

János Fodor

■ ***Hungarian National Policy Attempts and the Romanian Standpoint in Autumn 1918***

Keywords: *national claims, national policy attempts of the Károlyi government, assemblies: Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureş), Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia), Kolozsvár (Cluj)*

By the autumn of 1918, it has become clear that the Austro-Hungarian Empire has lost the war. Several international and internal political processes have rendered the chronology of autumn and winter of 1918 especially intense and dense. The Empire suffered not only a military but also a political collapse. With the dissolution of the dual monarchy, the regime change and the change of political rule have also commenced. Furthermore, as a result of the 14 Wilsonian point, various national demands made their appearance. Proposing a democratic system, the Károlyi government attempted to deal with the national issue using several methods. At the same time, in Transylvania, three great assemblies were held, Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureş), Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia), Kolozsvár (Cluj). These were the defining moments that influenced later developments. Their effects reach until today, both from the point of view of memory policy and the point of view of legal reference.

János Főcze

■ ***Árpád Paál and the Romanian Army. The 1918-1919 Change of Power in Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc)***

Keywords: *change of power in Transylvania, 1918-1920, Árpád Paál, deputy chief of the county of Udvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc), independent and neutral Republic of Szeklers*

The period of the change of power in Transylvania and the town of Székelyudvarhely in 1918-1920 is thoroughly documented and presented by Hungarian historiography. This paper sheds light on a rarely and tangentially discussed dimension of the events. Using the archival findings concerning the orders

and reports of the occupying Romanian military officers and the already existing historical works it is possible to carefully reconstruct the series of events of those days. The internal debates of the Romanian officers about the handling of the situation of the public servants opposing the occupation and the various alternatives before their internment present interesting additions to our previous knowledge. Secondly, the paper concentrates on analysing the plan of Árpád Paál, the deputy chief of the county of Udvarhely, for an independent and neutral Republic of Szeklers. Paál imagined this utopian state to be in good relations with Hungary and Romania. Analysing the chaotic period of this years, we witness not just the end of an era and the beginning of a new one, but also many individual fates.

Barna Gottfried

■ ***The Formation of the Szekler Regiment***  
Keywords: *military policy, Szekler Regiment, the 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Transylvania, defence of the Szeklerland*

Collapse. This is probably the best word for describing the processes of the last trimester of 1918 in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Hungarian Kingdom. The military and political leadership of the Empire could not have messed up the Habsburg Empire more efficiently. Far from stopping the erosion, it unwillingly intensified its effects. The political leadership also failed along with the military defeat. The situation was the same in Hungary. The failure of the entire Hungarian political elite and the establishment of the Hungarian National Council, with its first measures, further deepened the crisis. At the same time, it was also the realization of the ideal of 1849. An independent Hungary fell into their lap. One could go on enumerating the further results of the new regime, but there weren't any. The failure and the lack of results of the military policy was complete. They did not succeed in equipping even one of the eight regiments allowed by the Belgrade military convention. The only refreshing exception was

the 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment, renamed to Szekler Regiment on 20 January 1919. This military unit can be viewed as called to life by the necessity of defending the country's territorial integrity, protecting Transylvania and the Szeklerland. Its existence and history could provide the opportunity to analyse the issue of armed defence of this period.

**Ignác Romsics**

■ ***The Staking of Romania's Western Borders at the Paris Peace Conference***

Keywords: *Romania's western borders, Paris Peace Conference, Grand Trianon pavilion of Versailles, 4<sup>th</sup> June 1920*

Ignác Romsics' essay deals with the staking of Romania's western borders by the Paris Peace Conference in 1919-1920. After presenting the structure and the functioning of the Peace Conference, the question of the Banat is examined. Following the hearing of the Romanian and the Yugoslav Peace Delegations, the representatives of the Great Powers (the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy) decided for the partition of the region. The western strip (about 1/3 of the whole territory), inhabited mostly by Serbians, went to Yugoslavia, the middle and eastern 2/3 became part of Romania. In the next part of his essay, the author focuses on the stakeout of the new Romanian-Hungarian frontier. Although the Romanian delegation insisted on the line promised to Romania in 1916 by the Entente powers, the Peace Conference modified it in the favor of Hungary. In spite of that, the decision makers handed over not just areas that were inhabited predominantly by non-Hungarian ethnic groups but also cut off substantial areas that were primarily Hungarian-inhabited. These latter areas included, in the west, the district centered around Szatmárnémeti (Satu Mare), Nagyvárad (Oradea) and Arad; in the east, the so-called Szeklerland. Altogether, the whole area of 102,787 square kilometers acquired from Hungary had a population of approximately five and one-half a million, of whom 3,208,000 were Romanians,

1,353,000 were Hungarians, and 544,000 were Germans (census of 1930). The Hungarian Peace Delegation was confronted with this settlement only in January 1920. In the last section of the essay those counter-arguments are treated by which the representatives of Hungary tried to rebut the above border proposals. Their efforts remained, however, unsuccessful. The peace treaty was signed on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1920 in the Grand Trianon pavilion of Versailles, and the Hungarian National Assembly gave its formal assent to it on 13 November 1920.

**Sándor Szakály**

■ ***The Dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Military Collapse***

Keywords: *Austro-Hungarian Empire, military collapse, Padua armistice, Belgrade military convention*

On 3 November 1918, the representatives of the Austro-Hungarian Empire have signed the armistice agreement in Padua with the envoys of the Entente powers. Thus, the conflict subsequently known as the Great War ended with the military defeat of the great European power. The Imperial and Royal army, the Hungarian Honvéds and the Austrian Landwehr were unable to further defend the empire, although the Austro-Hungarian troops have, almost without exception, occupied their defensive positions on the territories of hostile countries. However, wars can be decided not only on military fronts, but also in the hinterlands. From this perspective, the question is whether there are possibilities for the production of an adequate number of industrial articles and whether the military industry is capable of fulfilling the needs of the troops. In our case, the hinterland was clearly incapable of this and depleted its resources during the five years of war. Furthermore, a large part of the multinational population did not want to maintain the empire. Due to all these factors, one of Europe's greatest empires suffered a collapse, and new, growing countries have risen on its ruins.

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ROMÂNIA  
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„[1919] Szeptember 30. Az egész város tudja, hogy ma lesz az utolsó magyar előadás a Hunyadi téri gyönyörű színházpalotában. *Hamlet* előadása van kitűzve. [...] Október 1. Már hét óraker öszönlött a közönség a színház felé. Mindenki ott akart lenni ezen a nagy búcsún. Csodát vártak. Mikor már az utolsó helyig megtelt a nézőtér, úgy rendelkeztem, hogy jegy nélkül is be kell mindenkit engedni. Pillanatok alatt megteltek a széksorok közötti térségek, még a zenekari helyiség is. Szorosan egymáshoz simulva, líhegve, hegyénbátán állottak az emberek. S mindenki fekete ruhában volt. [...] Következett a nagy monológ. És én elfelejtettem mindazt, amit tudós dramaturgiai professzoraimtól hallottam a színiakadémián, hogy ez a monológ önmagát margangoló, magába mélyedő elmélkedés. Kiállottam a sűgőlyuk elé, a nézőtér felé harsogva a kérdést: »Lenni vagy nem lenni – ez itt a kérdés!« Pillanatnyi megdöbben némaság után fergeteként robbantak ki a szenvedélyek. A karzatról éles női hang törte meg először a csöndet: – Élni akarunk! S utána kétezer torok dübörögte, harsogta felszabadultan, ujjongva, reménykedően: – Élni akarunk!

A rendőri készütség ekkor katonai segítséget kért a színház elé. [...] minden kapun át benyomultak a rendőrök, a katonák és rekedt szidalmak között, gumibotokkal, puskatussal verték ki a közönséget. Ütötték-verték, kit hol találtak.”

(Janovics Jenő)

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ÎN TRANSILVANIA (1918-1920)  
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IN TRANSILVANIA (1918-1920)