



*Top:* Reconstructed sunspot activity (10 year average) for the last 11,400 years based on C-14 data (blue curve) and the directly observed historical sunspot data since 1610 (red curve). The reliable C-14 data ends around the year 1900 so that the sharp increase in sunspot activity in the 20th century does not appear in the graph. The reconstruction shows clearly that a comparable period of high sunspot activity previously existed over 8000 years ago.

*Below:* An enlarged section of the upper graph (hatched area) with several episodes of higher sun activity, comparable to the 20th century.

*Adapted from Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research*