

CHAPTER SIX

TRIANON , A PEACE WITHOUT HONOUR

Forced to sign

“Unwilling to remedy a gross injustice, or to undo the badly mangled map of Danubian Europe and then re-do it all over on the basis of the ethnic principle, as pledged, the president of the Supreme Council, Alexandre Millerand, in his Covering Letter dated May 6, 1920, refused to provide for a plebiscite anywhere. The Letter — conceived by Lord Curzon — cynically argued that having acquired “the certitude that. . . a consultation. . . would not offer a result

different sensibly from those which they (the Allies) have arrived at”, plebiscites were considered “unnecessary”. But to induce Hungary to swallow the bitter pill, it was sugarcoated with another promise, also to be broken. The letter gave assurance that the Allied and Associated Powers, mindful of the principle which had guided them in the fixing of the frontiers, were ready to admit that some frontiers might not be in harmony with ethnographic and economic

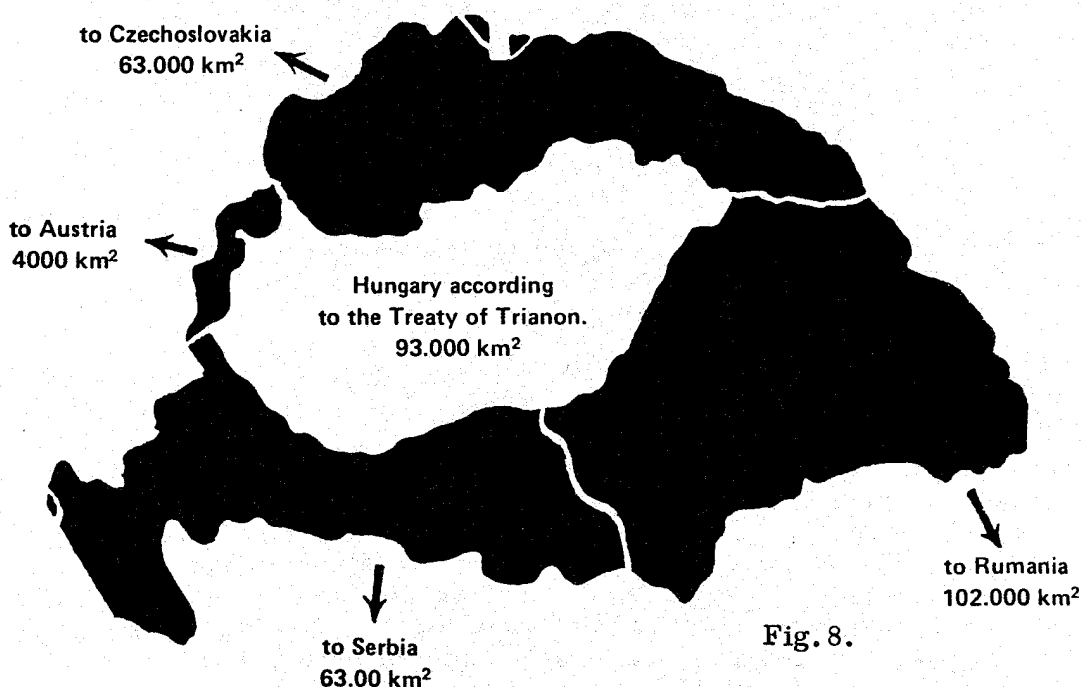
requirements, and that local investigation might demonstrate the necessity of shifting the present border-line here and there. Modifications judged desirable by a Delimitation Commission were therefore allowed to be reported to the Council of the League of Nations which would offer its services for an amiable rectification of the frontier. In conclusion, the Letter declared that the Allied Powers expected a Declaration from the Hungarian Delegation within ten days giving them to understand that they were authorized to sign the Treaty as it stood.

A note from Count Apponyi, the next day, to Mr. Millerand, expressed the Hungarian Delegation's "most painful surprise" at the Allied Powers' refusal to apply in Hungary's case the principle they had proclaimed. Unable to accept the responsibility for an affirmative answer, Apponyi announced the entire Delegation's demission. On May 17, 1920, the Hungarian Government reiterated Apponyi's protest "against the manifest breach of principle of the

right of a free self-determination" for the people of Hungary and stated that it was "precisely by virtue of this principle that the Government thought it possible to abstain from insisting on incontestable historic rights". The foundation for a future Hungarian policy aimed at the revision of "Trianon" was therewith established. Then, battered into helplessness, and with reference to Millerand's Covering Letter seeming to contain "formal promises of a nature to allow some softening of the stipulations of the Peace Treaty in the near future", the Hungarian Government declared: "Led by this supposition and fully conscious of the grave situation of the country, the Hungarian Government do not consider themselves able to refuse signing the Treaty of Peace". This act was perfected on June 4, 1920, in the palace of the "Grand Trianon", located in the park of Versailles. On the same day the dejected Hungarian Government resigned". (1)

Partition of the territory of Hungary. (3)

The Peace Treaty of Hungary has deprived Hungary of 72 per cent of its Territory.



The losses

"The final result was that of the 325,411 sq. km. which had comprised the area of the Lands of the Holy Crown, Hungary was left with only 92,963. Rumania alone had received 103,093; Czechoslovakia 61,633; Yugoslavia the 42,541 sq. km. of Croatia-Slavonia and 20,551 of Inner Hungary,

Austria 4,020; and even Poland and Italy small fragments".

"Of the population of 20,886,487 (1910 census), Hungary was left with 7,615,117. Rumania received 5,257,467; Czechoslovakia 3,517,568; Yugoslavia 4,131,249 (2,621,954 + 1,509,295), and Austria 291,618". (2)

Partition of Hungary's population. (3)

The Peace Treaty of Hungary has forced 64 per cent of Hungary's Population under Foreign Rule.

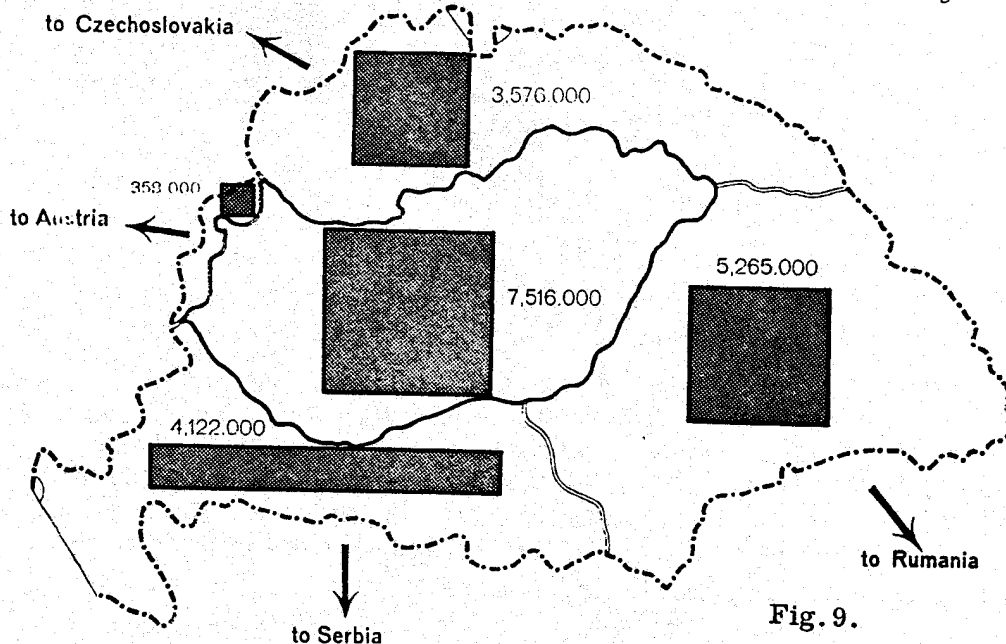


Fig. 9.

This mutilation was carried out under the pretext of the "Liberation of nationalities". However, those nationalities were never asked whether they want to be "liberated" from their country of birth into the newly formed Czechoslovakia or Yugoslavia or in the case of Rumanians in Transylvania to the backward Balkan state of Rumania.

But even if we suppose, that all the Slovaks wanted to be subjects of the Czech's State, all the Croats and Bácska-Serbs agreed to be transferred into the newly formed South-Slav Kingdom, and suppose all the Transylvanian Rumanians were keen to be subjected to the Balkan-despotism, the number of non-Slovaks, non-Rumanians

and non-Serbians living on the ripped-off territories outnumber those who supposedly wanted to depart from the thousand year old state.

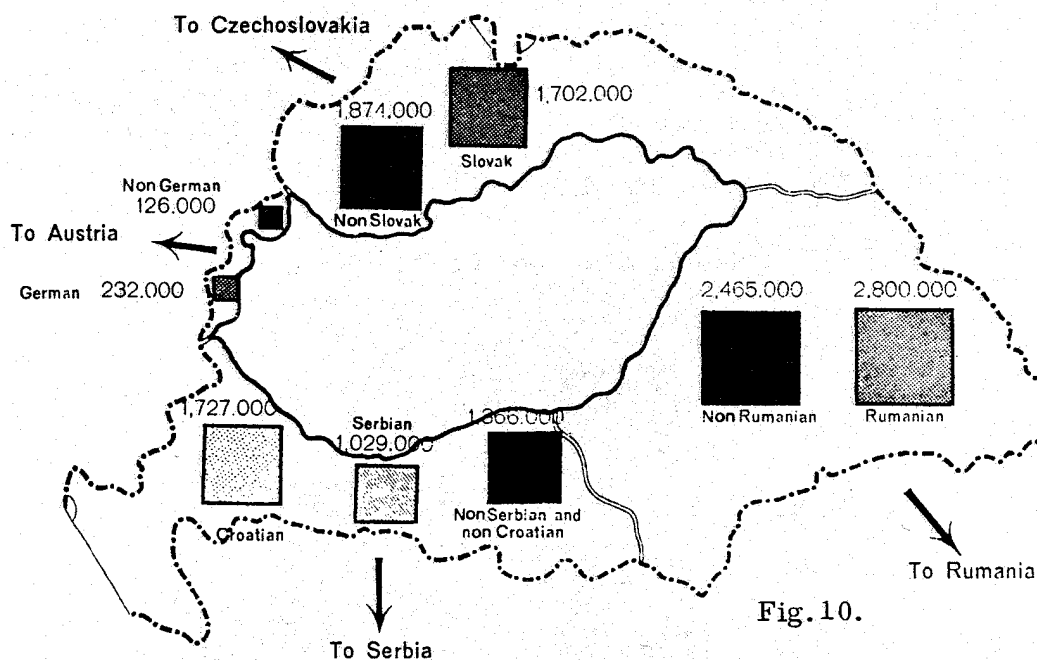
1,702,000 Slovaks were "liberated" by placing them under Czech rule and together with them 1,874,000 persons of other nationalities.

2,800,000 Rumanians were "liberated" by subjecting 2,465,000 people of other nationalities to Rumanian rule.

1,029,000 Serbians were "liberated" so as to put 1,727,000 Croats and 1,366,000 inhabitants of other nationalities under Serbian rule.

232,000 Germans were "liberated" by placing them together with 126,000 persons of

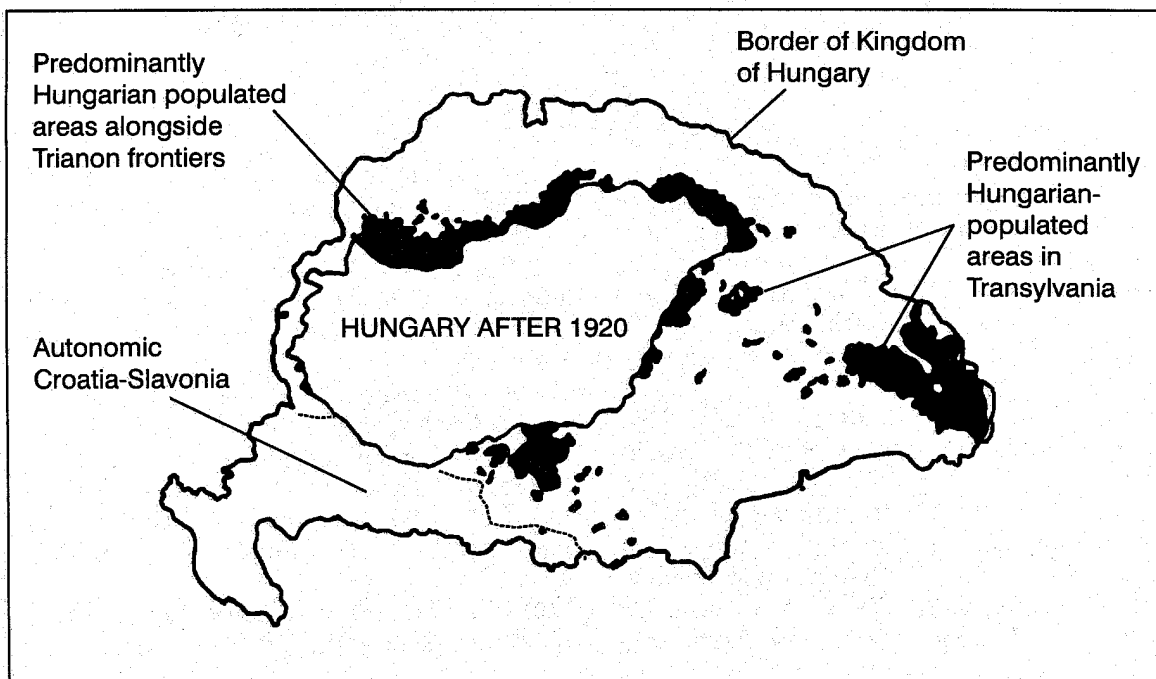
The Treaty of Trianon and the „liberation“ of nationalities. (3)



other nationalities under Austrian rule.

Without counting Croatia, which was an independent unit of the Crown land of Hungary, more than ten millions of population were taken away from Hungary. Of these ten million people only 47 percent

are in racial relation with the States by which they have been annexed, whereas 53 per cent are foreign to the Succession States and more than 30 percent, i.e. 3,424,000 are pure Magyars. The Magyar population living on the territory of historical Hungary



was in round figures ten millions. Of these only 6,600,000 remained in dismembered Hungary, i.e. not more than 66.5 per cent of the Magyars, whilst 33.5 percent were forced by the Treaty of Trianon against their own desire or volition to become subjects of a foreign State.

Such conditions are the more flagrantly unjust, because more than one and a half million of the Magyars annexed by the Succession States live unmixed with any considerable number of foreign elements, adjacent to the frontiers of present Hungary.

Map 14 showing the transferred but pre-

dominantly Hungarian populated areas contiguous with the territory of mutilated Hungary.

The frontier lines of the treaty of Trianon all the way cut their burning wound into the flesh of the Magyar ethnic block.

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- (1) Tibor Eckhardt: Regicide at Marseille, Recollections, New York 1964.
 - (2) C.A. Macartney: Hungary, A short History, The Edinburgh Univ. Press, 1962
 - (3) O. Légrády: Justice for Hungary, The Cruel Errors of Trianon, Budapest.