Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 20, EGU2018-10310, 2018 EGU General Assembly 2018 © Author(s) 2018. CC Attribution 4.0 license.



Climatic context and meteorological anomalies during 1783 in Eastern Iberian Peninsula. Atmospheric processes and impacts of a singular "Bad Year"

Armando Alberola (1), Carles Balasch (2), Mariano Barriendos (3), José María Cuadrat (4), Salvador Gil (5), Mar Grau-Satorras (6), Jordi Mazón (7), Alfredo Pérez Morales (8), Marc Prohom (9), David Pino (10), Miguel Angel Saz (11), Ernesto Tejedor (12), and Jordi Tuset (13)

(1) Department of Medieval and Modern History, University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain (armando.alberola@ua.es), (2)
Department of Soil's Science and Environment, University of Lleida, Lleida, Spain (cbalasch@macs.udl.cat), (3) Department of History and Archaeology, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain (barriendos@telefonica.net; mbarriendos@ub.edu), (4) Department of Geography and Land Planning, University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain (cuadrat@unizar.es), (5)
Department of Geography, University of Murcia, Murcia, Spain (salvador.gill@um.es), (6) Internet Interdisciplinary Institute, Open University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain (mar.satorras@gmail.com), (7) Department of Applied Physics, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain (jordi.mazon@upc.edu), (8) Department of Geography, University of Murcia, Murcia, Spain (alfredop@um.es), (9) SMC, Meteorological Service of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain (mprohom@meteo.cat), (10) Department of Applied Physics, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain (university of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain (david.pino@upc.edu), (11)
Department of Geography and Land Planning, University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain (masaz@unizar.es), (12) Department of Geography and Land Planning, University of Zaragoza, Spain (etejedor@unizar.es), (13) Centre Tecnològic Forestal de Catalunya, Solsona, Spain (jotume@gmail.com)

On the year 1783, the eruption of Laki volcano in Iceland produced strong anomalies in the atmosphere, including decreases in summer temperatures and vast socioeconomic impacts. However, the study of this event has been traditionally focused on central and northern Europe. Thus, the aim of this work is to analyze these anomalies in the Spanish Mediterranean area.

There are few studies in this area regarding climatic anomalies in historical times. Besides, research on potential factors producing an increase of climatic variability and meteorological extremes is interesting. Here, we first explore the anomalies on precipitation patterns due to their complex impact on water resources and flood consequences.

In addition, for a better understanding of this period, we follow a multi proxy-data approach, including dendroclimatic data to provide a climatic context, and documentary sources to explain socioeconomic impacts and extreme hydrological derived dynamics. More precisely, we use the rogation ceremonies, with which we infer dry or rainy periods, and administrative sources to identify flood damages, agricultural impacts, or management of water resources. Private sources (diaries, chronicles) inform about thermal anomalies and other singular circumstances related to special atmospheric conditions during and after the eruption. Information about indirect impacts are also analyzed in the long term. For example, malaria epidemics between 1783-1786, with 100,000 deads in the Spanish Kingdom.

Finally, we also analyze instrumental data, including different barometric indices and synoptic reconstructions using SLP data, which help identifying the atmospheric processes producing meteorological anomalies described by proxy-data.