

Abstract

The diploma thesis „The Economic and Cultural Development of the Township of Lhenice in the 19th Century“ examines the transformation of life in the township of Lhenice during the so-called long 19th century, a period marked by the beginning of modernity, the industrial revolution, urbanization, the rise of nation states, nationalism and the struggle for national identity, and the ongoing National Revival in the Czech lands. The analysis focuses on key aspects of economic changes, such as changes in agriculture, the development of crafts and industry, and the decline of the market system, as well as on cultural changes, such as the emergence of organised social life or the background to public festivals or other celebrations. The study reveals how the local economy responded to economic development and its challenges and technological advances, how the local community dealt with the gradual institutionalization of poverty and the poverty question in general, and how the whole society was affected by the broader socio-political changes in the Austrian monarchy and the Czech lands. The research also includes a sociological analysis of how the structure of society has changed, particularly in relation to the development of education and educational opportunities. Finally, the thesis highlights the importance of local history for understanding broader historical trends and processes, i.e. how a small regional town can reflect and reflect (or vice versa) larger social changes taking place not only in its immediate surroundings but also in the larger, national whole.