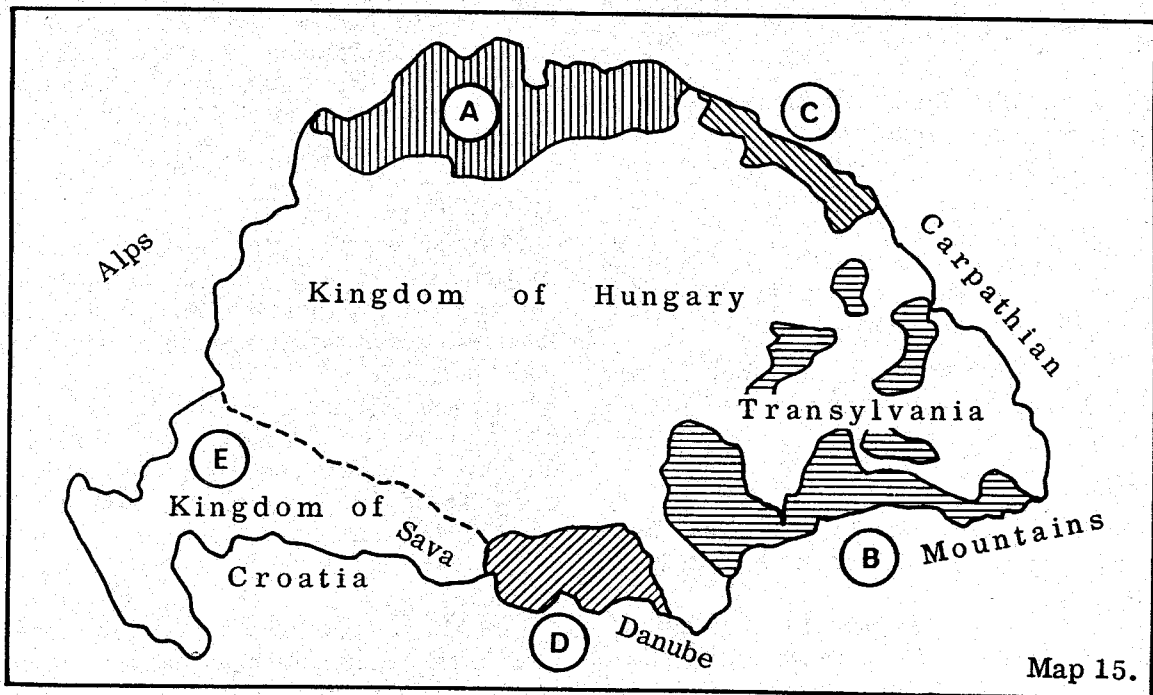


CHAPTER SEVEN

A SHORT DEMOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF HUNGARY

(The settlement of the various nationalities and the changes of the demographic map of the area bounded by the Carpathian Mountains in the north-east and south-east, by the rivers Danube and Sava in the south and the foothills of the Alps in the west: i.e. the territory of historic Hungary, the frontiers of which remained more or less unchanged from 896 to 1919).



Before the 5th century A.D. scattered semi-independent Sarmathan, Yazygian, Gothic, Alanian, Celtic and Germanic tribes (partly under nominal Roman rule).

5th century: short-lived Hun Empire (Attila): remnants of Huns (related to Hungarians) settled in the Basin.

6th-9th centuries: Arrival of the Avars (related to Hungarians), then of the first Magyar groups (7th century). Arrival of the first Slavs (Slovaks) See fig. A. on map.

9th century 896 A.D. arrival of the bulk of the Hungarian nation — formation of the Hungarian state under Prince Árpád.

10th century:

Settlement in the Carpathian basin of the Hungarians, consolidation of the Hungarian state: autochthonous population: most of them related to Hungarians (Székelys, Avars), those not related assimilated if scattered but the Slovaks keep their ethnic entity for a thousand years.

11th century:

Hungary — a Christian kingdom in the Carpathian Basin with a population 85-90% of which is of Magyar nationality.

12th century: The Árpád kings settle German, French, Italian tradesmen and artisans. Most of these assimilate rapidly.

13th century:

The first Rumanian (Vlach) shepherds begin to migrate into Transylvania (Fig. B.) (First mention: 1224).

Carpatho-Ukrainian (Ruthene) settlers brought into the north-eastern region. (Fig. C.)

14th century:

More German settlers brought into Transylvania and Northern Hungary (Saxons).

More Vlach (Rumanian) immigrants fleeing from Turkish advance on the Balkans.

Further Slav groups from Poland and the Balkans move to Northern Hungary to join the Slovaks there.

15th century:

Under King Matthias (1458-1490) Hungary's population is 4 — 4.5 million . At least 80 % of this is Magyar.

The first group of Serb refugees (60,000) from Turkish-devasted Balkan territories settled in Southern Hungary (1439) (Fig. D.)

16th—17th centuries:

Turkish onslaught, occupation and devastation affecting the central three-quarters of the area. Magyar population deported into slavery or annihilated by the millions. The Turks settle Balkan Slavs in the devastated (southern and central) regions. (Fig.D.)

18th century:

After the "liberation" of Hungary from the Turks, the country's population is 2½ million — about half of this is of Magyar nationality.

The Austrian — German government settles large groups of Serbs and other Slavs in the south, allows mass Vlach immigration into Transylvania and settles Germans in various areas. No Hungarian is allowed to settle in the south of the Great Plain — a formerly pure Magyar region.

19th century:

Hungary is part of the Austrian empire: its frontiers are open to immigration from any part of the Monarchy. Mass immigration from Serbian, Ukrainian and Rumanian inhabited areas.

Independent Serbia created in 1844, Rumania created in 1866. Both newly founded countries covet Hungarian territories where their fellow-nationals form scattered settlements.

20th century:

In 1910 the last census before the Trianon Treaty — Hungary's population (without Croatia) 18,300,000.

The breakdown by nationalities was the following:

Magyar (Hungarians):	9,950.000 (54%)
Rumanians: (Vlachs):	2,950.000 (16%)
Slovaks:	1,950.000 (10.4%)
Serbs:	460.000 (2.5%)
Other South Slavs:	150.000 (1.1%)
Others: (Germans, Ruthenes etc)	2,840.000 (16%)

By the Treaty of Trianon 58% of this population (10,700,000) was transferred to other states. The area transferred to Rumania had a Rumanian population of only 55%, the Czechoslovak area a Slovak population of 60% and the Yugoslav area a Serb population of 33% only.

The above data do not consider Croatia

which was an independent, self-governing state in union with the Hungarian Crown. (Fig.E.)

It is also important to note that demographic maps can not adequately indicate the density of population. When, for instance nomadic shepherds are sparsely settled in a mountain region, this territory should not be shown as having a compact population of that nationality. On the other hand, cities and towns were largely Hungarian-populated even in areas where the rural population was of a different nationality. The large town population often more than equalled the numbers of the more sparsely settled rural minority — but the map shows the rural area obviously as a larger territory.