

## CASE STUDY 5 // SILISTRA, BULGARIA

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**POPULATION:**  
1910: 11,046  
1934: 15,159  
1946: 16,142

**Silistra was included as border town in the territory of a modern Bulgarian state after the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878.** The town belonged to Bulgaria only 25 years. Following the treaties of Bucharest (1913) and Neuilly (1919), Silistra with Southern Dobruja became a part of Romania until 1940 (Nyagulov & Todorov, 2007). During this short period between the two world wars, Silistra was the seat of Romanian Durostor County, which later become the part of Ținutul Mării (“Sea District”, 1938-1940).



**Fig 206.51 /** The former branch building of Romanian National Bank in Silistra, today the city archaeological museum (Author G. Georgiev, 2021)

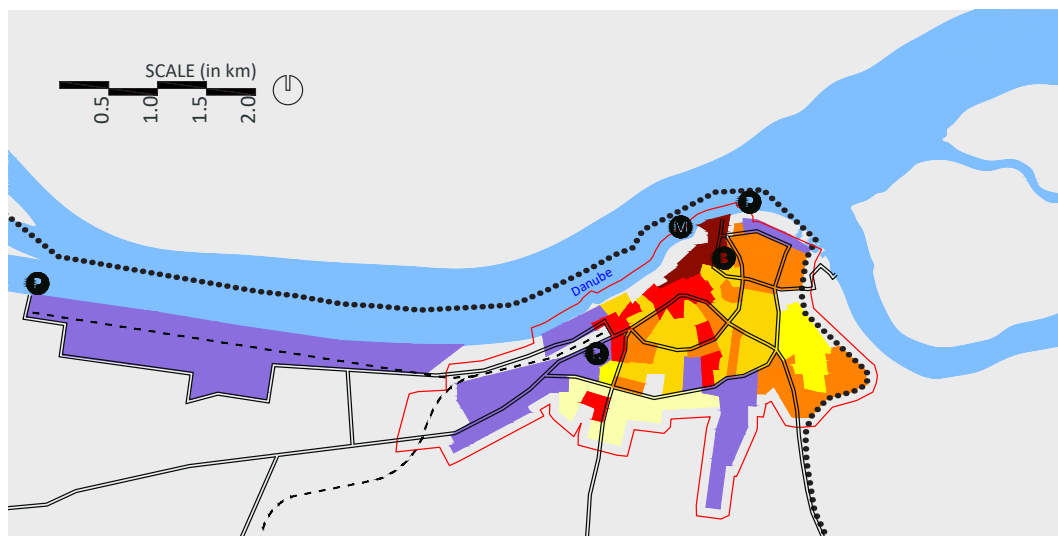
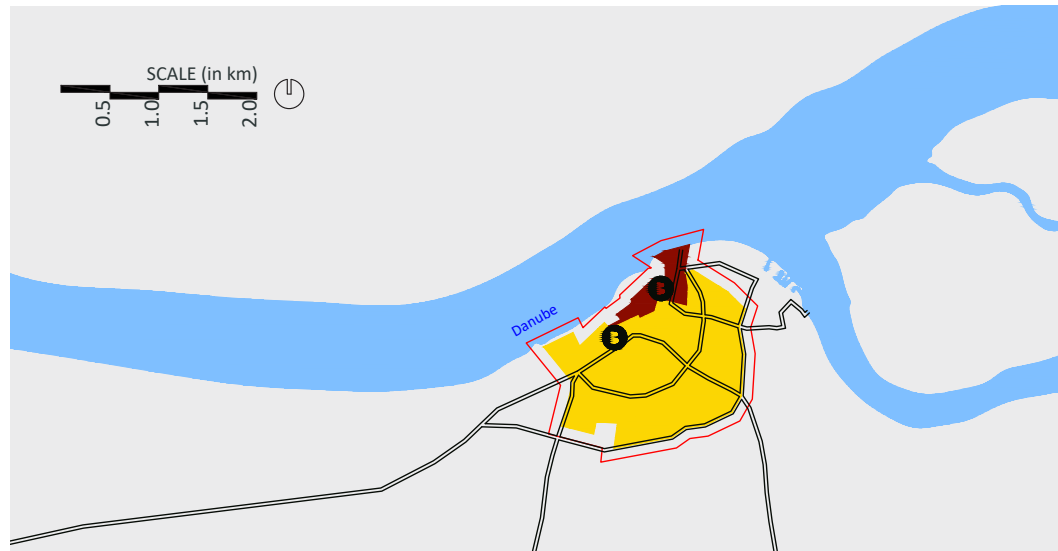
The interwar Silistra was surrounded by no borders lines and was centrally located as a regional centre. However, being a part of less developed Romanian territory, no significant signs of

urban development have been observed during this period. Accordingly, the population growth was negligible. The interwar construction activity in the town was under a “new Romanian

style”, which contributed to the European appearance of Silistra (206.51). A specific case was so-called “Block-House” complex, influenced by Bauhaus Modernism (206.52), which is marked as a group cultural monument by the operative Master Plan of the city (Silistra Municipality, 2021).



**Fig 206.52 / “Block-House”**  
Apartment building, influenced by Bauhaus movement, from the 1930s (Author G. Georgiev, 2021)



**LEGEND:**

- ..... National border
  - Urban zone - boundaries
- URBAN ZONES**
- Centres & Commercial zones
    - Pre-socialist (-1945)
    - Socialist (1945-1991)
  - Residential zones - Single-family
    - Pre-socialist (-1945)
    - Socialist (1945-1991)
  - Residential zones- Multi-family
    - Socialist (1945-1991)
  - Industrial and working zones
    - Pre-socialist (-1945)
    - Socialist (1945-1991)
- OTHER ZONES & TRANSPORTATION**
- Unbuilt land - agriculture & nature
  - Waterways
  - Roads
  - Rail
  - Port, dock
  - Marina
  - Bus station
  - Railway station

**Fig 206.53 / Silistra: Urban development 1940-1991**  
(Authors: G. Georgiev & E. Gaydarova).

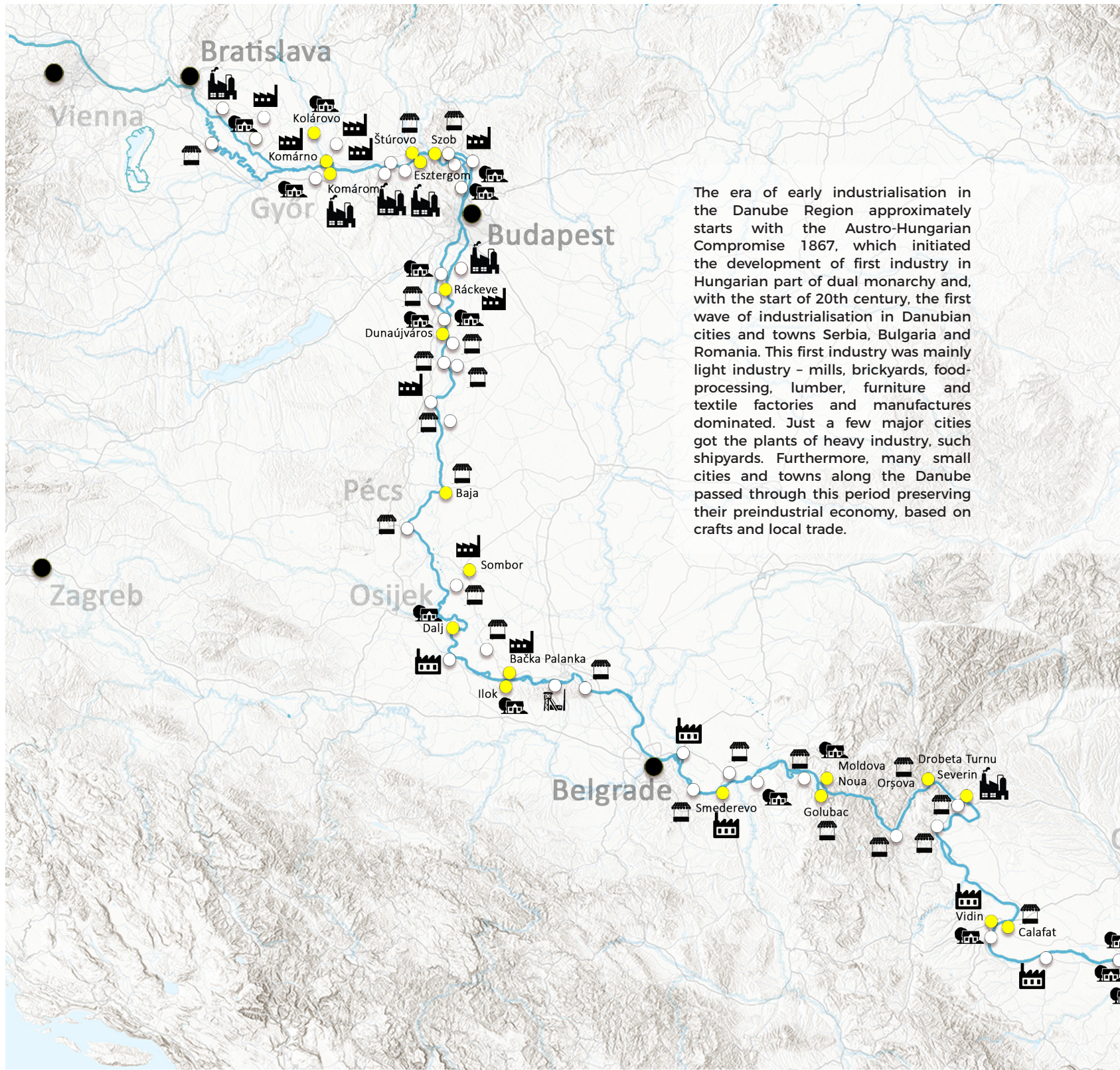
Under the Treaty of Craiova, Silistra was returned to Bulgaria and became a border city to Romania once again. Nevertheless, the city location as the easternmost point in Bulgaria on the Danube Water Corridor has given Silistra a strategic advantage. Ultimately, this has influ-

enced local urban development, so the main directions of the spatial expansion of Silistra have been in opposite to national border, i.e., to west and along the Danube – new part of the city centre, industrial zone, new port – and south – residential estates (Fig. 206.53).

**R**

- Silistra Municipality (2021). План за интегрирано развитие на община Силистра 2021-2027 / Integrated development plan of the municipality of Silistra 2021-2027. Retrieved from <http://www.silistra.bg/files/2020/24.10.2020-e869c7222ee80506fc89a-915c8a748b31.pdf>.
- Silistra Municipality (2021). Мастер План Силистра 2021 / Master Plan of Silistra 2021. Retrieved from [www.silistra.bg/index.php?op=view&view=ut-suob-obqvl-pup&id=3653](http://www.silistra.bg/index.php?op=view&view=ut-suob-obqvl-pup&id=3653).
- Nyagulov, P. & Todorov, P. (Eds.) (2007). История на Добруджа, Том 4 / History of Dobruja, Edition 4. Veliko Tarnovo: Faber.





The era of early industrialisation in the Danube Region approximately starts with the Austro-Hungarian Compromise 1867, which initiated the development of first industry in Hungarian part of dual monarchy and, with the start of 20th century, the first wave of industrialisation in Danubian cities and towns Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. This first industry was mainly light industry - mills, brickyards, food-processing, lumber, furniture and manufactures dominated. Just a few major cities got the plants of heavy industry, such shipyards. Furthermore, many small cities and towns along the Danube passed through this period preserving their preindustrial economy, based on crafts and local trade.

Fig. 270\_01: Abandoned power station in Vidin, a legacy of early industrial period in interwar Bulgaria (Author: G. Georgiev)



Fig. 270\_02: Golubac in Eastern Serbia/Yugoslavia retained the elements of a traditional market town with small-scale craft and retail economy (Author: TO Golubac)





MAP 270

THE CHARACTER OF URBAN ECONOMY DURING THE PERIOD OF EARLY INDUSTRIALISATION

- 1. **HI:** Developed industrial city/town with the dominance of heavy industry in local economy (machinery, iron- and steelworks, automobiles, complex chemical)
- 2. **LI:** Developed industrial city/town with the dominance of light industry in local economy and with the variety of industrial sectors (food, furniture, textile, leather, wood, ceramics)
- 3. **EI:** Early industrial city/town with basic industry, such as food or wood industry, but where the main economic sectors are still trade and crafts
- 4. **TM:** Mining town around a mine or quarry (based on mineral deposits, cement processing)
- 5. **MT:** Market town with development active central market square/street and local crafts, but with no industry and with agriculture at outskirts
- 6. **VA:** Settlement was a village with primary sector (agriculture, forestry) as a dominant local economy
- 7. **NO:** Non-existent as a settlement



Fig. 270\_03: Calarasi was among the fast developed small cities in interwar Romania - the old city casino as a symbol of this period, which ultimately declined during the next, socialist era (Author: Bulgarian Guide)

