



Poziv delavcem, naj se udeležijo volitev v delavske svete / An invitation for workers to participate in the election to workers' councils, plakat / poster, 1949

A new age is coming! Industry – Labour – Capital

During the last two centuries, Ljubljana's development was profoundly influenced by the emergence of industry and its expansion. The Industrial Revolution brought with it a new form of mass production, which kept changing the image of the city, transport as such and the structure of society. Like other European cities, Ljubljana became home to industrial buildings with high chimneys and dense smoke billowing out of them incessantly. Towering even above church towers, the chimneys epitomised the modernisation of society in which knowledge and technical progress prevailed over the tradition of craftsmen.

Symbolically marking the birth of modern industry in Ljubljana, the first steam engine started generating steam power in 1835 in the sugar refinery situated along the Ljubljanica River. In the decades to come, several factories sprang up in the city. The majority of them were small in scale

and employed a few dozen workers. The only truly big factory, consisting of an entire complex of administrative, production and warehousing buildings, established in Ljubljana before 1900, was the tobacco factory. Having expanded between Tržaška Street and the Southern Railway after 1873, the tobacco factory had a workforce of nearly 2,450 (mostly females) in 1893. Other stronger branches of industry in Ljubljana included foundry and machine manufacture, with the main representatives being Gustav Tönnies' works and the long-established foundry owned by the Samassa family.

Several dozen new industrial companies were established in the 1920s and 1930s, with each only occasionally exceeding 100 or even several hundred employees. These included Saturnus, Karl Pollak's leather factory, the Moste chemical factory, the Foundry and Machine Factory and the Tobacco Factory. The most acute problem of that time was the lack of capital, which is why Ljubljana's industries were inhibited in terms of both investments aimed at increasing production volumes and of development. The expanding industries attracted an ever growing number of workers arriving in the city in search for work. Whereas some of them managed to rent a room or an apartment of their own, others, mainly the lowest paid workers and the unemployed, were consigned to a life in the slums and other improvised dwellings. They were particularly vulnerable to the Great Depression of the 1930s, whose decelerating effect on the growth of industrial production in Ljubljana continued to be felt almost up until World War Two.



Iskra Delta, računalnik / computer Triglav, 1985, društvo Računalniški muzej / Computer Museum society

The end of World War Two and the revolution in its wake brought about considerable economic and social changes. Having neutralised the power of the owners of capital through nationalisation and other measures, the new authorities used the first five-year plan (1947–1952) to prioritise industrialisation and the construction of large industrial systems. It was in this context that Litostroj was built in Ljubljana. It had a workforce of several thousands and its influence on the image of the city's north-western part in the following decades was profound.



Saturnus, večni koledar / perpetual calendar, 1960–1970



Pooblaščena investicijska družba Hram / Authorised investment management company Hram, plakat / poster, 1994



Rog, kolo Pony / Pony bicycle, okoli / around 1985

A special feature of socialist enterprises was their universality, which was based on a collectively organised society. The enterprises were in charge of organising the entire life of their workers – from education, recreation, health and culture to entertainment and holidays. However, those enterprises were also the first segments of the socialist economy to be done away with under the new circumstances brought by the crisis of the 1980s and, later on, by the restructuring and privatisation processes of the 1990s.

After almost half a century in which industrial workers were seen as the icons and the protagonists of economic life, this form of economic system crashed. What followed were the tumults related to the closing down of factories that had failed to adapt to the new circumstances and did not survive in the market. The former factories such as the Decorative Textile Factory, Rog, Pletenina, Avtomontaža and several more left behind a legacy of empty spaces and masses of unemployed. The political decisions aimed at regulating industry which were typical of the pre-1990 period could, in a certain sense, be heard again in the praises sung to what was termed the 'national interest', which nevertheless hindered privatisation and foreign investment. Ljubljana also featured prominently in the story of several controversial management buyouts. However, the old always gives way to the new in all spheres of life. Similarly, the industries of Ljubljana have today been enriched by several modern industrial undertakings which, building on technological knowledge and innovations, will help Ljubljana enter the Fourth Industrial Revolution.





Franz Kurz von Goldenstein, Papirnica v Vevčah / Paper mill in Vevče, 1857

Nova doba prihaja! Industrija – delo – kapital

V zadnjih dveh stoletjih sta tudi na razvoj Ljubljane odločilno vplivala pojav in širjenje industrije. Industrijska revolucija je vpeljala novo obliko množične proizvodnje, ki je spreminjala podobo mesta, transporta in strukture družbe. Tako kot druga mesta v Evropi je tudi Ljubljana dobila industrijske objekte z visokimi dimniki, iz katerih se je neprestano valil gost dim. Dimniki so se vzdigovali nad cerkvene zvonove in s tem simbolično nakazovali modernizacijo družbe, v kateri sta znanje in tehnični napredek prevladovala nad tradicijo obrtne miselnosti.

Prvi parni stroj v Ljubljani, ki je predvsem na simbolni ravni označil začetek moderne industrije v Ljubljani, je začel proizvajati moč pare leta 1835 v Cukrarni ob Ljubljanici. V desetletjih, ki so sledila, je v mestu nastalo več tovarn, večinoma manjših, ki so zaposlovale po nekaj deset delavcev. Edina zares velika tovarna s kompleksom upravnih, proizvodnih in skladiščnih poslopij, ki je v Ljubljani nastala pred letom 1900, je bila tobačna tovarna. Zrasla je med Tržaško cesto in južno železnico po letu 1873 in je leta 1893 zaposlovala skoraj 2450 (večinoma) delavk. Med močnejšimi panogami industrije v Ljubljani sta bila livarstvo in strojogradnja, med večjimi tovrstnimi podjetji so bili obrati Gustava Tönniesa in takrat že stara livarna družine Samassa.

V dvajsetih in tridesetih letih 20. stoletja je v mestu nastalo več deset novih industrijskih podjetij, a le redka so dosegla več kot sto ali celo več sto zaposlenih. Med drugimi so bili takšni Saturnus, usnjarna Karla Pollaka, kemična tovarna v Mostah, družba Strojne tovarne in livarne ter tobačna tovarna. Največji problem industrije v Ljubljani v tem času je bilo pomanjkanje kapitala, zaradi česar so bile ljubljanske industrijske zgodbe omejene tako glede investiranja v obseg proizvodnje kot tudi glede razvoja. Z razraščanjem industrije se je povečevalo tudi število delavcev, ki so prihajali v mesto in iskali delo. Nekaterim je uspelo, da so si zagotovili sobo ali stanovanje v mestu, drugi,



Vinocet, posoda za kis / Vinegar container, 1930–1940

predvsem tisti najslabše plačani ali brezposelni, pa so postali prebivalci barakarskih naselij in drugih improviziranih bivališč. Posebej jih je prizadela velika gospodarska kriza v tridesetih letih, ki je skoraj do začetka druge svetovne vojne upočasnila rast industrijske proizvodnje v mestu.

Konec druge svetovne vojne in revolucija sta prinesla velike gospodarske in družbene spremembe. Nova politika, ki je izničila vpliv lastnikov kapitala z nacionalizacijo in drugimi ukrepi, je v prvi petletki (1947–1952) prednost dala industrializaciji in gradnji velikih industrijskih sistemov. Tako je v Ljubljani nastal tudi Litostroj, ki je zaposloval več tisoč ljudi in v prihodnjih desetletjih odločilno vplival na podobo severozahodnega dela mesta.



Ivan Franke, Albert Samassa, portret / portrait, 1873

Ena od posebnosti socialističnega podjetja je bila univerzalnost, ki je temeljila na kolektivizmu organiziranja družbe. Ta podjetja so organizirala celotno življenje delavcev – od izobraževanja, rekreacije, zdravstva in kulture do razvedrila in počitnikovanja. To so bili tudi prvi deli socialističnega gospodarstva, ki so jih v novih razmerah – kriza v osemdesetih letih in nato procesi prestrukturiranja in privatizacije v devetdesetih letih 20. stoletja – ukinjali.

Po skoraj pol stoletja dolgem obdobju, ko je industrijski delavec pomenil ikono in osrednji objekt gospodarskega življenja, se je ta

oblika gospodarske ureditve zrušila. Sledili so pretresi, povezani z zapiranjem tovarn, ki se niso mogle prilagoditi novim razmeram in preživeti na trgu. Ukinjene tovarne, kot so bile Tovarna dekorativnih tkanin, Rog, Pletenina, Avtomontaža in druge, so za seboj pustile izpraznjene prostore in množice brezposelnih delavcev. Politične odločitve glede urejanja razmer v industriji, ki so bile značilne za čas pred letom 1990, so se v določenem smislu ponovile ob poveličevanju t. i. nacionalnega interesa, ki je zaviral privatizacijo in tuje investicije. Prav tako so se tudi v Ljubljani odigrale nekatere zgodbe, ki so dobile oznako tajkunskih lastninjenj podjetij. A tako kot na drugih področjih življenja, kjer se staro umika novemu, so v Ljubljani nastale tudi nove uspešne zgodbe sodobne industrije, ki na podlagi tehnološkega znanja in inovativnosti sestavljajo ljubljansko zgodbo vstopa v četrto industrijsko revolucijo.



Gojmir Anton Kos, plakat Ljubljanskega velesejma / Ljubljana Trade Fair poster, 1926



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