

The modern public administration, as well as the political and economical organisation require from us, to possess maps giving a quick survey about the different states. These maps should provide us informations not only about the geographical conditions, but -- similarly to the purpose of the oldest maps -- about human life, about the occupations, economic relations, cultural standards of the population and their relationships with the peoples of other territories. The collection of maps of such a kind brings forth those atlases which are wanted by the leaders of public life and the different economic organs, being much more needed, however, in the instruction.

Such general atlases have been made in most of the well-organised and advanced states either about the entire territory or about some of its portions. Concerning the conditions represented by maps these atlases agree with each other to a large extent, and also from the point of view of the methods of illustrations there is a harmony in development. The method of illustration is one of the most difficult problems of general atlases. However, the conditions to be illustrated are determined by topographical measurements and statistics, as the atlas-makers are not able to draw up special statistics themselves.

Although the number of the well-constructed and properly elaborated general atlases is rather high at present, we are far from being able to provide a uniform and thorough picture even about the more advanced European and North American continents. Especially we are in lack of a uniform survey about the trunk of Europe which in its geographical conditions, ethnographical view, economic and social structure is a diversified territory. Besides, the almost constant political crises and repeated boundary changes hindered the work of collecting data, as well as the use of them for giving a proper information. It is difficult to get a comparative survey even on those territories where some noteworthy works have been made. Such works are the Bavarian Atlas, the German Lebensraum-Atlas, the Atlas of the Czecho-Slovakian Republic, the Economical and Statistical Atlas of Hungary by

Edvi-Illés-Halász, the Italian, Polish and Ukrainian Atlases which, although they include a large part of the Central European area, cannot give us a uniform picture, as there are great differences in their methods of elaboration and accuracy. This deficiency led Mr. Albert Halász to the publication of a Central European Atlas in 1926; however, this work had been based upon unreliable and incomplete data representing the in many respects extraordinary conditions of the period right after the First World War. Consequently a newer elaboration has become necessary. It has been done by our Institute.

The purpose of this Atlas is to illustrate the geographical, population and economic conditions of the body of Europe: the Carpathian Basin and the surrounding areas, and to provide a precise and detailed picture of the historical development, the administrative and political division of this territory. The Atlas has been drawn upon the basis of data illustrating the most reliable and normal conditions of the peace-period between the First and Second World War. In general, the data referring to the territory, population, population density and to the national, sectarian and occupational distribution, reflect the official data of the censuses about 1930; the maps representing the population movements, births and deaths and natural increase, as well as the agricultural production, indicate the averages of several years' data generally including the period between 1925-1935. The sources were in each case official statistical data. Our purpose was, with the help of research methods of statistics, to present this centrally located territory of Europe in an objective way, without taking the political boundaries into consideration. The fact that the data are not indicated by state-territories, but by the possible smallest units: by districts, or in lack of such detailed data by counties and provinces respectively, helps to give a proper information. In some places we have endeavoured to combine the areas of districts within natural boundaries; thus our territory has been divided into 47 smaller and in their economic relationships more or less connected or uniform regions. These

small portions are grouped in 11 larger regions showing sometimes solid geographical, economical and historical connections. The data effecting the whole territory of countries according to the political distribution of 1930 are usually given in the texts.

Statistical data referring to the entire territory of countries, however, are not able to give us reliable information about the conditions of this area because of the frequent political boundary changes in recent times, as well as of their incongruity with the natural, geographical and economical region boundaries. It is also difficult to draw accurate conclusions, as the data do not always refer to the same period, and most of the time they have been collected with different methods. We have endeavoured to reduce these differences to the minimum in this Atlas. The greatest difficulty and the greatest merit of our work lies perhaps in the fact that it gives informations, revised by a serious and uniform criticism, about the conditions of ten countries or portions, using nine kinds of official languages and three kinds of manner of writing. The statistical material of these countries has no detailed editions in any of the world languages. It should be also kept in mind that these countries have the same loose connections with each other in the fields of science, as in politics. The international exchange of data among their offices, scientific organisations and institutes, and even the exchange of their publications is very incomplete.

Momentary actuality is given to our work by the fact that the peoples of Central Europe are at present feverishly expecting a solution, a complete political, economic and social change. After the World War between 1914-18 a radical political rearrangement had been performed in Central Europe. The leading motive of this rearrangement was the ethnical principle.

However, it did not succeed to carry this principle completely into effect, which consequently led in many pla-

ces to great dissatisfaction. It was still worse that the new political boundaries have very often come into conflicts with economic interests and connections. Without having started a new World War, a new territorial rearrangement would have been undoubtedly necessary on the basis of the 20 years' experiences after the First World War. This rearrangement should be done by taking into consideration the ethnical, as well as the geographical and economic conditions. In order to be able to do this, we must have a complete survey about the political, racial and economic conditions of the entire and in its problems coherent territory, quite independent from the old and new boundaries. We have to know the historical conditions, as well as the geographical forces and the spiritual and material energies so often independent from the numerals and quantities. Our work has the purpose to offer assistance in solving the actual problems of the new arrangement. Besides, it also serves to provide a proper source and aid for the modern instruction of geography, topography, ethnology and economy.

The statistical data of the Atlas have been collected, their control and application have been done, the maps have been constructed and drawn by the officers of the Institute of Political Sciences. This Institute had been established in 1926 in Budapest, by the Hungarian Statistical Association, with the purpose to pay attention to the development of the geographical, economical, cultural and political conditions of the Central European territory, especially of the Carpathian Basin. The Institute has gathered official statistical data, laws and orders and has endeavoured to get informations through scientific publications, books, periodicals, memorandums and the Press. Since its establishment the Institute has rapidly developed. In 1941 it parted from the Hungarian Statistical Association, and as an independent scientific Institute became a department of the Count Paul Teleki Research Institute of Budapest. Beside the officers of the Institute of Political Sciences, the members and the

students of the Geographical Institute of the Royal Hungarian Palatine Joseph Technical University have cooperated. In construction of some of our maps the Royal Hung. Geological Institute and the Royal Hungarian Meteorological Institute have been a great help to us. Of my collaborators I have to mention Sándor Csihony, dr. Imre Jakabffy and Géza Szathmáry who partly in the execution of maps, partly in making the drawings and multiplying have done an excellent work.

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Our Atlas in consequence of the war conditions could not be finished. Our scientific connections and the possibilities of collecting material in most part of the illustrated states have been interrupted. In our work we were absolutely dependent on the material which had been collected before, the deficiency of which has become only evident in the course of elaboration. Some of our collaborators entered the army, consequently we were obliged to continue our work of drawing up statistics and maps with new and different officers. In the beginning of the year of 1944 a great part of our officers and of our precious material, together with our instruments and photolaboratory, had to be removed before the airraids to the country. The removal and the separation of the material resulted in new difficulties and hindrances. We met with great difficulties concerning our connections with the other institutions and libraries, as in consequence of the bombardements the libraries had been closed or removed. In consequence of the war we have met with great difficulties as regards paper supply, calculating-machines and drawing-instruments, paints and other articles. Our Central Office in Budapest had been damaged by an airraid in September of 1944, in December of the

same year our Office in Balatonfüred had come into the front-line. Our post and railway connections have ceased. The general evacuation - in lack of adequate means of communications - endangered our material and staff. Yet with the greatest difficulties, fighting with food and heating troubles we have succeeded to keep our place and to continue our work among roars of cannon.

In the present conditions we have hardly any hope to be able to finish our work and according to our original plans to have it published. The destruction of the manuscripts however, would ruin the result of all of our efforts made up until now. Thus, we have decided to provide a provisional publication, by our own polygraph, of those parts of our work which have been done until now and from these pages to have a few bounded copies made. The text belonging to each map, the sources and bibliography had to be shortened. Thus came our Atlas into being, the contents and the technical execution of which are due first of all to the admirable inventiveness, ambition and unselfish perseverance of my collaborators.

Balatonfüred, January 3th 1945.

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