



# HISTORICAL & CULTURAL CITY CASE OF BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

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Urban Stories: International Summer School

Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

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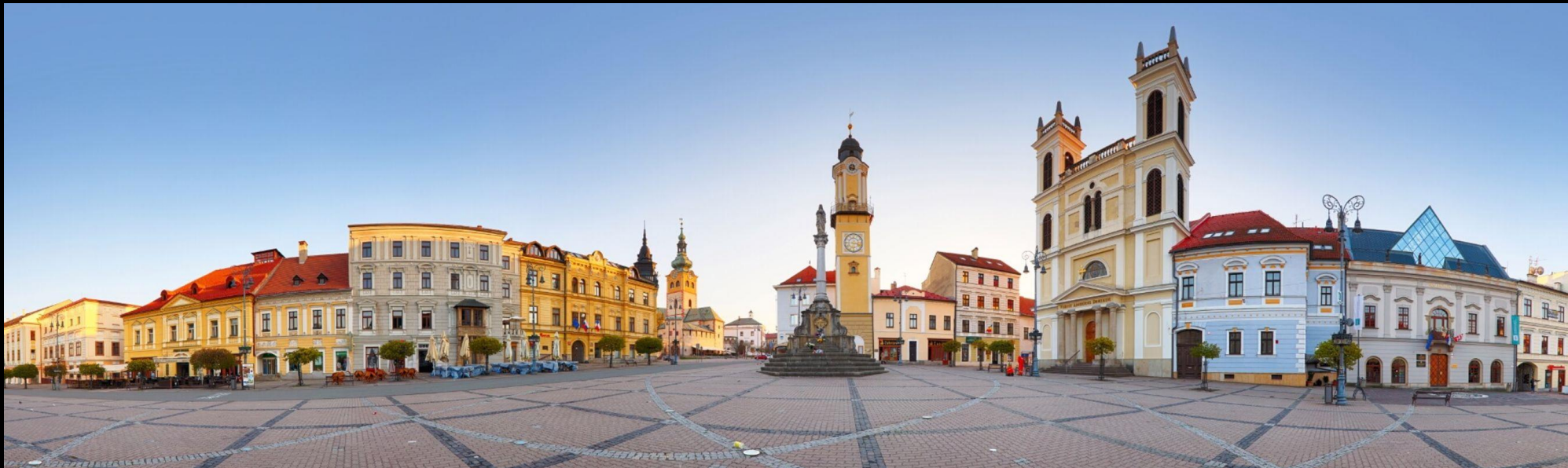
# WELCOME TO BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

- **Banská Bystrica** is a modern city and also, it is one of the oldest cities in Slovakia.
- About 100,000 inhabitants live in Banská Bystrica and surrounding areas
- It is a 6th largest city in Slovakia and the largest in the self-governing region.
- In Banská Bystrica is a university city– Matej Bel University is settled there which provides a wide range of study programmes, especially in economics, law, pedagogy, international relations and humanities.

Photo source: Google Web browser (2021)



IN OUR PRESENTATION WE WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU TWO  
FACES OF OUR CITY – HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL



# HISTORICAL CITY – WHAT IS IT?

HISTORICAL CITY – IS CONNECTED  
WITH ACTIVE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
THAT ARE STRONGLY CONDITIONED  
BY A PHYSICAL STRUCTURE FROM  
THE PAST, AND REPRESENTING THE  
EVOLUTION OF PLACE.



# BANSKÁ BYSTRICA AS HISTORICAL CITY

- Banská Bystrica is one of the most famous **mining cities** in Slovakia.
- It belonged to the Association of Seven Mining Towns founded 1388.
- The **copper and silver** was distributed to other countries from 14th to 16th century (also to Venice and Damascus in Syria)
- The center where products were made from copper and silver was called Medený Hámor (Cooper Hammer).





# BANSKÁ BYSTRICA ON THE MAP OF SLOVAKIA



Banská Bystrica is surrounded by three mountains :

- Great Fatra (Veľká Fatra)
  - Low Tatras (Nízke Tatry)
  - Slovak Ore Mountains (Slovenské Rudohorie)
- ✓ *Two of these mountains are also in the Slovak flag*  
– *Great Fatra and Low Tatras*





## THREE MOUNTAINS ON THE SLOVAK FLAG

➤ *TATRA*

➤ *FATRA*

➤ *MATRA*



# MOUNTAINS AND METALS

Gold, silver and copper were found in these mountains. These metals were processed at high temperature in furnaces. Wood was needed for the production of precious metals. This was mined in the surrounding mountains and transported along streams and rivers.

- Now I want to show you how the wood was transported:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09Aza10ah0g>

Ján Thurzo (upper palatine of Hungary, where Slovakia belonged politically at that time, studies in Padua, Italy) and Jakub Fugger (major German merchant, mining entrepreneur, and banker) formed the Thurzov-Fugger trading company in Banská Bystrica.



Low Tatras

# CULTURAL MEMORY

History is part of cities' identity.

Cultural memory is part of topographic self-articulation.

- In socialism, this part of cultural memory of our city was not accepted. The emphasis was on ideology and folk culture. Until now, more than 30 years after the Gentle Revolution, activities are underway to save this part of the cultural heritage.



Unfortunately, this is how our city looks like.





# MEDENÝ HÁMOR NOW

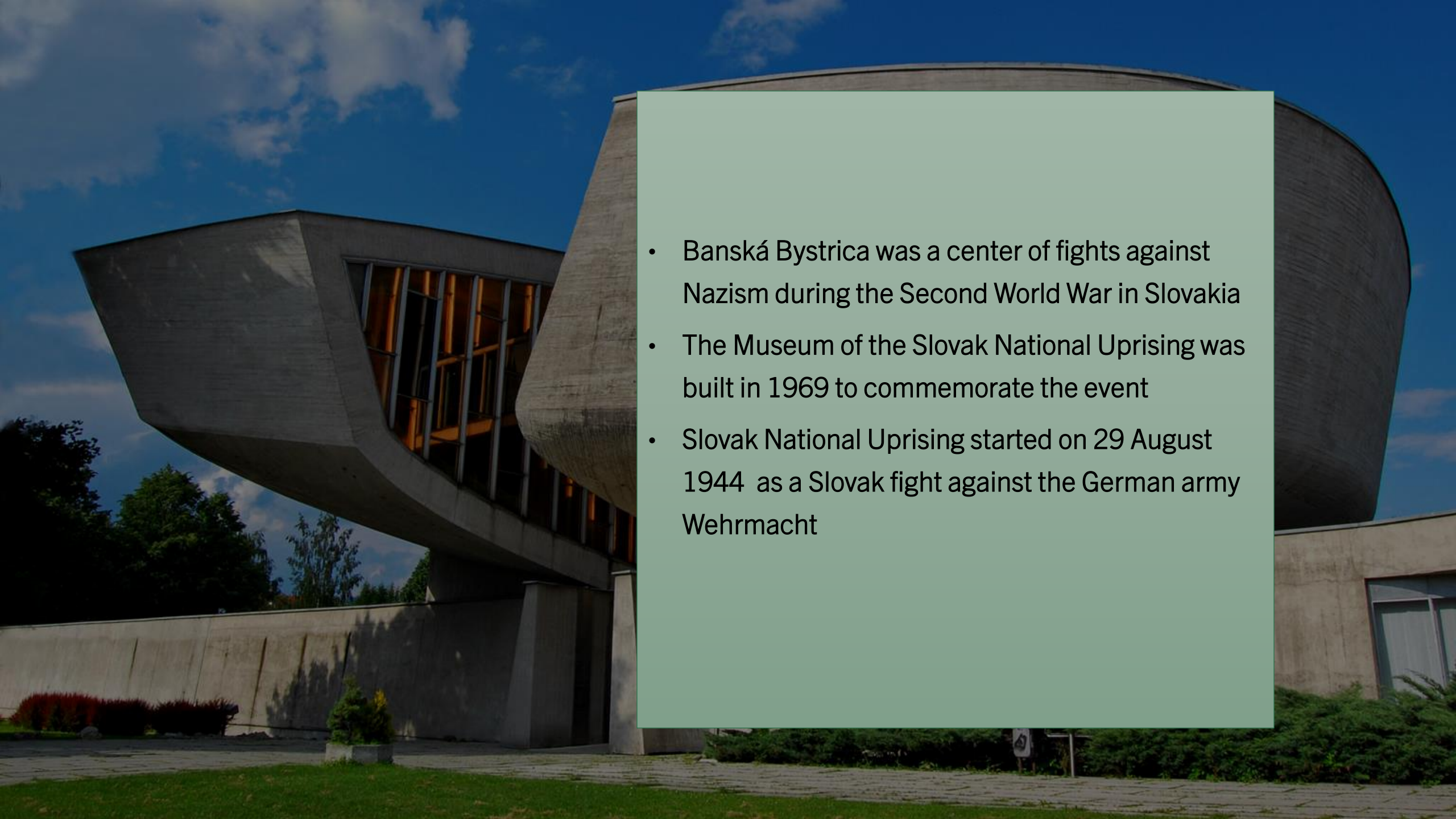
- It was the Banská Bystrica media company, the first pan-European company founded by the Fugger family from Augsburg and the Thurzo family from Slovakia, to intervene in world history by producing copper ore, which spread all over the world.
- It worked continuously for almost 500 years (1496-1991). In its heyday, it accounted for 40 percent of all copper ore production in the world.
- Copper Hammer is the last remnant of the medieval and modern industrial zone of the city, which was built along the stream of the *Bystrica*.

# DISCUSSION ON SAVING OF MEDENÝ HÁMOR (COOPER HAMMER)

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*At the time of the development of mining, smelters were  
built in and around the town.*





- Banská Bystrica was a center of fights against Nazism during the Second World War in Slovakia
- The Museum of the Slovak National Uprising was built in 1969 to commemorate the event
- Slovak National Uprising started on 29 August 1944 as a Slovak fight against the German army Wehrmacht



# CULTURAL CITY

Cultural city includes verbal, visual and physical aspects of human existence, creates space for multidimensional and dynamic development of place, linked with identity, traditions, crafts, art and events.



# BANSKÁ BYSTRICA AS A CULTURAL CENTRUM

- The city organizes interesting events such as concerts, public discussions, festivals, and many others.
- Among the natural possibilities of cultural activities in Banská Bystrica we can include cycling routes and opportunities for swimming in aqua park located in the city.







Every year in September the city organizes an event: Radvan Fair  
With traditional arts and crafts.

(It takes place on the main square from 1657, but in 2020 it was not realized because of pandemia)





## CITY – AND ITS INHABITANTS

- Urban cultural landscape of Banská Bystrica is very diverse.
- Urban landscape is expressing the relationship between inhabitants and the city.
- Based on this, Banská Bystrica provides inhabitants with opportunities to satisfy their work, social, cultural, sports, health, technological or administrative needs.
- The city provides inhabitants with opportunities in both the public and private spheres.



An aerial photograph of Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. The foreground shows a dense urban area with many buildings, mostly with red-tiled roofs. A large, green, forested hill rises behind the city. In the background, rolling hills and valleys are visible under a clear sky. The word "CONCLUSION" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

## CONCLUSION

We wanted to show you more about our city Banská Bystrica.

It keeps the remains of mining traditions, it is connected with the antifascism movement, and it is still in the process of changes.

Video of Banská Bystrica:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVZGX9b0NUo>



THANK FOR YOUR ATTENTION!





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