

tschechische Bewohnerschaft (mehr als 50 Personen wurden eingesperrt, wovon 14 das Leiden nicht überlebten), als in noch größerem Ausmaß die Juden (der Transport von 76 hiesigen Juden in Konzentrationslager erfolgte am 10.6.1942). Die städtebaulichen Maßnahmen liefen bis zu dem allgemeinen Verbot der Bauaktivitäten im Jahre 1942. Am 5.5.1945 übernahmen die Macht in der Stadt die Revolutionsnationalausschüsse.

Im Jahre 1951 wurde in der nördlichen Gewerbezone das große moderne Areal Průmysl mléčné výroby (in Übersetzung Milchernährungsindustrie) eröffnet, das an die genossenschaftliche Molkerei aus dem Jahre 1935 anknüpfte. Modernisiert wurde ferner die Gerberei und geschaffen wurden drei Textilbetriebe. Im Jahre 1949 wurde erneut das Krankenhaus erweitert. Es entstanden hier auch neue Mittelschulen.

Nach dem Verlust der Rolle der Bezirksstadt im Jahre 1960 stagnierte Nový Bydžov eher. Es veränderte sich ferner die Industriestruktur. Zur neuen Dominante gelangte 1964 das große Getreidesilo aus Eisenbeton mit der Höhe von 56 m. Erst in den 70er-80er Jahren des 20. Jahrhunderts verzeichnen wir einen neuen Wohnungsbau. Die freie Fläche zwischen der Stadt und Chudonice füllte die nicht all zu große Plattenbausiedlung aus. Neue Familienhäuser entstanden auch hinter der Eisenbahnstrecke. Die Erweiterung des zusammenhängenden Stadtgebietes hinter die Eisenbahnstrecke war eine logische Folge der Ausschöpfung von Gebietsreserven auf der Fläche zwischen der Stadt und dem Cidlina-Fluss. Dank Bau einer Abwasserkläranlage am Zusammenfluss der Cidlina und des Bidschower Mühlgrabens in den 80er Jahren endete die unverhältnismäßig große Verunreinigung des Flusses.

Entwicklung nach 1989. Den historischen Stadtkern betrafen in der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts fast ohne Ausnahme Modernisierungen der Fassaden. Die eigentliche städtebauliche Struktur wurde zum Glück nicht zu viel beeinträchtigt. Der schlimmste Eingriff war die Sprengung der ganzen nördlichen Hälfte der westlichen Ringplatzseite im Jahre 1979. Die Werte der mittelalterlichen Städtebauqualität und der einzelnen Stadtdominanten führten im Jahre 1990 zur Einbeziehung von Nový Bydžov in die städtischen Denkmalzonen. Nach und nach wurden die meisten Kulturdenkmäler renoviert. Der Neubau des westlichen Marktplatzteils wurde erst in den Jahren 2009-2010 (Residence u Raka – in Übersetzung Residenz zum Krebs) vorgenommen.

Die Transformationszeitspanne der 90er Jahre des 20. Jahrhunderts bedeutete die Privatisierung der hiesigen Industriebetriebe, bereits 1997 wurde jedoch die Zuckerfabrik geschlossen und 2006 ging die Molkerei pleite. Seit 2003 ist Nový Bydžov Sitz der Gemeinde mit erweiterter Tätigkeit, die auf diesem Gebiet die öffentliche Verwaltung ausübt.

Die Bilanz der demographischen Entwicklung in der Stadt war während des ganzen 20. Jahrhunderts und auch zu Beginn des 21. Jahrhunderts negativ. Bis 2011 sank die Anzahl der Bewohner auf 5830 (Agglomeration 6704). Die Anzahl der Häuser bis auf Ausnahmen stieg jedoch ständig leicht an und im Jahre 2011 betrug sie 1498 (1817). Die ganze Gemeinde Nový Bydžov (also einschließlich der Ortschaften, die mit der Stadt Bauwerke betreffend nicht zusammenhängen) verzeichnete im Jahre 2011 insgesamt 2124 Häuser und 7178 Einwohner.

NOVÝ BYDŽOV

Natural conditions and early settlement in the Nový Bydžov region. The origin of Nový Bydžov is closely linked with a settlement of the same name which is nowadays called Starý (Old) Bydžov; geomorphologically the town belongs to the area of East-Bohemian plateau and Central-Bohemian plateau; it is situated in an area which has been suitable for settlement since very old times. Archeological finds in this region prove uninterrupted settlement from the time of the first farmers (the Neolite) until the arrival of Slavs and the beginning of the Early Middle Ages. The development of all the described settlement phases was probably strongly influenced by an old road connecting Bohemia and northern and eastern Europe which was established as early as in prehistoric times, and during the Middle Ages was usually called the Klodzko or Polish path.

The formation of a Medieval settlement network and Old Bydžov (12th-13th centuries). We have very little sources about the beginning of (Old) Bydžov, therefore, we need to rely on assumptions only. The growing importance of the above described road probably influenced the establishment of this settlement in the 11th and 12th centuries at the time when Bohemian princes fought with Polish rulers for Silesia. We can base our assumption regarding the influence of this path on the establishment of (Old) Bydžov on special relationships between the local church and the far away town of Sadská which was also crossed by the path. From documents originating from 1305 we learn that the benefactor of the local church had long been the chapter in Sadská (established about 1117), therefore, we can rightly assume that this church institution was the one that initiated the establishment of the church in Starý Bydžov so that pilgrims in this rarely settled area had a place to perform their religious duties. The church was originally probably just a wooden structure; the architectural style of the current building dates back to the late 12th and early 13th centuries. A settlement probably started to develop around the church which soon became a parish church.

While the early history of (Old) Bydžov is based mostly on assumptions, the first more accurate information dates from 1186 when Bohemian Prince Friedrich I (the oldest son of King Vladislav I) confirmed the property of the Order of St. John in Bohemia which, among others, included two villages in the Jaroměř region (Starý Ples and probably also Chvalkovice) which members of the order obtained from Friedrich's younger brother Přemysl (who later became King Přemysl Otakar I) as

a result of a swap for a part of (Old) Bydžov that the Order had probably received from Bohuš Bradatý, a castle manager in Klodzko between 1183 and 1189. This would only confirm the links between (Old) Bydžov and the aforementioned path since Klodzko was also located by this path. The location of Bohuš's residence is hypothetical only – if it existed in this region at all, it might have been near the church in Old Bydžov or it might have been the residence with a Romanesque church in Metličany (the church does not exist anymore; it has been replaced with a Baroque structure and the residence is only assumed on this site) east of Starý Bydžov over the other bank of the Cidlina River.

One provable conclusion could be made from the data contained in the aforementioned instrument confirming the property of the St. John's Order – ambitious Přemysl was aware of the strategic importance of (Old) Bydžov which was located by an important international road and he strove for obtaining the part of the town which he probably had not owned yet. The architecture of the Romanesque church in Old Bydžov which originally featured two towers suggests that the church was designed by someone from the royal environment – probably the aforementioned Přemysl I at the turn of the 13th century.

Early days of Nový Bydžov (approx. 1310–1320). Based on the aforementioned written instrument and also on the architectural style of the church in Starý Bydžov we can assume that the Bydžov region was held by the King from the early 13th century. Based on that we can agree with historian J. V. Šimák who said that King Wenceslas II (1283-1305) decided to build a centre which would administer his property in areas along the Cidlina River and he did so right here in (Old) Bydžov. That was why he probably promoted this settlement to a town (no written document is available, however, after Nový (New) Bydžov was established Starý (Old) Bydžov was repeatedly referred to as an old town - *antiqua civitas*) and the King probably also planned a significant architectural expansion of the town (a remark about a square has been documented). However, it was probably lack of water necessary for the newly built town which eventually made the ruler decide on relocation of the town to a more convenient place. Nevertheless, this opinion regarding the relocation of the town is a hypothesis only since it is not confirmed in any written documents. We equally lack direct written evidence about the relocation and construction of a new town and we only learn about its existence at the time when its construction was almost completed.

We can derive the architectural style of the relocated town only from the survived layout of the town. King Wenceslas II probably managed to find an experienced person for the relocation of the town; the person appointed by the King was able to pick the most suitable location for the establishment of a new town and employ the experience from the construction of other Gothic towns. The newly established town was situated in a plain on the western (right) bank of the Cidlina River which could supply the new town with plenty of water that was probably insufficient in (Old) Bydžov; at the same time the river was also a fortifying element. The establishment of the town was based on the Roman location practice of an ideally designed urban layout; in the centre there was a central point (terminus medius) which became the basis of a right-angled cross from which all other axes in the town were derived. This point also became the centre of the square where two main paths running through the town crossed – the aforementioned Klodzko (Polish) path running from the west to the east (which connected the town with Prague and Hradec) and the sideway running from the north to the east (connecting the town with the nearby settlements of Chlumec nad Cidlinou and Sloupno). Sites for the main urban structures were probably picked at the same time when the regular urban layout was determined – a church in the southern part of the town (the Gothic church of Virgin Mary, today of St. Lawrence of Rome, has survived without significant changes in the original look), a monastery in the north-eastern corner of the town fortification system (completely pulled down today) and probably also a fortified residence of the ruler or owner (in the south-eastern corner of the town fortification system, approximately where the municipal theatre is now). As compared to the generously designed urban layout, the fortification system was fairly weak. At the beginning the town was only surrounded with ditches filled with water from the Cidlina and an embankment with a palisade. Brick fortification walls were only constructed at a later time. The town was accessible through 2 main gates – in the west the Czech (Prague) one and in the east the German (Hradec) gate, and two pedestrian gates – in the east the Chlumec one and in the north the Sloupno gate. Equally so the construction of individual houses did not correspond with the grandiose layout – most houses were made of wood.

We have only one written diplomatic document reporting the relocation of (Old) Bydžov and the establishment of the new town, however, the document is not directly related to the construction of the new town. It is an instrument of King Wenceslas II dated 1305 by means of which he gave to the church in (Old) Bydžov (the document says the old town) and its benefactor – the chapter in Sadská the village of Rosovice in the Přebram region as compensation for lost income amounting to 20 talents from tithes of royal hides and from tithes collected from butchers, bakers and pub owners which the church lost as a result of the construction of the new town. Complete lack of other diplomatic sources is very likely linked with the fact that the main construction of the new town took place during the restless days after the death of King Wenceslas III. The newly established town was first called just Bydžov in written documents; a Latin attribute *luvenis* was first used in 1367; in a Czech document the name Mladý (Young) Bydžov was used in 1455; the current name Nový (New) Bydžov was first used only in 1516.

The lack of diplomatic sources regarding the oldest history of the town has been compensated by another unique source – a municipal book established in 1311 – it is the oldest survived municipal book of a Bohemian rural town. However, as regards the look of the town, we only learn from this book about finalization of the fortification system

– digging of moats and construction of palisades and about the type of gates which are described as wooden ones. Worth mentioning is also the information that the fortification system was supposed to be completed in 1311 when the town was taken over by John the Blind, however, this obligation, which was guaranteed by some of the local burghers, had not been fulfilled at that time. The book also mentioned some costs connected with the completion of the fortification system. In addition to that, the book featured data about endowments of the local burghers for the church and the monastery, however, there is no information about the construction of these structures. The book also comprised lots of precious information about the life in the town soon after the completion of the relocation. We can find very valuable information about the value of municipal property – fields owned by the town or developed and undeveloped plots. This assessment became the basis for fees which burghers paid to the King and later on to the noblemen who owned the town – which amounted to 42 talents a year.

We also learn from the municipal book more specific data about the administration of the town. At the time when the first records were made in the book, the town was owned by King John the Blind; the King was substituted by an officer who administered the royal property. The town itself was controlled by a municipal council (comprising 19 members – always 12 old and 7 new ones) led by the burgomaster, by the municipal community (comprising all legitimate burghers) and by the municipal court chaired by the magistrate. All these bodies approved the establishment of the municipal book which was to retain for future generations the information about decisions which representatives of the town made based on their conscience. The activity of the municipal administration was based on the Magdeburg municipal right (the appellate body for the municipal right was Hradec Králové). Since the municipal bodies functioned well soon after the establishment of the new town, it is likely that the municipal administration bodies had been established even before the relocation of the town, at the time when (Old) Bydžov was granted municipal rights.

Data from the municipal book make it possible to deal with the issue of nationalities in the newly established town. Due to the fact that names the 19-member municipal council show that 17 of them were Germans, we can assume that Germans formed the rich majority of burghers in the new town; however, in general the municipal community was mostly Czech – we have counted 31 Czechs, 17 Germans and in 6 persons the nationality could not be clearly determined. Younger records in the municipal book suggest that the number of Czechs increased in the town during the pre-Hussite era. The municipal book makes it possible to reconstruct also the geographic origin of citizens of the newly established town – from the nearest surroundings there are people from Vysoké Veselí, Nechanice, Smidary, Rusek, Kněžmost and maybe also Radkovic. Some citizens arrived in Nový Bydžov from more distant and significant towns, such as Trutnov, Hradec, Kutná Hora and Humpolec; the book also comprises a record about a person from Landek in the Klodzko region. The municipal book also comprises information about jobs of the citizens. Soon after Nový Bydžov was established there were 7 bakers, 3 butchers, 3 maltsters, 3 tailors, one salted herring seller, one shoe maker and one furrier. Retail was represented by one grocer. These jobs mostly served everyday needs of the town; it seems that from the economic point of view the relocation of (Old) Bydžov aimed mainly at the establishment of a significant agricultural centre and a centre of agricultural product trade near the Cidlina River and maybe also a place to supply the dynamically developing mining resort of Kutná Hora.

Bydžov religious administration was fairly specific. The seat of the parish and also of the lowest element of the pre-Hussite church administration – the deanery (which comprised 36 parishes) - remained in the church in Starý (Old) Bydžov even after the new town was established. It was a parish church for the town itself while the municipal parish church of St. Lawrence was the chapel-of-ease within the parish. Disregarding this arrangement, priests soon settled in Nový Bydžov, and therefore, they were sometimes called priests of Nový Bydžov even though formally they ranked under the parish church of Starý (Old) Bydžov.

Pre-Hussite Century (approx. 1320–1420). King John the Blind did not hold this relocated town with a perfectly planned layout, developed administration and probably also targeted economic orientation for a long time. As early as in 1325 he ceded Nový Bydžov to Beneš of Vartenberk; at first probably as a pledge only, later into hereditary ownership. Consequently Nový Bydžov changed from a royal town into a serf town. Beneš of Vartenberk soon obtained the hereditary ownership title also to the East-Bohemian estate of Veliš with the town of Jičín, and Nový Bydžov was frequently administered together with this estate; nevertheless, the Vartenberks had their burgomaster in the town. Towards the end of the 14th century the estate was heavily indebted by Čeněk I of Vartenberk and Nový Bydžov was temporarily taken over by his main creditor King Wenceslas IV. In 1394 Bydžov was plundered during the resistance movement of some noblemen against King Wenceslas IV and it was probably then when old municipal privileges were destroyed too. After 1405 when all debts were settled, Čeněk II of Vartenberk acquired Nový Bydžov back. In 1407 Čeněk II issued a privilege for Nový Bydžov which guaranteed the town citizens the same status as citizens of royal towns had, especially of Hradec Králové. This privilege enabled the town citizens as well as their serfs in the country (Nový Bydžov controlled 6 villages) to dispose of their own real property, it gave them an opportunity to decide about children and orphans and to move house without restrictions. In 1414 King Wenceslas IV, upon Čeněk's express request, reestablished the mile right (guaranteed monopoly status for craftsmen organized in guilds within the town) for Nový Bydžov.

A strange and hardly interpretable event happened in 1415 – an unsuccessful attack on the Bydžov Minorite monastery by craftsmen