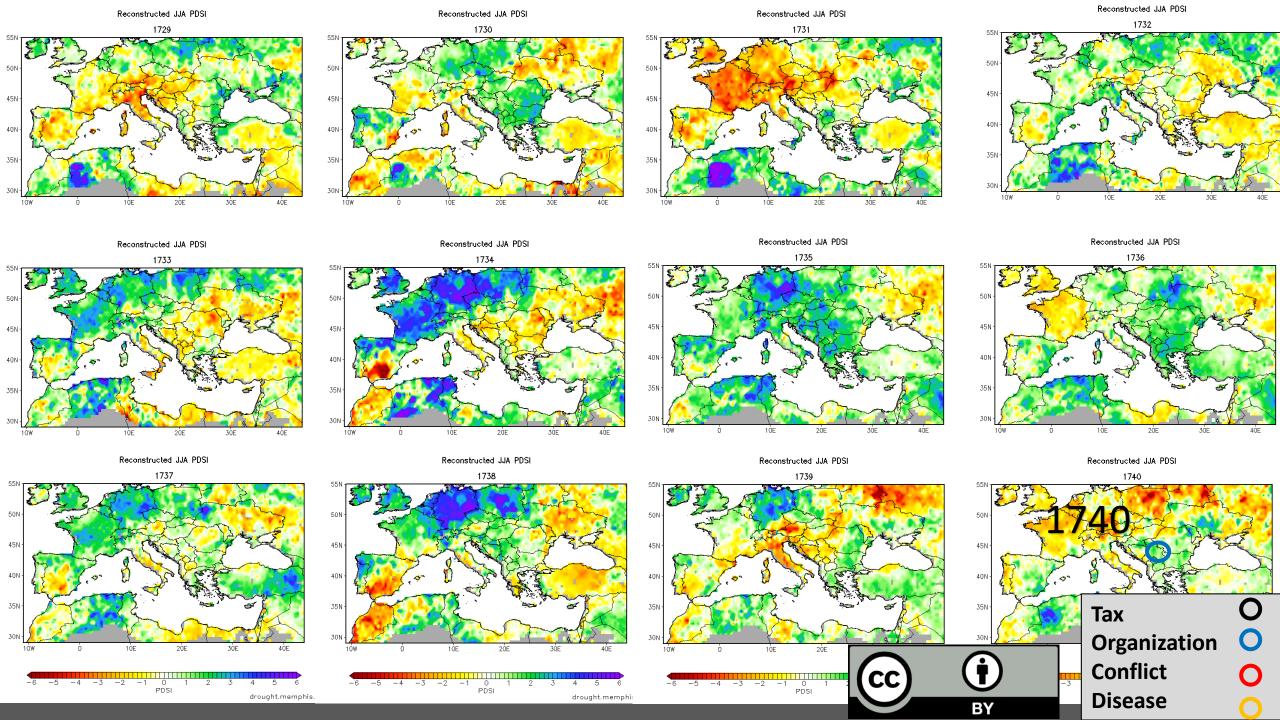


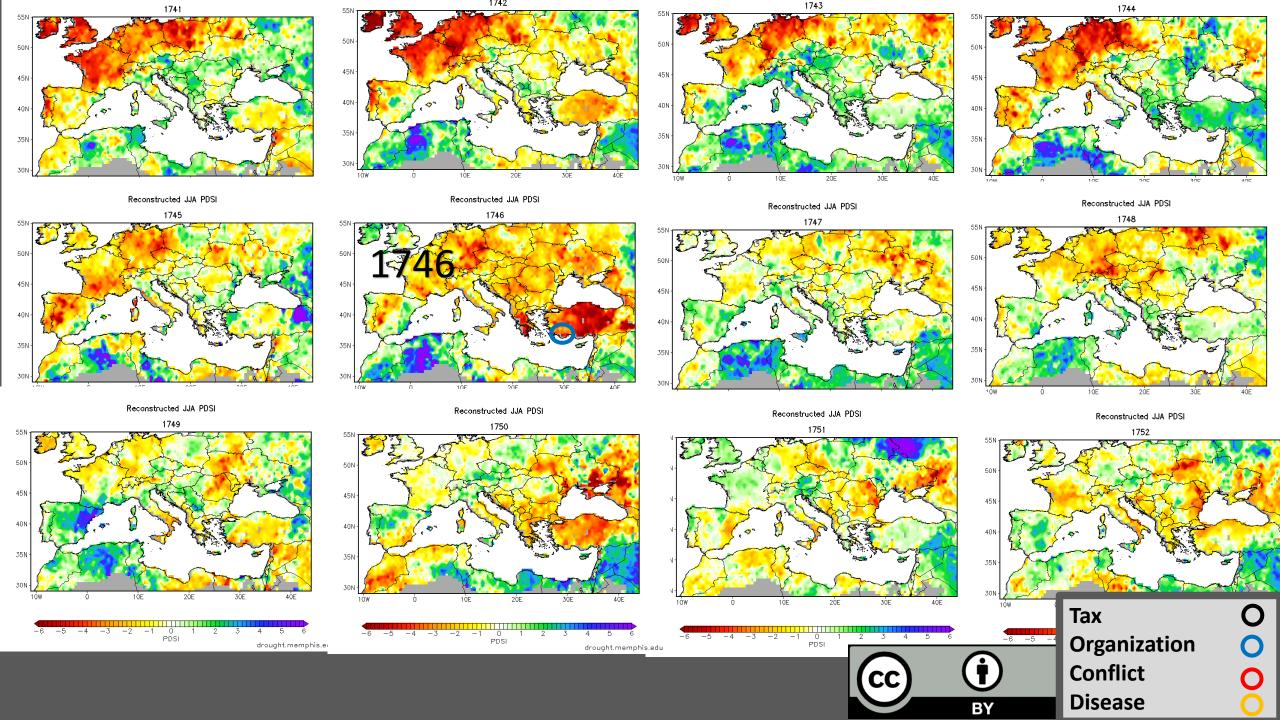


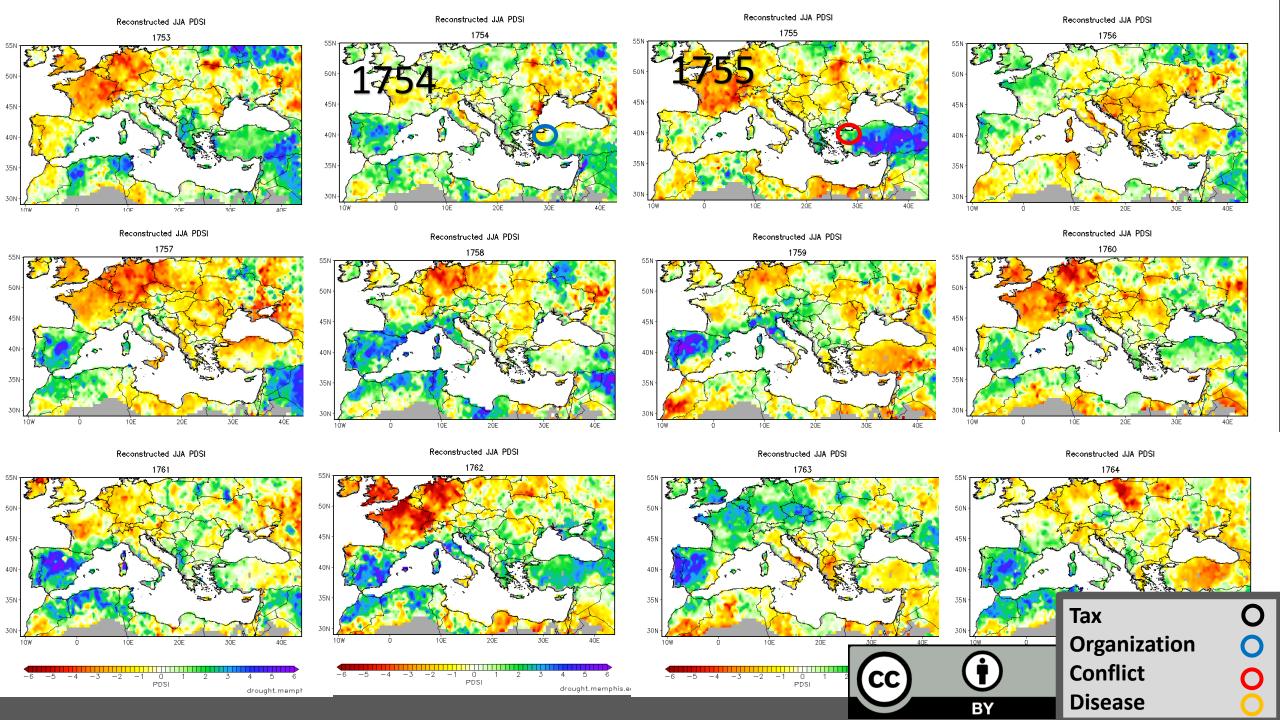


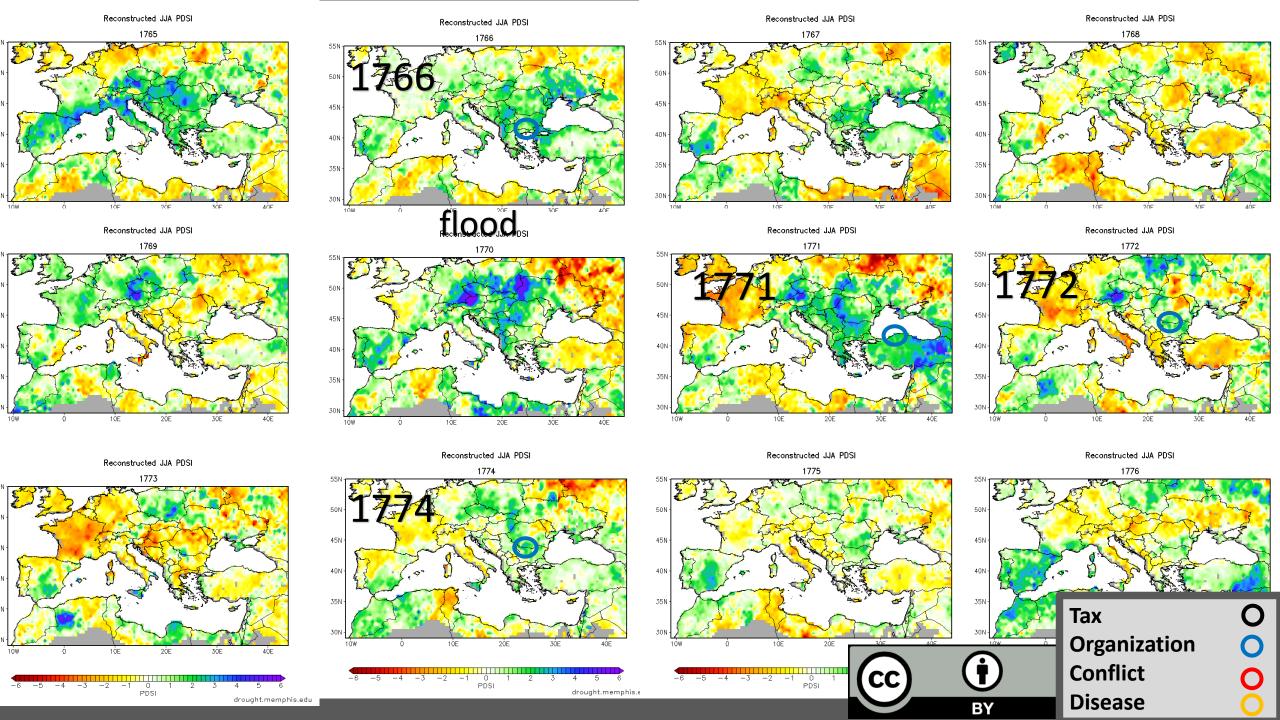


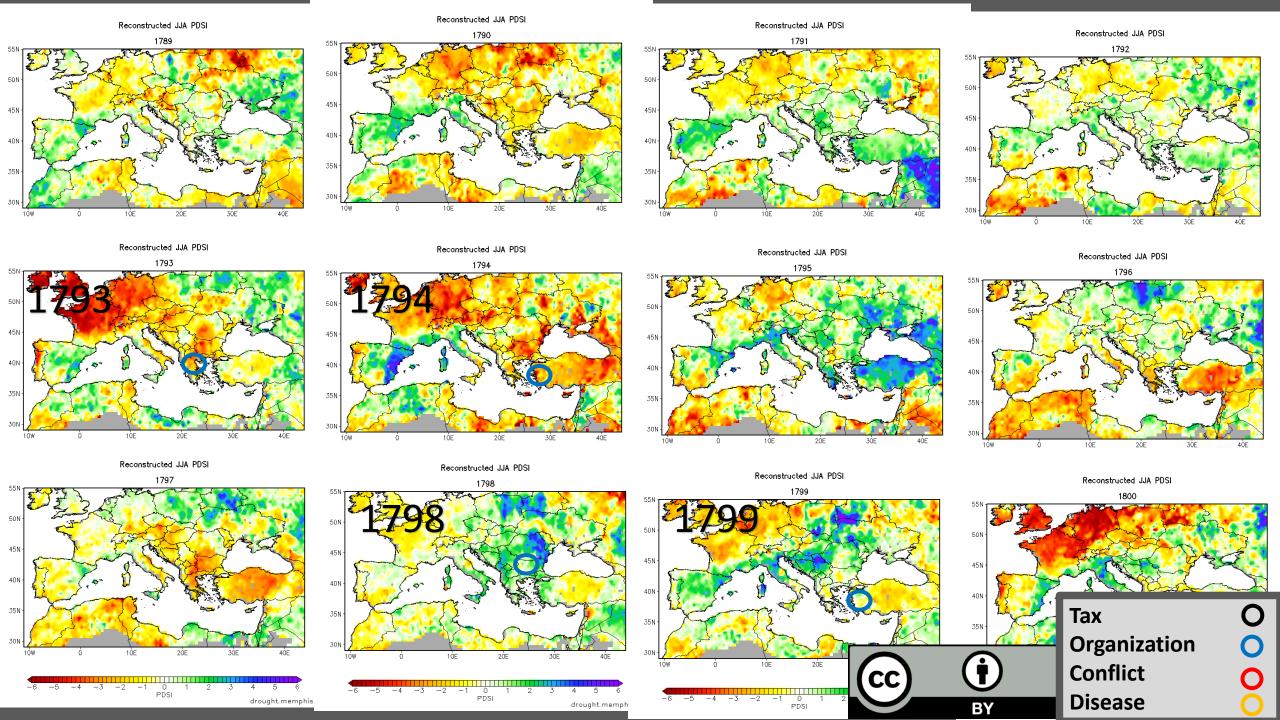


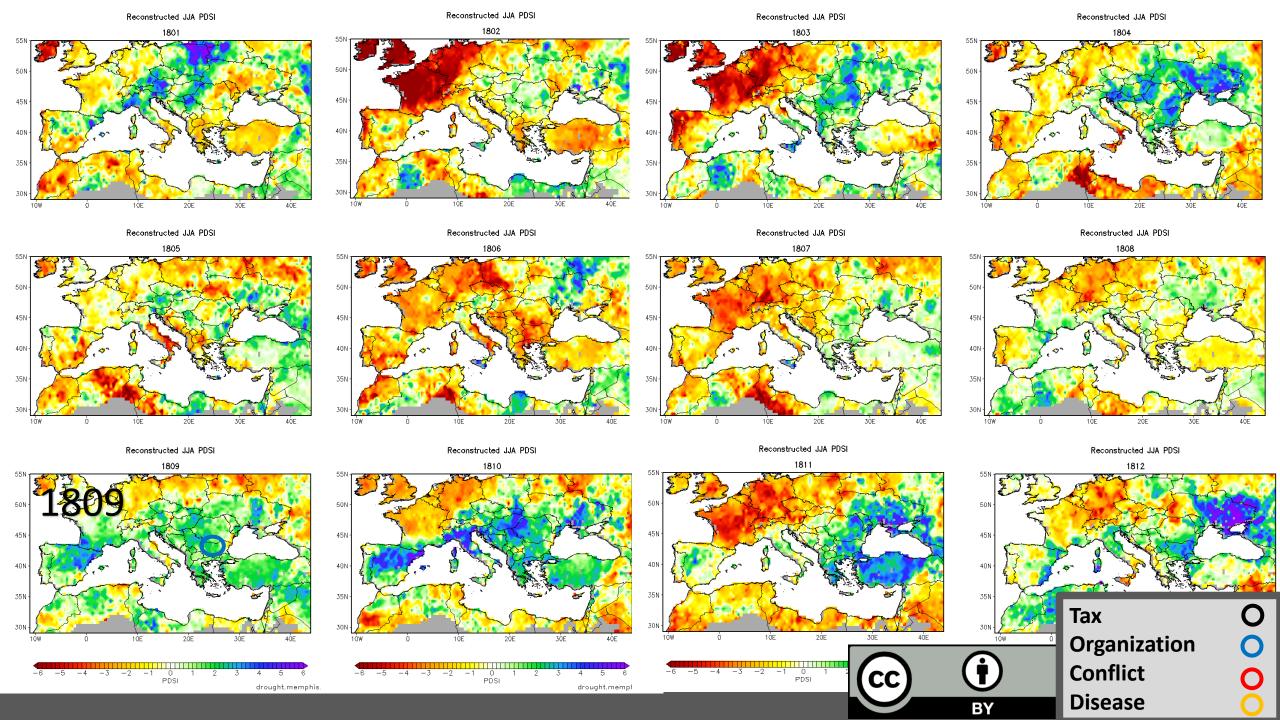


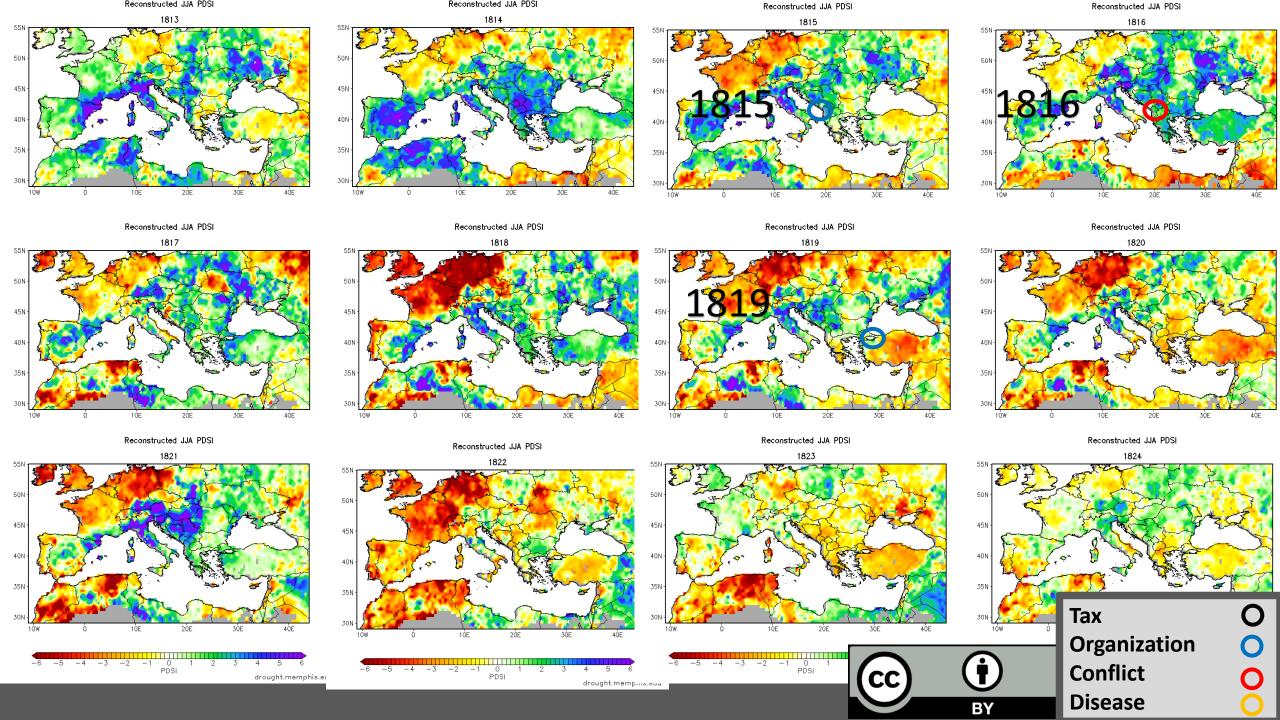


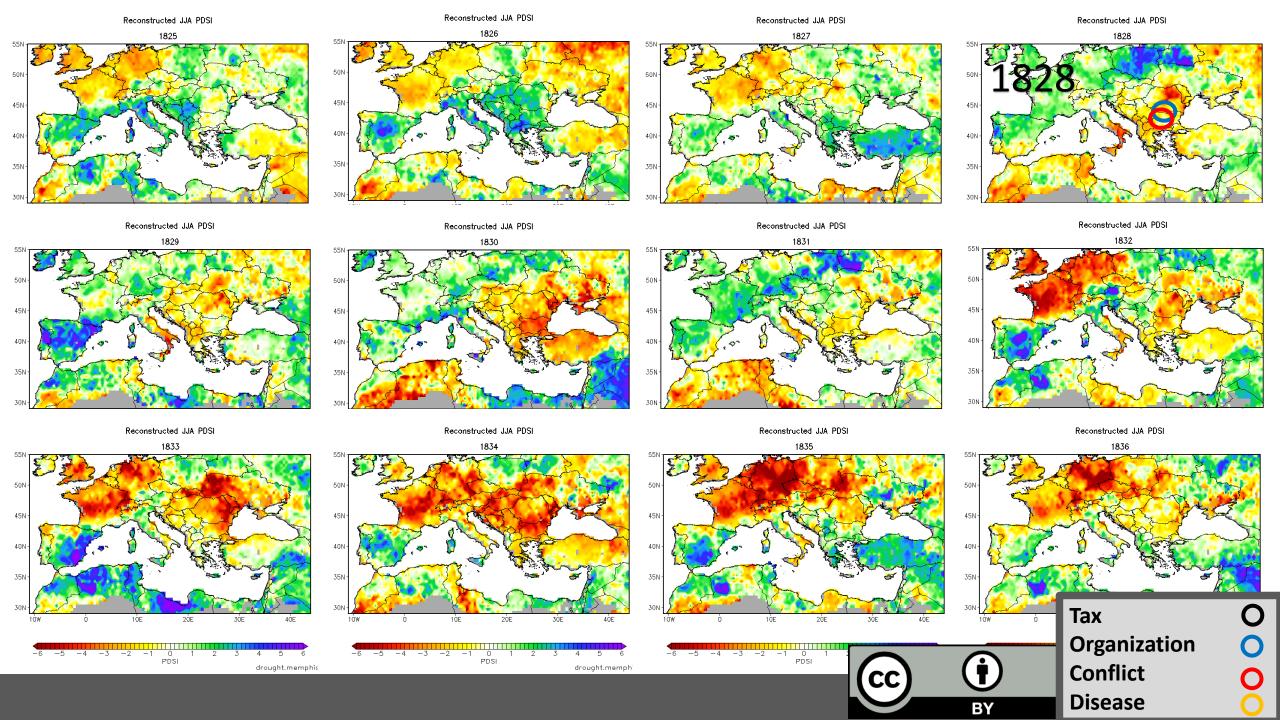


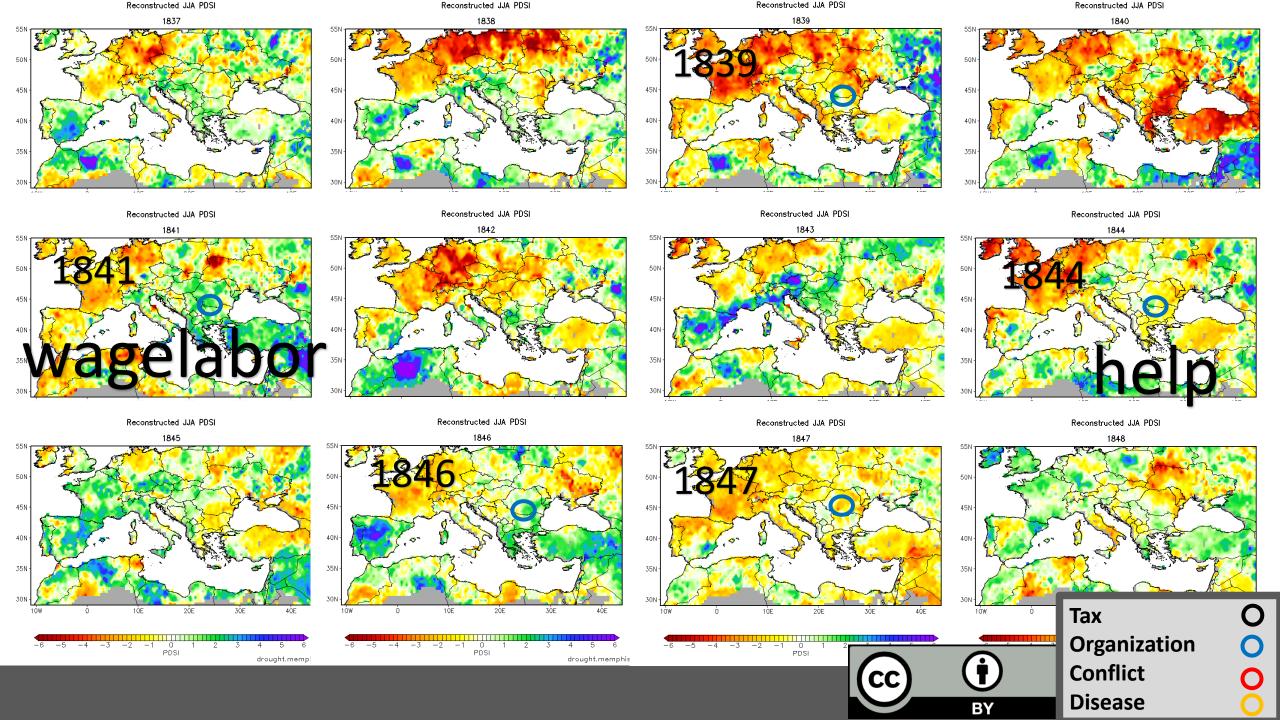


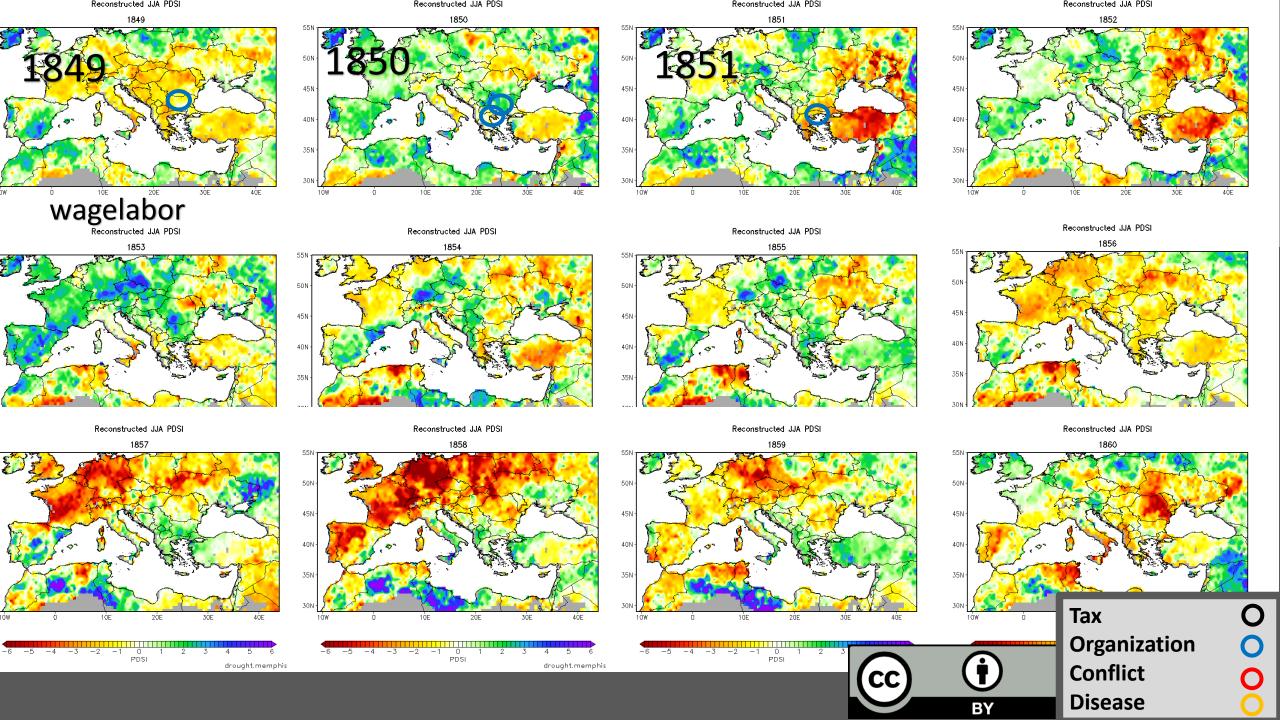


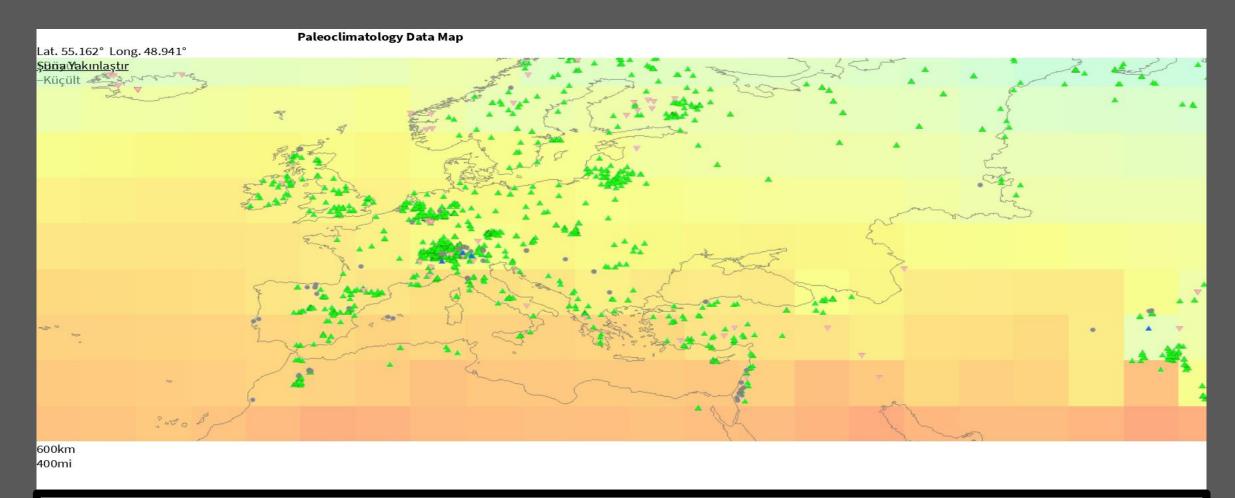












For South East Europe, we not only have less tree ring data, but we also have very few speleothems, paleolimnology and pollen data. Ottoman Archive has hundreds of accounting books for building a reliable proxy data.

