



## The Tuzla City in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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### Abstract

Tuzla is a city located in the northeastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the southwestern slopes of the Majevisa mountain. It is the administrative, economic, university and cultural center of the wider region, the third largest city in Bosnia and Herzegovina, after Sarajevo and Banja Luka. Tuzla is one of the oldest settlements in Europe with continuity of life, from the 'Vinča cultural group' of the Neolithic (as evidenced by the remains of the Sojenica settlement) to the present day. The continuity of the life of this settlement is closely related to the deposits and exploitation of salt (NaCl), which is why Tuzla got its name. There are numerous sites of material culture from the Neolithic era, including ceramic vessels in which salt water was boiled until it evaporated, that is, until salt was obtained. The ancient Greeks still knew this region for its salt deposits, but the name 'Tuzla' (where the word 'tuz' in Turkish means 'salt') was given to the city during the administration of the Ottoman Empire when salt was produced, due to the fact that the city was part of vast empire, fivefold.

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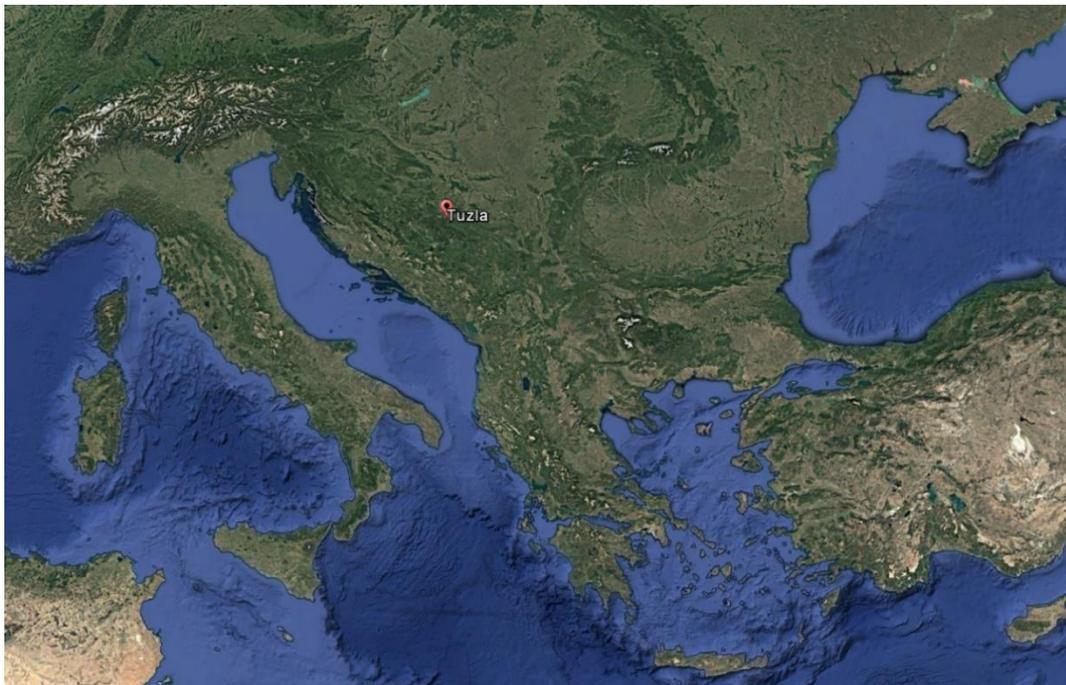
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### 1. Introduction

Tuzla is a city (with about 110,979 inhabitants, 2013) <sup>[1]</sup> located in the northeastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the southwestern slopes of the Majevisa mountain (Geographical coordinates: 44°32'21.77"N, 18°40'28.96"E, elevation: 231 m), (Figure 1). Tuzla is the administrative, economic, university and cultural center of the wider region, the third largest city in Bosnia and Herzegovina, after Sarajevo (297,523) and Banjaluka (173,748). Tuzla is one of the oldest settlements in Europe with continuity of life, from the 'Vinča cultural group' of the Neolithic (as evidenced by the remains of the Sojenica settlement) to the present day. The continuity of the life of this settlement is closely related to the deposits and exploitation of salt (NaCl), which is why Tuzla got its name. There are numerous sites of material culture from the Neolithic era, including ceramic vessels in which salt water was boiled until it evaporated, that is, until salt was obtained. The ancient Greeks still knew this region for its salt deposits, but the name 'Tuzla' (where the word 'tuz' in Turkish means 'salt') was given to the city during the administration of the Ottoman Empire when salt was produced, due to the fact that the city was part of vast empire, fivefold. Throughout its history, Tuzla had different names, but they were always related to salt: Castron de Salenes (Greek), Ad Salinas (Latin), Salines (Latin), Salenes (Greek), Solina, Soli (South Slavic), Memlehatejn (Arabic), Memleha-i Zir (Persian), Tuz (Ottoman) <sup>[2]</sup>. During the time of the Roman Empire, the area of Tuzla was an important link between two Roman provinces, Dalmatia and Pannonia. The Romans exploited ores, salt and thermal and mineral waters here. The Romans built the Salines settlement in the area of today's Tuzla. The first written trace in which Tuzla is directly mentioned dates from the year 950, from the work of the Byzantine emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus (905-959), "De administrando imperio" ("On the administration of the state"). Tuzla is mentioned under the Roman name Salines (city of salt). The Slavs called the area framed by the rivers Sava, Bosna and Drina Usora and Soli. Until the establishment of the first Bosnian state, this area was mostly controlled by Hungary. During the Kingdom of Bosnia (1353-1463), there were several fortress towns in the wider area of Tuzla (Srebrenik, 1333, Teocak, 1345, Soko near Gracanica, 1426), while Tuzla itself was a famous producer of salt in Europe. Many stećak necropolises speak of the

wealth of life in this area. The most famous stećak necropolises are located in the area of Tuzla, Banovici, Kladanj, Zivinice, Kalesija, Lukavac, Teocak and Sapna. Many stećaks are decorated, and the most common decorative motifs are: star, crescent, sun, lily, cross, shield, sword... some inscriptions on the stećci are written in Bosnian script. The population, for the most part, followed the teachings of the Bosnian Church. The Franciscans came to the area of Tuzla (13th century) and patiently and steadfastly established Catholicism here. The Franciscans (in the period from 1378 to 1460) built numerous monasteries in Tuzla and its wider surroundings: Tuzla, Gornja Tuzla, Teocak, Koraj. During the Ottoman administration (the Ottomans took control of Tuzla around 1512) [3], Tuzla developed in content and space, especially in the 17th century. After the administrative reforms of the Ottoman Empire, Tuzla became the seat of the Sandzak of Zvornik (since 1851) [4], a center of free trade and one of the largest cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (with about 5,000 inhabitants). After the Peace of Karlovac (Sremski Karlovci, 1699), a wooden military fort (palanquin) was built in Tuzla on the site where Turali Bey's inn had previously been built. The wooden city-fortress was (1760-

1768) replaced by a stone fort that lasted until 1878, and its remains were completely removed in 1894. At the beginning of the 18th century, Tuzla was the seat of the captain of the Tuzla Captaincy. Tuzla was hit by a catastrophic fire (September 9, 1871) in which a large number of buildings disappeared: shops, 13 warehouses, a bazaar mosque, a madrasa, a mekteb, five khans, 12 taverns, three taverns, two solariums and several houses under the city [4]. With the accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Tuzla, as a city of salt, gained a corresponding importance in the economy of the new, vast empire. Tuzla will have this great importance in all subsequent state creations (Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Kingdom of Yugoslavia, NDH, FNRJ, SFRJ), until today. The latest interventions in the urban fabric of the Old Town of Tuzla, with the restoration of objects of cultural and historical heritage, and the construction of new contents that revive and preserve the 'historical memory' of this area, give Tuzla the dimensions of a city 'with character', with many points that are characterized by recognizable and strong *Genius Loci*.



Source: Google Earth: Accessed: December 9, 2024.

Fig 1: The Tuzla city in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Location

In this paper, the author deals with the topic of 'sustainability'. In this sense, he visited the entire area of Bosnia and Herzegovina and collected rich material, which he incorporated for the most part into his books and scientific works [5-33]. In this sense, the Author visited the entire area of Bosnia and Herzegovina and collected rich materials. Bosnia and Herzegovina is an extremely complex area in terms of the natural and social environment and its population. The three most numerous ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats) live here, and thanks to its rich history, numerous people of different origins: Jews, Germans, Poles, Czechs, Italians, Hungarians... The composition of the population changed over time, but remained material and spiritual traces of their life in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The complexity of Bosnia and Herzegovina is also visible in its architecture. Hence, for

elaborating on the theme of sustainability (in this work using the example of the historical city of Jajce) the most suitable scientific methodology [5] was used, which is covered in his book: Hadrovic, A. (2007). Defining Architectural Space on the Model of the Oriental Style CityHouse in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia, Booksurge, LLC, North Charleston, SC, USA.

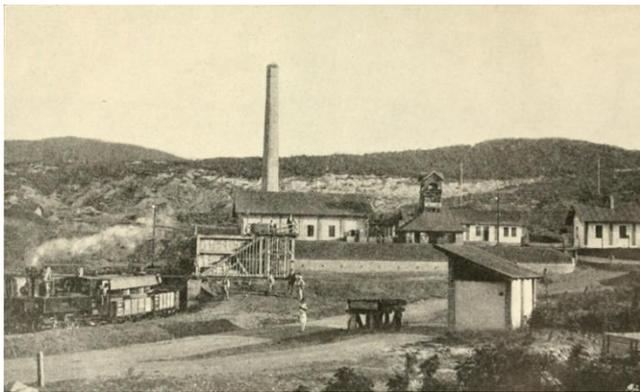
## 2. Environment

By 'environment' we mean every possibility in the space in which man can realize his existence [5].

### 2.1. Natural environment

By 'natural environment' we mean all those features that nature gave, and on which man (mostly) did not exert his

influence: geographical location, geomorphology, watercourses and reservoirs, flora and fauna, available soil, climate<sup>[5]</sup> ... The largest and most important natural resources of Tuzla are: coal deposits (Figure 2), rock salt deposits (Figure 3), several lakes (Figures 4-7), two rivers that flow through Tuzla (Jala and Solina), Spreča river, and spacious fertile fields (Figures 8,9,10). The „Kreka“ coal mine was opened during the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (1878) by Austria-Hungary, after which the industrialization of this area began<sup>[34]</sup>. Already in 1880, Austria-Hungary declared a state monopoly over salt (which was exploited in Tuzla). The first loads of coal were excavated on September 22, 1884, during a day mining of the outcrop of the main layer on the left bank of the Kreke stream. At first, the mine worked as part of the Simin Han Saltworks, opened in 1885, for which brown coal was mined. The mine became independent the very next year. Later, a new shaft, Vilma, was opened, and then the southern area Krojčica was opened. In connection with the mine, the development of the transport network began. The Doboј - Simin Han train started in 1886. Today, the coal mine „Kreka“ d.o.o. Tuzla, organized as a limited liability company, operates and has the status of a Subsidiary Company based on the Business Management Agreement concluded on November 18, 2009 with JP Elektroprivreda B&H d.d. Sarajevo<sup>[35]</sup>.



**Source:** Renner, Heinrich (1897). *Durch Bosnien und die Herzegovina kreuz und quer, Wanderungen*, Berlin D. Reimer (E. Vohsen), p. 556

**Fig 2:** A view of the Kohlenwerk in Kreka in 1897

The first written information about the existence of natural salt springs in Tuzla comes from the early Middle Ages, although it can be safely said that salt has been obtained in these areas since time immemorial. This is indicated by the very name that used to be used for this area (Salines in Latin means the city of salt pans), while some historians believe that the name Bosnia is also related to salt, because boss means salt in the Illyrian language. Tuzla got its current name in the 15th century after the arrival of the Ottomans and is again related to salt, because in the Turkish language 'tuz' means 'salt'. The industrial exploitation of salt from deposits in Tuzla began in 1885 according to the model of colonial industrialization in Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary. So far, about 90 million m<sup>3</sup> of salt water with an average salinity of 300 kg/m<sup>3</sup> has been exhausted from the Tuzla deposit, that is, about 27 million tons of salt have been

exploited, which has created a solid mass deficit of about 12.6 million m<sup>3</sup>. The rock salt deposit in Tuzla, although relatively small in size, has a long and problematic history of exploitation. The basic and oldest form of exploitation of salt from deposits consists in the use of underground water, which naturally feeds the deposit, dissolves easily soluble rock salt and creates saturated brine, which is pumped to the surface through shallow wells at the beginning of exploitation, and later deep wells. The complex processes in the deposit started long before the artificial exploitation of the brine and had the characteristics of light natural processes. By artificially exploiting the brine, they were only accelerated and took on the characteristics of effective processes with visible consequences on the surface of the terrain. In 1971, multi-year systematic geological research of the Dokan syncline began, with geological and hydro-chemical prospecting, continued with modern geological-geophysical methods that indicated the potential of this structure. The principle of multidisciplinaryity was implemented in the process of researching the Tetima rock salt deposit, but still the main role belonged to exploratory drilling, on the basis of which the geometrization of the sone body was carried out. At that time, the level of knowledge of some important deposit characteristics and parameters (geological, hydrogeological, chemical-technological and others), which have a decisive influence on the choice of the method and method of exploitation of a single deposit, forced the adoption of a concept according to which the exploitation will be carried out as an optimal solution. of this deposit should be carried out by controlled leaching with individual wells from the surface of the field. By drilling in 1978, the prospect was confirmed by the discovery of the „Tetima“ rock salt deposit. The exploration and contouring of the reservoir was carried out for the next 6 years with 24 exploration wells, 17 of which pierced the sonobody. In plan, the deposit has an irregular elliptical shape, about 2.2 km long and up to 1 km wide. It was deposited in the eastern part of the Dokan syncline and has a Dinaric direction providing a maximum thickness of up to 200 m. The main mining project, which was carried out at the end of the eighties of the last century, foresees a phased development of 1,600,000 m<sup>3</sup> over 2,500,000 m<sup>3</sup> to the final 4,500,000 m<sup>3</sup> of salt water per year. All mining facilities, plants and devices are dimensioned according to the final capacity and were built in the early nineties of the last century. The mine was put into trial operation with five exploratory and exploitation wells in March 1992, but after only two months, due to the beginning of the war, the trial operation was terminated. After the revitalization of mining facilities, plants and equipment that lasted from 1996-2000. production was restarted at the beginning of 2001. The mine has all the necessary facilities, devices, equipment as well as approvals for management and control of the process of obtaining and distributing salty and technological water. The mine has its own professional staff trained to manage and control the process of obtaining salt water, distribution of salt water and process water, as well as maintenance of mining facilities, plants and equipment<sup>[36]</sup>.

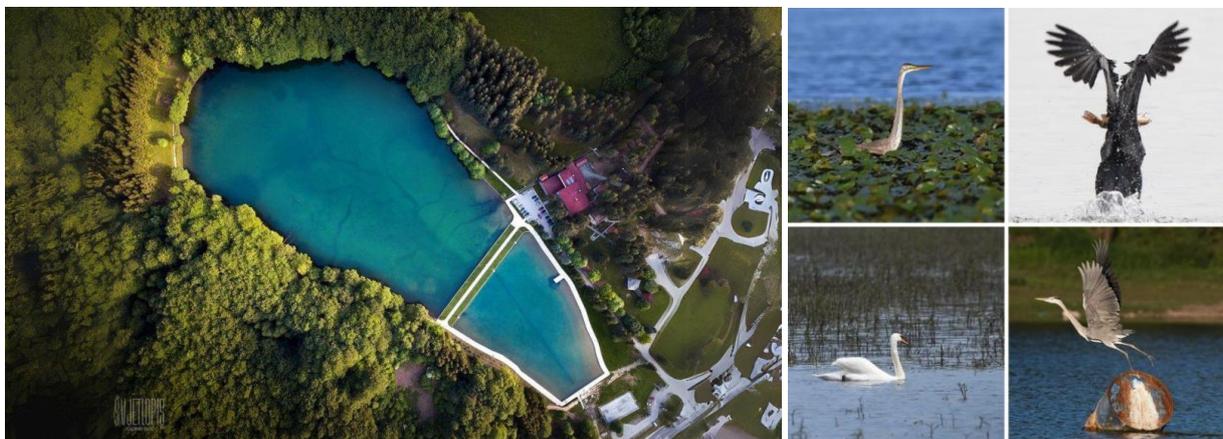


**Source:** Historijat eksploatacije soli u Tuzli  
<https://rudniksoli.ba/historijat>, Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 3:** Saltworks in Tuzla (historical photo)

Modrac is an accumulation lake located about 6 kilometers from the town of Lukavac, 10 km from Tuzla and 9 kilometers from Zivinice (Figure 4).

The area is about 17 km<sup>2</sup>. The Spreca and Turija rivers flow into the lake. The deepest point is about 20 meters. It is about 1,600 meters wide in its widest part. In its longest part, it is 11 kilometers long. During low water the coast is accessible along its entire length and almost every good spot for fishing on the lake is accessible by car. The lake was originally designed to supply water to industrial plants, and later became a favorite picnic spot, a destination for recreational fishermen and nature lovers, enriched with tourist and hospitality offers. Modrac is a potential for irrigation and a possible drinking water factory. The lake was created by a large financial investment of private and state capital in 1964 with the construction of a dam on the Spreca River in Modrac, Lukavac Municipality. It was one of the largest reservoirs in the former Yugoslavia. The reason for the construction was to obtain a supply point from where the industrial plants of Tuzla and Zivinice would be supplied with water. It has been transformed into an attractive vacation spot in the continental part of Bosnia and Herzegovina with numerous tourist facilities and facilities, as well as the possibility of fishing and swimming.



**Source:** <https://lil.ba/lake-modrac/>, Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 4:** Modrac Lake near Tuzla

The 'Secret Lake' is located between Tuzla and Zivinice and was created as a result of decades of coal exploitation in the area of the Dubrave mine. There are several smaller lakes in

the wider area, and the largest and most visually interesting one is named 'Tajno jezero' ('Secret Lake'). It got its name precisely because of its 'hiddenness' in a dense pine forest

(Figure 5).



**Source:** <https://www.wikiloc.com/hiking-trails/m-pijaca-orasje-tajno-jezero-pd-vrsani-ilincica-141122419/photo-89403156>  
Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 5:** 'Secret lake' in the Vrsani village near Tuzla

Kop Lake in Sicki Brod near Tuzla is an accumulation lake. It is 800 meters long in the longest part and 400 meters wide in the widest part. The deepest is 35 meters. The bottom is not of the same configuration everywhere, but the bottom itself is covered with gravel. Due to such dimensions, it is

very suitable for recreational and competitive fishing. It's flowing. Seven sources of water regularly flow into the lake. It is certain that it is fed by quite a few underwater sources, which is confirmed by the fact that in winter the parts of the lake where underwater sources are likely were never covered by ice. The institute in Tuzla tested the water quality and gave it the highest rating. The water in Lake Sicki Brod is the cleanest of all lakes in Tuzla. The lake was created in 1987 at the Sicki Brod surface mine, after which it is named. It has been systematically stocked since the 2000s. The flora of the lake consists of aquatic plants. Planned stocking contributed to the fauna. In addition to introduced carp, the lake also has native fish that have survived fishing. Most of them are crustaceans (Sava dragonflies, savages or torpedoes as some call them) brought in by local fishermen. There is also an abundance of these white fish in the lake: redfin, whiting and bream, which favors the population of predatory pike, brought in earlier. It is planned to stock the lake with perch fry for sport fishing. The fish watch service works 24 hours a day, which puts an end to poaching. Sports fishing and tourism. There is a weekend house that can be rented, so anglers can stay here for longer. For fishermen, all positions are prepared so that tents can be placed on them. The water in this lake corresponds to the quality of drinking water (Figure 6).



**Source:** <https://sodalive.ba/svasta/voda-iz-jezera-kop-odgovara-kvaliteti-vode-za-pice/>, Accessed: December 12, 2024.  
**Source:** <https://i0.wp.com/megafon.ba/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Jezero-Kop-foto.jpeg?fit=800%2C596&ssl=1>  
Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 6:** Kop Lake in Sicki Brod near Tuzla

Bistarac Lake is located about two kilometers from Lukavac on the old road towards Tuzla. The lake is considered the 'pearl of the Tuzla Canton'. Bistarac is one of the few lakes with natural purification, which guarantees clean water suitable for swimming, fishing and all water sports. The altitude is slightly higher (250 m), which always guarantees a light breeze, a sufficient number of sunny hours and a moderate temperature of the water for bathing. All this attracts a large number of tourists from all over the country. The lake is a true little paradise for anglers.

The lake is stocked throughout the year with various types of fish such as: carp, catfish, Sava bream, roach, and in addition tench, redfin, grass carp, walleye, perch, chub, bream and trout, which have adapted extremely well, can be caught. The waters of the lake. Sports fishing competitions are organized throughout the year. The Bistarac lake complex has 30 bungalows for rent with double, triple and quadruple rooms. The camping season is open every year roughly from mid-April until the beginning of November (Figure 7).



Source: <https://enovosti.ba/jezero-bistarac/>, Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 7:** Bistarac Lake near Lukavac

The Jala River flows through Tuzla (Figure 8). It springs in the area of Majevisa, in the locality Ravni Lijestak, at an altitude of about 700 m. The total length of the stream from the source to the confluence in Spreca is 37 km. The largest tributaries are Solina and Josevica, as well as Pozarnicka river, Grabov and Mramorski potok. The right tributaries are: Mramorski potok in a length of approx. 11.4 km (with Dobrnjski potok), Duboki potok, Josevica, Lazin potok, Moluska river, Tušanj stream, Hukalo, Grabov potok, Divicki

potok, Solina river (it originates from Rijeka stream with its tributaries Abramovick , Racetin stream, Bakalusa and Kosacka river). The left tributaries are: Pozarnicka Jala (with its tributaries Kovacica, Cviljevacka river and Jasinski stream) with a total length of approx. 11 km, Erski stream, Lugonjica stream, Momanov stream, Slavinovicki stream, Omerasevici stream, Sicki stream, Vrapce stream and Mosnicki stream. Due to the (still) unregulated wastewater treatment system, the Jala River is quite polluted.



Source: <https://grad.tuzla.ba/vijesti/nastavljaju-se-radovi-na-ciscenju-korita-rijeka-u-tuzlanskim-naseljima/>, Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 8:** The Jala River in Tuzla

The Solina River originates in the area of Majevisa. On the right is a tributary of the Jala, which flows into it near Brcanska Malta in Tuzla. Solina is a river and not a torrential watercourse like Dobrnjska river, Mramorski stream and Dokanjski stream.

There are eight settlements in the Solina river basin, from north to south: Breska, Dokanj, Kosci, Crno Blato, Svojtina, Brdjani, Dolovi and Solina. Archaeological findings are scarce, but sufficient to indicate the population of the basin since prehistoric times (Figure 9).



**Source:** <https://tuzlanski.ba/vijesti/bih/rijeka-solina-u-roku-od-10-minuta-nabujala-oko-2-metra-u-brdanima-se-izlila-foto/75108#gallery-2>  
 Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 9:** The Solina River in Tuzla

The Spreca River originates in Snagovu, municipality of Zvornik and continues through the area of the municipalities of Kalesija, Zivinice, Lukavac, Petrovo, Gracanica, Doboj Istok and Doboj. The right is the longest tributary of the Bosna River. On its way to the mouth of the Bosna river near

Doboj, the Spreča receives several tributaries: Gribaja, Oskova, Gostelja, Jala, Sokolusa, Brijesnica, Jadrina, Kamenicka rijeka, Sockovacka rijeka, Prenja. Its waters are used for the industry of the Tuzla Canton. The length of the river Spreca is 137.6 kilometers (Figure 10).



**Source:** <https://bhrt.ba/rijeka-spre%C4%8Da-se-izlila-poplavljeno-poljoprivredno-zemlji%C5%A1te-na-podru%C4%8Dju-op%C5%A1tine-doboj-istok>, Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 10:** The Spreca River

In Tuzla, in the very center of the city, an artificial lake with salt water, unique in the world, was arranged (2003), (Figure 11). A little later (2008) a second Salt Lake was arranged as part of an ambitiously conceived recreation center in which

facilities such as the Archeological Park - Neolithic Sojenica settlement and museum, Salt Falls, Fitness Center, Children's Park, provide an atmosphere for modern people while recalling the long history of Tuzla.



Source: Author (May 25, 2013.)

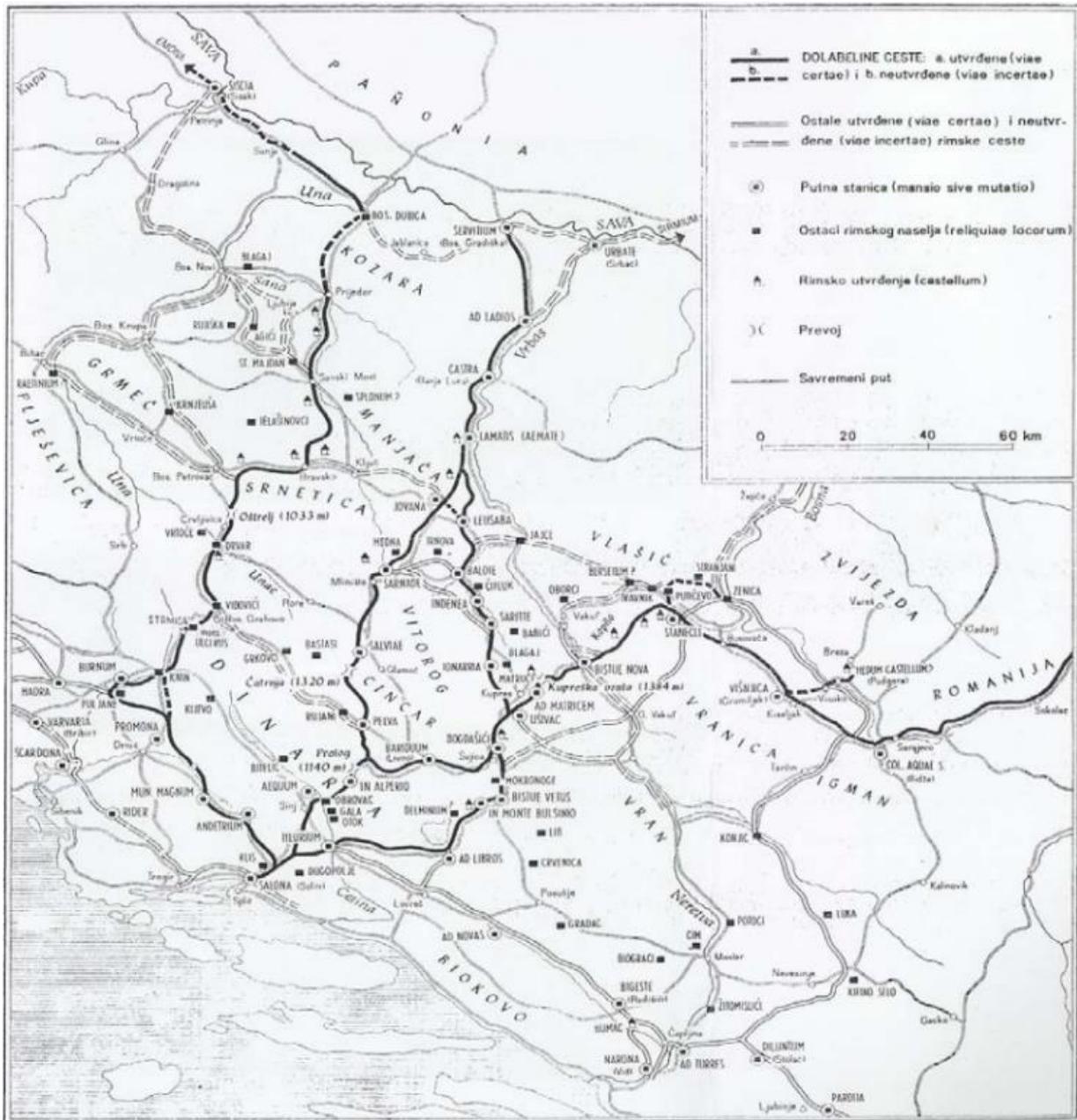


Fig 11: Pannonica Lake in Tuzla

## 2.2. Social environment

By 'social environment' we mean everything that man has created and that separates him from the world of other living beings<sup>[5]</sup>. It includes both physical structures (various material, more or less ordered products of their activity) and the immaterial world that we know through the intellect (science, philosophy, religion, law, morality) through an ordered system of abstract symbols (letters, signs)<sup>[5]</sup>. The history of Bosnia and Herzegovina can be traced through the following periods: Prehistoric Era (Paleolithic 12000-7500, Neolithic 7500-4000 BC, Bronze Age 3300-700 BC, Iron Age 700-400 BC), Ancient Period, Illyrian Hellenism (300-27 BC), Celts (4th century BC), Romans (3rd century BC-3rd century), Western Roman Empire (395-475), Goths (493-535), Origin of the Bosnian state (7th-10th century), Eastern Roman Empire (476-), Foreign invaders, Serbs (931-960), Croats (968), Byzantium (1019), Hungarians (1102-1135), Bosnia as a banovina (1154-1163), Bosnia as a kingdom (1353-1463), Ottoman period (1463-1878), Period of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (1878-1918), Kingdom of SHS (1918-1929), Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1929-1941), NDH era (1941-1945), FNRJ, SFRJ ('Tito's Yugoslavia', 1943-1991), Independent Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995-). Many nations passed through Bosnia and Herzegovina, entering it by force, and being expelled from it by force. All of them took part of her wealth and left their traces. New arrivals, as a rule, demolished what their predecessors had built, erecting their signs of existence on those ruins. So until today. Without forgetting or neglecting the rich prehistoric heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we can trace the complete course of urbanization in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the arrival of the Romans in these areas. Their conquests lasted a long time, from the 3rd century BC to 78 BC, since the resistance of the local population (Illyrians) was extremely tough. Bosnia and Herzegovina was interesting for the Romans because of the deposits of ores and as a bridge to Posavina and Podunavlja.

Three important Roman roads passed through here<sup>[37]</sup> (Figure 12): the first connected Salona (Solun) with Sirmium (Mitrovica) via western Bosnia. From Salona, the road went to today's Citluk, and from here to Pelva (Listane) in the Livanja field. From Pelva, the road through Salvia on the Glamocko polje led to Sarnaclaa (spring of Sana) and further to Leusabae (Podraznica); via Lamatris the road led to Castraa (Banjaluka) and further via Finesaa (Laktaš) to Servitio (Gradiska) on the Sava. The Sava was further sailed to Sirmium. Another route led from Salona through central Bosnia to the Drina, and from here to Sirmium. More famous places on this road were: Tilurio (Trilj on Cetina), Libros (Vidoš on Livanjsko polje), Bistua Vetus (on Eminovo polje), Matrix (probably today's Gornji Vakuf), Bistua Nova (Krupa near Gojnica), Stanecli (Blazuj), Argentaria (probably Srebrenica). Branches separated from this cardinal direction: from Sarajevo Field to the east via Aleva (probably Rogatica) to Sapua (Pljevlja). The second branch branched off towards Konjic, and the third via Busovača to Travnik, and further via Jajce and Jezera, to the main road of Salona - Servitio. The third route led from Salona and further in the direction of Novas (Runovici) - Fusciana (Tihaljina) - Trebizat valley - Bigesta (Ljubuški) - Naronas (Vid) near the Neretva river. From here the road led to Scodraa (Skadra) and Dyrachi (Durrës), where it caught the famous military road „Via Egnatia“ that went to Thessaloniki and Constantinople. We mention these roads due to the fact that they will remain the main backbone around which the urbanization of Bosnia Herzegovina will take place until today. Those places in Bosnia and Herzegovina that had the status of municipia and colonia during the time of the Romans should be highlighted. Municipalities were cities with a wide degree of autonomy and, as far as we know, they were: Dalminium (Duvno), Bistuae Nova (Kitez), Bistuae Vetus (at the source of Rama), Pelva (on Livanja polje), Splonum, Stanecli (Visnjica near Kiseljak).



Source: Bojanovski, Ivo (1974). Dolabela's road system in the Roman province of Dalmatia, ANU B&H, Works, XLVII, CBI 2, Sarajevo

Fig 12: Overview map of ancient Roman roads in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Tuzla city is well connected with other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the surrounding area by road, rail and air traffic. It opens onto the European Corridor VC (which runs through Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Sava River in the north to the Adriatic Sea in the south), is located on the main road Sarajevo-Tuzla-Brcko, and the road Zvornik-Tuzla-Doboj. The railway Doboj - Simin Han was a narrow-gauge railway in the south of what was then Austria-Hungary, and today Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was a branch of the Bosnian railway (Bosnabahn) Bosanski Brod - Doboj - Zavidovici - Zenica - Lasva - Podlugovi - Vogošća - Sarajevo, built in the period from 1879 to 1898. It led to

industrial facilities for the production of salt in Tuzla and Simin Hanu, completed in 1885. The railway was put into traffic on April 29, 1886. It was 66.7 km long. Coal-powered steam locomotives ran along the railway. After the Second World War, the normal gauge was gradually switched over and the narrow-gauge railways were abolished. Normal gauge railways were built along the narrow-gauge routes. Traffic was carried on this railway until March 28, 1951, when this railway was abolished and dismantled. Its role was taken over by the normal gauge railway, completed in 1950 and put into service on March 28, 1951 (Figure 13).



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=127671039004661&set=a.104239011347864>, Accessed: December 12, 2024.

Source: <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/oronula-i-pusta-zeljeznicka-stanica-kao-dokaz-da-su-tuzlom-nekada-prolazili-vozovi/211113055>  
Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 13:** Old (left) and new (right) railway station in Tuzla

Tuzla International Airport (IATA: TZL, ICAO: LQTZ) is the second largest airport in Bosnia and Herzegovina, after Sarajevo International Airport (Geographic coordinates: 44°27'31.16"N, 18°43'29.22"E). The airport is known as the low-cost air hub of Bosnia and Herzegovina because it is used by people from Bosnia, the diaspora and travelers from the neighboring countries of Croatia and Serbia. It is a civilian airport and was also a military air base. Tuzla International Airport used to be the largest military airport in the former Yugoslavia. The 350th Reconnaissance Aviation Squadron operated there for a time. In the early 1990s, still within Yugoslavia and before the start of the war in Bosnia, the Yugoslav airliner Air Commerce operated commercial flights from Sarajevo and Tuzla to Austria and Switzerland. It was placed under the control of the United Nations Protection Force in 1992, and from 1996 it became the main center of the Implementation Force (IFOR), which was in charge of supervising the implementation of the Dayton Agreement. Tuzla Canton turned Tuzla International into a civilian airport in 1998. Tuzla International was opened on October 10, 1998 as a civilian airport and a military airfield.

After the complete international military withdrawal on December 1, 2006, the Tuzla International Airport began the implementation of all technical requirements and standards imposed by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Finally, on June 5, 2008, the Tuzla International Airport received a temporary certificate for the use of a public airport in international air traffic with a validity period of one year. After a general audit conducted by the authorized institutions of civil aviation in B&H, Tuzla International Airport received a certificate for the use of a public airport in international air traffic on June 5, 2009 with an unlimited period of validity. The passenger terminal building, built in 1998, provides a capacity of 350 passengers per hour (Figure 14). In December 2015, the Government of Tuzla Canton allocated about 2 million BAM in the 2016 budget for the reconstruction and expansion of the existing passenger terminal and the construction of a smaller freight terminal with warehouses and cold stores. In addition, the Government allocated nearly 500 thousand BAM for the construction of the approach lighting system (ALS) [38].



Source: <https://hrvatskiglasnik.ba/aerodrom-u-tuzli-bi-mogao-dobiti-novu-liniju-i-to-prema-istanbulu/>, Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 14:** Tuzla International Airport

Thermal Power Plant Tuzla (TE Tuzla) is located in Bukinje, in the west of the city of Tuzla. The thermal power plant was built in several stages. The foundation stone was laid in 1959. In 1963, Block 1, with a power of 32 MW, was put into operation and that was the beginning of electricity

production. Construction was completed in 1978. About 70% of the coal used by the thermal power plant is from the mine in Banovići, and the rest is from the Mine in Gračanica and from the nearby Bukinje Mine. TE Tuzla was not equipped with desulfurization filters until 2013. The revitalized Block

6 with a capacity of 215 MW was put into operation on February 21, 2013. The revitalization includes the boiler plant, turbines, cooling tower, power plants, electrofilters, transport of slag and ash, and replacement of the automation system. The installed capacity of Block 6 has been increased by 8 to 10 MW based on increased energy efficiency, and the annual electricity production of Block 6 with a capacity of 215 MW will amount to 1100 GWh. A total of 715 MW of

thermal power was installed, the average annual production is about 3100 GWh with coal consumption of about 3.3 million tons. In 2013, TE mainly produces and delivers thermal energy for the district heating system of Tuzla and Lukavac, as well as technological steam for the needs of industry. Today, TE Tuzla produces 50% of electricity in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is planned to build the seventh block of the thermal power plant <sup>[39]</sup> (Figure 15).

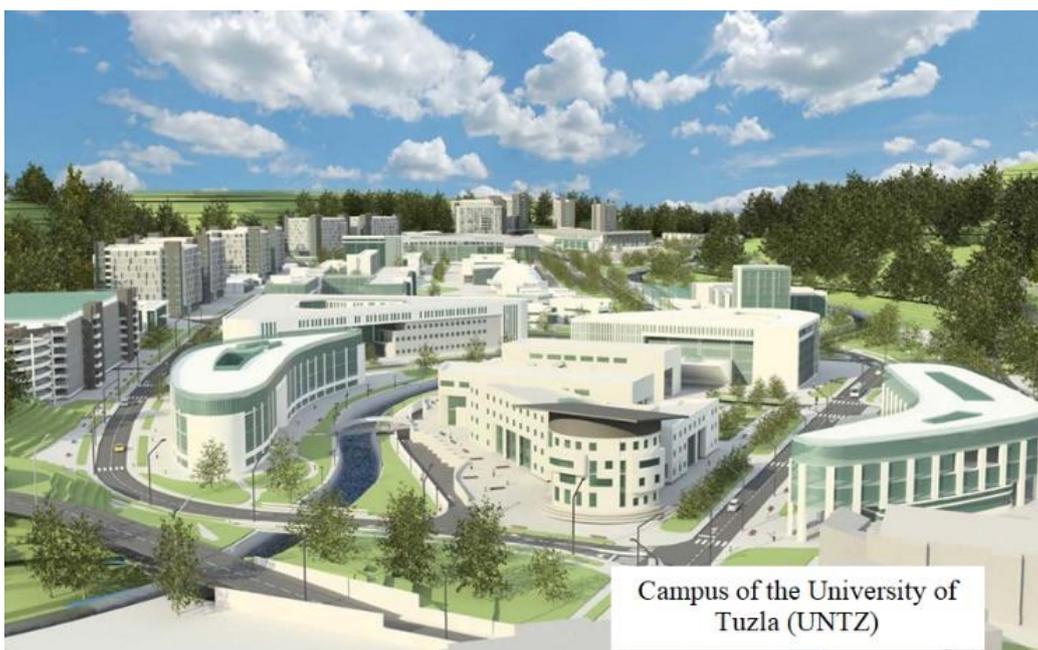


Source: <https://www.epbih.ba/foto/9549/termoelektrana-tuzla>, Accessed: December 13, 2024.

**Fig 15:** Thermal Power Plant Tuzla (TE Tuzla)

The University of Tuzla is one of 8 public universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was founded in 1976 and is one of the oldest universities in the country. The tradition of higher education in Tuzla dates back to the 1950s, when the first faculties of the University were founded. Today, the University of Tuzla includes the following faculties: Academy of Dramatic Arts, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Electrical

Engineering, Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science and Mathematics, Faculty of Mining-Geology-Civil Engineering and Faculty of Technology <sup>[40]</sup>. At the beginning of October 2024, the construction of the new Campus of the University of Tuzla began (Figure 16).



Source: <http://untz.ba/kampus/aktivnosti/>, Accessed: December 11, 2024.

**Fig 16:** Campus of the University of Tuzla (UNTZ)

The first professional theater in Bosnia and Herzegovina was founded in Tuzla in 1898, during the Austro-Hungarian administration. It was founded by merchant Mihajlo Crnogorcevic. On the occasion of marking 120 years since its foundation, a photo exhibition "Professional Theater in Tuzla 1898-2018" was organized in Tuzla, which was prepared for

the "National Theater in Tuzla" by the employees of the Museum of Eastern Bosnia from Tuzla. The exhibition shows the history of theater art, from its origin to the present day. The goal of the exhibition was to bring theater art closer to the youngest in this way. The theater has been operating continuously since 1944 (Figure 17).



Source: <https://nptz.ba/pozoriste/>, Accessed: December 11, 2024.

Source: <https://tuzlanski.ba/vijesti/bih/narodno-pozoriste-tuzla-trenutno-bez-direktora-ceka-se-odluka-vlade-tk/336123>  
Accessed: December 11, 2024.

**Fig 17:** National Theater in Tuzla

The most famous art gallery in Tuzla is the „International Portrait Gallery Tuzla“, it was founded in 1964 with a donation from artists from the former Yugoslavia. The founders of the Gallery were Mevludin Ekmečić and Ismet Mujezinović, and it was founded under the name Gallery of Yugoslav Portrait Tuzla (Figure 18). He ties his professional interest to the research, presentation and valorization of an important art theme - portraits. The gallery has more than 5,000 works of the most famous painters from the area of the former Yugoslavia in its holdings and thus represents a kind of museum of painting. The gallery organizes continuous exhibitions of works by local and foreign artists. This gallery is mainly dedicated to Ismet Mujezinović (1907 - 1984), a painter from Tuzla. Enriching its activities in different segments of the artistic life, the Portrait Gallery has established several domestic and international forms of practice, such as: International Biennial Festival of Portraits, Drawings and Graphics „Interbifep“, Contemporary Portrait Quadrilaterals, Salon 13, Tuzla Salon 2×13,

Club Galleries, International Atelier „Ismet Mujezinović“, Retrospectives of Tuzla Artists. The Gallery has been particularly active in the domain of publishing, which gives its overall cultural existence the character of a complete art institution. A significant publishing venture is certainly the publication of the monograph „Ismet Mujezinović“ in Bosnian and English, followed by monographic editions of local artists, the art map „Tuzla nekad“ („Tuzla once“), as well as catalogs of revue exhibitions, portrait quadrennials, catalogs of „Interbifep drawing and graphics“, monographic catalogs in „Salon 13“, „Tuzlanski salon 2×13“, the book „256 drawings – portraits“ by Mevludin Ekmečić... On February 6, 2013, the Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina declared two collections from the Gallery's collection National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are the collections "Tito in the works of fine artists of Yugoslavia" and the collection of paintings by Ismet Mujezinović<sup>[41]</sup>.



Source: <https://tuzlanski.ba/vijesti/bih/u-medjunarodnoj-galeriji-portreta-tuzla-odrzane-92-programske-aktivnosti/911440>  
Accessed: December 11, 2024.

Source: <https://www.klix.ba/magazin/kultura/medjunarodna-galerija-portreta-tuzla-dom-stvaralastva-ismeta-mujezinovica/160528026>  
Accessed: December 11, 2024.

**Fig 18:** International Portrait Gallery, Tuzla

Sports club „Sloboda“ Tuzla was founded on November 30, 1919, when the Workers' Sports Club „Gorki“ was formed, which, in addition to football, also had a music section. The goal of the formation is to be part of the anti-fascist struggle through sports, social and political activities, and on this basis of gathering workers and other youth. In 1927, after the ban on the work of the Workers' Sports Club „Gorki“ imposed in 1924, the Workers' Sports Club continued its work under the name of the Workers' Sports Club „Sloboda“. For 105 years of its existence, the Radnicko sportsko drustvo „Sloboda“ (Workers' Sports Association „Sloboda“) has been the backbone of the development of sports in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is the oldest, most organized and most massive sports association in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with over 2,000 members of athletes, coaches and sports workers. For these 105 years, Sloboda has become an indivisible whole from the City of Tuzla. The following sections (clubs) operate within the current Sports Society „Sloboda“: Athletics, Boxing, Football, Futsal, Gymnastics, Wrestling, Jiu Jitsu, Karate, Basketball, Bowling, Volleyball, Swimming, Handball, Chess, Tambourine Orchestra and Tennis.

Sports club „Sloboda“ Tuzla has so far produced a large

number of top athletes from various sports. We list some of the most famous - who participated in the Olympic Games: Vinko Galusic (Athletics, Montreal 1976), Marijan Benes (Boxing, Montreal 1976), Mirza Delibasic (Basketball, Montreal 1976, Moscow 1980), Dževad Šećerbegović (Football, Moscow 1980), Cvijan Milosevic (Football, Seoul 1988), Mirko Mihic (Football, Seoul 1988), Dragan Peric (Athletics, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004), Zlatan Saračević (Athletics, Barcelona 1992), Kada Delic (Athletics, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996), Damir Mulaomerovic (Basketball, Atlanta 1996), Dijana Kojic (Athletics, Sydney 2000), Jasminka Guber (Athletics, Athens 2004), Jasmin Salihovic (Athletics, Athens 2004), Nedim Nisic (Swimming, Beijing 2008), Ensar Hajder (Swimming, London 2012)<sup>[42]</sup>.

The construction of the „Tušanj“ stadium in Tuzla began in the spring of 1947. It was built by students from Tuzla secondary schools and workers. The stadium was finally completed in 1957, and opened on July 28 of that year with a friendly match between FK Sloboda and NK Zagreb. The stadium received floodlights in 1979, and the renovation took place in 2004 (Figure 19).



Source: <https://n1info.ba/sport/nogomet/radovi-se-privode-kraju-pogledajte-kako-izgleda-stadion-tusanj-fotovideo/>  
Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 19:** “Tušanj” Stadium in Tuzla

Sports-cultural-economic center Mejdan (SCEC Mejdan) is a multifunctional sports hall with an accompanying business center in Tuzla. SKPC Mejdan was opened on October 2, 1984. It is located in the western part of Tuzla between the Ilinčica hill and the southern city road. The center was named Mejdan after the settlement of the same name where it is located. Mejdan is currently the home of OKK Sloboda and RK Sloboda, but it is also used for playing international matches and matches in different sports, as well as for the organization of various sports competitions. The center is

also used as a concert or theater hall, and for the organization of business fairs and conference gatherings. SKPC Mejdan covers 16,500 m<sup>2</sup> of covered and 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> of uncovered space. The interior is divided into a large and small hall, a bowling alley, a training hall, a business and shopping center, meeting rooms and other accompanying facilities. The bowling alley contains six automated lanes and has a capacity of 200 visitors. The capacity of the hall is 5,000 seats for basketball, or 8,000 seats for concerts (Figure 20).



Source: <https://sloboda.ba/o-klubu/dvorana/>, Accessed: December 12, 2024.

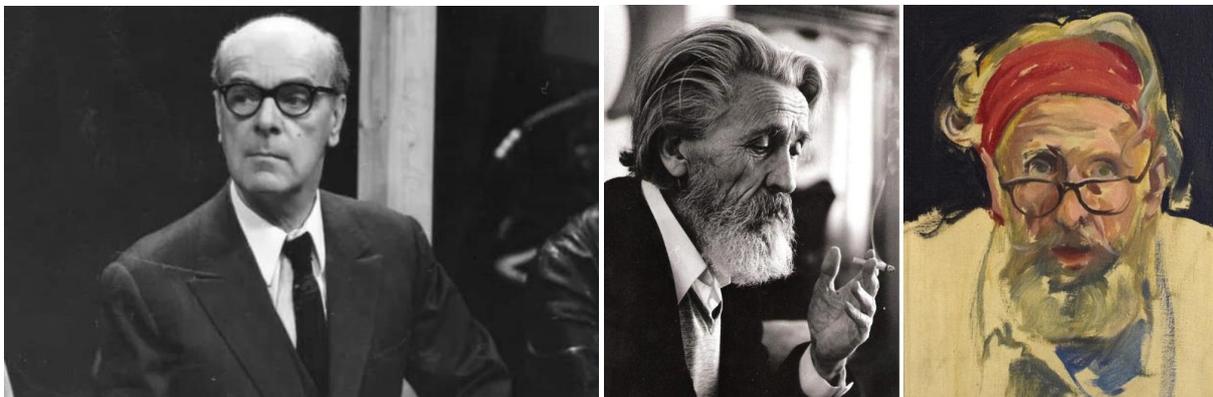
Source: <https://tuzlanski.ba/vijesti/bih/zavrшена-rekonstrukcija-dvorana-sportskog-centra-mejdan-ponovno-zasjala/685152>  
Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 20:** Sports-cultural-economic center Mejdan (SCEC Mejdan)

### 3. Man

Space acquires meaning only if it stands in some relation to man. This relationship ranges from the relations of the already known dimensions of space, through those that can be sensed, to those that are currently beyond the reach of human imagination. In other words, man is a being on the way, a being who continuously learns, a being of open possibilities. The term 'man' is a huge question, the essence of which he himself tries to decipher within his own limits, within the limits of the Earth and the limits of the Universe [5]. Together with the rest of the living world, it participates in the process of circulation of matter and energy in nature, sharing the same fate with it, being born and dying against its will. Endowed with reason, will and feelings, he is the only

one in the living world who can discover the given laws of the organization of nature. The transition from one historical period to another in Bosnia and Herzegovina was, as a rule, dramatic, where the 'new winners and masters' tried to disparage the previous masters and erase as much as possible the traces of their culture and existence. One of the most influential writers in the Balkans, Mehmedalija-Mesa Selimovic (1910 – 1982), hails from Tuzla (Figure 21). He is the author, among others, of two world-famous novels - *Dervish and Death* (1966) and *Tvrđjava* (1970). Tuzla hosts an annual book festival in July, where the „Mesa Selimovic Award“ is awarded for the best novel written in the languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro.



Source: <https://www.nezavisne.com/kultura/knjizevnost/Na-danasnji-dan-preminuo-Mesa-Selimovic/779949>, Accessed: December 12, 2024.

Source: <https://avaz.ba/vijesti/kultura/878037/ismet-mujezinovic-40-godisnjica-smrti-jednog-od-najboljih-bh-slikara>  
Accessed: December 12, 2024.

**Fig 21:** Left: writer Mehmedalija-Mesa Selimovic (1910 - 1982). In the middle and on the right: academic painter Ismet Mujezinovic (1909 - 1984)

### 4. Boundaries

The 'Boundaries' are those places in the environment where the situations encountered are controlled according to very specific human needs. Conditions are all those discovered and undiscovered phenomena in space that have a stimulating or degrading effect on humans. Borders, therefore, have the task of enabling the selection of influences. In the architectural sense, they enclose, but also include a person in the conditions of a certain environment [5]. Architectural cultural and historical heritage. The history of the city of Tuzla is witnessed by numerous monuments of cultural

heritage, among which there is a wide variety of architectural buildings. A large number of important buildings that made Tuzla a city originate from the period of Ottoman administration: Bali Bey's (White) Mosque in Gornja Tuzla (1533), Behram Bey's (Colored) Mosque (first mentioned under the name Atik Mosque, 1548), Hadzi Hasanova (Carsija) mosque (after 1548), Turali-bey's (Polish) mosque (before 1572), Mehmed-aga's (Jalska) mosque (before 1600), Behram Bey's madrasa (before 1626), Dzelali Vaiz Mehmed Ali-efendija (Mejdan mosque, 1644), Arslan-aga's (Vikalj) mosque (after 1600 and before 1645), Husein Caus Mosque (

Djindi mosque, before 1701)...

Husein Caus Mosque (Dzindija Mosque) in Tuzla is located in Donja Tuzla, in a locality known as Lug (Figure 22). It probably dates from the 17th century. It is known for being made entirely of wood (from the nearby oak forest). The modest dimensions of the physical dimensions, a high wooden roof covered with shingles, a wooden minaret, a sofa on the ground floor and a wooden sofa on the floor (as an external extension of the mahvil from the interior of the mosque) in a rarely seen architectural harmony, make this

mosque a typical mahal mosque in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mosque is situated in the corner of a spacious inner courtyard (harem) which looks like an unusually spacious park with greenery (fruit, linden trees, chestnuts and lawn). In front of the entrance to the mosque, right next to the entrance from the street, there is a fountain, which is a common and expected feature of every mosque. A visitor to the mosque is struck by the harmony between the symbols of life (water, i.e. fountains) and death (tombs with tombstones-nišan).



Source: Author (May 25, 2013.)



Fig 22: Husein Caus Mosque (Dzindija Mosque) in Tuzla

Dželali Vaiz Mehmed Ali-efendi's (Mejdanska) mosque in Tuzla is located in the village of the same name, in Donja Tuzla. Its position in the urban fabric of the neighborhood, modest physical dimensions, architectural harmony (as a whole and in details) make this mosque a masterpiece of architecture and a valuable cultural monument whose

construction dates back to 1644. Its internal courtyard (harem) of small physical dimensions, a fountain (in a composition with a linden tree, a lawn and stone-mejtasha) contribute to the richness of the atmosphere, so the space seems more spacious than it actually is (Figure 23).



Source: Author (May 25, 2013.)



Fig 23: Dzelali Vaiz Mehmed Ali-efendi's (Mejdan) mosque in Tuzla

Mehmed-aga's (Jalska) mosque (built before 1600) is the endowment of a certain Mehmed-aga, commander of the crew of the Tuzla palanquin. The mosque was built on the left bank of the Jala river, and the entire residential district (mahala) got its name - Jalska mahala - after it. This mosque is also known as Kizler cami (Maiden's Mosque), probably after the girl who rebuilt it after it was completely burned in a fire in 1871 (Figure 24). In the inner courtyard (harem) of the mosque, as an expected feature that completes the atmosphere of the exceptional environment, a hair-fountain

was erected on which the inscription can be seen:

Hajr - for all the souls of the dead

ISABEGOVIĆ

Avdo and Marija

Centuries-old trees create deep shadows during hot summer days. Shade, a fountain with abundant drinking water, silence, an old cemetery (...) are the values of the harem of the Jalska Mosque in Tuzla that attract visitors (be they believers or not) who come here to refresh themselves and rest.



Source: Author (May 18.,2013.)



**Fig 24:** Mehmed-aga's (Jalska) mosque in Tuzla

Atik Behram-beg's (Colored) Mosque <sup>[43]</sup> is, in fact, a renovated older building, the Atik Mosque, which was first mentioned in written documents in 1548, and which burned down in a devastating fire in 1871. The current Behram-beg Mosque was, as a new construction, built during the Austro-Hungarian administration (1888), according to the project of the Austrian architect Franz Mihanovic. Like many other buildings, built during the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the first building was made in the pseudo-Moorish style (Figure 25). The inner courtyard (harem) of Atik Behram-bey's (Sarena) mosque in Tuzla is

enriched with centuries-old linden trees and decorative willows, graves of former distinguished citizens of Tuzla and a finely decorated fountain. An inscription is carved into the granite slab of the fountain:

HAJR  
HADŽI ABDAGI HADŽIPASIC  
"SQUARE"  
RENOVATED in 2008  
FAMILIES  
BELGÜCAN



Source: Author (May 18.,2013.)



**Fig 25:** Atik Behram Bey's (Colorful) Mosque in Tuzla

The Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Tuzla is located in the center of Tuzla, in the part known as 'Srpska varos'. The church was built (1852) during the Ottoman administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

according to the project of engineer Anton Linardović from Sinj. The church is a one-nave building with a chancel, nave and altar area <sup>[44]</sup> (Figure 26).



Source: <http://www.androidvodic.com/lokacija--saborni-hram-uspenja-presvete-bogorodice>, Accessed: December 10, 2024.

Source: <http://furaj.ba/saborni-hram-uspenja-presvetebogorodice/>, Accessed: December 10, 2024.

**Fig 26:** The Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Tuzla

Hastahana (Hospital) in Tuzla is the first hospital built in Tuzla. The hospital was opened (1874) towards the end of the

Ottoman administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Figure 27).



Source: <http://ivanajuric7.blogspot.com/2015/06/hastahana-strma-bolnica-u-tuzli.html>, Accessed: December 10, 2024.

**Fig 27:** Hastahana (Hospital) in Tuzla

The monastery of the Sisters of the Daughters of God's Love Josipovac was built (1886) during the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>[45]</sup> (Figure 28).



Source: <https://www.vecernji.ba/kultura/samostanjospovac-svjedok-dolaska-prvih-casnihsestara-u-tuzlu-prepusten-zubu-vremena-1137973> Accessed: December 10, 2024.

**Fig 28:** Monastery of the Sisters of the Daughters of God's Love Josipovac

Salt square (Solni trg) is, along with Freedom Square, the most famous square in Tuzla. It is located in the back of the Carsija mosque. This square (as a former market place) preserves the memory of Tuzla, as one of the oldest settlements with continuity of life in Europe. On this square, in granite, there is a text carved into it: "Tuzla is one of the oldest settlements in Europe. *For seven thousand years, from the Neolithic to today, people have been producing salt and living in this area. The citizens of Tuzla renovated Solni trg in 2004, with the belief that love is the source of the creation and eternal duration of the world*". On the Salt Square in Tuzla, a replica of a ceramic vessel from the Neolithic era, in which salt water was boiled to produce salt, is on display. The fountain is in the center of the square, with benches for sitting. The cup of the fountain is lined with a mosaic from Ravenna (the world capital of mosaic art) where the motifs of coats of arms and birds stand out. The open space of Solni trg is framed by objects of culture, business, trade, catering, entertainment... The most important object is the 'Sojenica Museum', which faces the square with its main facade (Figure 29).



Source: Author (May 18, 2013.)

Fig 29: Salt square (Solni trg)

The central city square, Freedom Square (Trg Slobode), is the largest city square in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, with its size, contents and formal relationship of the main buildings that define it spatially, resembles the main squares throughout Europe. The square was renovated and officially opened on 07.08. in 2009. For this occasion, we will make a comparison of the main square in the city of Delft in the Netherlands and Freedom Square in Tuzla: at the two ends of the square, along its length, the city hall (Stadhuis-City Hall, the building of the city administration) and the church (New Church-New Church, in Delft), i.e. the mosque (Carsijska or Hadzi Hasan's mosque in Tuzla), while the longitudinal sides of the square are defined by the contents of shops, administration, restaurants, cafes... Tuzla has a huge, rich fountain located in the very center of the square, the physical design of which uses motifs from medieval tombstones-*stećak*, a reconstruction of a Neolithic dwelling with the remains of clay pots for salt production. No less important part of the decoration of the square is the 'green island' (a park with trees), which is framed by a pedestal covered with granite slabs in which texts from numerous medieval *stećaks* are engraved. The public (Carsija) fountain (built during the Austro-Hungarian administration, in 1888, according to the

project of the architect Franz Mihanovic), raised on a high pedestal, located in front of the Carsija mosque, with its appearance suggests a richer performance of the fountain (*sebilj*) from the era of Ottoman administration. both as part of the urban furniture of the square and as an architectural sequence characteristic of mosques. In honor of the Austro-Hungarian heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand, i.e. his planned visit to Tuzla (June 1914), the then city authorities of Tuzla built a building-residence for the monarch, according to an Austrian design, in the neo-baroque style. Franz Ferdinand, however, never stayed in Tuzla, since he was assassinated in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. The building was built as a condominium, as a craft trade center. Since it was located in the very center of gravity of the city, the building was considered the most attractive and prestigious place for business in Tuzla, until it fell into a state of collapse (due to 'sinking' of the soil, as a result of salt exploitation). The building was completely removed in 1983, to be reconstructed (as a new building with an 'old look') in 2008, as part of the fundamental remodeling of Trg Sloboda. The current residents of Tuzla call this building 'Barok' (Figure 30).





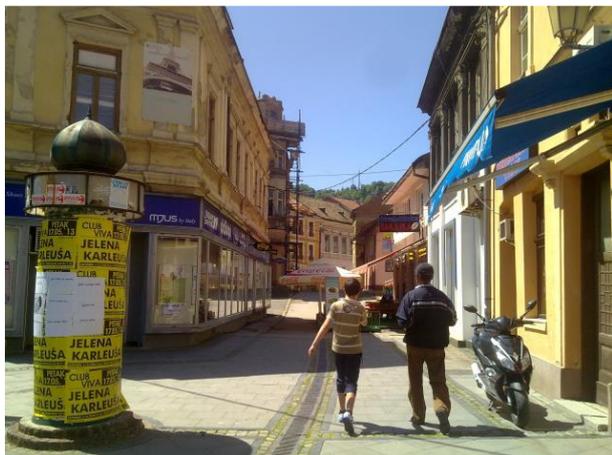
Source: Author (May 18.,2013.)

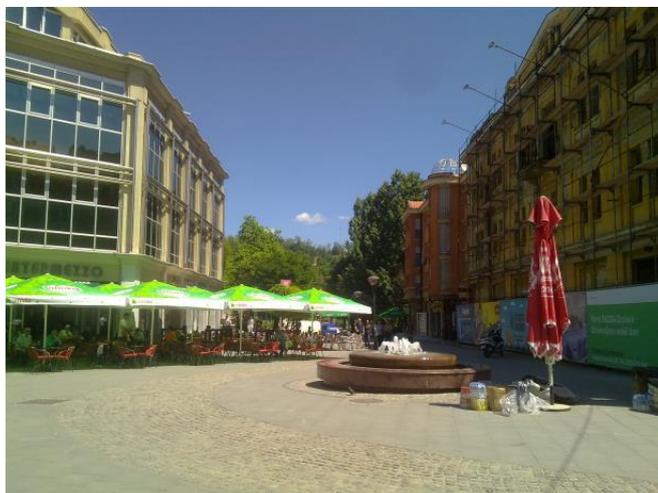
Fig 30: The central city square, Freedom Square (Trg Slobode)

The central street in the old urban core of Tuzla, 'Korzo', is the lifeblood of urban life in Tuzla, connecting and generating many facilities: Trg Slobode, Solni trg, National Theater, Ismet Mujezinović Gallery, main banks, mosques, business offices, shops, City Park... Sculptures of two great artists from Tuzla, Mesa Selimovic and Ismet Mujezinovic, were placed on Korz, in a way as if they 'paused in conversation'. There is also the site of the tragedy of the youth of Tuzla, the 'Gate', as well as a fountain whose unobtrusive water fountains symbolize the strength and victory of life (Figures 31, 32). In the very center of the old urban fabric of Tuzla, the City Park has been arranged, which in the best way binds the many elements of Tuzla into a unique whole that

reflects the definition of the city as a complex physical structure, man and his collectivities. A sculpture of the Bosnian ban and king Tvrtko II Kotromanic was placed in the main square of the City Park, which expresses the mentality of the citizens and administration of the city of Tuzla, that is, their awareness of their own identity and the continuity of life in these areas. Below the bronze sculpture of Tvrtko II Kotromanic, in a black granite slab, is carved the inscription:

TVRTKO II KOTROMANIC  
 Bosnian ban from 1353 to 1377.  
 Bosnian king from 1377 to 1391.







City Park



Tuzla Gate

Source: Author (May 18.,2013.)

Fig 31: Central street in the old urban center of Tuzla ('Korzo')



Source: Author (May 18.,2013.)



Fig 32: Cemetery for civilian victims of the dead (1995) at Tuzlanska Kapija

## 5. Conclusion (Perspectives)

By the term 'Perspectives' within the framework of the theory of architecturally defined space (ADS), we mean “that dynamic relationship that connects now - future, existing - possible, achieved – desired” [5]. The emergence of a settlement (hamlet, village) or an architectural-engineering structure is never accidental, but rather the result of a synergy between the natural and social environment-man [5]. In formulating the vision for the development of the Tuzla municipality, the “Tuzla Municipality Development Strategy” [46] had in mind the common vision of the sustainable future of local authorities in Europe (the Aalborg Charter), according to which the visions of cities and municipalities, which include, embody advanced, creative and sustainable cities and municipalities which provide a

good quality of life to all citizens and enable their participation in all aspects of urban life. In this sense, Tuzla is envisioned in its future as a city of continuity of culture, creative innovation, healthy and pleasant life; a city that enables the participation of its citizens in all aspects of urban life; a city that ensures economic and social attractiveness, development and quality of life for citizens and all people who live, invest and create in it. The “Tuzla Municipality Development Strategy” establishes as strategic goals: 1. Acceleration of economic development and improvement of the competitiveness of the economy, 2. Pleasant life of citizens - supportive social and communal infrastructure, 3. Balanced and sustainable development of the city, 4. European values and multiculturalism.



Source: <http://bosnia4u.com/2017/01/28/tuzla/>, Accessed: December 10, 2024.

Fig 33: Today's Tuzla city

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