Abstract – Settlement Desertion in Bohemian Borderland after 1945

The aim of this study is to analyze the process of settlement desertion and its importance in the settlement evolution. Changes connected with the settlement desertion are caused by various events, take place in different areas and periods with uneven intensity and extent. Bohemian bordeland is such example of an area, in which after 1945 changes connected with settlement desertion occured. Hence this work is only a case study based on the analysis of the settlement evolution in the above mentioned area and period.

The first, theoretical part of the study deals with the meaning of the word "settlement" and what does the words "settlement desertion" and "deserted settlement" stand for. In this discussion, the stress was put on the fact that every settlement is by and for human created place and unseparable part of any cultural landscape, a landscape unit.

Second part of the study deals with the evolution of the process of settlement desertion in Bohemian borderland after 1945, its regional differentiation and the changes in settlement system, that occured due to this process in the observed area and period. Using several written sources and regional studies, the evolution of about 4 000 units, of which about 800 perished in the mentioned period, was analyzed. The stress was put mainly on the causes and time of desertion of certain units, its localization and importance. Than the typology of Bohemian borderland according to the findings of the analysis was made.

Settlement desertion may be caused by both increase and decrease of the human impact on the landscape. Also its consequences are not always perceived as inevitably negative after some time. The process of settlement desertion is inseparable and natural part of settlement evolution. But its importance will always depend on the intensity of undertoken changes.

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