

HUNGARY'S NATIONALITIES

BY

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In the world press we find a constant succession of articles containing statistical data relating to Hungary's nationalities which have absolutely no foundation in fact. As was the case when the Paris Peace Treaties were drafted, today also those whose interest it is to do so are still endeavouring to throw a veil of uncertainty over the facts. Not one of the statesmen of the Great Powers which dictated the Paris Treaties had the slightest idea of the true situation of the contry with a past of a thousand years which was then dismembered.

Today, when the columns of newspapers all over the world are again swarming with exhibitions of statistical juggling, we consider it necessary to establish the real facts respecting the territorial and nationality conditions in Hungary. The territorial changes through which Hungary has passed recently are shown by the following statistical data:

<i>Area of Kingdom of Hungary prior to 1920</i>	<i>325,411 sq. kilometres.</i>
<i>Area of "Trianon Hungary" prior to November, 1938</i>	<i>93,073 " "</i>
<i>Area of Hungary after First Vienna Award of November, 1938</i>	<i>105,000 " "</i>
<i>Area of Hungary after Re-incorporation of Sub-Carpathia in March, 1939</i>	<i>117,161 " "</i>
<i>Area of Hungary after Second Vienna Award of August, 1940</i>	<i>160,165 " "</i>

According to the 1910 Census the total population of the Kingdom of Hungary aggregated 20,886,487 souls. The distribution of this total population by mother tongue was as follows: —

<i>Magyars</i>	<i>10,050,575</i>
<i>Germans</i>	<i>2,037,435</i>

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<i>Slovaks</i>	1,967,970
<i>Rumanians</i>	2,949,032
<i>Ruthenians</i>	472,587
<i>Croatians</i>	1,833,161
<i>Serbians</i>	1,106,471
<i>Others</i>	469,255



The development of the population of the country under Hungarian rule during the last 30 years due to territorial aggrandisement and natural increase was as follows: —

	1910	1930	1939
<i>"Trianon Hungary"</i>	7,616,117	8,688,319	9,129,000
<i>Hungary after the first Vienna Award</i>	8,484,447	9,722,782	10,180,000
<i>Hungary after re-incorporation of Sub-Carpathia</i>	8,981,340	10,315,683	10,357,000
<i>Hungary after the Second Vienna Award (territory of present-day Hungary)</i>	11,166,886	12,708,286	13,490,000

Calculated on the basis of the last Census (1910) taken in the Greater Hungary of pre-War days the distribution of nationalities (without taking into account the natural increase) in the territory of present-day Hungary would be as follows: —

<i>Magyars</i>	8,669,188		77.7%
<i>Germans</i>	716,634		6.4%
<i>Slovaks</i>	283,436		2.5%
<i>Rumanians</i>	959,869		8.6%
<i>Ruthenians</i>	370,443		3.2%
<i>Others</i>	164,876		1.5%

Here it should be noted that the above statistical figures included in the group of "Germans" the Jews — far more than 100,000 in number — who spoke Yiddish. That is why this table shows the presence of a considerably larger number of Germans than the previous one. On the basis of a comparative study of the Hungarian, Czecho-Slovak and Rumanian Censuses of 1930 taken at practically the same time, we find that the distribution of nationalities in the

territory of present-day Hungary in that year was as follows: —

<i>Magyars</i>	. . .	8,800,000	. . .	77.3%
<i>Germans</i>	. . .	580,000	. . .	4.6%
<i>Rumanians</i>	. . .	1,150,000	. . .	9.0%
<i>Elovaks</i>	. . .	270,000	. . .	2.1%
<i>Ruthenians</i>	. . .	500,000	. . .	3.3%
<i>Others</i>	. . .	408,000	. . .	3.2%

We would stress that the above statistical figures have been determined by a comparison of the data of the Hungarian, Czecho-Slovak and Rumanian Censuses respectively. These are therefore the most "favourable" figures which the Rumanians and the Slovaks are in a position to produce. On the other hand, however, we have every reason to doubt the correctness and *bona fides* alike of the Rumanian and of the Czecho-Slovak or Slovak statistics respectively. We are particularly entitled to adopt that attitude in view of the fact that the reliability of Rumanian statistics is doubted even by "Universul", the leading organ of the anti-revision party, itself acknowledging the forgeries which have been committed. In its December 24th, 1937, issue "Curentul", referring to an article by Dr. I. Theodorăscu, a former Director of the Rumanian Statistical Bureau, published in the January-February, 1937, number of the "Analele economica si statistica", declared that the data of the 1930 Census were absurd. For that Census showed the presence of 722,000 Jews, whereas 20 years previously the number of Jews living within the territory of Rumania was 844,000. Now, natural increase and the immigration into Rumania of very large numbers of Jews should have considerably increased the quota of Jews and not decreased that quota by more than 100,000. And in a work by him entitled "*Contributiuni la Studiul Evreilor*" Dr. Eugene Tatomir writes as follows: "There can be no doubt as to the grave mistakes committed when registering the Census figures relating to the Jews..."

This admission of the falsity of the Rumanian statistical data was made in 1937, during the term of office of the Goga Government, when the Jews presented to the League of

Nations a memorandum complaining of the persecution of Jews in Rumania. The Rumanian Government offered as its pretext for the anti-Jewish measures the fact that after the end of the first Great War Jews had swarmed into Rumania in exceptionally large numbers, forming a foreign element in that country. Rumania was only prepared to offer them hospitality so long as they did nothing prejudicial to Rumania's interests. Thereupon the Jews, citing the Rumanian official statistical data, stated that according to those data the number of Jews in Rumania in 1930 was 100.000 less than it had been 20 years before. Therefore, the moment the falsification of Rumanian statistics served as an argument against the Rumanians, the most competent factors immediately acknowledged that those statistics had been falsified.

Equally characteristic of the propaganda which makes such a display of Rumanian statistics was the article that appeared in "Universul" on November 19th, 1940. In this article we are told that in the territories re-incorporated in Hungary by the Second Vienna Award there are only 300,000 Magyars and 400,000 Széklers; while on the other hand the Rumanians assert that the number of Magyars left in the parts of Transylvania remaining in Rumanian hands does not exceed 300,000. That would mean that the total number of Magyars living within the territory allotted to Rumania by the Treaty of Trianon was altogether 1.000.000. *Yet even according to the 1930 Rumanian Census the number of Magyars living in that territory was 1,480.000: we would therefore ask what has happened to the other 480.000 Magyars during the intervening ten years?*

Now it is extremely instructive to investigate the data of the Rumanian statistics relating to the natural increase of the various nationalities. According to these data the figures of increase or decrease respectively of the nationalities living in Transylvania between 1910 and 1920 were as follows:

<i>Magyars</i>	<i>1,661,808</i>	<i>1,480,000</i>	<i>—181,093</i>	<i>—10.9%</i>
<i>Germans</i>	<i>564,879</i>	<i>540,793</i>	<i>— 23,996</i>	<i>— 4.2%</i>
<i>Rumanians</i>	<i>2,829,454</i>	<i>3,233,216</i>	<i>+409,762</i>	<i>+14.3%</i>
<i>Slovaks</i>	<i>42,000</i>	<i>40,630</i>	<i>— 1,370</i>	<i>— 3.3%</i>
<i>Serb-Croats</i>	<i>54,055</i>	<i>42,359</i>	<i>— 11,696</i>	<i>—21.8%</i>

According to the above statistical figures, in the 20 years between 1910 and 1930 only the Rumanians showed any natural increase, all the other nationalities showing a decrease in numbers. This Rumania is indeed a strange country — a country in which wombs bear with due respect to nationality!!

Nor are the data provided by the Slovaks less encouraging.

According to the Census taken as a complete surprise to everybody on December 31st, 1938, the number of Ruthenians found living within the territory of present-day Slovakia was only 79,000, whereas the Czechs — who were worldfamous for their skill in juggling with statistics — in 1930 registered 111,000 Ruthenians as still living in that territory. In like manner we find 150,000 Magyars shown by the Hungarian Census of 1910 shrinking to 69,000!! But even that number is ignored or regarded as excessive by official Slovak personalities, though it is that given by statistics officially compiled. President *Tiso*, for example, in his speeches mentions only 40,000 Magyars. The Slovak papers estimate the number of Slovaks living in present-day Hungary at 6—700,000 — and indeed at 800,000; though the semi-official "Slovak" in its June 11th, 1939, issue spoke only of 400,000 Slovak being in Hungary. Now, *taking as the basis of calculation the figures of the 1910 Census — and taking into account the natural increase — the number of Slovaks living within the territory of present-day Hungary cannot be estimated at more than 270,000.*

It would appear that people in Bucharest are already beginning to guess that the unsubstantial fabric of lies constructed during twenty years by the aid of statistical juggling will soon collapse. This is suggested by an article in the December 20th, 1940, issue of "Romania Noua" from the pen of *Chitza Pop* suspecting in advance of falsification the Hungarian Census to be taken on January 1st, 1941. The Rumanians are now adopting the tactics of attacking in advance in order to in some degree counteract the effect of the revelation that must as a consequence of the Hungarian Census serve to give the lie to the obstinate Rumanian campaign of forgeries carried on for the last two decades.