

Katalin Hegedűs  
University of Novi Sad, Hungarian Language Teacher Training Faculty, Subotica, Serbia  
German language teacher  
picurka2@gmail.com  
Karmelka Barić  
College of Applied Technical Sciences – Subotica  
kbaric@vts.su.ac.rs

### **Cultural and Material Consequences of Colonization during the Reign of Joseph II**

This paper analyzes the final systematic wave of colonization in Bačka and Banat during the reign of Joseph II. Aimed at strengthening the Monarchy's economy, a predominantly German population was settled. The colonists brought contemporary knowledge in agriculture and craftsmanship, contributing to the development and acculturation of the local population. Although the Germans preserved their language and culture, their identity evolved through contact with the local inhabitants, resulting in distinctive cultural forms. Under Joseph II, seven German villages were founded in Bačka, while in Banat, the construction of German villages was organized after 1765. Particular attention was given to spatial organization: villages were built according to a chessboard layout, and houses were narrow. These urban and architectural patterns are partially preserved to this day. The paper applies historical methodology and comparative analysis to examine the cultural and spatial consequences, viewing colonization as a tool of cultural-political integration.

*Keywords:* Habsburg Monarchy, colonization, Germans, urban planning