



Geoffrey Parker

(Andreas Dorpalen Professor of History, The Ohio State University; Professor Parker's books include *Europe in Crisis, 1598-1648*, *The Grand Strategy of Philip II*, and *Global Crises*)



Photo by Joe McNulty

Climate and Crisis: War, Famine, and Empires in the 1590s

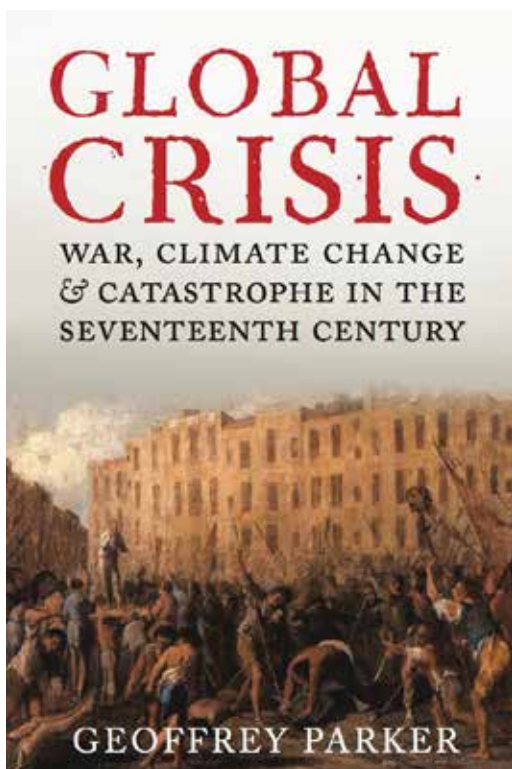
Tuesday, April 29, 2014
5:30 p.m., Fischer Hall

University of Notre Dame
1-4 Suffolk Street
London SW1Y 4HG

and by simulcast to the University of Notre Dame, Indiana

Open to all. Those attending in London are asked to register by email to lonconf@nd.edu.

A reception will follow the lecture



In 1985, a book entitled *The European crisis of the 1590s: essays in comparative history*, edited by Peter Clark, examined the experience of ten individual regions of western Europe, eight of them ruled either by Philip II or by his principal enemies: Elizabeth Tudor, Henry IV of France, and the Dutch. Although the individual authors noted individual disasters – in France, a combination of famine, plague and war reduced agricultural and industrial production to the lowest levels recorded in three centuries, and the population of the kingdom fell by perhaps one-fifth – most concluded that it was merely one of the cyclical crises that afflicted Pre-Modern societies. Since then, the publication of data on the global climate reveals that the 1590s saw some of the worst weather ever recorded in the northern hemisphere, a severe episode in the ‘Little Ice Age’ – an era of major volcanic eruptions, reduced solar activity, and multiple El Niño events – linked with an increased frequency of plague and war.