

hatte jedoch die Einführung der Zündwarenherzeugung im Jahre 1839 durch den Verdienst von Vojtěch (Adalbert) Scheinost. Aus der häuslichen Zündholzkleinproduktion wurde seit den 40er Jahren dank Kapitaleinlage des jüdischen Geschäftsmannes Bernard (Bernhard) Fürth eine fabrikmäßige Produktion eingeführt. In den 60er Jahren trennten sich beide Gesellschafter und Scheinost gründete eine eigene Zündholzfabrik, die der von Fürth tüchtig konkurrierte. Beide Firmen wurden dann 1903 Mitglied in der übernationalen Aktiengesellschaft Solo. Arbeitsgelegenheiten zogen nach Sušice immer mehr Menschen vom Lande, wodurch die Nachfrage nach Wohnmöglichkeiten und den wichtigsten Dienstleistungen stieg, jedoch worauf die Stadt nur sehr langsam reagierte. Falls im Jahre 1825 Sušice 2842 Einwohner in 385 Häusern hatte, waren es knapp vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg bereits 6929 Einwohner in 554 Häusern.

Die rasch ansteigende Bewohneranzahl und die Lage der Stadt an der Nationalitätengrenze widerspiegelten sich in den patriotischen und Vereinsaktivitäten. Als erster entfaltete diese systematisch der Bürgermeister Josef Ambrož Gabriel, der Kontakte zu der patriotischen Elite auf Zentralebene pflegte und den Örtlichen Kontakte mit den führenden Persönlichkeiten des damaligen Kulturgeschehens (Josef Kajetán Tyl) vermittelte. Nach der Veröffentlichung des Vereinsgesetzes festigten intensiv das nationale Bewusstsein Kulturvereine. Außer zentral organisierten Gruppierungen (Turnverein Sokol) waren es z. B. der Gesangverein Svato-Václav, der Leseverein Čtenářská beseda und später Měšťanská beseda oder der gewerbliche Verein Řemeslná beseda. Die gesellschaftliche Nachfrage auch unter ihrem Einfluss erforderte nach und nach die Gründung der hiesigen Zeitschrift (Posel ze Sušice, später Svatobor) und des Stadtmuseums. Höher waren die Bestrebungen zu der Gründung einer tschechischen Mittelschule gerichtet, welche mit der Eröffnung einer niederen Realschule im Jahre 1906 ihren Gipfel erreichten. Hand in Hand boten damit weitere Anstalten eine höhere Ausbildung (über dem Rahmen des elementaren Schulwesens eine Bürgerschule für Knaben und Mädchen und eine gewerbliche Fortbildungsschule) einschließlich der Errichtung von einer deutschen Volksschule, die bis 1918 ein Dorn im Auge war. Diese Schule unterstützte vor allem die hiesige jüdische Gemeinschaft, die in der zweiten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts in Sušice ihren Kulminationspunkt erreichte. Die Geschäftsgewandtheit und die Stärkung ihres Prestiges ermöglichten den Juden Einfluss zu gewinnen und in die Gemeindeführung durchzudringen, was 1866 antisemitische Unruhen hervorrief, welche das Militär pazifizieren musste.

**Sommerfrische und Gebirgsluftkurort (1918-1947).** Die kurze Zwischenkriegszeit kennzeichnete Sušice auf wesentliche Art und Weise. Nach dem nicht lange dauernden Zeitraum der sozialdemokratischen Regierung wurde 1922 Jan Seitz zum Stadtbürgermeister gewählt, der im Amt bis 1941 beharrte. Knapp 20 Jahre Tätigkeit eines einzigen Bürgermeisters sicherte der städtischen Selbstverwaltung eine lange nie dagewesene Stabilität, um langfristige Absichten durchsetzen zu können. Zum Kernthema wurde die Prägung der Stadt als Touristenzentrale, eines „Gebirgsluftkurortes“ und Ausgangspunktes in den zentralen Böhmerwald als beste Verteidigung gegen wirtschaftliche Schwankungen bestimmt. Seine Vision realisierte Seitz besonders mit dem Bau modern konzipierter Gebäude, die in sich ihre Funktion mit dem ästhetisch positiven Eindruck verbanden. Die bereits während des Ersten Weltkrieges angefangene Regulierung von Vladimír Zákrevs wurde in den 20er Jahren von den Prager Architekten Jindřich Freiwald und Jaroslav Böhм in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Strakonitzer Ferdinand Menge überarbeitet. Beide Prager Architekten bekamen zugleich von der Stadt weitere Aufträge auf die meisten öffentlichen Gebäude oder von der Stadt organisierten Bauwerke. Am umfangreichsten realisierten sie sich im Gebiet nordwestlich vom Stadtkern, wo ein neues Viertel von Familienhäusern (sog. Benátky und Stodůlky) entstand, und am rechten Ufer des Otavaflusses mit dem städtebaulich großzügigen Aufbau des Villenviertels Buryňka mit Zentralgebäuden der Bürgerschule, des Bezirks- und Steueramtes und mit dem monumentalen Denkmal an die Gefallenen im Ersten Weltkrieg. Im ideenreichen Geist schufen auch örtliche Baumeister (Karel Houra, Robert Grabinger). Ferner wurde das Zündholzfabrikareal erweitert; außer Produktionsgebäuden entstanden am zugeschütteten Altwasser des Otavaflusses das Sozialfürsorgegebäude Dům zdravotní a sociální péče Nr. 565/II und Arbeiterwohnhäuser. Die Wirtschaftskrise beeinträchtigte die ehemalige Scheinost-Zündholzfabrik, die sich seit 1933 auf die Produktion von Bechern und Dosen orientierte. Mit der Vereinigung der städtischen Gerbereien in eine einzige Aktiengesellschaft Schwarzkopf u. Ges. wurde ein Schwerpunktarbeitgeber in der Region und ein starker Hersteller von Leder, Riemen und Schuhen geschaffen.

Der Zweite Weltkrieg beendete die Erfolg versprechende Entwicklung von Sušice. Zuerst überquerte den eigentlichen Kataster von Sušice im September 1938 die Grenze mit dem Deutschen Reich, womit die Stadt ihre Transitfunktion verlor. Im Jahre 1941 wurde der verdienstvolle Bürgermeister Seitz verhaftet (ab dem darauf folgenden Jahr 1942 stand an der Spitze der Stadt ein Regierungskommissär), systematisch wurde die hiesige jüdische Gemeinschaft liquidiert (von 139 überlebten den Krieg nur acht). Die Naziokkupation beendete die dritte Panzerdivision der amerikanischen Armee, die am 6. Mai 1945 in die Stadt kam. Kurz darauf übernahm die Macht in Sušice der revolutionäre Ortsnationalausschuss mit Čeněk Vašek an der Spitze.

**Sozialistisches Sušice (1948-1989).** Die Bestrebungen von Čeněk Vašek waren in der von Jan Seitz angefangenen Politik in den jetzt veränderten Verhältnissen nicht real. Mit dem Februar 1948 kam die Kommunistische Partei der Tschechoslowakei mit ganz anderen Prioritäten an die Macht. Mit dem 1. Januar 1949 entstand zwar der

neue Bezirk Sušice im Rahmen des neu konstituierten Plzeňský kraj (Pilsner Kreis), aber nach 11 Jahren wurde er aufgelöst und ging im Bezirk Klatovy auf, womit Sušice seine Zentralfunktionen verlor. Eine konsequente Zentralisierung in Form der Nationalisierung machte gleichfalls der ganze Privatgewerbebereich durch. Neu wurde er vom Staat (bzw. der Stadt) mit der Organisation Komunální podnik města Sušice, später Komunální služby („Kommunalbetrieb der Stadt Sušice“, bzw. „Kommunaldienstleistungsbetrieb“) überdacht. Das Privateigentum der Häuser in der Stadt wurde größtenteils von der ähnlich konzipierten Domovní správa („Hausverwaltung“) verdrängt, sämtliche Kultur plante und organisierte Dům osvěty, später Kulturní středisko („Haus der Bildung“, bzw. „Kulturzentrum“). Verstaatlicht wurden alle Fabriken in der Stadt: Solo wurde ein Nationalbetrieb, die Becher- und Dosenfabrik übernahm der Betrieb Západočeské papírny („Westböhmisches Papierfabriken“). Die nicht erfolgreiche Nationalverwaltung in der Leitung der Firma Schwarzkopf u. Ges. durch den Nationalbetrieb Svit führte zum Untergang der Gerbereiproduktion in der Stadt. Die frei gewordenen Gebäude besetzten eine Garnison und der Nationalbetrieb Solo. Der äußere Eindruck, dass der Sozialismus siegte, erreichte seinen Gipfel in der Umbenennung der öffentlichen Plätze an der Spitze mit dem Klement-Gottwald-Platz. Mit dieser Orientierung gelangten die demokratischen Stadtsymbole in den Widerspruch – die Gedenktafel an die Befreiung durch die amerikanische Armee (sie kehrte an die ursprüngliche Stelle vorübergehend 1968 zurück) und die Statue von T. G. Masaryk, 1969 in den Park vor die Volks- und Bürgerschule gesetzt und nur durch ein Wunder an der ursprünglichen Stelle vorhanden geblieben. Dem Vergessen sollten neue Regimefestivals helfen – außer dem überall zugegen stehenden Arbeitsfeiertag waren es seit den 60er Jahren jede zwei Jahre stattfindende Jugendfestspiele Setkání mládeže.

Den nicht erfolgreichen Versuch zur Ausarbeitung eines neuen Regulierungsplans unmittelbar nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg überschichtete am Umbruch der 50er- und 60er Jahre das Dokument des Státní ústav pro rekonstrukci památkových měst a objektů in Prag, ausgearbeitet zuerst für die Vorstädte und danach für den Stadtkern (1958, 1962). Der Plan stand am Anfang von umfangreichen Sanierungen. Die Anforderungen des stark ansteigenden Verkehrs zwangen in den 50er Jahren zur Demolierung der barocken Brücke und der Häuser am Brückenvorplatz einschließlich einer teilweisen Beeinträchtigung des Kapuzinerklosters und zur Errichtung einer neuen Brücke und der Ausfallstraße in Richtung Dlouhá Ves. Danach folgte im Jahre 1964 die Liquidation der Häuschen im ehemaligen jüdischen Ghetto in der Vodní-Straße (einschließlich der Synagoge) und einige Jahre später der Häuser in der Volšovská-Straße wegen dem Aufbau von Bauplatten-Hochhäusern. Die Randteile von Sušice ergänzten Wohnhäuser für Offiziere einschließlich jener aus Holz, sog. Finnischen Häusern. In den 70er Jahren kam eine zweite Siedlung in der Hrádecká-Straße dazu (deshalb wichen Familien-Reihenhäuser in der Pravdova-Straße), unrealisiert blieb die Siedlung in der Masaryk-Straße. Neben dem Wohnungsbau erweiterte sich zu Zeiten des Sozialismus die Palette an öffentlichen und Wirtschaftsgebäuden – Freibad, Winterstadion, Trauerhalle, Getreidesilo, einige Einkaufszentren u. a. Die Entwicklung war in Übereinstimmung mit zwei weiteren Richt- und Gebietsplänen für die Stadt und den Stadtkern aus den Jahren 1972 und 1980.

**Entwicklung nach 1989.** Die Demokratisierung der Gesellschaft auf lokaler Ebene begann im Dezember 1989 mit der Resignation von einem Teil der Abgeordneten des kommunistischen Stadtnationalausschusses und seiner Ablösung durch Mitglieder des Bürgerforums. In den danach folgenden ersten demokratischen Gemeindevahlen im November 1990 siegte mit großem Vorsprung die Koalition der Československá strana lidová (Tschechoslowakische Volkspartei) und Občanské fórum (Bürgerforum) an der Spitze mit MVDr. Jiří Zelený. In den späteren Jahren schwankte die Führung des Rathauses zwischen der rechtsorientierten Občanská demokratická strana (Bürgerlich demokratische Partei) und der Česká strana sociálně demokratická (Tschechische sozialdemokratische Partei). Dem passten sich im gewissen Maß die politischen Prioritäten an, wovon als bedeutendste solitäre Projekte an der Tagesordnung standen – nach und nach die Renovierung und Erweiterung des Stadtkrankenhauses, die Errichtung eines Seniorenheimes, die Revitalisierung der Karel-Houra-Uferstraße und der Flussinsel Santos oder der Bau des Hallenschwimmbades. Die Koordination der Baumaßnahmen richtete sich jedoch noch über das ganze letzte Jahrzehnt im vorigen Jahrhundert hinweg nach den Richt- und Gebietsplänen aus den Jahren 1972 und 1980. Fertig gestellt wurde die Plattenbausiedlung in der Kaštanová-Straße, auf der Stelle des Šebestův dvůr (Šebestahofes) entstand die Pension Nr. 56/II für Senioren und hinter der Stadt fand ein neuer Schlachthof sein Domizil. Im Jahre 1999 trat der neue Richt- und Gebietsplan in Kraft, der sich neu mit der künftigen Nutzung von zwei ehemaligen Kasernenanlagen in den Straßen Nádražní und Pod Kalichem auseinandersetzen musste, welche die Armee in der zweiten Hälfte der 90er Jahre verlassen hat. Ein ähnliches Problem entstand schrittweise mit dem auf großer Fläche angelegten Fabrikareal Solo, das vom Nordwesten die Einkaufszone mit vier großen Einkaufsmärkten (und dem fünften vom Osten) umklemmte. Konzentrierter wurde die Sorgfalt dem städtischen Denkmalfonds gewidmet, obwohl manche Bauwerke für immer verschwanden oder gefühllos adaptiert wurden (Hotel Koruna Nr. 24-26/I, Hotel Fialka Nr. 49/I, Rathaus Nr. 138/I, Pforte Nr. 156/I, Haus Nr. 97/I). Mit dem Bewusstsein der geographischen Lage von Sušice kehrte man wieder zu Seitz' Vision der Stadt aus der Ersten Republik als Sommerfrische zurück. Die Stadt investierte deshalb und verbesserte die Infrastruktur in den Reiseverkehr, z. B. mit dem Projekt der Wanderwege Sušická pavučina.

## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF SUŠICE

**Natural conditions and the early settlement.** Town Sušice is located on the bank of the Otava River, which originates in the confluence of two Šumava rivers, Vydra and Křemelná, and which joins with the Vltava River near Castle Zvíkov. Our knowledge of pre-historic and early medieval settlement is somewhat skewed by the present day state of knowledge. But it is possible to draw the following conclusions: the first evidence of human settlement in the area of the present day town and its surroundings comes from the end of the older Stone Age. In the subsequent period (Mesolithic period), there were hunting groups along the Upper Otava River; their campsites are well documented in favorable locations along the Otava River and its tributaries, especially in the stretch between Sušice and Horažďovice. In the Neolithic period (younger Stone Age, approximately 5,500-4,000 BCE) first agriculturalists entered the area of Bohemia; according to our present day understanding, they did not settle in the area of the Upper Otava River permanently. Towards the end of the Stone Age (Chalcolithic, 4,000-2,000 BCE), a number of cultural shifts took place, but in the area under observation, no convincing evidence of settlement during this time period has thus far been discovered; the area around Sušice probably remained unsettled also in the Late and Middle Bronze Age. There is evidence of settlement in the early and late Bronze Age, and in the Iron Age. It is possible that in the vicinity of the present day town, there was a ford crossing, which connected with a pre-historic trading route; there may even have been first attempts at gold washing. The fortification of the Sedlo burgwall near Albrechtice and of Obř Castle near Studenec come from the Iron Age. There is only sporadic evidence of settlement from the Roman period and from the age of migrations (for example, the above mentioned Sedlo burgwall), but it is certain that the area around Sušice was a transitional region. There is no evidence of the oldest Slavic settlement (7<sup>th</sup> century), but some finds from the area of the PAP factory can be dated to a more recent period. Ordinary agricultural settlements arose in the mid-burgwall period near the Otava River and its tributaries. A massively fortified Prácheň burgwall dominated the region until the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century. In Sušice proper, a bone burial from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries has been examined; there is also evidence of settlement that preceded the town itself.

**Early medieval period and pre-location situation.** Historical development of the Sušice region in the early medieval period is linked with the activities of Bavarian counts of Bogen, who acquired this region (though the more precise extent of their acquisition is not known) in the first third of the 13<sup>th</sup> century at the latest. The precise nature of the acquisition is not known due to a lack of sources and historians have only hypotheses to offer, hypotheses that are influenced, in addition to the contemporary state of knowledge, by nationalism and that extend all the way to the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest reliable evidence that the town Sušice was held by the Bogens comes from 1233, when Albrecht IV of Bogen gave it up, along with village Podmokly, in favor of the Premonstratensian chapter in Windberg. After his death (in 1242), all of Albrecht's property went to his widow, who had earlier married Ludwig of Wittelsbach. Přemysl Otakar II attempted to control Sušice militarily, but Sušice came under the sovereignty of the Czech king only after diplomatic negotiations in 1273.

**The origins of an institutional town and its development until the Hussite wars.** Some historians think that the ideal situation for the founding of an institutional town came as early as 1273, however, the written sources testify to a later foundation, during the reign of Wenceslas II, specifically between 1283 and 1290. The new royal town was founded on the site of the inundation of the Otava River. With respect to the Czech name Sušice and its Latin variant, the founders probably chose a dry, but unsettled, terrain (in the town, there are no archeological finds older than the 13<sup>th</sup> century) between the river tributaries, probably in part modified by gold washing and spoil banks, which surround the town to this day. From the west, the town is demarcated by the foothills (steeply ascending) of the Svatobor Hill, on the opposite side there was a suburb, probably pre-location settlement, called – according to the later mentions – Nuželice and Hořejší Suburb (Sušice III). The so-called Dolejší Suburb (Sušice II) was located along the urban center and alongside the access roads leading to Prague. In spite of the flowering Gothic urbanism, the ground plan of the Sušice town is characterized by a number of aberrations: the angles of the rectangular ground plan are far from 90 degrees. A large rectangular square is at the core, measuring (at its longest points) 74x182 meters in the north-south axis, that is copying the main access road from the interior. Three roads enclosed by gates (Německá or Říšská, Mostecká or Klášterská, Pražská or Hrádecká) left the main square in regular intervals. There was a portal in addition to the gates in present day V Brance Street. More significant irregularities occurred in the street network around the church of St. Wenceslas, a shrine documented not until the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century, and in Havlíčkova Street near the city fortifications, that followed the axis of the square but was connected to the street that led out of it. The changing of the waterbed of the Volšovka Stream had a key significance for the building of the town fortifications. The building of the interior fortifications can be, thanks to a rare memorial inscription plaque from 1322, dated to the period of John of Luxembourg and was probably not finished until the reign of Charles IV and was connected to an older fortification in the manner of an earthen bulwark with a palisade.

Urban development was constricted by the high levels of ground water, which means that majority of the burgher houses maintained the location and disposition of the original burdei, transformed into

brick houses with semi-submerged chambers that served as cellars. The town castle and monastery did not become a part of the location plan. The absence of a royal castle was understandable thanks to the overall change in attitude towards the character of the urban location during the reign of Wenceslas II, while the omission of the monastic foundation suggests that the location plan was intended to be more modest from the beginning. It is also possible that the Minorite convent in the vicinity of the church of St. Wenceslas was added subsequently, but it is documented only by the baroque tradition without any link to the earlier pre-Hussite tradition. However, it can also – and more probably – be identified with the unsuccessful attempt to found an Augustinian chapter, which was initiated by John of Luxembourg before 1331. It resulted in a violent conflict with the local beneficiaries that culminated in the decision of the king to destroy the monastic church (*oratorium*) that was under construction and to recall the Augustinians from Sušice. On March 21, 1325, John of Luxembourg confirmed all of the town's rights, freedoms and estates, among which he specifically mentioned gold washing and the village (probably subject to taxation by the town). Aside from this privilege, John also included Sušice among the towns, to which he granted protection against the willfulness of the royal *subcamerarius* and confirmed their own court jurisdiction in 1337. Charles IV initiated the foundation of the church and hospital of the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star, but the intention was never realized and the hospital was founded only later from the initiative the burghers themselves. During the reign of Charles IV, the economic position of Sušice strengthened. While the gold washing operations probably faded in the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century saw the ascent of long-distance trade. Sušice town came to benefit from its location on the newly established western branch of the Golden Path, leading from Passau across Kašperské Hory. In the second half of the 1350s, the royal castle Kašperk, to which Sušice's inhabitants paid the town census as well as a special tax, was added to the Path. The Golden Path, along with the older so-called Vintří Path, became the main communication arteries of the region. During the reign of Wenceslas IV, the traffic on them was partially coordinated with the Sušice annual fairs (privilege from 1406). There were other accompanying privileges: right of the mile (1356), collection of toll (1372), free bequeathals (1372).

There is a dearth of information about the internal life in the town. Sušice town subscribed to the South German town law and was subordinated to the jurisdiction in the Old Town in Prague. However, there is no evidence of it in the specific civil affairs of individual burghers; only five extant charters were produced by the town's office before 1420 (1312, two from 1363, 1376, 1405). As for the national composition, Sušice's burghers were probably primarily German with gradual incursion of the Czech element. Some of the burghers began to buy land property in the countryside in the pre-Hussite period.

**Sušice during the Hussite revolution.** Social and economic tensions in Bohemia accelerated the rapid acceptance of reform ideas in the south west of the country. Between 1378 and 1379, older conflicts with the Augustinians were overshadowed by the murder of a cleric by a local parish priest Siegfried. The tensions were further heightened by robbery attacks and local resentments, in addition there is evidence of direct contacts between Sušice's members of the university and Jan Hus, which facilitated the spread of the reform program. Select local lords were among the adherents: Jan the Older from Hradec on Velhartice, Petr Zmrzlík from Svojsín, the holder of Castle Kašperk. But the Catholic faction remained more powerful; the Rabí Castle with an adjoined manor were controlled by a Catholic, John of Rýzmbek called Krk, who – as a reward for good service – along with his brother Vilém gradually gained almost all of the monastic holdings in the Sušice region as a collateral.

In November 1419, the inhabitants of Sušice along with inhabitants of Plzeň, Klatovy and Domažlice met up in Žinkovy and from there continued on to Prague. They proclaimed their radical opinions by joining the Tabor's association of cities, which allowed its members an unprecedented measure of independence in the manner of north Italian city republics. As early as September 1424, Sušice along with Klatovy followed Jan Žižka and joined his brotherhood. It was probably at this time that the Sušice community elected its first military captain Aleš from Žeberk, who sent a letter from Sušice in 1426. After Žižka's death, Sušice again cleaved more closely to Tabor, even though since the beginning of 1426 it cooperated primarily with the neighboring towns Písek, Klatovy, Domažlice, Prachatic and with the neighboring Hussite nobility. Together, they created a relatively independent regional association. The contingent of inhabitants of Sušice aided in a number of military operations, specifically the siege of Švihov (1425), the congress of the Taborite faction in Písek (1425), the disputations in Žebrák (1427), concluding the truce near Plzeň after conquering Tachov (1428), the siege of Zvíkov (1429), and the siege of the Lopata Castle in Plzeň region (1432). The proximity of the Catholic Rabí Castle meant its double capture by Jan Žižka, however, Jan Krk managed to re-gain it both times. Žižka tried to conquer Panský (Malý) Bor near Horažďovice in a similar manner and according to a younger tradition demolished a fortress in Žihobce. Violence forced nearby Prachatic to convert from Catholicism to Utraquism and, after the initial stubbornness of Menhart from Hradec wore off, also another liege town Horažďovice.

**Sušice's prosperity in the long 16<sup>th</sup> century (1436-1620).** The period between the battle of Lipany and the beginning of the Second Estates' Uprising belongs to a rather dynamic phase in the history of Sušice, which, however, does not correlate with the state of the extant sources. Frequent fires are to blame, fires that also immediately influenced the overall architectural look of the town (especially in 1464, before 1502, 1544, 1592). The fact that the consequences

were relatively quickly obliterated suggests that Sušice was enjoying a period of prosperity. Soon after the battle of Lipany, the town began gradually to flip-flop politically and to assume a more conciliatory point of view towards the formerly unacceptable emperor Sigismund. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 1436, the town earned the emperor's privilege, which, in addition to confirming all the former privileges, contained a confirmation that the town held eighteen villages and farmsteads. The accommodating attitude towards Sigismund was, however, not unequivocal even after that and Sušice town cooperated with Tabor even at the end of the 1440s and assumed a reserved stance towards George of Poděbrady. It was not until 1452 that it recognized his legitimacy near Písek. Severing links with the pre-Hussite situation was, however, not downright fatal. The town reeve remained the sovereign of town administration and it was not until 1487 that the councilmen ceased to be dependent on his authority. In the same year, Vladislav Jagiello left the task of appointing the occupants of manors to the town council in exchange for levying 130 threescore of Czech *groschen*.

It was the growing might of the family Švihovský of Rýzmbek that supported the town in a significant way. In cooperation with Zdeněk Lev of Rožmitál, the owner of Velhartice, they created liege market centers (Dolejší Město near Rabí, improvement of Kolinec and Velhartice) in a close proximity to Sušice. The most significant way in which the family Švihovský of Rýzmbek interfered with the sovereignty of Sušice came in 1513. Vladislav Jagiello then opened the way to Břetislav Švihovský to control Dobříšín, Velká and Malá Chmelná, Štěchovice and parts of Kadešice and Podmokly, after entrusting him with the patronage (*Schirmherrschaft*) of adjacent Albrechtice. However, the final development favored Sušice. Owing to an advancement of large credit, the Švihovský family had to sell off their assets. In this way, Sušice purchased in 1543 parts of several villages (Nuzerov, Hartmanice, Podmokly, Radešov, Vlastějov) and whole villages (Stojanovice, Chvalšovice, Pích, Žíkov, Orlov, and Liběčice) for 700 threescore of Czech *groschen*. By this property acquisition, they created an estate with a large number of 229 inhabitants.

The promising political and property development came to an end as a result of their participation in the first Estates' Uprising in 1547. Sušice had to suffer a number of sanctions (penalty of 1,500 threescore Meissen *groschen*, the introduction of new payments, temporary surrender of town privileges, the establishment of the institution of imperial reeve, confiscation of land assets of the town) and the town regained its lost position only very slowly. It was primarily the burghers, who tried to reconstruct their estate. But they never reached the state before 1547 though they created for themselves a new secondary market center (Hartmanice). The open pursuit of economic promotion of Hartmanice was related to the main source of income. No matter how the city strove to solidify its assets, it was not able to administer it successfully, and the profits from long-distance trade, based on the import of salt and cereal (malt), became a lot more important. At the turn of 1560s and 1570s, Sušice town was curtailed by the opening of a new route between Zwiesel and the present day Železná Ruda and on to Klatovy, because travelling in this way the merchants completely by-passed Sušice. The long-lasting conflict, which Sušice conducted along with Kašperské Hory and Klatovy against Prachatic, began in the 1570s, Sušice protested the fact that those towns operated illegal salt storages. However, the local market retained an undeniable importance for the functioning of the town.

The period between the end of the Hussite revolution and the Thirty Years' War brought about a significant change in its architectural character; from a Gothic town, Sušice became a renaissance town. Aside from an optimistic economic situation, the renewal was stimulated by the above-mentioned fires. The renewal of the town became an occasion for a wide introduction of the renaissance style, here influenced especially by Austrian elements and incarnated in the burgher houses No. 40/I and 48/I in the Svobody Square. From the sacred architecture, renaissance influenced the suburban church of the Ascension of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The church of St. Wenceslas gained a new tower on the northern side in 1607. Of the more important urban changes, in the post-Hussite period one can expect secondary development on edges of deep plots (the origin of the row of houses on both sides of Klostermanova Street, the eastern side of Havlíčkova Street, the residential block in the center of the square behind the present day town hall). In the post-Hussite period, the external strip of the town fortification, which began by the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century at the latest to use smaller houses built against its internal side – generally this part came to be known as Příkopy. In total, Sušice had in 1568 only 268 houses (of them 143 inside the fortifications), in 1598 surprisingly only 218 houses (but with the caveat that this number did not include houses abandoned since the last fire.)

**Thirty Years' War and the period following the battle of White Mountain.** The incursion of armies from Passau in 1611, in which Sušice's inhabitants worked as spies and informants, portended growing tension in the heart of the European continent. After the beginning of the Czech Estates' Uprising, Sušice formed its town militia. It had to face the war reality in 1619, when the imperial troops under the leadership of Karel Bonaventura Buquoy burnt down nearby Horažďovice and sent a threatening letter to Sušice and Kašperské Hory. Subsequently, several of the town's villages were looted. On September 27, 1620, representatives of Sušice's town council handed over the keys to the town gates to the imperial general Baltasar Marradas without a fight and accepted a series of sanctions for their participation in the Estates Uprising (confiscation of town villages, administration of community economy by imperial reeve etc.) Thanks to the exposure of the southwestern border of Bohemia, Sušice was

strategically important and in addition to the permanent presence of imperial soldiers, the staff of top commanders of imperial troops resided here (1634, 1639, 1645, 1647). Of the armies of the Protestant union, Swedish cavalry of general Johann Banér invaded Sušice in the early spring 1641 and remained in the town until March. The continuous stays of soldiers and the establishment of food storage quickly exhausted the town financially. The situation improved somewhat after the confiscated villages were returned and following the subsequent negotiation regarding the debts with the creditors mediated by the state. In comparison with the expenditures of the neighboring towns, the financial situation of Sušice was not so difficult (Sušice suffered the least of the towns in the surrounding area) and the devastation, recorded in the tax roll (*Steuerrolle*), was caused actually by a fire in June 13, 1651. Chronic economic difficulties deepened in 1680s, when after taking on a series of other loans it was decided to sell off a part of town manor. Related were increasing arrears in contributions, caused by overvaluation of the manor by the tax authorities. Accounting fraud and dilatory attitude of the town bureaucratic apparatus did not help matters. Sušice inhabitants fought back by investing into the feudal economy by building a network of manor houses (*Meierhof*) and establishing a feudal brewery in Vrabčov.

The beginning of the 1620s brought a confessional turn for Sušice and a return to the Catholic faith that had been subverted by the Hussite revolution. The advancement of re-Catholicization was, in spite of enforcement, only gradual. At the beginning of the 1640s, it was thought that the situation could improve with the introduction of the Capuchin order – the foundation stone to the new monastery was laid on September 17, 1651. The miraculous picture of the Blessed Virgin of Sorrows, donated to the monastery in 1649 by Jindřich Michael Hýzrlé from Chody on Lčovice, became an effective tool, serving the promotion of Sušice's Capuchines. In the nascent Baroque period, it became a popular spot for pilgrims from the surrounding area and helped bring about re-Catholicization. Confessional unity was also directly reflected in the expressions of individual devotion, supported by the plague epidemic between 1679-1680 (the construction of the chapel of St. Roche and Sebastian, chapel of Guardian Angel, and other smaller sacral buildings).

**Fire in 1707 and its consequences in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.** The town's financial difficulties deepened at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The situation worsened significantly as a result of a fire on July 20 1707, in which 37 people died and the damage on town property alone was 43,000 gold pieces. Gigantic loans (numbering several thousands of gold pieces) were offered in support of the town renewal, and the character of the town manor continued to evolve as well. After the sale of Bohdašice and Páteček, on 1710 the town purchased land from the imperial reeve Ferdinand Kristián Lysander from Ehrenfeld and joined his real estate to its manor Špitálský dvůr. The purchase of a farmstead Malá Chmelná followed in 1728, with which the number of its manor houses reached the number of 7, which then remained stable. Along with the feudal brewery, they provided important income, underscored with a complicated system of magisterial liveries. The interest of the burghers in preserving them fueled a distrust of all reforms, which starting in mid-18<sup>th</sup> century began to regulate their feudal authority. The entire town economy (so-called *arenda*) was leased by a patent in 1752, which continued in six-year periods until 1771. The completion of land reform made a more significant impact on the town and its economy. Starting in 1779, all of the manor land and manor buildings were divided up among private interested parties. After the reform, the town was left with pasture (which, along with the community pastures, were leased in the following years) and especially forests, divided up in 1730s into five districts and systematized. The social status of village inhabitants changed as well. The system functioned without greater problems until the time when the town community decided to collect monetary feudal rent half in cereal. This led to intractable disagreements about payment, which significantly limited the income of the town and disallowed any larger investments.

The economic reforms were paralleled by administrative reforms. After losing the right of imposing the death penalty starting in 1766, the office of imperial reeve, which was non-functional anyway, was abolished in 1784, and in four years a professionalized, bureaucratized and regularized magistrate was established (including the office of an unpaid port-reeve, one paid and two unpaid councilmen). The number of members of the magistrature rose as the financial situation improved.

The fire in 1707, in spite of its consequences, did not impact the town in an important way (only the town hall palace was extended to fit the present day ground plan), however, it removed the decorative renaissance characteristic of Sušice and, indirectly, opened up new possibilities for the Baroque style. Subsequent repairs of the buildings, owing to financial shortages, privileged utilitarian concerns and showed little artistic ambition. The town development became more dense especially in the suburbs – with the introduction of a house numbering system in 1771, the town numbered 138 houses, in Dolejší Suburb 138 houses and in Hořejší Suburb 66. In the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the houses were re-numbered, the stable cadaster recorded 391 house numbers in total.

**The town's industrialization and community life (1839-1918).** After what was a rather static pace of development in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Sušice experienced a transformation, which changed the character of the present day town, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. With the disappearance of patrimonial administration, Sušice became the site of several state offices (district captain, district court, tax office, gendarmerie, financial control office), which meant new financial demands. After years of stagnation, the town's economy in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

gradually improved. Old loans from the last century were finally paid-up, payment difficulties with feudal rents subsided, and the income from wood sales grew thanks to the systematization of town forests. Town economy, under pressure from state authorities, gradually thinned and some assets were sold off. The last big fire on May 14, 1839 helped; following the renewal, the needs for effective regulation of streets, elimination of fire hazards and improvement of the connection between the suburbs and the square and adjacent streets were finally addressed. That meant that three gothic town gates were removed, new entrances to the center were breached, district roads were improved and all streets in the center of the town were paved. These regulatory actions, undertaken in a fragmentary fashion, were replaced by the regulation of Bedřich Pek at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

However, it was industrialization, which had previously eluded the region, that brought about a true enlivening of the life in the town. In 1836, a Jewish man from Sušice, Abraham Schwarzkopf, founded a tannery, which soon gained a great reputation and inspired the founding of two other larger tannery operations in the town (at the end of the 1890s; they were all concentrated along Nádražní Street). Inarguably, the beginning of match production in 1839 by Vojtěch Scheinost was even more important for industrialization in Sušice. Starting as a small, domestic operation, the production of matches became a large factory production in the 1840s thanks to the capital investment by Jewish salesman Bernard Fürth. In 1860s, both associates split up and Scheinost founded his own factory making matches, which became Fürth's strong competitor. Since 1903, they both joined a supra-national investment company Solo. Working opportunities attracted ever more people from the countryside to Sušice, which increased the demand for accommodation and basic infrastructure, to which the town responded only very slowly. If in 1825 Sušice had 2842 inhabitants in 385 houses, shortly before the First World War it was 6929 inhabitants in 554 houses.

The accelerated growth of the number of inhabitants and the location of the town on the national border were reflected in national and community activities. It was mayor Josef Ambrož Gabriel who was the first to begin developing them in a systematic way; he had contacts with the national elite in the center and facilitated contacts with the leading men of contemporary cultural life (Josef Kajetán Tyl). After the passing of laws governing communities and associations, the national consciousness was greatly strengthened by cultural clubs. Aside from centrally organized groups (Sokol), there were, for example, the singing club Svato-Václav, Čtenářská and later Měšťanská beseda or Řemeslnická beseda. Thanks to their influence, social demand eventually required the establishment of a local magazine (Posel from Sušice, later Svatobor) and a town museum. The efforts to establish a Czech secondary school aimed even higher, and it culminated in the establishment of Lower *Realschule* in 1906. Hand in hand went the founding of other educational institutions (in addition to the elementary schooling, Middle School for boys and for girls, and Secondary Technical School) including the establishment of a German Grade School, which was a thorn in the side until 1918. It was supported by the local Jewish community, whose activities in Sušice culminated in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The entrepreneurship and strengthening of social significance allowed the Jews to gain influence and to penetrate into the municipal government, which in 1866 gave rise to anti-semitic tensions, which had to be pacified by the military.

**Mountain resort and favorable climate location (1918-1947).** Sušice was significantly impacted during the short interwar period. After a short period of governance by social democrats, in 1922 Jan Seitz, a national democrat, became the town's mayor and remained in office until 1941. His tenure as a mayor, nearly 20-year long, endowed the town government with an unusual stability, necessary for putting long-term plans into practice. The self-presentation of Sušice as a tourist center, a "mountainous resort", and an entryway into central Šumava Mountains became central to its image and was seen as the best defense against economic fluctuations. Seitz put this vision into practice by constructing modern buildings, which embodied functionality and pleasing aesthetics. The regulations, begun during the First World War by Vladimír Zákřejs, were reworked by Prague architects Jindřich Freiwald and Jaroslav Böhm in cooperation with Ferdinand Menge from Strakonice in the 1920s. Concurrently, both Prague architects received commissions for a majority of public buildings or buildings controlled by the town. They had the biggest impact on the northwestern part of town, with a new district of family houses (so called Benátky and Stodůlky), and on the right bank of the Otava River, with an ambitious urban development of a villa district, called Burynka, with central buildings of the Middle School, district and tax office with a stately monument to the fallen in the First World War. Local builders (Karel Hura, Robert Grabinger) had imaginative ideas as well. The growth of the match factory complex continued; aside from production buildings, there were also the Center for Health and Social Services (Dům zdravotní a sociální péče) No. 565/II and apartment buildings for workers, built where the blind branch of the Otava River had been filled in. The economic crisis impacted the former Scheinost's match factory and it had since 1933 changed over to making beakers and cups. The conjoining of Sušice's tanneries into one stock company Schwarzkopf & Co. gave rise to a key employer in the region and a strong producer of high-quality leather, belts, and shoes.

The Second World War ended the promising development of Sušice. At first, in September 1938, the Sušice cadaster proper was divided by the new border with the German *Reich*, which rid the town of its transit function, and then in 1941, the eminent mayor Seitz was arrested (and starting in 1942 the city was governed by a govern-

ment-appointed commissioner), the Jewish community was systematically liquidated (of 139 people, only 8 survived the War). The Nazi occupation of Sušice ended when the third panzer division of the U.S. army entered the town, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1945. Shortly after, the power in Sušice was taken over by a revolutionary local national committee headed by Čeněk Vašek.

**Socialist Sušice (1948-1989).** The effort of Čeněk Vašek to continue the trajectory begun by Jan Seitz was not realistic in the new, post-war conditions. In February 1948, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia came to power and it had entirely different priorities. Starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1949, a new district Sušice within the new Plzeň region came into being, but after 11 years it was abolished and joined with the district Klatovy, which meant that Sušice lost its central role. The entire sector of entrepreneurs underwent a thorough centralization through nationalization. It was now supported by Komunální podnik of Sušice established by the state (or rather the town). Private ownership of houses in the town was, for the most part, displaced by Domovní správa, all cultural events were planned and organized by Dům osvěty (later Kulturní středisko). All the factories in the town were nationalized: Solo became a national factory, the factory for production of cups and beakers was taken over by Západočeské paper mills. The national administration of Schwarzkopf & Co., taken on by the nationalized factory Svit, was unsuccessful and brought about the demise of the tannery production in the town. The empty buildings were occupied by a military garrison and the national factory Solo. The perception that socialism was victorious culminated in the name changes of public areas, including the Square of Klement Gottwald. This trajectory was in direct conflict with the democratic symbols of the town's past – a memorial plaque commemorating the liberation by the US army (it returned to its place temporarily in 1968) and a statue of T.G. Masaryk, placed in a park in front of the elementary school in 1969, that remained in its original place only thanks to a miracle. The process of forgetting was facilitated by new festivities organized by the regime: in addition to the omnipresent Labor Day celebrations, it was also the Youth Congress organized every two years since the 1960s.

The unsuccessful attempt to create a new regulatory plan immediately after the Second World War was obviated by a new plan by the Státní ústav pro rekonstrukci památkových měst a objektů in Prague at the turn of the 1950s and 1960s, first produced for the suburbs and then for the town center (1958, 1962). It was the beginning of an extensive sanitation. In the 1950s, the demands of increasing traffic necessitated the demolition of a Baroque bridge and of houses in the suburbia including partial alterations of the Capuchin monastery and the establishment of a new bridge and a road to Dlouhá Ves. In 1964, it was followed by a demolition of houses in the former Jewish ghetto in Vodní Street (including the synagogue) and several years later of houses in Volšovská Street in order to make room for new high-rise blocks of flats. The peripheral parts of Sušice were filled in with residential houses for military officers including wooden, so-called Finnish, houses. In the 1970s, a second housing development in Hrádecká Street was added (replacing family row houses in Pravidova Street), whereas the housing development in T. G. Masaryka Street was not completed. Aside from the residential construction, the number of public and economic buildings increased during the socialist period: swimming pool, winter stadium, funeral parlor, cereal silo, several shopping centers etc. Their construction was delineated in the two other directive and land-use plans for the town and town center from 1972 and 1980.

**Post-1989 development.** Democratization of the society on the local scale began in December 1989 when some of the parliament members in the Communist town national committee resigned and were replaced by members of Civic Forum (Občanské Forum). In the subsequent first democratic municipal elections in November 1990, a coalition of Czechoslovak People's Party (Československá strana lidová) and Civic Forum, led by MVDr. Jiří Zelený, clearly won. In the later years, the leadership of the town hall oscillated between the right wing Civic Democratic Party (Občanská demokratická Strana) and the Czech Social Democratic Party (Česká strana sociálně demokratická). The political priorities were adjusted, among them were solitary projects such as a gradual reconstruction and an extension of the town hospital, an establishment of a nursing home, a revitalization of the Karel Hura Embankment and of the Santos River Island, or a construction of a covered swimming pool. However, the different construction projects across the town throughout the 1990s were governed by the directive and land-use plans from 1972 and 1980 for all for the 1990s. The housing development in Kaštanová Street was completed, a Boarding House No. 56/II for seniors was created in place of the so-called Šebestův dvůr, and a town slaughterhouse was built outside of town. In 1999, a new directive and land-use plan came into validity, it had to address the problem of the two military barracks in Nádražní Street and in Pod Kalichem Street, abandoned by the army in the second half of the 1990s. Similar problem gradually arose with respect to the extensive factory complex Solo, which was encircled by a shopping center with four supermarkets on the northwest (and fifth on the east) side. More focused attention began to be devoted to the town monument heritage, although some buildings had forever vanished or were adapted without any regard for aesthetics (for example, hotel Koruna No. 24-26/I, Hotel Fialka No. 49/I, Town Hall No. 138/I, gate No. 156/I, house No. 97/I). Given its geographical configuration, Sušice began to return to Seitz's vision, going back to the First Republic, of the town as a tourist resort. The town, therefore, invested and improved its tourist infrastructure (including a project of tourist paths Sušická pavučina).