

## BUSINESS DIRECTED BY AN ARISTOCRAT: THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FIRST YEARS OF THE TEXTILE FACTORY AT UHROVEC (1845–1851)

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The (Fein) Tuchfabrik at Uhrovec was established in a region that apparently lacked material and infrastructure pre-conditions. However, the project had another comparative advantage – the strong capital of the owner, a rich aristocrat with connections that enabled him to successfully establish himself in the economic space of Upper Hungary. Count Karl Zay was a supporter of liberalism and of progressive business aims such as railways and steam ships. The factory had various company shops and a network of customers across the Kingdom of Hungary. In the revolutionary period it began to profit from supplying the army, county units and the gendarmerie or police. However, state orders were also a risk factor in the form of unrealistic conditions from the side of customers, which gradually began to threaten the profitability of the business. At the beginning of this cooperation, the factory immediately began to make losses, which began to threaten its functioning.

The study analyses the process of establishment of the factory, the financial questions of building and equipping it, the questions of personnel and the material functioning as well as the social security of the workers, a large proportion of whom were women.

Key words: Kingdom of Hungary. Uhrovec. Karl Zay. History of manufacturing. Textile industry. 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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*“... derselbe weder von den Erträgnissen der Fabrik zu leben, noch sich diesfalls fremden Ansichten zu unterordnen genöthigt ist...”*<sup>1</sup>

The industrialization of the Kingdom of Hungary progressed only slowly from the beginning of the 19th century with a phase shift compared to other parts of Europe including other parts of the Austrian Monarchy. Moreover, it had a spe-

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1 *Pressburger Zeitung* 4 April 1845, p. 203. Accessible online (viewed 5 Feb 2017): [http://pc139.ulib.sk/search/i.jsp?pid=uuid:1ec30e40-d452-11de-8dc5-000d606f5dc6#periodical-periodicalvolume-periodicalitem-page\\_uuid:9554a2f0-d5d0-11df-b1d2-000d606f5dc6](http://pc139.ulib.sk/search/i.jsp?pid=uuid:1ec30e40-d452-11de-8dc5-000d606f5dc6#periodical-periodicalvolume-periodicalitem-page_uuid:9554a2f0-d5d0-11df-b1d2-000d606f5dc6)