

Stadt im Wandel / Towns in Change. Der Donau-Karpatenraum im langen 18. Jahrhundert / The Danube-Carpathian Area in the Long 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Edited by Mathias Beer, Harald Heppner, and Ulrike Tischler-Hofer.

Neue Forschungen zur ostmittel- und südosteuropäischen Geschichte / New Researches on East Central and South East European History / Recherches nouvelles sur l'histoire de l'Europe centrale et orientale 13. Berlin: Peter Lang, 2023. 456 pp. <https://doi.org/10.3726/b20613>

Mária Lengyel 

Doctoral School of History, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, 6–8 Múzeum körút, 1088 Budapest, Hungary; [lengyel.maria@btk.elte.hu](mailto:lengyel.maria@btk.elte.hu)

The papers in this volume are based on the proceedings of two international conferences held in 2021. *Stadt und Zukunft. Europa und sein Südosten im 18. Jahrhundert / Town and Future. Europe and its Southeast in the Eighteenth Century*, was organized by the Society for Eighteenth Century Studies on South Eastern Europe, the Austrian-, Slovenian- and Hungarian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. The second conference, called *Fenster zu "Neuen Zeiten:" Die Stadt im Wandel des langen 18. Jahrhunderts im Donau-Karpaten-Raum*, was organized by the Commission for the History and Culture of the Germans in South-Eastern Europe. The volume's editors are Mathias Beer, who covers the history of migration from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, Harald Heppner, who researches transformation processes in Southeastern Europe since the eighteenth century, and Ulrike Tischler-Hofer, who studies transcultural phenomena in Southeastern Europe from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.

The German and English language studies in the volume examine changes in urban space in the Danube–Carpathian region during the long eighteenth century. The region includes present-day Eastern Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Western Romania, Northern Serbia, Northern Bosnia, and parts of Slovenia and Croatia. The volume is divided into four major thematic units, each exploring a specific change and its associated problems in urban space. There is information on the development of cities in the eighteenth century, as well as on historical issues of specific

cities. Insights into urban administration and life courses can also be gained through guilds and various social groups of the towns.

The first thematic unit of the volume is titled “Change in Urban Space”. In the first essay of the block, Christian Benedik (Graphic Art Collection of the Albertina, Vienna) examines what constituted beauty in cities during the early modern period, and how cities underwent changes. It also provides an insight into the image of contemporary Vienna and the development of the cities of the Habsburg Monarchy as seen by Friedrich Wilhelm Taube, an educated eighteenth-century traveller. Eleonóra Géra (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest) discusses the changes in public healing in Buda, outside the imperial city. In addition to healing and hygiene, the author explores the services associated with baths during the period. The text also gives an overview of the visitors to the Buda baths and the modified clientele after the expulsion of the Turks. Greta Monica Miron (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca) presents a city with a unique function, using the example of Blaj, a Transylvanian episcopal town. She describes the decision-making process and how the decision-makers influenced the city’s development, architecture, and social structures, and how these made the city an episcopal seat. Filip Krčmar’s study (Historical Archive of Zrenjanin) focuses on a memoir of Serbian military officer Simeon Pišćević, providing insights into the cities of Central and Western Europe, their urban culture, and their inhabitants’ way of life during the eighteenth century. Written by Ulrich Becker (Universalmuseum Joanneum, Graz), the final paper in the block focuses on Graz and its suburbs. It uses the example of *suburbia* to illustrate the problems and changes that occurred at the time.

The second block, titled “Change in Urban Society,” comprises five papers. Each of them illustrates the changes that occurred in the eighteenth century through the examples of different communities. Eleonóra Géra’s case studies demonstrate the complexity and ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of Buda guilds. Karl-Peter Krauss (retired from the Institute of Danube Swabian History and Regional Studies in Tübingen) also focuses on the guilds. However, he takes a historical anthropological approach to the journeymen settled in the Kingdom of Hungary. Krauss also uses case studies to illustrate how the journeymen managed to integrate into established local structures. Luka Vidmar (Milko Kos Historical Institute, Ljubljana) presents the history of the ecclesiastical and secular societies of eighteenth-century Ljubljana, focusing on their cosmopolitan and multilingual nature and their wide network of contacts. Nenad Ninković (University of Novi Sad) takes us from Carniola to the Serbian territory. Here, we learn about the significant social role of the Karlowitz bishopric and the Serbian Orthodox Church, particularly in education, under the influence of the baroque and the enlightenment. Written by Rudolf Gräf (Institute of Social and Human Sciences, Romanian Academy of

Sciences, Sibiu), the final essay in this block takes us on a journey to the mountain towns of the Banat. It examines industrialization and the social and cultural impact of German settlers on the Banat.

The longest thematic unit, "Change in the Public Space of the City," comprises eight studies that explore problems of contemporary public administration. They use various methods, including case studies and network analysis. In the first paper, Eva Kowalská (retired from the Historical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava) discusses the daily life of different denominations in the royal and mining towns of Upper Hungary, and their conflicts. As shown, the ethnic, social, and religious diversity of the region often led to disharmony. István H. Németh (National Archives of Hungary, Budapest) focuses on changes in urban administration and self-government during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, as well as the emergence of a new elite in the free royal towns. Andor Nagy (Károly Eszterházy Catholic University, Eger) analyses the network of relations of Saxon officials in Brasov. He investigates whether officials with relatives in prominent and influential positions had a better chance of obtaining higher positions. Harald Roth's (German Cultural Forum for Central and Eastern Europe, Potsdam) study traces the history of the Saxons living in Transylvania in the eighteenth century. He shows how Austrian rule affected the Saxons in Transylvania and their relationship with the local Romanian population. Vanja Kočevár (Milko Kos Historical Institute, Ljubljana) sheds light on changes in the representation of the monarchy by showing Emperor Charles VI's 1728 procession to Ljubljana and the homage he paid to his subjects. The focus of the study is mainly on representation in the town's public spaces. Peter Mario Kreuter (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg) gives an insight into administration of Oltenia/Lesser Wallachia through the life and work of Gheorghe Cantacuzino and Nicola de Porta. Tanja Žigon (University of Ljubljana) presents the late modern Ljubljana press and its changes, demonstrating how the periodicals became vehicles for the transfer of knowledge and culture. Mihai Olaru (New Europe College, Bucharest) presents the process of the separation of the public and private spheres in Wallachia, using several quotations from charters, regulations, and ordinances.

The last block of the volume, "Change in the Private Sphere of Urban Space," begins with a study by Márta Velladics (National Heritage Protection and Management Ltd., Budapest) that uses the example of the Harruckern Castle in Gyula to illustrate the multifaceted functions of castles and manor houses in the eighteenth century. These structures served not only as the residence of the lord of the manor but also as archive, prison, county and town centre. Ádám Hegyi (University of Szeged) examines the relationship between the Reformed Church and the inhabitants of the free royal towns in Novi Sad, Szeged, and Timișoara. The study explores several aspects

of their coexistence during eighteenth century urbanization. Sandra Hirsch (West University, Timișoara) explores the private sphere of urban life, including eating habits and daily routines in the Habsburg Banat, shedding light on the food and household utensils of its inhabitants, as well as what was considered a luxury and the types of goods traded. Marko Štuhec (University of Ljubljana) discusses the influence of various cultures on Carniolan cities. The article explores how the aristocratic elite of a semi-peripheral province adopted innovations from Vienna, the Ottoman Empire, France, and Italy in their own homes. The last essay in the volume is written by Dušan Kos (Milko Kos Historical Institute, Ljubljana). It provides an insight into the concepts of health, physical and mental well-being, and the prevention and treatment of certain diseases in eighteenth century Habsburg provinces, particularly in the capital of Carniola. The study focuses on Franz Heinrich Baron Raigersfeld and his family, as their diary, that they kept over several decades, contains a wealth of relevant information.

The authors of the studies are renowned researchers/historians of the Danube–Carpathian region, which lies between the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire, and which is special due to its unique political, economic, and cultural character. To illustrate and deepen the understanding of the essays, the volume contains pictures, tables, and maps, and many of the papers also have quotations from the original sources. The different scholarly approaches add to the variety of the studies and provide useful new information for researchers. *Stadt im Wandel / Towns in Change* can help us obtain a deeper understanding of the complexities and unique nature of East Central and Southeastern Europe in the long eighteenth century.

