

Environmental Impacts of Warfare Through History

61st Minisymposium of the Centre for Environmental History

Presentation:

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How important has warfare been, as a dimension of humanity's impacts on the biosphere? Many scholars have studied the geographical and climatic settings of wars; others have studied the role of strategic natural resources and environmental stress as causes of conflicts. A largely new area of research complements these studies by probing the ecological consequences of mass conflicts – and military operations in peacetime, as well. This lecture will discuss some important components of the emerging field of environmental impacts of war, from pre-industrial times to the present. It will consider relationships with state formation, civilian society (including refugee movements), demography and disease, the distinction between immediate destruction and longer-term reconstruction, and the implications for the environmental laws of warfare. The lecture will take examples from World Wars I and II, as well as civil wars and insurgencies, emphasizing the world beyond Europe.

Ort / Place: IFF, 1070 Wien, Schottenfeldgasse 29

Zeit / Time: Thursday, 22nd May 2014, 18.00 c.t. – 20.00

Vorschau 62. ZUG-Minisymposium am 26.6.2014:

Genug Holz für Stadt und Fluss? Wiens Holzressourcen in dynamischen Donau-Auen

S. Gierlinger, G. Haidvogel, S. Hohensinner