

Environment and demographic systems in the past. Mortality and mobility in the French province of Dombes from the XVIIth century to the XIXth century.

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Long abstract - Projected plan of the paper

Introduction

- the environment: the plateau covered by pounds vs the bank of the river Saône.
- The relation between mortality and mobility: a specific demographic regime induced by the environment.

1 – Births and deaths from the end of the seventeenth century to the beginning of the nineteenth century

Some data:

Table 1 – Births, deaths and balance in some parishes of the Dombes, XVIIIth and XIXth centuries.

Décennie	Monthieux			Châtellenie de Saint Trivier			St Nizier le Désert			Châtellenie de Thoissey		
	N	D	Solde	N	D	Solde	N	D	Solde	N	D	Solde
1700-09	140	213	-73				241	309	-68			
1710-19	134	163	-29				234	203	+31			
1720-29	145	128	+17	512	607	-95	246	241	+5			
1730-39	152	137	+15	488	687	-199	232	253	-21			
1740-49	116	130	-14	584	773	-189	238	269	-31	1857	1844	+13
1750-59	156	138	+16	645	720	-75	275	225	+50	2047	1594	+453
1760-69	187	152	+35	654	723	-69	269	239	+30	2106	1582	+524
1770-79	146	155	-9	620	737	-117	221	260	-39	2060	1688	+372
1780-89	143	137	+6	670	798	-128	252	226	+26	2094	1861	+233
1790-99	155	161	-6	682	606	+76	222	230	-8	2369	1728	+641
1800-09	130	128	+2	484	658	-174				2423	2030	+393
1810-19	129	105	+24	563	541	+22				2440	1632	+808
1820-29	110	115	-5	523	699	-176				2370	1853	+517
1830-39	122	121	+1	586	637	-51				2196	1697	+499
1840-49	141	107	+34	602	526	+76						
1850-59	122	109	+13	478	484	-6						
1860-69	116	78	+38	482	387	+95						
1720-99	1200	1138	+72	4855	5651	-796	1955	1951	+4			
1800-69	870	753	+127	3718	3932	-214						

The balance between births and deaths is almost always negative in the parishes with the worst environment (see Saint Trivier: between 1720 and 1789, all the decades have a negative balance, and so is it during three of the four first decades of the 19th century). The balance is very weak in Saint Nizier le Desert, also surrounded by pounds, but much better in the parishes of the Castellany

of Thoissey.

2 – A very high mortality

Table 2 – Infant and child mortality rates and proportion of survivors at age 5 in some parishes, XVIIth-XIXth centuries

Génération	Saint Trivier			Mogneneins			Thoissey		
	Q0	4Q1	S5	Q0	4Q1	S5	Q0	4Q1	S5
1680-89				309	327	446			
1690-99				335	279	480			
1700-09				306	332	464			
1710-19				262	364	469			
1720-29				203	318	544			
1730-39	341	387	404	239	343	500			
1740-49	318	383	421	304	326	469	311	391	420
1750-59	221	271	568	209	175	653	252	221	583
1760-69	277	273	526	169	269	607	241	245	573
1770-79	281	367	455	248	192	608	249	221	585
1780-89	327	300	471	278	207	572	267	228	566
1790-99	244	176	623	283	238	547	234	258	568
1800-09	311	282	495	286	223	554	221	191	630
1810-19	270	216	572	205	171	738	182	150	695
1820-29	301	285	500				205	191	644
1830-39	292	180	581						
1840-49	244	183	618						
1850-59	249	163	629						
1860-69	210	87	721						

In the parishes with the worst environment, very high mortality rates can be observed up to the first decades of the nineteenth century (see Saint Trivier with 1Q0=292 in 1830-39). In such a case, the proportion of children still alive at age 5 is always weaker than 600/1000 before 1840, sometimes under 500/1000.

In the parish of Mogneneins, only some miles away but close to the river Saône, the proportion of survivors is always higher, excepted for decade 1790-1799.

Mortality in the small town of Thoissey is intermediate between the previous ones. On one hand, the infant mortality rate inside of the city is very low, but on the other hand, the infant mortality is high because most of the children belonging to high social level families are sent to wet nurses, and quickly die,

Some indicators show that adult mortality is very high too. In Saint Trivier, where environment and sanitary conditions are very bad, one marriage out of three lasts less than five years. The distribution of marriages according to the length will be analysed in all the villages.

3 – From mortality to mobility

Intense geographical mobility is a consequence of high mortality. It will be studied through several indicators:

- distribution of the spouses married in each parish according to the place of birth
- distribution of the deceased in each parish according to the place of birth

The migration rates will be estimated from the balance between births and deaths and the total increase of the population.

Conclusion

