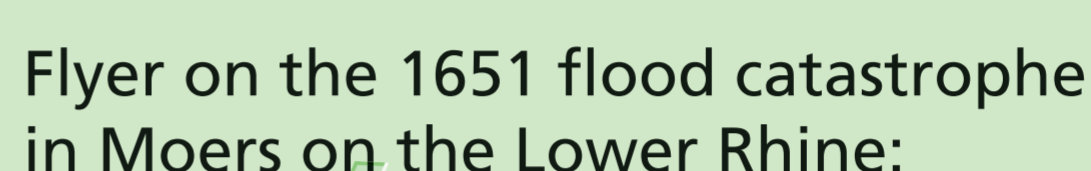
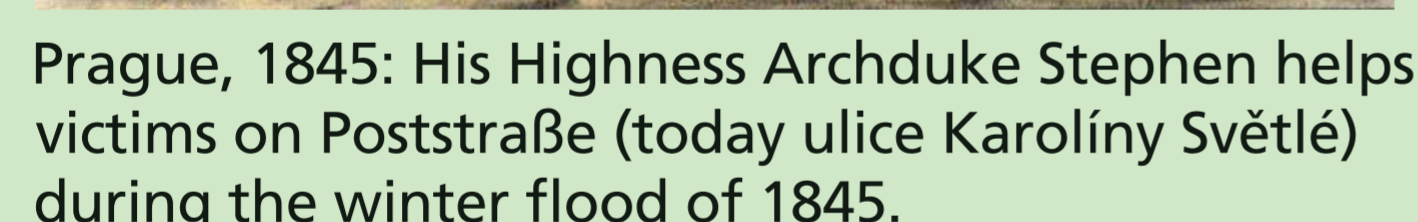
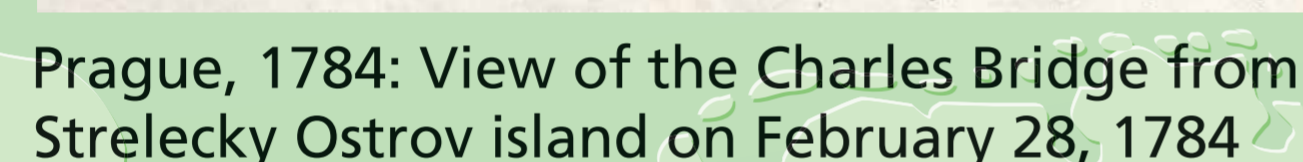


Flooding is a natural part of the river

River valleys are valuable human settlement areas, with fertile soil and a wide variety of uses. Throughout human history, however, living near a river has always been associated with flooding as well. Strong rainfall, snowmelt and piled-up ice floes in the winter can all lead to extreme floods. A natural occurrence like flooding only causes damage when it encounters inappropriate human usage. It is the settlement of flood-prone areas that leads to flood catastrophes.



„On the utterly terrible and great flow of water that occurred in this year of 1651, not only in the Roman Empire, but also at Mörsz and along the Rhine, the likes of which have never been seen in living memory. How wretched and miserable was this flood of water, the favored reader will ...“



- Historical flooding disasters -

711, Elbe: The first chronicled reports of devastating floods. In addition to countless deaths, they also describe enormous damages to crops, livestock, settlements and forests.

784, Weser: Charlemagne was forced to abandon his campaign against the Saxons due to flooding.

1310, Eger: The oldest confirmed flood on the Eger River.

“Then King John and his army crossed a river known as the Eger, near Schöbersdorf, on All Hallows Day, but only with difficulty did he find a ford, with losses and damage to many items...” (Description in the Königsaal chronicles by Peter von Zittau).

1342, Vltava, Elbe: According to the chronicles by Franciscus of Prague, the flooding spelled the definitive end of the Judith Bridge in Prague; it was replaced in 1357 by a new bridge designed by Charles IV, now known as the Charles Bridge. Deaths and property losses are also recorded here.

1432, Vltava, Elbe, Eger: One of the worst historical floods for Czech rivers was the July 1432 flood, which had a high human toll and caused significant material damage.

1501, Elbe: Three support pillars of the Dresdner Bridge broke during a summer flood. In Bohemia, many houses were carried away as well.

1784, a Europe-wide flood: The flood in the late winter of 1784 is known as one of the most extreme climatic events of its kind, not just in Bohemia but in many parts of Europe. The flood affected a great part of European water catchment areas, from the Danube and the Oder to the Elbe and the Rhine, all the way to the Seine, Loire and Maas.

1845, German Elbe: This flood caused 70 dike breakages along the 90-km stretch from Mühlberg to Lutherstadt Wittenberg. After this catastrophe, initial maps of the flood areas were created for the Dresden region so that flood risk could be taken into account during future construction.

1845, Czech Elbe, Vltava, Eger: Author and historian Václav Krolmus provided us with an expressive description of the flood in late March, 1845. It was a mixed-water and ice flood after the hard winter of 1844/1845: “946 houses stood in the water. Almost one-third of Prague was in the water ...”

Sources:

- Schmidt, Martin (2002): Historische Krisen des Hochwasserschutzes in Deutschland, *Wasserwirtschaft* 92 11-12, p. 26-30
- Image 2: F. Erban, etching. Prague City Museum, Inv. No. 125.387
- Image 3: J. Loth, B. Aděl, colored lithograph. Prague City Museum, Inv. No. 42.452/1-4
- Image 4: Johan Lumpe, photo: Matthias Grafe

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