



The Severity of Historical Soil Erosion and Hydrologic Disruption in the Eastern U.S., Some Hydroclimatological Considerations

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Extreme soil erosion and hydrologic disruption during the historical period has been well documented for the eastern U.S. Why was it so much more severe in the U.S. than in Western Europe, the origin of most settlers? While several factors can be identified, climatic differences appear to be a primary cause. Specifically, the problem was the intensity and amount of rainfall. This is demonstrated with basic climatology, frequency- magnitude relationships, and long-term landscape features. The problems persisted until Americans devised technologies to deal with them