

19TH-CENTURY VÖRÖSMART IN LIGHT OF THÜNEN'S LOCATION THEORY: ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AFTER WORLD WAR I

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine the applicability of Johann Heinrich von Thünen's location theory through the analysis of the 19th-century economic spatial structure of the former market town of Vörösmart. The theoretical framework of the Isolated State model is compared with local conditions, highlighting the factors responsible for the differences between the model and reality. The research is based on contemporary cadastral maps, census statistics, and other period sources. The analysis reveals that land use in Vörösmart in several respects corresponded to the logic of Thünen's production zones. In the innermost zones, intensive horticulture and viticulture took place, while in the outer zones, extensive agricultural production and livestock farming dominated. Proximity to the market determined both the intensity of production and the types of crops grown. At the same time, the model does not fully account for the impact of local topography, water networks, and trade relations. Nevertheless, Thünen's principles provide an effective framework for interpreting the local economic spatial structure. The settlement's self-sufficient, zone-based economy played a crucial role in maintaining stability after World War I, when new borders and isolation severely restricted external trade.

Keywords: Spatial economy, production zones, resilience, Vörösmart, Thünen.

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