

The operation of municipal offices and municipal administration in general was not a too popular topic in Czech historiography. Even this aspect of the life of Czech towns was strongly influenced by the persecution of Czech estates after the battle on the White Mountain and following processes with the gravity centre in the third decade of the 17th century, as well as by the direct and indirect consequences of military actions. Research in such area can also enrich our knowledge of many aspects of contemporary city life and contribute to a better explanation of such consequential phenomena as emigration and recatholicization. The municipal councils and municipal offices can often be named as *nervus rerum* in these circumstances.

To elaborate the problems of military influences on administration in the times of the Thirty Years' War fully is not possible without more detailed studies about the situation of particular municipal offices. This kind of research would enable us to compare several regions. But there is a lack of such studies. The way out can be found by using proper surveys of the situation of several towns. Such probes would outline basic tendencies and phenomena, or the key questions for the subsequent research, such as: a) the extent and structure of the bodies of municipal administration and municipal offices and their changes under the influence of military events; b) preservation and loss of archival material in the war (for example in fires during the state of siege), efforts to secure the most important documents (to entrench, to wall up or to hide them outside the town), problems caused by a loss of such documents; c) interruptions of the work of municipal council and office caused by the presence of garrisons, interference in the work by the military officers; d) the staff of the office and its changes, personalities of scriveners (their political and religious conviction, education, social status);