

ABSTRACT

Romanian and Hungarian nation-building efforts during World War I

SZARKA, László: Manifestations of the ethnic question during the years of the Great War. Additions to the history of Hungarian government policies in Transylvania

3

The analysis of ethnic relations in East Central and South-Eastern Europe was given relatively little space in the international literature of the First World War centenary. In the early 20th century, the multi-ethnic Austro-Hungarian Empire and, within it, the Kingdom of Hungary were faced with the enormous challenges of nation-building nationalism in the region. The study investigates the policies related to Romanians in Transylvania of the Hungarian governments headed by István Tisza and Mihály Károlyi between 1913–1917 and in 1918, respectively, within the context of minority issues in Hungary. The demand from Romanians for the autonomy of Transylvania came to the fore once again in 1915–1916 in connection with Romania's policy of neutrality in the World War. However, the Hungarian prime minister considered the idea utterly unthinkable in spite of the fact that it was also backed by the Berlin. Cantonisation on the Swiss model or a condominal model to be applied until a final decision was made at the Peace Conference – solutions offered by the Károlyi government in 1918 – were, in turn, considered unacceptable by the Romanian National Council of Transylvania.

L. BALOGH, Béni: 1916 – A year of turnaround. The entry into war of Romania, and the Romanians in Transylvania

18

When World War I broke out, loyalty towards the Emperor was a prevailing sentiment among Romanians. The years 1916 to 1918, however, saw a radical change take place in their attitude: loyalty to the state, previously predominant among middle and upper level leaders, gradually became marginalized. Forces calling for secession from the Monarchy and unification with Romania gained an overwhelming majority. This also had a lot to do with the fact that on 27 August 1916 Romania declared war on Austria-Hungary and the Romanian army invaded Transylvania. After the expulsion of the Romanian army the international diplomatic struggle for winning over Romania resulted in the dramatically deterioration of the conditions, previously relatively favourable, of Romanians in Transylvania, with tough measures introduced against them in retaliation.

SIGMIREAN, CORNEL: Transforming identities: from loyalty towards the Monarchy to national identity 26

The study seeks to show how the loyalty to the Monarchy of Transylvanian Romanians—above all those who were recruited to go to war—was transformed to loyalty to the Romanian nation during the First World War. Officers in the army of the Monarchy would often have to confront their kinsmen on the other side or, due to the ups and downs of a warrior's life, would have to face a choice. New recruits at the beginning of the Great War would be willing to 'sing the royal anthem and the Hungarian National Anthem.' With the end of the war approaching, however, Romanian officers would often opt for the Romanian nation and the new state, the Kingdom of Romania. Through the war experiences of Romanian officers, the author shows the transformation of identities during the war.

KATONA, CSABA: 'Are we at war with Romania yet?' The memory of Romania's entry into the war in Hungarian private documents 37

The first Romanian invasion into Transylvania took place on August 27, 1916. The paper is an attempt at a specific approach to the subject. The author relies on contemporary private documents to show how people in different situations reflected on the news, or their personal experience, of Romania's entry to the war. The examples serve to give a glimpse into the diversity of experiences of history, and to draw attention to the opportunity of using private documents as a specific basis of sources. The documents examined include the papers of an elderly poet, those of three soldiers in active service at various sections of the front line, and those of a pastor from Transylvania who fled to Hajdúság.

Alternatives to the realization of national aspirations in World War I

SZÓTS, Zoltán Oszkár: The breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in modern historiography 51

As one of the most important consequences of the First World War, the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire has played an important role in WWI historiography from the beginnings to the present day. How has historical literature been dealing with the issue over the past one hundred years, and how do historians evaluate issues today? What questions have not been answered yet, and what issues can be taken as settled? The paper is an attempt to provide an outline of these issues.

KECSKÉS, D. GUSZTÁV: Central and Eastern European nationalities and French foreign policy during World War I

59

In 1914, when World War I broke out, the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe were living in the territories of three empires, Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and Russia. By 1918–1919, however, the region became a zone of newly formed or substantially transformed small countries, with radical changes to the administrative frameworks of their lives. Contemporaries were already fully aware of the active role France played in bringing about these changes. Depending on personal involvements, later evaluations have to this day ranged from glorifying praise to embittered resentment, often stereotypical and exaggerated. Utilizing the findings of an already abundant literature on the topic, the paper attempts to present and interpret the process of transformation which took place in the approach of French foreign policy related to our region.

GYARMATI, ENIKŐ: Alternative Ideas to the Austro-Hungarian Dualism during the Great War

82

The concepts of a federative Austria-Hungary outlined during the Great War are shortly reviewed by this study. For a long time during the 19th century the Swiss Federal State was considered as the model of a multinational state for Europe and for the multi-ethnic Habsburg Monarchy as well. During the Great War the majority of plans to restructure the Dual Monarchy intended to offer national autonomy for the ethnic peoples living there. This study also deals with the two proposals initiated by the Emperor of Charles I. (IV) in order to make a separate peace agreement with the Entente covenant. The first one had been mediated by the Austrian Professor Heinrich Lammasch in March 1918. The other one was sent for the French decision makers through the French Embassy in Bern in September 1918. Both propositions already envisaged a Habsburg Monarchy of independent nation states at the end of the Great War.

On the Research Trail

“Of course, Hungary belonged to the nationalizing states in the 20th century” – Ferenc Eiler in conversation with Tamás Gusztáv Filep

93