



Economic development of the Bohemian Lands within the Habsburg Monarchy

Zdeněk Jindra — Ivan Jakubec a kolektiv, Hospodářský vzestup českých zemí od poloviny 18. století do konce monarchie [The Economic Rise of the Bohemian Lands from the Mid-18th Century to the End of the Monarchy], Prague: Karolinum 2016, 524 pp.

With this publication from the heads of the author collective, Prof. PhDr. Zdeněk Jindra CSc. and prof. PhDr. Ivan Jakubec CSc. we hold in our hands an extensively revised edition of *The Economic History of the Bohemian Lands From the Beginning of Industrialization Until the End of the Habsburg Monarchy*, which was published in 2006. This monograph contains the latest knowledge, extended footnotes and thus represents the most up to date work dedicated to the complex economic history of the Bohemian Lands from the middle of the 18th century to the fall of the monarchy.

The book is divided into seven chapters, where six are the main chapters and the final, seventh chapter reveals the background of the preparations of the political and economic elites for the independent economy of the future independent Czechoslovakia. The first six chapters are divided by subject into economic, institutional and legal fundamentals (Chapter 1), social foundations (Chapter 2), development of the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors (Chapters 3, 4, and 5) and finally Chapter 6, on the Bohemian Lands in the Austro-Hungarian wartime economy, whereby the reader finds the answers to practically all possible questions concerning the principles of the economy of the Bohemian Lands during the studied period.

The chapters are conceived so that the legal, institutional, social, trade, monetary and cultural aspects of the historical development intersect with the main theme of the monograph, which is industrialization. This then covers almost 200 years of complex economic development on the backdrop of national awareness and complex political struggle within the Habsburg Monarchy. At the beginning we see the very humble foundations laid thanks to national and cultural emancipation. Modern economic development in the monarchy starts slowly only in the second half of the 18th century, where after years of stagnation (a result of the drawn-out Napoleonic Wars and the effects of the French Revolution), conditions suitable for the development of industrialization arose. Towards the end of the observed development, we can already speak of the creation of the Czech economy, which includes agriculture, mining, industry and later its own banking system. It is necessary to realize that in the Bohemian Lands this concerns economic development in the broad context of an economically, politically and nationally very heterogeneous monarchy. A monarchy that had to face continually increasing pressure from national minorities on the one hand and the pressure of appeasing the interests of conservative elements on the other.

Projected onto this was also the geographic diversity of the entire region and unmatched natural resources. In this constellation, the Bohemian Lands became, together with Lower Austria and Styria, the most progressively developing countries of the Habsburg monarchy.

The team of authors, which consists of leading academic experts on economic and social history, managed to insert this development into the complex structure of socio-economic life of the Bohemian Lands in the period from the mid-18th century until the fall of the Habsburg monarchy. The result is a monograph that will be very useful both for students and for those interested in the history of this complex period and which at the same time helps in understanding the economic and social foundations from which the independent Czechoslovakia later emerged.

Jana Yasin

