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# Czech borderland after expulsion: Two South Bohemian landscapes with a contrasting development

Dissertationsprojekt (ČVUT Prag)

The expulsion of the Germans struck a significant part of the area of the Czech lands. Regions with a settlement network that developed over centuries underwent a radical demographic change, which influenced not only the appearance of settlements but also the overall land use. Due to the extent of the areas affected by the displacement, it was not possible to leave them fallow, therefore the resettlement mainly by inhabitants of Slavic nationalities began almost immediately. However, the peripheral regions, often in the mountains, without employment opportunities and quality amenities, were never fully repopulated and even today, they are at their population minimum. Moreover, the transformation of the border landscape after the communist coup was amplified by the construction of the Iron Curtain, which for several decades made further development in the immediate vicinity of the border virtually impossible. Nevertheless, the story of all peripheral localities touched by the displacement cannot be considered the same. This paper will present two case studies from southern Bohemia: Kvilda (Aussergefild) and Cetviny (Zettwing), whose almost entire population had to leave in the aftermath of the Second World War. While Kvilda, a settlement originally focused on forestry and the related industry, was transformed into a popular mountain resort, the Cetviny area stagnated already before the war due to the absence of primary raw materials and today, it's a deserted landscape.

The analysis of the landscape transformation and its driving forces was based on the study of publically accessible archival maps, aerial surveys and complementary visual resources such as postcards or photographs. The observations were then assessed during a field trip and supported by descriptions found in the local chronicles or demographic records.

The project is part of the author's dissertation thesis focused on the research of the identification of relics of the historical cultural landscape and the methods of its conservation. The author is primarily interested in organically evolved landscapes in peripheral regions, specifically in the south Bohemian borderland. Eventually, she aims to create among other things a cross-border inventory of the historical cultural landscape values for several study areas divided by the Iron Curtain with originally German-speaking minority on both sides of the border.

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