

Abstract

Terezín is a special type of city, the origin of which was not determined by economic but by military reasons. It was founded in the 18th century as a fortress town and became the seat of a military garrison (which, except for the Second World War, resided here until the 1990s). Terezín was located in a mixed German-Czech area and, after the secession of the Sudetenland, found itself on the very border with the Third Reich.

The construction of the city at the end of the 18th century, including its significance and later the history of the Jewish ghetto, is the subject of many historical works. But the period of the end of the monarchy and the first republic in Terezín is still waiting for greater historical research.

The starting point of my work is the gradual transformation of the city during the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, depending on how the strategic importance of the city as a military fortress changed. Shortly after its completion, Terezín began to become morally and technically obsolete. The rapid development of new weapons systems, and especially the development of war techniques, when numerous units with rear security could move by rail, and armies became much more mobile, all this determined the further development of the city. The stationary fortress could be bypassed and thus lost its original significance. On the other hand, it would be a shame not to use this huge investment, its purpose-built buildings, and so Terezín remained a garrison town and was used as an ammunition depot and a warehouse for other military equipment.

The change in the purpose of the city meant a change in the population, its partial civilization. During the monarchy, the city was predominantly German. As it was located in the mentioned mixed area, there could also be ethnic conflicts between the Germans and the Czechs. Therefore, in my work I will examine whether Litoměřice, which is located nearby and was a strong German center, could have had an influence here. Or how did the *Národní jednota severočeská* work here?

The history of Terezín during the Great War, including the fate of the Terezín garrison, will be connected with the above-mentioned change of purpose. The establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic again meant a number of changes for Terezín. It was mainly a change of military garrison and gradual Czechization of the city. In addition, Terezín was threatened with a name change because it referred to the Habsburg dynasty.

The basic research questions that I will try to find answers to will be: What influenced the military garrison? How did the city's economy work in the period under review? How was the political life organized in the city? How has the life of the associations changed in relation to national conditions? What were the schools like in the city? How has ethnicity been reflected in ecumenical affairs? And possibly others would be arising during the analysis of the source material.