



Studienbibliothek in Pilsen] zusammengeschlossen. Durch den Zusammenschluss der Sammlungen von der Galerie města Plzně [Galerie der Stadt Pilsen], des Umělecko-průmyslové muzeum [Kunstgewerbemuseum] und der ehemaligen Plzeňská banka [Pilsner Bank] entstand im Jahre 1954 die Západočeská galerie v Plzni [Westböhmisches Galerie in Pilsen].

Die Zeit der Sechzigerjahre war im Zeichen umfangreicher Demolierungen, wobei viele architektonisch und historisch wertvolle Bauwerke direkt oft im Stadtkern abgerissen wurden. Dazu gehörten z. B. das städtische Salzhaus, das Hotel Central am Platz Náměstí Republiky oder das Gebäude des ehemaligen 35. Infanterieregiments. Eine umfangreiche Sanierung vernichtete wertvolle Bauwerke in der heutigen Straße sady Pětatřicátníků bei dem Bau einer neuen Straße. Die Demolierungen gingen auch in den Siebziger- und Achtzigerjahren weiter. Damals wurden z. B. das Gebäude des ehemaligen Deutschen Theaters oder das Gasthaus U Górgů in der Sedláčková-Gasse abgerissen. Einer neuen Straße musste in der zweiten Hälfte der Siebzigerjahre das ganze Stadtviertel Rychtářka weichen. Umfangreichere Demolierungen im Stadtzentrum verhinderte wenigstens teilweise die Erklärung des historischen Stadtkerns zum städtischen Denkmalschutzgebiet im April 1989.

Obwohl die Architektur in der Zeitspanne 1948-1989 dem politischen Diktat unterlag und trotz beschränkter Materialpalette, die der damalige Markt bot, wurden auch damals wertvolle Bauwerke realisiert. Dazu gehört besonders das Gebäude des Tschechoslowakischen Rundfunks in Plzeň am Platz Náměstí Míru der Autoren Václav Pavelka, Karel Tausenau und František Hurta, erbaut in den Jahren 1947-1956, oder das Winterstadion am heutigen Platz Štefánikovo náměstí, von V. Urbanec, P. Janeček und L. Švábek projektiert, aus der zweiten Hälfte der Sechzigerjahre. Seinen architektonischen Wert hat ferner das Hochhaus der ehemaligen Firma Hutní projekt mit dem Restaurant Bohemia in der heutigen Pražská-Straße als Werk von Vladimír Belšán, Jaroslava Gloserová und F. Kozák. J. Gloserová ist ferner Autorin des Gebäudes der Kreisverwaltung der Polizei der ČR am Quai Denisovo nábřeží.

Auf der zweiten Seite wurden in derselben Zeitspanne mehrere Projekte geschaffen, die bis heute negativ aufgefasst werden. Ein Beispiel dafür ist das besonders überdimensionierte Gebäude des Kulturhauses in der Americká-Straße, mit seiner Auffassung und Platzierung völlig unpassend zu der Bebauung in der Umgebung. Das Gebäude projektierte Miloslav Hrubec, dessen Raumauffassung auch bei weiteren Projekten zum Ausdruck kam, wie z. B. die Realisierung seines Projektes im ehemaligen Steinbruch Chvojkovy lomy in Plzeň-Slovany zum Park přátelství [Freundschaftspark]. Die unsinnige Abschiebung der Studenten in die Stadtperipherie brachte den Bau des Hochschulareals auf dem sog. Zelený trojúhelník [Grünes Dreieck] in Plzeň-Bory. Mit totem Fiasco endete gleichfalls eines der größten Projekte der Siebzigerjahre – der Bau des Wasserstaubeckens České údolí, wo man wegen schlechter Wasserqualität noch heute nicht baden kann.

Die Veränderungen in den Verfassungsverhältnissen am Umbruch der Jahre 1989/1990 erreichten die Stadt in einem ziemlich vernachlässigten Zustand. Die neue Stadtleitung hat deshalb sofort mit ihrer Revitalisierung und Beseitigung der Relikte aus der Kommunistenzeit angefangen. Trotz offener Bestrebung der Stadtselbstverwaltung, die Fehler ihrer Vorgänger zu beseitigen, kam es auch jetzt zu einigen unglücklichen Entscheidungen. Auf der zweiten Seite wurde die Stadt nach vielen Jahren nach und nach abgeblättern Fassaden und kontinuierlich aufgehackte Gehsteige los. Im historischen Stadtkern wurde bis auf vereinzelte Ausnahmen die gesamte Bebauung renoviert und einer Renovierung wurden ferner die Parks unterzogen, die ihn von einigen Seiten umgeben.

Die neuen politischen Verhältnisse nach dem November 1989 brachten nicht nur die Gründung von vielen politischen Parteien mit sich, sondern auch die Einbeziehung der bisher abseits der offiziellen Strukturen stehenden Vereinigungen und Bewegungen ins öffentliche Leben. Darunter gehörten verschiedene Kulturvereinigungen oder Umweltbewegungen. Die Möglichkeit nach 42 Jahren frei ihre Vertreter in die höchsten Vertretungsorgane zu wählen nutzten bei den Wahlen im Jahre 1990 fast 125 Tausend Wähler, die in weitaus überwiegender Mehrheit das Občanské fórum [Bürgerforum] wählten. Es erreichte in Plzeň 68,4 % der Stimmen, was die höchste Stimmzahl für das Bürgerforum in der ganzen Republik war.

Nach vielen Jahren wurde auch endlich das Problem der Autobahn-umgehung der Stadt gelöst. Dieser Abschnitt wurde im Jahre 2001 nach knapp zehn Jahren Gerichtsprozessen zwischen der Stadt und Umweltorganisationen, welche gegenseitig widersprüchliche Umgehungstrassen unterstützten, in Anspruch genommen. Der Bau wurde in der Form realisiert, welche die Stadt durchsetzte. Die ganze Umgehungstrasse einschließlich Tunnel durch die Anhöhe Valík wurde im Jahre 2006 dem Verkehr übergeben.

Ein Ereignis, das die Grenzen der Stadt und der Region überschreitet, war die Gründung der Západočeská univerzita v Plzni [Westböhmisches Universität in Pilsen], die sich von ursprünglich fünf Fakultäten auf gegenwärtig acht ausweitete.

Die wirtschaftlichen Veränderungen nach 1989 verursachten den Untergang von mehreren traditionellen Betrieben – in Plzeň waren es z. B. die Škoda-Werke, wo ein Teil der Betriebe privatisiert wurde und die unrentablen Produktionsstätten wurden geschlossen. Auf der anderen Seite kam jedoch der Zufluss von Auslandsinvestitionen, die neue Arbeitsplätze schufen. Die Leitung der Stadt reagierte auf die gegenwärtige Lage mit der Gründung von einer Gewerbezone

auf den Bory-Feldern [Bory-Felder], wo es gelang mehrere Auslandsinvestoren niederzulassen.

Im Zusammenhang mit der steigenden Wirtschaft und der Kaufkraft der Bevölkerung öffneten hier im Laufe der Neunzigerjahre mehrere Verkaufsketten ihre Supermärkte, die am Ende desselben Jahrzehnts noch Hypermärkte ergänzten, welche besonders in die Stadtperipherie platziert wurden. Mit dem Wirtschaftswachstum hängt auch eng die Wohnungsbauentwicklung zusammen. Die umfangreichste bebaute Fläche ist die Siedlung Sylván, wo die Baumaßnahmen im Jahre 1997 anfangen und die ersten Häuser wurden im Jahre 2002 fertig gebaut. Diese Wohnsiedlung knüpft auf natürliche Art und Weise an die Siedlung Vinice an. Weitere Gebiete mit umfangreichem Wohnungsbau ist ein Teil von Doubravka beim Hauptfriedhof und Plzeň-Bručná. Gleichzeitig verlässt jedoch ein Teil der Bewohner die Stadt und zieht in die Gemeinden in ihrer Umgebung.

Neben dem Wohnungsbau wurden in der Stadt nach 1989 mehrere öffentliche Bauwerke errichtet. In einigen Fällen handelte es sich minimal um diskutable Projekte, wie es im Fall des Hotels Diplomat oder der Straßenkorridore durch das Stadtzentrum war. Viele andere Projekte werden jedoch von Fachleuten und der Laienöffentlichkeit positiv empfunden. Im Februar 1999 wurde das Rathaus des Stadtrajons Plzeň 2 in der Koterovská-Straße von V. Šmolík und V. Ulč seinem Zweck übergeben. Dieser, gemeinsam mit R. Dragoun, beteiligte sich ferner an dem Projekt des Firmengebäudes Hannah in der Americká-Straße, das in der letzten Baulücke entstand und auf geeignete Art und Weise die Bebauung aus der 1. Republik ergänzte. Gleichfalls das neue Feuerwehr-Zweckgebäude, seit 2004 seiner Bestimmung dienend, ist architektonisch interessant, genauso wie das Hotelgebäude U Zvonu in der Pražská-Straße.

**Entwicklung der urbanistischen Planung von Plzeň von der Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts bis zur Gegenwart.** Die Entwicklung der modernen Stadt in der zweiten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts hing eng mit dem Bau der Eisenbahn und der Entwicklung der Industrie zusammen. Die Stadtrepräsentanten waren seit Anfang an bestrebt die in Anspruch genommene Bebauung durch sog. Regulierungspläne zu steuern. Bereits 1854 entstand der erste Regulierungsplan der Reichsvorstadt (heute Jižní Předměstí), der das zukünftige Aussehen der Flächen südlich und südwestlich vom historischen Stadtkern löste, wo die größte Entwicklung erwartet wurde. Die Vorstadt gestaltete sich letztendlich nach den Plänen des Baumeisters Jan Ungr, der im Wettbewerb zu einem neuen Plan 1859 gewann. Nachdem das Bauregulativ 1864 die Bearbeitung von ganzen Vierteln als Bedingung zum Bau von neuen Gebäuden auf unbebauten Standorten anordnete, entstanden in den Jahren 1873-1883 Regulierungspläne aller restlichen Pilsner Vorstädte und ihrer Teile. Sämtliche bisherigen Pläne beruhten auf dem Schachfeldprinzip von rechteckigen Häuserblocks, nach dem Hauptstraßen aus dem Zentrum ausgehend, orientiert. Durch das Auslassen von manchen Blocks sollten Ringplätze als Mittelpunkte neuer Vorstädte und deren Teile entstehen.

Das neue Bauregulativ im Jahre 1887 erlegte der Stadt Maßnahmen der Regulierungspläne für die ganze Stadt auf, auch für den historischen Stadtkern. Deshalb bereitete das Stadtbauamt in den Jahren 1888-1895 Entwicklungskonzeptionen von zwei Vorstädten und des Stadtkerns vor. Die abgeänderten Pläne wurden wohl zum Bestandteil des Gesamterweiterungsplanes für die ganze Stadt, der in der Mitte der Neunzigerjahre ausgearbeitet wurde. Auch weiterhin wurde die größte Erweiterung der Bebauung südlich und südwestlich vom historischen Stadtkern vorausgesetzt, doch die bereitgestellten Flächen wurden wesentlich großzügiger konzipiert als bisher. Die Schachfeldbebauung wurde durch Drehung von einigen Blocks nach der Richtung der Ringstraßen vielfältiger gestaltet. Diese Ringstraßen sollten die wichtigsten Entwicklungsgebiete verbinden.

Um 1910 hat das Stadtbauamt die Pläne aller drei Vorstädte erneut überarbeitet und erweitert. So entstand im Grunde genommen ein neuer Regulierungsplan der ganzen Stadt, der erstmals außer rationalen Kennzeichen bei der Konzeption von ganzen Neuvierteln auch künstlerische Anforderungen berücksichtigte. Die Verfasser des Plans verließen die bisherigen eintönigen Schachfeldprinzipien der Bebauung und ersetzten sie mit einem Straßennetz, das radial in neue Ringplätze verschiedener Formen zusammenlief und diese sollten jedenfalls eigenartig sein. Die beschleunigte Entwicklung der Škoda-Werke im Laufe des Krieges beeinträchtigte die bisherige Logik der Stadtplanung, da das Industrieareal die vorgegebene Betriebsgrenze auf Flächen überschritt, die für Wohnviertel geplant waren und so die Konzeption von zwei aus drei im Bau befindlichen Ringstraßen durchbrach.

Durch den Anschluss der ersten vier Dörfer entstand im Jahre 1924 das sog. Groß-Pilsen, dessen Ausmaß weitaus nicht abgeschlossen sein sollte. Es liefen die Vorbereitungen an dem grundlegenden Konzeptionsdokument – am ersten Gebietsplan der Stadt. Der General-Regulierungsplan von Pilsen aus den Jahren 1929-1932, von Vladimír Zákřejs bearbeitet, ist bis heute der einzige Gebietsplan von Pilsen, der aus den Prinzipien einer traditionell kompakten Stadt mit klassischen öffentlichen Plätzen – Ringplätzen, Chaussees und Straßen – hervorgeht. Als grundlegend kann Zákřejs' Verkehrskonzeption der ganzen Stadt betrachtet werden, womit er sie ohne radikal devastierende Eingriffe in die bestehende Bebauung löste und immer gefühlvoll die neuen Straßen in die Stadtstruktur und in die Landschaft einbezog. Zákřejs konzipierte die Verbindung der neuen Wohnviertel mit Ringstraßen, vor allem konzipierte er dann die große Ringstraße. Er setzte eine großzügige Entwicklung von

Vorstädten zu Wohnzwecken in Bory, Slovany, in Doubravka, Lobzy und Skvrňany, aber auch in Lochotín, Bolevec, Košutka, Vinice und Nová Hospoda (Grünhof) und auf den Bory-Feldern voraus.

Die Entwicklung nach dem Umsturz im Februar 1948 war für den städtischen Urbanismus vernichtend, die Folgen kamen jedoch erst mit der Zeit zum Vorschein. Die Verfasser des neuen Richtlinienplans Jindřich Krise und František Sommer begründeten ihre Arbeit auf selbstbewussten Prinzipien des funktionalistischen Urbanismus, inspiriert durch den Architekten Le Corbusier. Sie planten die Stadt in eine „Auto“-Stadt umzufunktionieren, bestehend aus einzelnen Einzweckzonen. Im Stadtzentrum, als Multifunktionseinheit lebend, führten diese Ansichten praktisch zu einer Konzeption, die Bebauung außer dem historischen Stadtkern vollständig zu demolieren und zu der Konzeption von breiten Straßen, die hier ihre Kreuzungen haben sollten. Dieser Plan wurde zwar nicht genehmigt, aber aus seinen Grundsätzen ging Zbyněk Tichý mit seinem Kollektiv bei der Ausarbeitung des Gebietsplans der Stadt Plzeň aus, der 1966 genehmigt wurde. In der Mitte der Sechzigerjahre gingen die flächendeckende Demolierung des Stadtzentrums und der Bau von breiten Straßen in Richtung Stadtmitte an. Die Devastation und der Abriss führten nach und nach zur Vernichtung der wertvollsten und für die Stadt unentbehrlichsten Gebäude, Flächen und Parks, weiter zu der Zerrüttung der gewohnten Stadtstruktur und ihrer Logik. In der Mitte der Achtzigerjahre wurde durch das Zentrum am Miesufer eine Durchgangsstraße gebaut, die dem ganzen Zentrum bis heute wesentliche urbanistische Komplikationen verursacht. Der neue Gebietsplan, von J. Šesták, J. Gloserová und ihrem Kollektiv in den Jahren 1985-1988 konzipiert, beabsichtigte auch weiterhin den Abriss des überwiegenden Teils der Bebauung im Stadtzentrum, die geplanten Straßen durch das Zentrum „bereicherten“ sie um einen weiteren Durchzug von der Bierbrauerei über Roudná.

Nach November 1989 wurden die meisten flächendeckenden Demolierungen und der Abriss von historischen Gebäuden, bis dahin noch zur Vernichtung bestimmt, eingestellt. Ihre Besitzer begannen oftmals diese Bauwerke zu renovieren. Auf die veränderten Bedingungen sollte der neue Gebietsplan der Stadt aus den Jahren 1992-1995 reagieren, bearbeitet von Irena Králová, Emil Chochol, Milan Svoboda und Kollektiv. Es wurde zwar auf einige von den schlimmsten megalomanen Projekten verzichtet, mehrere zweifelhafte Verkehrsabsichten blieben jedoch im Plan erhalten, die bereits realisierten ungeeigneten Projekte wurden nicht bezweifelt. In den letzten Jahren nehmen zwar positive Beispiele von Baumaßnahmen in einigen Stadtteilen zu, einstweilen jedoch ohne markanten Widerhall bei der Unerlässlichkeit der allseitigen urbanistischen Konzeption zur Rehabilitation des ganzen stellenweise zerstörten Stadtzentrums, das einstweilen als Ort des nicht gelösten urbanistischen Konflikts eingestuft ist – durch belassene Fragmente der klassischen Stadt vom Umbruch des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts geht das nie abgeschlossene funktionalistische Konzept. Der Autoverkehr beherrscht das Zentrum. Mit jedem weiteren geplanten Bauwerk wird immer mehr eine Gesamtkonzeption spürbar, die außer einem kritischen Blick auf die bestehenden und geplanten Hauptstraßen im Zentrum seine öffentliche Plätze rehabilitieren und Bedingungen zum entsprechenden Ausbau und zu Renovierungen schaffen würde. Sie würde zu einer wichtigen Unterlage für den neuen Gebietsplan der Stadt werden.

## Summary

Pilsen is situated in the centre of West Bohemia. The small Pilsen basin, a shallow and flat lowland along lower reaches of the Mže, Radbuza, Úhlava and Úslava Rivers is surrounded with rugged hilly countryside of the Pilsen region. These four rivers upon which Pilsen is situated and which drain most of the highlands in the Pilsen region radiantly converge in the lowest north-western part of Pilsen basin where the town of Pilsen was established by the confluence of the rivers in the Middle Ages. Sections of the surrounding highlands and uplands project into the north-western section of the basin (Touškovská Basin). The terrain of the town is dominated by three Pilsen hills situated on the edge of the town: Radyně, Krkavec and Chlum.

The described geographic features have always significantly predestined the Pilsen basin to become the centre of the region. In a broader context, the Pilsen region needs to be understood as a region situated on the link between Central Bohemia and the upper Danube region through which important paths connecting the east with the west have always passed.

The size and scope of the region have changed many times in the course of time. The first changes of this type are documented by research of ancient settlements the last of which were performed quite recently. Also the long-distance paths which ran through the region underwent changes in the course of time. The specific routes of these paths and intensity of traffic on them were determined by the geo-political development in the broader Czech-Bavarian region. After the Czech state was united in the mid-10<sup>th</sup> century, western Bohemia became a region situated close to the Czech-German border. A significant number of war events took place on the long-distance paths passing through the Pilsen region in the course of centuries.

The countryside in the Pilsen region, Touškovská basin and the adjacent foothills boast a number of favourable conditions for settlement. The accessibility of natural water sources is extremely good. The four Pilsen rivers (Mže, Radbuza, Úhlava and Úslava) formed a number of branches along their lower reaches and their banks were easily accessible through the shallow valleys. The network of water courses was complemented with a number of brooks which sprang on edges of valley terraces.

The first settlements on the territory of the town were small hunting villages originating from the late Paleolithic and Mesolithic (approx. 10,000 – 8,000 B.C.); they were located on small hills mostly on the left side of the Mže valley (Roudná, Senec). In the early Stone Age (Neolithic, approx. 5,500 – 4,500 B.C.) the first farmers arrived in the Pilsen basin and started intense deforestation of the area with the intent to establish villages (Křimice, Radčice, Litice) and fields there.

In the late Stone Age (Eneolithic; approx. 4,500 – 2,300 B.C.) the development of older settlement units (Křimice) continued, however, new areas, not utilized before, were soon settled as well. During the earlier phase of the period (the Cham culture, approx. 2,500 – 2,300) a significant cultural change took place which resulted mainly from contacts with the neighbouring Bavaria. Small fortified settlements situated on hills (Pecihrádek, Starý Plzenec – Hůrka) started growing in the countryside. Human presence is not documented from the following period – the early Bronze Age (approx. 2,300 – 1,700 B.C.) in the Pilsen basin. During the middle and late Bronze Age (approx. 1,700 – 750 B.C.) the territory of Pilsen was intensely utilized again. A small, heavily fortified settlement with a central function was built on a sharp promontory above the river Úslava in Hradiště. The situation during the early Iron Age (the Hallstatt culture approx. 750–400 B.C.) corresponded with the earlier development; at the end of the period the Pilsen basin was more or less covered with agricultural settlements and cremation burial places in their vicinity. Other fortified settlements were established in other suitable locations (Bukovec, Starý Plzenec – Hůrka).

West Bohemia was one of the regions where the Celtic culture developed at the turn of the early Iron Age. During the Celtic expansion most of the local inhabitants left and were replaced with newcomers. The settlement during the early Iron Age (the La Tène Culture 400–1 B.C.) did not correspond with the older situation. We have information about agricultural settlements only; no fortified location with a central function was established. During the subsequent period (the Roman period, approx. 1–400 A. D.) West Bohemia was populated by Germans. The area of today's town centre was more densely settled since long-distance paths were probably crossing the Radbuza and Mže rivers there. During the subsequent period, the Migration Period (approx. 400–700 A. D.), the density of population in the region was probably reduced. In relation to this fact, there is no proof of the oldest Slavic settlement in the Pilsen region.

According to the current state of knowledge, the beginning of the Slavic presence in the Pilsen region dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Farms grew in good locations in fertile sections of the basin; a fortified settlement was built on a sharp promontory above the right bank of the Berounka River during the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The early medieval settlement structure in the Pilsen basin during the 8<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> centuries suggests that there was a consolidated territorial unit which can be related to the Pre-Premyslid tribal elite. Violent destruction of the Bukovec settlement is probably related to the beginning of the power expansion from Central Bohemia.

The Premyslid dynasty gained control of West Bohemia about the mid-10<sup>th</sup> century primarily due to the fact that they took control of long-distance paths. The most important of them, the Ratisbon path, temporarily became the main route linking Western Europe with Lesser Poland and Kievan Russia in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. This path was politically highly important for the Premyslids. Regular journeys to Ratisbon were vital for the ruling prince, he participated in Imperial Diets and until 973 Ratisbon was a religious centre of the country.

A new fortified centre called Old Pilsen (the Hůrka settlement in Starý Plzenec) was established in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, probably quite shortly after the settlement near Bukovec was violently destroyed. The Premyslid castle was located on a sharp promontory over the right bank of the Úslava river, close to the route of the Ratisbon path. The first convincing evidence on Pilsen and the whole of West Bohemia being a part of the Premyslid state is a chronicle report about a military clash between Emperor Ota II and Prince Boleslav II in 976 near Pilsen castle.

Premyslid castle in Old Pilsen gradually became one of the most important segments in the so called castle system, and administrative system of princely Bohemia. Its basic segment was the administrative castle which was the centre of the region. Frequent inspections in castle districts by the ruler were important for proper function of the castle system; the ruler and his suite visited administrative castles, and therefore, he actually ruled from horseback. We have information about a stay of Prince Vladislav in Pilsen during Christmas 1109; with regard to the fact that the town was located on the Ratisbon path we could assume that the ruler visited it much more often.

A group of the most significant castles located by long-distance paths gradually gained more importance (Litoměřice, Žatec, Hradec Králové, Pilsen). The suitable location enabled fast development in consequence of which larger or smaller settlements were built around them and they are called early towns by modern historiography. Old Pilsen ranked among locations of this type before the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century already; information about the return of Bishop St. Adalbert to Bohemia in 992 mentions an unspecified market place in this location.

The premises of the early medieval Pilsen castle in Hůrka featured four sections comprising an acropolis in the highest part and two castle outskirts in the east and in the west. Under the southern slope of the promontory there was a fortified suburbium. The long distance path passed under the fortification walls on the northern and western side and crossed the river in a spot perfectly controllable from the castle. The structure of the right bank section of the agglomeration under the castle has not been researched sufficiently enough yet, however, we can assume that there were some scattered buildings, mostly secluded farms. A larger portion of the Old Pilsen agglomeration was located on

the left bank of the Úslava river on an area 390 x 340 metres large at the most. The settlement structure gradually developed along the route of the long-distance path.

The left bank section of the Old Pilsen agglomeration was located on the crossroads of significant long-distance paths, and therefore, it was pre-determined for further development. Archaeological research in Smetanova Street documented regularly distributed town structures extending southward from the centre of the left bank settlement. The existence of an institutional legal town in the left-bank section of the Old Pilsen agglomeration is confirmed by data from deeds originating from 1266 and 1273. The town must have been established before 1266 when it was still in the first phase of the construction according to the available data.

However, the specified location ranks among the unsuccessful ones. Archeological research did not bring any evidence of a longer existence of the located settlement. It is apparent that the abandonment of the original location plan is to be related to the beginning of New Pilsen in the 1290s. The decline of all the researched burgher houses bears equal traces of non-catastrophic departure.

The relocation of the town centre at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century took place at the time when the importance of Nuremberg was growing among imperial towns. This clearly corresponded with the intensity of traffic at long-distance paths. At the time when the northern Nuremberg path, which had originally ran from Old Pilsen to the centre of Pilsen basin, started being more frequently used, New Pilsen was established. Its location enabled a significant improvement and shortening of the Nuremberg path.

A new phase of development of the centre of west Bohemia started when the town was relocated about 9 km north-west to the eastern edge of Touškovská basin, by the confluence of the Mže and the Radbuza rivers. The newly established town was situated in a settled, fully agriculturally utilised countryside, in the area which the Nuremberg path used to pass through.

The establishing of New Pilsen is clearly dated between 1288–1300. The terminus ante quem is 1300 when a deed granting indulgences to those believers who come to the Dominican church in Pilsen on certain holidays was issued by Basel Bishop Peter. It is apparent that the town was established in the 1290s; the year traditionally given as the establishment of Pilsen is 1295. Village mayor Jindřich who was in office between 1296–1298, as per the available documentation, is rightly considered the locator of the town.

The new town was situated on a convenient, probably quite a flat area bordered with natural obstacles. The town covered a quadrangle whose sides were 460 x 430 metres long. The town featured a grid street pattern with a square located right in the middle. All streets in the new town were approximately 12 metres wide and the layout was very close to an ideal pattern. The extremely large square, whose original dimensions were 200 x 145 metres, covered an area of two large blocks in the central north-south axis of the layout; it covered 28,200 – 29,000 sq m.

The main routes did not pass through the town straight, but crossed the square approximately from the north-east direction to the south-west. Therefore, the north-east – south-west diagonal needs to be considered the traffic axis of the town. The most important traffic path ran through the Pražská (Prague) Gate and Pražská Street to the north-eastern corner of the square and continued from the middle of the western side of the square through today's Riegrova Street to the Norimberská (Nuremberg) (Skvrňanská) Gate. A specific feature of urban planning applied in New Pilsen is the location of religious facilities in the town. Both the mendikant monasteries were located in the least busy corners of the town, the Minorite monastery was in the south-eastern corner and the Dominican in the north-western one. The axis connecting the two monasteries created something that could be called the sacral axis of the town in the middle of which there was the town church of St. Bartholomew.

The intention to construct the town parish church of St. Bartholomew in the main square originated from the time when the town was established. In the early times of New Pilsen the Church of All Saints in the northern suburb played an important role. It is very likely that the new town was established on the territory of its parish. During the early history of the town the Pilsen parish priest resided in the presbytery adjoining this church while the newly constructed church of St. Bartholomew was a subsidiary one. The oldest evidence of its existence is a burgher donation from 1307.

It is beyond doubt that the intention to establish the two mendicant monasteries also originated from the time when the town was established. The Minorite monastery was allegedly established in 1297. The oldest part of the Minorite Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary is the oldest survived structure in New Pilsen. The construction of the Dominican monastery with the church of St. Spirit is mentioned as of 1300. The premises of both the monasteries expanded into the fortification zone of the town before it was enclosed with stone fortification walls in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. The expansion of the oldest monastery buildings into the fortification zone could be motivated by the effort to improve and reinforce the town fortification system which was only temporary at that time. The difficult beginning of the parish in New Pilsen and disputes regarding its function probably contributed to the great popularity of mendicant monasteries in the town whose churches were probably opened to public much earlier than the parish church. This situation provided both the monasteries with sufficient space to apply their influence and build the necessary respect. The popularity and influence of mendicant orders resulted in serious disputes with parish priests which are documented between 1374–1375.

The main line of the municipal fortification system respected the natural shape of the promontory which the town was established on. Bricked town walls were built only in the second quarter of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. They comprised the main town wall, outer bricked walls and a moat. The town itself was accessible through four gates.

Houses were also built in front of town gates probably as early as during the construction of the town. Like the town centre, these houses were built without any relation to older settlements. The Malické Suburb in the north was probably an exception since it was located on the site of an older settlement with the Church of All Saints. In consequence of the establishment of the town, the part of the premises close to the Mže river crossing was probably the preferred one, however, in the suburb the buildings near the Church of All Saints were built north and north-east of it. At the time when the town was established a so called Mill Race (Mlýnská strouha) was built along the eastern edge of the town; this artificial channel used to drive mills and other devices and reinforced the town fortification system at the same time. Draper's Rubbing Board (Soukenická valcha) on the northern side of the town was probably an artificial channel as well.

The most significant suburb, Pražské (Prague) Suburb, grew along the path to Prague on the eastern side of the town; this suburb boasted the most significant river crossings in Pilsen. Its central section, called the Hospital Suburb after the hospital with the St. Mary Magdalene's Church was located on an island between the Mill race and the Radbuza river. The settlement expanded along the main road to the right bank of the Radbuza. The aforementioned Malické Suburb featured more difficult topography. The suburb comprised an island between the Soukenická Valcha (Draper's Rubbing Board) and the Mže river which was located right behind the town gate and another settlement situated on the left bank of the river. It is likely that large, partly fortified farms similar to village strongholds were common in the Malické Suburb. The fact that this part of the New Pilsen agglomeration soon acquired "residential" features is documented by the so called Kunčín Castle, a small fortress north-east of the Church of All Saints. Another fairly large neighbourhood was the Skvrňanské Suburb in the western part of the town. The main road running out of the town to the north was crossed with streets which delimited the original fortified premises which had probably been extended already before the Hussite era. North-west from the main road, outside the town fortification system there was a Jewish cemetery dating from approximately the second third of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. We can assume that it had existed even before the expansion of the suburban development. The Litické Suburb on the southern side of the town was probably the smallest one of Pilsen suburbs. Litické and Skvrňanské Suburbs were frequently perceived as one area called a common name "ante civitatem".

When the town was established, 168 pieces of land were allocated to the town, however, a revision performed in 1320 showed that the town was actually using ten pieces more. They were kept with the town and taxed. The town as a feudal master acquired eight villages in the surroundings before the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and controlled also the property owned by the hospital of St. Mary Magdalene (established by a private foundation in 1320). Like in other Czech towns, Pilsen also applied two lines of municipal administration. The ruler was represented by a hereditary mayor who was in charge of jurisdiction. There was also a council comprising 12 councilors who could employ municipal senior officers. Pilsen respected the right of the Old Town of Prague and at the same time it was the appellate instance for Dobřany, Manětín, Mýto, Radnice, Teplá and Planá.

Due to the location of the town on a junction of significant paths connecting Prague with German towns, trade developed significantly in the town, a strong relationship was built especially with Nuremberg. The most important goods intended for export were beef and white Pilsen cloth. Another way how to earn living in Pilsen was craft (organized in guilds); about one quarter or one third of people in New Pilsen earned living purely by farming. Just before the Hussite era (in 1418) there were about a total of 226 payers in Pilsen (the number of burgher houses enclosed with fortification walls was 290; other houses were in suburbs); estimated population of the town was 3,500–4,000 people. Most people were Czech in Pilsen in the pre-Hussite era. We have documents of a Jewish community as of 1338 (Jews were expelled from the town between 1504–1533).

Even though New Pilsen was established as one of the last royal towns in West Bohemia it soon became very important. After a hundred years of its existence it achieved the status of the most important economic and cultural centre in western Bohemia and was considered the political and financial supporter of Czech rulers. Pilsen – a town with a distinguished political, economic and military status could afford to demonstrate a standpoint different from other royal towns.

At the beginning the idea of reformation of the Church was broadly accepted by Pilsen people. Hussite priest Václav Koranda senior worked in Pilsen about 1420; he even settled down in Pilsen presbytery and Hussites considered Pilsen to be a town supporting their movement. The Hussite leader Jan Žižka of Trocnov and his supporters spent the winter of 1419/1420 in Pilsen. After their departure in March 1420 there was a coup in Pilsen and as a result of that burghers opposing the reformation took over control of the town. Pilsen quickly joined the Pilsen "peace treaty confederation" (landfried) which became the most powerful anti-Hussite formation in Bohemia. During subsequent war years Hussites repeatedly attempted to occupy Pilsen – using force. They unsuccessfully besieged the town between 1427 and 1431. Their last attempt to conquer the town coincided with the peace negotiations in the Basel council; this time the Hussites besieged the town from July 1433 till May 1434. Hussites assumed that the occupation of Pilsen – a significant supporter of Sigismund's party in Bohemia – would bring

them considerable political advantages. However, the besiege failed due to renegade Hussite captain Přebík of Klenová who delivered supplies to the exhausted town through enemy lines in spring 1434. In May the besiegers resigned and went away. After their departure Pilsen joined the anti-Tábor coalition and participated in the final defeat of radicals in the battle of Lipany in May 1434.

Pilsen was richly rewarded for its faithfulness. In addition to several villages, the town obtained a golden bull in 1434 granting it a number of privileges; beside the existing ones it granted the right of custom-free trading both in the Czech Kingdom and in the German lands. The municipal farm flourished during the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century (as of 1500 Pilsen controlled 10 villages with a population of 116); the town took up economic activities at its own expense; they focused on fish breeding and beer brewing. The delayed purchase of the village magistrate and its subordination to the town council in 1480 brought significant funds to the town treasury and Pilsen self-government.

During the civil war at the time when George of Poděbrady was on the throne and during the first ten years of the rule of Ladislaus Jagiello, Pilsen – a strong and self-confident town – took a standpoint different from most royal towns. Strictly faithful to its Catholic orientation it stood against the Hussites during the short rule of Albrecht and during the interregnum. The town recognized George when he was elected, however, at the time of the growing opposition of the curia against the Utraquist ruler, Pilsen repudiated the King and when George had disputes with Matthias Corvinus, they clearly supported Corvinus. After the death of George of Poděbrady Pilsen recognized the new King Ladislaus Jagiello only after Olomouc peace treaty.

Royal towns and Utraquist noblemen found Pilsen highly untrustworthy due to the strictly Catholic orientation of the town. During the gradual transition of the denominationally split kingdom into an estates kingdom, Pilsen leaned towards the town estate after the Ladislaus' Land Constitution (1500) was adopted because the Constitution banned towns from participation in the country government. In 1502 Pilsen joined the military confederation of 32 Czech royal towns protesting against the new codification of the land law. In response to the establishment of the municipal defensive confederation, the nobility and knights founded their own association and started mutual political, economic and armed offensive. The disturbed situation in the Pilsen region was to be solved by the revived "peace treaty association" (landfried); all the three estates in this region concluded a five-year agreement on mutual prosecution of wreckers.

Knight Jan Bavůrek of Švamberk took advantage of the stirred atmosphere resulting from disputes between towns and the nobility; he declared revenge on Pilsen and brutally harmed the town and its inhabitants. In January 1507 Pilsen, together with other Western Bohemian towns conquered his fortress in Křínov, Jan Bavůrek and six of his companions were taken prisoners and Bavůrek was executed in February based on a resolution of the town court. This execution resulted in one of the greatest fires ever in Pilsen. The town was repeatedly set on fire in summer 1507 probably by Bavůrek's supporters; the fires badly damaged houses in the town as well as in suburbs. Moreover, in July 1526 another large fire destroyed the part of the town which was not affected by the 1507 fires. Nevertheless, the destruction of medieval structures enabled significant architectural changes in the town.

The 16<sup>th</sup> century was a period of cultural development; humanism was spreading among rich Pilsen burghers and book printing appeared soon. Pilsen Latin school contributed to the improvement of education level in the town (the school existed from the 1330s). Visits by the ruler, land officers and other significant people and institutions boosted up the cultural development and also the self-confidence of the town.

The 16<sup>th</sup> century also brought further expansion of Pilsen municipal property. Towards the end of the century the town owned a total of 27 villages with 244 settlers. Farming, fish breeding and beer brewing were the fastest growing fields in the town's-own-expense economics. In order to prevent excessive production, the municipal council regulated the amount of beer brewed by individual burghers by means of declarations issued at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> and during the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. This effort was aimed to increase the quality of Pilsner beer whose reputation was fairly bad in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

It is beyond doubt that Pilsen gained an economic advantage thanks to its standpoint in the Schmalkalden war. In 1547 Pilsen remained faithful to Ferdinand I and as a result of that it was not affected by large-scale confiscation and fines and no imperial representative was appointed to restrict the town self-government. Pilsen supported the ruler also in subsequent years; mostly financially. During the attack by Passau troops who were to intervene in favour of Rudolph II in January 1611 during a dispute with emperor's brother Mathias, Pilsen declared its loyalty to the ruler, however, actually did not support any of the parties.

In the first half of 1618 the tension between Catholics and non-Catholics developed into an open estate uprising which launched the long-term conflict of the Thirty-Years' War. Pilsen, in harmony with its long-term policy, supported the emperor. As early as 1618 the estate army led by General Count Arnošt of Mansfeld was sent to fight Pilsen. The town was conquered for the first time in its history following the general attack of the army on 21 November 1618. Mansfeld used Pilsen as his base (and a very good source of income) until spring 1621, i.e. for quite a long time after the estates uprising was suppressed in the battle of White Mountain on 8 November 1620. Mansfeld's economic requirements brought the rich town into deep financial problems. In 1628 Pilsen was the most indebted town in the Czech Kingdom in spite of the fact it was not affected by the post-White Mountain confiscation. During the Saxon invasion in 1631 the town was fortunately not

conquered, partly thanks to the protection granted by imperial troops which had to be fed. The last ten years of the Thirty Years' War when Swedish troops kept passing through the town had unfortunate consequences. In addition to unreasonable costs incurred in relation with the military troops and costs of renovation of the damaged town, Pilsen was also affected by the fact that it was repeatedly forced to preventively destroy its suburbs. The suburbs were not fully rebuilt after the war, and moreover, a large area where suburbs used to stand was taken up for the construction of a new fortification system. The easy conquest by Mansfeld's artillery showed how obsolete the town walls were. Repair and Baroque renovation of the fortification system started during Mansfeld's occupation of the town and continued till 1659 in three phases.

The consequences of the Thirty Years' War were tragic. The town was deeply indebted; in 1669 it still reported a debt of half a million of florins. At the end of the war one quarter or even one half of the houses in the town were abandoned; during repeated plague epidemics half of the people died; the flourishing pre-war production decreased significantly and a consequent decrease in the trade was obvious. Pilsen had to focus on agriculture as the best source of income. The number of serfs in villages around Pilsen went down by one quarter or one third.

In spite of the formal confirmation of original privileges, Pilsen lost its exclusive position of a Catholic town always faithful to the ruler and economically and socially it was on the same level as other towns (however, it retained a higher degree of self-government). The Thirty Years' War caused not only economic, but also cultural decline of the town, especially as compared to the lively political and cultural life in the previous era. Commercial and social contacts with Nuremberg were restricted and other contacts with the outside world were generally limited. Pilsen became a parochial centre for two centuries after 1648.

It took the town about one hundred years to recover from the war as regards its population and its economic performance. Crafts organized in guilds and agriculture were the basic elements of burghers' economy until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century; however trade with distant markets was revived in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and manufactory production appeared at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Pilsen gradually grew into one of the most powerful towns in Bohemia. The town itself revived the tradition of fish breeding, beer brewing and farming and newly took up iron production. The town bought several new villages to boost up its municipal farm and to substitute for the ones which had to be sold after the Thirty Years' War. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Pilsen was one of the most developed towns in Bohemia (it was stronger than České Budějovice, Kutná Hora and Hradec Králové); it was the metropolis of the Pilsen region at that time.

During the wars for Austrian Succession Pilsen was occupied by the Bavarian army without a fight in autumn 1741. Even after the departure of the Bavarian troops, a small garrison of their allies – a French troop – remained in the town until June 1742. Austrian troops camped near the town in September. During the Seven Years' War Pilsen had to pay a protection fee to the Prussian army. These attacks which took place in the 18<sup>th</sup> century did not endanger the existence of the town and did not have any catastrophic consequences for the economy of the town.

The town had to cope with internal crisis during the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the state had to intervene to solve the crisis. During the 1720s and 1730s imperial committees were repeatedly appointed and they were supposed to improve the municipal economy stagnating in consequence of the negligent attitude of the town council members. After an intervention of the renovation committee, the town of Pilsen retained only the most profitable economic activities – farms, breweries and ironworks. The first land reform – called raabisation significantly modified the Pilsen municipal farm; the reform introduced hereditary lease of land for peasants.

The post-war economic recession and slow consolidation influenced urbanism as well. Pilsen did not change much during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, houses built after the Thirty Years' War were simple, free of Baroque architectural features. Baroque arrived in Pilsen only after 1700 and by the end of the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century most houses were rebuilt or newly built in the Baroque style; the richest burghers had summer residences built to demonstrate their flamboyant lifestyle; these residences were built in suburbs where former dense development was replaced with gardens, orchards and fields.

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the population of Pilsen was finally approximately the same as before the Battle of White Mountain; the number of houses in the inner town increased to 312 in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and there were 142 houses in suburbs (which was still thirty houses fewer than at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century). Suburbs grew faster in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and as of 1850 there were 307 residential houses. Pilsen including suburbs featured slightly over ten thousand inhabitants in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Joseph's reforms and the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century significantly changed the look of the town. In the 1780s cemeteries were banned from the town due to hygiene reasons (around the St. Bartholomew's Church in the square, in the Dominican and Franciscan monasteries) and also the hospital cemetery by the Chapel of Mary Magdalene in Pražské (Prague) Suburb. In the 1780s the convent of the monastery of Dominican monks and Dominican nuns was disbanded (the monastery of Dominican nuns was established in 1708); the chapel of Mary Magdalene as well as the former hospital and the Church

of St. Roch were closed down and so was the nearby Chapel of St. Fabiano, Sebastian and Anna established between 1598–1599 in the northern suburb. Between 1795–1849 most of the town fortification system was pulled down. The town was surrounded with a green circle of esplanades; impressive buildings in the classicist style were built on the newly acquired land. In the inner town it was the square which went through a significant change; beside the cemetery, the Baroque ossuary, the town pharmacy and a renaissance school originating from 1591–1592 were pulled down, which was a great loss for the historic centre of the town. The skyline of Pilsen changed after the tower of St. Margarita's Church next to the closed down Dominican monastery was pulled down. Burgher houses did not go through any significant changes and as late as in the 1840s most houses had just one floor.

The town had streets repaired and a water distribution system and a sewage system built. Mayor Martin Kopecký took great credit for the development of Pilsen during the 1820s, 1830s and 1840s; in spite of the fact that he was appointed by the government (in 1788 a regulated magistrate was established in Pilsen) he showed diligent care for the town.

The enlightenment brought a stronger pressure on gradual Germanisation of the town which had been mostly Czech by that time. The German language was brought not only by teachers at public schools and by clerks at government authorities, but also officers of the permanent garrison from the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment or by Jews who were allowed to move into Pilsen again since 1820s. Pilsen cultural life was concentrated around grammar school teachers, educated Premonstratensian priests. The national revival fully arrived in Pilsen fairly late – during the revolutionary year 1848. However, 1848 passed fairly quietly in Pilsen, free of any revolutionary hysteria and the town remained loyal towards its ruler in line with its traditional attitude.

After the Kroměříž diet that was preparing a fairly democratic constitution was discharged a period of strong repression started in March 1849. Active participants of the revolution were persecuted and associations were put under the police control. Nevertheless, the revolution brought some permanent advantages. Serfdom was cancelled (in 1848 Pilsen controlled 30 villages), the judicial and political administration was brought up to date and its offices opened in Pilsen in the first half of 1850. As of 30 June 1850 the regulated magistrate was closed down and its duties were taken over by the municipal council.

From the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century till the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century the actual application of municipal policy was fairly continuous and consolidated even though the leading representatives and their political orientation changed in the course of time. It was a period of turbulent development when the town and its social structure changed. In spite of this we can find a number of points of contact in opinions regarding the development of the town, the town planning concept or the role of the municipality. As regards changes, the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the industry, the building industry, the school system and the community life developed were more important than the change of the regime in 1918 when new politicians took over the Town. The aforementioned continuity was partly disrupted during the German occupation and completely interrupted after the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1850 Pilsen boasted 640 houses and 10392 inhabitants; the town was encircled with gardens and as regards the town economy, agriculture and crafts were very significant which was apparent for example from rows of barns in suburbs. Fortification walls were mostly replaced with orchards and parks which enabled integration of the inner town with suburbs where new streets with rows of houses started to grow. The Saské (Saxon) Suburb, which used to be the largest one, was overgrown by the Říšské Suburb. In 1878 the town was divided into 5 districts – the inner town, the Saské Suburb, the Pražské (Prague) Suburb and the Říšské Suburb which was most densely populated and was divided into two sections. The Pražské Suburb started growing rapidly at the turn of the century in relation with the construction of railway workshops. In the 1890s the construction of residential facilities lagged behind the inflow of newcomers who settled in villages situated close to industrial plants (Skrvňany, Bolevec, Doubravka, Doudlevec) and which gradually merged with the town. Pilsen located some of its amenities in the neighbouring villages (a water treatment plant in Doudlevec, the main cemetery in Doubravka). Suggestions to merge some of the villages with the town appeared at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first villages were merged in 1924 (Doubravka, Doudlevec, Lobzy, Skrvňany) and others in 1942 (Bolevec, Božkov, Bukovec, Černice, Hradiště, Koterov, Újezd and temporarily also a part of Litice) when Pilsen became a town with a special status.

The development of Pilsen demonstrated in numbers is apparent from the table showing results of censuses in selected years. Immigration was the main cause for the growth of population – in 1869 only 9646 inhabitants were registered as citizens of Pilsen. Pilsen was situated close to the country border, however, most incomers came from various Czech regions and districts. This is demonstrated by a comparison in the number of people coming from the neighbouring – mostly German district – Stříbro (2003) and from neighbouring "Czech" districts – Přeštice (3910) and Rokycany (3560); and we did not mention villages in the Pilsen district where people spoke mostly Czech as well. The ratio of German inhabitants in Pilsen kept decreasing (in 1880 it exceeded 17%, in 1910 it was approximately 13%). A Jewish

Houses	988	1681	2410	3284	6451	11438
Citizens	25009	38883	68079	88416	114704	124339
	31/12/1869	31/12/1880	31/12/1900	05/02/1921	01/12/1930	01/03/1950

community was reestablished in Pilsen in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the middle of the century it comprised 41 families, the regional rabbi resided in Pilsen and in 1854 the construction of a synagogue was permitted; in 1856 a Jewish cemetery was established and in 1860 a Jewish school was founded. By the end of the century the number of Jews in the town exceeded 3000. No separate statistics of Jewish people was kept until 1921.

When four other villages were merged with the town in 1924, the number of houses increased by 1200 and the population exceeded 19000 which became apparent from the results of census carried out in 1930. World War II brought about deep changes. Out of 2,600 Jews deported to Theresienstadt in January 1942 only 112 returned back to the town. At the end of the war the community of Pilsen Germans was expelled (in 1930 there were 6782 Germans, in November 1942 there were approximately 6500 of them excluding the garrison and men who joined the army and travelled away from the town). The increase in the number of houses between 1930 and 1950 is partly attributable to the fact that some villages were merged with the town in 1942 and partly to the fact that there was a building boom after 1933. However, the number of inhabitants decreased (in 1930 the population of both the town of Pilsen and the villages annexed to the town at a later time exceeded 130,000).

Since suburbs developed very vigorously, it was necessary to create local zoning plans; actual development initiated a number of changes in these plans. For example, the train station was originally supposed to be located in the immediate vicinity of the town, by the Mže river. However, the railway ran further south and the Cheb and Železná Ruda railway lines were soon added to the Domažlice line. Several industrial companies were built in areas planned for residential construction (Škoda during the First World War and the railway workshops at the turn of the century). The actual layout of Pilsen was restricted by its geography (the river valley) and the location of industrial plants and railway lines. These aspects both restricted and directed further development of the town. A municipal building authority had to be established (1874) to deal with the agenda related to the territorial and constructional development of the town. A significant portion of maps and pictures used in this atlas was produced by this authority. After villages were merged with the town in 1924, a new general modifying plan had to be prepared (architect Vladimír Zákřejs, 1929–1932), however, this plan was relinquished after World War II.

Pilsen boasted great prospects due to its geographic location – traffic routes (the imperial road and subsequently the railway), coal deposits (near Nýřany and Břasy) – and also its traditional leading position within the region. The town started changing into an industrial centre in the 1850s and 1860s even though some industrial plants were built even earlier (the Municipal Brewery established in 1842). This initial stage is apparent from the plan originating from 1864: Pilsen is encircled with industrial plants. Many of them are food processing plants, such as Hýřův flourmill with the first steam engine (1856) or Popper's liquor company (1854); there are also tanning plants (Kohn or Leopold Levit & Sohn, both 1863) or companies producing consumer goods (safety match producer Neuburg & Eckstein from 1853 or the ceramic workshop of Tomáš Khüry from 1857). At the end of the 1850s the consortium of local businessmen established a gas company (gas street lights from 1860). New mechanical engineering companies were established – Valdštejn's Machine Works (1859–1860), Brothers Belani's Machine Works near Klatovská Street (1867). Towards the end of the 1860s a joint stock sugar refinery (1869), a joint stock brewery (1869) and a paper mill (1870) were built. In 1874 Pilsen boasted more than 40 industrial companies and the value of wholesale production was estimated to be 54 million florins as of 1870.

Pilsen became a railway junction in the 1860s and 1870s when three lines intersected there. In 1861 the first train of the Czech Western Railway company arrived from Furth im Wald; the railway line was extended to Prague in 1862. The southern section of Franz Joseph's line linked Pilsen with Česká Budějovice in 1868 (in 1870 extended to Vienna) and four years later the northern section of the same line linked Pilsen with Cheb. The Pilsen-Březno line connected Pilsen with Žatec and the north-Bohemian brown coal district and in 1876 with Klatovy and Železná Ruda.

The promising start was disrupted by crisis in 1873. Many companies were closed down or taken over by another one. Breweries and Škoda machine works survived and became the leading Pilsen industrial plants. After the railway was nationalized, railway workshops became the second largest employer in the town, preceded only by the Škoda works.

In 1869 E. Škoda purchased Valdštejn's machine works and during a few years he constructed modern steel works with Siemens-Martin furnaces and in the late 1880s he launched the armament production. The plant moved from confined space near the centre to a new location near the railway. Towards the end of the century a new bridge building plant, a power generation plant and a factory producing steam turbines and diesel engines were built. The company started establishing agencies in foreign countries in the 1870s, and in 1899 Škoda works became a joint stock company. It focused on the armament production. The war boom enabled the company to occupy an area originally intended for residential purposes. French company Schneider et Cie invested its capital in the Škoda company after the war. Successful conversion to a broad range of peace products including railway engines and electrical engineering items, capital expansion at home and abroad and the ability to contract large capital expenditure projects anywhere in the world enabled the Škoda company to become a significant industrial corporation. In 1939 Schneider et Cie left the company and after the German occupation Škoda was incorporated in the Herrmann Göring Werke concern. Several air raids were targeted at

the plant during the war, only the last one, executed on 24 April 1945, was successful. After World War II Škoda company was nationalized. The company significantly influenced the layout of the town. Large factories in the western part of the Říšské suburb and in Skvrňany and Doudevec which kept growing even after 1945 restricted the expansion of the town in this direction and slowed down the integration of suburbs located behind the plant.

Poor quality of beer inspired a group of Pilsen beer brewing burghers to establish a new modern brewery. New beer produced since 1842 using the method of bottom fermentation was introduced in the Prague market in the same year, in Vienna in 1856 and at the end of 1860s the brewery established its first foreign agency in Paris; annual production amounted to 108,000 hl in 1870. In 1857 the brewery commissioned a steam engine, in 1880 built its own shuttle train, one year later introduced electricity in the brewery and in 1899 built a bottling line. In 1898 the Urquell – Prazdroj trade mark was introduced. In 1913 the production exceeded one million hl (the same level of production was re-achieved only in the 1960s), however, in the coming years the production numbers dropped and foreign markets were lost due to the war. In 1869 competitors built a large plant of the First Pilsen Joint Stock Brewery. Its production was 270,000 hl of beer in 1913. Beer was produced under the Kaiserquell trademark and since 1919 the Gambrinus trademark has been used. Other quite large breweries were established in the vicinity of Pilsen at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A community brewery known as Prior was established in the village of Bolevec in 1893 and the Světovar brewery was established by Živno bank in Koterov in 1910. Production of beer kept growing during the interwar period and in 1929 the production was 1,239,000 hl which was still less than in 1913. Pilsen breweries merged in the 1930s creating a company called Municipal Brewery. The war significantly affected breweries; beer was exported almost exclusively to Germany and its quality kept decreasing. An air raid targeted at the Pilsen railway junction held on 17 April 1945 significantly damaged the brewery as well. A company called Pilsen Breweries was established in 1946 when the company was nationalized. The premises of the breweries were separated from the centre of town by a river and on the other side by the road to Rokycany. The plant did not expand into development zones of the town, however, along with the train station it formed a bottleneck which created an obstacle between the inner town and the Doubravka and Lobzy suburbs.

As a result of the act passed in 1882 the government took over the Franz Joseph's railway and the Pilsen-Březno railway and after the Czech Western Railway company was nationalized, the railway management system was reorganized in consequence of which the headquarters were named the Imperial Headquarters of the State Railway in Pilsen in 1896. This organisational structure remained fairly unchanged until 1949 having been interrupted only during the Second World War. The whole railway junction was renovated. The renovation started with a new heating plant, continued with a shunting yard, a new train stop in the Říšské Suburb and ended with a new train station which was the largest one in Bohemia at that time equipped with modern securing technologies. Large workshops of the state railway company were built on the foundations of the Czech Western Railway workshop. The railway junction was badly damaged by an air raid held on 17 April 1945 when 350 people died.

Pilsen industry included not only large companies but also smaller machine works, a large paper mill called Piette (since 1911 it was a part of the Neusiedelská a.s. concern that produced paper), several printing works, tanning workshops, building companies (the most significant building company was Müller & Kapsa) and food processing plants.

After the self-government was reestablished in 1850, František Vanka became the burgomaster (he held the office till 1861). In many ways he could take over from Martin Kopecký who was the head of the regulated magistrate. New streets were established in suburbs in the former gardens and the existing streets were extended. Hygiene was important (municipal street-cleaners were appointed, sidewalks were paved). At the end of his term Vanka had a local zoning plan for the Říšské suburb prepared and some streets were lit with gas lights for the first time. Entrepreneurial activities were on the rise at this time and peaked in the late 1860s and the early 1870s. Vanka's successors in the office, Jan Maschauer (1861–1868) and Emanuel Tuschnr (1868–1873), both ran their own business. Both of them went bankrupt – J. Maschauer in 1869, E. Tuschnr during the crisis in 1873. Maschauer came from a German family, but acted amicably towards Czech citizens of the town as well; this attitude was typical of the era of language utrakvism which was to end soon. Tuschnr was younger than Maschauer and was elected a member of the municipal council in 1861 representing the young, self-confident and radical Czech generation. This generation won elections in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> district in 1864 and since that time Pilsen was controlled mostly by Czechs. During the years of optimistic growth before the crisis in 1873, building activities continued in suburbs adjoining the town centre (new streets; in 1864 the race separating Rychtářka from the town was filled up). Pilsen became a significant railway junction which brought an advantage to the local production. With regard to the public health the town established a municipal swimming centre and baths (1870) and planned to construct a new water distribution pipeline which was not built because of the crisis. Opening of a secondary school in 1865 was a significant event for the town. Changes in the ratios of nationalities in the town are documented by the fact that the municipal theatre was rented to Pavel Švanda's theatre ensemble that performed Czech plays exclusively. In response to this, Pilsen Germans opened their own theatre in 1869 (the building was pulled down in 1977).

The crisis affected also municipal funds and required restrictions in expenditures applied namely by burgomaster František Pecháček (1873–1888). However, it was not a period of thorough stagnation. The system of self-government was brought up to date when specialised departments to deal with various fields were established (e.g. a building department which was important for the development of the town – 1874). High on the agenda were the following issues: roads and streets (roads connecting the surrounding villages, an iron bridge spanning Radbuza from 1888), schools (the town was divided into four school districts and several new school buildings were built), local zoning plans for individual suburbs were prepared and the St. Bartholomew's Church was completely renovated. The period of burgomaster Pecháček and his successors Karel Houška (1888–1889) and Josef Krofta (1889–1892) was overshadowed by the era of Václav Peták (1892–1917). During the time when he was in office the industrial agglomeration developed very rapidly – several municipal companies were established (a slaughter house, a water treatment plant and a power generation plant; a gas company was purchased and tram traffic was introduced in the town), new school buildings were constructed in all suburbs, new public buildings were erected (a museum, theatre). Czech nominees won the general elections in all districts in 1897 and Czech became the only official language. On the other hand the German minority became even more isolated and this situation did not change even after German representatives returned to the municipal council after 1919.

During the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Czech political life became more varied. In 1871 the Czech Political Association was established; however, an opposition group was formed inside this association and soon established their own Civil Club. The Czech National Club which united a majority of significant political streams except for socialists in 1893 was trying to settle the disputes. Laborers started to associate and subsequently became active in political life in the 1870s. They became more integrated in the early 1890s and their growing power and self-confidence was confirmed by the fact that they acquired the club house called Peklo in 1894 (the first one in Austria-Hungary) and that they succeeded in the imperial council elections; the group of the first social-democratic representatives in the council included also Karel Vrátný from Pilsen. Luděk Pík, Gustav Habrman and Antonín Remeš, who arrived in Pilsen during 1901, were the men who controlled the local social democratic policy at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The political spectrum became even more varied in 1897 when the national socialist party was established in the town. The agrarian party did not have much influence in the town itself, but it was stronger in the surrounding villages. Catholics or Realists were small political parties that operated in the town, but had no chance to succeed in the general or parliamentary elections. Due to the election system, the town hall was controlled by representatives of the Old Czech party and after the beginning of the century by the Young Czech party until 1919. The Imperial Diet elections ended with similar results. After the universal franchise was introduced for the Imperial Council, leaders of the social democratic party succeeded in the elections since they were elected in rural areas. The town itself sent representatives of the Young Czech party (1907 J. Čipera, 1911 František Lukavský); in the Pražské suburb it was a representative of the National Socialist Party, Václav Fresl, who won both the elections.

A significant change in the political atmosphere came after WWI. The majority election system was beneficial for both the socialist parties; a significant influence was also retained by the party related to the former town hall formation (the constitutional party, later called the national democracy). These three parties controlled the town hall during the whole inter-war era. The most significant representatives included Luděk Pík from the Social Democratic party and Matouš Mandl from the National Democratic party, formerly a member of the Young Czech party; the former was the Mayor between 1919–1938 and the latter was a Vice-Mayor. The transfer was smooth and fluent also thanks to the cooperation among leaders regarding national issues during WWI and namely during the coup in 1918–1919. As regards relevant features of the town administration the leadership was fairly consistent; the structure of the municipal authority and the staff did not change much (for example the director of municipal authorities František Kříž). The new leaders did not change the main elements of the concept of town development. This included regulation of rivers, construction of new schools, the effort to create Large Pilsen by annexing surrounding villages, completion of specific projects (construction of town spas, modernisation of the slaughter house etc.). Lots of attention was paid to residential construction. The development of the town was speeded up namely during the building boom in 1933–1940. Almost no support to the Czech Communist Party was typical of the inter-war period.

In autumn 1938 the municipal coalition broke down. To remedy the situation, the government appointed Petr Němejc, a government councillor. In 1941 he was replaced with Walter Sturm who brought a number of other German officers. In spite of repeated attempts to present Pilsen as a German town and give it features of a German town (plans to modify the square, to construct a German housing estate), Germans remained a minority group in Pilsen. On the other hand there was a number of resistance movement groups. During the occupation the political life was suffocated, activities of associations were highly restricted and no construction was taking place in the town. The importance of armament production in the Škoda company increased; the plant was a target of a number of air raids after 1943; most of which were unsuccessful. Some air raids at the very end of the war significantly harmed the plant and the railway junction. Building activities during the coming years focused on elimination of losses and after 1949 the town developed according to a completely different plan.

The life of associations and related cultural life was fairly continuous. It started developing soon after the fall of Bach's absolutism. One of the first and most successful associations was Hlahol (1862, ceased to exist 1962) which won a number of awards even in international competitions about 1900. Měšťanská Beseda (Municipal Association) (1862) was important for the community life; at a later time it was divided into the Craftsmen Association and the Civil Association. Pilsen branch of the sports association called Sokol was established in 1863. Supporting and educational associations for labourers were established after the 1870s; these included for example the Labourers' Association (1873). A number of associations were active in the field of culture. The Association of Beer-brewing Burghers ran the town theatre until 1857. Various club activities were concentrated around the town museum established in 1878 (in 1887 it was divided into the town historical museum and the town art-industrial museum). The ethnographic museum originated purely from association activities; it was established in 1915 by the Association of Antiquities Fans and the Association for Ethnography and Cultural Heritage Preservation (1911) which published an ethnographic magazine called *Pížeňsko* from 1919. There was a number of other clubs and associations such as the Association of Science and Czech Literature Fans (after 1933 it was called the Literature and Art Club LUK), the Association of West-Bohemian Fine Artists in Pilsen (1925), the Association for Chamber and Symphonic Music (1909) or the Pilsen Music Club (1937). Hus' Folk University in Pilsen played an important educational role (1919). The fame of the Marionette Theatre (1912) exceeded the border of the town. Sports associations became more numerous at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the first one was the Czech Cycling Club (1883), a branch of the Czech Tourist Club (1892), football clubs after 1893 (the first football pitch was opened in 1899) etc. A total of 290 associations were registered in Pilsen in 1905 (of which 50 were German) and this number increased to 874 by the end of 1937. Activities of associations were severely restricted during the occupation. After partial revival between 1945–1948, clubs and associations were destroyed when all of them were merged in one organisation called the National Front.

After the end of the Second World War Pilsen remained an administrative and industrial centre of West Bohemia. After 1945 the town grew not only by spreading over a larger area but also as regards the number of people. The population was almost 175 thousand in 1991.

In spite of local specific features, such as strong support to social democrats during the inter-war period and the stay of the American army in 1945, the Czech Communist Party became the strongest party between 1945–1948 like in other places in the country. The celebration of an anniversary of liberation of Western Bohemia by the American army on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May 1948 became the first demonstration against the regime; official reports spoke about several thousands of people participating in the celebration. This May event and another event held in September 1948 after the death of president E. Beneš was a response to the growing pressure of the regime on Czechoslovak people. Representatives of the newly established regime – the District Action Committee of the National Front which was controlled by the Communists – organized purges in offices, associations and political parties. Beside that, actual and assumed opponents of the regime were persecuted or even arrested.

While political trials peaked in the early 1950s when several court trials with Pilsen citizens took place, extrajudicial persecutions culminated in the mid-1953 after the currency protests held on 1 June which developed into demonstrations against the ruling party in Pilsen. Beside court trials during which at least 244 judgments were rendered, hundreds of people were transferred to jobs far below their qualifications and at least 193 families were expelled from the town; these mostly included former businessmen, politicians active before February 1948 and educated professionals from various fields. A group of radicals from the Municipal Committee of the Czech Communist Party used the demonstrations held on 1 June as an excuse for pulling down the monument to T. G. Masaryk situated in a square currently called after him. The monument returned to the site only in 1991.

At the beginning of the 1960s the atmosphere became less tense. In the name of "quiet de-Stalinization", a statue of J.V. Stalin was removed from today's Anglické (English) embankment which had been unveiled there in 1953. The change of climate was demonstrated by the behaviour of Pilsen university students during the May festival in 1966. Nevertheless, even during that time some people were persecuted or at least their life was made more difficult.

Due to a significantly conservative attitude of some influential officers who controlled the government bodies in Pilsen, journalists were the first people in Pilsen who responded to the new situation arising from the "Prague spring. However, after criticism was heard from some basic units of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, the Municipal Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party in Pilsen clearly stated its support to the revival process. A growing number of people who were not members of any parties joined the process – branches of KAN (the Club of active non-party people), K231 and other organisations were established in Pilsen.

During the invasion of the Warsaw Pact armies, Pilsen was occupied by the Soviet army, but for an unknown reason Soviet soldiers did not occupy the building of the Czechoslovak Radio Broadcasting in Pilsen so uncensored news could be broadcasted from there. Citizens of Czechoslovakia gradually put up with the presence of occupation armies; the last protests against their presence were held in Pilsen on 5 May 1969 on the site where a monument to the American army stands today and on 21 August of the same year on the anniversary of the arrival of the occupation armies. The process of so called normalization which

came afterwards brought about large-scale purges which affected the whole country and contributed to the subsequent economic, political and moral decline.

No opposition was established in Pilsen during the 1970s, not even after the *Charta 77* document was published. Catholic Church became the first dissent group in 1982 and remained the greatest enemy for the local power bodies until November 1989 in spite of the fact that other dissent groups were established in the course of time.

Actors from the Chamber Theatre were the first ones who responded to the events held in Prague on 17 November 1989; they joined the strike announced by their Prague colleagues on 19 November. Pilsen universities joined the actors soon and on 22 November a local branch of Civil Forum was established. The general strike on 27 November was allegedly supported by 70 000 Pilsen employees. In the second half of December 1989 a new National Committee Council of the town of Pilsen was established where the local branch of the Civil Forum was represented. After V. Havel was elected President students stopped striking as well.

The building and town planning development of the town almost stopped during the period just after the war. The primary task of the municipal self-government was to rebuild the town which was seriously harmed by the war (more than other Czech towns). Not only Škoda plant – one of the most significant "German" armament companies – but also residential houses were badly damaged. 7661 flats were uninhabitable in September 1945 and 3768 of them were damaged beyond repair. Permanent lack of flats lasted until the early 1970s which did not result purely from the war events but from the economic concept of the communist regime which focused on the armament and heavy industry where large funds were invested at the expense of all other fields.

Even though the leading representatives of the town repeatedly pointed out the difference between the funds invested in heavy industry and in residential construction at the very beginning of the 1950s, large scale residential construction started only in 1953 in Pilsen-Slovaný. Most flats were built in the 1960s when housing estates in Doubravka (1961–1967), Bory (1966–1969) and Skvrňany (1969-mid-1970s) were built. The largest Pilsen housing estate – Severní předměstí (Northern Suburb) – was built in three phases Lochotín (1975–1980), Bolevec (1975–1982) and Košutka (1982–1986). The construction of the last prefabricated housing estate in Pilsen (Na Vinicích) started in 1985 and finished in the 1990s. Large housing estates usually lacked public amenities; frequently there was one food store to supply an area where thousands of people lived. During the 1960s flats were also constructed within the self-assistance scheme when people associated in cooperatives; in the mid-1960s about one thousand of flats a year were built in this way. These cooperatives built houses in Bezovka in the Southern Suburb, Pod Záhorskem in Lochotín and Nad Týncem in Doubravka.

Public transport had to develop along with the growth of new housing estates where lots of people were concentrated. There was hardly any public transport shortly after the war since effort was focused on elimination of war losses and on problems related to the first phase of nationalization; it was revived during the 1950s.

The post-war development of the Czech school system brought a significant change to Pilsen when universities were established there. The first one was a branch of the Teachers' College in Prague (20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1945) and shortly afterwards also a branch of the Medical School of Charles University in Prague (16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1945). In 1949 a branch of the Czech Technical University, a school of Engineering and Electrical Engineering was established in Pilsen; three years later, in 1953, the school became an independent university.

Some cultural institutions also changed in the new political system after February 1948. The West-Bohemian Museum resulted from a merger of three smaller museums (the Town Historical Museum, the Ethnical Museum of the Pilsen Region and the West-Bohemian Art and Industrial Museum). Two years later the funds of the museum library and the district Čipera's library were united and formed a so called State study library in Pilsen. The West-Bohemian Gallery in Pilsen resulted from a merger of art collections originally owned by the Pilsen Gallery, the Art and Industrial Museum and the former Pilsen Bank in 1954.

Large-scale demolitions were carried out in the 1960s; a number of architecturally and historically valuable houses were pulled down in the centre of town. These included the old town salt cellar, the Central Hotel in Republiky Square or the building of the former barracks of the 35<sup>th</sup> infantry troop. Large-scale demolitions were also carried out in the area which is now called Pětatřicátníků Park where a new street was built. Other buildings were pulled down during the 1970s and 1980s. The building of the former German theatre or the Görgs' pub in Sediáčkova Street were pulled down. The neighbourhood called Rychtářka had to give way to a new road in the mid 1970s. Large demolitions in the centre of town were partly stopped after the town centre was listed in April 1989.

Even though the architecture during 1948–1989 was strongly influenced by the political situation and by a limited range of materials available in the market, some valuable structures were constructed. These include namely the building of the Czech Broadcasting Company in Míru Square in Pilsen designed by Václav Pavelka, Karel Tausenau and František Hurta and built between 1947–1956, or the building of an ice-hockey stadium in today's Štefánikovo Square designed by V. Urbanec, P. Janeček and L. Švábek in the second half of the 1960s. Architecturally valuable is also the building for the former Mining Design company with a restaurant in today's Pražská Street designed by Vladimír Belšán, Jaroslava Gloserová and F. Kozák. J. Gloserová

also designed the building for the Regional headquarters of the Czech Police in Denis embankment.

On the other hand numerous projects that were detrimental for the look of the town were implemented during the same period. A good example is the Cultural Centre in Americká Street which is too large and its design does not match the surrounding development. The building was designed by Miloslav Hrubec; his understanding of space became apparent also in other projects such as his idea to turn Chvojkovy quarry in Plzeň-Slovaný into Přátelství Park. After a new university campus was built in a so called Green Triangle in Pilsen-Bory students were moved away from the town which did not make much sense. One of the largest projects implemented in the 1970s failed completely – it was the construction of water reservoir České Údolí (Czech Valley) where swimming has never been possible due to poor quality of water.

When the political regime changed in 1989/1990 the town was very neglected. The new local government immediately started reviving it and eliminating the relics of the communist era. In spite of the intent to remedy the mistakes of their predecessors, some unfortunate decisions were made by the new local government. On the other hand the town was gradually getting rid of shabby facades and permanent road work. All houses in the centre of town were refurbished except for a few exceptions, and also the surrounding parks were enhanced.

The post-Communist political era brought about the revival of political and cultural life. Many political parties were established; various cultural associations or ecological movements started actively participating in the public life. Almost 125 thousand voters took advantage of the opportunity to freely elect their representatives after 42 years of the Communist government; most people voted for the newly established Civil Forum. This political formation obtained 68.4% votes in Pilsen which was the highest score in the whole country.

The issue of highway bypass of the town was finally addressed. Its construction started in 2001 after almost ten years of court trials between the town and ecological organisations which supported a different option of the bypass route. The bypass was eventually built according to the design supported by the town. The bypass including a tunnel under Valík Hill was opened in 2006.

The establishment of West-Bohemian University was an important event. The university has expanded from the original five schools to the current eight.

Due to economic changes after 1989 numerous traditional companies had to be closed down. The profitable operations in Škoda works were privatized and the non-profitable ones were closed down. On the other hand, new foreign investors arrived and brought new jobs. The town management responded to the situation by establishing the first industrial zone in Pilsen in Borská Pole where several foreign investors established their plants.

In relation to the growing economy and demand, many chain stores opened their supermarkets in Pilsen during the 1990s; at the end of the 1990s the shopping possibilities were enhanced with hypermarkets built on the town outskirts. Vigorous residential construction accompanied the economic growth during this period. The largest built up area was Sylván where the construction started in 1997 and the first houses were completed in 2002; this area was smoothly linked with Vinice housing estate. Other neighborhoods where the building boom was apparent included Doubravka near the main cemetery and Pilsen-Bručná. At the same time some people left the town and moved to the surrounding villages.

Several public buildings were erected in Pilsen after 1989. Some of the projects were rather questionable such as the Diplomat Hotel or busy roads crossing the town centre. Many other structures are praised highly by both the public and professionals. A new office building for the Municipal Authority in Pilsen 2 was opened in Koterovská Street in February 1999; the building was designed by V. Šmolík and V. Ulč. The latter architect together with R. Dragoun designed the building for the Hannah Company in Americká Street; the building filled up a vacant lot and perfectly matched the original development. The new fire station opened in 2004 is also interesting from the architectural point of view and so is the U Zvonu Hotel in Pražská Street.

**The development of town planning in Pilsen since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century till now.** The development of Modern Pilsen in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was closely related to the construction of industrial plants and railway lines. Representatives of the town attempted to regulate the development by means of so called local zoning plans. The first local zoning plan was made in 1854 and applied to the Říšské (today Jižní) Suburb; it focused on the future look of areas situated south and south-west of the historic centre of town where the greatest development was expected. The suburb eventually developed according to a plan by builder Jan Unger who won the competition for a new plan in 1859. After 1864 when the construction rules required that draft designs be prepared for all neighborhoods before the construction of new buildings started in undeveloped locations, local zoning plans were made for all remaining Pilsen suburbs and their parts between 1873–1883. All plans created so far had used the grid layout where blocks of houses were arranged according to the main streets running out of the centre. In places where several blocks of houses were left out squares were created as centres of the new suburbs. The new construction rules adopted in 1887 required that the town prepare local zoning plans for the whole town, including the historical centre. That was why the Municipal Building Authority prepared new draft local zoning plans for two suburbs and the centre of town between 1888–1895. The modified plans were probably incorporated in the general extension plan prepared for the whole town in the mid 1890s. Like in the past, the new plan expected the greatest development south and south-west from the historical

centre of the town, but the neighborhoods were designed much more generously than before. The grid plan was enhanced with a modified location of some blocks according to the route of ring roads which were supposed to link the most important development areas. About 1910 the Municipal Building Authority amended and extended plans for all three suburbs creating thus a new local zoning plan of the whole town – it was the first plan which took into account not only rational aspects but also the aesthetic ones. Authors of the plan dropped the grid plan completely and substituted it with a network of streets converging in new squares that boasted various unusual shapes. The unexpected development of the Škoda plant during the war disrupted the logics of the existing town plan. The industrial premises reached into places intended for residential neighborhoods and interrupted the route of two out of three ring roads that were currently under construction.

After four villages were annexed to the town in 1924, so called Large Pilsen was created and it was supposed to go on growing. The basic development concept – the first municipal plan started being prepared. The general modifying plan of Pilsen prepared by Vladimír Zákres between 1929–1932 has been the only municipal plan of Pilsen which was based on the principles of a compact town with traditional public areas – squares and wide streets. Zákres' traffic concept can be considered crucial; he designed streets without harmful interventions in the existing development and sensitively incorporated streets into

the structure of the town and the landscape. He expected generous development of residential suburbs in Bory, Slovany, in Doubravka, Lobzy and Skvrňany and also in Lochotín, Bolevec, Košutka, Vínice, Nová Hospoda and Borská Pole.

The development after the coup in 1948 was very detrimental, but the consequences became apparent only after some time. Authors of the new site plan, Jindřich Krise and František Sammer, were strongly influenced by the confident rules of functionalistic urbanism inspired by architect Le Corbusier. They suggested that Pilsen become a car manufacturing town comprising single purpose zones. These radical proposals required nearly complete demolition of the town centre which functioned as a multi-purpose organism; the existing development, except for the historic core of the town, was supposed to be replaced with wide streets and their junctions. This plan was not approved, but Zdeněk Tichý and his colleagues applied the basic ideas of this plan in a new municipal plan of the town of Pilsen which was approved in 1966. In the mid-1960s large-scale demolition of the town centre started and the pulled-down houses were replaced with wide streets running to the centre of Pilsen. The destruction gradually deprived Pilsen of valuable and necessary buildings, areas and parks and completely disrupted the traditional structures of the town. In the mid-1980s a transit road was built through the centre, along the Mže River; this road has

caused significant problems in the centre ever since. The new municipal plan prepared by J. Šesták, J. Glosr and their colleagues between 1985–1988 retained the idea of pulling down most of the town centre, and "enhanced" the concept with another transit road running from the brewery via Roudná.

After November 1989 most of the large scale demolitions were discontinued and historic buildings – recently planned to be pulled down – started being renovated by their owners. A new municipal plan prepared by Irena Králová, Emil Chochol, Milan Svoboda and others in 1992–1995 was supposed to respond to the new situation. The authors dropped some of the worst megalomaniac projects, however a number of disputable traffic solutions remained in the plan and the previously built projects were not questioned. Some positive modifications to some parts of the town have been carried out lately, however, we have still lacked a complex town planning concept that would improve the damaged town centre which has been the site of an unsolved urban conflict – fragments of a traditional town from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century mixed with an unfinished functionalistic concept. The centre is full of traffic. Every new structure makes the need of a general concept more apparent; a new concept which would not only be critical to the existing and planned busy roads, but would also enhance public areas and create conditions for appropriate construction or renovation projects. Such a concept should become the base of a new municipal plan of Pilsen.