



Extreme droughts and their human responses in the Czech Lands in the pre-instrumental period

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Rich documentary evidence in the Czech Lands allow selection of many historical dry events in the pre-instrumental period (12th–18th centuries) and description of their human responses. Based on documentary data all basic types of droughts (meteorological, hydrological, agricultural, socio-economic) can be identified. While before AD 1500 records of droughts are less frequent due to relatively scarce Czech documentary evidence, rich evidence in the subsequent centuries allow compile a continuous chronology of dry episodes. Particularly extreme droughts based on described impacts and confirmed by reconstructed drought indices for the Czech Lands since AD 1501 were further selected for a detail study. After presentation of basic types of drought documentary evidence, the paper describes main meteorological features of selected extreme events and their human impacts and responses (lack of water, failure of harvest, increase in prices of goods etc.). Subsequently common general features of all severe drought events are summarised and discussed with respect to data uncertainty, broader European context of selected droughts and their human impacts and responses. (This work was supported by Czech Science Foundation, project no. 17-10026S “Drought events in the Czech Republic and their causes”.)