
RESUME

Teréz KOVÁCS

National Identity and the Concept of Homeland of Ethnic Minorities in the Carpathian Basin

The concept of 'homeland' evolved differently for Hungarians living in Hungary and those living outside the Hungarian national borders. This paper offers an overview of the roots of the complex nature of the homeland concept among transborder (ethnic) Hungarians. According to this study, the latter do not perceive both countries as their homeland but become attached to various aspects of one country or the other. This new concept of homeland has three components: 1) the local, multicultural neighbourhood or region (e.g. Transylvania, Vojvodina, Subcarpathia), 2) Hungarian culture (e.g. literature, arts and history) and sports, and 3) and the everyday aspects of the local life that are different from customs in Hungary. The importance of these three components varies across the life span and life situations of individuals. On the macro level, such variations are influenced by the politics of identity on a national and individual level, while on the micro level, they are affected by the individuals' mentality, effort, values and interests.

Keywords: homeland, national identity, regional identity, transborder Hungarians

János TISCHLER

From the Polish to the Hungarians

In autumn 1956 – not for the first or the last time in history – the fates of Poland and Hungary were firmly interlaced. Despite the fact that the events took different courses in the two countries, still, they were in many ways interrelated, and they influenced each other. In the history of the "Hungarian tragedy", both the "official" and the "people's" Poland occupy an extremely important place.

The Poles saw the Hungarian uprising as a genuine anti-Stalinist revolution with aims very similar to their own, with the difference that in Hungary the narrow outlook of the old leadership and the obstinacy with which it had clung to power led to a bloodbath. This vast movement of aid made it possible to do away with the empty slogans about fraternity that had until then been ritually repeated, and to revive memories of the traditional friendship between the two nations such as the 100,000 Polish refugees having received shelter in Hungary in the autumn of 1939, or the Hungarian troops later stationed in various regions of Poland, including the vicinity of Warsaw, which had refused to act like an occupying army. With few exceptions, the Polish blood donors of those days gave blood for the first, and most likely the last, time in their lives. They were simply overcome with the urge to help. There was also the factor of anti-Soviet attitude, always strong in Poland, and the feeling that Poland had managed to avoid the tragedy that now afflicted Hungary.

Many rallies in support of Hungary were held in factories, at universities and other locations but until 4 November, there was only one street demonstration in support of "our fighting Hungarian brothers". Organizers clearly regarded demonstrations too

risky, fearing that they would not be able to send the crowd home peacefully once the demonstration ended. Moreover, the general mood resonated with the appeal launched by Gomulka, still highly popular at the time, who urged at the 24 October mass rally in Warsaw that it was “time to finish rallying, let us begin to work”. That demonstration, involving a crowd of 10,000, was held in the town of Olsztyn, where the local Red Army Square was renamed “Square of Hungarian Revolutionaries” by those taking part. In the morning of 5 November 1956, however, silent demonstrations were organized in Cracow involving several thousand people carrying Polish and Hungarian flags, protesting against the second Soviet intervention in Hungary and commemorating the Hungarians who had fallen.

András ZOLTÁN

The Early Phase of Slavic–Hungarian Linguistic Relations

Slavic–Hungarian linguistic relations have been uninterrupted for 1200 years. This process is supposed to have begun in the decades prior to the Hungarian Conquest when marching through the south of present-day Ukraine, the predecessors of Hungarians captured some Slavs (according to Arab sources). The Hungarians’ march is also mentioned by the Russians’ ancient chronicle. A trace of that is the Slavic word for Hungarians that comes from the Turkish “onogur”. Although it is true that in Hungarian the proportion of simplex words of Slavic origin (9.36%) is the highest after that of the Finno-Ugric ones, this figure can be broken down to the individual Slavic languages. Thus it turns out that the impact of any given Slavic language does not exceed the old Turkish or Italian linguistic influence, for instance (János Melich).

Béla POMOGÁTS

1956 – The Hungarian Writers’ Union and the Revolution (From a Personal Perspective)

The demands of the Hungarian writers were first put forth in seven points by Péter Veres’s speech delivered on 22 October 1956 at the Bem Statue, one day before the revolution broke out. The demands emphatically called for the assertion of an independent national policy, the identification of the true economic situation of the country, the employment of real experts in the economy and the replacement of the Rákosi–Gerő clique by Imre Nagy and his government. The occupation of Hungary by the Soviet troops on 4 November put an end to the revolution: Imre Nagy’s last speech was aired on the radio at 7:50 a.m., followed by Gyula Háy’s memorable appeal to the intellectuals of the world.

Gyula DÁVID

The Days of the 1956 Revolution and the Years of Retaliation in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár)

The Hungarian revolution had a strong impact on the Hungarian citizens of Transylvania, thus on students, teachers and writers living in Cluj-Napoca as well. The first solidarity demonstrations, which brought back the ghost of irredentism for the Romanian leadership, gave a good excuse for the “unification” of the Hungarian Bolyai University and the Romanian Babes University in Cluj-Napoca as well as to the gradual extermination of the Hungarian school system and the elimination and imprisonment of masses of Hungarian intellectuals.

Pál Péter TÓTH

Stress and Society

Since research on stress has been mostly concerned with biological stress and stress reaction so far, it has confined itself essentially to the scope of medical and to some extent, psychological research. However, János Selye called attention to the social determination of stress as early as in 1942. The author discusses the relationship between stress and society, and makes a case by citing mainly Hungarian historical examples and demographic crisis situations.