



Floods in Brno. History, causes and impacts.

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In the Czech Republic the most destructive natural disasters result from floods. Evidence for this may be found in the catastrophic floods of July 1997 and August 2002 and also in a less extended flood at the turn of March and April 2006. These floods appeared after a long, relatively calm period.

Cities, which are located on the rivers, are mostly at risk from floods. Brno, the second biggest Czech city and the centre of the South Moravia region, is potentially in danger from floods on Svratka and Svitava rivers.

In this paper chronology of historical floods (16th – 19th century) for both rivers from the documentary evidence is presented in a broader context of the Czech Republic. Chronology of floods during the period in which measurements were conducted with instruments is also analysed. Selected floods from the viewpoint of meteorological causes, courses and impacts are assessed in detail. Synthesis of historical floods and floods on the basis of hydrometric data, including their relationship with climate variability, historical land use changes, river engineering works is presented.