

Abstract

My thesis presents a study of floods which repeatedly hit the town of Soběslav and its close surroundings between 1729 and 1740. The text is divided into a theoretical (methodological) and an empirical part. In the theoretical part I will briefly summarize methodological trends in the modern historiography, which were most relevant for the thesis – environmental history, historical anthropology and microhistory. The second part will be dedicated to the floods of Soběslav; it derives primarily from research of previously unpublished resources from the archive and focuses also on short history of the town and description of its natural surroundings. The main part is devoted to the Soběslav millers, but there will be reflected also the documented disputes over water-washed material, the response of the town offices to natural disaster and other consequences of the flood. The broad objective of this study is to examine other directions of research on early modern floods and the related problems. The thesis is an attempt to more general application of findings which emerged from the analysis of archival sources, and consideration of the possibilities and limits of comparison of historical and modern floods.