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THE DANUBE SWABIANS

STUDIES
IN SOCIAL LIFE
X

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THE DANUBE SWABIANS

*German Populations in Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia and
Hitler's impact on their Patterns*

by

G. C. PAIKERT



THE HAGUE
MARTINUS NIJHOFF
1967

ISBN 978-94-011-9719-9 ISBN 978-94-011-9717-5 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-94-011-9717-5

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Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1967

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PREFACE

*Sedulo curavi humanas actiones non ridere,
non lugere, neque detestari, sed intelligere.*

SPINOZA

This monograph is an attempt to present some information on the fabric and patterns of an ethnic minority group whose destiny was totally deflected by Hitler and his war. The people in question are the Danube Swabians, German populations who were so called because of their habitat in the middle Danube region of east-central and south-eastern Europe.

Research for this study was done in 1964 in Hungary, Yugoslavia, Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany, in which countries the author contacted persons of competence and made use of archives and other sources. He also attended the annual convention of the Danube Swabians in July, 1964 in Ulm, Germany. In fact, he himself had a small part in the events which he attempts to analyze here. From 1934 until 1944 he served in the Hungarian Ministry of Education in Budapest and headed for some years the department for the schooling of national minorities and also the department in charge of Hungary's cultural interchange. He resigned from the former post in 1939, and was ousted from the second when German troops occupied Hungary in March, 1944. His personal recollections relating to the events during and after his tenure (he left Hungary for England in June, 1946) have been used to some extent in this study, especially in Chapter X.

In the account of the period after World War II, particularly the part dealing with the expulsion of the Swabians, the reader will notice that documentation used comes mainly from German and other sources rather than from the erstwhile host-countries. The explanation is that in Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia

published material on this period is as yet meager. Access to pertinent files and records in these countries seems to be difficult for foreign researchers; at least it proved to be virtually impossible for this writer.

This survey was made possible through the efficacious cooperation of Le Moyne College (Syracuse, New York), to the faculty and administration of which the author is truly grateful. He is also deeply indebted to the following persons in Europe for information given in interviews and for other generous assistance:

Mr. Nikola Misić, Federal Secretary for Information, Belgrade; Mr. Slobodan Jovanović, National Library, Belgrade; Dr. Dušan Biber, Institut Društvenih Nauka, Belgrade; Mr. Zika Tadić, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia; Dr. Magda Jóború, Director, Országos Széchényi Library, Budapest; Dr. Éva Windisch, Országos Széchényi Library, Budapest; Dr. Frigyes Wild, President, German Democratic Workers' Union of Hungary; Mr. Gábor Vigh, Institute for Cultural Interchange, Budapest; Prof. Peter Berger, Institute for Danubian Affairs, Vienna; Dr. Niklaus Britz, Vienna; Mr. Wilhelm Kronfuss, Munich; Mr. Heinrich Reiting, Munich; staff of the Ungarisches Institut München, Munich; Dr. Karl Georg Bruchmann, Director, National Archive of the Federal Republic of Germany, Koblenz; Dr. Herbert Dienwiebel, National Archive, Koblenz; Dr. Johannes Ullrich, Director of the Political Archive of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn; Dr. Weinandy, Archive of the Foreign Office, Bonn; Mr. Franz Hamm, Bonn.

There were, of course, many other persons whose generous cooperation in the making of this monograph proved to be of real help. Limitation of space makes the listing of all these names impossible, yet the author wishes to let these obliging people know how much he appreciates their aid.

However, those mentioned here should by no means be held responsible for the author's own interpretations and conclusions, which often deviate from theirs and at times are even diametrically opposed. Responsibility for errors and mistakes rests, quite naturally, on the author alone. It is sincerely hoped that all those supplying information will understand that the conclusions

dictated by this writer's attempt to deal with the problem as honestly and impartially as possible in no way lessen his deep, personal gratitude.

Spring, 1967
Le Moyne College
Syracuse, New York

G.C.P.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer is grateful to the editors of the *New York Times*; *The Times* (London); *Journal of Central European Affairs* (Boulder, Colorado); *Slavic Review* (Seattle, Washington); *The Review of Politics* (Notre Dame, Indiana); *Südostdeutsches Archiv* (Munich) of which columns he quoted occasionally. He wishes to thank sincerely the following publishers, who allowed him to quote fairly long passages from the works cited below:

Oxford University Press, New York: C. A. Macartney, *Hungary and Her Successors*; *The Treaty of Trianon and its Consequences, 1919-1937*; Columbia University Press, New York: Nicholas Kállay, *Hungarian Premier. A Personal Account of a Nation's Struggle in the Second World War*; New York University Press, New York: Radomír Luža, *The Transfer of the Sudeten Germans. A Study of Czech-German Relations*; Aldine Publishing Company, Chicago: C. A. Macartney, *Hungary: A Short History*; Cambridge University Press, London: C. A. Macartney, *Problems of the Danube Basin*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Ralph F. Bischoff, *Nazi Conquest through German Culture*; also Robert L. Koehl, *RKFDV, German Resettlement and Population Policy, 1939-1945*; H. Hamish Hamilton Ltd., London: A. J. P. Taylor, *The Course of German History, A Survey of the Development of Germany Since 1815*; A. S. Barnes and Company, New York: Joseph B. Schechtman, *The Refugee in the World*; University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia: Joseph B. Schechtman, *Postwar Population Transfers in Europe, 1945-1955*; Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York: Eugene Davidson, *The Death and Life of Germany. An Account of the American Occu-*

pation; The University of Illinois Press, Urbana; Gunther Erich Rothenberg, *The Austrian Military Border in Croatia, 1522-1747*; Bundesministerium für Vertriebene, Flüchtlinge und Kriegsgeschädigte, Bonn: Theodor Schieder and Assoc., *Dokumentation der Vertreibung der Deutschen aus Ost-Mitteleuropa*, Band II, III and V.

Last but not least, the author wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the invaluable assistance rendered to his research by both the *Bundesarchiv* (Archive of the Federal Republic of Germany), Koblenz, and the *Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes* (Political Archive of the Foreign Office), Bonn.

ABBREVIATIONS

of file marks of documents kept in the

1. *Bundesarchiv* (Archive of the Federal Republic of Germany),
Koblenz:
 - Deutsches Auslandsinstitut (DAI) R 57
(German Foreign Institute)
 - Rasse und Siedlungshauptamt
(RUSHA) NS 2
(Central Office for Race and Settlement Matters)
 - Reichsfinanzministerium (Treasury of
the Reich) R 2
 - Reichskanzlei (Chancellery of the
Reich, pre-Hitler period) R 43 I
 - Reichskanzlei (Chancellery of the
Reich, Hitler period) R 43 II
 - Sammlung Schumacher (Schumacher
Collection) Slg. Schumacher
 - Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle (VOMI) R 59
(Authority on ways and means for the
ethnic Germans)
2. *Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes* (Political Archive of
the Foreign Office), Bonn:
 - Innenpolitische Vorgänge (Interior political proceedings)
Deutschland (until 1940)
 - (Nazi) Parteiangelegenheiten (Ref. In-
land) Inl. I
(Nazi Party Matters)

- Sicherheitsdienst (SD), Kommunismus, Emigranten, Judenfragen, Kirchenpolitische Angelegenheiten (Ref. Inland, Geheim) (Security Service, Communism, Emigrés, Jewish problems, Church-political matters) Inl. II. G.
- Volkstumfragen, Volksgruppen, Minderheiten (Ref. Inland) (Folkdom problems, folk groups, minorities) Inl. II. C.
- Finanz und Wirtschaftsfragen der Volksgruppen (Ref. Inland) Inl. II. D.
(Financial and economic problems of the folk groups)
- Staatsekretär (Luther), Ungarn St. S. Ungarn, Band 2
Secretary of State (Luther), (Hungary)
3. *Magyar Országos Levéltár* (Hungarian National Archive),
Budapest:
- Governmental, administrative and O.L. I. A. 1., 2., 3.
political matters (Confidential) O.L. I. B. 1., 2., 3.
O.L. I. C. 1., 2., 3.