

Summary

The writing entitled “Status of Cluj in the second half of the 17th and in the beginning of the 18th century” presents the urban history and evolution of the town in an important and interesting period, namely from 1660 till 1712, as it lost its status of free royal town. The legal status of the citizens changed consequently, as well as the traditional structures of the urban administration.

The nine chapters and belonging subsections are structured as follows:

I. Urban development in the self –governing principality era

I.1. Evolution of the town concept and of the research methods

I.2. Medieval premises of the Transylvanian urbanization

I.3. Hierarchical categories, town classification

I.4. Trends in Transylvanian urban evolution. Decadence or reconstruction?

II. Transylvanian changes in the second half of the 17th century

II.1. Transylvanian Principality reported to the new European dimensions

II.2. Establishment of Habsburg reign in Transylvania. From temporal domination to political reality

II.2.1. “Nolentes volentes proteget vos Sua Maiestas”, Habsburg fight for Transylvania – diplomacy and army

II.2.2. Political structure and Habsburg institutions in Transylvania (1690-1712)

III. Cluj in the vortex of the political changes in the second half of the 17th century

III.1. Cluj as a border fortress

III.2. The authority of the supreme captain of Cluj

IV. Aspects of town administration from 1666 till 1712

IV.1. Town leadership typical urban self-governing institutions 1666-1712

IV.2. The authority of the “ductor”, of the assessors and of the assembly of nobles

V. Social relations and conflicts in the noble town

VI. The relation with the noble county and the central authority

VII. Clujul during the Habsburg domination and during the Kuruc rebellion

VIII. The value of privileges in Cluj in the second half of the 17th and in the beginning of the 18th century

IX. Regain of privileges

Conclusion

The paper refers to the development of Cluj in the second half of the 17th and in the beginning of the 18th century and to the changes in the legal status of the town.

Out of the complex manifestation of the urban phenomenon I subject to an examination the legal status of Cluj from 1660 till 1712, the administrative and legal structures from the period, the changes in this regard, the town administration function, as well as the town's relation with the county, the relation of the county employees with the town magistracy and not least with the central princely authority and since 1690 with the Transylvanian government forum.

The first part offers a general description of the urban phenomenon, more specific of the town development in a relatively short period, namely the Principality of Transylvania (1541-1690 attempting to highlight the features of the Transylvanian urban phenomenon and to sketch the process of town development in medieval and pre-modern era.

The self-governing principality influenced positively the town development; it was an era of progress, when a boost in the Transylvanian urbanization process is to be observed.

The second chapter offers a description of the Transylvanian changes in the second half of the 17th century in the context of transition from the Classical to the Enlightened Europe, from the Small Europe – till then to the Great Europe. In this period Transylvania undergoes crisis, from 1657, as a consequence of the military disaster of Poland and the diplomatic complications following that threatened the state existence of the principality; and after 1683, as Transylvania becomes a significant factor in the Hapsburg expansion plans.

The situation of Cluj is a special one in this period, due to the fact that after 1660, as the Oradea fortress fell, it gradually gets to be organized as a border fortress. In this regard the term used for Cluj is “fortress town” or “ennobled town”. The use of this term was decided upon in the decision of the national assembly from 24th February 1666 (Făgăraș).

The third chapter analyses the consequences of the military and political events from 1658 till 1664 upon the urban development of Cluj, the town organization as a border fortress, and follows the essential modifications after the change of the legal status and the changes in the town administration. The authority of the supreme captain, his relation with the town government and with the supreme captain, the involvement and asserting authority of the captain, are also investigated and referred to in this chapter.

Knowing the town administration structures before 1666 and their comparison with the subsequent situation bears a high degree of importance in order to understand the changes and restrictions of the institution structures. Based on the investigated documentary material

it can be affirmed that during the “ennobled town” status the typically urban structures functioned with some changes; the town, meaning its inhabitants tried consequently to maintain the self-governing structures.

Chapter IV is an examination of the urban development of Cluj in the light of the medieval rights and privileges, and a detailed presentation of the self-governing town structures in the period 1666-1712. The main change in the judiciary authority was that the town trial forum of the main judge (provost, said *ductor*) will be called *noble seat / noble forum* representing the first instance, and the appeal forum will be represented by the county judicial seat. Besides the *noble seat* there is another justice forum *the trial seat of the supreme captain*. It is clear that the by introducing of the appeal court the citizens’ rights and freedoms were restricted. In the administrative authority it is important that the lower board (assessors’ institution), the upper board (centumviral institution) and the provost (said *ductor*) continued functioning.

Chapter V deals with the differentiation of the citizens’ legal status, with the differences and conflicts between citizens and nobles, citizens and military, and simultaneously seeks the exercise of administrative and judicial power by the urban leadership.

The relation with the noble county and with the central administration is presented in chapter VI, first analyzing the provost (*ductor*) and council election procedure in the committee congregation. The authority of the noble county was highlighted by the supreme captain, and by the presence and involvement of the committee officials in the urban matters. In the period of noble town, Cluj was directly linked to the central legislative assembly, through the deputies sent to the national congregation. In this regard have been preserved postulates, inquiries and complaints sent to the national authority which refer to problems the town was facing, such as tax issues, legal problems, and social conflicts.

Chapter VII deals with the period of establishing and strengthening of the Habsburg reign, with the consequences of the presence of imperial troops in the town, with the relation of the urban community with the Austrian military authorities, with the involvement of the military chief in the urban life, as well as with the period of the Kuruc Rebellion. Tax issues, increased contributions and public duties and the struggle of the local authorities to maintain self-governing structures are presented in detail.

In "time of alteration" urban leadership consistently sought to maintain privileges and freedoms as given formerly. Chapter VIII presents therefore the fight for validation of some

important privileges, for example the vine privilege, the right to use royal tithes and compliance with the law of succession. All these matters are analyzed in the context of the town conflicts.

The last chapter refers to the procedure of regaining the privileged status, to the fight and activity of town members, who activated in this sense, based upon the correspondence stored in the Town Hall, including instructions for the messengers from Vienna, messenger reports, applications to the Governorate, employee reports from Cancelaria Aulică, all being appreciable sources in this regard.

The imperial decree from 10th August 1709 and the decision of the Diet in Medias from (20th December) 1712 declared the restoration of the town with its former rights and liberties and the regain of the status free royal town. This way the urban community was emancipated from the central authority, the citizens regained their bourgeois rights, and regarding the self-government it gained the right to freely choose the town leadership and to sit judgment on citizens.

Keywords: border fortress town, ennobled town, supreme authority, supreme captain, committee authority, urban self-government, restricted self-government, social conflicts, relation with central authority, Noble County, tax increase, maintaining privileges, regaining the privileged status.

Synthesis

The writing entitled “Status of Cluj in the second half of the 17th and beginning of the 18th century” presents the urban history and evolution of the town in an important and interesting period, namely from 1660 till 1712, as it lost its status of free royal town. The legal status of the citizens changed consequently, as well as the traditional structures of the urban administration.

Valuing the documentary material this paper offers a detailed presentation of Cluj as a border fortress and a reflection on changes occurring in the administrative structure and in the urban society, considering the specific and general phenomenon that decisively influenced the development of the town. The paper presents the evolution and function of the urban institutions of self-government after the change of the legal status, the relation with the noble county and with the central authority, ways of asserting of the central authority in the

urban life. This research attempts to investigate urban life in the light of asserting of local self-governing and of political and military events that marked the history of Cluj.