HISTORICAL CLIMATOLOGY IN EUROPE – THE STATE OF THE ART

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Abstract. This paper discusses the state of european research in historical climatology. This field 11 of science and an overview of its development are described in detail. Special attention is given to the documentary evidence used for data sources, including its drawbacks and advantages. Further, 12 13 methods and significant results of historical-climatological research, mainly achieved since 1990, are presented. the main focus concentrates on data, methods, definitions of the "Medieval Warm 14 15 Period" and the "Little Ice Age", synoptic interpretation of past climates, climatic anomalies and 16 natural disasters, and the vulnerability of economies and societies to climate as well as images and **17** social representations of past weather and climate. The potential of historical climatology for climate modelling research is discussed briefly. Research perspectives in historical climatology are formulated 18 with reference to data, methods, interdisciplinarity and impacts.

1. Introduction

Recent decades have witnessed a growing interest in past climate variability and 21 climate change. This is related to the study of global warming resulting from the anthropogenic enhancement of the greenhouse effect (Houghton et al., 1996, 2001). 23 Corresponding investigations were based mainly on global temperature series since 24 the 1850s (Jones et al., 1986) or the 1880s (Hansen and Lebedeff, 1987; Vinnikov 25 et al., 1990). These global series were further systematically updated and studied in 26 many papers (e.g., Jones et al., 1999, 2001; Hansen et al., 1999, 2001). Historical 27 climate analyses have improved the estimates of anthropogenic effects on climate by 28 providing a more accurate understanding of the natural background climate variabil-29 ity. On a local or regional scale, many instrumental series from individual stations or regions exist, some of them reaching back as far as the 17th century (such as tem-31 perature series of Central England since 1659 – see Manley, 1974, or precipitation 32 series for Kew, England since 1697 – Wales-Smith, 1971; Paris precipitation from the 1680s onwards – see Slonosky, 2002; temperature and pressure series from Paris 34 and London – see Legrand and LeGoff, 1992; Slonosky et al., 2001) or the early 18th

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century (homogenised daily temperature and pressure European series – see for instance Jones, 2001; Bergström and Moberg, 2002; Camuffo, 2002a,b,c; Cocheo and Camuffo, 2002; Jones and Lister, 2002; Maugeri et al., 2002a,b; Moberg et al., 2000, 2002). Prior to these periods and prior to the establishment of national meteorological networks, information on past climates must necessarily be drawn from non-instrumental man-made sources and from proxy evidence obtained from natural archives. A historical source on climate is a document, i.e. a unit of information such as a manuscript, a piece of printed matter (book, newspaper etc.), a picture or an artefact (e.g. a flood mark or an inscription on a house) which refers to weather patterns or impacts of climate. The blanket term of documentary evidence includes all kinds of man-made sources. Documentary evidence may include several types of data. For example, chronicles contain descriptive data (i.e. descriptions of weather spells) that are often combined with documentary proxydata, i.e. observed features in the cryosphere (e.g. snowfalls, snow cover), the hydrosphere (e.g. floods and low water tables) and the biosphere (e.g. stages of vegetation).

Documentary evidence is the basis of many papers on historical climatology (Brázdil, 2000, 2002; Pfister, 2001; Pfister et al., 2001). These papers have produced high-resolution climate reconstructions including time series of climatic anomalies and natural disasters during the period when the effect of human society on nature took place mainly at local or regional scales. Observed climate variability was primarily the result of natural forcings such as solar or volcanic forcing or an interaction of ocean—atmosphere forcing without important anthropogenic effects (greenhouse gases, aerosols, etc.). Historical climatology contributes significantly to the understanding of climate processes prior to systematic human influence on the global atmosphere beginning with the industrial revolution.

This paper provides an overview of the state of the art of historical climatology in Europe. It points to novel fields and research priorities. The development of historical climatology is outlined in Section 2. Section 3 discusses the various sources of data as well as their temporal and geographic extent in Europe. It also gives a detailed overview of the strong points and the drawbacks of documentary data. An overview of the most important research topics is provided in Section 4. In Section 5 significant research results achieved since 1990, during the period of the most progressive development of historical climatology, are presented. Special attention is given to data and methods, the climate paradigm of the last millennium, synoptic views on the past climate and extremes, climatic anomalies and natural disasters, the vulnerability of economies and societies, images and social representations of past climatic anomalies and natural disasters as well as to the potential of historical climatology for climate modelling. Section 6 formulates future research priorities in historical climatology.

2. The Development of Historical Climatology

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The development of the historical climatology may be introduced by describing the few definitions that exist in the literature. Balandin (1975) was among the first to 80 use the term in his compilation of natural disasters from Russian chronicles. Ac-81 cording to Ingram et al. (1978) historical climatology is "concerned with the study and climate interpretation of descriptive documentary evidence". This definition 83 focuses on the word "historical" and is connected to the period for which written records are available. However, in recent years the term "historical data" has been 85 used in a more fundamental way, merely reflecting the fact that the evidence refers 86 to some period in the past. "Historical data", surprisingly, has even been subsumed 87 under recent series of instrumental measurements (e.g. Vose et al., 1992). Thus, the 88 term "historical data" is becoming ambiguous and misleading. It therefore seems 89 advisable to avoid it altogether and to replace it with "documentary data". This 90 term is on the same level as the many kinds of data known from natural archives 91 (Pfister et al., 1999b). 92

Fairbridge (1987) expanded the term to the entire Holocene, characterising historical climatology "as the study of the climate through the time-range of civilised Homo sapiens during the period in which human have developed the arts of writing and the construction of permanent dwellings and other structures relating to their maintenance and culture. This time-range varies from region to region. With respect to the world's continually inhabited town Jericho in the Jordan valley, which was established 10,000 years ago, the Holocene epoch became, however, the logical and ultimate time frame of historical climatology." This definition includes the entire Holocene that seems to interfere with the definition of palaeoclimatology (Bradley, 1999).

Hagedorn and Glaser (1990) speak about "historical palaeoclimatology" instead of historical climatology, "which comprises that period for which the direct and/or indirect written climatic information is available". It is close to the concept of Bradley (1999) who presents documentary data ("historical documentary records") among proxy data for palaeoclimatic reconstructions. However, in Chapter 11 of his book he uses also the term historical climatology. Glaser (1996) uses the term historical climatology, but he leaves open its position with respect to palaeoclimatology.

Thus, the field began as a mostly technical approach of describing climate and its variation during historical times and its impact on societies; recently the field is changing towards a truly interdisciplinary field, where natural and social scientists interact (von Storch and Stehr, 1997). In this spirit, following Pfister et al. (2001), historical climatology is defined as a research field situated at the interface of climatology and (environmental) history, dealing mainly with documentary evidence and using the methodology of both climatology and history. It is directed towards the following three objectives:

- (i) It aims at reconstructing temporal and spatial patterns of weather and 119 climate as well as climate-related natural disasters for the period prior 120 to the creation of national meteorological networks (mainly for the last 121 millennium).
- (ii) It investigates the vulnerability of past societies and economies to climate variations, climate extremes and natural disasters. 124
- (iii) It explores past discourses and the social representations of the climate. 125

The term "historical climatology" is also used in a completely different way. 126 For example, in the United States, this term designates serial temperature and 127 precipitation data from the period of network observations (Quinlan et al., 1987). 128 The term "historical climatology" has also been used simply as a synonym for time 129 series analysis of past instrumental observations (Kaas et al., 1996). 130

The beginnings of a scientific historical climatology, as we define it, are traced 131 back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Swiss physicist Louis Dufour 132 (1870) was the first to discover the value of dates on the opening of vine harvests for 133 the reconstruction of temperatures in the pre-instrumental period. He was followed 134 by the French climatologist Alfred Angot (1885) who provided a catalogue of 135 documentary evidence in France (Angot, 1895). In Switzerland, Eduard Brückner 136 (Brückner, 1890; Stehr and von Storch, 2000a) analysed both instrumental and 137 historical data over many parts of the world and documented transient climate 138 variations, with a preferred time scale of 35 years, in great detail since 1790. In 139 Germany, the climatologist Gustav Hellmann (e.g. 1921, 1926) was another pioneer 140 of compiling documentary evidence in a scientific way. Another early synthesis was 141 prepared in England by Charles Ernest Pelham Brooks (1926). Interestingly, he 142 did not make any distinguishment between contemporary and non-contemporary 143 sources. The same applies to the compilation made by Dutch journalist Cornelis 144 Easton (1928) on winter temperatures. Over the following decades a number of 145 climatologists provided isolated papers on partial reconstructions of past climate 146 in Europe (see e.g. Lenke, 1964, 1968; Manley, 1974; Flohn, 1979, 1985, 1993).

A milestone was the influential monograph of the French historian Emmanuel 148 Le Roy Ladurie (1967) on the climate of the last millennium and its impact on 149 society and history. Following the general paradigm after the demise of the climatic determinism, that social phenomena are supposed to be explained by social 151 processes, Le Roy Ladurie was very reluctant to admit any societal relevance of 152 climatic variations. The British climatologist Hubert Horace Lamb (1913–1997) 153 became his most prominent opponent. He described and analysed the climate fluctuations of the last millennium in his voluminous work (see e.g. Lamb, 1965, 155 1977, 1982, 1984, 1987, 1991). Lamb (1977) adopted the simple system of indices devised by Brooks (1926) for winter temperatures and summer precipitation 157 and Easton (1928) for winter temperatures, and he was the first to devise synoptic charts of pre-instrumental surface pressure distributions based on documentary 159 data. Together with the German climatologist Hermann Flohn (e.g., Flohn, 1981), 160

he was among the scientists who pointed out that societies would do well learning some lessons provided by past climate. In 1979 Lamb helped to organise the first International Conference on Climate and History which brought together a considerable number of climatologists and historians (Wigley et al., 1981).

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From the late 1970s the method of temperature and precipitation indices was refined by the Swiss historian Christian Pfister in order to assess monthly and seasonal temperature and precipitation for Switzerland from documentary data. Based upon these reconstructions he then investigated the vulnerability of the major agro-ecological regions to climatic fluctuations (Pfister, 1984, 1988b).

170 In 1987, the Belgian Pierre Alexandre (1987) published a capacious book on the medieval climate in Western Europe (see also Yan et al., 1997). He tried to sys-172 tematically apply the rules of historical sources criticism as was suggested earlier, e.g. by Bell and Ogilvie (1978), Wigley (1978) and Ingram et al. (1981). Although 173 his book was a milestone for the critical analysis of medieval records, his method 174 of applying the system of intensity indices was not appropriate (Ornato, 1988). 175 Another problem of Alexandre's book is the lack of detailed information about 176 described events from the original sources. It means that researchers utilising his 177 reports must go back to original material. For example, Brázdil and Kotyza (1995) 178 criticised his reports from the Czech Lands with regards to their completeness, interpretation and derived indices. The handling of medieval records and the recon-180 181 struction of medieval climate was further developed by Pfister et al. (1996, 1998) and Schwarz-Zanetti (1998). Neumann (1985) investigated the classical Greek and 182 183 Roman literature for references to climatic change. Panessa (1991) compiled a substantial number of sources on the climate and environmental history of Ancient Greece. For the Byzantine world a handsome synthesis covering the entire medieval 185 186 period from 300 to 1500 AD was recently provided by Telelis (2000, in press; see 187 also Stathakopoulos, 2003).

Over the 1990s, climate research was stimulated by discussion related to the enhanced greenhouse effect. Therefore the interest for studies on climatic change prior to the human-induced time period also grew rapidly. A loose network of scholars engaged in historical climatology emerged in this context around research programmes of the European Science Foundation (see e.g. Frenzel et al., 1992, 1994) and the European Union. For example, 50 geographers, environmental historians, palaeoecologists, physicists and meteorologists originating from 15 European countries engaged in the study of the Late Maunder Minimum (LMM), as the period from 1675 to 1715 was called (e.g. Frenzel et al., 1994; Wanner et al., 1994, 1995) and subsequently this period became a focus for further climatological analyses (e.g. Pedersen, 1996; Barriendos, 1997; Alcoforado et al., 2000; Luterbacher, 2001; Luterbacher et al., 2001; Xoplaki et al., 2001; Shindell et al., 2001, 2003; von Storch, in press; Zinke et al., in press).

Based on a critical evaluation of the sources and methodology used by Pfister (1984) in Switzerland, the creation of a series of temperature and precipitation indices was extended to the Czech Republic (Brázdil, 1996), Germany (Glaser, 1997),

Hungary (Rácz, 1999) and the Low countries (i.e. the present-day Netherlands and 204 Belgian Flanders – van Engelen et al., 2000, 2001). Corresponding index series for 205 these regions and partly for Italy and Poland were presented for the 16th century 206 by Glaser et al. (1999b). Ogilvie and Farmer (1997) published temperature and 207 precipitation indices for England for the period AD 1200-1439. Alcoforado et al. 208 (2000) and Xoplaki et al. (2001) developed monthly temperature and precipitation 209 indices for the Late Maunder Minimum period for Portugal and Greece, respec- 210 tively. Instead of index series, time series quantified in terms of temperature (°C) and 211 precipitation (mm or %) units and expressed, for instance, in the form of anomalies 212 from a more recent reference period (e.g. 1901–1960) forms a set of climatological 213 analyses that are easily comparable. Pfister and Brázdil (1999) calculated such aver- 214 age series of temperature and precipitation anomalies in Central Europe for the 16th 215 century by weighted averaging of data from Germany, Switzerland and the Czech 216 Republic. Similar quantitatively interpreted series, based mainly on documentary 217 evidence in Europe, are available for Switzerland (Pfister, 1984, 1999), Germany 218 (Glaser et al., 1999a; Glaser, 2001), the low countries (van den Dool et al., 1978; 219 Buisman and van Engelen, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000; van Engelen et al., 2000, 2001; 220 Shabalova and van Engelen, 2003), Hungary (Rácz, 1999), Andalusia (southern 221 Spain; Rodrigo et al., 1999, 2001) and on the decadal scale for the Czech Republic 222 (Brázdil, 1996). 223

A further step in climate reconstruction was achieved by Guiot (1992) who used 224 a combination of documentary proxy evidence, European and Moroccan tree-ring 225 data and ¹⁸O data from Greenland to provide annual temperature estimates from 226 AD 1068-1979 for the area 35°N-55°N and 10°W-20°E. He found a significant 227 connection between Northwest Europe and the Central Mediterranean region (Italy) 228 during the 'Little Ice Age', while the Western Mediterranean region (Spain, Mo- 229 rocco) had not experienced any significant cooling. Mann et al. (2000) later on used 230 a multi-proxy predictor network, including a combination of documentary data and 231 natural proxy data, in order to derive seasonal and annual temperature patterns for 232 Europe back to the mid-18th century. Further, Luterbacher et al. (1999, 2000, 2001, 233 2002a,b, 2004) were able, statistically, to derive spatial charts of monthly (back 234 to 1659) and seasonal (back to 1500) reconstructions of temperature, sea level 235 pressure, 500-hPa geopotential height fields, North Atlantic Oscillation and other 236 circulation indices as well as precipitation from documentary and early instrumen- 237 tal series for the whole of Europe (see Section 5.2). Luterbacher and Xoplaki (2003) 238 recently derived gridded and spatially averaged temperature and precipitation series 239 over the last 500 years for the Mediterranean land area.

Another recent development is the attempt to reconstruct climate and climate variations outside the regions for which documentary data are available. Two approaches are in use, namely an empirical statistical one, and the approach with the use of physical climate models.

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The empirical statistical line of research is using the statistical upscaling concept, 245 i.e., regional reconstructions of temperature and precipitation in Europe are used 246

247 to estimate the state of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and other parameters of atmospheric circulation (e.g. Luterbacher et al., 1999, 2002a,b; Schmutz et al., 248 2000; Wanner et al., 2001). But the NAO influence on temperature and precipitation 249 at specific locations can vary with time (see e.g. Jacobeit et al. 2001; Pozo-Vazquez 250 et al., 2001; Slonosky and Yiou, 2002; Jones et al., 2003a). The empirical approach 251 is limited by the necessary condition that the empirically determined upscaling 253 relationship remains stationary during the course of time, which does not seem 254 always to be the case (Schmutz et al., 2000; Luterbacher et al., 2002a,b; Zorita and González-Rouco, 2002). 255

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The dynamical line of research relies on physical climate models (energy balance, radiative-convective or general circulation models - GCMs). These models have been integrated subject for reconstructed forcing factors such as volcanic aerosols in the stratosphere, greenhouse gas concentrations and solar luminosity variations for several hundred years (e.g., Cubasch et al., 1997; Crowley, 2000; Fischer-Bruns et al., 2002; Bauer et al., 2003; Zorita et al., in press). This has become possible after significant progress has been made in reconstructing the history or relevant time-variable forcing factors, in particular the atmospheric load of volcanic aerosols and the output of the Sun (Crowley, 2000). The response of physical climate models of different complexity to this forcing history can be used to estimate past climate variations (for example, see Section 5.7) and to determine the sensitivity of the climate system to external forcing. The skill of the dynamic approach is limited not only because of computation restrictions, the need to parameterise various important physical processes, and the incomplete knowledge about the forcing factors. It is also limited because the state of the climate system is only partially determined by external factors (Hasselmann, 1976; Cubasch et al., 1994; von Storch and Hasselmann, 1996). The recently developed concept of "Data Assimilation Through Upscaling and Nudging" – DATUN (see von Storch et al., 2000; Widmann et al., in press) may overcome this problem, but the method is still in its infancy.

Over the period of the greatest advances in historical climatology, historians 275 turned away from the study of climate as a potential impact factor, even within 276 fields of potential vulnerability such as demography or agrarian history (Pfister, 277 2001). The discourse about the potential impact of climate on society and his-278 tory continues to suffer from the legacy of climatic determinism (for an account, 279 see e.g., von Storch and Stehr, 1997; Stehr and von Storch, 2000b). According 280 to this school of thought (e.g., Brückner, 1890; Semple, 1911; Huntington, 1925; 281 282 Markham, 1947), the skills and properties of people, the changing political power configurations, suicide rates, stock market variations and many other psychological, 283 intellectual and social attributes and processes are the outcome of climatic condi-284 tions and variability. Together with other types of environmental determinism, this 285 theory was solidly discredited in the latter half of the 20th century; at present, how-286 ever, these views are still present in everyday life. In the social and cultural sciences, 287 Emile Durkheim's principle (Durkheim, 1982) that social phenomena have to be 288 explained as the result of other social processes dominates the discourse. Hardly 289

any reputable contemporary social and cultural scientist advocates the principle 290 that environmental conditions have a direct, unmediated impact on social life. This 291 obviously represents somewhat of a problem since much of the debate about an- 292 thropogenic climate change and its impact on modern societies is implicated in this 293 issue. As a result, natural scientists, less aware of and less affected by past debates 294 among cultural and social scientists often summon everyday knowledge in order 295 to refer to the ways and the strength in which climate impacts acquire on society. 296 As a result, a not insignificant part of climate impact research is indebted to the 297 ideology of climatic determinism.

Fortunately, more recently, there is a growing interest in cultural history in the 299 perception and the ways of coping with climatic anomalies and natural disasters. 300 An excellent example is the analysis by Pfister and Brändli (1999) of the societal 301 response to flooding in the mid-19th century in Switzerland, which ultimately led 302 to beneficial legislation against logging in the Alpine mountains although the law 303 was based on the false premise that such logging was responsible for the frequent 304 floods the country experienced at that time. The Swiss case study may serve as a 305 relevant analogue for contemporary public discourse on natural disasters, human 306 influences and social impacts. Another such case is the description by Brönnimann 307 (2002), who showed that the same symbols of climate change (palms and glaciers) 308 were used in the early 20th as in the late 20th century. The most recent concern 309 about anthropogenic climate change is historically not a new phenomenon. It was 310 described by Brückner (1890) and more broadly by von Storch and Stehr (2000, 311 2002). Further debate on this topic occurred recently (September 2002, Göttingen, 312 Germany) at a conference on the "Cultural consequences of the Little Ice Age" (Behringer et al., in press).

The main achievements of the period since 1990 are listed in Table I. They are 315 discussed in somewhat more detail in subsequent sections of the paper. 316

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3. The Potential and the Limitations of Documentary Data

The data base for historical-climatological research can be broadly categorised as 318 being either direct or indirect data. The direct data can be thought of as descriptive 319 documentary data, for example narrative descriptions of weather patterns or early 320 instrumental measurements. Indirect or documentary proxy data reflects the impact 321 of weather on elements in the hydrosphere, the cryosphere or the biosphere (e.g. 322 floods, the freezing of waterways or the beginning/end of grain or wine harvest). 323 According to their origin, indirect data can be either man-made or based on natural 324 proxy evidence (Figure 1).

Documentary data are the only kind of palaeoclimatic data that are based on 326 direct observations of different meteorological parameters (temperature, precipitation, snow-cover, sea ice distribution, cloudiness, wind, lake levels etc.) in terms of 328 narrative descriptions and/or early instrumental measurements. For this reason they 329

TABLE I Main achievements in historical climatology in Europe since 1990

- Broader use of traditional documentary evidence including new kinds of sources (see Section 5.1). Building up and improving historical climatological data bases (e.g. HISKLID for Germany, EURO-CLIMHIST for Europe) (http://www.euroclimhist.com/; Dietrich, 2003).
- (ii) Standardisation of the methodology of intensity indices (see Section 4.1).
- (iii) Validating the intensity indices (see Sections 4.2 and 4.3).
- (iv) Multiproxy mapping (see Section 5.2).
- (v) Statistical derivation of spatial variability of temperature, air pressure and precipitation distribution for the whole of Europe (see Section 5.2).
- (vi) Defining the Medieval Warm Period (MWP) and the Little Ice Age (LIA) (see Section 5.3).
- (vii) Climatological and statistical analyses of climatic anomalies and natural disasters (see Section 5.4).
- (viii) Impacts of climate and natural disasters on and the adaptation strategies of past societies (see Sections 5.5 and 5.6).
- (ix) First extended reconstructions of global climate conditions with full climate models, as a response to time variable forcing factors (volcanic aerosol load, solar output, greenhouse gas loads) (see Section 5.7).

Archives Information	Natural		Man-made		
direct observation				observed	measured
of weather and climate or				• anomalies	• barometric pressure
instrumental measurement			D o	• natural hazards	temperature
of meteorological			c u	weather situations	• precipitation
parameters			m e	daily weather	• water-gauge, etc.
indirect references:	organic	non-organic	n	organic	non-organic
(Proxy data)	• tree rings	• ice-cores	t	plant phenology	 water levels
indication of controlled	• fossil pollen	• varves	a r	• yield of vine	• snow fall
or affected processes through meteorological parameters	• animal and plant remains		у	• time of grain and vine harvest	• freezing of water bodies
	• fossil wood (trees), etc.	• temperature of boreholes		• sugar content of wine, etc.	• snow cover, etc.
		moraines,	• cultural: rogations		
		etc.		• pictorial	• epigraphical
			ma	nterial:	• archeological remains

Figure 1. A survey of evidence for reconstructing past weather and climate (Pfister, 1999).

- 330 can be used both for verification of extreme values in natural proxies such as tree
- rings (see e.g. Vogel et al., 1996; Brázdil et al., 2002a) and for detailed descriptions
- 332 of past weather such as after major volcanic eruptions (see e.g. Stothers, 1996,
- 333 1999, 2000; Demarée et al., 1998; Demarée and Ogilvie, 2001). Most importantly

they are the only evidence that is directly related to the socio-economic impacts of 334 rare but significant disasters such as intense storms, severe floods, and long-lasting 335 droughts in the period prior to the organisation of instrumental network observations. For this reason, reconstructions based on documentary data play an important 337 role in the enhanced greenhouse debate.

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Moreover, apart from vine harvest dates, a great variety of other documentary 339 proxy data were discovered over the past 25 years. Direct or indirect references to 340 physical and biological indicators of the environment are more or less systematically 341 included in narrative sources, as many observers were well aware that their records 342 included a subjective bias. Compared to descriptive documentary data which are 343 limited by the activity of the observer, some kinds of documentary proxy data, 344 inasmuch they are produced by administrative routine (e.g. vine harvest dates), are 345 available over periods of several centuries.

Early instrumental records made before the beginning of systematic meteorolog- 347 ical observations, in most cases cover only short periods or have sporadic character. 348 Lack of detailed knowledge of the instruments and of their locations makes linkage 349 to the modern reference period difficult and requires careful homogenisation (e.g., 350 Wishman et al., 1998; Moberg et al., 2000; Brázdil et al., 2002b; Camuffo and 351 Jones, 2002). Beginnings of instrumental observations in Europe have been summarised, for instance, by Frisinger (1977), Kington (1988), and in a greater detail 353 they were described by Camuffo (2002a). The basis for it was the invention of some 354 meteorological instruments by Galileo Galilei (1564–1642), his students and fol- 355 lowers in Italy. It was realised that the value of instrumental observations would be 356 importantly enhanced if measurements could be made simultaneously at different 357 places. The first international meteorological network, called Rete Medicea, started 358 between the years 1653–1654 with ten European stations. It was established by the 359 Grand Duke of Tuscany and a founder of the Accademia del Cimento (Academy of 360 Experiments) in Florence (in 1657), Ferdinand II, and his brother Prince Leopold 361 de' Medici. The network ceased to function after the Accademia del Cimento was 362 disbanded in 1667.

Johann Kanold, a doctor in Breslau (i.e. Wrocaw, Poland), organised the first 364 network of correspondents in Central Europe and published quarterly instrumental measurements and weather reports from 1717 to 1726 in "Sammlung von 366 Natur- und Medicin, wie auch hierzu gehörigen Kunst- und Literatur-Geschichten" 367 (Kanold, 1718–1727; see also Hellmann, 1914; Brázdil and Valášek, 2002; Munzar, 368 2002). It was continued from 1727–1730 by Andreas Elias Büchner, a professor of 369 medicine at Erfurt (Germany), in "Miscellanea Physico-Medico-Mathematica, oder 370 angenehme, curieuse und nützliche Nachrichten von Physical- und Medicinischen-, 371 auch dahin gehörigen Kunst- und Literatur-Geschichten". 372

Another attempt to organise an international meteorological network was done 373 in 1723 by James Jurin, secretary of the Royal Society of London (Jurin, 1723). 374 This network existed between 1724 and 1735 and observations were published in 375 the Philosophical Transactions.

In 1780, Karl Theodor, the elector of the Palatinate, set up the most important early international network in the form of the "Societas Meteorologica Palatina." At the time of its largest extension, the network of this society comprised 39 stations ranging from Greenland to Rome and from La Rochelle (France) to Moscow. All the stations used standardised instruments and made their observations according to the regulations issued by the society with annual publishing of their results during 1780–1792 (Kington, 1988).

Some of the very early measurements have been systematically analysed. One of the pioneers of instrumental observations was Louis Morin, a physician in Paris. His observations, including three daily readings of temperature and pressure, were carried out in 1665–1713 (Legrand and LeGoff, 1992; Pfister and Bareiss, 1994). Based on observations of Nicolaus Cruquius, a cartographer and hydraulic engineer, the Delft/Rijnsburg series (the Netherlands) of monthly temperatures for 1706–1734 was rediscovered and published by van Engelen and Geurts (1985). Another of their compilations shows an example of a basic metadata of early instrumental measurements (Geurts and van Engelen, 1992). Kington (1988) collected a list of many further instrumental records in Europe, made during the 1780s.

Meteorological activities of many physicians were connected with the neo-Hippocratic hypothesis about the relations between the climate and human health. It had its origin in Hippocratos of Chios (born about 460 – died probably in 377 B.C.), a Greek physician and philosopher, who considered a disease as the failure of balance between the organism and the environment, including the weather and climate. Hippocrates' ideas appeared in modern times in the work of the English physician, Thomas Sydenham, (1624–1689) who believed that atmospheric conditions played an important role in diseases. The action of the climate on man was, according to 18th century physicians, due to the effect of air which man inhales. The effort in quantifying the effect of meteorological conditions then led the physicians to perform meteorological observations (Demarée, 1996).

Descriptive documentary evidence includes both direct data about the weather and about phenomena and events dependent on the weather. This is an exception-ally rich source, including written reports from annals, memoirs and chronicles, daily weather reports, personal and official correspondence, travel diaries, eco-nomic records, pictures, leaflet newspapers, early journalism, ship logbooks etc. Epigraphic records of extreme weather (for instance floods) include inscriptions and marks on stones, rocks, bridges or buildings. Such records may contain either sporadic or continuously recorded data. In all cases it needs to be assessed whether a source is contemporary, i.e. whether authors witnessed the events they describe or whether these events at least occurred during their life-time. Observations, which were copied from other documents or compilations, often contain transcription errors in the dates of observations (e.g. Bell and Ogilvie, 1978; Ingram et al., 1981; Schwarz-Zanetti, 1998). If events were copied from other chronicles, misdating occurred frequently. For instance, Bell and Ogilvie (1978) showed a spurious multiplication of a storm flood event in Flanders on 16 November 1377: Weikinn's

(1958–2002) compilation includes seven different references to this event dated 420 from 1374 to 1377, based on one single original source (Chronicon comitum Flan- 421 drensium). Correct dating is a difficult problem. In 1582 Pope Gregory reconciled 422 the old Julian calendar to an exact degree by cutting off 10 days. Dates prior to 423 this year need to be corrected accordingly (Bachmann, 1984; Alexandre, 1987). 424 Gregory's reform was only adopted piecemeal, even in the catholic world. Thus, it 425 must be assessed for every territory, whether the 'old' or the 'new' style was eventually used. For example, England adopted the New Style by an Act of Parliament 427 as late as 1752 (Grotefend, 1982). Furthermore, there is a considerable variation 428 in the beginning of the year. In the Middle Ages no less than seven possibilities 429 were known. Most medieval sources are tacit with respect to the dating which they 430 used (von Brandt, 1996). For events in 'winter', many sources give just one year for 431 identification. In this case it must be derived from the context or from other sources 432 whether the 'old' or the 'new' year is meant (Pfister, 1992). Roman numbers that 433 were in use into the late 17th or early 18th century are particularly error-prone. 434 An example is provided by Camuffo and Enzi (1992): The 18th century chronicler 435 Giuseppe Toaldo through a reading error, changed an X into II, transforming the 436 year MDXI (1511) into MDIII (1503), and wrote that the artillery of Pope Julius II 437 crossed the frozen river Po in this year. This statement was then propagated as an 438 independent event, in addition to the correctly reported event of 1511. In his critical 439 catalogue of more than 3500 "climatic texts" from AD 1000 to 1425 Alexandre 440 (1987) lists 300 inconsistencies of this kind (for critical evaluation of medieval 441 weather reports see e.g. Malewicz, 1980 for Poland, Brázdil and Kotyza, 1995 442 for the Czech Lands and Kiss, 1999, 2000 for eastern Central Europe). Suspicion 443 should be thrown on compilations of climatic events, including recent ones, for 444 which it is not assured that sources were critically evaluated.

In interpreting medieval documents the particular conditions in which the documents were created need to be considered. Many manuscripts are anonymous and 447 the year of composition is not given. Analyses of handwriting yield only approximate results. Occasionally authorship may be derived from personal remarks in the 449 text. Even if the name of an author is known, their exact lifetime is often ignored. 450 Thus, it may be difficult to assess whether an author actually witnessed the event 451 described. Before the art of printing was invented in the 15th century, books had to 452 be copied by hand. During the Early and High Middle Ages this was done in the 453 scriptoria of monasteries. For this purpose manuscripts were frequently exchanged 454 between monasteries. As a consequence, chronicles may have survived in a number 455 of copies which are not entirely identical and which are today often deposited in 456 libraries of different countries or private collections. The philological work of critical text edition attempts to assess which is the oldest manuscript – the archetype – 458 and to establish its relationship with the more recent copies (van Caenegem, 1979; 459 Faulstich, 1996).

Uncritical use of documentary data is not only found in compilations of weather 461 reports from different sources (such as Strnadt, 1790; Amberg, 1890; Hennig, 1904; 462

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Weikinn, 1958–2002), but it is also found in more recent publications of authors who are not so familiar with documentary evidence (for example Bernhardt and Mäder, 1987 used as basic data reports of Hennig, 1904). Moreover, Hennig's (1904) reports have also been used as the basic data source for description of past weather patterns in Western Europe (e.g. Barash, 1989). Questionable reconstructions of climate from documentary data should not be blamed on the chroniclers without justification. Rather an improper interpretation of data by the researcher should be assumed.

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Archaeological data, including for instance evidence of extinction and desertion of settlements, are often taken as resulting from the long-term effects of climate and/or climatic extremes, but the connection with climate is in many cases ambiguous (Brázdil and Kotyza, 1995). In most cases, a direct effect appears unlikely, but deteriorating climatic conditions may have aggravated problems in the social organisation and functioning. On the other hand, DeMenocal (2001) has presented four case studies drawn from New and Old World civilisations, integrating detailed archaeological and palaeoclimatic records, in which he has shown their societal responses to prolonged droughts, including population dislocations, urban abandonment and state collapse.

Using records from natural archives or series of documentary proxy data (e.g. wine harvest dates) the climatic signal needs to be extracted from a series of proxy data. As a rule, the climatic information obtained relates to a certain type of meterological data, such as air temperature or precipitation, with a time resolution of months or longer. The most frequently used natural proxies are those relating to the historical fluctuations of glacier tongues, changes in the composition of ice cores, tree rings (ring width and density of late wood), pollen-profiles, varved sediments taken from the sea floor or from lake floors, erosion furrow fills, geothermic evidence, speleothem records, corals, etc. (e.g., Holzhauser, 1997; Bradley, 1999; Huang et al., 2000; Proctor et al., 2000, 2002; Baker et al., 2002; Zinke et al., in press). However, most reconstructions from natural archives cannot be broken down to seasonal or monthly resolution and they do not always yield a distinct separation of the effects of temperature and precipitation (Bradley, 1999). But this high resolution is needed for investigating climatic impacts on societies. Mann et al. (2000) recently published warm and cold-season European reconstructions for Europe back to 1760. The uncertainties, however, are quite large for these estimates.

Series of documentary proxy data are mostly drawn from administrative records. Often such series are long, continuous and quasi-homogeneous so that they can be calibrated against instrumental measurements. Documentary proxy data may reflect the beginning of agricultural activities such as the grain or the vine harvest, agricultural production (e.g. yield of vineyards), the time of freezing and opening up of sea-ports or inland waterways, or that of religious ceremonies (e.g. Pfister, 1979, 1981, 1984; Tarand and Kuiv, 1994; Martín-Vide and Barriendos, 1995; de Kraker, 1999; Brázdil and Kotyza, 2000), or the sailing time needed for routine journeys (e.g., García et al., 2000).

Phenology which is "the art of observing life cycles, phases or activities of plants and animals in their temporal occurrence throughout the year" (Lieth, 1974), has gained attention within the global change community over the last few years as an important indicator for global change (Menzel, 2002). A trend towards earlier spring phenophases during the last 50 years taken from a wide range of different data has been reported for the northern mid-latitudes. Menzel and Estrella (2001)				
provide an overview over the data sets known in this community. However, only a few historical data sets reaching back further than 50 years have been analysed (e.g. Sparks and Carey, 1995; Maak and von Storch, 1997; Nordli, 2001) even though plant observations carried out by volunteers and amateurs date back for several centuries (Pfister, 1992). Documentary proxy data is made up of a broad variety of indicators that are as different among themselves as natural proxy data. Each kind of documentary proxy data needs to be calibrated against (early) instrumental series and is restricted to specific periods of the year in the same way as natural proxy data.	512 513 514 515 516 517 518			
 (i) Good dating control and high temporal resolution. (ii) Clear distinguishment of meteorological elements in the narrative reports (e.g. temperature, precipitation, snow cover, wind). (iii) Focus on anomalies and natural disasters. (iv) Taken together they cover all months and seasons (even autumn). 	523			
The following drawbacks are mentioned (Pfister et al., 1999b):	528			
 (i) Discontinuous structure of the records (due to the death of observers). (ii) Bias by the selective perceptions of observers. (iii) Mathematical analysis is simple but robust, however this may be a drawback for the acceptance of results in the scientific community. 	529530531532			
The geographical range of documentary data depends on (Pfister, 2001):	533			
 (i) The sedentary presence of literate individuals. This excludes the high altitudes and high latitudes. (ii) An appropriate institutional and cultural framework (e.g. the existence of conventions, the existence of local elites in towns). (iii) A tradition of keeping chronicles of extraordinary events based on eyewitness observations. 	535536537			
As far as Western and Central Europe is concerned, the temporal range is restricted to the past millennium. Over that period the density and quality of information increases as follows (Pfister, 2001):				
(i) Prior to AD 1300: Reports of socio-economically significant anomalies and (natural) disasters.	543 544			

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- (ii) 1300–1500: More or less continuous reports on characteristics of summers and winters (to some extent also on those of spring and autumn) including reference to "normal" conditions.
- (iii) 1500–1800: Almost complete description of monthly weather, to some extent also of daily weather. Growing number and diversity of continuous series of documentary proxy data produced by the early modern local, regional and state bureaucracies.
- (iv) 1680–1860: Instrumental measurements made by isolated individuals. First short-lived international network observations (e.g. Breslau-Network and Palatine-Network).
- (v) From 1860: Instrumental observations in the framework of national and international meteorological networks.

The list needs to be understood in a cumulative way, i.e. older kinds of climate observations are not replaced but superposed by more recent ones. In sum, the quality of the data improves, their density and their time resolution increases and their spatial coverage extends over time.

561 Outside the Byzantine empire (see e.g. Telelis, 2000, 2003; Stathakopoulos, 2003) the conditions mentioned above were met first in the reign of Charlemagne 562 563 (9th century AD) that includes most of the territory of contemporary Germany and France, Belgium and the Netherlands, Switzerland and Northern Italy, as well as in 564 Ireland (Crawford, 1989) and to some extent in England. From about AD 1050 the 565 tradition of keeping chronicles spread to the territories of contemporary Catalonia (Spain), the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland, Poland and Slovakia, later 567 568 on also to the Baltic, Russia and the territory of contemporary Finland. Records from southeastern Europe are scanty until the 18th century. 569

4. Methods of Analysis

A possible procedure of data analysis and climate reconstruction is shown in Figure 2. It usually starts with the search of suitable documentary data or natu-572 ral proxy indicators that are able to define a high amount of climate variability of a certain climate variable like temperature, precipitation, air pressure, etc. All 574 575 proxies are then transformed into a time series with a clearly defined temporal resolution. In the case of natural proxies this is often a very complex procedure requiring specialised laboratories applying sophisticated physical and chemical 577 analysis techniques. In the case of documentary data, the statistical transformation 578 into ordinal data in the form of a time series of indices is also a great challenge 579 requiring a broad statistical and dynamical understanding. 580

581 4.1. THE DERIVATION OF PROXY SERIES BASED ON DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

In most cases a climate reconstruction involves different kinds of documentary data. If the data-basis is broad enough, one may expect that the strengths and

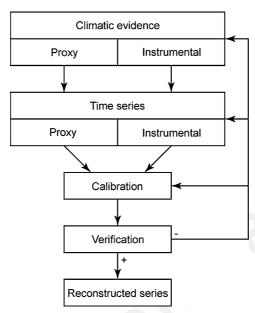


Figure 2. The process of climate reconstruction, including documentary data (Brázdil, 2002).

weaknesses of different data types control and complement each other to a certain degree (Pauling et al., 2003). The first step in the procedure includes evaluation of available documentary data with consideration of critical analysis of sources, author and/or institutional framework, calibration of documentary proxy data, etc. The comparison and cross-checking of data from different documentary sources, both direct and indirect, should allow assessment of an unequivocal climatic tendency, within a given temporal and spatial domain. This tendency is expressed in form of an intensity index for temperature and/or precipitation which is attributed to the month or season under investigation (Pfister, 2001). Series of intensity indices obtained from documentary evidence should overlap the period of instrumental measurements. This is only possible for a few cases and very distinct periods (Pauling et al., 2003).

Useful values from documentary evidence are obtained by transforming the 596 basic data into simple and weighted temperature and precipitation indices on an 597 ordinal scale. Simple monthly indices use a three-term classification (temperature: 598 1 warm, 0 normal, -1 cold; precipitation: 1 wet, 0 normal, -1 dry). Weighted 599 monthly indices are based on a seven-term classification for temperature (3 extremely warm, 2 very warm, 1 warm, 0 normal, -1 cold, -2 very cold, -3 extremely cold) and for precipitation correspondingly. Seasonal or annual indices are obtained 602 by summation of monthly values. Thus, in simple indices the three-month seasonal 603 values (e.g. DJF, MAM, JJA, SON) can fluctuate from -3 to 3, weighted ones from -9 to 9. In order to make weighted indices compatible with the simple ones, they 605 can be divided by 3 and issued with one decimal place. Compilation depends on 606

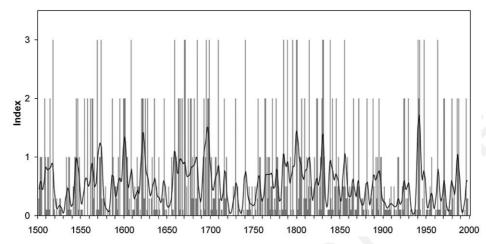


Figure 3. Fluctuations of ice winter index in the western Baltic in 1501–1995 (data in Koslowski and Glaser, 1999). Smoothed by a 10-year Gaussian filter.

the density and quality of the basic information, and is to some extent affected by the subjectivity of the researcher.

Scaling into ordinal numbers is an obvious step when dealing with documentary data. To mention some examples, Wang et al. (1991) scaled climate indicators for definition of warm/cold climate index in China from 0 to 3 (0 – no records, 1 – existing, 2 – severe, 3 – extremely severe), while van Engelen et al. (2001) used an ordinal scale from 1 to 9 for reconstruction of winter (from 1 – extremely mild to 9 – extremely severe) and summer (from 1 – extremely cool to 9 – extremely warm) temperatures in the low countries. The index approach is also applied to proxy documentary data. Koslowski and Glaser (1999) developed an ice winter index (Figure 3) from accumulated areal ice volume along the German Baltic coast with gradation of winter severity types: 0 – weak, 1 – strong, 2 – very strong, 3 – extreme.

Pfister (1999) suggested to begin reconstruction of intensity indices from the instrumental period, where most variables are available and then to work subsequently backwards, where less and less details are known. This approach called "Wetternachhersage" (i.e. backward-reconstruction) should not be done chronologically, but according to types of anomalies.

Prior to further elaboration of this method (i.e. calibration, verification and reconstruction), three important questions have to be asked:

(i) Which are the best predictors?

- (ii) Which are the best sites for an accurate prediction?
- (iii) Which are the best methods to sort out best predictors and sites and to get valuable spatio-temporal reconstructions?

In recent years sophisticated methods were developed to give answers to these questions (e.g., Bradley, 1996; Kaplan et al., 1997; Evans et al., 1998; Jones et al.,

1998; Mann et al., 1998, 2000; Luterbacher et al., 2002a, 2002b, 2004; Mann, 2002; 632
Bradley et al., 2003). In a recent paper by Pauling et al. (2003) it was shown that an 633
optimised combination of high quality natural and documentary proxies can yield 634
better results than using only one of the two types. 635

4.2. CALIBRATION 636

The aim of calibration is to determine the relation (response function, transfer 637 function) between the proxy indicator (predictor) and the meteorological element 638 (predictand) for the calibration period in which both values of the given proxy and 639 the measured values of the meteorological element (such as sea surface temperature, 640 land surface temperature, air pressure, precipitation) are available. 641

According to scientific standards the validity of any kind of data needs to be 642 verified by applying suitable statistical methods and using independent data. For 643 this reason series of intensity indices obtained from documentary evidence should 644 overlap the period of instrumental measurements. However, the usual methods of 645 calibration can rarely be applied in historical climatology. The reason is that in 646 most cases the qualitatively best observers switched to instrumental observation 647 when meteorological instruments became available at reasonable prices by about 648 the mid-18th century. This modified the way in which they coined their weather 649 descriptions. Therefore results from first class non-instrumental diaries rarely include the period of early instrumental observations (Pauling et al., 2003). A notable 651 exception from this practice is an example from the Czech Lands, where systematic 652 visual weather observations continued in parallel with early instrumental measurements at the station Prague-Klementinum, which has allowed validation of the 654 descriptive weather reports (Brázdil et al., 2003a). Similarly, on the basis of visual 655 observations at the Potsdam station it was shown that subjectively registered val- 656 ues have a high correlation with measured parameters (Werner and Gerstengarbe, 657 2003).

In order to statistically validate the indices a suitable approach has to be developed. This is documented here, using the example of winter and summer temperatures for Germany, Switzerland and the Czech Republic (Glaser et al., 1999b) 661 (Tables II–IV). The first step shown was to find the correlation coefficients between real temperature series at four different sites and the series of intensity indices that were obtained from the same instrumental series. The high correlation coefficients 663 in Table II demonstrate that indices can express the main features of temperature variability based on measured data for the selected Central European stations. The reduction of explained variance is only a few percent when transforming the instrumental readings into ordinal data. Thus, depending on the number of degrees of freedom in the chosen ordinal scale, real temperature variations are very well estimated by the indices. In a second step, the correlation between individual stations, both 670 measured temperature and the index data derived from instrumental observations is 671

TABLE II

Correlation coefficients between measured series and indexed series of air temperature for four Central European stations in 1901-1960 (all values are statistically significant at the 95% level) (Glaser et al., 1999b)

Stations	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Year
Basel (Switzerland)	0.89	0.91	0.91	0.93	0.92
Frankfurt (Germany)	0.89	0.91	0.93	0.93	0.87
Potsdam (Germany)	0.86	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.87
Prague (Czech Rep.)	0.89	0.93	0.90	0.89	0.87

TABLE III

Correlation coefficients between measured series (M) and indexed series (I) of seasonal temperatures for four Central European stations in 1901-1960 (winter and summer) (all values are statistically significant at the 95% level) (Glaser et al., 1999b)

Stations	Series	Basel	Frankfurt	Potsdam	Prague
Basel	M	1.00	0.92	0.79	0.85
	I	1.00	0.79	0.56	0.68
Frankfurt	M	0.87	1.00	0.93	0.96
	I	0.84	1.00	0.72	0.85
Potsdam	M	0.62	0.83	1.00	0.96
	I	0.64	0.72	1.00	0.84
Prague	M	0.77	0.87	0.87	1.00
	I	0.68	0.78	0.81	1.00

TABLE IV

Correlation coefficients between indexed series of seasonal temperatures for Germany, Switzerland and the Czech Republic during the 16th century (winter and summer) (all values are statistically significant at the 95% level) (Glaser et al., 1999b)

Region	Germany	Switzerland	Czech Republic
Germany	1.00	0.68	0.79
Switzerland	0.75	1.00	0.59
Czech Republic	0.73	0.73	1.00

- 672 calculated. Table III shows the summer and winter interstation correlations based on the reference period 1901–1960. In all cases the index series have lower interstation
- 674 correlations than the instrumental series, which indicates that the index series have
- lower decorrelation length scales (Daley, 1993) than instrumental measurements.

A comparison of these results with inter-country correlations between 16th century 676 indices derived from documentary data for Germany, Switzerland and the Czech 677 Republic (Table IV) shows similar magnitude and significance to those obtained 678 in the modern period. However, these interstation correlations are perhaps artificially enhanced due to the fact that country average temperatures are used instead 680 of individual station series. Nonetheless, it may be concluded that the reduction 681 in correlation (for index data on an ordinal scale compared to instrumental data 682 on a continuous scale) is rather small, which points to the spatial validity of the 683 corresponding indexed series.

4.3. VERIFICATION 685

Prior to the reconstruction, the transfer functions have to be verified in a different 686 time period, or at least a cross-validation procedure has to be carried out if the data 687 series is rather short (Michaelsen, 1984). The relationship obtained in a calibration 688 period is applied to a so-called verification period, for which the values of the 689 meteorological element are estimated from the documentary data. These estimations 690 are then compared with the measured values. Several verification tests developed 691 for dendroclimatological reconstructions (see Cook et al., 1994) are also suitable 692 for reconstructions based on documentary data. Other simple statistical measures, 693 including for instance the correlation coefficient, the root-mean-square error and the 694 t-test for the paired values, may be used to compare the measured and reconstructed 695 values (see e.g. Brázdil and Kotyza, 2000). It is also advisable to investigate how 696 the variability of the series obtained can be best expressed by the given transfer 697 function. In view of the normally rather short lengths of both the calibration and 698 verification periods in relation to the entire period for which the reconstruction is 699 developed, it is practical and useful to exchange them and repeat the procedure 700 before the next step.

4.4. RECONSTRUCTION 702

If the transfer function obtained expresses the variability of the meteorological 703 element under consideration with satisfactory precision, the chronology of the proxy 704 can be used for climatic reconstruction. The major problem of this reconstruction 705 method is that the transfer functions, many derived from relatively modern periods, 706 may be nonstationary, as is case with the NAO (Schmutz et al., 2000; Cook et al., 707 2002; Luterbacher et al., 2002a). It can be, for instance, a case that the phenological 708 series were affected by changes in the crop mix, the introduction of new varieties of 709 crops or by the introduction of harvest technology (e.g. combines) (Pfister, 2001). 710 Also, local phenomena, like urbanisation, may interfere with the representativity of 711 local data for regional variations. The problem of nonstationarity can be ameliorated 712

by considering a sufficiently long calibration time period (Cook et al., 2002). It is

714 therefore suggested to test the stationarity of the data used in order to assess the

reliability of the transfer function (Rutherford et al., 2003).

5. Recent Developments

717 5.1. NEW KINDS OF DOCUMENTARY DATA

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718 After 1990 the databases with documentary data existing in many European countries have been significantly extended with further weather notes from documentary 719 720 evidence (e.g., for the 16th century, see Pfister et al., 1999a). Great progress was achieved, for instance, after the discovery of a great number of previously unknown weather diaries, its statistical analysis, graphical presentation on the basis 722 of weather symbols and utilisation for assessing new series of indices (e.g. Tyrrell, 723 1995; Telelis, 1998; Brázdil and Kotyza, 1996, 1999; Pfister et al., 1999c; Börngen and Tetzlaff, 2000; Bokwa et al., 2001; Brázdil and Kiss, 2001; Limanówka, 2001). 725 These daily records may be used effectively not only for detailed description of 726 weather patterns for specific occasions in the past, but also for deriving monthly temperature and precipitation indices. Recently, Werner and Gerstengarbe (2003) 728 729 showed that the frequency and type of precipitation and cloud cover for Potsdam, 1893–2000, characterise significant climatic variations and strongly confirm 730 731 the results obtained from measured climatic parameters. This knowledge significantly enhances the potential of traditional visual daily weather records for climatic 733 reconstructions.

Rodrigo et al. (1998) analysed climatic information in private correspondence of the Jesuit order in Castille (Spain) for 1634–1648. They showed prevalence of intense rainfall and cold waves in that period. Retsö (2002) used correspondence letters to characterise winter weather patterns from the early 16th century in Sweden.

In recent years the discovery of new data sources with climatological poten-738 tial has facilitated further analyses in regions not previously investigated in detail. 739 For instance, in Spain the Catholic Church organised rogation services (rogativas) directed to end climatic stress-situations connected with long dry ("pro pluvia" 741 742 rogationes) or wet spells ("pro serenitate" rogationes) which jeopardised the crops 743 (Martín-Vide and Barriendos, 1995). For droughts, the municipal and ecclesiastical authorities developed a system of activities in which five levels of rogationes 744 can be distinguished. Level I was used as a preventative measure when drought 746 had not yet exerted significant damage. Levels II and III were applied when the 747 agricultural production had already suffered substantially. Levels IV and V were 748 invoked when the entire crop was in jeopardy and the danger of subsistence crises were impending. Barriendos (1997) used rogation data for analysis of climate in 749 the Iberian Peninsula in the period 1675–1715. Similar data about rogations from 750 Erice (western Sicily) were used for the reconstruction of drought spells during 751

the period 1565–1915 (Piervitali and Colacino, 2001). Rodrigo et al. (1999, 2001) 752 used, among other documentary sources, religious chronicles, and books of city 753 and church archives in order to reconstruct the seasonal precipitation variability 754 in southern Spain (Andalusia) and the winter North Atlantic Oscillation back to 755 AD 1500.

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Some documentary data have long been recognised as potential climatic indica-757 tors. For example, Brückner (1890) used the dates of freezing of rivers and water 758 bodies as a useful index for winter temperature conditions. Camuffo (1987) studied 759 freezing of the Venetian Lagoon since the 9th century in relation to winters in West-760 ern Europe and England. Kajander (1993) reconstructed a series of ice break-up 761 dates for the Tornio River (the border between Finland and Sweden) for 1693-762 1993, based on different documentary data. They correlate very well with local 763 mean April-May temperatures and show that the ice break-up occurs on average 764 thirteen days earlier now compared to the Maunder Minimum period, which cor-765 responds to a mean warming in April-May by about 2 °C (Klingbjer and Moberg, 766 2003). Ogilvie (1996) analysed sea-ice conditions along the coast of Iceland for 767 1601–1850. Koslowski and Glaser (1999) developed a winter ice index with integer 768 values, from 0 (no ice) in warm winters to 3 (continuous ice) in severe winters for 769 the western Baltic Sea for the period 1501–1995. Figure 3 displays remarkable 770 periods of severe winters in the 1510s, around 1570 and 1600, between 1615 and 771 1625, in the 1660s, in the 1690s and around 1800. Jevrejeva (2001) and Jevrejeva 772 and Moore (2001) used many historical chronicles of break-up dates at Riga to 773 reconstruct the winter sea ice severity in the northern Baltic Sea back to the early 774 16th century.

Economic information, mainly about harvest and vintage, are traditional sources 776 of data in historical climatology (e.g., Pfister, 1979, 1981; Le Roy Ladurie and 777 Baulant, 1980; Lauer and Frankenberg, 1986; Glaser, 1991; Souriau and Yiou, 778 2001). Some new evidence of economic character has appeared in Europe after 779 1990. Tarand and Kuiv (1994) used series of the beginning of the rye harvest in the 780 regions of Estonia, Latvia and Finland for reconstruction of the mean April-July 781 temperatures in the period 1671–1949. Later this data, together with the first day 782 of ice-break up in Tallin port and on the rivers in northern Estonia, was used for reconstruction of the Tallin temperature series (Tarand and Nordli, 2001). De Kraker 784 (1999) utilised data from accounts of dikes protecting a polder region in northern 785 Flanders as proxy for the study of the occurrence of high tides, storms and storm 786 surges in the period 1488–1609. Later he extended this study on the period from 787 AD 1000 up to the present (de Kraker, 2002). Camuffo et al. (2000) analysed long 788 series of sea storms since the 8th century in the Adriatic Sea and Western Mediter-789 ranean which caused widespread devastation in Venice and Barcelona. Střeštík and 790 Verö (2000) showed significant correlation between the length of new grapevine 791 sprouts measured systematically since 1740 in Köszeg (Hungary) and March-April 792 temperatures. Nordli (2001) used dates of crop sowing from farmers' diaries for reconstruction of April-August average temperatures in Norway and for testing local 794 instrumental temperature records from the 19th century. In the another investigation, Nordli et al. (2002, 2003) compiled a series of April-August temperatures of Vestlandet (western Norway) for 1734–2002 combining instrumental data, grain harvest dates and dated terminal moraines of the glaciers Nigardsbreen and Storbreen.

 Climatic information can also be derived from economic data concerning taxation. Grove and Battagel (1983), analysing data from general tax commissions from Sunnfjord Fogderi (Norway), found a substantial decline in rural prosperity between 1667 and 1723. This is documented in tax relief proceedings connected with serious physical damage (floods, avalanches, landslides). Documentary sources of cereal taxes collected in the Canary Islands have been used to construct a complete and reliable wheat and barley production series for the period 1595–1836 (García et al., 2003). The cereal growth period in this region, including the months October–March, covers the whole rainy season in the islands, making these crops adequate to characterise the precipitation at annual scales. Brázdil and Valášek (2003) and Brázdil et al. (2003b) showed the potential of records of tax reduction to study past meteorological and hydrological extremes and their impacts.

A new kind of para-phenological indicator, similar to vine harvest dates, was discovered for Switzerland by Pfister (1979). Prior to the grain harvest, the tithe to be paid in grain had to be assessed for fiscal reasons. It was then sold by auction to wealthy farmers who had to bring the amount of grain purchased to the barn of the bailiff after threshing. The date of the auction immediately preceded the harvest and it can be used as a reliable proxy for the timing of the harvest. Highly significant correlations were found with temperature in May and June (Pfister, 1979). Recent investigations have shown that tithe auctions were also common in Austria and in Germany (Bauernfeind, 1993; Egger and Weigelt, 2000).

Another proxy indicator was recently discovered in the account books of the town Louny in north-west Bohemia (the Czech Republic). The account kept track of wages paid by the municipality on Saturday for work carried out in the preceding week. As this list is very detailed, it also relates to work that depended on weather and climate, e.g. cutting ice at the water mills and on the Ohře River, cleaning snow from the roads, repairing bridges after floods etc. The references to the harvest are particularly conclusive, because they are connected to the ripening of grain and thus to the temperature patterns in the months preceding the harvest. Brázdil and Kotyza (2000) have drawn on this proxy evidence to reconstruct winter and springsummer temperature patterns in the Czech Lands over the period 1450–1632 (with some gaps). Autumn is less densely documented than the other seasons, because the climatic conditions had a smaller impact on traditional societies at this time. However some climatic information can be drawn from the sugar content of wine, in order to assess warmth and sunshine in September (Pfister, 1984). It is assumed that similar results presented in Brázdil and Kotyza (2000) might be obtained from the account books of many other towns in Central Europe and beyond.

Information derived from ship logbooks is another important source of evidence. This may greatly increase our knowledge of conditions over sea and ocean areas,

in particular the prevailing winds that, in most weather diaries are recorded but 838 not very consistently. A great abundance of naval logbooks are known to exist 839 in the marine archives of the ancient great Powers, but only a tiny fraction of 840 these sources have been investigated so far. For instance, Wheeler (1995) analysed 841 weather records in the logbooks of Nicholas Pocock for 1766–1776. Frydendahl 842 and Frich (1996) collected more than 50,000 observations of wind direction and 843 force from logbooks in the Øresund area for the period 1675–1715. The authors 844 concluded that the frequencies of northerly and north-westerly wind directions 845 were higher and the winds stronger than in the modern period 1951–1980. García 846 et al. (2000) estimated atmospheric circulation in the North Atlantic in the periods 847 1551–1650 and 1717–1737 based on sailing times of the Spanish ships to America. 848 Historical accounts of the voyages of the Manila galleons were used for the study 849 of changes in the atmospheric circulation of the tropical Pacific Ocean during the 850 16th-18th centuries (Garcia et al., 2001). In addition, the logbooks' information 851 might be effectively used for description of weather patterns of important historical 852 events such as the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 (Wheeler, 2001) or during the voyage 853 of individual ships (e.g. Wheeler, 2003). Further progress is expected from the 854 EC Framework V project 2000-2003 called CLIWOC (Climatological database 855 for the World's oceans 1750–1850 – see http://www.ucm.es/info/cliwoc) which is 856 trying "to realise the scientific potential of logbook climatic data and to produce a 857 database of daily weather observations for the world's oceans between 1750 and 858 1850".

From the previous overview it follows that research in historical climatology in 860 Europe is geographically unbalanced. Although some potential of different kinds 861 of documentary evidence exists more or less in the every European country, only 862 some have been used in systematic historical-climatological investigations (such as 863 the Czech Republic, Germany, England, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, 864 Poland, Spain and Switzerland). Further studies from other countries in the Adriatic 865 region (Penzar and Penzar, 1997) and the territory of Austria (Strömmer, 2003), 866 Crete (Grove and Conterio, 1995), Greece (Repapis at al., 1989; Xoplaki et al., 867 2001), the Italian Alps (Bonardi, 1996, 2000), Slovakia (Brázdil and Kiss, 2001), 868 Slovenia (Ogrin, 2002), Romania (Cernovodeanu and Binder, 1993) and Russia (e.g. 869) Borisenkov and Pasetskiy, 1988; Borisenkov, 1992; Lyakhov, 1992; Chernavskaya, 870 1995; Popova, 2001) are needed to help resolve finer spatial and temporal scales 871 of past climate variability. Hitherto the availability of such dense and rich data sets 872 has allowed very accurate climate reconstructions in the Atlantic-European area 873 for the last several centuries (Luterbacher et al., 1999, 2000, 2002b, 2004).

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5.2. REORIENTATION TOWARDS A SYNOPTIC VIEW

Most of the climate reconstructions over say the last 1000 years focus on temperature (e.g. Bradley and Jones, 1993; Briffa et al., 1998, 2001; Mann et al., 1998, 877 878

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886 887 1999; Crowley, 2000; Crowley and Lowery, 2000; Jones et al., 2001; Mann, 2001; Briffa and Osborn, 2002; Esper et al., 2002). This fact hinders a detailed dynamical analysis of atmospheric processes as it is known from studies based on reanalysis data or long model integrations. Even the sparse data make it difficult to reconstruct the important state variables such as radiation, surface temperature, air pressure, wind, humidity and precipitation. Future studies have to pursue this goal. It is one of the merits of historical climatology to try to extend the number of analysed parameters in order to get a better understanding of past synoptic processes and regimes in this way. At this stage only some of these elements have been reasonably well reconstructed (Wanner and Luterbacher, 2002).

Significant progress, however, has been made in reconstructing the variations of 889 relevant time-variable forcing factors like the atmospheric load of volcanic aerosols and the output of the sun (Crowley, 2000). These variations may be fed into dif-890 ferent types of physical climate models (energy balance, radiative-convective or 891 GCMs), which can be used to estimate the response of the climate system to vari-892 able external forcing and thus provide a first guess of how the climate actually may have varied (for an example, see Section 5.7). However, since the climate state is 894 composed of an externally forced deterministic component and a stochastic part 895 related to internal dynamics of the climate system, the exact historical state can 896 not be simulated with very high precision. The application of data assimilation 897 898 methods (e.g., Robinson et al., 1998) such as DATUN (von Storch et al., 2000) can help to improve their precision. The first attempts to reconstruct average seasonal 899 900 atmospheric pressure at sea level using different documentary evidence from the Atlantic-European region were made by Lamb (1987). Such reconstructions were based on the assumption that anomalies in temperature and precipitation must be 902 903 related to circulation fluctuations caused by changes in the positions of the pre-904 vailing pressure systems and lower tropospheric advection of typical air masses 905 (as reflected, e.g., by the fluctuations of the NAO index). Circulation patterns during months with pronounced temperature and/or precipitation anomalies during 906 the instrumental period can, to a certain extent, be used as analogues for similar 907 908 anomaly patterns in the past (Jacobeit, 1997). Extension of the data base related to 909 documentary data in the 1990s (Pfister et al., 1994) has made it possible to iden-910 tify more reliably circulation changes in terms of mean monthly sea level pressure (SLP) maps. Such maps have been developed for the Late Maunder Minimum period (1675–1704) by Wanner et al. (1994, 1995). Similar to the reconstructions by 912 913 Lamb (1987), they are subject to the disadvantage that they cannot be tested statistically since the subjective maps are representing prevalent conditions rather than 914 real monthly means (Jacobeit et al., 1999); prevalent characteristics, however, dis-915 916 regarding intermediate deviations, might be smoothed out if integrated into strictly mean conditions as in the objective grids. Further, subjective maps might suffer 917 918 from some overestimation since descriptive informations often tend to emphasize 919 anomalies. Objective reconstructions are more approaching mean conditions, thus 920 being more consistent with recent reference data. On the other hand, with only few

data for statistical reconstructions, resulting grids tend to diminish in variability and 921 subjective maps based on documentary sources might better succeed in reproduc- 922 ing distinct circulation patterns, at least for outstanding anomalies with sufficient 923 descriptive information (Luterbacher et al., 2002b).

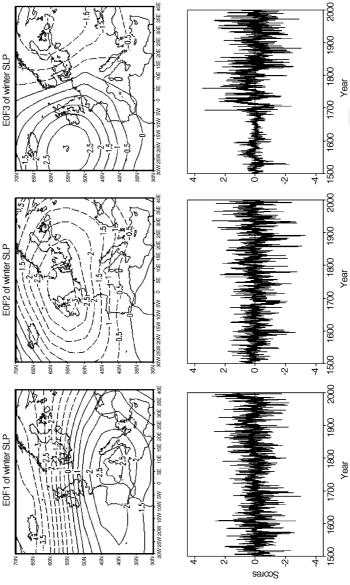
Attempts to compare circulation patterns in the 16th century with the 20th 925 century analogues for selected cold and warm winters and summers have been 926 made by Jacobeit et al. (1999). Statistically improved mean monthly SLP maps 927 for the Late Maunder Minimum period (1675–1715) were later reconstructed by 928 Luterbacher et al. (2000). This reconstruction, utilising both proxy and instrumental 929 records, was based on a canonical correlation analysis (CCA), with the standardised 930 station and documentary data as predictors and the SLP fields as predictands. In a 931 more recent paper, Luterbacher et al. (2002b) used a principal component regression 932 analysis to reconstruct gridded SLP for the eastern Atlantic-European area. Based on 933 early instrumental measurements and intensity indices derived from documentary 934 evidence, seasonal (1500–1658) and monthly (1659–1999) SLP was reconstructed 935 and subsequently used for an EOF analysis. Figure 4 shows the first three EOFs 936 of winter SLP anomalies from 1500 to 1999 and their associated score series. 937 The first pattern represents the classical zonal or NAO like structure, the second 938 shows a large pole east of Great Britain, and the third one depicts the classical 939 meridional flow situation over Europe. The first NAO like pattern accounts for 55% 940 of winter SLP variance. Its time series shows a high variability with a mixture of 941 positive and negative values before 1950 but mostly highly positive ones during 942 the last 30 years, a fact which is well known from many NAO studies (Wanner 943 et al., 2001). The combination of such pressure reconstructions with temperature 944 and precipitation data will not only form an excellent basis for model validation, 945 it will also lead to a better understanding of the dynamical processes for earlier 946 centuries (Wanner and Luterbacher, 2002). It has been demonstrated by Zorita 947 and González-Rouco (2002) that the converse is also true and that models can be 948 used to investigate the reliability of reconstructions. As mentioned in Section 4.4, 949 a major limitation of reconstruction methods is the possible non-stationarity of 950 the transfer function. Zorita and González-Rouco (2002) have used output from 951 a long GCM integration to generate 'pseudo-proxy' data. They showed that the 952 time-series behaviour of reconstructed meteorological elements are dependent on 953 the used training (calibration) data set. Sometimes large biases can occur.

5.3. DEFINING THE MEDIEVAL WARM PERIOD AND THE LITTLE ICE AGE

The climate of the last millennium, not only in Europe but also in other regions, has 956 traditionally been thought of as a time span including a "Medieval Warm Period" (MWP), followed by a period of climatic deterioration, a "Little Ice Age" (LIA) 958 and the current warming phase. Lamb (1965, 1977, 1984), based almost solely on 959 evidence from Western Europe and the North Atlantic region, placed the MWP 960

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Solid lines indicate positive values, and dashed lines mark negative values. Bottom: Corresponding normalised time components (scores) of the first three Figure 4. Top: patterns of the first three EOFs of winter SLP anomalies 1500–1999 (anomalies in hPa; contour interval 0.5 hPa). The last nine winters are reanalysis data (Kistler et al., 2001). The first EOF accounts for 55%, the second 23% and the third EOF 17%, respectively, of the winter SLP variance. EOFs. The thick line is the 9-point low pass filtered time series. For clarity of the figures, the monthly (DJF) scores for the post-1659 period were averaged to one seasonal winter value for the respective years (from Luterbacher et al., 2002b).

in the period 950–1200 (but in 1150–1300 for the greater part of Europe), and 961 the LIA in 1550–1850, with the most pronounced phase in the period 1550–1700. 962 These terms have commonly been used not only by climatologists but also by those 963 working in related sciences (e.g. Appleby, 1981; Chernavskaya, 1992; Fagan, 2000; 964 Buckland and Wagner, 2001; Kociánová, 2002). Many books and proceedings have 965 been devoted to climate especially during the MWP and the LIA (e.g., Grove, 1988; 966 Bradley and Jones, 1992; Mikami, 1992; Hughes and Diaz, 1994a; Jones et al., 1996; 967 Fagan, 2000; Ogilvie and Jónsson, 2001).

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This schematic division of the last millennium directed research in historical 969 climatology to the analysis of these periods (e.g. Lamb, 1980; Rodrigo et al., 1995). 970 However, from recent analyses it is concluded that the timing of these key periods 971 primarily depends on the availability and the time resolution of proxy data and of 972 the regional setting. More recent research has reassessed this paradigm (Bradley, 973 2000; Bradley et al., 2003; Soon and Baliunas, 2003). For instance, while Lamb 974 (1977) placed the start of the "Little Ice Age" in the mid-16th century, Porter (1986), 975 on the basis of glacial studies in the Northern Hemisphere, considered that it had 976 already begun around AD 1250. Fluctuations of the longest Alpine glacier, the Great 977 Aletsch glacier, included during the last millennium a smaller advance at about AD 978 1120 and three extreme maxima around AD 1350, 1650 and 1860 (Figure 5). 979 However, the maximum in 1350 is only radiocarbon dated and a substantial dating 980 error, in the order of tenths years has to be allowed for. On the other hand, the 981 corresponding advance of Gorner glacier (Canton of Valais, Swiss Alps) has been 982 dendrochronologically dated by a more reliable method. This glacier reached a 983 maximum around 1385 (Holzhauser, 1997, 2002; Holzhauser and Zumbühl, 1999) 984 which agrees well with the available documentary evidence (Pfister, 1988a). Jones 985 and Bradley (1992) avoided defining universally applicable dates for the onset and 986 end of the LIA due to great regional variations. Based on documentary evidence, 987

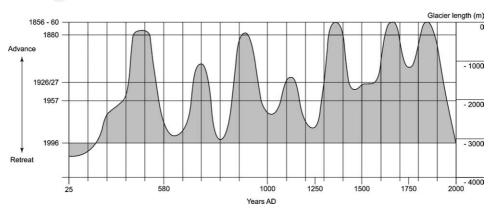


Figure 5. Fluctuations in the length of the Grosser Aletsch glacier (the Alps, Switzerland) in the last 2000 years (corrected according to Holzhauser and Zumbühl, 1999).

Pfister et al. (1996, 1998) concluded from analyses of winter temperature proxiesthat the LIA started in Central Europe shortly after AD 1300.

Similar inconsistencies are related to the term "Medieval Warm Period" (Hughes 990 and Diaz, 1994a), where the evidence compared to the LIA is scarcer. After com-991 piling existing knowledge about the MWP, Hughes and Diaz (1994b) judged that 992 "it is impossible at present to conclude from the evidence gathered here that there 994 is anything more significant than the fact that in some areas of the globe, for some 995 part of the year, relatively warm conditions may have prevailed ... the available evidence does not support a global Medieval Warm Epoch ...". Besides the dis-996 997 cussion of whether the MWP had a global extent (Broecker, 2001), it is generally believed that, in the hemispheric scale, temperatures were not higher than during the second part of the 20th century (Crowley and Lowery, 2000). Similarly, according 999 to Bradley et al. (2003) the balance of existing evidence does not point to a high 1000 medieval period that was as warm as or warmer than the late 20th century. Ogilvie 1001 et al. (2000), after combining documentary evidence with proxy data from natural 1002 archives such as ice cores and marine sediments, speaks about favourable condi-1003 tions in the North Atlantic region during AD 800-1100 (without danger of sea ice) 1004 that allowed Vikings to explore and inhabit Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland 1005 (so-called "Vínland"). Temperatures in this region were higher during AD 800– 1100 than in the following centuries, but not more than 1–2 °C. Esper et al. (2002), 1007 1008 analysing selected tree-ring chronologies from 14 sites in the Northern Hemisphere extratropics, found that the MWP may have begun there in the early 900s. In 1009 1010 their reconstruction, the warmest period covers the interval AD 950-1045 with a peak around 990 (for the MWP in Eastern Mediterranean see also Telelis, 2000, 1012 in press).

1013 The concepts of the MWP and LIA have also been discussed in other terms than temperature only. According to Grove (2001a, 2001b) the term "Little Ice 1014 Age" relates to the dimension of glaciers rather than directly to climate (see also 1015 Matthes, 1939, 1940). The "Little Ice Age" was the most recent period during 1016 which glaciers maintained an expanded position in most parts of the globe, with 1017 1018 their fronts oscillating around advanced positions. These fluctuations resulted from 1019 a combination of changes in seasonal temperature and precipitation patterns, but 1020 according to Grove (2001a,b) the LIA is not a climatic term as such. Stine (1998), based on his drought studies from the Western United States, proposed another term 1021 for the overall period of the MWP as the "Medieval Climatic Anomaly" (MCA), 1022 which removes the emphasis on the temperature. Wanner et al. (2000) have coined 1023 the term of "Little Ice Age Type Events" (LIATES) for the phases of glacier advance. Consequently, the "Medieval Warm Period" can be defined as the period between 1025 1026 the glacial advances of the LIA and a preceding phase of glacial expansion late in the penultimate millennium (see Figure 5) (Grove and Switsur, 1994). In this 1027 1028 warmer period, climatic conditions caused glacier mass balances to be negative, 1029 and volumes of glaciers to be reduced, so that their fronts melted back substantially, 1030 albeit with minor variations. In the light of the recent discussion about greenhouse gas induced global warming an elucidation of the processes that led to the MWP 1031 is a research topic with high priority. It needs to be stressed that neither the MWP 1032 nor the LIA were periods of unbroken warm or cold climate respectively (Wanner 1033 et al., 2000; Grove, 2001a,b). The distinct problem is further accentuated by the 1034 estimates of Northern Hemisphere (NH) annual mean temperatures since AD 1000 1035 reconstructed by Mann et al. (1999) from different proxy series (tree rings, ice cores, 1036 documentary evidence, corals). This series shows a gradual decline of temperatures 1037 over the last millennium (no sudden onset of the LIA) and a dramatic increase during 1038 the 20th century with the warmest decade in the 1990s and 1998 as the warmest year 1039 (Figure 6).

The climate variability of the NH is considerably different to that of European 1041 climate variability reconstructed using documentary evidence. Guiot (1992) de-1042 veloped series of European temperature anomalies for AD 1068–1979 based on 1043 documentary and biological evidence (Figure 6). This series represents the average 1044 over 20 reconstructed gridpoints covering the area 35°N–55°N and 10°W–20°E. 1045 Luterbacher et al. (2004) recently developed highly resolved spatio-temporal tem-1046 perature reconstructions for European land areas back to AD 1500. Their estimates 1047 were obtained utilising a multivariate statistical approach combining long instru-1048 mental temperature and pressure series, documentary proxy data and for the earlier 1049 period (before 1659) a few seasonally resolved temperature proxy reconstructions 1050 from Greenland ice cores and tree ring data from Scandinavia and Siberia. The 1051 annual anomalies of the results of both studies are compared in Figure 6 using the 1052 same geographical area as Guiot (1992).

As expected, in the common period of all three series 1500–1979 the corre-1054 lation of the unfiltered data is highest between the two European series (0.54). 1055 However, it has to be born in mind that the rather high correlation between the two 1056 European series is inflated due to several common predictors (e.g. the Central Eng-1057 land temperature series, temperatures from Switzerland). Luterbacher et al. (2004) 1058 used more predictors than Guiot (1992), including many homogenised temperature 1059 and pressure series from different sites in Europe (mainly since the early-18th cen-1060 tury). Furthermore, they used documentary proxy evidence from different European 1061 places that were not available to Guiot (1992) and the new reconstruction is based 1062 on 0.5×0.5 degree grid boxes (i.e., resolution around 60 km over land), which 1063 provides more regional details. Moreover, the new reconstruction was made on 1064 monthly (back to 1659) and seasonal (1500–1658) level. Summarising these facts, 1065 Luterbacher et al. (2004) used much more data than did Guiot (1992), which allows 1066 a more skilfull reconstruction. The new reconstruction is more highly resolved both 1067 in time and space, allowing the study of regional monthly and seasonal temperature 1068 changes and extremes, which are not visible on the annual level.

The similarities between the NH series of Mann et al. (1999) and the two 1070 European temperature estimates are, as expected, weaker. The corresponding cor-1071 relations for annual unfiltered values are 0.32 (Luterbacher et al., 2004) and 0.21 1072 (Guiot, 1992) respectively, both significant at the 99.9% level. Though highly 1073

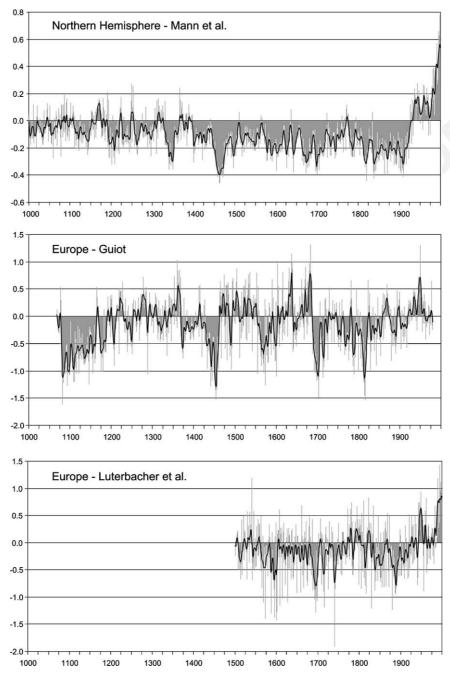


Figure 6. Fluctuations in annual Northern Hemisphere (Mann et al., 1999) and European temperature anomalies (°C) according to Guiot (1992) and Luterbacher et al. (2004) during the last millennium. Reference period 1902–1980 for Mann et al. (1999) and Luterbacher et al. (2004) and 1851–1979 for Guiot (1992). The three time-series have been smoothed by a 10-year Gaussian filter. The scale for Northern Hemisphere temperature is different from both European series.

significant, only between 4 and 9% of common variability is shared between 1074 the European and the Northern Hemisphere annual temperature reconstructions. 1075 It should be mentioned that the European reconstructions are not fully independent 1076 from the reconstruction of Mann et al. (1999) as they share some basic data; hence 1077 the correlations may be an overestimate.

It is obvious that a temperature reconstruction for Europe must exhibit notable 1079 differences compared to a NH reconstruction as Europe is only a small part of the 1080 entire hemisphere. Nevertheless, instrumental data for the last 140 years (Hansen 1081 et al., 1999, 2001) reveal a relatively strong connection between the NH land tem-1082 perature north of 20°N and European land areas (25°W–40°E; 35°N–70°N). The 1083 correlation is 0.62 for winter and reaches 0.75 for summer and the entire year. 1084 The correlations between the proxy-data-based reconstructions for Europe (Guiot, 1085 1992; Luterbacher et al., 2004) and that for the NH (Mann et al. 1999) reveal a 1086 markedly weaker relationship compared to that found in the instrumental data. 1087 This can mainly be attributed to uncertainties in the reconstructions, but could also 1088 partly reflect different de-coupling and climate behaviour at the continental scale 1089 compared to the entire NH.

A striking feature (Figure 6) is the significantly greater variability on almost all 1091 time scales in case of the European temperature reconstructions compared to the 1092 NH. This may be, amongst other factors, due to certain types of signals (e.g., the 1093 influence of climate forcings such as volcanic, solar, internal oscillations) which are 1094 stronger in the European reconstructions than on the Northern Hemisphere scale. 1095

Pauling et al. (2003) investigated the importance of proxies for seasonal 1096 European and North Atlantic temperature field reconstructions. Their study anal-1097 ysed the importance of several different types of proxy series for the reconstruction 1098 of climate in different parts of Europe, allowing for 'teleconnections' between the 1099 geographical location where the proxy data was collected and the part of Europe for 1100 which temperature is reconstructed. For boreal winter (October-March) they found 1101 that documentary evidence was most important for much of continental Europe, 1102 while a speleothem from Scotland was the most important proxy (among those used 1103 in the analysis) for both Iceland and the western Mediterranean region. Tree-ring 1104 data had most importance both for the eastern Mediterranean and parts of north-1105 ern Fennoscandia. For summer temperature reconstructions, tree-ring data had the 1106 largest importance for most of Europe, while documentary data and the Scottish 1107 speleothem had relevance for various smaller parts of Europe. These findings can, 1108 however, not be generalized as they refer only to the actual selection of proxy data 1109 analysed. Once new proxy data are becoming available, it may turn out that these 1110 will be more important for some regions than, for example, the Scottish speleothem. 1111

Based on various types of proxy data, Bradley and Jones (1993) calculated 1112 an average series of summer temperature anomalies for Europe since AD 1400 1113 (Figure 7). This series shows, for decadal values in the common period of 1500–1114 1979, statistically significant correlations with the reconstructed summer temper-1115 atures of Prague in the Czech Republic (0.49) and Switzerland (0.39), while the 1116

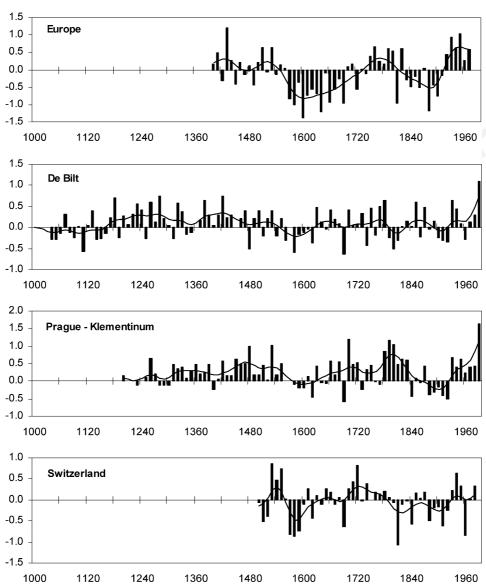


Figure 7. Fluctuations in decadal anomalies of summer temperatures (°C) in Europe over the last millennium (reference period 1901–1960), smoothed by a 10-decade Gaussian filter): (a) Europe (Bradley and Jones, 1993), (b) De Bilt – the Netherlands (van Engelen et al., 2000, 2001), (c) Prague-Klementinum – the Czech Republic (Brázdil, 1996), (d) Switzerland (Pfister, 1999).

correlation with the station De Bilt in the Netherlands (0.25) is not significant.
The Czech Republic series and the De Bilt series were not used in the European
series by Bradley and Jones (1993), but the latter included the Swiss series. In
the modern period 1900–1979, the correlations with the Bradley and Jones (1993)
series are much stronger (0.65 for De Bilt, 0.54 forSwitzerland, 0.70 for the Czech

Republic). These results show that significant correlations exist between reconstruc-1121 tions of some local to regional Central European series and the European average, 1122 but they also show that the correlations can vary substantially in time – indicating 1123 time-varying reliability of the reconstructions.

Recently, Jones et al. (2003a) using both long European instrumental records 1125 and longer European and Chinese documentary series showed that winters have 1126 warmed relative to summers over the last 200 years compared to earlier in the past 1127 millennium. They concluded that it may give erroneous indications of the past, if 1128 proxies that are indicative of summer conditions are used to reconstruct annual 1129 mean temperatures. This could potentially be a serious problem, as many natural 1130 proxy data are sensitive to summer conditions while relatively few are sensitive to 1131 winter and the other two seasons.

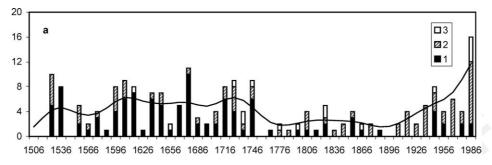
Detailed studies of climate fluctuations and their spatial structure in Europe, 1133 based mainly on documentary evidence, have been undertaken for the 16th century 1134 (Pfister et al., 1999a) and for the Late Maunder Minimum period in 1675–1715 1135 (e.g. Frenzel et al., 1994; Barriendos, 1997; Alcoforado et al., 2000; Xoplaki et al., 1136 2001). Apart from temporal reconstructions for Germany (Glaser et al., 1999a) and 1137 the low countries (van Engelen et al., 2000, 2001) there are no other European 1138 temperature reconstructions with annual resolution available since AD 1000. The 1139 challenge remains to assess temperature series for Central Europe over the last 1140 millennium using data and reconstructions from other countries.

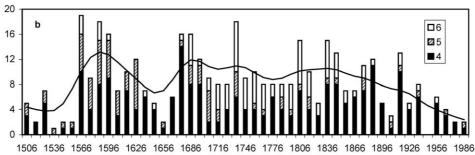
5.4. CLIMATIC ANOMALIES AND NATURAL DISASTERS

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The terms "climatic anomaly" or "extreme event" are used here to describe a sub-1143 stantial deviation of a single value in a time series from an arithmetic mean or from a 1144 trend, i.e. in association with short-term events (Pfister, 1999). On the other hand the 1145 term "natural disaster" focuses on the effects of extreme events upon human soci-1146 eties. In other words, whether a rare event becomes a disaster depends on the social 1147 conditions. Disasters are classified both in terms of material (money equivalent) and 1148 immaterial damages (i.e. victims). However, the helplessness of the victims, their 1149 dependence on help from the outside, provides a common denominator (Pfister, 1150 2002).

In the context of the enhanced greenhouse effect debate, the potential anthro-1152 pogenic influences on climate are often blamed for environmental risks, in particular 1153 climatic anomalies and natural disasters (Stehr and von Storch, 1995; Ungar, 1999). 1154 While weather extremes usually have immediate consequences, the effects of cli-1155 matic anomalies may be time lagged. This was demonstrated by Pfister's (1999) 1156 study of anomalies in monthly temperature and precipitation in Switzerland during 1157 the period 1496–1995, which took into account occurrence of warm or cold, dry or 1158 wet conditions, and their combinations. In the period 1560–1895, overlapping for 1159 the most part with the LIA, 71% of anomalous months were cold, of these 40% were 1160





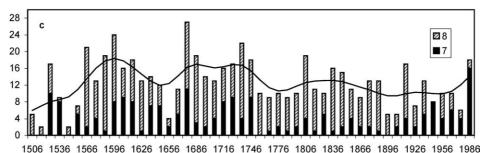


Figure 8. Decadal frequencies of warm (a), cold (b) and warm + cold (c) monthly temperature anomalies in Switzerland in the period 1506–1995 (data in Pfister, 1999): 1 - warm, 2 - warm–dry, 3 - warm–wet, 4 - cold, 5 - cold–wet, 6 - cold–dry, 7 - warm, warm–dry, warm–wet, 8 - cold, cold–wet, cold–dry. Smoothed by a 10-decade Gaussian filter. Years on the x-axis always mean the first year of the respective decade.

rated cold, 17% cold–dry and 14% cold–wet. Between 1896 and 1988 the proportion of months that were anomalously cold dropped to 56%, while between 1988 and 1997 cold anomalies completely disappeared. Figures 8a and 8b show decadal frequencies of individual months classified as warm (a) and cold (b) anomalies. More pronounced climate variability from the latter half of the 16th century to the mid-18th century is evident in Figure 8c, which shows the total frequency of both warm and cold anomalies combined.

Natural disasters have always affected human affairs to some degree, as they do at the present time, when the material damage they cause is increasing and more devastating. In the world, the material damage has grown by a factor of fourteen 1170 between the 1950s and the 1990s. Most, if not all of this increase, are the result 1171 of a greater intensity of settlements and constructions in potentially dangerous 1172 areas (Münchener Rück, 1999). The issue of whether the number and severity of 1173 "extreme events" has increased as a result of the enhanced greenhouse effect is 1174 highly controversial. In particular the following issues are not settled (Karl and 1175 Easterling, 1999):

- (i) Whether the observed process of global warming is projected to the fre-1177 quency and intensity of meteorological extremes.
- (ii) Whether and to what extent the human society becomes more sensitive to 1179 impacts of meteorological extremes.
- (iii) Whether the perception of meteorological extremes is to a greater extent 1181 affected by media.

Accurate observations (comparable to the modern standard) of meteorological ex-1183 tremes (e.g. gales, hailstorms, tornadoes) and hydrological extremes (e.g. floods) 1184 are, as a rule, bound to the period in which the given element or phenomenon was 1185 systematically observed within a network. This period rarely extends over more 1186 than hundred years. Documentary data are the only kind of evidence that allows 1187 pushing back the record of such extremes into the past for several more centuries. 1188 The more extreme an event, the more evidence are available and the more detailed 1189 they are providing information about their intensity, seasonality, causes and impacts 1190 of disasters (Pfister, 1999; Brázdil, 2000). Moreover such reconstructions may at 1191 least partly provide analogue-cases for the present.

Certain limitations of this kind of evidence, however, have to be kept in mind. 1193 It is spatially and temporally discontinuous and limited to those events that had a 1194 significant impact on society. For the Czech Republic a series of strong wind events 1195 based on documentary evidence has been compiled since AD 1500 (Figure 9). Two 1196 periods before 1900 stand out in which such events were particularly frequent: The 1197 first one is the 1580s-1590s (also the 1640s), the second is the time between 1770 1198 and 1900. It is open to debate whether such fluctuations are rather an effect of a 1199 changing density of records than the product of changing climate parameters. A 1200 conspicuous increase in frequencies since 1900 is due to a systematic research of 1201 newspaper reports, whereas up to that time the data were obtained only from clas-1202 sical documentary evidence (such as chronicles, annals, letters etc.). Significantly 1203 lower numbers of events were recorded in the 1940s and in the 1950s. In the first 1204 case it was connected with the period of World War II with priority of other type of 1205 reports than about weather extremes. In the second case it was related to the period 1206 of political fanaticism after the onset of Communism in the former Czechoslo-1207 vakia. Reports, about weather disasters, did not fit to official ideology that the "new 1208 man" will manage nature and its processes (Dobrovolný and Brázdil, 2003; Brázdil 1209 et al., in press). Other similarly analysed European series are shorter and related 1210 to documentary data and systematic (instrumental) observations at one particular 1211

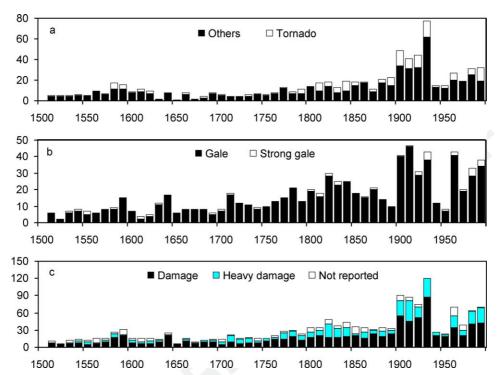


Figure 9. Fluctuations in decadal frequencies of the occurrence of strong winds (based on documentary evidence) connected with convective storms (tornadoes and others) (a), gales (b) and case of strong winds with damage (c) in the Czech Republic over the period AD 1500–1999 (Brázdil et al., 2004). Years indicate the first year of the respective decade.

1212 place (e.g. Dawson et al., 1997; Schiesser et al., 1997; Sweeney, 2000; Hickey, 1213 2003).

Many scientific investigations that focus on the causes, the seasonality and the intensity of climatic anomalies and extremes do not consider the societal consequences, while other studies address both questions simultaneously. Only a certain part of climatic anomalies and extremes, however, generates damage. For instance, according to Brázdil et al. (1998), in the years 1957–1995, all the material damage and the loss of lives related to weather extremes in southern Moravia (the Czech Republic) was due to only about 6% of all thunderstorms and about 23% of all hailstorms. This knowledge corresponds to similar results by Changnon (1997) for the USA where only 5–10% of all thunderstorms and 10–25% of all hail produce damage. Systematic records of the impact of extremes are useful for the compilation of their chronologies. De Kraker (1999, 2002) utilised data from accounts of dikes protecting a polder region in northern Flanders to trace the occurrence of high tides, storms and storm surges in the past millennium. The magnitude of impacts is, to a considerable extent, a result of the interaction between physical parameters and the vulnerability of societies; the latter involves the awareness and the preparedness

for such events (e.g., in the adaptation of land use and the setting up of a warning 1229 system), which fluctuates in both space and time. Systematic time series of the 1230 material and immaterial damages were only recently established for the 19th and 1231 20th century Switzerland (Pfister, 2002), though such data could also be obtained 1232 for other countries using documentary sources such as chronicles, newspapers and 1233 – for the last decades – the records of insurance companies, if these have survived. 1234

Floods and storms are counted among the most devastating natural disasters, as 1235 in Central Europe the examples of the "millennium flood" in July 1342 (Bork et al., 1236 1998; Tetzlaff et al., 2001) and of the recent catastrophic flood in August 2002 1237 demonstrated (Kachelmann, 2002; Mudelsee et al., 2003). Records of major histor-1238 ical floods were included into compilations of flood reports already quite long ago 1239 (e.g., see Pötzsch, 1784; Weikinn, 1958–2002; Jones et al., 1984). This evidence, 1240 however, was not systematically analysed from a scientific point of view until re-1241 cently. Flood series as well as individual severe flood events in the pre-instrumental 1242 period in Europe have been subject to several recent studies (e.g., see Pfister and 1243 Hächler, 1991; Camuffo and Enzi, 1996; Krahe, 1997; Brázdil, 1998; Glaser, 1244 1998; Deutsch et al., 2000; Schmidt, 2000; Tol and Langen, 2000; Williams and 1245 Archer, 2000; Munzar, 2001; Deutsch and Pörtge, 2002). For instance, Barriendos 1246 and Martín-Vide (1998) investigated flood magnitude and frequency within the 1247 context of climatic variability for the last centuries for central Spain and Catalonia. 1248 The authors report on the importance of documentary data to illustrate the high 1249 sensitivity of flood magnitude and frequency to the climatic variability. They found 1250 periods with high flood frequency over the last centuries with similar seasonal 1251 distribution compared to present conditions. Brázdil et al. (1999) analysed in detail 1252 the severity and frequency of floods during the 16th century in different European 1253 drainage areas. They found a prevalence of flood occurrence during the second half 1254 of the 16th century for Central European and Andalusian rivers, while Italian and 1255 Catalonian rivers had a higher occurrence of floods during the first half of the same 1256 century. Heavy Rhine floods in Basle (Switzerland) appeared on average each 9.5 1257 years since 1496 up to 1882 while in the following 112 years the average return pe-1258 riod lengthened to 18.7 years. No truly extreme flood event was observed between 1259 1882 and 1994 (Pfister, 1999). Benito et al. (2003) analysed not only the frequency 1260 of flooding in the Tagus basin (central Spain) over the last millennium, but based 1261 on water-level marks and other documentary evidence and using a hydraulic 1262 model, they also estimated the peak discharges of floods. They concluded that 1263 flood magnitude and frequency is highly sensitive to the climatic variability. Llasat 1264 et al. (2003) investigated the flash flood of June 2000 in Catalonia and compared 1265 it with the floods that have occurred since the 14th century. They concluded, that 1266 comparable catastrophic events have been recorded at least once each century and 1267 that they are associated with similar meteorological situations. Mudelsee et al. 1268 (2003) studied long records of winter and summer floods of the Elbe and Oder 1269 rivers. They found a decrease in winter flood occurring in both rivers for the past 1270 80 to 150 years, while summer floods show no trend. Additionally, the authors 1271

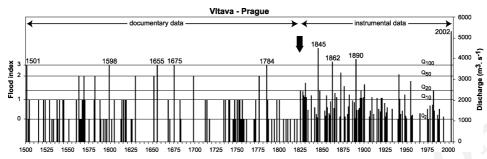


Figure 10. Chronology of floods on the Vltava at Prague in AD 1500–2002 – a synthesis of documentary evidence and instrumental records. Left: floods according to documentary data interpreted in the scale 0–3 (for explanation see Sturm et al., 2001). Right: measured peak discharges during floods with n-year water levels; for instance, Q_{20} corresponds to the peak discharge rate with return period of 20 years.

detected significant long-term changes in flood occurrence rates in the 16th–19th centuries.

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1299 1300 Following a series of severe flood events in Europe since the 1990s (e.g., in the Rhine and the Meuse area in December 1993 and January 1995, the Oder and the Morava area in July 1997, the Vltava and the Elbe in August 2002) a Swiss-German-Czech research project named FLOODRISK was initiated to investigate the frequency of severe floods in Central Europe back to AD 1500 on the basis of documentary data (Wanner et al., 2004). A particular focus was set on the study of natural variability because the question is regularly asked as to whether such events in recent times are just an expression of natural climate variability or rather a result of recent global warming (Weichselgartner, 2000; Sturm et al., 2001; Hesselink, 2002).

Figure 10 represents the chronology of floods with peak discharge rates \geq 1090 m³ · s¹ (this peak discharge rate corresponds to the return period of 2 years, further denoted as "2-year water") in the Vltava at Prague during AD 1500-2002. Regular measurements started there in 1825. Floods before 1825 were derived from documentary evidence. The flood of August 2002 due to continuous precipitation during three days, with 17 victims and material damage around 80 billion Czech crowns (around 1/10 of the national budget value), was estimated to be a "500-year water" (5160 m $^3 \cdot s^1$). It has only one known analogue, the case from July 1432 which was known as "a flood of millennium" in Bohemia. Between this flood and the event in the year 2002, the February flood of 1784 due to ice movement was taken to be the highest with a calculated peak discharge rate, according to watermarks of 4580 m³ · s¹. Flood intensity indices (on a scale from 0 to 3) from the pre-instrumental period, based on documentary evidence (Sturm et al., 2001), are also shown in Figure 10. This figure shows two long periods with no severe floods, namely between 1675 and 1784 and 1890 and 2002. On the other hand, the second part of the 16th century and most of the 19th century belonged to the most severe flood periods. During 1630–1730 the recorded number of floods with lower index might be influenced by some gaps in the documentary evidence. There is a necessity

to take in consideration natural and anthropogenic changes in the catchment area 1301 during some centuries (e.g. land-use) as well as the fact that extreme floods can 1302 significantly alter the character and the course of a river.

The historical flood series clearly suggests decadal scale variability. But the 1304 data set itself does not clearly answer the question of whether this time series is 1305 representing a purely stochastic process. In recent years, the first attempts have 1306 been undertaken to study the relation between the flood frequency and atmospheric 1307 circulation changes (e.g., Hirschboeck, 1987; Jacobeit et al., 2003; Wanner et al., 1308 2004). In general, it can be stated that flooding catastrophies in larger areas appear 1309 to develop in preferred locations and can be linked to anomalous atmospheric 1310 circulation patterns. These patterns persist over a longer period of days and weeks 1311 and lead to a strengthened humidity transport from the oceans to the continents.

It is still a topic of intense research to find the mechanisms that link the process 1313 of warming at the global level and other large scale forcing factors with features 1314 such as severe anomalies and hazards at the regional level. This has yet to be done, 1315 because the public opinion is very sensitive to extremes which occur near or within 1316 the region where they live. Last, but not least, it is controversial regarding how far 1317 natural hazards are purely natural and how far they are aggravated by human activity 1318 (e.g. Weichselgartner, 2000; Houghton et al., 2001; Hesselink, 2002; Mudelsee 1319 et al., 2003).

5.5. CLIMATIC IMPACTS AND THE VULNERABILITY OF PAST ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES

Whereas the study of future climatic impacts on humankind has developed into a 1323 well-funded avenue of research, the climatic vulnerability of past societies has only 1324 found a limited attention. To some extent this is connected to the long tradition 1325 of climatic determinism which postulated that climate has been one of the most 1326 powerful factors in determining the course of human history (e.g. Huntington, 1327 1907, 1925; Markham, 1947; Claiborne, 1970). Particularly crude and unscientific 1328 examples of this position were recently provided by Beck (1993) and Hsü (2000). 1329

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From the early 20th century social scientists such as Emile Durkheim vigorously 1330 reacted against this school of thought by framing the axiom that social issues 1331 could solely be explained by social factors (Glaeser, 1994). Durkheim's axiom 1332 is still believed by many social scientists today, and this is one of the obstacles to 1333 interdisciplinary co-operation between natural and social sciences. A more adequate 1334 position, avoiding both extremes of rejecting any role of the natural environment and 1335 of assigning it a dominant role, was formulated by the German geographer Wilhelm 1336 Lauer (1981): "Climate shapes the theatre in which human existence – the history of 1337 the human race – takes place, sets borders for that which can happen on the earth, 1338 but certainly does not determine what happens or will happen. Climate introduces 1339 problems that man has to solve. Whether he solves them, or how he solves them, is 1340

1341 left to his fantasy, his will, and his formative activities. Or, expressed in a metaphor:
1342 climate does not compose the text for the development drama of mankind, it does
1343 not write the movie script, that man does alone."

 Another point was the lack of continuous, homogeneous and quantitative high-resolution evidence of temperature and precipitation needed for the building of appropriate models. Finally, the use of blanket terms such as the MWP and LIA in comparisons of climatic conditions with developments in human history and society was not very helpful, because it overshadowed the complexity of the task and lead to hasty conclusions. The topic of climatic change was investigated again after World War II by members of the French Annales School such as Fernand Braudel and Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie. In the well-known "History of Climate" Le Roy Ladurie (1967) pointed out that: "In the long term the human consequences of climate seem to be slight, perhaps negligible, and certainly difficult to detect." Wigley et al. (1985) provided a basic study concerning historical climate impact assessments.

The issue of whether climatic change had a significant impact on "history" is controversial (Brown, 2001). However, it should not be overlooked that both "climate" and "history" are blanket terms located on such a high level of abstraction that relationships between them cannot be investigated according to the rules of scientific methodology. In order to become more meaningful, the issue needs to be broken down to lower scales of analysis, e.g. by putting a focus on specific human activities and/or needs in relation to a given set of climatic variables. For the needs of pre-industrial societies, it primarily concerns the availability of biomass (e.g. food, fodder) and energy (e.g. wind, water-power, draught animals), followed by the processes of population dynamics (e.g. patterns of diseases and epizootics, as well as fertility of men and live-stock), and transport and communications as well as military and naval operations. Undoubtedly, beneficial climatic effects tend to enlarge the scope of human action, whereas climatic shocks restrict it or, in the worst case lead to emergency situations. The impact of sequences of climatic events on energy availability and population dynamics depends on the environmental, cultural and historical context (Pfister, 2001).

Models of climatic effects on society are often framed as a chain of causation (Kates, 1985). Climatic patterns have a first order or biophysical impact on agricultural production or on the outbreak of diseases or epizootics (e.g. Pfister, 1984). These may have second-order effects on prices of food or raw materials which may then ramify into the wider economy and society (third-order impacts). In the late 19th century, economists and geographers such as Stanley Jevons and Eduard Brückner were looking for climatic cycles, because climate was still an important determinant of food prices (Stehr and von Storch, 2000a). The concept of "Little Ice Age Type-Impacts" (LIATIMP) was recently proposed by Pfister (in press). LIATIMP also stands for a numerical model that simulates biophysical impacts on agriculture based on climatic data and comprise cold and rainy mild-summers, chilly springs and rainy autumns. Prior to the mid-20th century such situations

affected all agricultural resources at the same time (for 17th century Saxony, see 1384 Militzer, 1996, 1998). It was demonstrated that the level of LIATIMP was signifi- 1385 cantly higher during the period 1568–1630 than during the previous and subsequent 1386 decades.

Baten (2002) studied human stature as an indicator for nutritional status. He 1388 argued that European climate in the 18th century significantly influenced nutritional 1389 status as measured with anthropometric indices on a quinquennial or decadal basis. 1390 According to him there was a causal chain leading from warmer (colder) winters 1391 to higher (lower) grain and protein production, and these factors determined real 1392 wages and finally human stature.

Bauernfeind (1993) looked into grain price formation on the Nuremberg market 1394 (southern Germany) from AD 1339 to 1670. After having controlled prices for cur- 1395 rency devaluation he concluded that long-term trends of grain prices were primarily 1396 caused by both the growth and decline of population and climate variations. Bauern- 1397 feind and Woitek (1999) analysed quantitatively the impact of seasonal temperature 1398 and precipitation on the price fluctuations of several commodities, including rye, 1399 butter and honey, at Nuremberg, Cologne, Augsburg and Munich (Germany) during 1400 the period 1490–1620. It turned out that in the last third of the 16th century climatic 1401 changes became the most significant factor affecting food prices.

Brázdil and Durd'áková (2000) studied series of prices for rye, wheat, barley 1403 and oats for Brno, Dačice and Olomouc (the Czech Republic) for the 16th–18th 1404 centuries. A focus was put on 61 years of crisis, in which prices stood at a very high 1405 level. According to the authors the relation to a poor harvest and to adverse weather 1406 in the given or in the preceding year was obvious in 67% of the crisis years. This 1407 result points to the fact that climate is only one, albeit an important factor affecting 1408 subsistence levels in agrarian societies.

Wine was another important source of income for institutions and for the landed 1410 gentry on the basis of tithes, taxes or sharecropping. In Central Europe viticulture is 1411 at its northern limit and therefore the growth, yield and sugar content of grapes are 1412 very dependent on climate. Landsteiner (1999) compared wine production in four 1413 areas north of the Alps – the Zurich area, Württemberg, Lower Austria and western 1414 Hungary – over the period 1550–1630. In all regions wine production slumped from 1415 the 1580s initiating a long series of consecutive crop failures continuing until the 1416 late 1590s or the early 1600s. This calamity is attributed to a 15-year downturn of 1417 summer temperatures north of the Alps (Pfister and Brázdil, 1999). In lower Austria 1418 the collapse of wine production and hence high prices, led the public to switch from 1419 wine to beer consumption. The Hapsburg Emperor, who drew a substantial part of 1420 his income from wine production, had to double the heavy export duty on wine in 1421 order to be able to meet the interests on the state debt. Moreover harvest failures put 1422 a severe strain on the budgets of urban wine producers, and deficient grain harvests 1423 reduced the real wages of the vinedressers by 50% (Landsteiner, 1999).

The farther we move away from first-order impacts, the greater is the com-1425 plexity of the factors masking the climatic effect. It is easier to investigate the 1426

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effects of short-term (annual and interannual) impacts. In dealing with the effects of multidecadal climate variations we have to account for modifications in the economic, institutional and environmental setting so extensively as to vitiate any attempt at strict comparison or measurement. Most climatic impacts were related to food scarcity or famines. In most cases, impacted societies had developed adaptive and adjustive mechanisms to buffer climatic shocks and to avoid risk by growing different kinds of crops (e.g. Barriendos and Dannecker, 1999). Moreover, parameters such as social stratification and governance need to be considered. This is illustrated by Brázdil et al. (2001) who investigated the consequences of the wellknown European subsistence crises in 1770-1771 for the Czech Lands. A long wet spell in mid-summer together with other weather, economic and social factors, caused a dramatic surge in grain prices leading to dearth, diseases and extremely high population mortality (Figure 11). Although the Imperial Court in Vienna took measures for relief, one tenth of the population died in Bohemia during those years. The dearth lead to a change in the diet of the poor strata of society, and this became one of the triggers for the subsequent uprising of serfs in 1775.

In other parts of central Europe the demographic consequences of this climatic impact were less dramatic, because the social buffers were adequate. This is demonstrated from the example of the Swiss Canton of Bern, where the level of mortality did not rise despite the adverse weather (Pfister, 1978), because the system of local and regional poor-relief was well developed. However, the level of community taxes rose sharply as a consequence (Flückiger-Strebel, 2002). The comparison of these two examples, the Czech Lands and the Canton of Bern highlights the social dimension of food poverty, which may be aggravated or alleviated by the

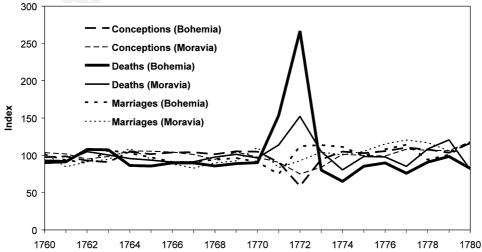


Figure 11. Fluctuations in indices of conceptions, deaths and marriages in Bohemia and Moravia (the Czech Republic) in the period 1760–1780 (100 is average of 1760–1780) (Brázdil et al., 2001).

management of the crisis by the authorities (Newman, 1990). More regional exam-1451 ples are needed in order to get a coherent view on the many dimensions that are 1452 related to this issue.

When studying the effect of climatic variations on past societies, little can be 1454 learned from the management of recent or ongoing climate variations, simply since 1455 the societal conditions, in terms of organisation, technology and demography have 1456 changed. The impact of climate variations and extremes is non-stationary. How- 1457 ever, the way people think about climate, how they perceive extremes, is changing 1458 much less. Therefore, the aspect of "images and social representation" discussed 1459 in the next section is of great practical importance for the ongoing discourse about 1460 anthropogenic climate change and how people, nations and societies will deal with 1461 the threat of global warming.

5.6. IMAGES AND SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS OF CLIMATIC ANOMALIES AND NATURAL DISASTERS

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A cultural history of environmental affairs stresses the point that a certain attitude 1465 to nature depends on a particular world-view or view on nature that is changeable 1466 with time (Glacken, 1967). If we understand culture as the construction of reality, 1467 then weather, climate and natural disasters become a part of the cultural history of 1468 mankind (Kempe, 2003). This kind of research is still in its infancy (e.g., Rebetez 1469 Beniston, 1992; Rebetez, 1996; Coates, 1998; Fleming, 1998; Favier and Granet-1470 Abisset, 2000; Jankovic, 2000; Coeur, 2003; Groh et al., 2003; Jakubowski-Tiessen 1471 and Lehmann, 2003; Kempe and Rohr, 2003; Stuber, 2003). Historical climatology 1472 is called to participate in investigating the ideas and images and social representa-1473 tions of climatic anomalies and natural disasters. It is a multidisciplinary field that 1474 involves also cultural historians, historians of religion and mentality and linguists. 1475 The contribution of historical climatology might be twofold: On the one hand, 1476 historical climatologists are familiar with the sources in which historical percep-1477 tions of weather are found, where quasi "objective" observations and superstitious 1478 interpretations of anomalies can be part of the same records. On the other hand, 1479 historical climatologists have produced high-resolution quantitative reconstructions 1480 of weather and climate. This kind of statistical product derived from the original 1481 evidence may be needed to rectify views, which cast doubt on the reality of the 1482 extreme phenomena that are described in the records. 1483

Behringer (1999), who investigated the connections between witchcraft and cli-1484 mate in Europe, is a good example for dealing with climate and social representation. 1485 Although in popular imagination witchcraft has traditionally been seen as one of 1486 the major causes for hailstorms, Christian ecclesiastical authorities in the Early and 1487 High Middle Ages refused to accept such accusations. It was only in the 1380s that 1488 magic and weather-making became increasingly prominent in inquisitorial trials. 1489 During the 1480s the Church finally accepted the image of the weather-making 1490

witch. This was mainly the work of the Alsatian Dominican friar Heinrich Kramer,
who summarised these ideas in his notorious *Malleus maleficarum*, The Witches'
Hammer, published in 1486.

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Harsh criticism by humanists at the beginning Reformation temporarily stopped inquisitorial witchcraft persecution in the early 16th century. The debate was resumed in the 1560s and accompanied by a debate on weather-making because this was the most important charge against suspected witches. Though witches were certainly made responsible for all kinds of bad luck, weather is especially important in an agrarian society. Crop failure caused increases in prices, malnutrition, rising infant mortality and, finally, epidemics. Starting in the 1560s, a series of witch panics shook European societies and were followed by attempts to legalise witchcraft persecutions. From the 1580s to the end of the 1620s, persecution increased to a previously unknown extent, when thousands of persons were burnt in many parts of Western and Central Europe. This period coincides with the decade long downturn in climate that leads to a long-term deterioration of the living conditions of the majority of the people. New research demonstrates that the persecution was indeed not only demanded but also organised by the population. Accusations and persecutions were synchronous in far-away countries, not connected by dynastic, confessional, economic or other links. This demonstrates the importance of the climatic factor as a contributing explanation (Behringer, 1999). It seems that climatic change and variability is becoming a significant topic in the history of mentalities.

Another example is the lengthy list of cases when Europeans and North Americans believed to be subject to man-made climate change (von Storch and Stehr, 2000, 2002). This list includes the witches just mentioned, but also the concern about newly installed lightning rods, redirection of ocean currents, nuclear explosions, deforestation and many more. Von Storch and Stehr (2000, 2002) claim that the concept of adverse anthropogenic climate change is an integral part of the Western culture, so that relating weather extremes to anthropogenic causes is easily accepted as plausible.

1520 5.7. POTENTIAL OF HISTORICAL CLIMATOLOGY FOR CLIMATE MODELLING

1521 Recently, the first attempts were made to reconstruct climate variations during the 1522 last few hundred years using dynamic climate models forced with reconstructed time series of forcings. One such study was conducted by Fischer-Bruns et al. (2002). 1523 With the state-of-the-art climate model ECHO-G, the effect of time varying solar and volcanic-aerosol forcing has been simulated. This model is composed of the 1525 1526 atmospheric GCM ECHAM4 with T-30 resolution and an oceanic circulation model HOPE-G with T-42 resolution (for more details, see Zorita et al., in press). During 1527 1528 the winters 1675–1710 a marked global cooling was simulated. This event mimics, in terms of broad patterns and time mean intensity, the strong cooling "Late Maunder 1530 Minimum" (LMM, 1675–1710) period in Europe documented in various historical

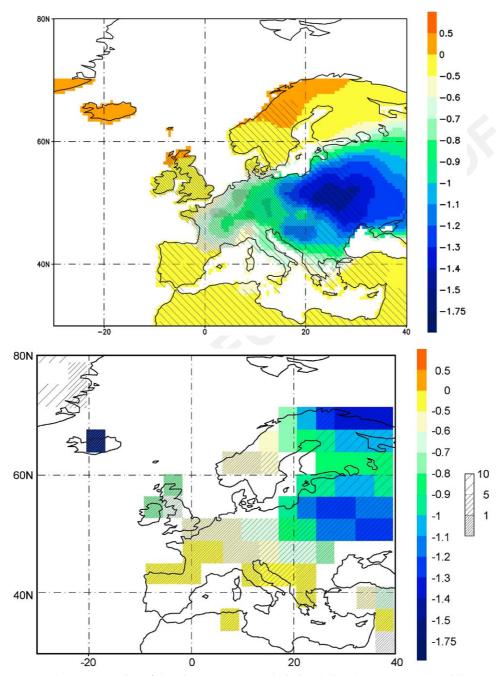


Figure 12. Representation of the winter temperature deviation during the Late Maunder Minimum, 1675–1710 vs. 1550–1800, according to historical reconstructions (top; Luterbacher et al., 2004) and a simulation with the climate models ECHO-G (bottom; von Storch, 2004). The hatching in the top diagram represents the proportion of described variance (>40, 70 and 90%) and in the bottom diagram the risk for rejection the null hypothesis of no change (10, 5 and 1%).

sources and early instrumental time series. Figure 12 shows the mean temperature change (1675–1710 minus 1550–1800) in Europe as reconstructed by Luterbacher 1532 et al. (2004) from historical evidence and as simulated by the ECHO-G model. The hatching indicates the statistical confidence of the features, i.e., non-hatched 1534 features are quite uncertain, whereas dense hatching represents high confidence.

This comparison of a climate reconstruction based on documentary and in-1536 strumental data with results from a model run using reconstructed external forcing, 1537 1538 serves as an early example of how historical climatology and dynamic climate modelling can supplement each other in our efforts towards improved understanding of 1539 1540 past climatic variability and how the climate system responds to external forcings. 1541 The LMM modelled by the forced ECHO-G integration (Zorita et al., in press) is 1542 causally related to the solar and volcanic forcing anomalies in the preceding decades and during the LMM. The model simulation has the advantage that it provides the 1543 climatic state of the whole globe. According to this model, the temperatures were 1544 lower everywhere north of about 30°S during the LMM than in the earlier and later 1545 times, with a marked cooling of the Labrador Sea. In this simulation the cooling in Europe is not simply related to anomalous easterly winds over the region, but to 1547 a general more widespread cooling. A survey among a variety of proxy data from 1548 1549 ice cores, corals and other data supports this notion of an almost global response 1550 (Zinke et al., in press).

6. Conclusions 1551

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Historical climatology has made a great deal of progress after 1990, due to an 1553 important extension of its research possibilities. Based on the current evaluation of its present state, it is possible to formulate prospects of future investigations in this 1554 1555 research field. They can be summarised as follows:

- (i) Completion of the existing databases. Cross-referencing and combination of different data for achievement of the most complete reconstruction of past climates.
- (ii) Compilation of further series of temperature and precipitation indices for different countries of Europe. Assess average temperature and precipitation indices from these series. Develop average series for major regions of Europe.
- (iii) Improvement of the mathematical-statistical tools used for reconstructing temperature and precipitation series from documentary evidence.
- (iv) Compilation of time series of weather and climate extremes and natural disasters. Evaluation in terms of severity, seasonality, causes, impacts and evolution over time.
- (v) Improvement of statistical tools for estimating past circulation patterns and spatial representation of temperature and precipitation conditions.

- (vi) Closer co-operation with climate modellers and use of GCM outputs to 1570 study climate forcing and to augment attempts to reconstruct past climate 1571 states by skilfully combining empirical evidence and dynamical knowledge 1572 encoded in dynamical climate models (with avoiding circularity).
- (vii) Co-operation with economists, historians, anthropologists, sociologists and 1574 archaeologists in order to investigate the impact of past climate fluctuations 1575 and extremes upon the economy, human health and well-being, and to 1576 understand the social mechanisms to adapt to climate change and extremes. 1577
- (viii) Investigations into images and social representations of past weather, cli-1578 mate and climatic extremes in co-operation with psychologists, historians 1579 and anthropologists. Comparison of the imagined climate with the "real" 1580 climate reconstructed from different kinds of evidence.

Historical climatology is not only an academically attractive activity; it is of 1582 utmost importance for the contemporary discussion about ongoing anthropogenic 1583 climate change. It is providing information about the range of "natural variations" 1584 of a climate very close to the present one. After successful reconstructions of the 1585 climate of the 20th century have been completed (Houghton et al., 2001), joint 1586 efforts to reconstruct the climate of the 19th and 18th century should be pursued. 1587 Such reconstructions would provide a considerably improved basis for the problem 1588 of detecting and attributing ongoing climate change. By documenting the responses 1589 of past societes to perceptions and realities of climate change, useful strategies may 1590 be discovered for improving the ability of present day innovative networks to deal 1591 with this issue (Sarewitz and Pielke, 2000).

There is a hope that historical climatology will further develop not only in Europe 1593 and eastern Asia (such as China, Japan, Korea), where there exist great scientific 1594 and data potentials, in particular as regards documentary data, but also in other 1595 parts of the world, such as Latin America (Metcalfe et al., 2002) and potentially 1596 the Islamic World.

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