

des Flözes bei Kamenné Žehrovice die Grube *Wannick* zu teufen. Im Jahre 1857 wurden im Kladnoer Revier in den Gruben der *Prager Eisenindustrie Gesellschaft* 239 Tsd. Tonnen Kohle gefördert, im Jahre 1878 überschritt der Förderungsumfang 400 Tsd. Tonnen und 1905 erreichte er rund 1500 Tsd. Tonnen. Auf dieser Höhe erhielt er sich ungefähr während des ganzen Ersten Weltkrieges.

Die Adalberthütte erweiterte sich 1860 um weitere vier gemauerte Hochöfen und 1867 begann man hier einen Puddelofen mit Walzwerk als ersten Betrieb zur Herstellung von Schweißstahl und Walzerzeugnissen zu bauen. Die Etappe des progressiven Produktionsaufstieges, die bis 1918 dauerte, war mit Einführung von neuen Technologien verbunden (vor allem seit 1879 mit dem Thomasverfahren) und personell dann mit dem österreichischen Unternehmer Karl Wittgenstein, seit 1886 Zentraldirektoren der *Prager Eisenindustrie Gesellschaft*. Während seiner Verwaltung folgte eine Reihe von Investitionen, die auf die Modernisierung und Rationalisierung orientiert war. Im Jahre 1889 gründete Wittgenstein in Kladno direkt gegenüber der Adalberthütte einen weiteren Hüttenbetrieb, *Poldihütte, Tiegelgussstahlfabrik* genannt. Von der Konzeption her nutzte er die Lücke in der Produktion der böhmischen und mährischen Stahlerzeugung, die keine Stahlsorten herstellte, später Edelstahl genannt; im Jahre 1908 führte sie als erstes Stahlwerk in den böhmischen Ländern die Produktion in elektrischen Öfen ein und gleichzeitig schuf sie die Basis einer eigenen Maschinenbauproduktion. Den Betrieb begann sie 1889 mit nur 300 Arbeitern, im Jahre 1914 hatte sie 2279 Beschäftigte.

Die Erhebung von Kladno zur königlichen Bergstadt und die Verbesserung des Stadtwappens im Jahre 1898 bedeutete den formellen Abschluss der stürmischen Stadtentwicklung in den letzten fünfzig Jahren.

Das größte politische und soziale Ereignis im Jahre 1900 war der Streik der Bergarbeiter, der über dreieinhalb Monate dauerte. Die wichtigsten Forderungen der Streikenden waren die Senkung der Arbeitszeit und die Lohnerhöhung. Am 29. Januar 1900 trug Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk im Gasthaus U Jágrů seinen Vortrag „*O boji hospodářském a sociálním*“ [„Über den wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Kampf“] vor. Auf dem Katastergebiet stellten zu Beginn des Jahrhunderts vier Gruben die Förderung ein, in Betrieb blieb nur die einzige Grube Engerth, die hier bis 1945 tätig war. Infolge dieser Entwicklung siedelte eine ganze Reihe von Familien in die Dörfer in der Umgebung um.

Zu den führenden Gebäuden von Kladno aus der Vorkriegszeit gehört das sog. „*Poldihaus*“ (Gästehaus) aus dem Jahre 1903, das einschließlich der Inneneinrichtung der bekannte Architekt Josef Hoffmann projektierte. Alois Dryák vollendete den Bau des Realgymnasiums im Jugendstil zwei Jahre später und eine weitere führende städtische Bildungsinstitution – die Gewerbeschule – zog in einen Neubau, den Jaroslav Rössler knapp vor Ausbruch des Ersten Weltkrieges konzipierte. Das zweite Jugendstilbauwerk aus den Jahren 1909–1910 ist das Bezirksgebäude (heute Mittelböhmische wissenschaftliche Bibliothek).

Der Erste Weltkrieg brachte den Bewohnern von Kladno Armut, Hunger und Warenmangel aller Art. Die Preise kletterten im letzten Kriegsjahr auf das zwanzig- bis fünfzigfache der Vorkriegswerte. Die Männer, welche an der Front kämpften, konnten nicht ihr Gewerbe oder Geschäft betreiben, deshalb ging eine ganze Reihe davon ein. Noch ein Jahr nach der Gründung der selbständigen Tschechoslowakischen Republik fanden auf dem heutigen Marktplatz náměstí Starosty Pavla Manifestationen gegen die Teuerung statt. Infolge des Kriegswirrens und linksorientierter Ideen unter der Arbeiterschaft sank radikal die Anzahl der Mitglieder in der hiesigen katholischen Kirche. Den Atheisierungsprozess hemmte nicht mal die Entstehung der neuen Tschechoslowakischen hussitischen Kirche, die erst nach siebzehn Jahren 1938 ihren dauerhaften Sitz in der Synagoge erhielt, die den Hussiten die örtliche jüdische Glaubensgemeinde gewährte.

Die Jahre des Ersten Weltkrieges bedeuteten für die hiesige Industrie einen starken Aufstieg der Leistungen, wonach ein Verfall im Zusammenhang mit der friedensorientierten Produktion folgte. Das Förderungsvolumen der *Prager Eisenindustrie Gesellschaft* schwankte in der Zwischenkriegszeit um 1 Mio. Tonnen, die Jahre des Zweiten Weltkrieges brachten dann den Aufstieg bis auf 1,7 Mio. Tonnen. Die Adalberthütte (wofür sich eher der Name *Prager Eisenindustrie Gesellschaft* einbürgerte) wurde in der Zeit zwischen beiden Weltkriegen nur wenigen Investitionsvorhaben unterzogen; was den Anblick betrifft, waren vier Kalköfen am Nordrand in Richtung Kročehlavy dominierend. Sie wurden in den Jahren 1927–1929 errichtet. Die Kriegsjahre hatten für die *Prager Eisenindustrie Gesellschaft* heillose Folgen, vom Kapital her wurde sie vom Konzern Mannesmann Röhrewerke beherrscht, welche die Produktionskapazität so extensiv nutzte, dass der Stammbetrieb in Kladno im Jahre 1945 eine technisch veraltete, erschöpfte und überschuldete Betriebsanlage darstellte. Die Anzahl der Arbeiter und Angestellten betrug in den Eisenwerken in Abhängigkeit von der wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung vom Maximum 8322 Personen (1919) zum Minimum von 2883 Personen (1923), den Höhepunkt in der Beschäftigung bildete das Jahr 1945 (7221 Personen).

Die Poldihütte, AG (wie statutarisch der Name nach der Nostrifikation lautete) gehörte weltweit zu den renommiertesten Edelstahlherstellern; ihr Handelsnetz bedeckte 1938 insgesamt 39 Länder der Welt, wobei das Stahlproduktionsprogramm 300 Sorten von Edelstahl einbezog. Was das Eigentum betrifft, übergang sie im Rahmen der Nostrifikation aus der Sphäre der Niederösterreichischen Escompte Gesellschaft in den Besitz der Böhmischen Escomptebank. Zum Jahre 1922, als sich die Nachkriegsproduktion stabilisierte, hatte sie 1860 Beschäftigte, bis zum Jahre 1938 erhöhte sich diese Anzahl auf 5200 Personen. Die Kriegsjahre brachten dann einen Anstieg auf 12 281 Personen (1942). In den Jahren des Zweiten Weltkrieges gelangte die Poldihütte als Waffenbetrieb in der Sphäre der Reichswerke Hermann Göring A. G.

In der Zwischenkriegszeit konstituierte sich am Nordrand von Kladno ein weiterer bedeutender Industriebetrieb, die Fabrik Kablo. Die Basis ihres Produktionsprogramms wurde bereits 1865 bestimmt, als die Gesellschaft der Staatsbahn bei der Grube Thinnfeld die Produktion von Draht-Grubenkabeln einführte. Nach 1918 wurde die Produktion

um Netz- und Fernmeldekabel, Leiter und Kabelsätze erweitert und im Jahre 1925 transformierten sich diese Betriebe in Kablo, AG.

Die Zwischenkriegszeit, trotzdem sie eine schwere Zeit der Wirtschaftskrise in den Dreißigerjahren einbezog, bedeutete eine große Stadtentwicklung, die durch das Gesetz Nr. 281/1919 Gbl. über staatlichen Zuschuss im Bauwesen beeinflusst war. Kladno erweiterte sich in den Jahren 1921–1935 im Westen und Süden bis zu der Strecke der Nučicer Bahn. Neue Wohnhäuser wurden in den Vierteln Bresson und Ostrovec gebaut. Weitere Neubauten kamen in der Umgebung der Kaserne und in Richtung Sítňá dazu. Die projektierten Wohnungen, einschließlich Arbeiterwohnungen, waren geräumiger und zu der Ausstattung gehört natürlich auch ein Spülklosett, oft noch ein Badezimmer dazu. Das Stadtamt erweiterte das Kabel- und Leitungsnetz, änderte die elektrische Oberleitung in unterirdische. Zu merkwürdigen Bauwerken in der 1. Republik gehören die Revierbruderlade mit rondo-kubistischen Merkmalen von Alois Dryák (heutiges Bezirksgericht), das Bergarbeiterhaus von Václav Stádník und das großzügig konzipierte Gebäude des Volkshauses von Rudolf Černý.

Politische Probleme mit den Nazis im Sudetenland führten aus dem Grenzgebiet insgesamt 1 700 Flüchtlinge nach Kladno, die untergebracht werden mussten. Eine definitive Lösung brachte die Okkupation der Republik und der Beschluss der deutschen Ämter zu ihrer Umsiedlung in das Buštěhrader Schloss. Mit der Entstehung des Protektorats hört die Tätigkeit der Stadtvertretung in Kladno auf und über die Stadt entscheidet ein eingesetzter Regierungskommissar. Einer von ihnen war Karl Zucker, der den Zusammenschluss von Kladno, Kročehlavy (bis 1931 Stadt), Rozdělův und Dubí in eine gemeinsame Ortsgemeinde mit dem offiziellen Namen Kladno initiierte. Dies geschah am 4. Dezember 1940. Kladno war die erste Stadt in Böhmen und Mähren, wo das Standrecht erlassen wurde (am 8. Juni 1939). Der Grund war das Attentat von zwei Studenten Jan Smudek und František Petr auf den Wachtmeister der deutschen Ordnungspolizei Wilhelm Kniest. Danach erfolgte eine Persekution der Bevölkerung und ein finanzieller Regress.

Die Poldihütte realisierte im Jahre 1942 den Bau von 172 Wohnungen in Häusern nach dem deutschen Projekt von W. Knapp. Die Bebauung wird heutzutage noch „Siedlung“ genannt. Die Naziabwehr in der Stadt wurde quer durch das politische Spektrum organisiert und machte sich am meisten mit Sabotageaktionen spürbar.

Dr. E. Tomáš gemeinsam mit J. Fiedler und G. Kugler standen organisatorisch während der nationalen Mairévolution 1945 in Kladno an der Spitze und dank ihrer diplomatischen Verhandlungen mit Vertretern der deutschen bewaffneten Machthaber kam es in der Stadt zu keinem großen Blutvergießen. Nach Kriegsende wurde wieder die Kontinuität der Rechtsordnung mit der Vormünchner Republik hergestellt, aber in Kladno kam es zu einer Ausnahme. Nach Vereinbarung wurden alle zusammengeschlossenen Gemeinden als ein Ganzes verwaltet. Dieser Zustand wurde am 6. Mai 1947 legalisiert.

Der Bergbau als Wirtschaftszweig wurde in der Nachkriegszeit bevorzugt, die Entwicklung von Kladno selbst beeinflusste er jedoch weit aus weniger als das Hüttenwesen, denn auf dem Kataster von Kladno und in seiner unmittelbaren Nähe befanden sich keine aktiven Gruben.

Die Struktur des hiesigen Hüttenwesens beeinflusste im Jahre 1946 die Gründung des Nationalbetriebes mit dem statutarischen Namen *Spojené ocelárny*, worin sich beide Eisenhütten zusammenschlossen und wobei die ältere Adalberthütte auf Huf Koněv umbenannt wurde. In beiden machten sich alle „Krankheiten“ des zentralisierten Wirtschaftssystems bemerkbar, die Überlastung der Produktionskapazitäten und ungleichmäßige und ungenügende Investitionen in die Betriebsausstattung. Typisch ist, dass seit der Mitte der Sechzigerjahre des 20. Jahrhunderts das Werk mit einer Kennziffer bewertet wurde, welche „Unterschreitung des geplanten Verlustes“ genannt wurde.

Kladno machte eine Zeitspanne umfangreicher Migration durch. Die erste Phase stellte der Abschub der deutschen Minderheit dar, überwiegend der technischen Intelligenz im Hüttenwesen, und auch der Weggang eines Teils der Bevölkerung ins Grenzgebiet, die zweite dann der Zustrom unqualifizierter Arbeitskräfte, welcher hierher teilweise durch höhere Verdienstmöglichkeiten angezogen, teilweise jedoch gezwungen wurde, in den hiesigen Hüttenwerken zu arbeiten.

Im Jahre 1972 begann man bei der Gemeinde Dřín ein neues Hüttenwerk zu schaffen, zuerst eine Elektrozentrale (vollendet 1975), dann ein Block- und Knüppelwalzwerk (1984) und letztendlich ein Mittelfeinwalzwerk (vollendet 1989). Parallel wurde die Produktion in den Hochöfen und in den meisten veralteten Betrieben der Huf Koněv eingestellt. Die geplante Produktionspalette der meisten Edelmetallsorten gelang es in dem Betrieb in Dřín nur schwer und langsam zu verwirklichen, was die Menge betrifft, näherte sich jedoch die Produktion 1 Mio. Tonnen jährlich. Die Poldihütte, das ist der „alte“ Betrieb, stellte jedoch nach Modernisierungsmaßnahmen einen konkurrenzfähigen Produktionskomplex dar. Der Betrieb *Spojené ocelárny* (seit 1976 in dem Statut die Namensänderung auf *POLDI-Spojené ocelárny*) hatte 1989 rund 20 000 Arbeiter und Angestellte. Er war durch hohe Investitionen ziemlich verschuldet, hatte jedoch die Chance nach und nach ein Profit bringender Betrieb zu werden.

Die Wohnungsnot in der Nachkriegszeit versuchte der Verein „*Spolek pro výstavbu vzorného sídliště v Kladně*“ [„Verein zum Bau einer Vorbildsiedlung in Kladno“], gegründet 1947, zu lösen. Sein Ziel war unermöglichten Bürgern gesundes und billiges Wohnen entweder durch den Bau der Siedlung selbst oder durch Vermietung von Zinshäusern zu sichern und die letzte Möglichkeit war der Bau von Herbergen mit gemeinsamen Schlafzimmern. Den Bebauungsplan der Siedlung arbeiteten die Prager Architekten J. Havlíček, V. Hliský, M. Koněra und E. Kovařík aus. In 1 150 Wohnungen sollten fast fünftausend Menschen einziehen. Die ersten Ausschachtungsarbeiten wurden im Jahre 1947 vorgenommen. Der Verein wurde aufgrund des Diskriminierungsgesetzes Nr. 68/1951 Gbl. aufgelöst. Nach Februar 1948 leitete die sämtliche Bautätigkeit in Kladno der Mittelböhmische Kreisnationalausschuss in Prag. Infolge der Zentralisierungsmaßnahmen auf der politischen und Verwaltungsebene hatte der Ortsnationalausschuss (ab 1960 Städtischer Nationalausschuss), der am besten die Bedingungen und

Bedürfnisse vor Ort kannte, keine Möglichkeit seine Vorstellungen zu geplanten Vorhaben auf seinem Gebiet durchzusetzen. Nach vielen Abänderungen wurden in der Siedlung Rozdělův sechs Hochhäuser nach dem Projekt von J. Havlíček gebaut. Alle wurden als unbewegliche Kulturdenkmäler erklärt. Vom Stil her stellen sie den sozialistischen Realismus in der Architektur dar und in der Tschechischen Republik ist ein ähnliches Bauwerk das Hotel International in Prag. Nach Verdichtung der Bebauung wurde die Siedlung Rozdělův in den 60er Jahren vollendet.

An der Spitze des Architektenteams der umfangreichsten Bebauung auf „grüner Wiese“ in Kročehlavy war der Architekt Dipl.-Ing. Vlček. Den Bau der Siedlung gliederte er in mehrere Etappen und Schritte („0“, „1“, „2“, „3“, „4“). Die erste Etappe wurde 1971 vollendet, die letzte in den 80er Jahren. Am Baugelände wurde die Methode der Plattenbautechnologie angewendet, wobei die Häuser aus vorfabrizierten Teilen montiert wurden. Heutzutage gehört diese Siedlung zu den Orten mit der größten Bewohneranzahl in Kladno.

Seit der Mitte der 50er Jahre begann das Regime individuelle und genossenschaftliche Formen des Wohnungsbaus zu unterstützen. Der ständige Bedarf Arbeiter für die größten örtlichen Betriebe zu stabilisieren bewog den Bau einer weiteren Siedlung in Richtung zur Ortschaft Sítňá, die zu einem neuen Stadtkern werden sollte. Es wurden das Kulturgebäude des Betriebes *Spojené ocelárny*, ein Hotel, ein Dienstleistungsgebäude und in den 80er Jahren das dominante Bezirks-KPT-Gebäude errichtet.

Der alten städtischen Bebauung wurde wegen unzureichender finanzieller und technischer Möglichkeiten keine genügende Aufmerksamkeit gewidmet. Als Ausgangslösung wurde die Sanierung von dem sog. „*Neu-Kladno*“ gefunden, auf deren Stelle in den 70er Jahren Plattenhäuser gebaut wurden, die von der Höhe und architektonisch mit den Hochhäusern in Rozdělův in Übereinstimmung sind. V. Hliský arbeitete 1977 einen neuen Bebauungsplan von Kladno aus, wonach in Selbsthilfe die bisher freien Flächen in Rozdělův, Strnadovna und Ostrovec bebaut wurden. Der Architekt plante umfangreiche Sanierungen im Stadtkern (einschließlich der Südfront der Häuser in der Masaryk-Straße), in Rozdělův und in Kročehlavy.

Nach einer Reihe von Verhandlungen entstand im Jahre 1986 ein neuer Bebauungsplan unter Leitung von T. Smrž, der die Renovierung von einigen Gebäuden in der Stadtmitte bevorzugte. Die Veränderungen im gesellschaftlichen Leben nach 1989 stellten umfangreiche Demolierungen ein. Das Stadtamt genehmigte zu Beginn der 90er Jahre einen neuen Bebauungsplan, der von der Bauform her das nördliche Gebiet des historischen Stadtkerns löst, das zu einem neuen natürlichen Zentrum der Stadt werden soll.

Im Laufe des ganzen 20. Jahrhunderts wurde die Stadt stark von Betrieben der Schwerindustrie beeinflusst und dies sowie positiv als auch negativ. Das schwerwiegendste Problem war die Umweltbeschädigung. Am schlimmsten war die Flugasche (auf den gefährdetsten Stellen 1600 Tonnen/km² pro Jahr) und die Menge des Schwefeloxids, die vielfach die bewilligten hygienischen Normen überschritt. Zu einer rasanten Verbesserung der Lebensbedingungen kam es erst in den 90er Jahren im Zusammenhang mit dem Zusammenbruch des Hüttengiganten.

Der Betrieb *POLDI-Spojené ocelárny* wurde 1992 in Gesellschaften holdingartiger Betriebe mit dem Namen laut Statuten *POLDI a. s.* [*Poldi AG*] transformiert, wovon sich bald einige Teile abtrennten. Doch auf die Hüttenaktivitäten von *Poldi a. s.* (das bedeutet Stahl-, Umformungs- und Warmverarbeitungen) wurde ein öffentliches Ausschreiben organisiert, das die Firma *Bohemia Art* gewann. Ihre Tätigkeit endete jedoch in der Mitte der 90er Jahre des 20. Jahrhunderts im Konkursverfahren und nach mehrfachem Besitzwechsel gelangte die Firma *Scholz* Edelstahl in dauerhafteres Eigentum der ehemaligen *Poldihütte* mit diesem alten Namen. Den Betrieb eines Teils der Anlage (Block- und Knüppelwalzwerk) in Dřín setzte in Pacht das Eisenwerk *Třinecké železářny* fort. Auch die Ära des Bergbaus ging in den 90er Jahren langsam dem Ende entgegen; die Förderung wurde endgültig am 29. Juni 2002 um 6.00 Uhr in der früh mit dem letzten zu Tage gebrachten Wagen Kohle aus der Grube *Schoeller (Libušín)* eingestellt.

Zu Beginn des 21. Jahrhunderts bildeten in Kladno die Kernpunkte der Produktion, des Unternehmens und der Schaffung von Arbeitsplätzen zwei Industriegebiete. Das erste davon, *Kladno-Východ* [Kladno-Ost], war ziemlich traditionell und stützte sich an Aktivitäten, die aus der Privatisierung des ehemaligen Betriebes *POLDI a. s.* hervorgingen. Hier dominierten die Firmen *Strojírny POLDI* [Maschinenwerke *POLDI*], meist von ehemaligen mechanischen Betrieben der *Poldihütte* gebildet, *POLDI Hütte*, die Energiegesellschaft *ECKG* (der Firma *ATEL* aus dem Schweiz gehörend), *Kablo Kladno* (in die Gruppe der deutschen Firma *NKT Cables* gehörend), die Firma *BM (Beznoška Meditech*, Hersteller von chirurgischen Instrumenten und Implantaten) usw. Die Gewerbezone *Kladno-Jih* [Kladno-Süd] entstand auf „grüner Wiese“ in Richtung der Gemeinde *Velké Přítočno*, vertreten ist hier die Leichtindustrie in der Form von Produktions- oder Montagefilialen ausländischer Gesellschaften – der deutschen Firma *Dr. Oetker*, der japanischen *Showa Aluminium*, der kanadischen *CELESTICA* und der dänischen *LEGO*; in diesem Teil entstand ferner eine Einkaufszone.

Summary

The oldest settlement in the region of Kladno is documented as early as in the old Palaeolithic Era (more than 400,000 years ago); from the late Stone Age (approx. 2000–1500 B.C.) the settlement was fairly continuous. Kladno is situated at the edge of an old population enclave west of Prague where two population centres of the early Czech State were situated – Budeč (this early medieval settlement was established above the confluence of *Zákolanský* and *Dřetovický* Streams in the 9th century) and *Libušín* (as far as this settlement is concerned, latest research corrected the traditional idea about the age of this location); according to some researchers these centres included also *Slaný* as a newer centre of administration.

The beginning of the village of Kladno – at least as far as written materials show us – dates back to the early 14th century (during this century several dozens of fortresses were established in the region and after the mid-14th century there was a dense network of parishes; striking is the high number of deserted medieval villages in the area. The strikingly high number of noblemen's manors in the region of Kladno indicates that larger domains, both secular and religious, were missing there. The structure of property ownership in the area was rather shattered; however, three rather small, but still significant, domains of the following families Kladenskýs, Smečenský-Martinics and Kolovrats – were stabilised in the region in the 14th century.

If you write about the history of Kladno, it does not mean you write the "history of a town" because it was a village for quite a long time. Its significance was restricted to the parish district and only during the 15th and early 16th centuries Kladno became a centre of a larger demesne whose structure can be at least partly reconstructed. The history of the village and the demesne during the time it was held by the Kladenskýs of Kladno needs to be understood in a wider scope of development in the region and the general context suggests how many white spots in the history of Kladno we have to put up with. The predicate "*de Kladna*" documented first in 1318 indicates that already at that time Kladno was the seat of a noble family and it is beyond doubt that there was at least one of the three subsequently documented fortresses (the oldest of them was probably the upper fortress on the site of the present castle); the Kladenskýs of Kladno held the village of Kladno up until the 1540s when their heritage was taken over by the Žďárskýs of Žďár. At that time only one fortress was used for its original purpose – the upper one, while the lower one was turned into a brewery at that time and the third one, situated somewhere in the local part called Ostrovec, was abandoned in the early 16th century at the latest. The local Church of the Assumption was also connected with the beginning of the town of Kladno. The building of the today's church was established 1897–1900 as a new pseudo-style structure after the older shrine (originally probably from the late 13th century, maybe from the early 14th century) was completely pulled down including the adjoining belfry.

We know very little about the history of Kladno in the 15th century and we can hardly follow the formation of the Kladno demesne in the 15th century since its complete scope is known to us only from the subsequent century. Small significance of the location is the main reason for lack of information; the interpretation of its history must be based on partial notes about individual members of the Kladenskýs Family and we are not able to say anything specific about the village itself and about noble manors situated in that area. Available information about the situation in the region suggests that the region was repeatedly affected by local military campaigns, especially during the first years of the Hussite revolution. Nevertheless, it is quite likely that the siege of Buštěhrad in 1450 was more destructive for the area than the long period of Hussite wars. Several fortresses and villages in the immediate vicinity of Kladno ceased to exist during the siege.

The rural character of Kladno is documented in written materials as late as the mid-16th century – we have documents about only 16 occupied houses, two pubs and surprisingly we completely lack mentions of craftsmen, and meat, bread and other shops; like in neighbouring villages, compulsory labour performed by Kladno people on fields and some other farming duties were very common. The rural character of the town in the 16th century is also indicated by two noble manors on the premises of this relatively small early modern little town; the surrounding countryside was scattered with ponds, however, we can find very few of them nowadays. On the other hand, the grandiose layout of the square, some house plots and the design of numerous houses in the square, which were found to date back to the Gothic Era during the historical research of the town in the 1970s, do not correspond with the provincial character of Kladno in the late Middle Ages and the Early Modern Era. It is hard to say whether these document changes in the type of residential development which could occur after the mid-16th century when Kladno was taken over by ambitious Jiří Žďárský. Provided we assume that in the mid-16th century Kladno did not exceed the standard of a residential village, the act of granting the town status to Kladno seems to be the result of personal effort of Jiří Žďárský of Žďár and not a logical result of the changing character of the town. Jiří, as a warrior and a clerk, faithfully supported King Ferdinand I who had no reason to refuse Jiří's request and who promoted Kladno by means of a deed on 22 December 1561 – this gave the town the right to use a seal and to organize weekly and annual markets. Shortly after this promotion, the town was encircled with town walls (rather small ones copying the outside walls of plots at the edge of the town); from then on the town was accessible through three large gates (Slaný Gate, Prague Gate and Rakovník Gate) and one little gate. So late were the town walls and gates built, and so early were they destroyed – before the mid-19th century.

On the Eve of the Battle of White Mountain, Kladno – the castle as well as the town – were badly damaged by fire. The new owner of Kladno, Florián Jetřich Žďárský, tried to mitigate the consequences of the fire and of the battle by connecting this demesne with his domain Červený Újezd. Emperor Ferdinand II expanded the town privileges in 1630 and Florián Jetřich added others: he waived the right of reversion and forbade other noblemen from requiring Kladno people to perform compulsory labour. He had the Chapel of St. Florian near the local hospital behind Rakovník Gate and another chapel in Hájek near Červený Újezd built. The description of Kladno Castle in the list of land ownership documents that the castle was partly renovated after the fire. The land ownership list also tells us that Kladno itself comprised 35 farms of which 8 were not occupied. After the death of the last male descendant of the Žďárský Family, František Adam Eusebius in 1670, Kladno was administered by Maximilián Valentin and Bernard Ignác of Martinice in the capacity of will executors. Since no suitable heir willing to convert to Catholicism was found in the protestant branch of the Žďárský family, the property was divided among five sisters of František Adam Eusebius. Kladno demesne was assigned to Marie Maximiliana Eva living in Košumberk which she inherited from her first husband Jindřich Slavata of Chlum and Košumberk. After her death in 1690, the demes-

ne was inherited by her grandchildren. The castle was badly damaged at that time and nothing changed even after it was taken over by another owner, Anna Marie Františka Grand-Duchess of Tuscany. She sold the demesne to Benedictines of Břevnov in 1705. With the arrival of new owners in Kladno, Baroque changes started to be implemented. The Renaissance castle (situated on the site of the upper fortress) was radically rebuilt in 1738–1740 according to a design by K. I. Dientzenhofer. It was turned into a three-wing Baroque structure with an honour yard opened towards the south. On the first floor, Dientzenhofer designed an oval chapel with a cupola decorated with J. K. Kovář's paintings. The same architect designed the group of sculptures dedicated to the Virgin Mary situated in the square and sculpted by K. J. Hiernle. In 1751 the foundation stone was laid for the Chapel of St. Florian which Dientzenhofer designed on the site of an older chapel of the same name in Rakovník Suburb. But because the builder as well as the abbot of the Břevnov monastery, Benno Löbl, died in this year, it took a very long time before the chapel was completed, until 1872.

Agriculture remained the main way of earning living for the local people, which is documented also by a small number of craftsmen who were united into one combined guild at the beginning; only in the 1730s butchers separated from them, and afterwards, construction workers and maltsters did the same. Until the trade rules were issued in 1859, Kladno had only four guild associations. Benedictines tried hard to expand agricultural production. Therefore, the Nový Dvůr (New Farm) was built at the crossroads and of paths to Rakovník and Smečno; nearby a settlement was established for farmers coming from the Broumov Benedictine demesne. The village of Štěpánov, on the east edge of the town, was established for the same reason.

In 1848 all duties towards the Břevnov monastery were discontinued for good. The public administration was taken over by government authorities – district offices and district courts of law. Kladno was included in the court district in Unhošť and district office in Smíchov up until 1893 when an independent political district of Kladno was created. Municipal administration comprising elected representatives led by a mayor was a counter-pole to the government administration. The first mayor of Kladno in 1848–1861 was Antonín Kocman. He had his office in the Town Hall which was built in 1843 on the site of an older building in Pivovarská Street. After the little town of Kladno was promoted to a regular town by Emperor František Josef I on 5 June 1870 a new Town Hall was constructed on the eastern side of the square; this structure was replaced with a neo-Renaissance one designed by Jan Vejrych. In 1898 Kladno was promoted to a royal mining town and its coat of arms was enhanced with a mining iron and a miner's hammer tied with a silver ribbon.

At the beginning of the 19th century, Kladno experienced the most vigorous construction development. In 1805 Rakovník Suburb was united with the town and after the fire in 1814 structures along the four streets running out of the square became more numerous. Due to the arrival of new workers in the mines and ironworks, miners' colonies were built near them; such as the ones near the Kübeck mine on the north-eastern edge of Kladno, near the Barré mine in Motyčín and near the Ronna mine in Hnidousy. From the mid-19th century, a worker neighbourhood with a dense network of streets south of today's T.G. Masaryk Street was built; at the same time a neighbourhood called Nové Kladno with numbered streets (1st – 14th) between Rozdělovská path (today's Czech Army Street) and Pod Průhonem Street was established. Both these neighbourhoods were nearly completely destroyed during the redevelopment of the centre of Kladno in the 1970s and 1980s. Along with residential houses public buildings were constructed. Beside the aforementioned town hall, we can mention the following: a neo-Roman Church of the Assumption built in 1897–1900 according to the design by Ludvík Lábler; a secondary school from 1905 according to the design by Alois Dryák; Municipal Theatre designed by Jaroslav Rössler and Emil Hrabě and built in 1910–1912. Beside these, a municipal water supply system, sewerage system and electric lighting system were built and the main streets were paved. At the beginning of the 20th century Václav Krotký designed a new neighbourhood which would interconnect Kladno with the village of Kročehlavy. Nothing was built according to that design at that time and the neighbourhood (called Sitná) was built only in the 1970s. Another Krotký's plan for the connection of Kladno with Kročehlavy, Újezd pod Kladnem, Rozdělov, Motyčín and Dřín was partly implemented in 1941 and completed in 1948.

Since the main Kladno train station on the railway from Prague was built in the area of the former station called Východka on the cadastre of an independent village of Kročehlavy about three kilometres from the centre of town, the connection with the centre of Kladno was provided by horse-drawn cabs and from 1894 also omnibuses. The plan for tram service between the square and the train station which was considered in 1897 was never implemented.

The change of the rural town of Kladno into the largest industrial centre of Central Bohemia resulted from the discovery of the main Kladno coal deposit which was discovered in the cadastral territory of the village of Kročehlavy in the depth of 21 metres on 11 November 1846 by miner Johann Wania. Several Prague businessmen (including Vojtěch Lanna) took advantage of this opportunity and already in September 1847 established a company called *Prager Kohlenbergwerk nächst Kladno* and started digging the *Wenzel* mine. In 1848 the association was joined by several entrepreneurs from Moravia and the company was renamed *Kladnoer Steinkohlengesellschaft*. This company started digging the *Layer* a Franz mines. The entrepreneurial activities of Mr. Lanna and Mr. Klein in the field of railway construction brought them to an idea to build ironworks in Kladno. This was initiated by the discovery of iron ore in 1845 south of Kladno, in the area of Nučice; limestone was mined in the nearby Czech Karst. Lanna initiated the establishment of *Kladnoer Eisengewerkschaft*; in 1856 the name was changed to *Kladnoer Eisenwerks-gesellschaft* (called also *Eisenhüttenunternehmung Klein und Lanna in Kladno*) in 1851. In 1854 *Kladnoer Eisengewerkschaft* started the construction of the first two blast furnaces of Belgian type; the mine was named after its founder Vojtěch Lanna – *Vojtěšská ironworks (Adalberthütte)*. The establishment of mines and ironworks

required the construction of a so-called Buštěhrad Railway which provided the connection with Prague. In 1857 a private Kladno-Nučice railway was constructed to iron ore mines and limestone mines south of Kladno. Significant investment resulted in the increase in the number of owners and the establishment of a limited partnership called *Prager Eisenindustrie Gesellschaft* (Prague Iron Processing Company, abbreviated as PEIG or PŽS); in the summer of 1862 it changed into a joint stock company. It included also the mines of the former *Kladnoer Steinkohlengesellschaft*, to which also the *Thinnfeld* mine was added. Beside this company, there was another company which specialised in mining in the area of Kladno – Buštěhrad Mines (at that time called Imperial Mines) which operated in the village of Vrapice and Stehelčevs; and there was another one owned by the State Railway company (*Staats-Eisenbahn-Gesellschaft*, abbreviated as STEG) called according to a place east of Vrapice – Brandýsek Mines.

During the 1860s the mines in the Kladno-Buštěhrad coalfield became deeper and deeper. In the Buštěhrad mining domain the most significant was the *Franz Josef* mine (1867–1872, depth 353m) and later on a neighbouring mine called *Tragy* (1897–1899, also 353m deep). All this originally imperial mining property was sold to the company Buštěhrad Railway in 1882 (*Priv. Buschtehrader Eisenbahn*). The Bresson mine was built in Kladno by the State Railway Company (1868–1871, 337 m, filled up already in 1905) and so was the *Engerth* Mine (1868–1872, 400m); the *Barré* mine was built near Vinařice (1872–1875, 445 m), and the *Ronna* mine near Hnidousy (1882–1885, 425 m) and the *Theodor* mine (1897–1901, 325 m) near Pchery.

The Prague iron processing company which owned also Vojtěšská Ironworks in Kladno started digging a mine on the so called western field, in the direction to Vinařice and Libušín; the most significant mining works included the mines *Mayrau* (1874–1877, 327m), *Robert* (1881–1884, 529m) and *Max* (1888–1890, 520m). This company also bought the land owned by Mirošovská Coal Company in 1805 (*Steinkohlen-Gewerkschaft Miröschau*) which included the following mines: Johann I and Johann II (1886–1889, both 302m) and *Schoeller* (1899–1902, 525m). Between 1913–1914 the *Wannieck* mine started being dug in the most western section of the coal field, near Kamenné Žehrovice. In 1857 the mines of *Prager Eisenindustrie Gesellschaft* produced 239 thous. tons of coal; in 1878 the volume of mined coal exceeded 400 thous. tons and in 1905 it reached approximately 1,500 thousand tons of coal. And this amount was mined until the end of WWI.

Vojtěšská Steelworks was expanded in 1860 by four new bricked blast furnaces and in 1867 the construction of a rolling mill and a puddling plant commenced – the first plant producing wrought iron and rolled material. The phase of significant production increase which lasted until 1918 was connected with the introduction of new technologies and in terms of people with the Austrian businessman Karl Wittgenstein; he was the general director of *Prager Eisenindustrie Gesellschaft* from 1886 and during the time he was in office a number of capital expenditure projects were implemented which resulted in modernisation and rationalisation of production. In 1886 Wittgenstein established another ironworks operation just opposite Vojtěšská Steelworks called *Poldihütte, Tiegelgussstahlfabrik* (Poldi Steelworks, cup steelworks). In fact he utilised a gap in the programme of Czech and Moravian steel production which did not produce high-grade steel; in 1908 they were the first company in the Czech Lands to introduce the production of steel in electric furnaces and at the same time they intensely built a network of their own engineering companies. The operations started in 1889 with only 300 workers, in 1914 the company employed 2279 people.

The promotion of Kladno to a royal mining town and the enhancement of the municipal coat of arms in 1898 topped the vigorous development of the town during the past fifty years.

The largest political and social event in 1900 was the miners' strike which lasted over three and a half months. The basic requirements of the miners included reduction of working hours and increase of salaries. On 29 January 1900 Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk gave his speech in U Jágrů Pub named "*About the Economic and Social Fight*". At the beginning of the century four mines were closed down in the town and only one remained in operation – the Engert mine which operated until 1945. In consequence of this development a number of mining families moved out of the town to the surrounding villages.

The most significant structures in the pre-war Kladno included the so-called "Poldihaus" (the guest house) from 1903 which was completely designed, including the interiors, by the famous architect Josef Hoffmann. Alois Dryák completed the Art-Nouveau structure of Grammar School and two years later another significant educational institution was built in the town – the secondary technical school moved to a newly built structure designed by Jaroslav Rössler just before the beginning of the First World War. Another Art-Nouveau structure from the years 1909–1910 is the district house (today's Central-Bohemian Scientific Library).

WWI brought about poverty, hunger and lack of goods of any type. By the end of the war prices grew twenty to fifty times. Men fighting in the war could not run their trades and shops, and therefore, many of them were closed down. Even one year after the establishment of the independent Czechoslovak State, gatherings protesting against high prices were held in the Square of Mayor Pavel. In consequence of war events and left-oriented ideas spreading among workmen, the number of members of the Catholic Church decreased significantly in Kladno. The process of secularisation was not stopped even by the establishment of the new Czechoslovak Church which only after seventeen years, in 1938, settled down in the local synagogue which was given to them by the Jewish religious community.

The years of WWI brought about vigorous growth of output which was succeeded by a fall in connection with the necessity to adjust the production to peace conditions. The volumes of coal mined in *Prager Eisenindustrie Gesellschaft* were about a million of tons; during WWII there was an increase to 1.7 million tons. Vojtěšská Ironworks (which was more often called Kladno Ironworks *Prager Eisenindustrie Gesellschaft*) went through very few changes during the inter-war pe-

riod; as far as the appearance is concerned, the most significant were four lime furnaces on the northern edge of the town towards the village of Kročehlavy. They were built between 1927–1929. During the war the plant was damaged significantly; it was controlled by Mannesmann Röhrewerke and used its capacity so extensively that in 1945 the Kladno plant was an old-fashioned, exhausted and indebted complex. The number of employees in Kladno ironworks depended on economic development and ranked between 8322 people (1919), 2883 people in 1923 and peaked in 1945 when 7221 people were employed there.

Poldina huf a. s. (as it was named after the incorporation) ranked among the most renowned world producers of high-grade steel; its businesses were situated in 39 countries all over the world and the production programme included 300 brands of high-grade steel. Within the process of incorporation it was transferred from the portfolio of Niederoesterreichische Escompte Gessellschaft to the hands of the Czech Escompt Bank. As of 1922 when the post-war production was stabilized, the plant employed 1860 people and by 1938 this number rose to 5200. During the war years the number continued growing and reached 12,281 people in 1942. Since it was an armament producing company, the Poldi Steelworks was included into the Reichswerke Hermann Goering A. G. Corporation.

During the interwar period another significant industrial plant – Kablo – was established on the northern edge of Kladno. The basis of its production programme was laid already in 1865 when the State Railway Company established production of wire mine equipment by the *Thinnfeld* mine. After 1918 the production expanded by network and communication cables, conductors and cable sets and in 1925 these operations were transferred to Kablo joint stock company.

The town flourished during the interwar period even though the 1930s were the years of a serious economic crisis. The development was influenced by Act no. 281/1919 Coll. on Government Support to the Building Industry. Between 1921–1935 Kladno spread towards the west and south to the railway connecting Kladno with Nučice. New residential houses were erected in Bresson and Ostrovec neighbourhoods. Other newly built structures grew in the vicinity of the local barracks in the direction of Sitná. The designed flats, including those for working people, were larger and as a matter of course they included flushing toilets and often also bathrooms. The Municipal Authority built utility networks and moved overhead electric wiring under the ground. The most interesting structures built during the interwar period include: the Treasury of the District Mining Guild with rondo-cubistic features designed by Alois Dryák (nowadays the district court has its offices there), the Mining House designed by Václav Stádník and also the grandiose building of People's House by Rudolf Černý.

Political problems with the Nazi brought 1,700 refugees from border areas who needed accommodation. A final solution came after the German occupation when German authorities decided to put the refugees up in Buštěhrad Castle. After the protectorate was established, the municipal board was dissolved and a government commissar appointed by the Germans made decisions instead. One of these commissars was Karl Zucker who initiated the uniting of Kladno, Kročehlavy (it was a town since 1931), Rozdělův and Dubí into one municipal unit. It happened on 4 December 1940. Kladno was the first town in Bohemia and Moravia where the martial law was imposed (8 June 1939) after two students, Jan Smudek and František Petr, assassinated a German policeman Wilhelm Kniest. Subsequently people were persecuted and fined.

Poldi Steelworks built 172 flats in 1942 according to the design by a German designer W. Knapp. These houses have been called Siedlung since then. The Nazi resistance in the town was organized across all political parties and most often there were by various types of sabotage activities.

Dr. E. Tomáš, J. Fiedler and G. Kugler were the main organisers of the national May revolution in Kladno and thanks to their diplomatic negotiations with the Germans, no big bloodshed occurred in the town. After the end of the war, the legal order returned to the pre-Munich status, however, in Kladno an exception was approved. After an agreement all the united villages were administered as one unit. This state was legalised on 6 May 1947.

Mining became a preferred field after the war, but it influenced the development of Kladno much less than the steel industry since no active mines were located in the cadastral territory of Kladno or its immediate vicinity.

The structure of Kladno steel industry was influenced by the establishment of a state-owned company whose statutory name was United Steelworks where both the local steelworks were united and the older of them, Vojtěšská Steelworks, was renamed to Koněv. The company suffered from the typical diseases resulting from the centralised economic system – overloading of production capacities and unbalanced and insufficient capital expenditures. With regard to this we cannot be surprised that until the mid 1960s the company was evaluated according to an index called "suffering a lower loss than planned".

Kladno experienced a period of massive migration. During its first phase the German minority, mostly mining engineers, left and some Czech people left for the border areas, and during the second phase unskilled workers arrived having been either attracted by higher income or made to work in Kladno steelworks.

In 1972, the construction of a new steel plant started near the village of Dřín, first it was an electric steelworks (completed 1975) and subsequently a blooming mill (1984) and in the end a medium-light section mill (completed in 1989). At the same time production was ended in the blast furnaces and most old production plants in Koněv. It was very difficult to fulfil the planned production programme focused on high-grade steel in the Dřín plant, but as far as the volume is concerned the production came near a million tons a year. The Poldi Steelworks, i.e. the "old" plant became a modern and competitive production complex after the modernisation. The united steelworks had about 20 000 employees in 1989. It was significantly indebted due to huge capital expenditures, however, there was a good chance that it could become a profit making plant.

In order to solve the post-war lack of flats in the town, an Association for the Construction of an Excellent Housing Estate in Kladno was established in 1947. Its target was to provide ordinary people with healthy and cheap housing by means of construction of a housing estate, lease of flats in blocks of flats, or construction of hostels with large bedrooms. The land-use plan for a housing estate was prepared by Prague architects J. Havlíček, J. Hliský, M. Koněv and E. Kovařík. Five thousand people were supposed to move into flats in this housing estate. Works started in 1947. The Association was dissolved pursuant to the Discrimination Act no. 68/1951 Coll. After February 1948, all large building activities were managed by the Central Bohemian Regional National Committee in Prague. In consequence of political and administrative centralism the Local National Committee which knew the local situation best was deprived of the opportunity to influence the construction on its territory. After many changes six prefabricated houses according to J. Havlíček's design were built in Rozdělův housing estate. All of them became listed structures since they are examples of socialist realism (another structure built in this style is the International Hotel in Prague). Rozdělův housing estate was completed in the 1960s.

The main designer for the largest development "on a green field" in Kročehlavy was Ing. Vlček. He divided the construction into several phases and districts ("0", "1", "2", "3", "4"). The first phase was com-

pleted in 1971, the last one in the 1980s. Houses were assembled from prefabricated blocks. Nowadays this is a neighbourhood with the highest number of people in Kladno.

From the mid-1950s the regime started supporting individual and cooperative forms of residential construction. The lasting need to accommodate workers from the largest Kladno companies initiated the construction of another housing estate which was supposed to become a new town centre. A Cultural House of the United Steelworks, a service centre and a dominant building of the district committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party were built.

The old town houses were not maintained due to the lack of financial and technical resources. It was resolved to rebuild the neighbourhood called Nové Kladno and build high-rise buildings on the site which architecturally corresponded with the Rozdělův buildings. V. Hliský prepared a new land-use plan for Kladno according to which free areas in Rozdělův, Strmadov and Ostrovec were supposed to be filled in. The architect planned large scale demolitions in the centre (including the southern row of houses in T.G. Masaryk Street), in Rozdělův and Kročehlavy.

After a number of negotiations a new land-use plan was created in 1989 by a group led by T. Smrž who preferred renovation of some buildings in the centre of town. The political changes after 1989 interrupted large demolition works. The municipal authority approved a new land-use plan at the beginning of the 1990s which brought a solution for the northern part of the historic centre which is supposed to become a new natural centre of Kladno.

During the whole 20th century the town was strongly influenced by heavy industry, positively and negatively. The most serious problem was the environmental pollution. Dust nuisance (in the most exposed areas it amounted to 1,600 tons/km² per year) and sulphur dioxide emissions exceeded the permitted hygiene standards many times. The environment improved significantly only in the 1990s in connection with the bankruptcy of the giant steelworks.

POLDI – the United Steelworks was changed into a holding type company with the statutory name POLDI a. s. from which several entities split soon afterwards and a tender was organized for the steel processing activities of POLDI a. s.; a company called Bohemia Art won the tender, but its activities ended up with bankruptcy proceedings in the mid-1990s and after several owners who changed very quickly, it was Scholtz Edlestahl that acquired the ownership title to Poldi Steelworks. Trinec Ironworks rented the Dřín complex (blooming and billet mill) and have operated it. Also the era of Kladno mining activities slowly ended in the 1990s; the very last coal trolley was taken out of the Schoeller mine (in Libušín) on 29 June 2002 at 6 a.m.

At the beginning of the 21st century there were two industrial areas where production, entrepreneurial activities and job opportunities were concentrated. The first of them, Kladno-east was fairly traditional and focused on activities resulting from the former POLDI a. s. It was dominated by Engineering Company POLDI (comprising most of the mechanical operations of the former Poldi Steelworks), energy generating company ECKG (owned by Swiss company ATEL), Kablo Kladno (owned by German corporation NKT Cables), company BM (Beznoska Meditech – a producer of surgical implants and tools) and others. The industrial zone Kladno-South was built on a "green field" and comprises light industry companies such as production or completion branches of foreign companies, e.g. German Dr. Oetker, Japanese Showa Aluminium, Canadian CELESTICA and Danish LEGO; this zone comprises also shopping malls.