

# Cartographic image of city planning

## The Silesian series Historical Atlas of Polish Towns and historical and contemporary spatial planning

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Spatial planning appears as a topic in the Silesian Atlas of Historical Cities many times<sup>1</sup>. Firstly, spatial planning is itself the subject of historical analysis in the textual part and cartographic analysis in the illustrative part of the Atlas.

The Atlas authors team considers the analyzed medieval urban complexes to be the obvious results of conscious spatial planning. This process concerned choosing the location of the city due to natural, social and economic factors. The awareness of this selection process is easy to prove by means of preserved documents describing both the process of location itself and the effects of this location. The planning concerned the city space itself, the choice of location for the most important public buildings (parish church), the method of linking a given center with the existing defensive and residential premises, the location of city gates in the perimeter of the city walls, the size and location of the public square - the market square. The most important element related to spatial planning combining social and spatial factors was parcelling - assigning new townspeople places to bring houses. This process, widely discussed in the literature, and often idealized, also has its reference in the content of the plans presented in the Historical Towns Atlases<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Historical Atlas of Polish Towns , Vol. IV: Śląsk, ed. Młynarska-Kaletynowa, M. fasc. 1 (2001)- 17 (2017).

<sup>2</sup> The most important reference texts for this subject are by J. Pudełko, cf. Pudełko, J. Próba pomiarowej metody badania planów niektórych miast średniowiecznych w oparciu o zagadnienie działki [Archeometrical methods in town-plan analysis on the evidence of plot patterns], *"Kwartalnik Architektury i Urbanistyki"* [Quarterly of Architecture and Urban Studies] 9 (1964), 1, pp. 3–27. Continuation can be found in works by Małgorzata Chorowska and Czesław Lasota. See: Chorowska, M. Kształtowanie się działek przyrynkowych w XIII–XV w. na bazie kurii lokacyjnej o wymiarach 60 x 120 stóp [Development of land at the market square from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century, based on the size of the primary plot ('curia') 60 x 120 feet], [in:] Atlas historyczny miast polskich [Historical Atlas of Polish Towns] IV, 1: Wrocław. 2001

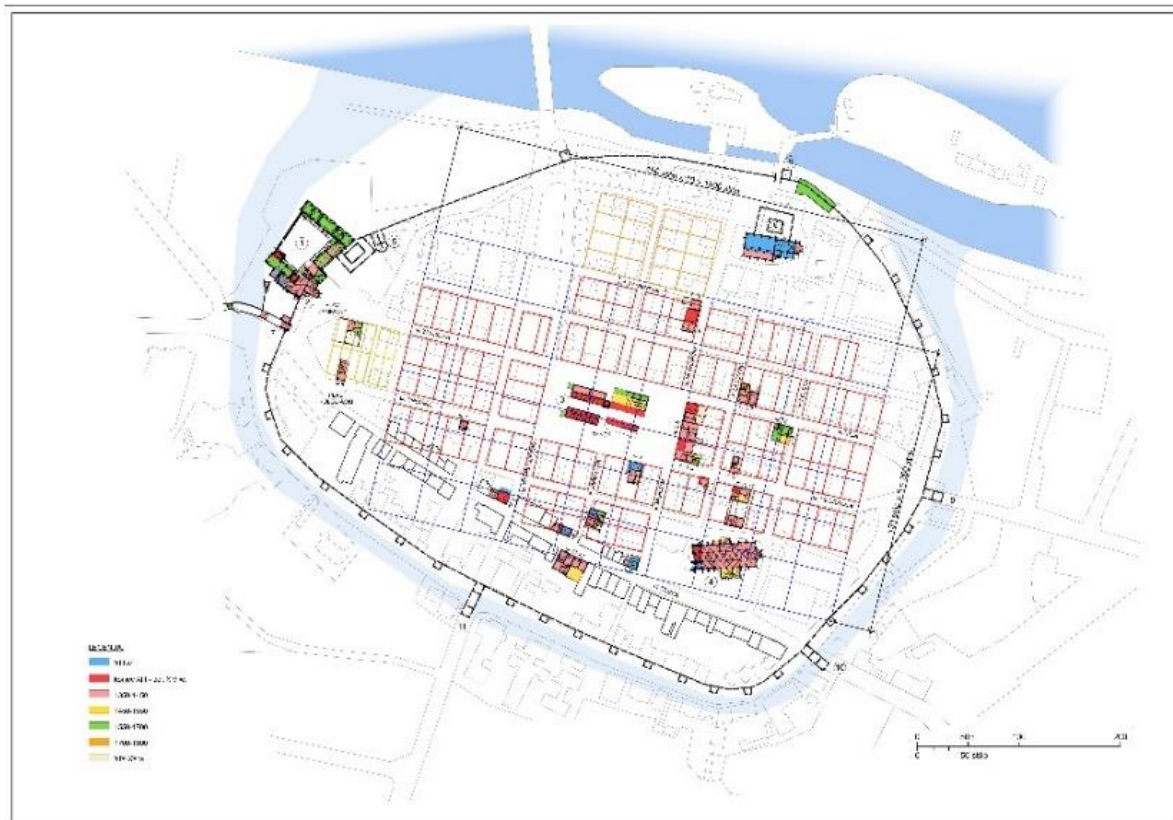


Fig. 1. Reconstruction of the parcelling of the Medieval town of Brzeg by Chorowska M., *Historical Atlas of the City of Brzeg, in preparation*

The next stage of conscious mastering of space, which can be described as spatial planning, is the process of transforming Silesian cities into cities fortress. This applies especially to two periods - the period of the Thirty Years' War and the fights conducted by the imperial army with the Swedish troops attacking Silesian cities, as well as the so-called Silesian wars in the mid-18th century. However, the events of the Napoleonic Wars did not leave their mark on this process. At that time, the fortifications of the extended ring of the bastion system encompassed a wide strip of suburbs, led to the liquidation of entire villages and the relocation of sacred buildings. The fact that it was a planned process, that elections were made at that time and that these decisions were preceded by theoretical reflection, are evidenced by the numerous versions of fortification plans for individual cities, as is the case with, for example, the Brzeg and Świdnica fortress.

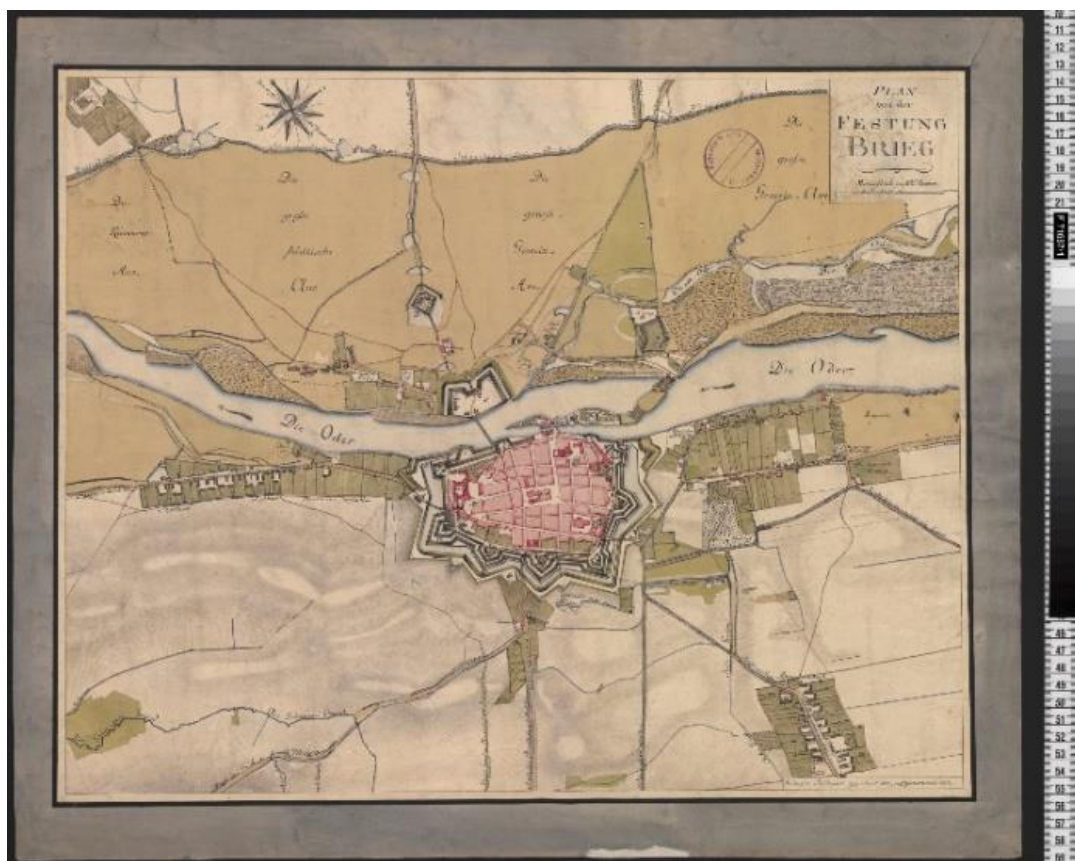


Fig 2. Plan of the city fortress Brzeg, 1797. Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin – Dahlem – sygn.: Festungspläne des Kriegsministeriums, sygn. XI. HA, F 71687, Blatt 1, 2

Spatial Planning in the modern sense with regulatory plans for selected parts of the city began in the 1850s. In Wrocław, we can observe two stages of planning - the stage of creating partial plans - plans of individual districts and, from the mid-1870s, plans covering the area of entire cities. For example, in Wrocław, in 1904, a plan for zoning the height and intensity of development was prepared for the entire administrative area of the city.

The turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries was also the time of the creation of plans in which strong aesthetic tendencies appeared, replacing the geometry based on purely functional foundations. The next period of conscious action of spatial planning came with the Weimar Republic. It concerned largely the planning of social housing estates associated with the organization of the Schlesische Heimstädte. This process had a particularly strong impact on smaller urban centers - Wołów, Trzebnica, Namysłów, etc.<sup>3</sup>.

The last phase of spatial planning before World War II. concerned the 1930s. The prepared plans were often of a "total" character and reflected the strong political ambitions of their principals rather than the actual possibilities of their implementation.

The period after World War II is a separate chapter of planning activity described in Atlas. This period should be divided into several phases. The first phase is related to the mastery of knowledge about the cities newly taken over by the Polish authorities. Planning materials in this period were mainly based on plans from before World War II. The second stage, starting in the early 1960s, is the first

<sup>3</sup> In this matter the following study should be mentioned: Kononowicz, W. (1997). *Wrocław – Kierunki rozwoju urbanistycznego w okresie międzywojennym* [Wrocław - Directions of urban development in the interwar period].

spatial development plans related mainly to the industrialization of cities and often the transformation of their historic centers into large socialist housing estates. The process of "blurring: history" was completed only in the mid-1980s, and the projects created in those years tried to balance the desire to preserve the old forms and the need to meet new social needs.

Legal conditions after 1990 meant that spatial planning concerned only the areas of planned investments, although their implementation was often preceded by historical and urban studies. These studies are still one of the foundations of the volumes of the Historical Atlas of Polish Cities that are being prepared.

It should be assumed that the information presented in the Atlas concerning the spatial and functional development of individual urban centers is the basis for decisions concerning the contemporary spatial planning process. As well as information carried by the spatial development charts of entire cities and its individual areas, the historical cartography presented in the Atlas also plays an important role in providing information on this subject. Additionally, the implementation of many reconstruction charts in the objectified form of plans in the GIS system allows them to be used as easy to apply in the process of planning the thematic layer of contemporary plans. A cadastral plan may be particularly helpful here - an objectified image of urban space in the pre-industrial period, which allows, as is the case in Wrocław, for example, to accurately identify the spatial development in 1865, which may facilitate today's investment decisions. The data can also be extremely useful in undertaking archaeological research throughout the city.

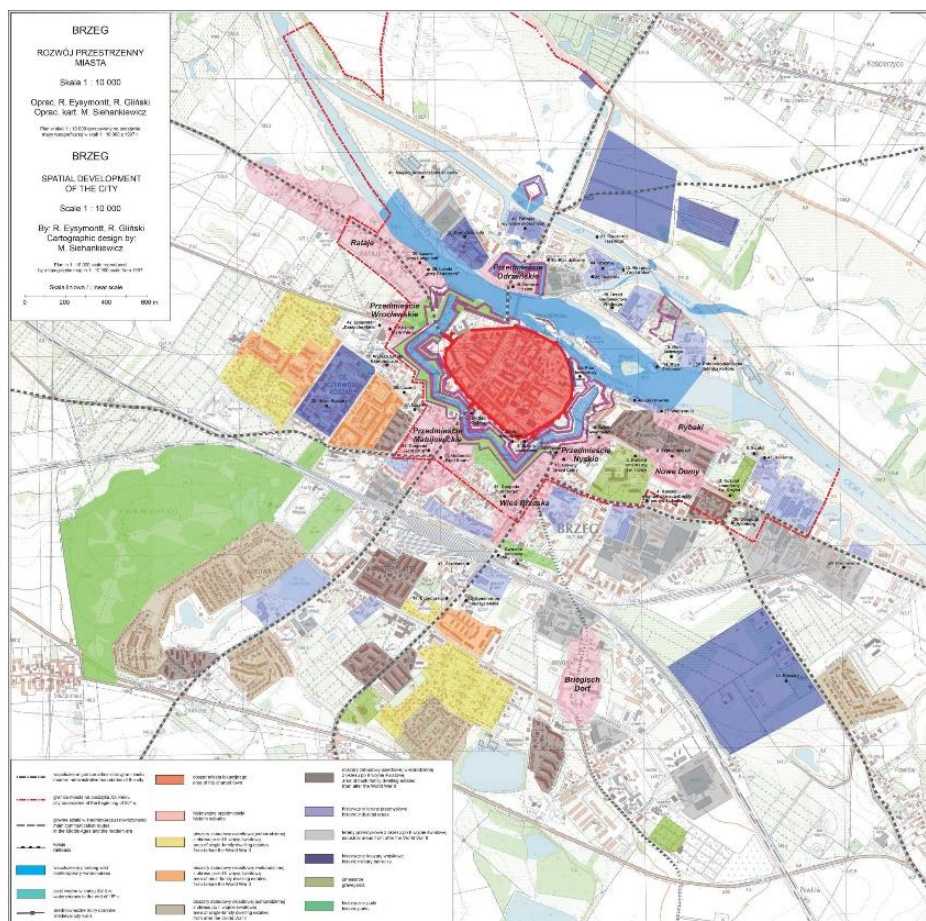


Fig. 3 Spatial development of the city of Brzeg, by Eysymontt R. , Gliński R. Historical Atlas of the City of Brzeg, in preparation

On the other hand, spatial development plans of cities with the determination of the locations of the most important, sometimes not preserved public facilities, allow for the construction of an appropriate spatial and semantic grid that facilitates the making of modern planning decisions. We can observe the process of the great expansion of historical and spatial awareness in the young generation of planners on several levels. Firstly, it is the growing scientific interest in the results of Atlas works (PhD and MA theses). One can also observe frequent use of Atlas materials in the presentations presented by planners at the meetings of planning committees. It can therefore be said that the team of the Historical Atlas of Silesian Cities, which has been operating in Lower Silesia for almost 25 years, has achieved its intended goals.

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