

For historians Prague during the rule of Rudolph II is one of the most attractive periods of Czech history. At the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries, the capital of the Czech kingdom had become an important metropolis. The presence of a secular head of the Christian world attracted foreign diplomats, rich merchants, skilled craftsmen and artists from all over Europe.

For the Czech aristocracy, Prague represented a political and social centre and they built magnificent palaces. Heightened demands in lifestyle stimulated by the imperial court surroundings led to the acceptance of late Renaissance and Mannerist ideas. Although this related mainly to the wealthiest noblemen, it also concerned the less well-off members of the nobility who kept reconstructing their country houses into Renaissance chateaus.