

che einen Giebel im Neurenaissancestil mit figuraler Verzierung bereits im Jugendstil. Der östlichste Teil des ehemaligen Friedhofs wurde zur Platzierung des Bürgerschulgebäudes Nr. 2/IV im Neurenaissancestil bestimmt. Im Jahre 1900 wurde unter Teilnahme des Kunstgärtners František Josef Thomayer die Grünanlage Havlíčkovy sady an der westlichen Seite der **ehemaligen Stadtmauer** angelegt. Auf der südlichen Seite begrenzt diese Anlage das Gebäude der Bewahranstalt Nr. 1/II von 1898 in Verwaltung der Kongregation der Armen Schulschwestern Notre Dame (ab 1920 Schule), den nördlichen Rand der Grünanlage begrenzt die Pražská-Straße (früher auch Prager Straße) vor dem Prager Tor mit prägnanter historisierender Architektur des Gebäudes Střelnice (Schützenhaus) Nr. 1/I aus dem Jahre 1900, auf der westlichen Seite der Grünanlage dominiert das Familienhaus im Jugendstil des Generals Hoppe Nr. 199/II aus dem Jahre 1905. Parkartig als botanischer Garten wurde 1905–1906 ferner der nördliche Barbakaneabschnitt oberhalb des Mühlbaches gestaltet. An der nordwestlichen Ecke der Stadtmauer wurde in den Jahren 1900–1902 das schmucke Jugendstil-Turnvereinsgebäude Sokolovna Nr. 55/I nach dem Projekt des Architekten Josef Podhajský erbaut. Zu Beginn des 20. Jahrhunderts erhielt eine neue Dominante auch der Marktplatz. Am östlichen Ende seiner Nordseite wurde in den Jahren 1901–1902 das Bezirksamtsgebäude Okresní dům mit Post Nr. 24–25/I im Neurenaissance- und Jugendstil nach dem Projekt von Alois Turek errichtet. In der vorstädtischen Zone wurde in diesem Zeitraum die **Bebauung modernisiert**, doch bedeutendere Bauwerke entstanden hier nur vereinzelt. Im Jahre 1903 wurde am östlichen Rand der Chotzner Vorstadt die Wiesen- und Ackerbauschule als älteste Schule mit Wasserwirtschafts-Ausrichtung in ganz Österreich-Ungarn gebaut. Im Jahre 1898 ersetzte das alte Einkehrwirthshaus vor dem Leitomischler Tor das Hotel U Tejnorů Nr. 26/IV mit einem großen Tanz- und Theatersaal.

Hohenmauth erlebte im letzten Drittel des 19. Jahrhunderts zweifellos eine der erfolgreichsten Zeitabschnitte in seiner Geschichte. Die Übersicht aller Neubauten und städtebaulichen Veränderungen ist aus der Katasterkarte der Stadt ersichtlich, die irgendwann nach 1855 entstand und bis 1902/1906 wurden mit roter Farbe darin alle Veränderungen eingetragen. Auf den ersten Blick fesselt uns die Tatsache, dass wir im historischen Ortskern nur ein **Minimum von Häuserneubauten** vorfinden und dass sie hier nicht auf bisher un bebauten Flächen entstanden. Praktisch die einzige Ausnahme ist der Villen- und Familienblock zwischen der Hus-Straße und der Kaserne des Regiments Nr. 30, beziehungsweise der Eisenbahnstrecke, also zwischen den heutigen General-Holý- und Prokop-Velický-Straßen. Falls wir statistische Angaben heranziehen, sind sie mit dieser Erkenntnis in Übereinstimmung. Während 1869 in Hohenmauth 840 Häuser standen, stieg ihre Anzahl bis 1900 nur auf 878. Dagegen verzeichnete die Einwohnerzahl einen dauerhaften und sehr bedeutenden Anstieg – von 6018 auf 9503. Doch falls wir 1633 Militärpersonen abrechnen, hatte Hohenmauth im Jahre 1900 nur 7870 Einwohner.

Ein **Umbruch in der bisherigen Situation entstand im ersten Jahrzehnt des 20. Jahrhunderts** – bis 1910 stieg die Häuseranzahl um 130 auf 1008 und die Einwohneranzahl um 1355 auf 10 858, ohne Militär um 1266 auf 9136, was bisher das historische Maximum bei der Einwohneranzahl war. Angaben von 1914 stehen nicht zur Verfügung, aber es ist wahrscheinlich, dass auch die meisten von den weiteren 64 Häusern, die zwischen 1910 und 1921 dazukamen, noch in die Zeit vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg fallen. Ende 1900 begann der **Bau des neuen Villenviertels** am südwestlichen Rand des historischen Stadtkerns. Sein Straßennetz war mit der einheitlichen Parzellierung der Grundstücke vorbestimmt, rechtwinkelig zu der Hus-Rundstraße, welche auch die Kasernenanlage respektierte, deren Breite wieder als günstiges Modul für die entsprechende Entfernung der Parallelstraßen diente. Die logische Ergänzung einer solchen Struktur waren ferner rechteckige Querstraßen, deren Richtung wieder parallel mit der Eisenbahnstrecke ist. Auf einem ähnlichen Prinzip erweiterte sich die Stadt darüber hinaus am südöstlichen Rand, wo das analogische Modul die längliche Fläche des neuen Friedhofs vorbestimmt hat.

Als typisches Beispiel einer architektonisch wertvollen Jugendstvilla aus dieser Zeit dient jene von Josef Šíma Nr. 186/II in der Rieger-Straße, erbaut in den Jahren 1899–1901 nach dem Projekt von Josef Podhajský. In den Jahren 1909–1910 wurde nach dem Projekt von Jan Kotěra die Villa für Vilém Charvát Nr. 247/IV im Stil der architektonischen Moderne an der Kreuzung der Rokycana- und Jirásek-Straßen gebaut. Im neuen Viertel, gegenüber der Kaserne des Regiments Nr. 30, wurde 1908 die Eisenbahnhaltestelle Vysoké Mýto město (Hohenmauth Stadt) errichtet, von der Kirche am Vaňorný-Platz nur 375 m entfernt. Direkt neben den Gleisen ist in den Jahren 1909–1910 das Hotel U Zastávky (Bei der Haltestelle) Nr. 236/IV im Neurenaissance- und Jugendstil platziert worden, wozu an der Bahnsteigseite ein ebenerdiger hölzerner Passagierwarteraum angebaut wurde. Hohenmauth lebte in dieser Zeit mit einem reichhaltigen kulturellen, gesellschaftlichen und sportlichen Leben. Der Erste Weltkrieg beeinflusste so die Garnisonstadt Hohenmauth weitaus spürbarer als andere Städte.

Nach der Gründung der Tschechoslowakei im Jahre 1918 gelang es ziemlich schnell die wirtschaftlichen Probleme zu überwinden. Die Zeit der 20er- und 30erjahre des 20. Jahrhunderts charakterisiert ein **weiterer städtischer Bauaufschwung** bei der Stagnation der Einwohnerzahl, was über den sich hebenden Wohnkomfort zeugt. Während es 1921 in Hohenmauth 1072 Häuser und 10 515 Einwohner gab, waren es 1930 bereits 1246 Häuser und 10 835 Einwohner. Bis 1950 stieg dann die Häuseranzahl auf 1427 (wovon der größere Teil des Anstiegs in die Zeit zwischen beiden Kriegen fällt) und die Einwohnerzahl sank auf 9325 Personen. Der Stadtkern ist nicht allzu gewachsen und die Entwicklung orientierte sich zum Ausbau der bereits vor dem Krieg angelegten Viertel, vor allem im Südwesten zwischen den Kasernen und

im Südosten beim Friedhof. Es wurden besonders Familienhäuser und kleine Villen und nur vereinzelt städtische Zinshäuser gebaut.

Es entstanden mehrere **öffentliche Gebäude**. Das städtische Krankenhaus Nr. 167/II wurde in den Jahren 1923–1925 erweitert, in den Jahren 1925–1926 wurde die Schule für Mädchen Nr. 317/IV neben der Eisenbahnstrecke an der Ecke der Jirásek- und Žižka-Straßen gebaut. Für das kulturelle Leben war am wichtigsten der Bau des Šembera-Theaters Nr. 281/II in den Jahren 1924–1925 als interessantes Werk des tschechischen Rondokubismus nach dem Projekt von Vincenc Mašek. Inmitten der östlichen Ringplatzseite wurde 1932 im Konstruktivismus-Baustil die Městská spořitelna (Städtische Sparkasse) Nr. 92/I errichtet. Am nördlichen Stadtrand entstand 1933 das öffentliche Schwimmbad Tyršova veřejná plovárna. Im Jahre 1937 wurde die Kaserne des Reiterregiments Nr. 9 fertiggestellt und in demselben Jahr unter dem Turnhallengebäude Sokolovna die hussitische Kirche Husův sbor Církve československé husitské gebaut.

In der Zwischenkriegszeit entwickelten sich die meisten **Industriebetriebe**, nur die Zuckerfabrik hat ihre Tätigkeit im Jahre 1930 eingestellt. Stratílek’s Fabrik auf Feuerwehrspritzen verzeichnete in den 20erjahren eine progressive Entwicklung. Sodomka’s Karosserie- und Wagenfabrik verdankt für ihre nie dagewesene Entfaltung Josef Sodomka d. J., der sie auf die Produktion von Autokarosserien und ab 1928 auch auf Autobusse orientierte. Sodomka’s Fabrik machte mit ihren Fahrzeugen die Tschechoslowakische Republik in der ganzen Welt berühmt. In Hohenmauth war in der Zwischenkriegszeit eine ganze Reihe von hervorragenden Denkern, Künstlern, Schöpfern, Organisatoren, Pädagogen und Sportlern tätig, die mit ihrer Prestige wesentlich die regionalen Grenzen überschritten.

Die **Deutsche Armee besetzte die Stadt am 16. März 1939**. Die Industriebetriebe wurden auf Kriegsproduktion umgestaltet. Gleich in den ersten Tagen der Okkupation begann eine Gruppe von ehemaligen tschechoslowakischen Offizieren illegale Abwehr zu organisieren, sie wurde jedoch 1941 von den Nazis aufgedeckt und liquidiert. In demselben Jahr wurden 20 Mitglieder der Sokol-Turnverbandwiderstandsgruppe verhaftet und die Hälfte von ihnen hingerichtet. Im Jahre 1944 konstituierte sich eine Partisanengruppe, die mehrere Sabotageaktionen vornahm. Den Versuch die Macht am 5. Mai 1945 zu übernehmen haben die Nazis unterdrückt. Die **erste Staffel der Roten Armee gelangte in die Stadt am 9. Mai 1945**. Bei den Kämpfen um Vysoké Mýto fielen 13 Rotarmisten, 1 tschechischer und 33 deutsche Soldaten.

Nach der Befreiung wurden die Kriegsschäden bald beseitigt, Sodomka’s und Stratílek’s Fabriken planten eine Produktionserweiterung, aber der kommunistische Umsturz im Februar 1948 stürzte das Land in die totalitäre Diktatur, welche den **Privatunternehmungsgeist liquidierte**, zwanzig hiesige Unternehmer und Gewerbetreibende wurden eingekerkert. Sodomka’s nationalisierte (verstaatlichte) Busfabrik wurde zum Nationalbetrieb Karosa umbenannt und seit 1950 entwickelte sie sich sowie in der alten Anlage, als auch im neuen Betrieb beim Bahnhof. Im Jahre 1962 wurde ferner Stratílek’s einstige Fabrik auf Löschgerätschaften in den Betrieb Karosa einbezogen. In den Jahren 1966–1970 wurde das neue Areal dieser Firma beim Bahnhof nochmals erweitert. Der Anfang der 60erjahre des 20. Jahrhunderts brachte zweifellos eine geistige Lockerung, die mit der Entfaltung der Kultur und der aktiven Vereinstätigkeit zum Ausdruck kam, welche den bisherigen Druck überstanden hatten. Bereits im Jahre 1957 wurde die Městská galerie (Städtische Galerie) gegründet.

Nach 1945 verzeichnete Vysoké Mýto einen **spürbaren Rückgang der Einwohnerzahl**, hauptsächlich wegen der Nachsiedlung des Grenzgebietes. Während im Mai 1945 in der Stadt 9638 Bewohner lebten, waren es im Oktober nur 9064 Personen. Die wenigsten Einwohner wurden 1947 mit 7983 verzeichnet, dann stieg deren Zahl auf 8100 im Jahre 1948 und auf 9325 im Jahre 1950. Am Umbruch der 50er- und 60erjahre wurde eine kleine Siedlung zwischen den Kasernenanlagen am südwestlichen Stadtrand gebaut. Trotzdem verzeichnete die Bewohnerzahl von Vysoké Mýto im Jahre 1961 wieder einen Rückgang mit 8885 Personen und dann kam 1970 eine Stagnation mit 8874 Einwohnern. Auch die Anzahl der Häuser zwischen 1950 und 1961 sank leicht (von 1427 auf 1403), dann jedoch stieg sie auf 1502 im Jahre 1970, was sowie dem genannten Wohnungsbau, als auch neuen Familienhäusern am südöstlichen Stadtrand in der Nähe des Friedhofs zuzuschreiben ist.

Die politische Lockerung in der Tschechoslowakei erreichte ihren Gipfel im Jahre 1968 mit dem **Prager Frühling**. Der Demokratisierungsprozess rief einen großen Unmut der Sowjetunion und anderer sozialistischer Länder hervor. In der Nacht vom 20. auf den 21. August 1968 begann die militärische Invasion von fünf Ländern des Warschauer Vertrages in der Tschechoslowakei. In Vysoké Mýto wurde die **drittgrößte Konzentrierung sowjetischer Einheiten auf tschechoslowakischem Gebiet** nach den Militärbezirken Mladá bei Milovice in Mittelböhmen und dem slowakischen Komárno (Komorn) verzeichnet und die tschechoslowakischen Einheiten wurden anderswohin versetzt. Die Gesamtanzahl der sowjetischen Soldaten in Vysoké Mýto wird auf 5000–7000 geschätzt, wobei sich die Anzahl der tschechoslowakischen Soldaten hier zuvor zwischen 1000 und 2000 belief. Die akute Wohnungsnot für die Familien der sowjetischen Offiziere führte zum Bau von zwei vierstöckigen Plattenhäusern, die in sowjetischer Technologie seit Anfang 1970 geschaffen wurden und später kamen nochmals zwei weitere Häuser dazu.

In den 70erjahren des 20. Jahrhunderts **entwickelte sich** mit größerem Tempo als bisher der **Wohnungsbau**, was vor allem durch die wesentliche **Erweiterung des Nationalbetriebes Karosa** hervorgerufen wurde. Damit hing auch der Bau der elfstöckigen Lehrlingsunterkunft Nr. 74/II zusammen, die 1973 in Angriff genommen wurde und das traditionelle Stadtpanorama spürbar beeinträchtigte. Am südöstlichen Stadtrand ging der Bau von individuellen und Reihen-Einfamilien-

häusern weiter. Am südwestlichen und westlichen Stadtrand wurde der Bau von Plattenhäusern konzentriert. Zwischen 1970 und 1980 erhöhte sie die Häuseranzahl von 1502 nur auf 1583, doch wesentlich stieg die Einwohneranzahl – von 8874 auf 10 387. In den 80erjahren des 20. Jahrhunderts kam wieder eine Stagnation und bis 1991 sank sogar gering die Einwohnerzahl auf 10 348 Personen, obwohl die Anzahl der Häuser auf 1730 stieg. Im Areal der Firma Karosa beim Bahnhof ersetzten die bisherigen Produktionsgebäude zwei große Fabrikhallen. In den 80erjahren des 20. Jahrhunderts erreichte ihren Gipfel die Krise im Grundschulwesen, da die zwei städtischen Grundschulen von der Kapazität her nicht langten und es wurde in vielen Ersatzräumlichkeiten unterrichtet, unter anderem auch außerhalb der Stadt, und im Schichtbetrieb.

Nach dem 17. November 1989 war – außer der Wiederherstellung der demokratischen Verhältnisse – das Hauptziel der **Abzug der sowjetischen Truppen**. Am 23. Januar 1990 fand eine große Manifestation statt. Die Abschiebung der sowjetischen Armee aus der Tschechoslowakei gelang dank günstiger internationalen Lage der neuen Staatsführung in einer rekordbrechend kurzer Zeit. Vysoké Mýto wurde in die erste Abschiebungsetappe einbezogen und der letzte sowjetische Soldat verließ die Stadt im Juni 1990. Die Stadt lehnte dann das Dasein von jedweder Armee ab, alle Militärbäude und Grundstücke wurden ihr kostenlos überführt und sie konnte damit frei verfügen. Die **Kasernenanlagen** wurden dann zu Mehrzweckzonen umfunktioniert und im Rahmen der Konversion wurden somit auch ausreichende Kapazitäten für Grundschulzwecke erworben. Adaptiert wurden ferner die sowjetischen Plattenhäuser. Die Fabrik Karosa verzeichnete nach einer vorübergehenden Stagnation dank Heranziehung ausländischer Investoren eine neue Entwicklung. Unter der Marke IVECO produziert sie mehr Busse als jeweils in der Vergangenheit und beschäftigt rund 3000 Personen.

Der **Bau von neuen Familienhäusern** entwickelte sich nach 2000 und er wurde in einen langen Grundstückstreifen hinter dem Friedhof konzentriert. Neuestens (seit 2016) orientiert sich die Bauaktivität auf freie Flächen in der Umgebung der Bierbrauerei Městanský pivovar am nordwestlichen Stadtrand. Zwischen 1991 und 2001 erhöhte sich die Anzahl der Häuser nur ziemlich wenig von 1730 auf 1803, während zwischen 2001 und 2011 bereits bedeutend auf 2007. Die Einwohneranzahl stieg dagegen schneller zwischen 1991 und 2001 von 10 348 auf 11 711, was die Folge von mehreren neuen Wohnungen in den ehemaligen Kasernenanlagen war. Zwischen 2001 und 2011 stieg die Einwohneranzahl nur gering auf 11 888 Personen.

Vysoké Mýto gehört mit recht zu den **wertvollsten Denkmalstädten in Ostböhmen**. Im Jahre 1990 wurde ein Teil der Stadt **zur Denkmalzone erklärt** und umfasst den historischen Stadtkern und das Ringgebiet der Vorstädte, wobei eine gefühlvolle Renovierung der einzelnen Gebäude in Angriff genommen wurde. Im Jahre 2010 trat der neue Gebietsplan in Kraft, der mit der westlichen Autobahnumgehung der Stadt (geplant 2025) und mit der nördlichen Verlegung der Straße nach Choceň rechnet. Damit wird dann endgültig die unverhältnismäßig hohe Belastung des Transit-Autoverkehrs beseitigt. Die Stadt entfaltet seit den 90erjahren des 20. Jahrhunderts weiter das gesellschaftliche und kulturelle Leben und die Sportaktivitäten. Die Stadt schloss internationale Partnerschaft mit der deutschen Stadt Korbach und organisiert mehrere traditionelle Kulturveranstaltungen – Sodomkovo Vysoké Mýto, Městské slavnosti, Týden hudby, Gymjam, Večer světel, Bubenický festival, ZUŠ Open, Kujebike, přehlídka mládežnických dechových hudeb Čermákovo Vysoké Mýto (in Übersetzung Sodomka’s Vysoké Mýto, Stadtfeier, Musikwoche, Gymjam – Musik und Unterhaltung für die Jugend, Lichterabend, Trommlerfestival, Volkshochschule Open, Kujebike – Sportveranstaltungen, Jugendblasorchesterfestival Čermák’s Vysoké Mýto) u. a.

Vysoké Mýto

The area where the town of Vysoké Mýto was subsequently established had not belonged to an old settlement centre due to its natural conditions. However, the importance of this area resulted from the fact that an important path connecting Bohemia in the west and Moravia in the east passed through this region; the path had been used since the Prehistoric Ages, and its traditional name is **Trstenická Path**. The territory acquired another important feature after the Bohemian state was established in the early Middle Ages – it was a part of the **border between Bohemia and Moravia**. Two regional centers had been in the area before the town of Vysoké Mýto was established. One of them was Hrutovská Fields where the toll was collected and where the army troops settled in order to be near the country border. Another centre was the prince castle in Vraclav. It was documented in written materials from the mid-11th century, and it used to be the capital of the Vraclav Province. In 1108, bloody events took place in Vraclav, when some members of the Vršovec family were assassinated upon an order of Prince Svatopluk. The Vraclav Province became the subject matter of the pledging policy of the Bohemian principality in the second half of the 12th century when Vraclav, along with other east-Bohemian provinces, was lent to a cadet branch of the Přemyslid family, the Depoltics. They lost their east-Bohemian property after having fought against King Přemysl Otakar I and after the death of Děpolt III in 1223. However, at that time the transition of regional centers from castles to newly established royal towns was about to come. **Staré Mýto**, which was probably established about the 1240s and ceased to exist in the 1260s, was supposed to be one of them. The local settlement that was established on the **promontory southeast of Vysoké Mýto** remained in the proto-urban stage with two rows of wooden residential houses and the

Church of St. Nicolas. Proprietary rights on the border between the royal territory and the territory owned by the Litomyšl Premonstratensian monastery were probably the reasons why Staré Mýto failed to develop since natural and strategic conditions hardly differed from Vysoké Mýto.

The **royal town of Vysoké Mýto was established** on a low promontory over the confluence of the Loučná River and the Bláhovský Stream in the first half of the 1260s. The first record documenting the existence of the town was the founding deed of the neighbouring town of Polička dated 1265. Unfortunately, we do not know the locator of the town; sometimes Konrád of Limberk (Lewendorf), the locator of Polička, is considered. Vysoké Mýto adopted the Magdeburg municipal law as its legal framework. As far as its size is considered, the town did not exceed a medium sized royal town, however, the square was much larger than one would expect. The reason for such an ambitious layout with a large square was probably the plan to replace and upgrade the role of Hrutovská Fields combined with the administrative role of the Vraclav castle. If the plan to establish an important customs and market site on the border between Bohemia and Moravia failed, the military and strategic role of the location of Vysoké Mýto proved to be important in the course of history. The layout of the town itself was identical with the layout of a Roman camp – a fortified settlement with a central square and a grid street plan. Streets started in the square, in its corners and sides, and the street at the back formed a bypass strategic path along the fortification walls. The gradual replacement of wooden burgher houses with stone ones started in Vysoké Mýto in the 14th century. Unfortunately, only cellars of the most impressive houses surrounding the square have remained from these times.

Shortly after the establishment of the town a **fortification system**, designed in the same way as the Kolín one, was built. Its core structure was the mighty rampart made of marlstone strengthened by 28 prismatic sectional bastions opened on the inner side and strengthened with an embankment and a moat. The entrance to the town was through three double-spire gates (the Pražská the Litomyšlská and the Choceňská ones).

At the end of the 13th century, the East-Bohemian royal territory, i.e. the area including Vysoké Mýto, became the subject matter of power and political calculations when based on negotiations between King Wenceslas II and Margrave Frederik Klement from the Wettin family of Meissen this territory was to be swapped for Wettin's property in Meissen. This agreement was never executed, however, after the death of Wenceslas II, Vysoké Mýto and four other East-Bohemian towns (Hradec Králové, Chrudim, Polička and Jaroměř) became the **dowry towns of Queen Elisabeth Richeza of Poland** (probably in 1305, certainly in 1307). This widowed queen used the tenure of dowry towns to promote her status in the kingdom. During the fights for the Bohemian throne she first supported the Habsburgs (1307–1308), and subsequently actively encouraged the protests of the Ronovec family against King John of Luxembourg after Jindřich of Lipé, who she had maintained a close relationship with, was imprisoned (1315–1318). In both the situations, the queen accommodated garrisons of her allies in Vysoké Mýto and the other dowry towns. In the first situation the dowry towns agreed to that in return for generous privileges granted to them first by King Albert I of Germany and his son Duke Frederick and subsequently Queen Elisabeth Richeza; in the other situation the towns including Vysoké Mýto opposed the queen and let John of Luxembourg's troops in 1318 in. Afterwards, King John and queen-widow agreed on her giving up the East-Bohemian dowry towns in return for income from Moravian properties where she subsequently settled down.

The utilization of Vysoké Mýto as a dowry **pledge** within the Bohemian royal family and the relationship with the family of the Lords of Lipé continued. In 1346 an annual fee of 50 grzywnas of silver from the income and toll collected by Vysoké Mýto was registered as the dowry for Agnes of Blankenheim, a relative of King John of Luxembourg and a widow of Henry II of Lipé. Charles IV confirmed this pledge to Agnes' son Henry III of Lipé and his heirs. Beside pledging the town to the Lipé family, Charles IV used the town to feed the garrison from the Potštejn castle; he registered an annual allowance of 100 threescores of groschen through burgrave Půta of Častolovice from the royal income originating from the towns of Vysoké Mýto and Chrudim.

John of Luxembourg awarded Vysoké Mýto, as well as other royal towns, the privilege which restricted the power of a royal vice-chamberlain and extended the competences of the town council. As regards the **self-government development**, Vysoké Mýto did not differ from other places, i.e. the municipal council became a leading authority replacing the reeve in the mid-14th century. The Town-Hall was built in the square probably in the second half of the 14th century, nevertheless, written materials do not allow a more accurate description. The reeve's office retained its economic importance as documented by the fact that the new reeve Rudlin won a hereditary right to the office in the 1350s.

The strategic role of Vysoké Mýto as a border town situated on the main road between Bohemia and Moravia became apparent in 1362 when there was an imminent threat of a war between the Bohemian and Hungarian kingdoms. At that time, Charles IV ordered the group of royal towns to create and replenish **armory warehouses**, whereas Vysoké Mýto possessed 300 complete armors, which was the same number as Nymburk and only a hundred less than Hradec Králové and Plzeň that held 400 pieces.

Vysoké Mýto was mentioned in connection with the Bohemian queens in 1353 again when Charles IV assigned a dowry for his third wife Anna Svídnická amounting to 15 000 threescores of groschen in property of the towns of Hradec Králové, Polička and Vysoké Mýto. The extent of the queen's influence in the aforementioned towns is not known. The fourth wife of Emperor Charles IV, Elisabeth of Pomeranie, is confirmed to have taken over control of the towns and to have held

them between 1363 and 1393. The **dowry towns were institutionalized** for good under her rule. The queen's vice-chamberlain and the court judge were tasked to supervise the towns. The financial demands which the queen raised towards her towns during the widowhood kept increasing and significantly burdened the towns while eventually ending up in their indebtedness and a subsequent complaint regarding the queen's demands after the death of Elisabeth of Pomeranie in 1393. King Wenceslas IV, who took over control of the towns, responded by modifying the competences arising from the tenure of dowry towns by Bohemian queens.

Vysoké Mýto remained faithful to the king in the domestic war after Wenceslas IV was captured by the so-called lords' union in 1394, which was documented by expenses incurred for the stay of the royal army gathered by king's brother Duke John Zhořelecký; these amounted to a significant sum of 954.5 threescores of Prague groschen.

Sophia of Bavaria was the last queen who held the dowry towns before the outburst of the Hussite Revolution. She obtained them from her husband Wenceslas IV probably shortly before her coronation Bohemian queen in 1399. In 1412, Sigismund of Luxembourg, who acceded to the Bohemian throne, confirmed Sophia's tenure of the dowry towns when he approved of the new registration of 10 000 Hungarian guildens for Queen Sophia from her dowry towns.

Even though Vysoké Mýto became a dowry town of Bohemian queens, it did not lose its links to the royal power during the 14th and early 15th centuries; the town kept obtaining privileges from the Bohemian king and remained an integral part of administrative structures of the kingdom. In 1372 burghers from Vysoké Mýto were granted the privilege of a free testament. In the early 14th century, Vysoké Mýto became the **centre of the Mýto region**. King Wenceslas IV awarded the town the right to perform executions and the town government performed them until 1405 at least.

As regards the religious administration, Vysoké Mýto led the **deanery** which was established in the second half of the 13th century and comprised older parishes along the river Loučná and newer ones established within colonization activities. After the Litomyšl diocese was established, the deanery was subordinated to it instead of Prague. We know the scope of the Vysoké Mýto deanery from deeds originating from 1349 – 1351 which were issued in connection with the establishment of the Litomyšl diocese; the deanery comprised 40 parishes, three filial churches and the Minorite monastery in Vysoké Mýto.

As far as **religious structures** are concerned, the Church of St. Lawrence situated in the southwestern part of the town and surrounded with the municipal cemetery played the most important role. The church was established shortly after the town was founded and it got its stone look at the turn of the 14th century. Nevertheless, in the 1350s a new church was built on the original ground plan of a triple nave basilica with two towers by the western front and a long narrow polygonally closed presbytery. The church was built during the second half of the 14th century. Beside the Church of St. Lawrence, two more monasteries were mentioned in older literature – a monastery of the Minorite order and one of the Order of Saint Clare. However, written sources confirm the existence of only the Minorite monastery which used to be situated in the north-western corner of the town (today's Tyršovo Square) and was destroyed during the Hussite wars. The filial Church of All Saints which used to be located in the '*Na pohřebě*' neighbourhood (the Choceňské Suburb) was probably also destroyed during the Hussite era.

Only a small number of official documents and some chronicle records originating from the 1420s and 1430s are available to help reconstruct the town history **during the Hussite period**. These mention Mýto only in connection with the progress of Praguers' and Taborites' troops who took advantage of Sigismund's departure from the country in 1421 and set off to subjugate towns in East Bohemia. After Chrudim was conquered, Taborites were bound for Polička and Praguers were directed to Mýto. They took over control of the town probably before May 2. The Prague union operating in Hradec, Mýto, Chrudim and Litomyšl was led by moderate Ultraquist captain Diviš Bořek of Miletíněk. After Žižka's death, there was a serious dispute between Orphans and Taborites in 1425. Orphans, led by Hussite priest Prokop Malý, conquered Litomyšl and Mýto, and Mýto ended up under military control. Some citizens of Mýto joined the Orphan's and participated in the fatal battle of Lipany. After subsequent vigorous resistance they eventually retreated and on 14th August 1436 representatives of most royal towns surrendered to Sigismund in Jihlava; after Barbara of Cilli was enthroned, she received dowry property from Sigismund which included Mýto as well.

As regards Mýto, new construction activities were documented (at the beginning of 1433 a new **Town Hall**, today no. 96, is mentioned), even though the population had inevitably decreased due to the departure of most German patricians (we can assume that in the late 14th century Czechs prevailed in the town). During the 1430s **the internal situation became stabilized**, which was also supported by Sigismund's act dated 22 January 1437 by means of which the ruler confirmed the privileges which Mýto lost due to the war events (the town was entitled to organize two annual markets: on St. Lawrence's day (8th August) and on St. Philip and Jacob's day (1st May), the town was awarded the one-mile right which protected local craftsmen's businesses; the act also confirmed the ownership of the village of Vratislav and the Rza forest including outbuildings, which formed **the core of the municipal dominion**). The oldest survived administrative ledger (originating from the mid-15th century) contained records of 50 various crafts (the most frequent ones were: food processing, textile and metal processing whose production exceeded the local demand).

After Sigismund's death, the dowry towns supported the Polish nominee. Their nominee failed, and Albert II of Germany became the

king, however he died in 1439. Barbara of Cilli returned from her Polish exile in 1441 by means of which she revived the dowry town institute. The period practice applied to handling the dowry property is documented by the queen's instrument dated 2nd September 1446. She undertook not to pledge the town to creditors in situations when it stood security for her debts and the town would be allowed to deduct such an amount from the fees which it was obliged to pay. She appointed Hynce Ptáček of Pirkštejn and after his death George of Poděbrady to supervise the dowry towns. During the anarchistic period after the Battle of Lipany, Mýto was a member of the Chrudim landfried (a regional defensive confederacy which strove to enforce legal order) and subsequently the **union of East-Bohemian landfrieds**. In 1448 they confirmed their loyalty by participating in the campaign to Prague by means of which George of Poděbrady confirmed his power status in the country.

King George of Poděbrady issued a charter on 23rd June 1467 by means of which he reduced the fee levied for reappointment of the municipal council. Johana of Rožmitál issued a similar charter a day later. In 1468 George of Poděbrady visited the town whose privileges he, as well as his predecessor Ladislav Pohrobek, failed to confirm; George visited the town while addressing the issues related to the crusade announced by Mathias Corvinus. The war events between 1468–1472 directly affected the town surroundings; Mýto, whose **citizens held to the doctrine of Communion under both kinds**, was not besieged. It was Vladislaus Jagiello who confirmed the town's privileges on 19th October 1471, and one day later he awarded the town a **new coat of arms**. In harmony with the privilege dated 7th February 1474 Mýto burghers were allowed to seal documents with red wax. On 24th December 1473 they were allowed to organize another **annual market** (on St. Andrew's day). The ruler presented the charters to the town to indemnify it for the damage and suffering resulting from the war events in 1468–1472. In the charter dated 19th November 1480 he freed the municipal farm of Plotiště from feudal service. The last known Vladislaus' charter originated from 11th March 1502 by means of which he bequeathed property from the people accused of witchcraft and poisoning to the town of Mýto. The town's privileges were confirmed by Ludwig Jagiello on 8th June 1524, and moreover, he emphasized that the fees which they were obliged to pay to the king's or queen's chamber were to be submitted exclusively to the king's or queen's vice-chamberlain. By means of another charter issued on the same day, he confirmed the purchase of the village of Trusnov and permitted the village to be listed in the land register.

In the course of time, various **natural disasters** – fires, temperature swings or floods – affected the town and indirectly contributed to architectural changes of the town. On 9th June 1461 a half of the town burned down (including 133 houses). Upon renovation, the wealthier burghers who owned houses in the Rynk square and along the main streets built stone houses. Barbicans in front of Vratislavská and Litomyšlská Gates were built in the late Gothic style. Another great fire came on 23rd August 1517 – this time the fire damaged 132 houses.

In the last quarter of the 15th century, a **Brotherhood of Church Singers** was active in the Church of St. Lawrence; their music manuscripts have not survived. Records about a new school built by the church originated from the anarchic time after the Battle of Lipany. A hospital was built north of the church; (written documents contain records about a small hospital (of St. Nicolas) in the suburb; there was a hospital for people suffering from leprosy in the town for some time too). In the early 17th century, there were two hospitals in the town, and during the Thirty Year's War there was one. Documents from the 15th and 16th centuries make it possible to picture the area **in the vicinity of the town**. The main paths along which suburbs developed headed towards Choceň, Vraclav and Litomyšl. Smaller paths went to Džbánov, Knířov, Vanice, Chříby, along Poříčí and under Vinice. There were numerous farms and several manors with large plots and meadows. Some plots were held by noblemen. In the course of time, the town owned some farms too. Pastures owned by the town were situated between suburban fields and meadows. The Loučná and the Orlice were the only permanent rivers in the broad surroundings. The raceway (today's Mlýnský Stream) brought water close to the fortification walls; the Blahovský Stream (sometimes also called Knířovský or Nejzbach) emptied into the raceway under the Choceňská Gate; a bridge on the Litomyšl path spanned the stream and the path continued past the galls under the Dráby forest. Water courses were important for the town: they not only brought potable water to the town, but also protected the town by complementing the double line of fortification walls (during the post-Hussite times, the zwinger became the most important defence feature), but the streams were also used for production purposes. **Several mills** and some other businesses, such as a sawmill, a grinding workshop or a goats production workshop, were built by them

As time went by, some crafts stagnated while others developed; for example **the importance of food processing crafts kept growing** (malt producers, brewers or butchers); in the early 16th century the number of drapers, weavers and cutlers increased. At this time, Mýto producers started participating in the **revived foreign trade with countries in the east** and they supplied cloth and knives to Polish and Ukrainian markets. Beer brewing, formerly a purely municipal article deserves special attention. In consequence of revolutionary events, the situation developed to the disadvantage of burghers holding the right to brew beer since new noblemen (such as the Kostkas of Postupice, the Lords of Pernštejn, and the Slavatas of Chlum and Košumberk, to name the nearest ones) looked for business opportunities. **Disputes between royal towns and noblemen** started escalating in the 1480s when noblemen started questioning the right of royal towns, as a recently established estate, to participate in the land diet and to acquire registered property. After the *Vladislaus' Land Establishment* was issued (1500), the

disputes grew into hatred. The *St. Wenceslas Day's Deal* (1517) resulted in an apparent compromise based on which towns (i.e. including Mýto) were allowed to participate in the diet and comment events which concerned them; the deal also addressed the jurisdiction of individual courts. The issue of noblemen's right to brew beer (and generally the issue of their further conduct of business) was to be addressed again six years later. No other negotiation on this topic took place. Therefore, royal towns suddenly got a serious economic competitor.

Wars with Turks were waged between 1529–1545 and even more intensely at the turn of the 17th century; these wars were co-funded by royal towns, supplies for soldiers were delivered from royal towns and soldiers were recruited there. Mýto was repeatedly forced to lend money to the ruler or to stand security for the ruler. The **credit policy** did not avoid Mýto and its citizens. **Land property**, which was understood to be an attribute of political power, was a source of regular income. That was why Mýto acquired villages or their parts, farms, forests and ponds to extend their municipal dominion. In 1547 the town was fined for the **participation in the anti-Habsburg revolt**; burghers had to pay 2000 threescores of Meissen groschen and some of their property was confiscated (including but not limited to 16 villages and a share in five others), they were deprived of privileges and weapons and were assigned a so called beer tray. The limitation of the town's autonomy was to be enforced by a newly appointed royal reeve, and from January 1548 also appeals to the appellate court. The king also renewed the Saint-Jacob's Mandate (1508) by means of which the influence of the Unity of Brethren was to be eliminated – in the mid-16th century some of their supporters lived in Mýto as well. However, the sanctions were not the only disasters; in August 1547, a large fire spread in the town and damaged more than 130 houses.

In 1549 King Ferdinand I returned the privileges to the town and permitted the utilization of benefits from municipal plots, ponds and several villages; he retained the seigniorial control. Mýto burghers were not satisfied with this and **strove for the renewal of the dominion**. Before 1620, they owned ten whole villages and a share in three others, administered 17 ponds and several farms and forests. A new building of the deanery documented the improvement of the financial situation of the town in the 1550s. The construction of the single-nave **Cemetery Church of the Holy Trinity** was launched in Litomyšlské Square in 1543. In the early 17th century, an entrance gate with a **spire** (not in existence any more) was added. Mýto citizens had another **bell tower** built opposite the Church of St. Lawrence between 1583–1585.

In the context of the tax policy changes when the burden was primarily transferred to royal towns, there were **368 houses in Vysoké Mýto in 1567**. The prosperity of the town was documented by the fact that two municipal scribes were employed. As of 1598, the town including its suburbs boasted 341 inhabited (i.e. taxed) houses; subjects held a total of 139 houses. The town population temporarily changed due to plague epidemics. One of the worst ones came in 1582. At the end of the century, 9 guilds operated in the town; Mýto was surrounded with 10 mills and 6 farms and in the broader surroundings there were 13 farms. In connection with the development of noble manors (the closest neighbors included the Slavatas of Chlum and Košumberk, the lords of Žerotín, the Kapouns of Svojkov, the Berkas of Dubé and Lipé), Mýto subjects were the customers for many products of various guilds. Drapery remained important till the end of the century; business activities linked with this craft were partly separated. **Agricultural production** was a common activity of almost all burghers beside crafts or trade. Having been inspired by noblemen's activities, that competed with burghers' activities, towns showed an increased interest in fish farming, cattle breeding, beekeeping and also hops and wine growing. To strengthen the local market, three cattle markets were organized from 1602 (on Monday after the Blossom Sunday, on the day after Easter Sunday and after St. John the Baptist's day). At the turn of the 17th century, the town showed features of a **regional market centre**.

The Prague University appointed teachers to the local Latin school. Direct supervision was performed by supervisors from burgher intellectual elites. As for teachers, we can mention Jiří Hanuš Lanškrounský of Kronenfeld, who subsequently became a book printer and a priest who eagerly promoted the imperial charter of religious freedom. As for university graduates, let's commemorate Matouš Hosius Vysokomýtský, the translator of the *Moscow Chronicle*. As regards writers, we can mention priest Martin Philadelph Zámorský and Bohuslav Bepka, authors of evangelical postils. To complement the description of the **favorable cultural environment**, we shall mention the marriage of Chrudim painter Matouš Radouš to Anna Poláčková. Radouš's valuable portraits of significant Mýto burghers were incorporated in the Mýto hymnbook which is not in existence any more.

With the imminent risk of a military conflict, the town started repairing the fortification system. Josef Šembera (1794–1866) created an ideal reconstruction of the town as of the 17th century (the pre-war era) in 1843. In 1618 water from the waterworks in Klášterská Bastion was brought to two municipal fountains in the Rynek square. After the **Bohemian Revolt** started, Vysoké Mýto, which ranked among three most significant East-Bohemian towns, supported the estates army by providing the required as well as extraordinary financial and in-kind allowances and hiring mercenaries. Significant costs resulted in financial problems of the town at the beginning of the **Thirty Years' War**. An event which occurred in the town just a few days after the death of King Matthias was rather symbolic: Bedřich (Fridrich) Bridel (1619–1680), a boy who was born in house no. 15 and whose father was the municipal scribe Václav Brydl, an eager non-Catholic, became a Baroque poet and Jesuit and wrote a prime work of the Bohemian Baroque poetry called *What God? A Man?* (1659). He operated in the regions of Boleslav, Čáslav, Hradec and Chrudim as a missionary from 1660, and he even returned to his fatherland to turn non-Catholics to the genuine belief.

After the defeat at the Battle of White Mountain, Mýto burghers demonstrated loyalty from the end of November 1620. At the end of the year, they made very unpleasant experience with the **obligation to accommodate**. During subsequent years the town was seriously burdened by frequent stays of infantry and cavalry regiments (imperial as well as enemy's) whose soldiers were not satisfied with financial and in-kind allowances and plundered municipal houses, stole cattle and horses and treated local people violently. The town and its citizens fell into significant financial problems. Moreover, as a punishment for the participation in the revolt, the **land property of the town was confiscated in 1622** and the town was deprived of its privileges; everything was only returned on 15th April 1628.

The last non-Catholic dean was removed from office in 1624. **Forced recatholization**, the purpose of which was to persuade opposing non-Catholics by means of authorized military units, started in Mýto in 1626. The ones who kept refusing to convert were forced to leave the country in 1627. One of the post-White Mountain expatriates who settled down in Uherská Skalice was Jan Kaška Skutečský (Joannes Cassius Scultcius) (1590–about 1666), an eager member of the Unity of Brethren, influenced by John Amos Comenius. (Comenius stayed in the nearby Brandýs nad Orlicí in 1622–1626 where he completed the first version of his renowned book – one of supreme works of the Baroque literature – *Labyrint světa a ráj srdce*). Jan's son David stayed with Comenius first and then moved to Leszno, Poland, the centre of the Unity of Brethren where he worked as a senior and rector at grammar school; another Jan's son, Zdenislav, worked as a municipal scribe in Mýto. Non-Catholics must have been very disappointed when the Bohemian and Moravian Land Constitution (*Obnovené zřízení zemské*) was passed (1627); the constitution not only restricted political competences of royal towns, but also banned all non-Catholic religions. Further development made it apparent that a **small community of secret non-Catholics** remained in the region of Vysoké Mýto.

Only about **400 citizens** lived in the town in 1628; this number, which shows a significant decrease during the 1620s, is also documented by the need of only one municipal scribe. While in the late 1620s and in the early 1630s Mýto was relieved of the war tumult, the situation deteriorated dramatically after the arrival of **Swedish troops** (1639, 1643, 1645 and 1646). In order to moderate the long-lasting unfavorable situation, Ferdinand III granted the town some new rights on 2nd October 1638; the town was allowed to organize **an annual market** on Tuesday before St. Francis of Assisi's day (4th October and to **increase the number of cattle markets** which were to be held from the first Lent Tuesday until St. George's day (24th April) and every Monday from St. George's day till the Shrovetide Sunday. People in Mýto had to wait for the *Peace of Westphalia* (1648) which gave them a chance to gradually renovate the town.

It took several years before the town recovered from the **serious cultural, economic and demographic decline** after the end of the Thirty Years' War. Almost half of the buildings from the pre-White Mountain era were destroyed. Based on the *List of subjects according to their belief* from 1651 the population of the town including its suburbs was **1288**. **Most citizens** in the town, where customs duty from goods imported to the country was levied from the mid-17th century, were **Czech**, which influenced the official language in the town. German was enforced in contact with supervising authorities. Eight guilds operated in the town during the post-war era; butchers remained the most important of them. During the post-war era, when the **management of the town and its dominion were interconnected**, the town obtained the highest income from its villages. Beside financial obligations there were also in-kind and increasing statute labour duties (subjects from Vratislav revolted in 1680 having been inspired by protests in the Litomyšl dominion; these events resulted in the publishing of the statute labour patent). In spite of the fact that the town gradually recovered from the war damage, the **administration of revenues and expenses was separated from the municipal administration** as a land committee discovered during an inspection in 1704.

In 1664 news about miraculous recovery of cutler Jan Nečesaný due to water from Vraclav spring spread around. The town of Mýto built a little chapel dedicated to St. Nicolas first, and later on also a hermitage and a pub. **A spa** which allegedly helped to treat limbs pain, flatulence, ulcers, dizziness and headache was built between 1711 – 1719. The pilgrimage Church of St. Nicolas designed by K.A. Canevalle was built nearby in 1724–1726. The fame of the spa spread all the way to Moravia due to several treatises. All this was intensified by religious propaganda that spread information by means of pilgrimages, pictures and songs. The Brotherhood of Church Singers remained an important element of the local cultural life; its members could not be absent from any religious festivals, pilgrimages, feasts and funerals; they also supervised the quality of the local school where a teacher and two assistants worked. In contrast with the process of strengthening the Baroque piety, we can mention that as of 1761 there were 93 people suspected of *'Hussite heresy'* in the town and its villages.

On 10th September 1700 a **fire** broke out in the town; it destroyed 180 houses (Rynek remained without houses after the fire). In the process of town renovation, Baroque architectural trends became more apparent. Another gate was built in the northwestern corner of the town wall in order to make access to the water easier. As compared to the nearby Polička, which was experiencing the era of its greatest wealth and boasted it by means of a grandiose concept of public areas, Mýto remained much more moderate. Plague spread in the town and its surroundings from August 1714 till March 1715. In spite of quarantine measures, 57 people died. A **Marian plaque column** was erected in Rynek Square. As for famous natives, we can mention Dismas Hataš (1724–1777) a violinist and a composer of symphonies and three-movement sonatas who settled down in Thuringia.

Before the mid-18th century, the population of the town, which was pictured in the altar painting from the Church of the Holy Trinity as of 1745, was about 2500. Agriculture, complemented with mill operation, was the basic field of production. As of 1743 there were 53 burghers entitled to brew beer. **Reform measures** introduced by Maria Theresia and subsequently by Joseph II were **gradually implemented** in Mýto as well. The importance of regional governors increased after the reform of the regional administration in 1751. The office had its seat in **Chrudim** and supervised also financial and political matters in Mýto in consequence of which the importance of the royal reeve decreased. Due to the reduction of the number of high justice trials, the town had serious crimes tried in Chrudim starting from 1765. As for other significant changes, we shall mention the introduction of house numbers and street names in 1771. As a result of the school system reform six years later a trivial school was established in the town. The measures responded to the underdevelopment of the monarchy and the need to remedy the loss of Silesia and Kłodzko, which the monarchy lost during the War of the Austrian Succession. Mýto was not spared of the direct impact of these military conflicts when the Prussian army passed through the town twice. In 1745, a military warehouse was established in the town and Mýto suffered again during the Seven Years' War.

At the beginning of the 1770s, Mýto, whose most significant income came from agriculture, was afflicted by crop failure which resulted in famine and price increase. The year 1774 was not good for Mýto's economy either since several hundred cows and bulls died and a **large fire broke out on 6th August 1774**. Water from waterworks which had been put into operation in the stone bastion by the second town gate in 1769 was used to extinguish the fire. The municipal authority declared that *'only the street over the gate had survived'* as also documented by a period picture of the burning town of Mýto situated in the Church of the Lord's Annunciation in Knířov. While striving to improve the town, the empress granted the town of Mýto the right to organize another cattle market (on Tuesday before St. Lazar) and presented the town 10 000 guildens on 2nd December 1774.

The second half of the 18th century brought about **architectural development of the town**. Numerous houses were decorated with Baroque gables, however, a number of them burned down during the fire in 1774 when 238 houses were destroyed. In 1777 a trivial school was established. At that time, Vysoké Mýto functioned as a garrison town because a part of a regiment of mounted dragoons operated in the town from 1722. Long stables and a riding hall were built for them along the outer side of the southern and western section of the fortification walls between 1773–1785; the stables do not exist anymore, but the inner town remained enclosed. The moat had been filled up gradually and gardens were established instead of it (in 1839 they encircled the whole ring of the fortification walls). A very large number of houses was built in suburbs in the late 18th century. While in 1757 the whole town of Vysoké Mýto had 367 houses, in 1785 there were 585 houses and as documented by the Josephinian Land Survey (1780 – 1783) – the suburban area was almost as large as it was in the map of the stable cadaster (1839). The density of buildings in suburbs was very high and the developed territory was strictly defined by a ring of bypassing streets (Husova – Jeronýmova – Českých Bratří). Residential houses had not been built behind this line up until the late-19th century. In 1784 the so called 'Raabization' – a reform by means of which seigniorial estates were distributed among farmers – was performed on the municipal dominion and the farms of Džbánov, Vanice, Limperky and Derlík were sold out. In the surroundings of the Limperský farm an equally named suburb developed; an equally named village grew by the village of Derlík (called Zaháj from 1948) and the village of Vinice (Na Vinicích) grew between them. A picture of the *Assumption of the Virgin Mary* by Petr Brandl painted for the Sedlec monastery (1728) ended up in Vysoké Mýto in connection with the process of closing down monasteries; the picture has been placed on the main altar of the municipal parish Church of St. Lawrence since then.

From 1800 **parts of the fortification walls**, or more specifically of three town gates, were gradually **pulled down**. During the Napoleonic wars, Vysoké Mýto experienced transfers of armies between 1799–1813. **The imperial road** from Hradec Králové via Holice and Vysoké Mýto to Litomyšl and Svitavy and the road from Prague and Chrudim, which joins the former one near Zámorsk, were **renovated** not only due to military reasons. New straightened sections were shown in maps made during the Josephinian Land Survey. Another renovation of the road near Vysoké Mýto took place between 1812–1814. A transit road bypassed the town along the outer side of the fortification walls. The majority of buildings in Vysoké Mýto suburbs were built of bricks in the early 19th century. The look of the inner town in 1816 was significantly modified by the last great fire which destroyed 174 houses, the army stable, the Pražská Gate tower, the brewery, the Town Hall and butcher's and baker's shops surrounding the square. New army barracks no. 180/I were built in the square between 1830–1834. In the 1840s Alois Vojtěch Šembera strove to save the town gates and other buildings of interest. The construction development of suburbs continued. By increasing the density of houses, the population amounted to 4 623 people living in 747 houses in 1830; in 1843 there were 4 512 citizens in 765 houses. A brewery operated in the town and there was a small brickworks on the western edge of the Pražské Suburb; there were 10 mills on the Loučná River and its raceways.

After the cancellation of the patrimonial system in 1848, Mýto lost the status of manorial lords for the villages within their dominion. Nevertheless, its administrative role was strengthened because in 1850 the town became the seat of a district court of justice, of a political district and temporarily (1849–1854) also of a regional court of justice. In the 1850s the first changes of the historic urban structure of the town centre occurred; the main and the 'Realschule' school no. 273/I were built south

of the church (1855). Between 1880–1882 a Neo-Renaissance building of grammar school and primary school no. 163 and 167/I was built west of the church. A new square, called Vaňorného Square, was established between the new buildings. At the same time, the Church of St. Lawrence underwent complex renovation in the Neo-Gothic style; works started in 1876 and lasted up until 1904. Between 1895–1897 towers and the western façade were rebuilt and changed the skyline of the town. The cemetery by the Church of the Holy Trinity was extended and rebuilt in 1874. In 1873–1875 Jungmannovy Park was established between the church and the Choceňská Gate. Starting from the 1860s all historically valuable buildings in the town were fortunately saved (especially the Litomyšlská Gate 1862–1867 and the Pražská Gate 1882–1883) and in 1871 the oldest town museum in Bohemia was established. The first savings bank, which was founded in 1862, had a Neo-Renaissance building no. 190/I built in the square in 1878.

The establishment of a **sugar refinery** (a joint stock company) in the field north-westerly of the Pražské Suburb in 1868 was of crucial importance for the development of Vysoké Mýto. In 1873 a sugar refinery was established also in Cerekvice nad Loučnou. Both the factories played an important role in the process of **connecting the town with the railway network** which happened in 1882. From 1873 Tomášek's brickworks operated between the sugar refinery and the Pražské Suburb; the brickworks was extended significantly and became the largest one in broad surroundings. The railway ran along the western edge of the Pražské and Litomyšlské Suburbs and the train station was situated westerly of the Pražské Suburb. An industrial zone started developing by the train station (1884 another brickworks, 1897–1900 the town brewery) and this process became more intense in the 20th century (1910 Stratílek's fire pump factory). New operations were established in other places as well: in 1897 a community brickworks in building no. 269/III east of the town, and Sodomka's workshop producing carriages (a predecessor of a bus-producing factory) on the northern edge of the town. The town built a new water distribution line between 1902–1903 and a municipal power plant no. 241/II in 1908–1909. Workman's organizations were established in Vysoké Mýto in the 1890s in response to the industrial development; at the same time, political powers enforcing laborers' rights developed.

All **factories in Vysoké Mýto** were built on 'greenfields', either in suburbs or further away from the town. Army barracks – another phenomenon which changed Vysoké Mýto in the 1890s even more than industrial production – were located similarly. Vysoké Mýto was a traditional garrison town, but the number of soldiers remained rather low – 1880 there were only 207 soldiers of a permanent garrison; whereas in 1910 the number increased to 1722. At that time, Vysoké Mýto featured 58 army barracks which were built and maintained by the town. The transformation of Vysoké Mýto into one of the most important garrison towns in Bohemia with significant army authorities was the greatest change which Vysoké Mýto underwent between 1885 and the beginning of World War I. Barracks for the Landwehr infantry battalion no. 30 in building no. 175/II in the Pražské Suburb by the train station were the first ones to be constructed. Other premises were situated on the edge of the Litomyšlské Suburb. The largest complex of barracks for the 98th infantry regiment was erected before 1888 southerly of the town. Military quarters for the Landwehr cavalry regiment no. 2 were built nearby (westerly, behind the railway) between 1890–1897; by 1906 horse stables and riding halls were added. In 1900–1901 it was followed by a large complex of military quarters for the 30th Landwehr regiment on the territory delimited by today's Žižkova and Prokopa Velikého Streets and the railway. A garrison hospital no. 271/IV was built nearby. A new training area and a shooting range with a gunpowder store were established easterly of the town near the Dráby forest on an area of 122 hectares in 1883. A Neo-Renaissance army casino (house no. 64/IV) was built for army officers opposite the 98th regiment's barracks between 1900–1903.

A new **municipal cemetery** with a monumental Neo-Renaissance gate (1893) was established in 1892. In 1906 the **old cemetery was closed down and incorporated in the Jungmannovy park**; the cemetery church was decorated with a Neo-Renaissance gable with Art-Nouveau plastic sculptures between 1903–1911. An impressive Neo-Renaissance building of the secondary school no. 2/IV was erected in the most eastern section of the former cemetery. In 1900 artistic gardener František Josef Thomayer helped to design the Havlíčkovy park along the western side of the **former fortification wall**. A caretaking centre no. 1/II administered by the congregation of School Sisters de Notre Dame was built along the southern edge of the park in 1898 (from 1920 a school). The northern side of the park is delimited by Pražská Street with the impressive Střelnice building no. 1/I from 1900; the western side of the park is dominated by General Hoppe's Art-Nouveau house no. 199/II built in 1905. The northern section of the zwinger over the Mlýnský Stream was turned into a botanical garden between 1905–1906. Building no. 55/I, a decorative Art-Nouveau gym of the Sokol sports association designed by architect Josef Podhajský, was built on the northwestern corner of the fortification system between 1900–1902. In the early 20th century, the main square got its landmark as well. A Neo-Renaissance&Art-Nouveau building of the so called District House and the post office no. 24–25/I designed by Alois Turek was built at the eastern end of its northern side. **Buildings in suburbs** were refurbished, however, significant structures were erected rarely. In 1903 an agricultural school, the first school in Austria-Hungary specializing in the water-management, was built on the eastern edge of the Choceňské Suburb. In 1898, the old inn situated in front of the Litomyšlská Gate was replaced by the U Tejnorů Hotel no. 26/IV which featured a large dancing and theater hall.

The last third of the 19th century was, beyond doubt, one of the most successful periods in the history of Vysoké Mýto. The cadastral map created after 1855 and continuously updated up until 1902/1906 (all changes were marked in red) gives a very clear picture of all newly built build-

ings and urban changes. The fact that **very few new buildings** were built within the historic centre of the town and no new buildings emerged in the so far empty areas is apparent at first sight. A block of villas and family homes between Husova Street and the barracks of the 30th regiment, or more accurately the railway, i.e. between Generála Závady and Prokopa Velikého Streets is the only exception. Statistical data confirm this fact. In 1868, Vysoké Mýto featured 840 houses and their number only increased to 878 by 1900. On the other hand, the population kept growing significantly: from 6,018 to 9,503. However, after deducting 1,633 army officers, the population of Vysoké Mýto was only 7,870 in 1900.

The situation changed abruptly in the first decade of the 20th century – by 1910 the number of houses increased by 130 (to 1,008) and the population increased by 1,355 (to 10,858), excluding army officers by 1,266 (to 9,136), which was the historic maximum up to then. No data from 1914 is available, but it is likely that most of the 64 houses which were built in the town between 1910/1921 had been built before World War I. About 1900, the construction of a **new villa neighbourhood started** on the southwestern edge of the historic centre of the town. Its street network was predetermined by unified division of land owned by the town perpendicularly to Husova ring road whose shape was also respected by the barracks; their width was used as a pattern for the distance between parallel streets. Such a structure was logically complemented by perpendicular crosswise streets which ran in parallel with the railway. A similar layout was applied in the new neighbourhood spreading on the southeastern edge of the town where the analogical scheme was predetermined by the rectangular shape of the new cemetery.

A typical example of an architecturally valuable Art-Nouveau villa originating from that time was Josef Šíma's villa no. 186/II in Riegerova Street built between 1899–1901, according to Josef Podhajský's design. Between 1909–1910, modern villa no. 247/IV for Josef Charvát was built according to Jan Kotěra's design; the villa is situated at the junction of Rokycanova and Jiráskova Streets. In the new neighbourhood, opposite the barracks of the 30th regiment, a railway stop was established in 1908; the railway stop called Downtown Vysoké Mýto is only 375 meters away from the church in Vaňorného Square. Right by the railway a Neo-Renaissance&Art-Nouveau hotel no. 236/IV was built between 1909–1910; the hotel was called U Zastávky (By the Stop) and a low wooden waiting room was attached to it next to the platform. Vysoké Mýto boasted a rich cultural, social and sports life at that time. The First World War influenced the garrison town much more significantly than other towns.

After Czechoslovakia was established, the town managed to overcome the economic problems quite quickly. **Increasing residential construction** was typical of the 1920s and 1930s while the population remained the same, which documented an increasing standard of living. While in 1921 there were 1,072 houses and 10,515 citizens in Vysoké Mýto, in 1930 the numbers increased to 1,246 houses and 10,835 citizens. The number of houses increased to 1,427 by 1950 (of which most were built during the inter-war era) and the number of citizens dropped to 9,325. The centre of the town did not grow much and the suburbs established before the war, specifically the ones in the southwest (between the army barracks) and in the southeast (by the church) grew instead. Family homes and villas were built; apartment houses were rare.

Several important **public buildings** were built. Municipal hospital no. 167/II was enlarged between 1923–1925; in 1925–1926, the girls' school no. 317/IV was built by the railway on the corner of Jiráskova and Žižkova Streets. The construction of the Šemberovo Theatre (no. 281/II) in 1924–1925 enhanced the cultural life in the town considerably; the building itself is an interesting example of rondo-cubism (designed by Vincenc Mašek). A constructivist Municipal Savings Bank (no. 92/I) was built in the middle of the eastern side of the square in 1932. Týrsova public swimming centre was established on the northern edge of the town. In 1937 barracks for the cavalry regiment no. 9 were completed and the Church of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church was completed in the same year.

Most **industrial companies** developed successfully during the inter-war period and only the sugar refinery was closed down in 1930. The Stratílek's company producing fire engines underwent vigorous development in the 1920s. The management of the Sodomka's coach production company was taken over by Josef Sodomka Junior; he focused on the production of car bodyworks and from 1928 also on the production of buses. Vehicles produced in the Sodomka's company made Czechoslovakia famous all over the world. During the interwar period, a number of excellent thinkers, artists, creators, organizers, teachers and sportsmen, whose importance significantly exceeded the region, lived and worked in Vysoké Mýto.

The German army occupied the town on 16th March 1939. Industrial companies were redirected to war production. During the first days of occupation, a group of several former Czechoslovak army officers started organizing illegal revolt; however, in 1941 the group was discovered by the Nazi and liquidated. In the same year, 20 members of a Sokol Association resistance group were arrested and a half of them executed. A partisan group that organized a number of sabotage events was established in 1944. The Nazi suppressed their attempt to take over control on 5th May 1945. **The first Red Army troop arrived in the town on 9th May 1945.** 13 Red Army soldiers, 1 Czech and 33 German soldiers died in the fight for Vysoké Mýto.

After the liberation, war damages were eliminated quickly. The Sodomka's and Stratílek's factories planned to extend their production, but after the Communist coup in February 1948, the country ended up in totalitarian dictatorship **which liquidated private businesses** and twenty local businessmen and craftsmen were imprisoned. The nationalized Sodomka's bus factory was renamed 'Karosa National Company' and from 1950 the factory expanded not only in the old premises, but also in a new location by the train station. In 1962, the former Stratílek's fire engine company became a part of Karosa. In 1966–1970 the new Karosa

premises located by the train station were extended again. In the early 1960s the political situation became more relaxed which was apparent in the development of culture and in activities of associations that managed to survive the previous oppression. In 1957 a Municipal Gallery was established.

After 1945 the population of Vysoké Mýto **decreased significantly** especially due to the resettlement of border areas. While in May 1945 the population of the town was 9,638, in October there were only 9,064 citizens. The lowest number of inhabitants was recorded in 1947 (7,983); gradual growth started afterwards (8,100 in 1948; 9,325 in 1950). At the turn of the 1960s a small housing estate was built between the military quarters on the southwestern edge of the town. In spite of that the population of Vysoké Mýto decreased again in 1961 (8,885 inhabitants) and subsequently stagnated (8,874 in 1970). The number of houses slightly decreased between 1950 and 1961 (from 1,427 to 1,403), but it grew again (to 1,502 in 1970). This resulted from the aforementioned construction of apartment buildings as well as new detached houses on the southeastern edge of the town near the cemetery.

Political relaxation in Czechoslovakia peaked in 1968 by the **Prague Spring**. The democratization process bothered the governments of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. At night from 20th to 21st August 1968 military intervention of five Warsaw Pact countries to Czechoslovakia started. **The third largest group of Soviet troops present in Czechoslovakia** was in Vysoké Mýto (preceded only by the army district Mladá near Milovice and Komárno in Slovakia); the Czechoslovak troops had to move away. The total number of Soviet soldiers in Vysoké Mýto was estimated to be 5,000–7,000 (the number of Czechoslovak soldiers ranged between 1,000–2,000). Because of an urgent lack of flats for families of Soviet soldiers, two four-storey prefabricated houses were built in 1970; two more were added later.

In the 1970s, the **construction of residential houses progressed** more quickly, which resulted from the significant expansion of the **Karosa national company**. Beside residential houses, an eleven-storey building for apprentice school students no. 74/II was erected in 1973; the building disturbed the traditional skyline of the town. In the southeastern edge of the town the construction of detached and row family homes continued. Prefabricated apartment buildings were concentrated in the southwestern and western edge of the town. Between 1970 and 1980 the number of houses increased only from 1,502 to 1,583, however, the number of inhabitants grew significantly: from 8,874 to 10,387. In the 1980s there was a decline again and by 1991 the population decreased slightly (to 10,348) even though the number of houses increased (to 1,730). The buildings on the Karosa premises were replaced by two large production halls. In the 1980s the lack of primary schools culminated; two primary schools did not suffice and pupils were taught in many alternative places (even outside the town) and also in shifts.

There were two main goals which the town wanted to achieve after 17th November 1989, to restore democracy and to **have the Soviet army depart**. On 23rd January 1990 a great demonstration took place. Due to a favorable political situation, the new Czechoslovak government managed to organize the expulsion of the Soviet Army very fast. Vysoké Mýto was included in the first phase of resettlement and the last Soviet soldier left the town in June 1990. The town refused the presence of any army, and it acquired all army buildings and plots free of charge and was entitled to dispose of them without limits. The **military quarters** were turned into multifunctional zones and the town acquired sufficient facilities for primary schools. The Soviet prefabricated houses were renovated as well. The Karosa Company reduced its activities temporarily, but was reawakened again when foreign investors entered it. The company has produced the IVECO brand buses and its production is higher than ever before; about 3,000 people are employed there.

New detached family homes started to occur after 2000; the development was concentrated within a narrow strip behind the cemetery. The most recent construction activities (after 2016) focused on the premises in the surroundings of the municipal brewery in the northwestern edge of the town. Between 1991 and 2001 the number of houses grew only a little (from 1,730 to 1,803) while between 2001 and 2011 the growth was more significant (from 1,803 to 2,007). On the other hand, the population increased more between 1991 and 2001 which resulted from the construction of new flats in the former army premises. The population grew very little between 2001 and 2011 (to 11,888).

Vysoké Mýto rightly ranks among the **most historically valuable towns in East Bohemia**. In 1990 the **municipal heritage zone** was established in the town centre and the adjoining ring of suburbs, and the process of gradual renovation of historic buildings started. A new development plan was approved in 2010; it includes plans for the construction of a western bypass of the town (2025) and the relocation of the road to Choceň. This would finally eliminate the exposure to the heavy traffic on the transit road which runs through the town. Social and cultural life and sports activities have flourished in Vysoké Mýto from the 1990s. Vysoké Mýto has been twinned with the German town of Korbach; a number of traditional events is organized in the town (Sodomka's Vysoké Mýto, Municipal Festival, Music Week, Gymjam, Evening of Lights, Drummer festival, Art School Open, Kujebike, a festival of youth brass bands called Čermák's Vysoké Mýto and others).