

"Experts, state and local users of natural resources: changes in their relations in Imperial and Soviet Russia"

44. Minisymposium des Zentrums für Umweltgeschichte

Vortrag:

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The paper analyses changing perspectives towards resources in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union comparing descriptions of resources and practices of their use from the end of the eighteenth up to mid-twentieth century. The hypothesis is that the main tendency in the perception of resources by scientists, managers and authorities was a change from the eighteenth century concept of 'economy of nature', in which resources and their local users were perceived as one entity, to the construction of the calculable and manageable resources of modernity. It considers the state-adopted methods of resource description and classification which conceived resources as the distinct object of governance, as 'resources of the state'. This vision of resources became dominant during the World War One and further developed under the Soviet power. Most of the examples discussed are taken from the field of fisheries.

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