

Interactive comment on “Extreme droughts and human responses to them: the Czech Lands in the pre-instrumental period” by Rudolf Brázdil et al.

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Chapter 4 contains a very useful overview of the strongest droughts based on documentary evidence. However, it does not always come clear, whether these reports are fully reliable, because they are contemporary (or even written by eyewitnesses) or not. Some of the sources in the bibliography, but some are not (e.g. AS6: Hieronymus Haura). It will be useful for historians in particular to add a short information concerning contemporary or not in the text.

Chapter 4.2.2.3: I am not really sure, if we can deduce an autumn drought from this relatively poor documentary evidence. As far as we know, summer 1548 was very dry. In this way, low water in late autumn may also result from this period combined with an

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at least relatively dry autumn, so that people could cross the riverbed of the Elbe River in early December.

Chapter 5.2 is a very important part of the discussion chapter. Maybe you could also add one or two sentences (p. 13, l. 20 sqq.) on the ambivalent consequences of droughts towards fruit production. Whereas fruit trees (apples etc.) were obviously affected by caterpillars or the like, wine was growing even better sometimes, as you show for 1503, 1536, 1540 etc. However, I would also appreciate if you could add some information if there were any learning processes to prevent similar shortages after droughts, e.g. by installing or enlarging granaries (or mention that the sources do not tell us much about prevention).

Please see some minor corrections of typos in the bibliography mostly concerning titles in Latin and German.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.clim-past-discuss.net/cp-2018-135/cp-2018-135-RC2-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-2018-135>, 2018.

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