

Interactive comment on “Flooding in river mouths: human caused or natural events? Five centuries of flooding events in the SW Netherlands, 1500–2000” by A. M. J. de Kraker

Anonymous Referee #2

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This paper is a very thorough analysis of the specific historical flood risks for the low-lying lands at the estuaries in the SW Netherlands. For those unfamiliar with Dutch history it offers new insights into the role, human agency can play in a seemingly natural event. By using exemplary flood events the paper describes the mechanism (meteorology, tides, dike maintenance and human response) involved in natural storm-related floods as well as the factors (military strategy, economic cost) involved in man-made war-related floods. A table listing all storm floods for the region during the last millennium and another listing war-related strategic flooding are attached to the paper. This study of the SW Netherlands estuary flooding is well contextualised in the greater body

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of flood research in Europe, and its causes, seasonality and impact are compared to river floods and regions in central Europe. It is a comprehensive and meticulous paper that fits the scope of the special issue very well. I have no reservations in recommending this paper for publication. As a minor point, the author may consider to rephrase the first part of the title into: 'Estuarine flooding: events caused by humans or nature?'

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 12, 1437, 2015.

HESD

12, C524–C525, 2015

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