

Baum Josef
Austria

Spatial Development of Population 1867-1991 - Spatial Concentration of Settlements in the Austrian Rural District Waidhofen/Thaya

Within a bigger research project on demographic issues:

Long term analysis of the development of the population on the smallest level (village, “Katastralgemeinde”)

Data:160 villages 1867-1991

The hypothesis:

The long term decrease of the population in a peripheral region differs according to the size of the village. Small units loose proportionally more. Small villages loose to the main settlement of the municipality. They two together loose to the district capital and central regions

Development of Population according to the Size of the Villages in the Region Waidhofen/Thaya 1869-1991

Population	Number	Popul.1869	Popul.1910	Popul.1951	Popul.1991
Sum	160	36618	36423	33510	25897

Population Changes	in %				
	1869-1991	1910-1991	1869-1910	1910-1951	1951-1991
Sum	-29	-29	-1	-8	-23
Region without Waidhofen(capital)	-38	-36	-3	-11	-28
Main Settlements of the communities	10	1	9	9	-7
Main Settlements without capital	-14	-16	3	1	-17
Villages till 99 Inhabitants1991	-54	-50	-8	-17	-39
Villages 100-249 Inhabitants1991	-41	-39	-3	-13	-30
Villages 250-499 Inhabitants1991	-23	-26	5	-11	-17
Settlements>500 Inhabitants1991 without Waidhofen/Thaya	-11	-14	3	0	-14
Settlement Waidhofen/Thaya	121	63	36	36	20

Data: ÖSTAT,
Baum

Four types of villages by size (1991):

-100

101-250

251-500

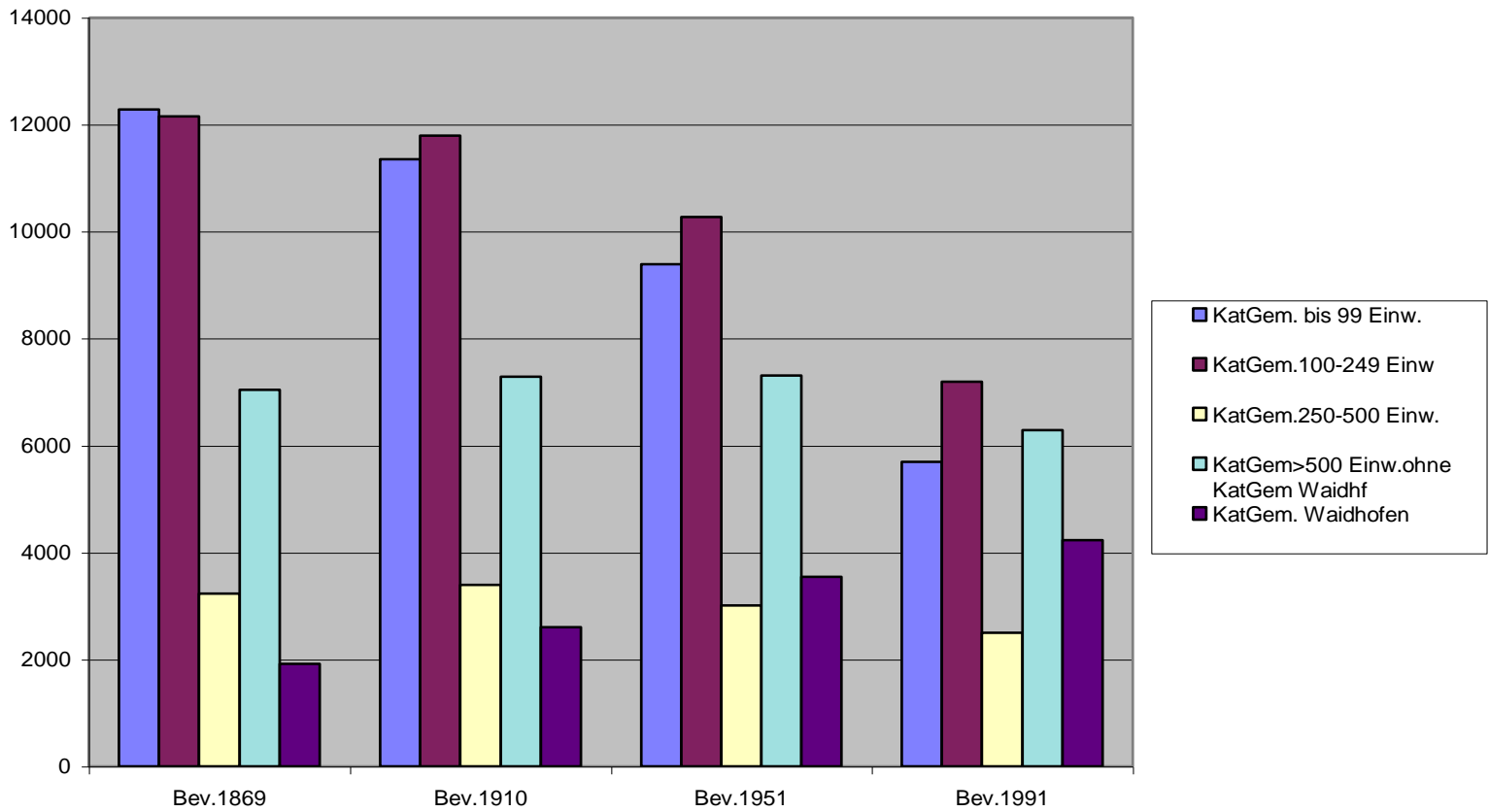
500- (without district capital)

district capital

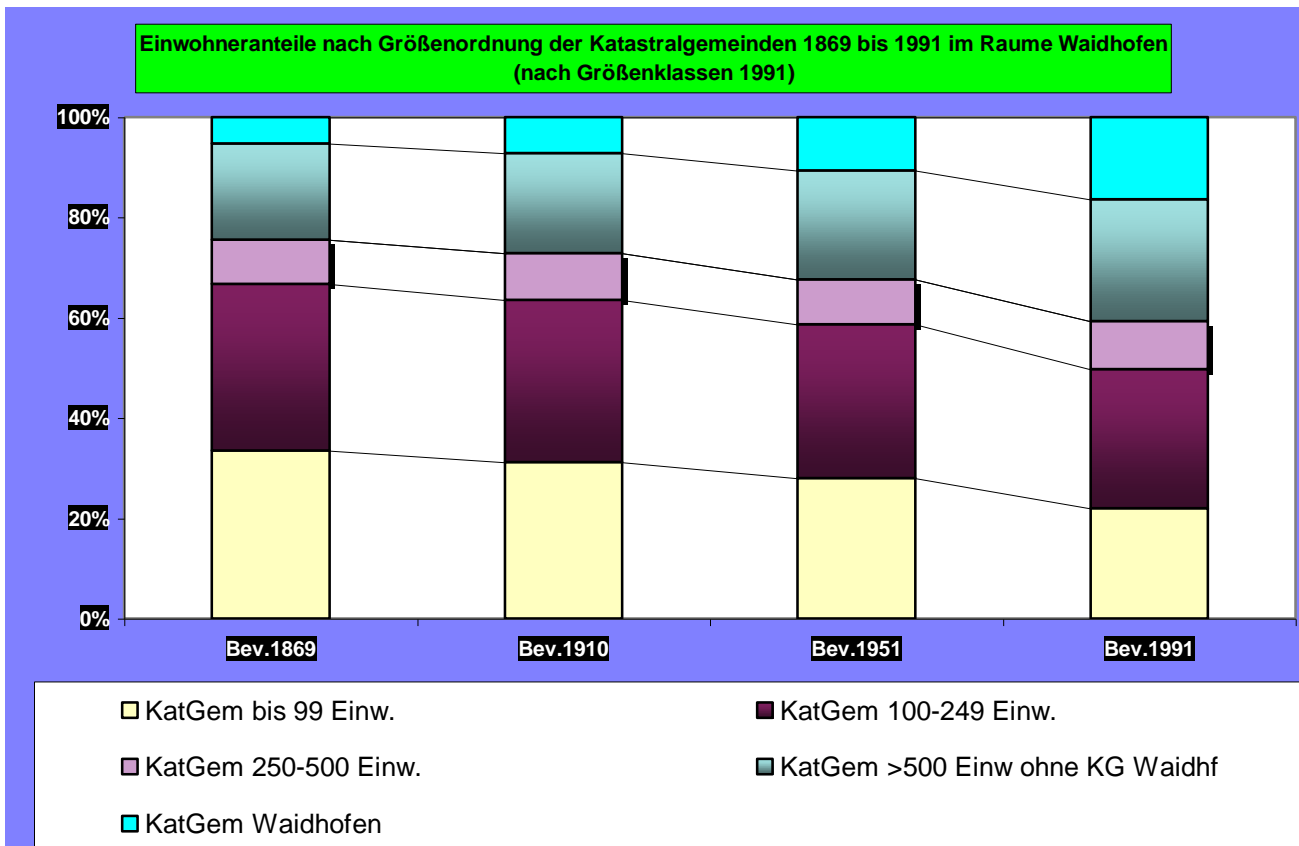
Results:

- The sharp decrease of population started earlier in smaller units and caught successively bigger units.
- The biggest fall of the number of population between 1869 and 1991 can be watched in the smallest villages.
- The cumulative fall of the number of population between 1869 and 1991 by 54 % in the villages below 100 inhabitants (1991). This is more than dividing in half. The drop of inhabitants is gradually less sharp in settlements of the next categories of size.
- Only the main settlements of municipalities on the whole had a positive development of population
- Only the district capital had a clear positive development of population Historische Bevölkerungsentwicklung im Waldviertel und European comparison

**Population according to Size of Settlement 1869 bis 1991 in the District Waidhofen/T.
(Size 1991)**



Grafik: Baum



Development of the Population in the very long Run

The development of the population of the Waldviertel in the very long run deviates in some kind from Austria and Europe

In any way the growth rates of the population in the **Waldviertel were not lower than in Austria as a whole till 1785 .**

The further development was influenced mostly by industrialisation and changes in agriculture

Historical Development of the Population in Waldviertel in Comparison with Lower-Austria-Vienna, Austria, Europe

Year	Waldviertel in 1000	Europe in Mio.	Lower Austria+ Vienna in 1000	Austria in 1000
1300	Rather constant	73		
1350		51		
1400		45		
1450		60		
1500		69		
1527			500	1500
1550		78		
1600		90	580	1800
1650		103		
1654	99,5			
1700		115	630	2100
1750		125		
1754			922,2	2728
1780			974	2970
1785	194			
1800		187	1028,8	3064
1803	204			
1828	226			
1850		274	1527,9	3879,7
1851	250			
1880	279,7		2314,972	4963,142
1900	283	423	3079,636	6003,777
1910	291,25		3508,865	6648,311
1923	278,6		3345,605	6534,742
1934	279,6		3382,559	6760,233
1939	275			
1950		594		
1951	269		3016,596	6933,905
1961	257		3001,578	7073,807
1971	255		3029,002	7456,403
1981	244		2959,195	7557,667
1991			3013,661	7795,786

Sources: Klein K. (1988): Auswertung statistischer Quellen. In Kerschbaum U./Rabl E. (Hg): Heimatforschung heute (Seite 102); Glough S.B./Rapp R.T. (1975): European Economic History, zitiert nach: Felderer B./Sauga M (1988): Bevölkerungs- und Wirtschaftsentwicklung (Seite 15); Klein K. (1973): Die Bevölkerung Österreichs vom Beginn des 16. bis zur Mitte des 18. Jahrhunderts; in Helczmanofszky H. /Hg.) (1973): Beiträge zur Bevölkerungs- und Sozialgeschichte Österreichs; ÖSTAT

These were the **core results**.

There are **other findings** about the development of buildings, migration, birth rates and so on.

Plus findings within some **sociological and historical framework**

Main further arising **questions** are:

What is the future of the villages in a **postfordist context**?

What is the basis of small villages when the agricultural factor which was forming the villages over hundred of years is only of less importance?

Are the existing pattern of settlements sustainable? Would the trend of developing patterns of settlements be more or less sustainable?

Conclusio:

I would like to analyse the development of population patterns in rural areas in many **European countries** in a similar way and to generalize the results, and so try to answer the sustainability questions.

Therefore I would like to design an European Research project
I seek for partners abroad.

baum.josef@utanet.at