

ABSTRACTS

CONTRIBUTING TO A COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF THE MOUNTAINS: EUROPE, 20TH CENTURY

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With the big enlargement of the European Union in 2004, ten more countries were added to the 15 existing member states. At this point, the European Commission had a report drawn up on the mountain regions throughout Europe. Up to the present day, this report represents the most detailed analysis on the topic concerned. Apart from a proposal on how to delineate mountainous regions, it contains comprehensive data on many aspects of those areas. The present contribution draws upon the report in order to sketch earlier, 20th-century developments. At the outset, the author deals with the difference between geographical and historical approaches, and describes the current state of historical research. The next part deals with the correlation between environmental conditions and historical contexts, principally referring to studies of a demographic and economic nature. Finally, the study mentions aspects of the so-called “forest transition”, the history of economic development, of political dependencies and cultural ambiguities. In general terms, this study aims at providing yardsticks for a comparison between the Alps and the Carpathian mountains.