ABSTRACT
Konopiště manor farm estate in a modern age thesis aims to analyse a legal dispute between Franz Ferdinand d'Este’s children and Czechoslovakia. In 1900 Franz Ferdinand, successor to the Austrian throne, acknowledged his forthcoming marriage to countess Sophie Chotek would become unequal. As a part of the agreement, he consented that his wife and children would not inherit any property belonging to the House of Habsburg and they would also not be eligible successors to the throne. Consequently, a new house, called von Hohenberg, was established which Sophie, Franz Ferdinand’s wife, and their descendants belonged to.

Czechoslovakia was established after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In August 1921, Czechoslovakian lawmakers published a specific law whose provisions were derived from the Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye, signed on 10 September 1919. According to the Treaty, all property of the House of Habsburg was handed over to the newly established state without any compensation. While discussing the proposition in the Chamber of Deputies, deputy Theodor Bartošek came up with an addition, saying property of Franz Ferdinand’s children was confiscated as well.

An analysis of the Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye and the 354/1921 law-making process is followed by a review of every unsuccessful provision taken by von Hohenberg family in order to restitute or compensate their property within the state territory. Despite their repeated appeals to Czech courts, the Konopiště castle has stayed in the state’s property for almost 100 years.

KEYWORDS
manor farm estate, Konopiště, Hohenberg, Franz Ferdinand d’Este, Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Theodor Bartošek, history