

ABSTRACTS

Edit Csilléry: The Meaning of Loyalty to the Nation during Verification Procedures in Upper Hungary and Subcarpathia

After the new (former) territories were subjected to Hungarian nation-building endeavours, the government's intention was to favour first of all Hungarians. Hungarians who previously were in minority now had a basic need on one hand to get compensation for their grievances, on the other hand to acquire the economic, cultural and administrative positions they had lost or which were newly created. Only those could keep their employment, whose loyalty to the Hungarian nation and political reliability were considered indisputable. Consequently, in Upper Hungary and Subcarpathia all the public employees or government workers, who wanted to stay in public administration, and those who wanted to get such employment, were submitted to verification procedures.

On the basis of verification procedure cases in Upper Hungary and Subcarpathia, the study examines the institutions and conceptual framework the power set up in order to enforce its standpoints. Several questions arise related to this topic: which were the main considerations when a person's loyalty to the nation was examined? How did the committees apply these considerations, and what were the committee members' attitudes towards these? The study also seeks to find out who were the persons who decided and ascertained the nationality of the verified persons, and whether their loyalty was appropriate. How did these considerations stipulated also in laws change in practice, and what were the facts that modified them? The study briefly touches upon the issue why such verification committees weren't set up in Northern Transylvania, and what other practices were used instead.

It can be concluded that during verification procedures, the government determined two main considerations: reliability, understood as political reliability, and loyalty to the nation, where nation was understood as the Hungarian nation.

Keywords: revision, verification committees, nation building, multiple identity, loyalty to the nation, public employees, government workers

Gábor Egry: Soulless Bodies? A Woman's Story from the Outskirts

The book of Zsuzsa Bokor (*Body Stories. The Medicalization of the Nation and of the Venereal Diseases between the Two World Wars in Cluj*. Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities, Cluj, 2013) presents the history of prostitution between 1918 and 1930 in Cluj, applying methods of discourse analysis, more precisely critical discourse analysis, but also through the presentation and analytic use of self-constructions revealed through narrative identities and life stories.

The volume presents through one case study how the image on prostitutes transformed due to the spread of eugenic approach in the interwar period in Cluj, and how this fitted into a broader discourse on nation. Since it is a local case study, the book also reveals the way how the local middle class managed changes coming from the outside and seemingly drastic, and the change of rule, even in a peripheral field like prostitution. Thus the main issue of the book is the process during which prostitution belonging to the life of the middle class, but which, regarding the person of the prostitute, was an outside phenomenon, turns from a law enforcement and public health problem into an issue concerning the whole of the nation, is embedded into the eugenic discourse, which gained a special importance in the handling of perils jeopardizing the nation.

Keywords: prostitution, discourse analysis, eugenic discourse, medical propaganda, public health, biopolitics

József Nagy: The Story of 32nd Szekler Border-Warden Battalion of the Hungarian Royal Army in the Light of Memoirs

World War II has a special significance in the Szekler collective memory. The Hungarian Army, entered following the Second Vienna Award, set up a series of new military corps in Northern Transylvania. Only the staff of officers and under-officers of these corps came from Hungary, the rest of the staff consisted of locally recruited men. In Ciuc the Ghimes Pass, the Csobányos and Úz valleys were guarded against Romania by the 32nd Szekler Border-Warden Battalion of the Hungarian Royal Army. In the memory of corps from Ciuc both times of peace and war have special features, which determine even today the way people think of war in this region. The study approaches the memory of the 70th border-warden unit through three separate memoirs written at old age.

The memoir of corporal Hegedűs and private Gál reveals the traditional Szekler mentality of that age. 1st lieutenant Sebő, the educated senior officer from Hungary left to the posterity a readable work written in a polished style in order to present the history of the 32nd border-warden unit. The author compares the memoirs by analysing the experience of army service and war.

Keywords: war memoirs, trauma, battle-line experience, Szekler military traditions, literature of memoirs

Report on the Field Trip of the Committee Searching for Settlement for Hungarians of Bucovina to Be Repatriated

After the Second Vienna Dictate the Hungarian government was searching for solution in order to solve the problems Hungarian diaspora communities faced. This document is the closing report of a special committee assigned with the preparation of the repatriation of Szeklers from Bucovina.

Keywords: Szeklers of Bucovina, Hungarian diaspora, settlement, assimilation, re-Magyarization, Transylvanian corridor

Tamás Sárándi: The Minority Policy of the Hungarian and Romanian Governments in 1940–1944 as Reflected in the Activity of the German–Italian Officers’ Commission

When researching the history of nationalities, the scholar’s aim should not be the presentation of the respective nationality’s grievances, but rather to understand the background mechanisms of power and the responses a certain ethnic minority gives to these. Although in a decreasing measure, Romanian and Hungarian historiography both still tend to present their history as a string of injuries.

This study treats the grievances that Romanians in Northern Transylvania, as well as Hungarians in Southern Transylvania suffered in the period between 1940–1944. However, its aim is not to simply present the wrongs, but also to reveal what types of offences occurred within both nationalities, as opposed to the other.

As a sort of filter, the study uses the activity of the German–Italian officers’ commission in Transylvania, and only focuses on the individual

complaints that reached the headquarters of the above-mentioned commission. It also attempts to rank and compare these grievances, therefore it also contains a statistical analysis.

The specific source types make it impossible for the Hungarian injuries from Southern Transylvania to be statistically analyzed, since no statements of any individual injuries reaching the German-Italian commission have been kept. Comparison is therefore only partly possible and comes down to the diagnosis of the most severe injuries. Romanian sources however, make it possible for the researcher to draw his conclusions based on statistical results.

One can conclude that both the Hungarian minority in Southern Transylvania and the Romanian minority in Northern Transylvania suffered most of all due to the behaviour that authorities showed towards them (maltreatment, abuse, harassment, arrests). Other complaints differ in each of the minorities' case. While Hungarians were struck by severe measures concerning their property and provisions, the Romanian minority in Northern Transylvania was hit by a wave of layoffs (most of all functionaries) and by issues concerning their churches.

Although different in the typology of the offenses, both minorities suffered from a persistent deterioration of their situation.

Keywords: civilian administration, grievances, minority policy, German-Italian officers' commissions, Romanian minority of Northern Transylvania, Hungarian minority of Southern Transylvania, minority policy based on reciprocity

Mihály Szabados: The Assimilation into the Romanian Population of Szolnok-Doboka County. The Building Up of the Hungarian Corridor in Transylvania

The study is an expertise written in 1941 by Mihály Szabados and commissioned by the Special Transylvanian Department of the Hungarian government. The writer resumes the findings of data collection carried out in Szolnok-Doboka county having a majority Romanian population, and suggests measures to be taken in order to re-Magyarize the county's population.

Keywords: Hungarian diaspora, settlement, assimilation, re-Magyarization, Transylvanian corridor

Attila Szavári: The Case of the Minerva Insurance Ltd.

The case study offers an insight into the economic and financial life of Transylvania, a region divided in two parts under the 1940 Second Vienna Award, through the story of the liquidation of the Minerva Insurance. The conflict between Budapest and the provinces is also outlined.

The political and economic elite of Transylvania, as it was closely connected with the central governmental and economic circles, had great expectations following the re-annexation of Northern Transylvania. However, a different type of discourse was also present, which was critical towards the relationship between the state and social organizations, and towards the extended authority of state institutions, stressing the importance of the independence of social organizations. This was further enhanced by the liquidation process of the Minerva and its incorporation into the Farmers Insurance Cooperative. Before 1940 the moral strength of the Minerva was unquestioned in Transylvania. Its existence was a national interest for the Hungarian minority, since, among others, the Hungarian minority denominations of Romania and the Hangya Cooperative were its shareholders, and almost the entire ecclesiastic property was insured by the Minerva.

While the Minerva represented the provinces and the Transylvanian region aspiring at autonomy, the Farmers Insurance Cooperative was a representative of Budapest, of the government and of the agrarian interests. The study gives a follow-up of the process in the course of which the Farmers took hold of the Minerva's insurance market with governmental political support and due to the allegations concerning the failure of the Minerva.

Keywords: Minerva Insurance Ltd., Farmers Insurance Cooperative, market expansion, insurance, liquidation, regionalism, institutional system of minorities

András Tóth-Bartos: Documents Related to Diaspora Politics after the Second Vienna Award

Following World War One the Hungarian minority of Transylvania endured the nationalization politics of the Romanian state. One of the problems to face with was the assimilation of Hungarian diaspora communities. After the Second Vienna Dictate diaspora management could be grounded

on a new basis. After the Romanian administration was withdrawn from Northern Transylvania, the positions of the Hungarian community of Transylvania could be consolidated, even regained. In this context issues related to diaspora were given a special emphasis. In 1942 an institutional framework was elaborated for the purpose of diaspora management: the Special Transylvanian Service was founded within the Nationality Politics Department of Hungary.

Concerning the economic issues of diaspora management, just as prior to World War One, again settling plans on ethnic considerations gained priority.

The published two documents, a report and an expert study are products of the preparatory works aiming the settling of Szeklers from Bucovina. Although the recommendations included in the study were never put into practice, the documents illustrate well what kind of solutions the Hungarian government sought in order to handle the issue of Hungarian diaspora communities.

Keywords: Hungarian diaspora, settlement, assimilation, re-Magyarization, Transylvanian corridor