

borg, Narva und Reval wollten nicht erlauben, dass Nyen sich zu einem Transithandelszentrum entwickelt, und im Mai 1638 gelang es ihnen, die Zentralregierung dazu zu bewegen, dass sie es den aus Westen kommenden Fremden verbot, an Reval vorbei nach Nyen zu segeln und dort Waren umzuschlagen. Die schnell wechselnden Auffassungen der Behörden über Nyens Zukunft als Transithandelszentrum hatten keinen günstigen Einfluss auf die Entwicklung der Stadt. Erst im September 1638 wurde ihr endgültig der Status einer Handelsstadt verliehen. Ihre ersten Privilegien erhielt die Stadt am 20. September 1642. Durch die Beschlüsse der Zentralregierung von 1643 und 1648 wurde die Stadt auch für den Außenhandel geöffnet – Nyen wurde den Städten Narva und Reval handelsrechtlich gleichgestellt. Dennoch war die Zentralregierung nicht imstande, das Territorium der Stadt Nyen vor dem Russisch-Schwedischen Krieg (1656-1661) zu befestigen. Auch die Verteidigungsfähigkeit der Festung war schwach. Vor dem Krieg belief sich die Einwohnerzahl Nyens auf etwas mehr als 1000 Menschen.

SUMMARY

About the shaping of the urban environment of Nyen in the second quarter of the 17th century

The article focuses on the establishment of a merchant town at the mouth of the river Neva in Nyen, the granting of city privileges to it and further preconditions of its development as an urban environment in the first half of the 17th century until the beginning of the Russian-Swedish war in 1656. The fortification of the town in the Swedish-Russian border area and the population are considered separately. Transit trade through Nyen is left out.

In contrast to neighbouring settlements, Nyen was a new town lacking historical privileges and rights which the Swedish authorities would have had to take into account. The town was established on the state's initiative in 1632 on the site of a former merchant village. Its establishment was finalised in 1638. This was done as part of an economic and political reform conducted by the central power and aimed at diverting Russia's foreign trade from Archangel to the Baltic Sea and expanding Swedish cities' trade in Russia. The advantages of Nyen for the implementation of this national economic and political programme were based on its favourable location at the starting point of Russia's inland waterways, although the town was far from major Western European seaports and dif-

difficult to access from the Baltic Sea. The Stolbovo (1617) and later Kärde (1661) peace treaties ensured for Swedish trade towns situated at the Gulf of Finland the role of mediators between Western Europe and Russian merchants. We should also remember another national programme made by Gustavus II Adolphus that envisaged the colonisation and Swedification of Ingria and its unification with Sweden. For a short time (1642-1651) Nyen had an administrative function as the provincial capital. At the same time the town's location was strategically vital to Sweden. Nyen was a kind of lock for Russia, preventing the latter from having direct access to the Baltic Sea.