

László Tamás VIZI
A sérelmi politizálástól a nemzeti összetartozásig –
Trianon, revízió, határkérdés, nemzetegyesítés (1920–2010)
Budapest: CEPOLITI 2016
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The book written with huge erudition, which is highlighted by the fact that the 230-page-long text is supplemented up by 616 footnotes and by 25 pages of bibliography. The book discusses the Trianon Peace Treaty as one of the central problems of the Hungarian foreign policy and about the plans and attempts made by the Hungarian political elite to process and rectify it. The monograph proceeds from the beginning of the trauma (1920) to our present days (2010).

The book has an elegant design and elevated language as there is only one grammatical mistake in the text (p. 32). The style is straightforward, never boring and the author never gives in the temptation of the topic to be impetuous. In the introduction, the author gives an overlook about structure, content and the topic itself since there are coherently integrated tables of data on the effects of the Trianon Peace Treaty. The bibliography contains monographs, studies and articles in separate blocks of genre. There is not any additional index. There are two methods of the monograph which might be questioned. Instead of foot-

notes, there are endnotes which are more advantageous for interested people than professional readers. In addition, the main body of the text contains a massive amount of quotations analysed by the author which also supports readers interested in the topic to fully understand the original sources, however, in most academic papers citations are exiled to footnotes.

The genre of the monograph is also complex as it is a synthetizing historiographical summary on how the Hungarian political elite handled the trauma of Trianon. Therefore, the author does not write about the socio-economic impacts, emotions or opinions of neighbouring countries. Though, he considers his topic constructively and does not lament on consequences but present the solutions and plans of Hungarian politicians from the beginning to the acceptance of the Law on National Unity (2010).

The story starts with the speech of count Apponyi in 16th January 1920 because it was the first official Hungarian reflexion on the Trianon Treaty and its ideas laid down the foundations of the further Hungarian revision-

ist argumentations. It had the following pillars: (1) cultural superiority, (2) national self-determination, (3) problem of laws on ethnic minorities, (4) historical arguments, (5) national defence and security issues and finally (6) geographical-economic aspects (pp. 22–27). Vizi highlights that historical arguments represented the weakest point of the reasoning (p. 30). In the Palestine-Israeli conflict, both of the opponents used the same historical arguments referring to the fact that who had been in the region first. Finally, the military superiority legitimised the arguments in favour of Israel. It highlights the problem of Hungary as she could not support her claims with economic or military power. The author handles his topic, the revisionist plans in their immanent reality at a theoretical level therefore he does not compare them with reality. The city of Sopron and the neighbouring eight villages proved national self-determination and referendum to be effective as they chose to remain integral part of Hungary. The village of Derenk is not mentioned by the author. Although the majority of the population of this settlement was not Hungarian they decided to rejoin Hungary.

Besides several revisionist plans (pp. 53–79) of the Horthy period (1920–1944) the author also presents the ideas of Lord Rothermere (pp. 50–51). The English lord brilliantly realised, on the contrary to the Western-European, especially French politicians, that the weakened Hungary would not be an ally for a renewing German super-

power. In fact Europe would also lose Hungary against the new menace represented by the communist USSR. (Cites by Vizi, p. 51.) The temporary successes of revision supported by the Nazi Germany are described by tables of data and maps. The author claims that the method of revisions made territorial gains unsustainable (p. 85). Based on the analysed plans, Vizi presents three models of revision in the Horthy era: (1) the “everything back” kind of integral revision, (2) ethnic revision and the (3) strategic, geo-political revision (p. 87).

The Paris peace accords, which confirmed the Trianon Treaty in 1947, are also analysed in details (pp. 95–175). These accords proved that the Anglo-Saxon politics learnt the lessons of the past and was receptive to the peaceful settlement of the Trianon question based on ethnic borders. A new superpower, the USSR however had the upper hand in this question and did not consider ethnic problems. In the name of international communist ideology, the Trianon trauma was hushed up in Hungary during the socialist dictatorship (1949–1989, pp. 177–191).

The last chapter of the book describes the governmental policy after the change of the system (1989). Here, there are two political mainstreams: (1) the MDF (Hungarian Democratic Forum, governed between 1990 and 1994) and the Fidesz governments (Young Democrats’ Association, governed between 1998 and 2002 and from 2010) had a strict policy of protection of Hungarian ethnic minorities in neigh-

bouring countries, while (2) the MSZP government (Hungarian Socialist Party, governed: 1994–1998 and 2002–2010) subordinated the whole problem to the policy of integration. In 2004, there was an invalid referendum on dual citizenship of Hungarian ethnic minorities which is considered to be a second spiritual Trianon by the author. According to Vizi, the problem was solved at least at a symbolic and theoretical level in

2010 when the Law on National Unity was passed.

This monograph is an electrifying intellectual quest as the author gives insight into several periods of Hungarian history elaborating the political reception history of the shocking Trianon trauma. His line of argumentation leads from 1920 to the political solution in 2010.

Péter Illik

Václav KAŠKA
Neukáznění a neangažovaní. Disciplinace členů
Komunistické strany v Československu v letech 1948–1952
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The book *Neukáznění a neangažovaní* written by Václav Kaška, a historian and teacher working in the organization Conditio humana dealing with modern history events in Central Europe, is based on his doctoral thesis,

published at the Faculty of Philosophy, Masaryk University in Brno, appropriately on partial journal studies.* The book is thematically devoted to the first five years of the communist monopoly of power in Czechoslovakia. Specifi-

* V. KAŠKA, „Indoktrinace členů KSČ během I. roku stranického školení (1949–1950). Záměry ústředí a jejich (ne)realizace v stranickém okrese Brno I“, in: J. KOCIAN – M. DEVÁTÁ (eds.), *Únor 1948 v Československu: nástup komunistické totality a proměny společnosti*, Praha 2011, pp. 279–287; V. KAŠKA, „Sítě vazeb a způsoby vyjednávání uvnitř KSČ po únoru 1948. Rekonstrukce osobních kontaktů mezi funkcionáři KV KSČ Brno a OV KSČ Brno I. v letech 1948–1952“, in: J. KOCIAN – Z. KÁRNÍK – J. RÁKOSNÍK et al. (eds.), *Bolševismus, komunismus a radikální socialismus VI*, Praha 2009, pp. 138–173; V. KAŠKA, „KSČ po únoru 1948: zdroje, metody a koncepce výzkumu dějin KSČ“, in: *České, slovenské a československé dějiny 20. století. Osudové osmičky v našich dějinách*, Ústí nad Orlicí 2008, pp. 267–278; V. KAŠKA, „Plán a prověrka. Z činnosti okresního výboru KSČ Brno I. na přelomu čtyřicátých a padesátých let 20. století“, in: *Časopis Matice moravské*, 2007, No. 1, pp. 141–161.