

ABSTRACTS

Béni L. Balogh

■ ***Changes of Imperiums in Transylvania and the Turning of 1944-1945***

Keywords: *change of imperiums, Transylvania, the Peace Treaty of Trianon, the Second Vienna Award*

The main issue of the Hungarian–Romanian relationship, from the first half of the 19th century until the middle of the 20th century, was the struggle for the exclusive possession of the multinational Transylvania. The most important events of this struggle happened in the first half of the 20th century: 1918/1919, the Second Vienna Award on 30 August 1940, and 1944/1945. After the Romanian passing on 23 August 1944, the armistice was signed on 12 September 1944 in Moscow. Article 19 of this agreement annulled the Second Vienna Award. Afterwards, Romanian public administration and security forces came back in the wake of Soviet and Romanian armies as well. Then, the so-called “Iuliu Maniu” Volunteer Battalions committed some atrocities against Hungarians. Due to this fact – which was a pretence – Moscow ordered the withdrawal of Romanian public administration from Northern Transylvania on 12 November 1944. The main cause of this decision was the blackmail of the “reactionist” Romanian government to reach the takeover of a left administration. Three days after the inauguration of the left Groza-government in 6 March 1945, Stalin approved the reintroduction of the public administration of the Romanian State in Northern Transylvania.

Róbert Barta

■ ***Great Britain in 1945***

Keywords: *Anglo-American relationship, Attlee-government, British Conservative Party, British General election of 1945, Clement C. Attlee, iron curtain, Potsdam Summit, Yalta Summit, welfare state, Winston S. Churchill*

The study focuses on the immediate post-WWII British history, especially the effects of war, the general election of 1945, home policy events and imperial foreign political aspects. Direct effects of the war were controversial in Britain in a sense that as a winner country her economic, political and military issues were subordinated to U.S. interests. The general election of 1945 was won by the Labour Party because the majority of voters expected them to introduce the long delayed welfare state administration. The Labour government has appeared as nationalist and imperialist, and due to

economic and financial considerations they did not urge the dissolution of the Empire. London’s interests were more and more subordinated to Washington’s policy in the forthcoming framework of the Cold War, so she could not do anything to stop the process of East European sovietization, and it became a necessity to accept the policy of Western European integration.

Árpád Hornyák

■ ***Yugoslavia – in the “Year Zero”***

Keywords: *Yugoslavia, new regime, Tito, leading position in the Balkans*

In the modern history of the South Slavic people the dates 1918, 1941 and 1945 were crucial. 1918 meant the unification of the South Slavic people in one state for the first time in the history. In 1941 this state was disrupted, while the year 1945 offered a new beginning for them. This article deals with this last date as ground zero for new Yugoslavia by giving a sketchy overview of the new directions, possibilities and limitations of the efforts of the new regime. The new post-war Yugoslavia and its communist leadership broke up with the social and political legacy of the pre-war Yugoslavia. The only aspect of the policy of the old Yugoslavia that the new regime undertook was the foreign policy. Therefore, while Tito’s Communist Party gained the full ideological and political power in the federative Yugoslavia and established the state socialist regime by the end of 1945, the communist leadership continued the pre-war endeavours of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and aimed at gaining the leading position in the Balkans.

Attila Kolontári

■ ***The Soviet Union after the Second World War***

Keywords: *Soviet Union, great power, Soviet sphere of influence in Central and Eastern Europe, Stalin’s one-person power*

The Soviet Union emerged from World War II as a great power which had suffered grave damage and made serious sacrifices for the victory. For all this, however, Moscow demanded amends by imposing harshly enforced reparations on the losing countries and by extensively expanding the Soviet sphere of influence. Through means of raw power, the Soviet Union endeavoured to shape the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in its own image, it pressured them into its own system of alliance. With the elimination of war damage, an outdated economic structure was reconstructed, characterized by the predominance of

heavy and war industry. Once again, it was society that had to pay the price for this. The political structure was grounded on Stalin's one-person power; however, with the progression of the disease of the ageing dictator, there arose the question of succession. Several cliques and interest groups fought against one another, the bloody payoffs conjured up memories of the world of the second half of the 1930s. Not even those could feel safe any more who had earlier been considered Stalin's most loyal and trusted confidants.

Tamás Magyarics

■ ***“Year Zero”: A New World (Order) in Place of the Old One***

Keywords: *end of Second World War, two superpowers, Soviet Union, U. S., United Nations, economic and financial reconstruction*
At the end of the Second World War, there remained only two (super)powers capable of actively shaping the postwar world. As both world wars started in Europe, it was obvious that a radical rearrangement of power relations among the European powers was needed. The Soviet Union was primarily interested in creating a buffer zone and was basically pursuing a balance of power politics here and in Asia alike. The American approach was more complex, insofar as Washington was seeking to establish a liberal world order but, learning the lessons of the failed Wilsonian attempt after World War I it also tried to put into place a mechanism to enforce the decisions of the world community embodied by the United Nations. However, because of Soviet insistence on a veto power in the Security Council, the UN has not been able to live up to the expectations, and the shifting balance of power continued to define ultimately the relations between the power centers. The economic and financial reconstruction, the so-called Bretton Woods system was working remarkably well for decades, while the attempts to bring the nuclear power under international control failed because of the emergence of the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union and their successive allies.

István Majoros

■ ***In the Shadow of Glory and Greatness. France in the Cold War Era***

Keywords: *France, bipolar world, general de Gaulle, Fifth Republic, Cold War*

After the collapse in 1940, France ceased to exist as a great power, because the European balance of power was replaced by the Bipolar World after 1945. But during the

war Hitler wanted to create a German Empire in Europe. That's why this study presents the efforts of France to find its place first in the German system and then in the Bipolar World. The author examines the diplomacy of the regime of Vichy and the politics of de Gaulle to participate in the liberation of France. The main goal of the General was to reestablish the great power role of France after 1945, but de Gaulle didn't participate in the political life between 1946 and 1958. The study presents then the diplomacy of the Fourth Republic, when France starts organizing the European Economic Community. The colonial crisis makes an end to the regime and the Fifth Republic starts with the leadership of General de Gaulle as president of the republic. The study summerizes the diplomacy of the presidents from de Gaulle to Chirac. In the Cold War, France became a medium power with world political engagement.

István Németh

■ ***The German Empire in 1945***

Keywords: *German Empire, Potsdam Conference, denazification, Nuremberg Trial*

The period beginning with May 1945 with the unconditional surrender of the German Wehrmacht and the defeat of the German Empire is considered the most complicated of recent German history. This is because all of the world powers participated in this stream of events that divided the country into four occupational zones with the city of Berlin being divided into four sectors.

The dictates of the Potsdam Conference of the three “great ones” prescribed the total demilitarization of the country and the total destruction or control of the industry enabling military production. They agreed on the earlier accepted denazification and on the dissolution of the National Socialist Party's institutions and organizations as well as on the indicting and interning of the war criminals.

The study discusses the situation of the German prisoners of war and the fate of those legendary women who cleared away the ruins, as well as the fate of the 12-13 million refugees, the measure of reparations paid, and the fate of those chased away from their home land.

The essay also discusses the formation of the democratic political parties, the free Labor Unions and the Nuremberg Trial.

Ignác Romsics

■ ***1945 – Beginning of a New Era***

Keywords: *1945, Second World War, international relations*

By almost all standards, the Second World War was the largest military conflict in history, involving and affecting most of the world's population. Its end in 1945 undoubtedly drove a wedge between the old and the new. Governments, political systems and borders altered all over the globe. It brought about a transformation of attitudes and realities. Introducing the country-based surveys, Ignác Romsics's essay is focusing on two aspects of this global conflict. In the first part of his study some basic characteristics of the war are presented. Special emphasis is put on the nature of warfare, largely as a result of scientific and technological innovations. Due to the new weapons the number of casualties was about six-seven times that of the First World War. Among them there were not only soldiers, but also civilians. Considering the atrocities against civilians the most terrible was the Holocaust – the deliberate murder of over 5 million Jews. In the second part of the essay the effects of the war are treated. The author emphasizes that the four western European states which had played a leading role in world affairs in the first half of the century, were now much weaker than before. At the same time, the USA and the

USSR emerged as the two most powerful nations in the world. Romsics shares the opinion according to which the rivalry of these two super-powers in the Cold War was the most important feature of international relations for almost half a century after 1945.

Attila Simon

■ *On New Paths: Czechoslovakia in 1945*
Keywords: *Czechoslovakia, 1945, Soviet sphere influence, pre-totalitarian state*

This study outlines the most relevant momentum of the process during which Czechoslovakia, re-established in 1945, breaking with the major fundamentals of its pre-war policies, gradually became part of the Soviet sphere of influence. Although the final turning point came only in 1948, the process leading to it had, in the author's view, already begun during the war and became irreversible from 1945. The author separately deals with the changes in the Czechoslovak foreign, domestic, and minority policy in 1945, while Czechoslovakia, in the author's assessment, can no longer be considered between 1945 and 1948 as a democratic country, but a pre-totalitarian state.

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„Dönitz admirálisnak, akit a korlátlan tengeralattjáró-háború elrendelése miatt vontak felelősségre, maga Nimitz amerikai tengernagy kelt a védelmére. Az amerikai haditengerészet háború utáni főparancsnoka kijelentette: a Csendes-óceánon ők ugyanazokat a módszereket alkalmazták, mint a németek az Atlanti-óceánon. Ha tehát Dönitzet elítélik, őt is el kellene itélni. A bíróság azonban természetesen nem így járt el. Ezért, amikor 10 éves börtönbüntetését letöltve Dönitz 1956-ban kiszabadult, Nimitz és több tucat szövetséges veterán tiszt emlékkönyvvel fejezte ki tiszteletét és együttérzését »kollégájuk« méltatlannak tartott meghurcolása miatt. [...]

Ez, a más mércével mérő »nürnbergi szemlélet« vált alapjává annak a széles körökben elterjedt antifasiszta ideológiának, amely a második világháború történetét az Ördög és az Angyal harcává egyszerűsítette, s miközben a Harmadik Birodalmat démonizálta, a Szovjetuniót mentesítette minden felelősségvállalás alól. Ez mindazon országok tapasztalatának ellentmondott, amelyek elszennvedtek a szovjet Vörös Hadsereg hadműveleteit kísérő atrocitásokat, a polgári lakossággal szembeni erőszakoskodásokat.”

(Romsics Ignác)

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