



Hungarian Minority in Romania

Book review

**Nándor BÁRDI: *Otthon és haza. Tanulmányok a romániai magyar kisebbség történetéről*
[Studies concerning the history of Hungarian minority in Romania].**

Miercurea Ciuc. Pro Print, 2013, p. 608.

The author, Nándor Bárdi, a well-known historian analysed, on the one hand, the process of the formation of the Hungarian community in Romania and, on the other hand, the support of the Hungarians who live on territories annexed to Romania. The central questions of the book – to which the replies have been shaped over a period of 20 years of research – are the following: a) how to organize and institutionalize a community, a social group that does not benefit from the process of building a nation-state?; b) to what extent and under what circumstances it may be considered that the political activity of the Hungarian elite in Romania is independent and that there were limitations imposed by the governmental policies from Bucharest or Budapest?; c) in a more general approach, which is the space of manoeuvre for a nationality situated between two parallel processes of nation building (processes which in Transylvania were overlapped): the Hungarian and Romanian?; d) to what extent can we talk in this case of a political entity and autonomous community?

The volume contains eight chapters, grouped into three units called *Töréspontok* [Turning points], *Keretek* [Frames] and *Folyamatok* [Processes]. These chapters are separated both thematically and methodologically: the first chapters represent case studies related to historical changes, followed by materials related to the history of institutions and of the concepts thematically focused around issues of Hungarian minority policy, and finally a model is presented, explaining and analysing the integration of the Hungarian elite in Romania in the period of 1919–1989.

In addition to the explanatory and conceptual results (concerning concepts such as involuntary minority, regional and national minority, policies related

to minorities, national policy, i.e. minority policies, etc.), the volume presents important elements regarding the history of minority institutions. On the one hand, it provides an overview of the Hungarian policy regarding Hungarian minorities and, on the other hand, the author presents the process by which the Hungarian political elite of Romania – manoeuvring among the interests of Budapest, Bucharest and the interests of its own community – has created a new political entity.

B. B.



University Evenings

Lectures on Global Politics

One of the main events of the Department of Juridical Sciences and European Studies within the Sapientia – Hungarian University of Transylvania is the *University Evenings. Global politics in the 21st century*, a session of lectures where social scientists, politicians or public intellectuals are invited to talk about current issues in global and regional politics. In the past year, our Department invited several well-known academics from Hungary and Austria, providing interesting lectures not only for our students, but for the wide public of Cluj, as well.

On December 11, 2012, Béla Bauer, a sociologist from Hungary talked about the *Identity construction of youth from Transylvania*. Being a regional expert of youth sociology and youth policies, the sociologist presented findings from his newest research on young people in a comparative perspective.

On May 9, 2013, Zsolt Rostoványi, the rector of Corvinus University from Budapest, Hungary, presented a lecture on Islam and the west. The renowned expert of international relations theory deconstructed the bases of the conflict between the Islam world and the Western civilization.

On May 14, 2013, Katalin Szili, the former president of the Hungarian Parliament, presented her thoughts about the national politics of the Hungarian government. In a lecture entitled *Nation and politics = national politics?*, she presented the dilemmas which every Hungarian government faces when dealing with kin-state politics.

On November 14, 2013, historian Archimedesz Szidiropulosz, the founder and editor-in-chief of the journal *Trianoni Szemle* (Trianon Review), presented a lecture on the Turkish–Greek conflictual history with the title: *Can Kemal be a role model? The Greek Trianon*. After the event, the newest issue of the journal *Trianoni Szemle* was presented.

On December 17, 2013, a historian, Ernő Deák, presented an interesting lecture on the Hungarian–Austrian relations. The event entitled *The centuries of the Austrian–Hungarian vicinity* gave us important insight not only into how the Austro–Hungarian Empire worked, but also into how the two nations' relations changed in the period of the Cold War.

Tibor TORÓ

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Nurturing talents for the BA Students in International Relations, European Studies specialization

In the fall of 2011, a tutoring program was started. In this, six BA students were included, namely: Tekla Vincze, Noémi Hegyi, Csongor-Zoltán Király, Viktória-Nóra László, Brigitta Német, Ágnes Szenkovits and Gergely Végh. The students were each working together with a tutor – some of the teachers working at the Department of Law and European Studies, namely: Emese Szőcs, Márton Tonk, Barna Bodó, Zsolt Kokoly and Tünde Székely – on different topics such as organizational management, student unions in the high schools of Transylvania, Transylvanian NGOs led by women and feminism in Transylvania, European cultural capitals, the role of the transnational corporations in the Romanian economy, minority civil society in Central and Eastern Europe.

The outcome of these joint tasks of teachers and students was expected to be realized by including students in some projects to work together with their tutors, and also by papers presented by them at Student Research Conferences. On the 24th of April, the Department organized a Student Research Conference, and the jury gave the 1st prize for the EU Section to Csongor-Zoltán Király; the 2nd place was taken by Andrea Csilip and the 3rd prize went to Brigitta Német and Viktória-Nóra László. Noémi Hegyi presented her paper in the Law section, and she received honourable mention.

As the next step, between the 24th and 26th of May, the Hungarian Student Union of Cluj-Napoca organized the “16th Transylvanian Students’ Scientific Conference”, where our students presented their research findings. All of them were rewarded by the jury. In the Law Section, Noémi Hegyi took 2nd place, and in the Political Science Section Csongor-Zoltán Király took the 1st, Viktória-Nóra László the 2nd and Andrea Csilip won 3rd place, while Brigitta Német received honourable mention.

Finally, we can conclude that this pioneer program of our department – this is the first program of nurturing students’ talents at the Sapientia University –, which was organized for the second time, reached its goals by helping students and teachers work together and nurturing students’ talents to pursue their own professional development.

Tünde SZÉKELY

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