

# THE UNMAKING OF PEACE

*The fragmentation and  
subsequent destruction of Central Europe  
after World War One  
by the Peace Treaty of Trianon*

No man is an Iland, intire of it selfe; every man  
is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine; if a  
Clod bee washed away by the Sea, Europe is the lesse,  
as well as if a Promontorie were, as well as if a Mannor  
of thy friends or of thine owne were; any mans  
death diminishes me, because I am in-  
volved in Mankinde; And therefore  
never send to know for  
whom the bell tolls; It  
tolls for thee.

John Donne.

## THE UNMAKING OF PEACE

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## CHAPTER ONE

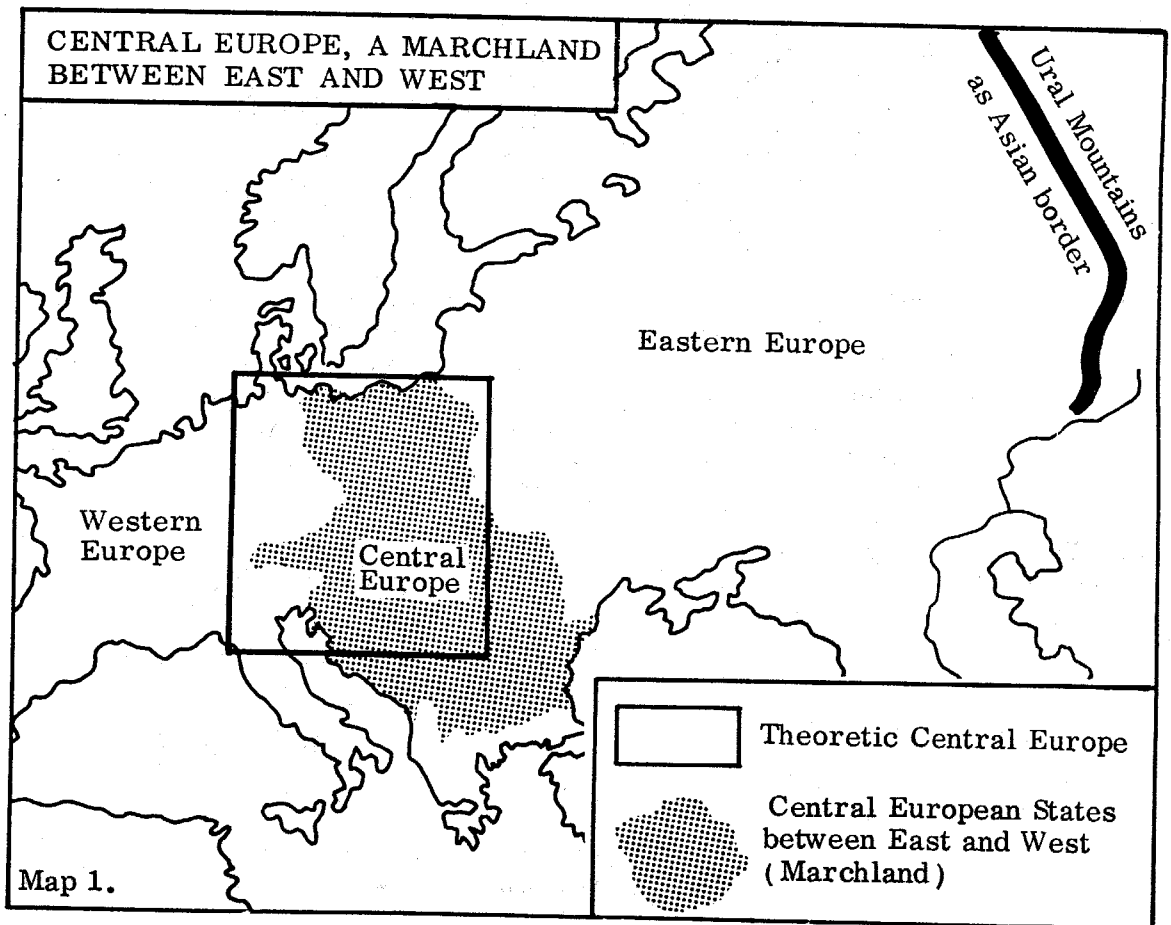
### EUROPE'S MARCHLAND AT THE CROSSROADS OF HISTORY

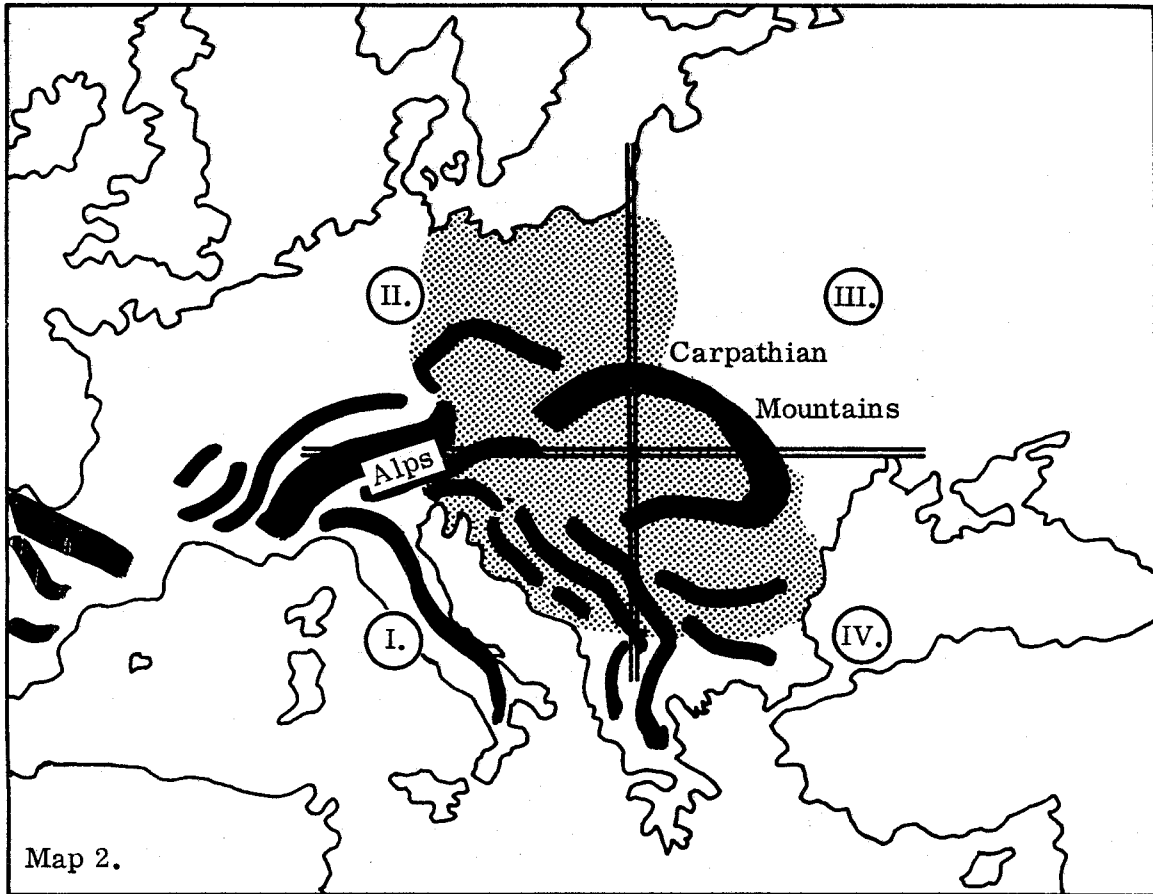
The term Marchland was used by a group of American professors of geography to indicate the region in Europe which is now by and large the Russian-occupied East-Central and South Eastern Europe. It is also frequently, but erroneously called Eastern Europe. We suggest that it should be referred to by its correct name: Central Europe.

The shaded area on Map No. 1. follows the present-day political borders and indicates the area which is now controlled by Moscow in addition to Yugoslavia and Austria. Historical and cultural considerations suggest the inclusion of more westerly

areas ( as shown by the square frame on Map 1.), but for the sake of geopolitical realism we delineate the Central-European region within the present political frontiers.

Few areas in the world show such great contrasts of physical and cultural features and such ethnic and social diversities as this "Marchland". The varied and rugged relief often hinders interregional and even local communication. This condition encourages, especially on the Balkan highlands, isolationism and particularism, making it difficult to establish national cores, preventing unification and generally contributing to the inner fragmentation of the region. (Map 2.)





Map 2.  
Mountains fragmenting Central Europe thus preventing unification  
The straight lines indicate the historic segmentation of Europe

Far the most important geographical feature is the chain of the Carpathian Mountains forming an almost complete circle in the heart of Central Europe. This rugged mountain chain is eminently suited to the role of a lasting state border — which it was until 1919. The area encompassed by the Carpathian Mountains is the hub of Central Europe, the meeting point of cultures and ideologies, the crossroads of movements from East to West, South to North.

#### Hungary, the country on the crossroads

On the following pages six simplified diagrams illustrate the distribution of various geopolitical segments around the Carpathian Basin.

The first one is divided by a horizontal line only. To the South of this line emerged the civilization of Ancient Europe. For our purpose the reference to Ancient History is

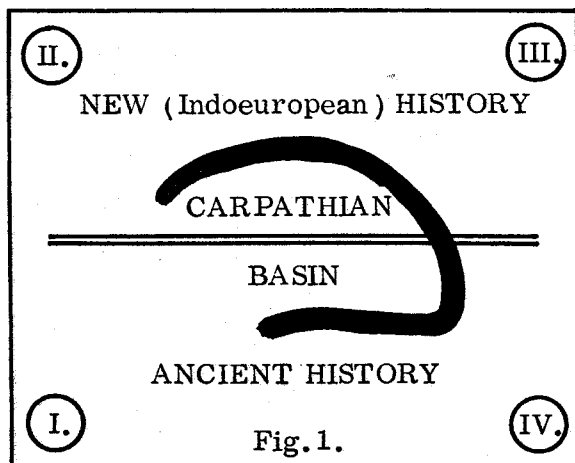
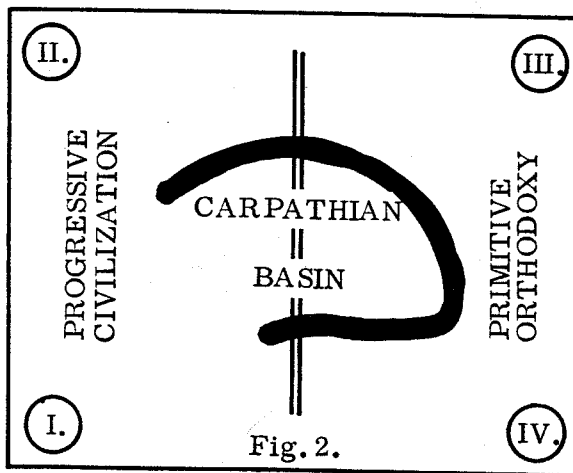


Fig. 1.

a reference to the Roman Empire. The line, indicated on our diagram, was reached by the Roman Empire at the time of Augustus. For the next 900 years the territory to the North of our horizontal line was subject to constant changes caused by the "barbarian migrations".

The next diagram is divided by a vertical line only. To the West of it we have written the words: PROGRESSIVE CIVILIZATION, to the East: PRIMITIVE ORTHODOXY. The historical reference of this diagram is directed to the next period of the progress of European civilization.

By the end of the first millenium A.D. the Holy Roman Empire became the framework of the new Germanic-Christian civilization of the continent. It gave to a large part of Europe an effective spiritual unity in the form of a chain of Christian kingdoms. However, the eastern branch of Christianity detached itself from the main body around 1000 A.D. A few centuries later this Byzantine or Eastern Church collapsed and its fragments survived only as a series of orthodox state-religions, adding to the spiritual fragmentation of the region. Thus Europe was divided into Progressive Civilization and Primitive Orthodoxy:



Race and language are the greatest dividing factors of mankind, especially in Europe where national characteristics are rooted in millenia-long history.

Fig. No.3. shows the Carpathian Basin as the cross-roads of races and languages.

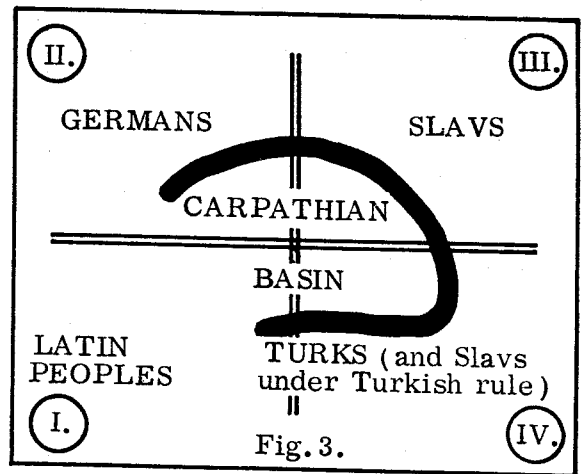
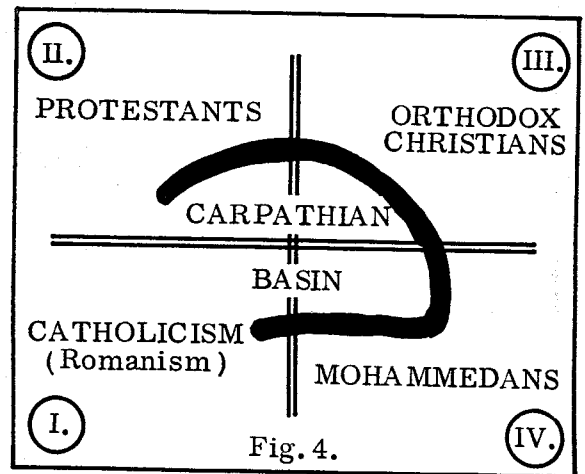


Fig. No.4. repeats the pattern of four-panelled segmentation by the other great dividing factor, religion, which coincides almost exactly with the frontiers of language and race-areas.



Towards the end of the ninth century A.D. a state was formed in the centre of this region, in the Carpathian Basin: Hungary. This was the first - and so far only - successful attempt to establish a lasting state-structure in this area. The preceding sketches illustrate graphically why the Hungarians (or "Magyars" as they call themselves) had such a turbulent history in this focal point of races and ideologies. The next diagram gives a very brief idea of the most important struggles during the thousand years old history of the Hungarian state. (Fig.5).