

The deprivation of Magyars and Germans through Beneš decrees

The train of thought, which caused **Edvard Beneš** to write his **presidential decrees**, roots in the time of the dictated peaces of Versailles and Trianon (1919-1920). However the spirit of the decrees reeked of power intoxication and historically caused hatred. Therefore we must start from the roots and from the historical background.

As we know today, the rapid development of the German Reich is one of the main causes that gave rise to World War I, whereby the dominance of the German chemical industry, the fleet program and the building of the Bagdad railroad are to be particularly mentioned. In the background however, the planned re-organization of Europe and the ascent of the USA to a global power was occurring, particularly at the expense of the German Reich and its allies. Furthermore, Russia wanted to distract from its difficulties related to domestic affairs and waited for an opportunity to distinguish itself in a military fashion. This is already proven by the fact that the Russian mobilization, through interaction with England and France, already started a long time before the actual declaration of war. The assassination in Sarajevo, committed by **Gavrilo Princip** and his co-conspirators, thus ignited the fuse of the previously prepared powder keg.

Edvard Beneš appeared on the political world stage with his book "**Destroy Austria Hungary!**" published in Paris (1916). Within it, his professional career was clearly becoming apparent. Having come to power in the already artificially created state named Czechoslovakia, Beneš completed what he had begun, his 'work of destruction'. He availed himself by using the methods employed by Hitler and Stalin.

After the end of World War I, the Danube monarchy was not only destroyed, but the State of Hungary was mutilated in an unprecedented manner. Through the dictates of Trianon, Hungary lost two thirds of its territory and more than half of its population. The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and later Prime Minister **Francesco Nitti** wrote about this dictate: "*Hungary was not divided up, but was executed*". The French diplomat Henry Pozzi, who was close to Clemenceau, one of the main culprits of the Trianon dictates, shared similar views. Characteristically the Hungarian delegation was not allowed to participate in the peace discussions in the Trianon castle, but was downright interned! They could not debate about their country, their own fate, everything about them was decided without them. Through this treatment the victors criminalized Hungary as the main culprits for the outbreak of the war. It is important to note at this point that the Hungarian Prime Minister **István Tisza** (contrary to his Czech colleagues) was the only leading politician of the Danube monarchy to warn against the ultimatum and then against the attack on Serbia. For all these reasons, it is a mockery to speak and write about the "peace treaty" of Trianon even to this day.

The procedure of the Allied forces after World War I practically gave Beneš the legitimacy to ethnically cleanse Czechoslovakia of their two largest national minorities, the Germans and the Magyars after World War II. The total deprivation of their civil rights brought with itself suffering and death to both groups; the victims were herded into concentration camps, they were robbed of their human dignity and all their possessions. The methods of the Czechs and Slovaks with their raids on the Csallóköz followed on the whole the same pattern. In the middle of the night soldiers surrounded the villages and drove the people out of their beds into the cold winter weather. Clutching few belongings the families, including infants and the elderly, were herded onto open trucks where they were unprotected and wholly exposed to the icy weather. The sick and the frail were left to their fate in the empty houses. Healthy adults were placed on display in market places, where, as in the times of the slave trade, their muscles and teeth were examined. Placed in barns, in sheep pens and pig sty, they were forced to perform heavy labour.

The only reason why the Czech democracy (even though already under Soviet supervision, the civil parties still prevailed) did this to the population of the Csallóköz, was solely because of their Hungarian descent. Most of them had never revolted against the rule of Prague or had even fought them. Their only crime was to continue speaking their native language and to live as Hungarians on the soil of their own homeland. Because of this they were all, from babies to the aged, branded as members of a "guilty nation". Here it must be mentioned that expulsion was a good deal (business) for the enforcers, because the Beneš decrees went far beyond the original Kosice program of April 5, 1945. The 4th paragraph of the decrees summarily declared all Germans and Magyars as unreliable citizens and a danger to the Republic. On June 21, the expropriation of the deported Germans and Hungarians was announced, without prospect of any remuneration. We especially cannot ignore the facts of this last issue, if we today question the Czechs and Slovaks insistence on pronouncing the decrees untouchable! At that time industrious, wealthy families became homeless beggars, but their possessions did not disappear. Soldiers and Slovakian neighbours dragged off everything, which was not bolted to the ground, colonialists from Bohemia and Moravia moved into the requisitioned houses and farmyards. Thus, after a period of more than a thousand years of purely Hungarian settled Csallóköz, Czech enclaves emerged for the first time. The authorities and new settlers exerted such pressure on the remaining Magyars that many fled in boats over the Danube to Hungary.

These violations of human rights can only be described as the work of a chauvinistic, fascist power structure.

Although the Czech Republic and Slovakia persist on the inviolability of the Beneš decrees, they could become members of the European Union!

We therefore protest that the European Union lets this condition tacitly be tolerated!

We protest in the name of human rights that to this very day, persons are mistreated because of their descent or religion, as it recently happened in Slovakia. There, a young girl was beaten, because she spoke Hungarian in public!

And we protest, because the Beneš decrees are a disgrace for Europe!

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