09/29

Dr. Otto Knowbetter!! Yay!

Biology, History, Climatology, and Culture are all connected.

St. Patrick’s Day?

Why corned beef and cabbage? Why green beer?

St. Patrick – Roman British born 387-460 AD

Capture and became a slave in Ireland at 16, escaped 6 years later and went back to Ireland

Problems with ethic: charging for baptisms, accepting “gifts” from women

Roman Practice of assimilation: 8th century AD 700 years after dying

Patron Saint of Ireland – no mention of snakes

Why do 37.5 million Americans have Irish ancestry?

Why are there pockets of Irish Ancestry?

Boston, New york, Reno

Immigration! So why again?

Geography, Climate, Biology, all that jazz

Climate: there was a change. Global Maxima

Farming explodes

Lots of food 🡪 lots of kids 🡪 more labour 🡪 more food

Lots of protein 🡪 food preservation

Ice sheet retreats 🡪 fishing fleets

Lengthens growing seasons 🡪 warm weather crops

Then the little Ice Age hits and everything changes

Growing seasons shorten

Colder 🡪 wetter 🡪 snow in every month 🡪 shorter growing season

Can’t grow warm weather crops

Lots of people 🡪 food shortages 🡪 Wealthy & Holy are fine, but 🡪 Peasants are starving 🡪 Revolutions

So you have to adapt! You have to grow crops that flourish in colder weather with a shorter season

Preservation techniques change because food has to last longer

Pickling, fermentation, Salting, Root cellars, sugaring (honey and mummies, so gross!)

They start pickling everything!

Cucumbers, onions, beets, cabbage, meats, eggs, fish (different way of pickling using water and common mold! Who knew!)

Look up olives and lye.

Harvesting and storage of grain

Can’t do wheat (winter wheat not developed yet)

Too short of a growing season, wheat can’t mature

Rye has a shorter growing season

Wet and cool wheat leads to growth of molds and fungi. The stuff you depend on for pickling is bad for your wheat

Ergot-mold that grows in between the kernels of Rye

Is a hallucinogen: Lysergic Acid

St. Anthony’s Fire: 40,000-60,000 executed

Hallucinations of fire coming from hands

Now that you can’t grow grains…now what?

COWS!!! …And pigs…

That’s why there is a meat and potato diet

Ireland: Perfect soil, perfect climate…for potatoes

80% of their calories from potatoes

US – 80% of calories comes from corn

Perfect storm for disaster: Protista in the soil

No harvest/ no calories (unless you were rich or a priest. Those bastards always eat)

Ireland loses 25% of your population

1 mil die of starvation, 1.5 immigrate