

STOCK COMPANIES IN THE SHOE INDUSTRY
IN CISLEITHANIA UNTIL THE END OF THE FIRST
WORLD WAR

Svatopluk Herc

This study examines the role of stock companies in the industrialisation of the shoe industry in Cisleithania. For a long time, this region saw shoe production by means of traditional craftsmanship at small scales. Stock companies played an important role in the industrialisation of the sector by enabling the concentration of capital and production. The focus of the study lies on the development of joint-stock shoe companies during the First World War. The war economy was characterised by extensive state interventions that led to a central administration and regulated distribution of raw materials and finished products. The question is therefore how stock companies were able to persist under these circumstances, and the article concludes that they succeeded in adapting to the wartime conditions and strengthened their market position. This contributed to the boom of stock company establishment during the post-war years.