

In the area of Central Europe in consequence of the frequent political boundary changes the names of states and countries are not always suitable for information, as they are more permanent. In consequence of the diversified relief, climate and vegetation there exist an enormous lot of names of regions in our territory. It is an impossible task to illustrate all of them. Our map indicates but the most important ones.

Beside the Hungarian names of the regions it would have been right to indicate in the map their original names as well, and in such a form, as they are used by the local inhabitants. However, it is rather difficult, as in the territory of Central Europe where so many languages are spoken and possess two or even three original names. Thus e.g. Silesia is written and called by its German inhabitants as Schlesien, by the Poles as Śląsk, by the Czechs as Slezsko. Slavonia is called Crain by the Germans, and Slovenija by the Slovenes; Transylvania is called Erdély by the Hungarians, Siebenbürgen by its German inhabitants, and Ardeal or Transilvania by the Roumanians.

It is difficult to draw a line of demarcation between the regions, as clear-cut natural boundaries are hardly to be found; there are wide transition areas between the neighbouring regions. It is especially difficult to give a

proper regional classification in the northeastern portion of our territory, as in this mostly flat area the dividing influence of relief is missing. In other places again, there are different names referring to the same territory or some of its portions. The Hungarian Little Alföld, for instance, is a region to be well distinguished; its portion lying to the north of the Danube, however, is used to be ranged to the northern Hungarian Highlands /Slovakia/, it is connected with it even by administrative divisions; its southern section, however, belongs to the area of Transdanubia, and it cannot be distinctly separated from it either by geographical, or administrative boundaries. There are again regions, well-separated by natural boundaries, although they have no regional names: such as the North Bulgarian table-land lying between the lines of the ridges of the Balkans and the Lower Danube.

The major part of the Central European names of regions is not derived from the names of nations, while those of such an origin do not indicate either areas of a homogeneous population. /E.g. Bohemia, Moravia./ The names of Slovakia and Ruthenia, as names of a province or country, are of recent origin due to the territorial rearrangement after the First World War.

LARGER REGIONS OF CENTRAL EUROPE

