Climate and Human Civilization over the last 18,000 years

Graph of reconstructed temperature (black, CO2, black, and red) data from the last 10,000 years, showing the Holocene Thermal Optimum and the Younger Dryas event. The Holocene Thermal Optimum (11,500 years to 12,500 years BP) was a period of relatively warm temperatures, followed by the Younger Dryas event, which was a period of cooling.

**Recent History:**
- **11,500 years ago:** Agriculture begins in China.
- **10,000 years ago:** The Sahara is a desert.
- **8,000 years ago:** The Sahara becomes a desert.
- **4,000 years ago:** The Sahara is a desert.

**Earliest Human Civilizations:**
- **12,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in the Near East.
- **10,000 years ago:** The Sahara becomes a desert.
- **8,000 years ago:** The Sahara becomes a desert.

**Recent Events:**
- **2015:** The Sahara is a desert.
- **2000:** Agriculture begins in the Near East.
- **1000:** The Sahara becomes a desert.

**Future Projections:**
- **2050:** The Sahara becomes a desert.
- **2100:** The Sahara becomes a desert.

**Climate Events:**
- **1954:** The Sahara becomes a desert.
- **1994:** The Sahara becomes a desert.

**Human Civilizations:**
- **14,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in the Near East.
- **12,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in China.
- **10,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in the Near East.
- **8,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in China.
- **6,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in China.

**Global Temperature Anomaly Data:**
- **1874-2015:** Global temperature anomaly data from CSIRO (Australia) and Church and White (2006).
- **1874-2015:** Temperature changes (°C) from 1874 to 2015.

**Vostok, Antarctica Air Temperature, relative to present, Petit et al., 1999:**
- **1900-2000:** Air Temperature (°C) from Alley (2004).
- **1950-2000:** Air Temperature (°C) from Alley (2004).

**Global Hydrology and Climate Center:**
- **1979-2015:** Global temperature anomaly data from CSIRO (Australia) and Church and White (2006).
- **1979-2015:** Temperature changes (°C) from 1874 to 2015.

**Post-Glacial Sea Level Rise:**
- **18,000 years ago:** Post-Glacial Sea Level Rise begins.
- **10,000 years ago:** Post-Glacial Sea Level Rise peaks.
- **5,000 years ago:** Post-Glacial Sea Level Rise ends.

**Human Civilizations:**
- **14,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in the Near East.
- **12,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in China.
- **10,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in the Near East.
- **8,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in China.
- **6,000 years ago:** Agriculture begins in China.