

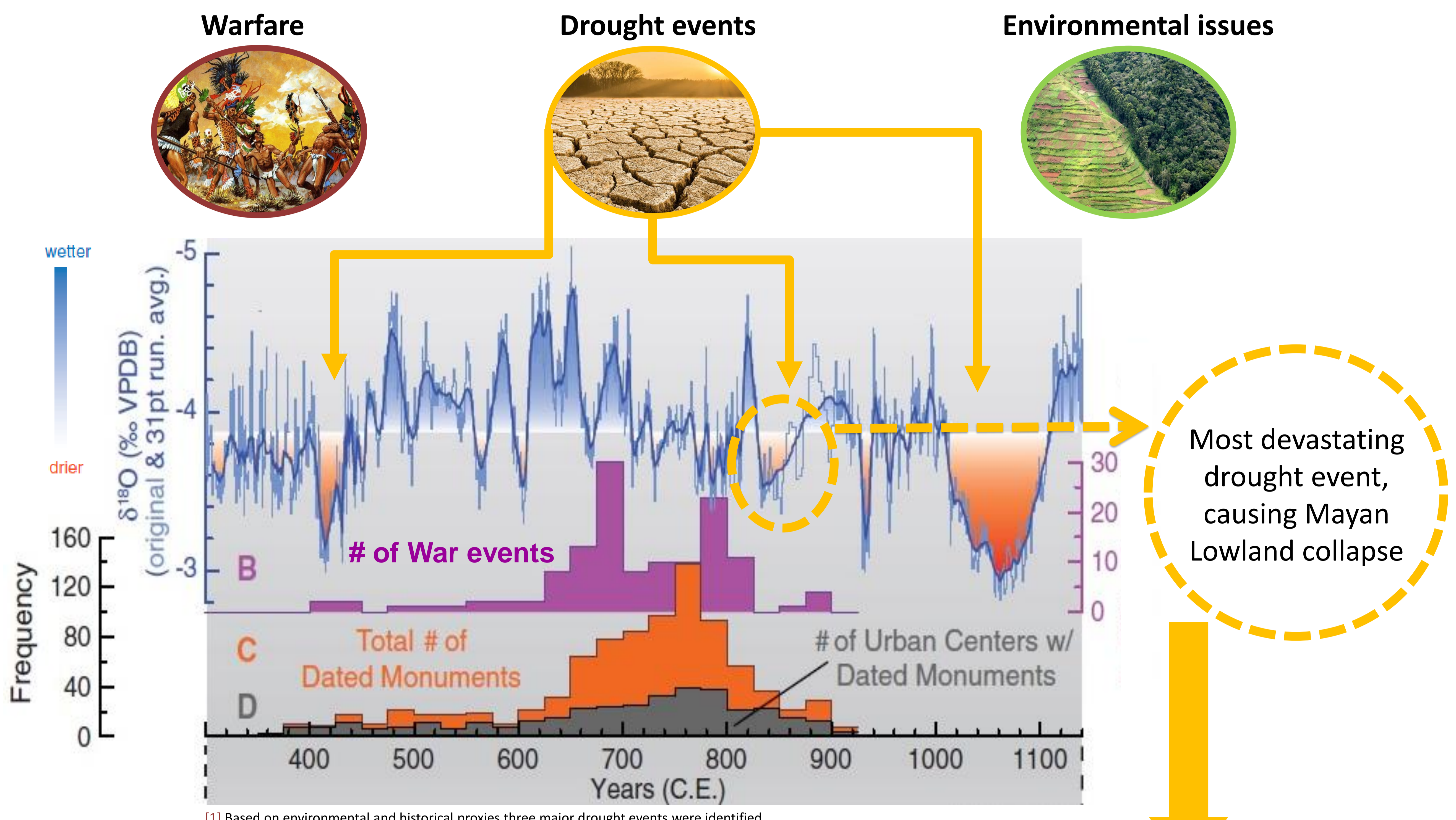


# The Collapse of Mayan civilization - an hypothesis based on climate change

Pratigya Gyawali, Juan Francisco Diaz Gonzalez  
Msc LENC – Greifswald University

## Introduction

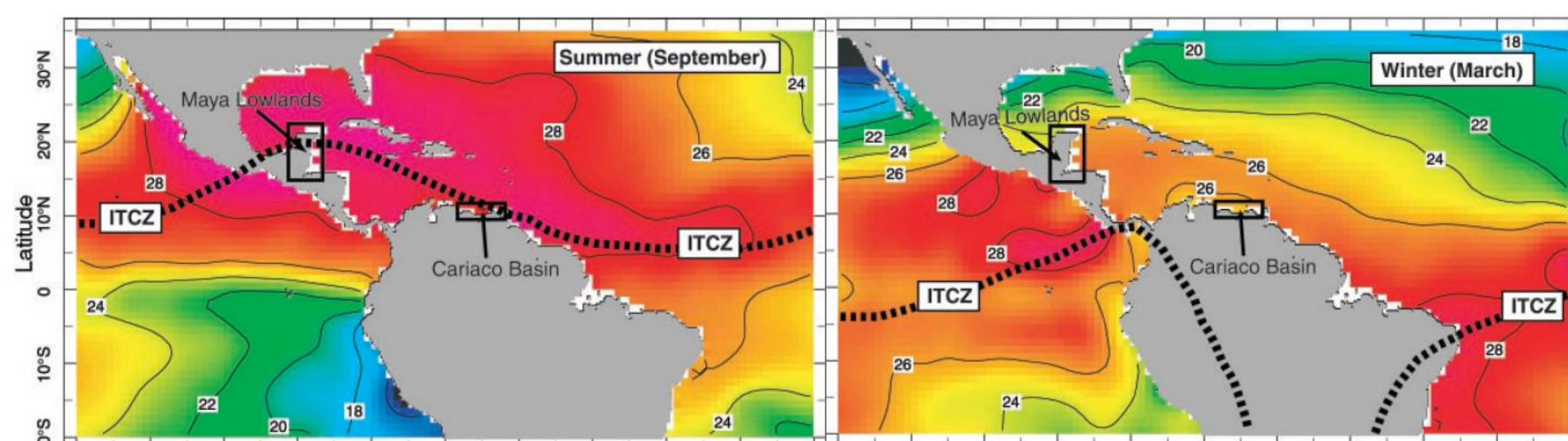
- The Mayan civilization has a history of approximately 4000 years long.
- Despite its solid social and economic structure they got collapsed for reasons still in debate.
- There are three hypotheses related to the collapse of the Mayan civilization.



[1] Based on environmental and historical proxies three major drought events were identified.

## Potential drought mechanisms

- Shifting of the ITCZ towards the south
- Intensification "El Niño" phase of ENSO



[2] Variations in the mean position of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over Mesoamerica. Numbers and colors reflect sea surface temperatures in degrees Celsius

## Effects

- Disappearance of urban centers
- Decrease of war events
- Civilization shifted to Mayan highland



[3] Migration of Mayan civilization because of drought event

**THREE MAJOR DROUGHT EVENTS AFFECTED MAYAN CIVILIZATION DURING ITS DEVELOPMENT. THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE OCCURED FROM 820 – 870 CE, LEADING TO THE MAYAN LOWLAND COLLAPSE.**

## Bibliography

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- [3] *National Geographic*. (n.d.). Retrieved June 30, 2020, from <https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2012/12/30/geography-in-the-news-demise-of-the-maya/>
- [4] Pete D. Akers et al., (2016). An extended and higher-resolution record of climate and land use from stalagmite MC01 from Macal Chasm, Belize, revealing connections between major dry events, overall climate variability, and Maya sociopolitical changes. *Elsevier*, 268-288.



VIDEO ABSTRACT



Pratigya Gyawali



Juan Francisco Diaz G.