

EUROPEAN CITIES IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTING AND TRANSMITTING OF THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE. INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND MASTER STUDENTS.



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POSTMEMORY IN CITY
AS
STORY OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Postmemory and City

- Personal, collective and cultural trauma
- Lifestories and memories
- Narrative reconstruction of past experiences
- ...

• ???



Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

Landscape and memory



“The word landscape and memory are magical in their own way because they open up a whole range of considerations about who we are, where our home is and how this home could look. They are closely related to our lives.” Cilek

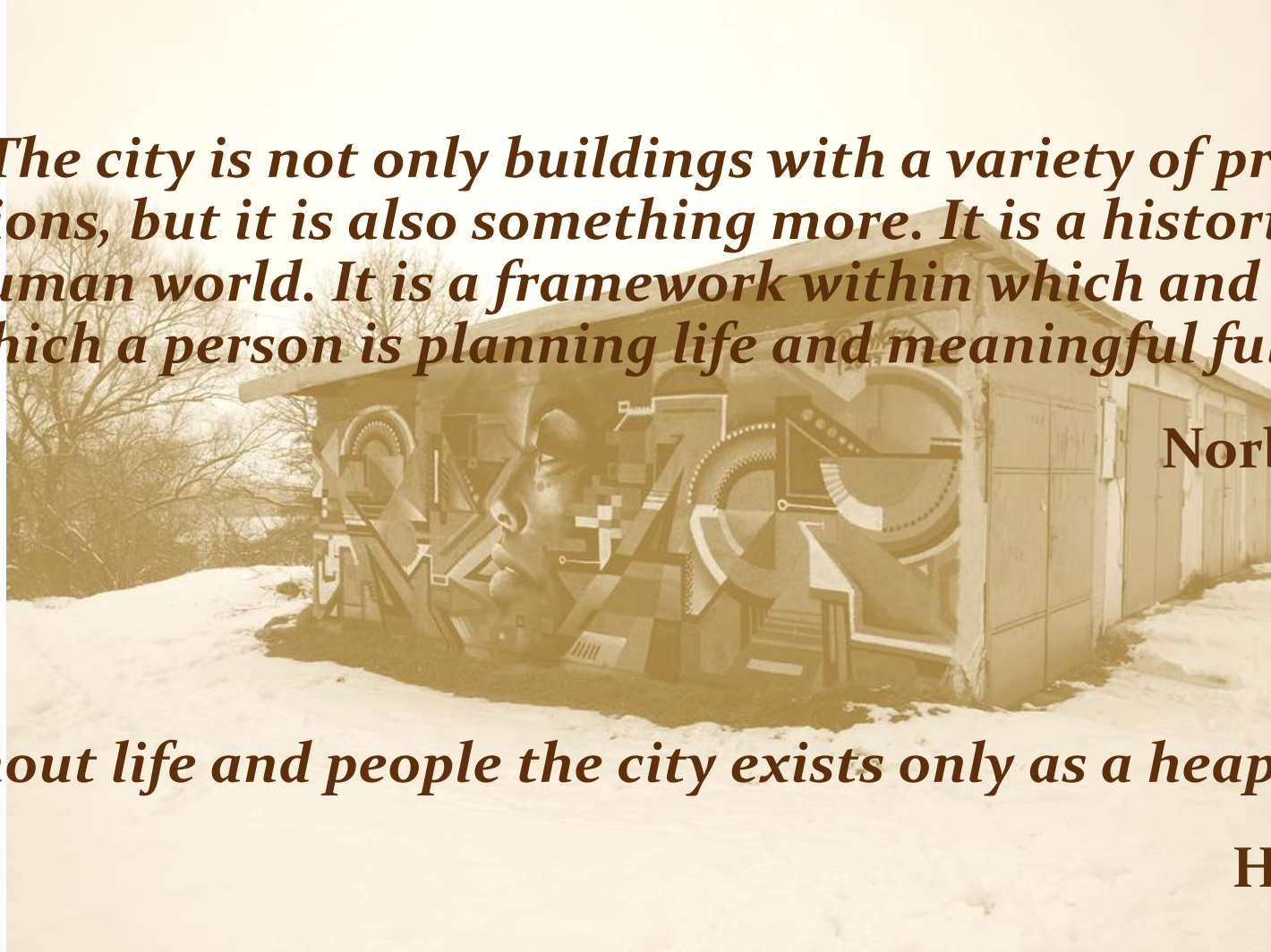
City

- *“The city is not only buildings with a variety of practical functions, but it is also something more. It is a historical form of the human world. It is a framework within which and in the light of which a person is planning life and meaningful fulfillment.”*

Norberg-Schulz

- *“Without life and people the city exists only as a heap of stones.”*

Heidegger



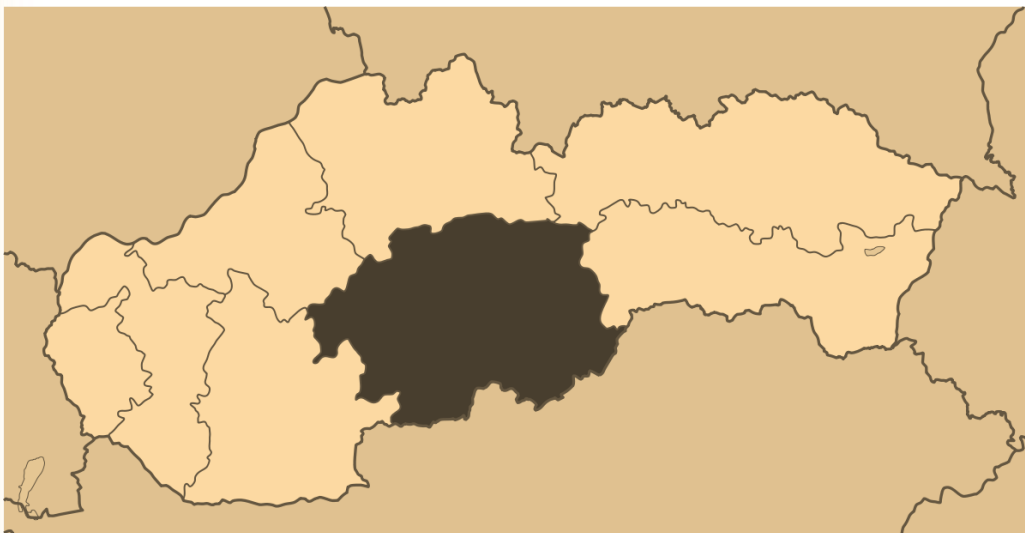
Postmemory in Banska Bystrica Region

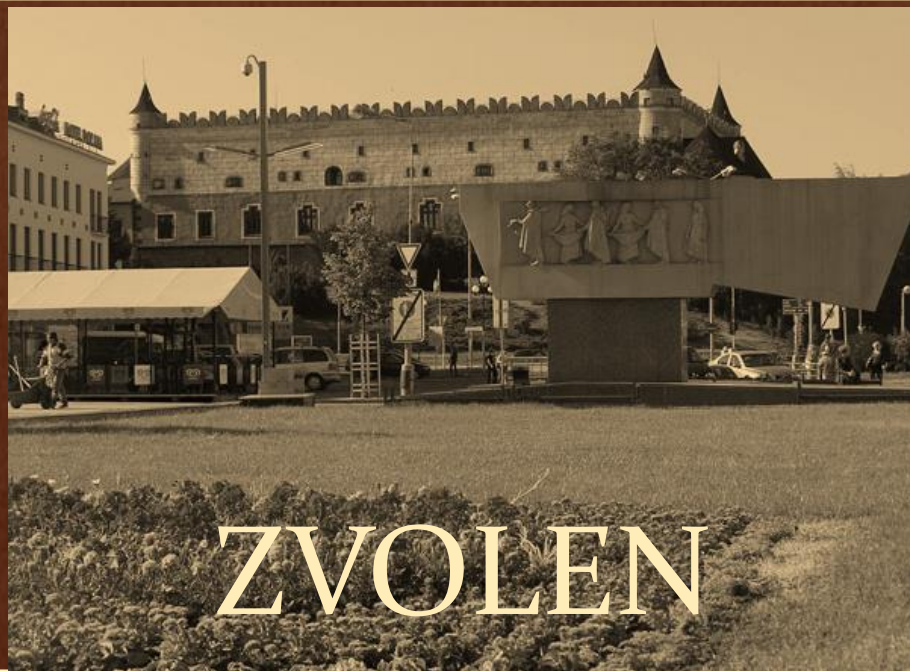
- The 20th Century – Collective Trauma
- Reshaped the city identity
- Slovak National Uprising – 1944 – against Nazi occupation
- 1968 – Soviet (Russian) invasion of Czechoslovakia



Monument and Museum of Slovak National Uprising
Banska Bystrica

BB Region

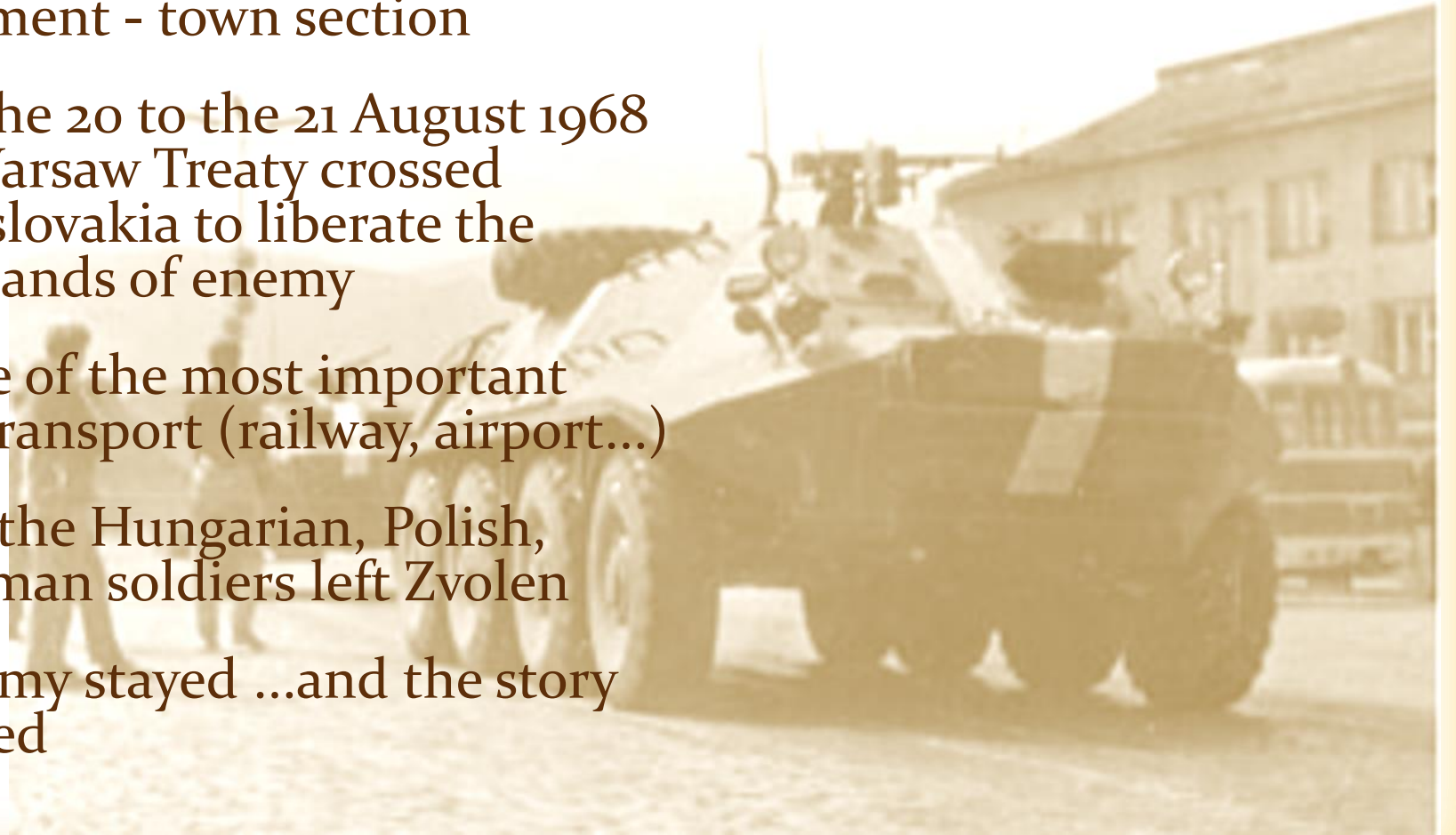




PODBOROVA
POST-TRAUMATIC TRANSFORMATION
POSTMEMORY IN CITY

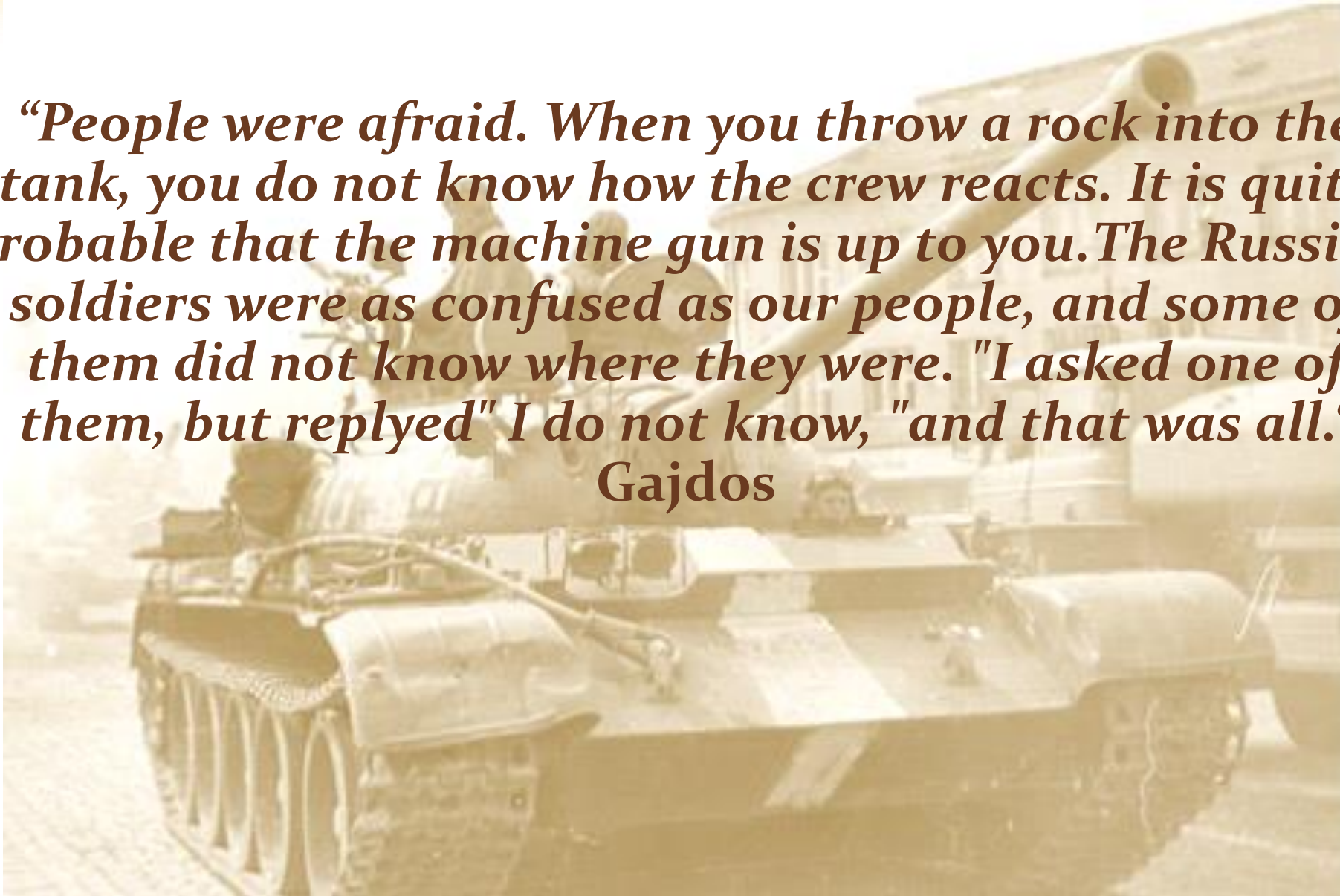
Zvolen - Podborova

- Podborova - settlement - town section
- In the night from the 20 to the 21 August 1968 –Army based on Warsaw Treaty crossed borders of Czechoslovakia to liberate the country from the hands of enemy
- Zvolen become one of the most important places – location, transport (railway, airport...)
- In November 1968 the Hungarian, Polish, Bulgarian and German soldiers left Zvolen
- Russian (Soviet) army stayed ...and the story of Podborova started



- *“People were afraid. When you throw a rock into the tank, you do not know how the crew reacts. It is quite probable that the machine gun is up to you. The Russian soldiers were as confused as our people, and some of them did not know where they were. "I asked one of them, but replied" I do not know, "and that was all.”*

Gajdos



Podborova in 1969

- In 1969 “the temporary stay“ of Russian army seemed to become a neverending settlement
- They started to build new houses for Russian soldiers and officers in Podborova called Družba (Friendship)
- They created a unique microcosmos in the city
- They used Russian construction materials transported by railways and they built three 12-floors buildings (called bashnia - tower)



Podborova in 1971

- The House of Officers was opened – the cultural centre of Russian community
- The residents of Podborova had own cinema, shops, school, kindergarten, gym and medical centre
- ! Important note: only the Soviet army officers moved to Podborova with families. The ordinary soldiers lived in old barracks and they did not have open acceses to the „high-level society“



Podborova - Isolated Community?

- Many residents of Zvolen were against the stay of Soviet army in the city
- They known about them, but they co-existed without contacts
- Of course, there were exceptions...
- *„And even though we saw the Russians from the windows, we never could talk about them. It was like they did not exist. ”*



1990

- The Soviet army had to leave Czechoslovakia after 22 years of occupation:
- 73 500 soldiers and officers
- 36 921 family members
- 1 220 tanks
- 2 505 military machines and transporters
- 105 airplanes
- 175 helicopters



Podborova after...

- Podborova was devastated and the army left the place in enormous mess
- The place was called „the city of ghosts“
- The complex renovation of area started in 1998 when first old buildings were reconstructed
- The residents of Podborova are now mainly the young families with children



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Cinema – Podborova (2019)



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House of Officers – Podborova (2019)



©Mikuláš Mališ photography

Barracks – Podborova (2019)



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Postmemory in Podborova

- Demilitarization
- Revitalization and humanization
- Loss of „soviet“ look
- Long processes
- Civic activism aimed at the reconstructing the cultural landscape of Podborova



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Thank for your attention!



Bashnias - towers in 2018

Conclusion

What is a postmemory?

Can you observe it also around you?

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