

FROM ARMS INDUSTRY TO MODEL TOWN –
INTERDEPENDENCIES OF URBAN AND MILITARY
ASPECTS IN THE PLANNING OF THE EXPELLEE TOWN
OF WALDKRAIBURG AND IN CONTEMPORARY
THEORIES ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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This contribution deals with one of five expellee towns in Bavaria which were created after World War II by making former arms factories available for resettlement. These towns have so far been regarded primarily as examples of pragmatic reallocation of premises and creating opportunities for industrial employment. In this

article, Waldkraiburg is examined from the perspective of urban development. Waldkraiburg represents the unusual, as far as the Federal Republic of Germany is concerned, case of a town newly established where no settlement had been beforehand. A look at urbanistic theories then valid shows that a model town was being aimed at, representing the ideal of the 1950s to a degree that would not have been possible when redeveloping existing urban areas. Waldkraiburg clearly benefited from the former factory of explosives, its structure in some aspects not permitting any other solution, especially when one bears in mind that the theory of urban development had not seen considerable change after 1945. The author also looks at the decision-making process that led to the town being founded, and at the image as an expellee town Waldkraiburg sought to project.