

## **THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN SYNDROME**

### **Unsolved Conflict in the Carpathian Basin**

Present day political and diplomatic decision makers have very little knowledge of the roots of problems in Central and East-Central Europe. Therefore, we have to shed some light on the festering sore, some politicians - not aware of its importance - would like to sweep under the rug:

#### **Facts:**

After World War I, the victors broke up the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. In the process, instead of one existing medium sized political and economic unit with many nationalities, they created five small, economically and politically unstable "quasi-national" states: Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia. Eventually - with other causes - it led to WW II, with the tragic consequences.

Owing mostly to designs of the Soviet Union, this division was reinstated and become less stable and less viable economically after WW II.

Since then, two of the artificially created states fell apart, resulting in more mini-states. Now there are eight: Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and the alien body: the Ukraine, in the same region.

The real losers are the Hungarians. In the 1920 Trianon (Paris) peace settlement they lost almost four million Hungarians to the successor states. Ever since these states are hell bent on annihilating the Hungarian nationals by all means at their disposal: deportations, forced assimilation, forced emigration, expulsions and (right after WW II) physical destruction.

Naturally, no nation could tolerate such status quo. If the victorious powers had established the new borders along ethnic lines in 1920, the revisionist movement in Hungary would have subsided in a few years. After such a blatant and inconscientious injustice of a "peace treaty", no self-respecting nation would acquiesce to the perpetuation of such borders.

This unholy situation created the so called "The East-Central European Syndrome, or more precisely " The Trianon Syndrome". All states in the Carpathian Basin suffer from it. No matter, what the government does, most Hungarians cannot accept the situation. The successor states are also mortally afraid of the Hungarian revisionism. They just can not believe, that the Hungarians are really willing to give up those lost territories with Hungarian majority. This "Trianon Syndrome" is hurting everybody.

The Hungarian government - with western "encouragement" - hopes against reasonable hope, that by joining the European Community, the borders will lose their significance in a few years, thus saving the Hungarian

minorities. This is not the case. The life of the Hungarians in Romania improved somewhat after they joined the EU, but in Slovakia did not! In Serbia and Ukraine there are no appreciable improvement. If things do not improve substantially, in ten-twenty years the Hungarian minorities will be destroyed, chased out, displaced by new settlers or forcibly assimilated by Slovakia, Rumania, the Ukraine and Serbia.

To reduce the danger, the Hungarian government enacted the so called Status Law, which would encourage and help the minority Hungarians to keep their culture, language and faith, in accordance with international law and practice.

Now those states, particularly Rumania and Slovakia were up in arms and dead set against the implementation of this feeble attempt to bolster the integrity of the Hungarian nation under foreign rule. It did not bother them, that they, and most European nations, have similar laws in existence. Slovakia, in defiance of the EU recently enacted a law further restricting the use of the Hungarian and other languages.

The new government, enacted a law, granting Hungarian citizenship on demand to all Hungarians beyond our borders.. This time only Slovakia reacted with anger, Ukraine's official reaction is unknown at this moment.

Since these mini-imperialistic states are unwilling to accept these minimum attempts, they eventually will have to face another solution

#### **Solution:**

- 1. As we know, revision of the borders is impossible because of the German territories annexed by Poland and the USSR after WW II, not to mention the UN stance on the matter.**
- 2. The further extension of the European Union has no reality for many years. While Croatia could join in a few years, the membership of Serbia and Ukraine are some years away.**
- 3. Therefore, the only solution at the present is autonomy.**

There are ample number of successful precedents: South-Tyrol in Italy, the Basques and Catalans in Spain, the Germans in Belgium, the Aland Islands in Finland and even the Gagauz in the Republic of Moldavia. The United Kingdom also granted wide ranging autonomy to Scotland, to a lesser degree to Wales and let go most of Ireland a long time ago. The French government facing mounting pressure for autonomy by the Corsicans and other minorities.

Why can't the United Nations or the European Union force the mini-imperialistic nations in the Carpathian Basin to do the same? Failing to act, they will be responsible for the largest scale ethnic cleansing in Europe - in however subtle and mostly clandestine ways - it will be done.

*True enough, autonomy was seldom granted without some bloodshed.*

*Do we really want another hot spot in Europe?*