

# Development and actual status of measures in the field of protected areas in the Czech Republic.

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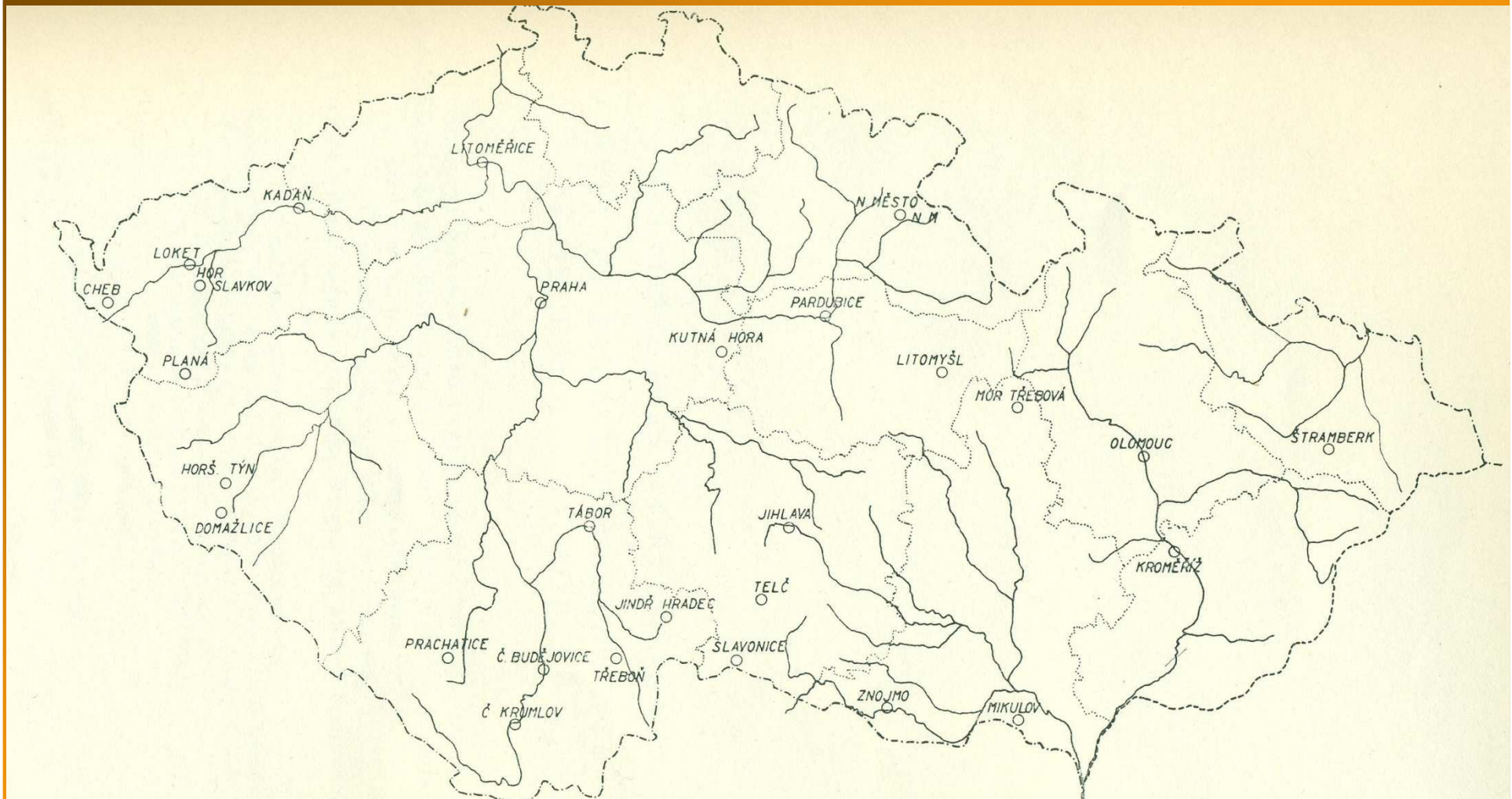
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Old Town Square in Prague, during and after the bombing in 1945

The Second World War hit the Czech lands to a lesser degree than it did the surrounding countries, nevertheless war damages enhanced an awareness of the value of the historic towns.

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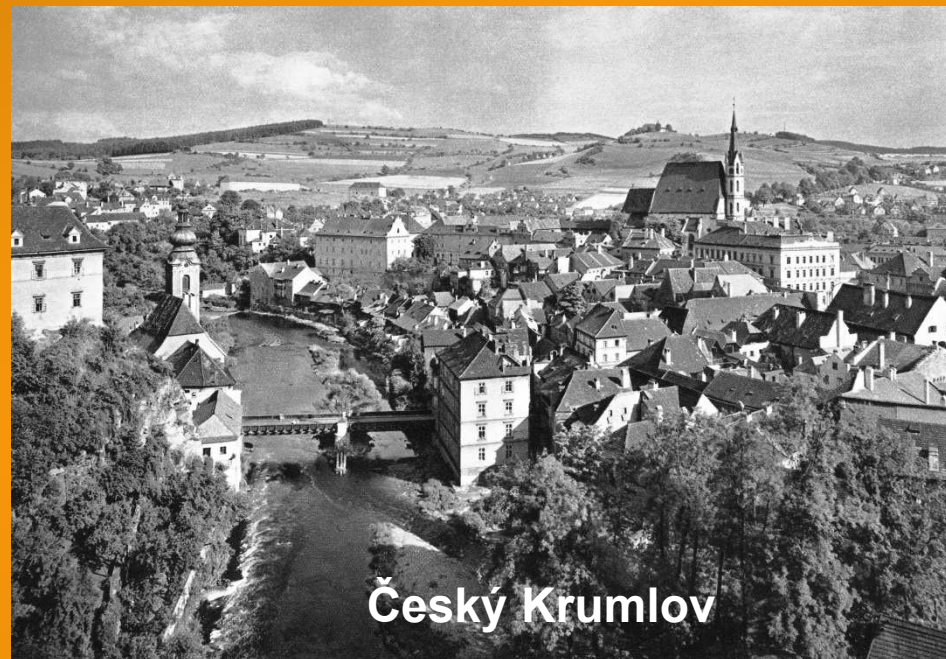


In 1950 30 historical towns in Czechoslovakia was announced as urban heritage areas with the goal of their comprehensive renovation during the decade of 1950–1960.

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Cheb



Český Krumlov

The most significant event for the care of historical monuments in this period was the resolution of the new law, Act. No. 22/1958 Coll., on cultural heritage, which defined protected urban heritage areas (previously designated as areas to be reconstructed in 1950–1960). The most significant project of urban rehabilitation in this period took place in the historic centre of the town Cheb, followed by rehabilitation of the historic centre of the town Český Krumlov, which was later (1992) listed as World Heritage Site.

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In Prague, this period saw the execution of a number of important projects at Prague Castle (renovation of the St. George Basilica, the St. Václav chapel of the St. Vitus Cathedral, the northern wing of Prague Castle with its installation of the Gallery), the rehabilitation of the Charles University complex and western facade of the Emmaus Monastery were completed.

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Town Beroun - typical example of urban heritage zone with less comprehensive historic core and a greater proportion of modern architecture.

In 1973 the Czech government passed resolution No. 25 on the concept of the further development of national heritage care and the categorization of cultural heritage. In addition to the urban heritage areas a second form of protection for other historical towns was established, later named urban heritage zones. Subsequently 137 urban heritage zones were declared.

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In 1984 the number of 35 urban heritage areas was extended to include Plzeň, Kolín, Brno, Lipník nad Bečvou and Přebor for a total of 40 areas, and another 160 towns were declared urban heritage zones. In 1987, the Czech state approved the new heritage law No. 20 on national heritage care, which in addition to urban heritage areas and zones introduced heritage zone categories for villages as well as selected landscape areas. It was also possible to establish a buffer zone around heritage areas and zones.

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WHS - Prague

Telč

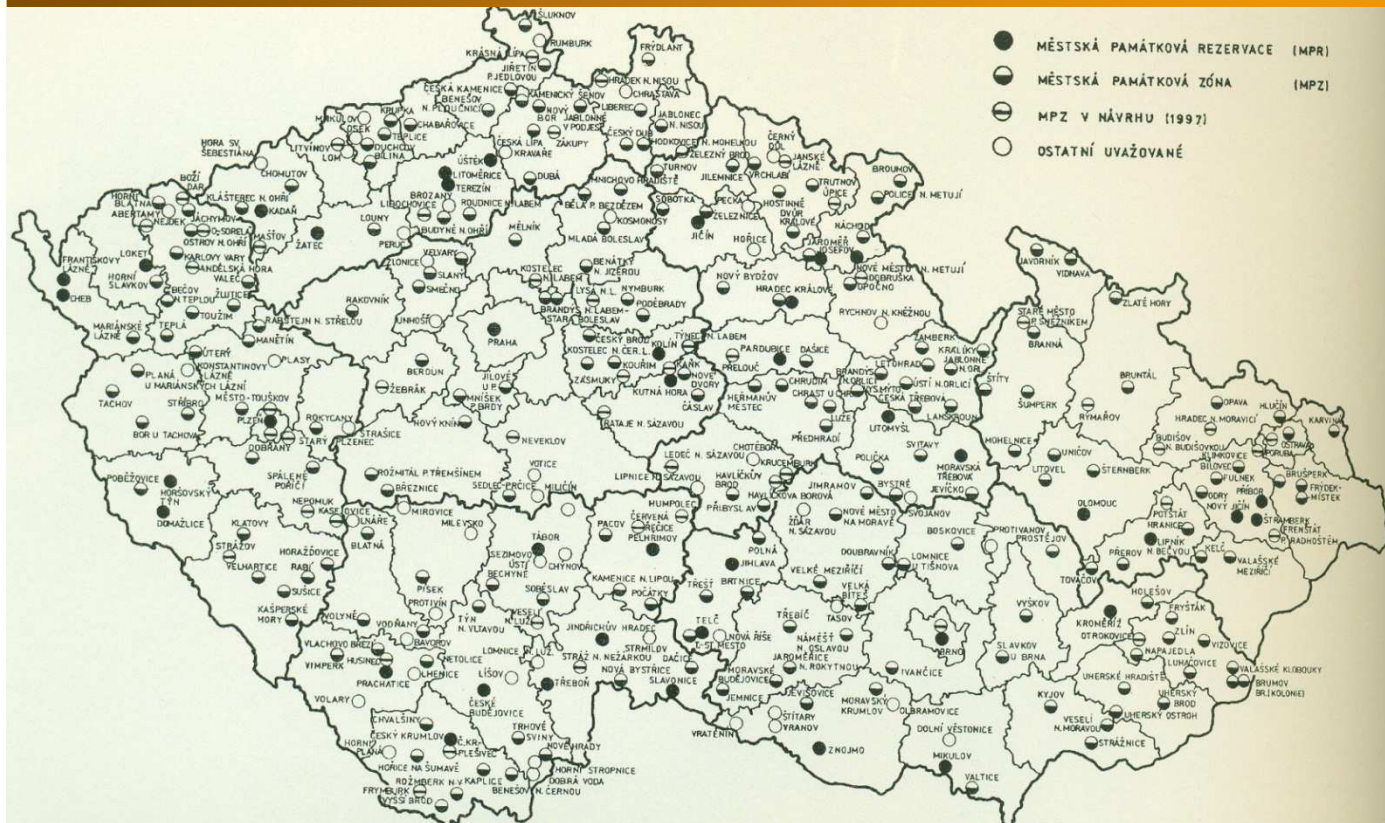
Český Krumlov

Kutná Hora

The November Revolution of 1989 meant the end of the forty-year totalitarian regime and fundamental social changes, a primary one being the transformation from a centrally run economy to a market economy based on private ownership and business activities – this all became markedly clear in the towns and cities. In January of 1993, Czechoslovakia split into the Czech and Slovak Republics. The cornerstone of national heritage in the Czech Republic remained Act No. 20/1987 Coll. on national heritage care, with later amendments. In 1990, Czechoslovakia acceded to the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and 12 monuments and complexes were gradually accepted as World Heritage Sites, 5 of them the historical towns of Prague, Český Krumlov, Telč, Kutná Hora and village Holašovice.



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The map of urban historical areas nad zones in the Czech Republic to the year 1997

The protection of historical towns has been remarkably extended. It includes currently 40 urban heritage areas and 254 urban heritage zones. In the total number of 1180 historical towns and cities it is protected approximately one fourth of them. It is also protected 61 rural heritage areas and 211 rural heritage zones.

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World Heritage Site - Rural heritage area, village Holašovice.

Together with other urban-regulatory instruments such as land use plans, regulatory plans, plans of conservation and special financial grants provided by Ministry of Culture these instruments can provide a relatively efficient platform to protect valuable urban and rural ensembles in the Czech Republic

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**Announcement of the competition for the best results of regeneration of urban historical areas and zones in the Spanish hall of the Prague Castle - 2012.**

**Long term process of the work in the field of protected areas affected the image of the historical towns. Important role in this process play also NGOs. Between them excel in activities Association on the historic town and cities of the Czech Republic. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, ICOMOS and National Heritage Institute, the association organize an annual competition for the best regeneration of urban heritage areas and urban heritage zones. The results of this competition are officially announced annually in the state rooms of the Prague Castle.**

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It does not mean that there are no problems in the process of regeneration of historic towns , cities and villages in the Czech Republic. We know them all in details well. We are still facing bureaucratic problems, lack of funds, the difficulties with law enforcement etc. ... But in the basic principles there is space for positive work in the field of care for historic urban ensembles.

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Thank you very much for your attention  
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