

Historical research has a long tradition of climate study; however, it was not until the second half of the 20th century that the subject had become more than a marginalized field within the study of natural hazards. The 1967 publication of Emmanuel le Roy Ladurie's work on the history of climate in the past thousand years marked the breakthrough in the subject area. In his report, the author discussed, among other things, the effects of weather anomalies on crop production¹. In the subsequent years, the scholarly discussion on the effects of climate change, current and historical, had made the subject attractive for historians from diverse areas of expertise. This project intends to expand the current understanding of climate's effects on human history with new, untapped data obtained from economic sources of mass character, such as inventories. The study of such records will make it possible to determine the long-term effects of climate change.

The objective of this study is to investigate the characteristics and gauge the scale of impact of weather conditions on selected economic phenomena, such as: agricultural production (with special emphasis on crop yield), crop price fluctuations and crop exports. The main purpose of the project is to ascertain whether the climate change in the Early Modern period had produced a tangible impact on the economy of the pre-partition Polish state. It is vital to acknowledge the fact that the economic growth of Poland at the beginning of the Early Modern period as well as subsequent political and economic crises of the 17th and 18th centuries both happened during the Little Ice Age (global cooling in the Northern Hemisphere in the period 1550-1850).

The research will consist of several phases. The primary focus, however, will involve processing data from surviving primary sources: crown lands inspection records, inventory and grain trade accounts, and compiling it in a database. This kind of source represent a voluminous collection of data, which necessitates the use of specialized research tools. The quantitative method, which still sees rare use in Polish historiography, will constitute the core tool for the analysis. For this purpose, two computer programs will be used: Microsoft Office Excel and R.

¹ E. le Roy Ladurie, *Histoire du climat depuis L'an Mil*, Paris 1967.