

The objective of this work has been to provide a comprehensive micro-analytical perspective on a small royal town in central Bohemia which has been influenced by its position in the landscape at the convergence of two of the most important rivers in the Czech Republic- the Vltava and Elbe rivers. The focus is on the years between 1618 and 1648, with considerable attention devoted to the developmental aspects of the pre-war and post-war periods. This has been made possible by the exceptional degree of preservation of the town archives, which in contrast to the archives of other Czech towns have not been affected by wide-spread document destruction or shredding. Consequently, the town has preserved for modern times a remarkable material legacy, literally offering the insatiated scholar an opportunity for detailed exploration. The analysis of these materials, primarily divided into books and official documents, has been the focus of attention right from the first chapter, supplemented by alternative sources that are housed in other locations in the Czech Republic. Subsequently, the reader is invited to observe the town of Mělník on the brink of a turbulent period, to become acquainted with its position, monuments, fortifications, the buildings within the town and in the surrounding areas, as well as its economic life, which is based on viticulture and the operation of enterprises on own properties. The reader learns about the interaction between the institutions in the vicinity, especially the constant expansion of construction by the castle nobility and the nearby suburban Augustinian monastery in Pšovka, for whom co-existence with the ideologically different and economically expanding town meant repeated and serious dangers, threatening the very basis of this venerated Catholic establishment.