

Interactive comment on “Hydrometeorological extremes and their impacts, as derived from taxation records for south-eastern Moravia, Czech Republic, AD 1751–1900” by R. Brázdil et al.

Anonymous Referee #4

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The authors use taxation records, a type of records previously rarely used by historical climatologists, to identify hydrometeorological extremes in the past. Little can be added to what other reviewers have stated so far. The paper gives a comprehensive overview over the available data, its potential and limitations in the study area – south-eastern Moravia in the years 1751 to 1900. Historical background, the functioning of the tax system as well as the wording and interpretation of the weather information are explained which allows the reader to understand the value of the data contained in the taxation records. These weather data appear to be very reliable. The taxation records not only can confirm hitherto known weather extremes, but also widen our knowledge of past weather since they allow to detect hydrometeorological extremes of sometimes

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only local or regional extension which might not have left much traces in other written records. Nonetheless such extremes of smaller spatial extension also impacted greatly on the livelihood of the affected population. Whereas for the outstanding events the weather extreme as well as its impacts are described, there is still scope for investigating the prevalent impacts of specific types of hydrometeorological events. The main weakness of the data, its somewhat patchy nature over time and space, is well accounted for. The paper is also very well written throughout, figures etc. are clear and well presented. The comparison of historical and recent hydrometeorological events is instructive. Therefore I recommend the paper for publication. It can be hoped that more work using similar sources will be done, considering that for example for England taxation data (including information on the exemption or reduction of taxes or subsidies) survives from the late Middle Ages onwards.

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 7, 4261, 2011.

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