

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 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

(some of whom – at least two – were also councilors at the same time) with the aim to expel monks from there. The usual reference to an early armed attack against the Catholic Church (even though it is logically related to the opinion of Čeněk of Vartenberk who co-signed the letter of complaint against Hus' execution and introduced the communion from chalice on his demesne) is more likely just an explanation resulting from the lack of information about this event, or a general hypothetical framework at the most.

From the Hussite Movement until the Thirty Years' War (1420–1618). The period lasting two centuries delimited with two long-term war conflicts was an era of significant construction changes of the town of Bydžov; especially the 16th century was the time of prosperity. As regards town urbanism the north-eastern section of the town changed distinctly – on the site of destroyed and never re-established Minorite monastery a Jewish ghetto was established and in the suburb on the opposite edge of the town (relatively close to the parish church) a Jewish cemetery was established; at the beginning of the 17th century the town relocated the cemetery to the newly built Church of Holy Trinity situated also on the north-eastern edge of the town, however, outside the town fortification walls. The town architecture changed gradually; Renaissance modifications were made to the town parish Church of St. Lawrence one of the few structures dating back to the Gothic and Renaissance era which have survived in the town. The town is dominated by a mighty prism tower in the north-western corner of the church; such imposing towers were typical of municipal parish churches or town halls from the Gothic and Renaissance era; they were usually used as bellfries too. The dead were buried either directly in the parish church, or most of them in the adjacent cemetery; at the turn of the 17th century there was a cemetery by the Holy Trinity Church situated in the immediate vicinity of the municipal fortification wall, close to the ghetto. As early as in 1500 a school and a hospital were documented in Nový Bydžov; from the 16th century water from the Cidlina River was distributed in the town by water distribution pipes. The "Castle", a seigniorial administrative residence of unknown appearance, used to stand in the south-eastern part of the town, in a place called Na Kopečku (approximately on the site of today's theatre), from the 14th century. The existence of a suburb was documented at the beginning of the 16th century at the latest; a Jewish cemetery, which has existed till today, was established outside the town fortification walls about 1520.

A square-shaped square where paths from municipal gates crossed was the centre of town both from the urbanistic as well as the economic point of view. In the western direction a path to Starý (Old) Bydžov ran through the Old Bydžov Gate; close to this gate a community of the Unity of Brethren settled down in the early 16th century. On the eastern side the town was guarded by the Metličanská (later called Hradecká) gate – this one was first called after a nearby village through which the path continued to the east. A road of key importance ran from the west to the east – Prague – Městec Králové – Nový Bydžov – Hradec Králové; the road running from the north to the south was much less important. The square was the site where markets took place – first there were weekly markets and after King Vladislaus granted a privilege (1473), there were also annual markets. Analogically we can assume that the highest concentration of the most impressive houses was in the square – it was probably at this time when houses with archways were built; the archways gradually disappeared during the 19th and 20th centuries. It is most likely that the Town Hall was situated in the square as well.

The economic status of the town was supported by several market privileges which were either newly granted or confirmed, or, in some cases, extended. The principal privilege granted to Bydžov citizens by Čeněk of Vartenberk in 1407 was confirmed by Eliška of Vartenberk who also bound her son Heřman Zvířetický to respect the privilege; Heřman confirmed this privilege himself in 1473. Several privileges mostly extending the market rights were granted to the town by Vladislaus II of Hungary (1471-1516). Municipal freedom was confirmed and further extended by the Pernštejn, Bydžov's manorial lords from 1516; Jan of Pernštejn issued also some other legal documents addressed to the town (especially the customs order in the early 1530s). Subsequent privileges issued by Bohemian Kings mostly confirmed the existing ones; in addition to that the number of market days was increased; Bydžov privileges were confirmed in 1562 by Ferdinand II; in 1589 Rudolph II granted the town the right of a third annual market.

The oldest news about **crafts** in the town date from the 14th century, whereas, sources from the 16th century document their broad variety: at that time the following guilds operated in the town: butchers, furriers, shoemakers, milliners, weavers and potters and beside these there were several combined guilds (a guild of maltsters, brewers and grout makers; a guild of bakers, millers and gingerbread makers; a guild of tailors and cutters and also a guild associating blacksmiths, wheelwrights, coopers, locksmiths and joiners). In the first third of the 16th century a municipal brewery was documented – it used to stand by the Metličanská gate (it burned down in 1531).

The development of the municipal property indicates the state of municipal finance. The municipal property was not significantly expanded at that time, however, if we realize, that after 1547 the town was affected by confiscation and only twenty years later the town property comprised six or seven villages again, and in addition to that Bydžov citizens were able to gather 10,000 threescores of Bohemian groschen to buy the town out of serfdom, we can assume that the town had a fairly decent property base. The fact that the town became indebted and was even forced to sell a part of their property is not all that important; the purchase of mills and farms documented in 1583-1617 unequivocally documented the prosperity. However, the town was soon affected by another confiscation of municipal estates in 1622 when the town lost property worth almost 30,000 threescores of Meissen groschen (nevertheless, as early as in 1628 the property was returned to the town

again and until the cancellation of patrimonial administration before the mid-19th century the scope of municipal property kept growing slightly).

Almost two centuries, between 1325-1516, Bydžov was controlled by noblemen of Vartenberk, between 1516-1547 by lords of Pernštejn and afterwards shortly by the royal chamber (1547-1548) from which the Bydžov demesne was acquired by the Valdštejn (1548) as a feudal estate; they held Nový Bydžov for two decades only – after Jindřich and Heník Štaštný of Valdštejn died without heirs, the town and the demesne passed to the royal chamber as reversion (1567).

In the post-Hussite era we frequently encounter an effort of municipal communities to take over control of their towns in their own hands – in Bydžov this happened in 1493 and after the magistrate's house was purchased, the municipality also obtained the right to elect the village magistrate. Good economic situation of the town in the mid-16th century is documented by their negotiations about redeeming Nový Bydžov from serfdom opened with Heník Štaštný of Valdštejn, the manorial nobility that held the town at that time; however, the plan of the municipality was successfully completed only several years later when the town was taken over by the chamber as escheat. The town was officially redeemed on 6th January 1569 after the municipality paid 10,000 threescores of Bohemian groschen. Nový Bydžov thus obtained the status of a royal dowry town; in 1593 the town was accepted in the third (urban) status with the right to participate in the council.

Data about the number of inhabitants, or more accurately tax payers, are available for the times after the second half of the 16th century. This can also help us make a certain idea about the number of houses in the town. The register of fief from 1567 speaks about 212 tax payers and we can assume that the number of houses in the town was approximately the same.

The Thirty Years' War and post-war renovation (1618–1718). Nový Bydžov was seriously damaged by the Thirty Years' War. Before the war the number of settled houses was 246; in 1653 only 142 houses (29 out of these were Jewish) were settled and 104 (6 out of these were Jewish) were empty. Soon after the war, in 1655, the inner town partly burned down again. Very important was the granting of the 4th annual market right in 1666 by emperor Leopold I. The role of the town as a significant specialized procurement centre for its surroundings was also apparent from the number of craft workshops – there were 86 of them in 1654. Only Jičín boasted a higher number of workshops (126) within broader surroundings of Bydžov. As far as the amount of tax is concerned, Nový Bydžov was the 29th among royal and dowry towns in Bohemia with its 88 threescores of Bohemian groschen as apparent from 1656 records. The stagnation period after the Thirty Year' War lasted in Nový Bydžov for most of the 2nd half of the 17th century since the town had difficulties to overcome its serious indebtedness and consequences of fires. By 1713 the number of houses increased to 234, and the town had 2,100 inhabitants. Beer brewing was supposed to improve the financial situation of the town significantly. The town development was also boosted up by the reestablishment of Tuesday corn markets in 1701.

No Baroque art features were applied in Nový Bydžov during the second half of the 17th century except for a new splendid altar in St. Lawrence's church dated 1680-1683. No Baroque architecture principles were applied in wooden churches in the surrounding villages either. The Marian plaque column from 1716 which commemorated the plaque victims (1715) became the most significant Baroque structure in Nový Bydžov from the urbanistic point of view. The column was situated right in the middle of the square-shaped square. In the 18th century the town was enhanced with a number of other Baroque sculptures. The first purely Baroque structure in the town was the cemetery church of the Holy Trinity which was rebuilt by Mikuláš Rossi between 1717-1718 in harmony with Baroque principles.

Between two fires (1718–1817). In 1718 the town was affected by another large fire which, beside others, almost completely destroyed the ghetto. After the fire large two-storey houses with steep Gothic style, sometimes chamfered, sheathed gables were built along the main ghetto street. The number of Jewish citizens in the town kept growing. In 1735 the Jewish cemetery was extended between the town and Chudonice. Another fire in 1739 was not as devastating.

As far as religion is concerned, Nový Bydžov was officially a Catholic town, however, in the 1720s and 1730s there were a number of blasphemy trials at the Nový Bydžov court of justice. In 1737 even the infamous Jesuit Antonín Koniáš made a journey to Nový Bydžov. In the 1740s the sect of Abrahamites, secret followers of Old Testament thoughts, spread in the Nový Bydžov region. Its main representative, tailor Jan Pita of Chudonice, was burned in Nový Bydžov on 18th December 1748 after drastic torture. Nový Bydžov thus wrote a sad chapter in the history of Inquisition since the stakes where Abrahamites from the Nový Bydžov region died were the last ones which burned for the belief in the Bohemian Lands.

In 1751 Nový Bydžov became the regional capital of the newly established Bydžov region. In the 1780s the municipal administration was reformed in the process of reforms introduced by Joseph II. The municipal council was substituted by a municipal authority run by officers who were led by burgomaster. As a consequence of this change Nový Bydžov lost (in 1784) its status of a regional capital after 33 years only. The regional administration was relocated to Jičín. One of the reasons for relocation was an imminent danger of fire in the wooden building of regional authority in Bydžov. Bydžov retained the 1st class court with the right to impose the capital punishment until 1848. In 1850 Nový Bydžov became the seat of the judicial and political district within the Jičín region.

During the 18th century only very few Baroque structures were built in the town. The Renaissance Town Hall, which was one of the few bricked buildings in the town, was partly rebuilt in the Baroque style about the mid-18th century. The mighty Baroque-classicist building of

the so called Doležalovský estate with a triple-axis entrance gate (Čsl. Armády Street no. 103) dates only from the late 18th or even early 19th century. Wooden Gothic structures prevailed in the town at this time.

In the second half of the 18th century the number of houses in Nový Bydžov almost doubled (379 houses in 1790, out of that 31 were Jewish). The number of inhabitants grew significantly; in 1788 the town had 2866 citizens. In 1793 the town was affected by another fire which damaged 19 houses and barns. The so called Raab's reform played a significant role in the growth of the rural settlement of the region; in this process seigniorial land was rendered to serfs under certain conditions. The Raab's reform of the Nový Bydžov municipal estate took place between 1780-1786. The villages of Zábědov and Metličany (partly on the estate of Sloupno) were established at that time; these two along with Chudonice form the Nový Bydžov conurbation nowadays.

The development of the town in the 19th century (1817–1918). Wooden buildings completely prevailed in Nový Bydžov until the great fire of the town in 1817. During the fire 123 houses and other structures were destroyed. Only after this event, bricks and stone started to prevail as construction materials. After 1817 the square was surrounded with brick two-storey houses whose longer side (the one with eaves) faced the square; the houses had pillared arcades which were walled up as early as in the second half of the 19th century. The town suffered from the lack of non-combustible building material which was why the fortification walls, pedestrian gates, the cemetery wall with the Gothic ossuary near the St. Lawrence's church and also both tower gates were completely taken apart. In 1841 when the first cadastral map of the town was created, the number of wooden houses in the town was still very high. The town experienced a new development phase in the second and third decades of the 19th century. It was boosted up by several early industrial plants (a small tannery, sugar refinery, brickworks and others). 752 people earned living in crafts and trade in 1833. The construction of the imperial road from Chlumeč nad Cidlinou to Vojice between 1833-1842 was also very important.

Nový Bydžov entered the capitalist era with 4,328 citizens and 478 houses (the situation in 1843) which was not little at that time. Nový Bydžov was the 32nd largest Czech town. The local primary school changed into the main school only in 1847. Between 1853-1854 the Hospital of Franz Joseph I was built west of the town on the site where roads to Městec Králové and Starý Bydžov crossed. The most significant structure built in Nový Bydžov during the 3rd quarter of the 19th century was the neo-Gothic Town Hall from 1863-1865 designed by Josef Míča.

At the beginning of the 1860s the political, social and cultural life flourished. Students' party held on 26th and 27th August 1861, attended by writer and national revivalist Božena Němcová, was a very important event. The local amateur theatre ensemble revived its activity at the same time. The first financial institutions – Citizens' Savings Bank and Municipal Savings Bank - that supported industry and agriculture - were established in 1863.

The growth of the town continued also in the last quarter of the 19th century. 1870, the year when the town was connected to the railway running from Vienna to the Trutnov-Žacléř coal mining resort, was a key development milestone. The railway ran in the immediate vicinity of the western edge of the Prague suburb, and along with the River Cidlina, it delimited the area for further development of the town. The neo-Gothic church of Our Lady of Sorrows designed by Josef Mocker was built in the new cemetery between 1898-1901.

The railway conditioned the development of industrial production. Electrification of the town started in 1895. An incoherent industrial zone formed between the road to Sloupno and the river; the zone was connected with the railway by means of a factory siding at a later time. The network of financial authorities was extended as well. Industrial development was accompanied by the development of secondary schools. In 1888 a municipal museum was established.

The territorial development of the town was not significant until the 1st World War. Pražská Street (Čsl. Armády Street) which connected the centre with the train station gradually became the main trading street in the town. A number of structures dominating the skyline of the town were constructed during the last third of the 19th and in the early 20th centuries such as the Grammar School built in 1876-1877 and other schools or the Jewish Town Hall no. 1387 (the number of Jews grew in the town until 1901). In 1899 the neo-Renaissance District House and between 1906-1907 the Savings Bank were built according to a design by Jan Vejrych. In 1901 the historic ghetto of Nový Bydžov burned down completely, only the synagogue survived. In consequence of the process of modernizing almost nothing has survived from burgher houses with neo-Gothic facades. As far as Art Nouveau structures are concerned, quite a few of them have survived in Nový Bydžov – beside the Savings Bank there are several houses (for example houses no. 552, 1585–1586, 549, 1713, 1587, 1582, 165–166) and especially the magnificent Ulrich's villa no. 1813.

The era of the First Republic (1918–1939). New streets designed in harmony with the medieval orthogonal layout of the town and its suburbs were established also in the 1920s and 1930s. The north-southern direction of the town development was advantageous also because it made it possible to link Nový Bydžov with the village of Chudonice and, at the same time, retain compact agricultural areas situated westerly of the railway. The town expanded to the north and to the south-west towards the railway. New structures were also built on both sides of the railway. In 1928 large-scale regulation of the Cidlina River started; its riverbed was moved easterly. In 1935 the construction of a water distribution system started, and a year later the sewage system started to be built.

The demographic development contrasted with the significant architectural development of the town. The number of inhabitants peaked

in 1910 and since then it kept decreasing. In 1910 Nový Bydžov (including Metličany) had 7,613 citizens and the whole conglomeration boasted 8,979 inhabitants, in 1950 only 6,221 people lived in Nový Bydžov (including Metličany) and the conglomeration had 7,074 inhabitants. However, the standard of living kept growing since the number of houses kept increasing: in 1910 there were 836 houses (1,080 in the whole conglomeration) and in 1950 there were 1,259 (1,532).

A number of valuable structures were built in the town during the interwar era of the First Republic: cinema (1921), Jirásek's theatre (1922–1924), Sokol Association gym (1927–1928), Hus' church (1927–1928). The construction of detached family houses and villas remained on a high level (no. 465, 689, 691, 809, 810 and especially the large villa of factory owner Balounek no. 1370 designed by Jan Václavík, completed in 1936). Most of them were traditional structures; the influence of functionalism can be distinguished in some of them only. Worth mentioning are also the new hospital pavilions: for contagious diseases (1932) and the surgery ward (1939)

War and post-war years and the Socialist era (1939–1989). On 15th March 1939 the town was occupied by the Nazi army which seized school buildings as well. Nazi persecution affected both Czech citizens (more than 50 people were imprisoned and 14 of them did not survive the suffering) and especially Jews (76 local Jews were transported to concentration camps on 10th June 1942). Modifications of the town continued up until complete ban on construction in 1942. On 5th May 1945 revolutionary national committees took over control of the town.

In 1951 a large modern dairy factory was opened in the northern industrial zone; the factory resulted from the renovation of a former cooperative dairy from 1935. The tannery was also modernized and three textile plants were built. In 1949 the hospital was extended again. Several new secondary schools were established.

After the Nový Bydžov lost its status of a district capital, the town rather stagnated. The portfolio of industrial plants in the town changed as well. After 1964 the town skyline was dominated by a 56-meter-tall large volume grain silo made of reinforced concrete. Only in 1970s and 1980s residential structures started to be built again. The area between the town and the village of Chudonice was filled up with a small housing estate comprising prefabricated buildings. New residential houses appeared also behind the railway. The expansion of the developed area behind the railway logically resulted from the lack of free space between the railway and the Cidlina River. Thanks to the construction of a sewage plant by the confluence of the Cidlina and Bydžovský stream in the 1980s extensive pollution of this river stopped.

Development after 1989. Facades of almost all houses in the historic centre were modernized in the second half of the 20th century. Fortunately the urbanistic structure was not disturbed much. The worst intervention was the demolition of the northern half of the western side of the square in 1979. Nový Bydžov was recorded in the list of Czech municipal heritage zones in 1990 for its valuable medieval urbanism principles and individual dominating structures. Most sites of historic interest were gradually renovated. The construction of houses on the western side of the square was only completed in 2009-2010 (the U Raka residence).

Production plants in Nový Bydžov were privatized during the transformation period of the 1990s. However, the brewery was closed down in 1997 and in 2006 the dairy went bankrupt. Nový Bydžov has had the status of a municipality with an extended scope of authority which performs public administration in its surroundings.

The balance of the demographic development of the town was negative during the whole 20th century and in the early 21st century. By 2011 the number of inhabitants went down to 5,830 (the conglomeration 6,704). The number of houses kept growing with some exceptions and in 2011 there were 1,498 (1,817) of them. The whole town of Nový Bydžov (i.e. including villages which are not architecturally linked with the town) had 2,124 houses and 7,178 inhabitants in 2011.