

Summary

RAFAŁ EYSYMONTT / Görlitz. Zgorzelec. Historisch-topographischer Atlas schlesischer Städte. Historyczno-topograficzny atlas miast śląskich. Edited and commissioned by the Herder Institute, Peter Haslinger, Wolfgang Kreft, Grzegorz Strauchold, Rościsław Żerelik, elaborated by Christoph Waack, Herder Institute Marburg 2010

The historical-topographic atlas of Silesian cities is a creative continuation of the series Historical Atlas of European Cities, which was initiated in 1965 by the European Commission for History of the Cities. The Atlas belongs to the cycle that have been prepared for yet many years following the idea of Wolfgang Kreft at the Herder Institute in Marburg in co-operation with the Institute of History at the University of Wrocław. The first printed volume of the Atlas was devoted to the city of Zgorzelec-Görlitz situated on both sides of the Nysa Łużycka/Lausitzer Neisse river and the Polish-German border.

Following the rules of the series the atlas is mainly devoted to history of the city in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the main reconstruction plate is presented in 1: 25 000 scale. The publication delivers a lot of valuable information about development of the city, which was bound to the historically important trade route 'Via Regia', and in 19th c. with industry and growing as an administrative centre, especially in the times of mayor Gottlob Ludwig Demiani, who governed since 1833. In the period of the Weimar Republic the city became a favourite place of settlement for the retired people. Splitting the city by the state border in 1945 into Görlitz and Zgorzelec was one of the reasons of discontinuation of developing Görlitz on the western side of the border (decrease in population number from 100 000 to 56 000 only). The atlas's authors paid their special attention to an attempt of functional connection of both cities, led after 1990, and revitalisation of its western part. The picture of two-state multinational city is a great proof of an international character of the project initiated by the Herder Institute in Marburg.