

STORM SURGES: NATURAL or SOCIAL CALAMITIES

A historic-geographic comparison between late medieval floods in the Low Countries and other flood disasters

Fact: late Middle Ages → increase in number of storm surges in LC



Literature overview

Explanation 1: transgression – regression model. Cause = SOLELY CLIMATE CHANGE



Transgression – regression model → 'relative increase of the sea level' model



Storm surges are accidental events

Explanation 2: increased number of storm surges caused BY PHYSICAL FACTOR + HUMAN IMPACTS!

1. Physical: northwesterly storm
2. Human: embankments with dikes, failing management of water boards, peat extraction, destruction of natural defenses, war,...

Parallel with:

1. Po plain (sixteenth century)
2. Hurricane Katrina (August 2005)

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