Abstract: New elites. Promotions to noble rank of the defenders of Brno/Brünn and Prague in the context of the transformation of the Bohemian noble community in the 17th century. Promotions to noble rank were an important instrument for exerting power for the Habsburg rulers. While their influence before the Battle of the White Mountain was limited to the granting of coats-of-arms and offering support to be accepted to noble status, after 1620 all the competences regarding nobility were successively taken over by them. During the Thirty Years’ War, promotions to noble rank were an important and frequently offered reward, and a distinct expression of the ruler’s favour. The promotions to noble rank of the leading persons in Brno/Brünn, the Old and the New City of Prague, and the members of the Students’ Legion, who had distinguished themselves defending the cities against the Swedes in 1645 and 1648, however, have no equal in the history of the realm due to their extensiveness.

Keywords: Promotion to noble rank; nobility; Bohemia; Moravia; Thirty Years’ War

Schlagworte: Nobilitierungen; Adel; Böhmen; Mähren; Dreißigjähriger Krieg