

ABSTRACTS

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■ ***“Going Beyond the Borders” in Hungary and Romania: Nation- or State-building?***

Keywords: *state-building, nation-building, kinship, minorities abroad*

There are several important differences between Hungary and Romania regarding how they manage, as kin-states, on the basis of kinship, the relationship with national minorities living abroad. Romania is viewing the ethnic Romanians living in the neighbouring states based on a state-building logic. This means that the state policy is balancing between internal nation-building (as policy of assimilation) and a special foreign policy performed toward territories which were part of the former Romanian nation-building (e.g. Bessarabia, Bukovina). Hungary deems all ethnic Hungarians, regardless where are they living, in which neighbouring state, as equal part of the Hungarian cultural nation. This point of view is hindering the governments to put differentiated kin-state policies into practice.

Bodó Barna

■ ***The Csángós of the Romanians: Between Romania and Serbia***

Keywords: *Vlach, Serbia, Romania, minority rights, national identity, culture*

Vlachs are an ethnic group heavily represented in the Timoc Valley, south of the Danube in Serbia, speaking Romanian, causing discord and tension in the relationship between Romania and Serbia. Bucharest, which considers this group to belong to Romanian culture, believes that Serbia does not guarantee the minority rights necessary for them to preserve their identity and culture. Belgrade, on the other hand, argues that the Vlach problem does not exist. In this field of forces, the Vlach community, which lacks native-language schools and church service in its mother tongue, shows a continuous decline.

Csörtán Ferenc

■ ***The Aromanians/Vlachs: A Hiding Nation of Europe***

Keywords: *Aromanian, Vlach, Romanian, Greek Orthodox Church, commerce, economic and cultural life*

The Aromanians (as they call themselves) or Vlachs (as other Balcanic nations call them) appeared at the end of the first millennium AD. Speaking a language (or dialects) of Latin origin, related to contemporary Romanian language, and belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church, they were for centuries shepherds, soldiers and merchants, as well as an important part of the ethno-cultural mosaic of the Balkans – an area which since Antiquity (and until the Balkanic Wars – 1912-13) always belonged to great, multicultural empires. At the end of the 18th century they formed the group of “Greek (i.e. of Greek Orthodox confession) merchants” who held in their hands the commerce between the Ottoman Empire and Central Europe, developing a network of colonies and commercial companies. Rich and cultivated, their economic and cultural centre was Moschopolis (today Voskopoje in Southern Albania), destroyed by Turkish bands. Their diaspora played an important role in the economic and cultural life of the Habsburg Empire, and their intelligentsia had an important contribution to the social, cultural and political development of modern Greek, Romanian, Serbian, Albanian, Macedonian nations, but also to the development of modern Austria and Hungary. Today there are important Vlach communities in Greece and Romania (where they are considered and treated as part of the state-forming nation), in Albania, Bulgaria and Macedonia (where they represent ethnic/linguistic minorities, beneficiaries of modern ethnic policies). There is a network of Vlach/Aromanian cultural organizations in the whole Western world.