

## 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

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Literature overview

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

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