

CRIMINALITY

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Crime has been, is and very likely will be here for the foreseeable future. However, it has not always been the same. During the development of mankind, changes have taken place, especially in terms of what is and is not considered a crime. There were and still are differences among states and societies. What was/is considered a serious crime in one society could/ can be commonplace in the life of another society. The role of cultural and historical traditions, religion, the judiciary, human rights, the functioning of society, etc. is significantly reflected here. The technological development of society also plays an important role in the

„development“ of crime. It can be said that the perpetrators have always been in close control of it, quickly adapting to change and taking advantage of opportunities - for example, the development of internet banking and payment cards and the overall potential of the internet have had a significant impact on the transformation of crime. The above applies not only when comparing crime in different countries. Even within every country, society has undergone significant changes, and Prague is no exception.

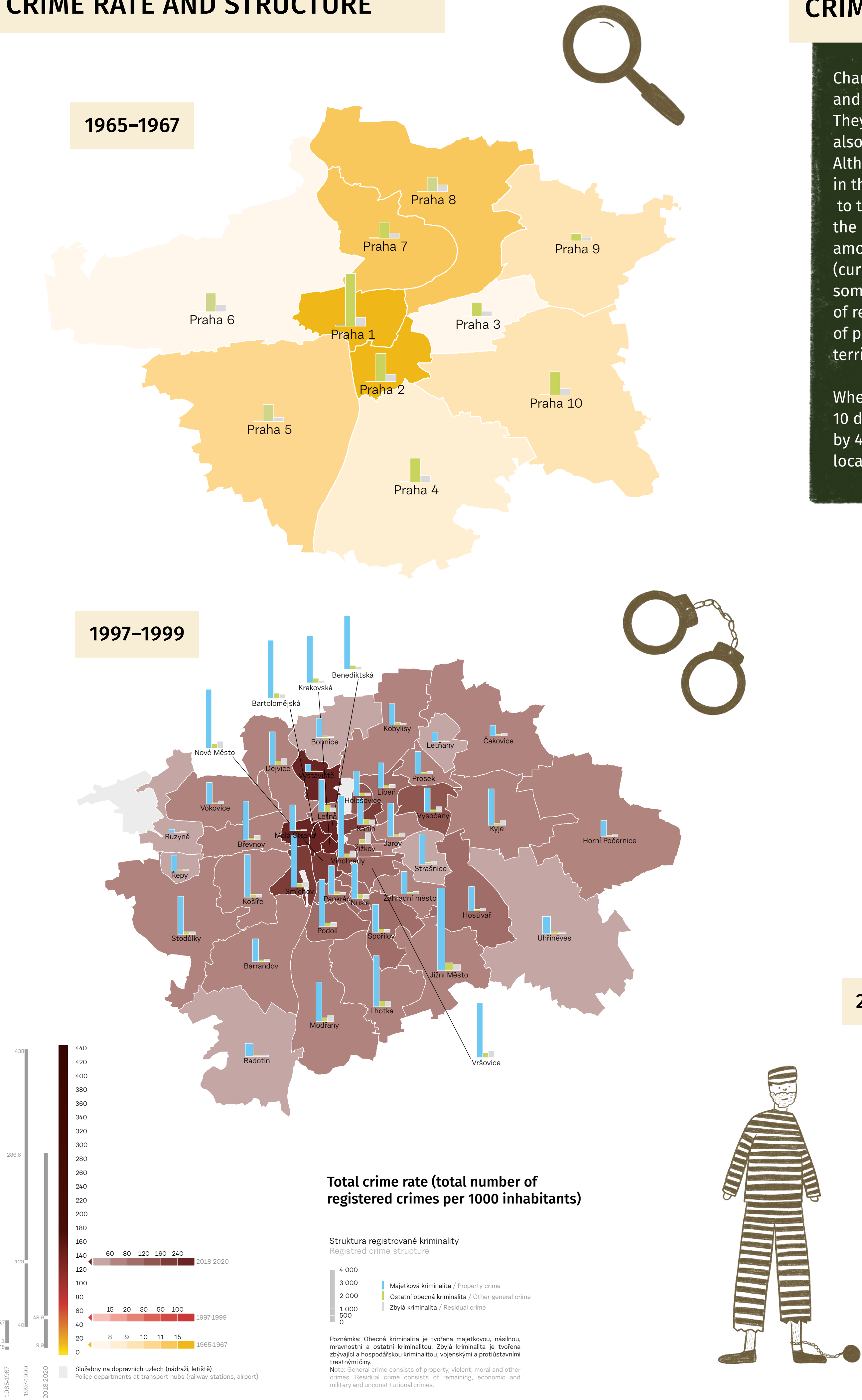
A VIEW OF CRIME OVER THE AGES

In Czechia, the so-called execution books containing records of interrogations, sentences imposed, and sometimes records of the trial, are among the valuable sources in the field of crime. Many of them have not been preserved, including those in Prague. However, they also served, among other things, as the basis for the classification of crimes in the early modern period. Real statistical records for crime in Prague are provided, for example, by the city's statistical books and those of other municipalities. This data mainly documents the situation for all of Prague with respect to the activities of the Prague, resp. activities of the Prague Royal Criminal Court. We learn, for example, that in 1883–4, two people were convicted of high treason, 257 for public violence, 30 for insulting the crown, 8 for arson, 13 for murder and 1,221 for theft. Only select data is available for more detailed territorial units smaller than Prague. These include specific statistics for vagrancy and the lure of men. These acts were relatively abundant in this period, as can be seen from the attached table. Among the offenses found in the records is the protection of labour, which lasted until the second half of the 20th century when unemployment was criminalized and banned in the republic. Public security yearbooks published between 1965 and 1971 are a valuable source of crime data from this period.

Vagrancy and luring men in 1883 and 1884

Prague Royal Criminal Court department	Arrested for vagrancy			Women arrested for luring men		
	Men	Women	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
Staroměstské	552	425	976	5	17	21
Josefovské	148	313	461	18	27	45
Novoměstské (hořejší)	810	240	1050	63	254	317
Novoměstské (dolejší)	1275	781	2056	129	409	538
Malostranské	813	73	885	11	73	84
Hradčanské (vnitřní)	103	18	120	1	28	29
Praha	3699	1849	5547	226	808	1033
Hradčanské (vnější)	89	10	99	1	12	13
Karlínské	868	258	1126	10	30	39
Vinohradské	672	506	1178	4	219	223
Smíchovské	614	218	832	17	110	126
Bubenečské	81	33	114	1	23	23
Předměstí	2323	1025	3347	31	393	424

CRIME RATE AND STRUCTURE

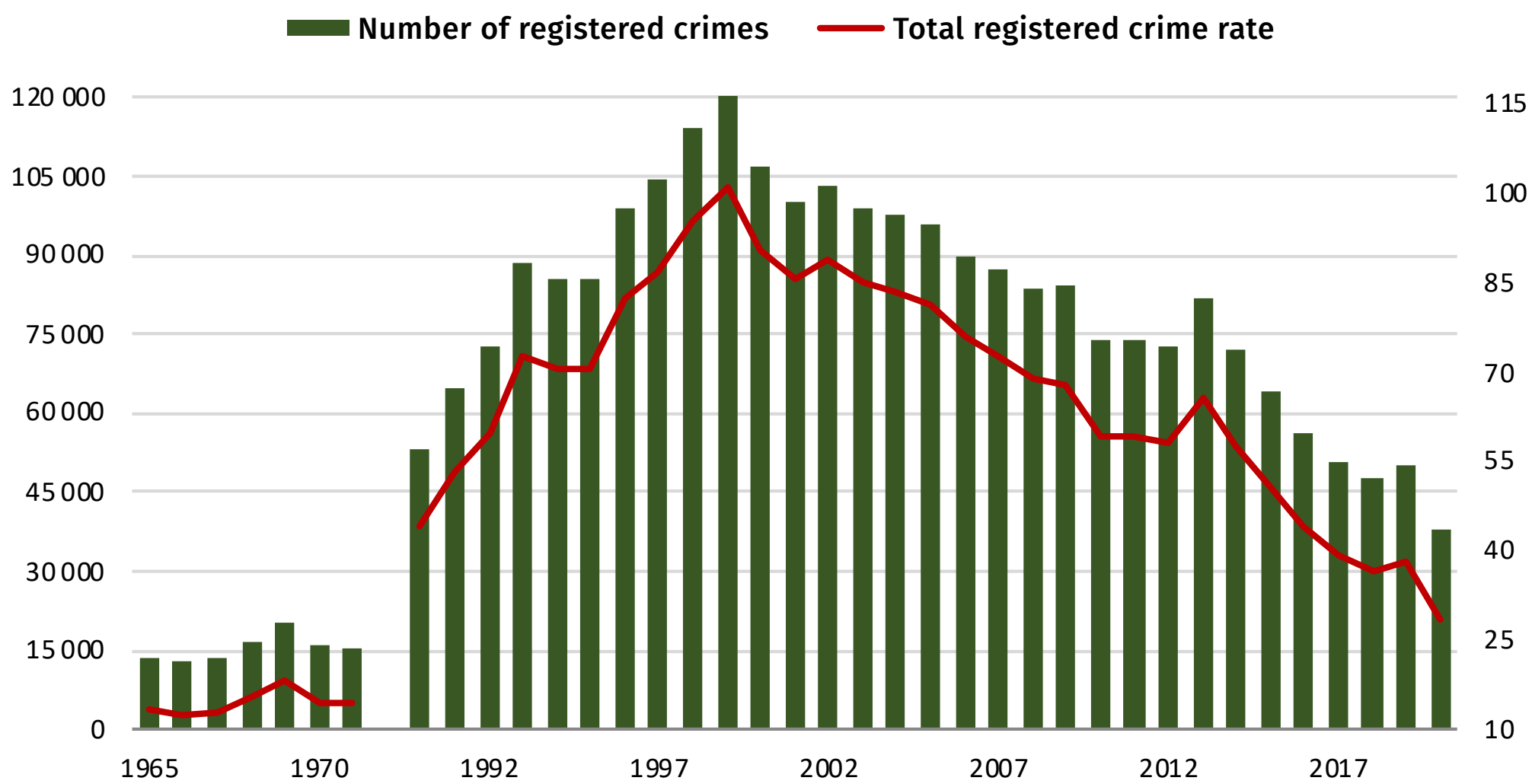


CRIMINAL CHANGES IN PRAGUE

Changes to crime in Prague are indicated in the chart and maps below from the 1960s, 1990s and today. They document not only the intensity of crime but also its structure and change over time and space. Although the chart shows a sharp increase in crime in the 1990s and a subsequent almost steady decline to the present, it is necessary to take into account the limited comparability of data. They are caused, among other things, by different valid criminal codes (current since 2010), the different classification of some crimes, but also the transition to a new system of records, different approaches to counting the ages of persons or prosecuted persons, and different territorial units.

Whereas in the 1960s data was available in Prague for 10 districts, by the mid-1990s this was being collected by 45 local police departments and is now done in 51 locations (incl. 4 railway stations and one airport). At

the same time, between 1994 and 2020, several departments disappeared and borders changed. The spatial distribution of crime in Prague is uneven, as evidenced by the maps from all three monitored periods. The highest levels of crime are found mainly by departments in the centre, with levels mostly declining towards Prague's borders (with the exception of, for example, Zličín). Although the comparison between the observed periods is difficult, it is clear that the level of crime was higher in the 1990s than at present and its differentiation was the highest. The structure of crime also differs. Most markedly between the 1960s and later, when property crime clearly dominates among those compared. In the 1990s, it made up on average over 83% of registered crime and currently is less than 66% (in both cases the department in Malá Strana has the highest share). The share of both other general crimes and other crimes increased.



2018–2020

