

## HEAVY INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT

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The second most important heavy industrial district of Hungary, the so-called Borsod-Nógrád Industrial District in the north east, was often mentioned as the Hungarian Ruhr, expressing the scale of industry as well as its economic importance in the life of the country. However, the relationship between industry and environment developed in a peculiar way, characteristic in some respect of Hungary only, but in other respects of the whole East Central European region as well. Changing historical circumstances, specially in the twentieth century, greatly modified the availability of resources and changed not only the pattern of industrialisation but also the prospects of the preservation of the industrial heritage.

The presentation aims at analysing the evolution of the industrial landscape, the processes of production in five time phases, in close correlation with the given resources of the period:

- From 1770s to 1860s – charcoal blast furnaces, early modern factories erected in the woods in the hills, supported by favourite circumstances and decrees of the Habsburg Empire;
- From 1870s to World War One – foundation and development of modern large-scale metallurgical industry based on the newly discovered coalfields and iron ore mines to satisfy the demands of the quickly developing Hungarian State within the boundaries of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy;
- From 1920s to World War Two – development modified by the Trianon Treaty, through the diminishing of the territory of Hungary, mines and production plants happen to be on different sides of the new boundary, the system of infrastructure gets disturbed;
- From 1950s to 1980s – at first, forced industrialisation, on very great scales, regardless of real needs and capability of the country, on the basis of imported raw materials within the world of communist countries, later, varying steps of decline, impact of the de-industrialisation process;
- From 1990s until modern day – quickening decline made more difficult with the afflictions of privatisation and the change of the political system, resources greatly reduced, first steps made for the preservation of the industrial heritage.

In conclusion, the presentation will sum up both the general and special characteristics of the evolution of the heavy industrial landscape in the environment, will present the main – and special – problems of the preservation of the industrial heritage, will gather some possible solutions, focusing on the role of the University of Miskolc, itself a symbol of the whole process. It was founded in 1735 in Selmechánya (now Banská Stiavnica in Slovakia) as one of the first institutions of higher education in the field of technical sciences in the world, finding a new place in Miskolc in 1949 as the University of Heavy Industry.