Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Environment and History (journal)

"The Wasting of Wolin: Environmental Factors in the Downfall of a Medieval Baltic Town"

Broich, John

Broich, John. "The Wasting of Wolin: Environmental Factors in the Downfall of a Medieval Baltic Town." *Environment and History* 7, no. 2, "Beyond Local, Natural Ecosystems" special issue (May, 2001): 187–99. doi:10.3197/096734001129342450 . This medieval environmental history examines the tenth-century industrial and trade town of Wolin which grew rapidly on an island immediately off the northwestern coast of Poland. It arose in an environment incapable of supporting its population of 8000—the largest population in the Baltic during the period. Palaeobotanical evidence records the island's large-scale deforestation and the rapid deterioration of its soils. Having outstripped its local natural assets, Wolin quickly became dependent on imported grain, lumber, and industrial resources. By the mid-eleventh century, Wolin could no longer sustain itself, and became too exhausted to repulse, or recover from, sea-borne raids. All rights reserved. © 2001 The White Horse Press

Download:
PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/broich-7-2.pdf

Related links:

- *Environment and History* at The White Horse Press
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EH.html

Websites linked in this text:

- http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096734001129342450

Environment and History (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"The Wasting of Wolin: Environmental Factors in the Downfall of a Medieval Baltic Town"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/3081
Print date: 28 November 2026 15:30:11