

Committee: Special, Political and Decolonization Committee

Issue: The dispute between Hungary and Romania in regard to the autonomy of Transylvania

Student Officer: Dionysis Fotopoulos

Position: President

INTRODUCTION

Undoubtedly, the row between Hungary and Romania concerning the status of Transylvania constitutes a long-standing issue, dating back to 1920. The annexation of Transylvania from Hungary to Romania brought about, among else, resentment and disappointment on the Hungarian side, something that is still deemed to be the proximate cause of occasional disputes and coldness in terms of diplomatic dialogue between Hungary and Romania in spite of the fact that both states are seemingly partners and allies on the international stage, belonging to both the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. With the signing of a peace agreement on 4 June, 1920, the Treaty of Trianon, a treaty that signed in the aftermath of World War I and divided the Kingdom of Hungary from the dissolved Austria-Hungary after the latter finishing the war on the losing side of the Central Powers, the newly emerged independent state of Hungary confronted an obvious and unprecedented national tragedy; two thirds of the country's territory were taken away, thus leaving millions of Hungarians in its neighboring states, Slovakia, Ukraine, Serbia and of course Romania. As a result, the Hungarian ethnic groups in the aforementioned states remain steadily increased causing dispute, antagonism and tension.

Although nationalistic ideas were vigorously repressed under the rule of the communist regime, irredentist feelings have never been totally wiped out in Hungary. From that perspective, Hungary's post-socialist officials with the Treaty of Trianon having been signed claimed that the displacement of so many Hungarians without the conduction of a referendum that would legitimate such a venture was a total and profound violation of the principle of self-determination as well as it could culminate in the alienation of the Hungarian historical trajectory. This was indicative of the crucial blow that has damaged the moral and confidence of the Hungarian people.

During recent years, especially since the election of Viktor Orbán as the Prime Minister of Hungary in 2010, a nation-building project has emerged in Hungarian politics,

stressing out the need to enhance national identity and sentiment. Orbán's right conservative Hungarian government has adopted a political platform which conceives Transylvania as ethnically Hungarian and does not accept its "unfair" annexation to Romania and the "Romanization" process that the ethnically Hungarian population has underwent. In the context of such a project many laws have been voted by the Hungarian parliament for the purpose of granting citizenship to ethnic Hungarians living outside the country's borders. Consequently, ethnic Hungarian minorities in countries such as Romania were capable of obtaining dual citizenship, in parallel seeking the time to seize the opportunity to declare the cultural and administrative autonomy of the controversial areas that they live in. The bone of contention between Hungary and Romania, the claim of Transylvania, was but the continuation of a dispute dating more than 90 years. Arguably, Orbán's foreign policy brings back to the epicenter of the interest the necessity to deal with a substantial chronic issue that reflects the security and the stability in Central Europe and the European Union as a whole.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Dispute

Such a word is often used in order to describe the condition of conflict, tension and quarrel that takes place between two opposing parts, most commonly between individuals, groups of people or collectivities such as state structures, as a result of disagreement and divergence of opinion on a specific controversial topic.

Marriam-Webster online dictionary attributes to the verb "dispute" the following definitions: the engagement in an argument, the making of verbal controversy or disputation, the calling into question and/or the struggle against an unfriendly part.¹

In our case the dispute refers to a lasting diplomatic question with historical background, including contention between two countries, namely Romania and Hungary, concerning territorial claims and allegations, the protection of the ethnic and cultural identity of minorities and their human rights as well as the prevalence of an ongoing nation-oriented political project that doubts the sovereignty of a formally unitary state- particularly Romania- and the borders' integrity, sparking nationalist reactions and movements to both opposing sides. It is obvious that this very specific arduous condition demands the

¹ Dispute, <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dispute>>

examination and clarification of all facets, dimensions and extensions of the underlying conflict, as it is crucial for the delegates to understand how the dispute has emerged during the past years, what the restoration of friendship between Hungary and Romania entails, what are the possible benefits after reaching a mutual agreement that respects both sides' national sensitivities and to what extent it is possible to culminate in an international long-term plan necessary and sufficient to deal with the issue.

Autonomy

An autonomous state in general terms is deemed to be politically, administratively, economically and governmentally independent, without the obligation to be held accountable to an external power about its actions, decisions and intentions. Such a state enjoys freedom to plan and write its own future and has full jurisdiction on its geographic territory. Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines autonomy as following: "1) the quality or state of being self-governing; 2) the self-directing freedom and especially moral independence; 3) a self-governing state"².

Bearing in mind the above we easily understand that the major question remains under which circumstances a region could declare governmental differentiation. In turn more questions arise: Are there any specific factors stressing the need for autonomy? Is there an international legal framework that regulates such cases or it is subjected to the state's legal discretion to grant autonomy to a region under its tutelage? Is the struggle for autonomy a peaceful or a conflictive procedure? Delegates will need to take into account the context into which they will propose their solutions and regulations. Undoubtedly, the autonomy of Transylvania and the underlying dispute between Hungary and Romania place emphasis to the existing legal framework, both national and European-international. For instance, there is the recent international precedent of Catalonia, a Spanish region that demanded autonomy. It is worth pointing that this demand brought into sharp focus the Constitutional Law of Spain and especially the renowned article 155 of Spain's Constitution that affirms "the indissoluble unity of the Spanish nation", therewith putting an insurmountable obstacle to the Catalan separatists to declare autonomy as well as rendering many of their energies, such as the organization of referendum aiming at cleavage, illegal.

Concurrently, delegates should take into consideration that Catalonia is formally a part of Spain, a member-state of an international political and economic entity, the European Union. Having received 1.4 billion dollars during the period 2007-2013, Catalonia

²Autonomy, <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/autonomy>>

has profited a lot from the EU cohesion and convergence programs, thereby bringing into reality its developmentalist goals. Under this prism a potential declaration of independence of a region integrated to a EU country will jeopardize the union’s reform process that has commenced the past years, if not it will put in danger, in ways both direct and indirect, the whole European project and the unification efforts.

Although many indicators are able to foreshadow a potential struggle for autonomy, we had to place emphasis on the following: The political tradition as it has shaped through the historical trajectory of a region, the dominant political parties and their influence to the society and the local community, the financial resources of the region seeking autonomy, the existence or non-existence of minority ethnic groups with cultural, linguistic or/and religious differences and the possibility of being assimilated by the majority population, and, last but not least, the rise of nationalist movements promoting irredentist ideas and animosity against ethnically and culturally differentiated people. All these indicators should not be neglected as their importance is crucial for clarifying specific dimensions of the issue with an eye toward the highlighting of its proximate causes.

Transylvania

Being incorporated in Romania in the eastern part of Europe, Transylvania has been truly controversial in regard to the antagonism to prevail upon its geographic territory. Transylvania was for long time a part of Hungary in the 11th-16th centuries, to become an autonomous principality within the Ottoman Empire during the 16th- 17th century. After

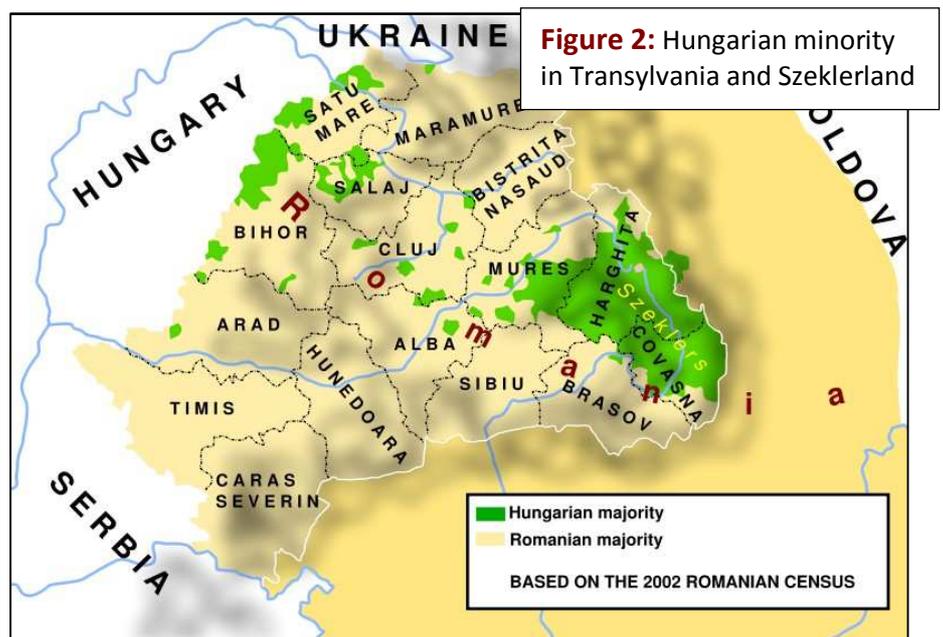


Figure 1: The region of Transylvania in Romania

becoming once again part of Hungary at the end of the 17th century, it passed to Romanian rule the second decade of the 20th century. The shared historical experiences of Romania and Hungary inevitably bring memories to the present and stimulate nationalist and regionalist reflectors. Geography plays a key role in the region because of the grandiosity of the Carpathian Mountains that have been used for the engraving of border through the centuries. The official border line separating Romania and Hungary has consecutively removed from the one side of the mountain to the other, altering at the same time the population mixture and composition.

Romanian ethnic representatives on 1st December, 1918 in the aftermath of World War I after the assembly they made decided and declared the union of Transylvania with Romania, something that was later confirmed with the Treaty of Trianon. This very specific day constitutes a national holiday for Romania referring to the nation's triumph and glorious gains, while in Hungary it symbolizes a great debacle and national tragedy.

The population of Transylvania is composed of Romanians, Hungarians and Germans (Saxons). The census of 1910 proved that 53.8% were ethnically Romanian, 31.6% Hungarian and 10,7% German. Since Transylvania became part of Romania the percentage of Romanian inhabitants has importantly increased, while simultaneously the Hungarian population has decreased, however it still composes a majority in the prestigious Szeklerland (Székelyföld), a province that has repeatedly demanded autonomy or convergence with the Hungarian state.



A more recent census that took place in 2002 verified that the bulk of people living in Transylvania were nationally Romanians, yet a substantial minority of Hungarians was present as well, briefly pointing out what previous indicators had stressed out.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Being a controversial area, Transylvania has, as we mentioned before, a special and unique historical trajectory. During the process of altering owners, shaping variant cultural, political and social characteristics, and undergoing pressure for domination history for the issue of Transylvania has become the prism within which we had better interpret the present as well as reach a responsible long-term solution for the future. From that perspective we need to accentuate the Treaty of Trianon and the immense impact that it had.

The Treaty of Trianon

This very specific Treaty has been repeatedly referred in the study guide, yet the purpose of this section is not to give the general background as previously but to underline the terms and the conditions that characterize the treaty which explicitly states “that the Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Hungary accepts the responsibility of Hungary and her allies for causing the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Austria-Hungary and her allies”. Such a declaration could be easily seen as a vigorous will of the Allied Powers to punish their rivals during the war as it indeed augured the arduous territorial sanctions for the newly emerged state of Hungary.

After World War I Austria-Hungary was dissolved to separate entities. The legal ratification of that was succeeded by the Treaty of Trianon. What was now Hungary was forced to sign the Treaty of Trianon and according to what happened to every power which had fought against the Allies it suffered territorial losses that affected her economic strength, military issues and population mixture. When compared to its pre-war borders, the Hungary-part within the Austro-Hungarian Empire lost nearly 75% of its territory. Romania, Czechoslovakia and what was about to become Yugoslavia gained the land that was taken away from Hungary. Approximately 33% of ethnic Hungarians found themselves living outside the borders of the newly emerged state of Hungary. The numbers are indicative of the immense population mixture that took place. 900,000 were attributed to the new Czechoslovakia, 1.6 million in the Transylvania region of Romania and 420,000 in Serbia. The make-up of the population of Hungary was mixed as well. The delegation of the Allies didn't actually cater for the population unity and uniformity in spite of the demands of the Hungarian side. 700,000 people living in Hungary were ethnically differentiated belonging to either Germany or Slovakia. Furthermore, the Hungarians that were left

outside their country's territorial level would lose their nationality, thus paving the way for their assimilation by the states that now were deemed to be their citizens.

In fact, with the signing of the Treaty of Trianon a deliberate policy by the Allies was about to be implemented. The treaty ensured that Hungary

Figure 3: The dismemberment of Hungary by the Treaty of Trianon



would reach minimum economic growth levels as well as it enforced the pursuit to render all the defeated Central Powers unable to constitute again a threat for the European economic, political and social stability and peace. The ironic fact is that the unemployment rates in Hungary increased so much during the interwar period that it was really easy to be engaged in the Nazi policies of Germany during World War II.

Petition on The Day of the Szekler Freedom

On the 10th of March 2017 the Szekler National Assembly edited the “Petition on The Day of the Szekler Freedom”, a declaration explicitly demanding from the Government and Parliament of Romania the autonomy for their region. This very specific sub-group of ethnic Hungarians in Szeklerland, a province inside the bigger entity of Transylvania, with a distinct 800-year-long political and social history articulated its interests by demanding political and administrative independence with the potentiality to elect their own president, the recognition of their own flag and the recognition of the Hungarian language as an official one apart from Romanian. Yet, their intentions are expanded to greater demands. They seek control of the region’s taxing, general infrastructure such as school buildings and churches and several wealth productive operations such as mines, which were nationalized during the Communist rule.

The Petition, among else, presents the concerns of Szeklers about their incorporation in the bigger entity of Romania. The following quotation provides us the

general idea of the Petition: “The incorporation of Szeklerland, into a larger administrative unit goes against the will of our community, and violates the international commitments of Romania, even though the administrative reform of the country could provide a democratic framework to a set of deep reforms, aimed at securing the self-governance of Szeklerland within Romania”.

Based on their will to gain autonomy Szekler people emphasize on the non-existent contradiction of their intention with the constitution of Romania, support that autonomy would not jeopardize Romanian unity and sovereignty as well as promote the idea that the autonomy would not bring about any violation of the interests of the Romania people living in Szeklerland, adversely the commitment to law and democracy will be ubiquitous.

During recent years many demonstrations and public events have taken place in Romania and other countries stressing the need for Szeklers to declare autonomy. Szeklers have repeatedly accused Romanians for violating their human rights and dignity by rejecting their autonomy demands. They urge the Romanian Government to grant them self-governance within the Romanian state because, as they claim, such an action would be in accordance with the international and European obligations of the country, concurrently meeting all the democratic standards of a modern European state. In that context they complain about the marginalization of their cultural traits by means such as humiliation of their symbols, attacks against their community, strangulation of their education institutions, harassment of their municipalities and high restrictions to the use of their mother tongue. Fighting for the fundamental human right of freedom, Szeklers have declared again and again their devotion to the accomplishment of their pursuits and goals, thus pressing the international community to meddle in this undermining issue by reaching a viable compromising solution.

The Hungarian Parliament adorned with the Szekelys’ flag

Indicative of the cold atmosphere and the latent tension between Hungary and Romania was the flying of the Szekely’s flag in the Hungarian Parliament, a literally provocative and suspicious act that reignited the controversy and enforced nationalist feelings. Before the adorning of the parliament with the Szekelys’ flag had preceded the removal of the EU flag, something that was an obvious verification of the nationalist agenda that the Orbán’s political party was committed and determined to propose. According to László Kövér, speaker of the Hungarian Parliament and member of FIDESZ, the Hungarian assembly couldn’t be adorned with anything else but national symbols -Szekelys’ flag

constitute such a symbol. This perception does not conceive Hungary as a member of multinational organization and rejects the extroverted policy that an EU member should adopt. The result was that the Szekelys' flag was hung in the Hungarian Parliament sparking more and more tension and intensifying the political and diplomatic dispute and discord.

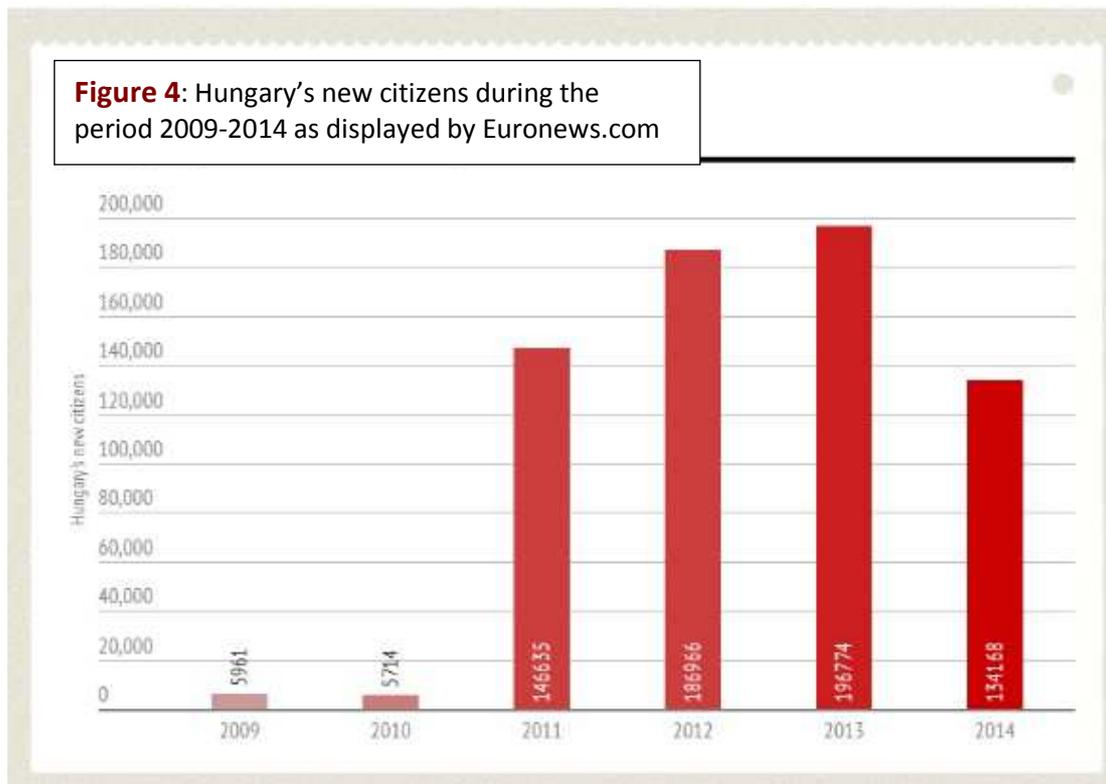
Previously, two former Romania's PMs, Victor Ponta and Mihai Tudose, had banned the flying of the Szekelys' flag on institutions and public and administrative buildings within the Romanian territory in spite of the dominance of the Hungarian ethnic element in areas such as Szeklerland, claiming that the Hungarian ethnic minorities had displayed thorough signs that underline their intention to seek autonomy, thus jeopardizing the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Romania. In other words, they made clear that the autonomy of Transylvania was out of question and each action moving toward that direction would be impugned. In fact, Mihai Tudose was so clear that he proceeded to an unacceptable statement in terms of diplomatic courtesy. He claimed the Szekler people will hang next to their flag, if they dare to fly it in Romania.

The Hungarian citizenship legislation

In the context of the nation-building project that Hungary has undertaken in recent years many attempts have been made to reach the objective of the unification of the Hungarian nation. Such an attempt is explicitly related to the voting of laws granting a certificate of citizenship to Hungarian people living outside their home country in countries such as Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia. The process began in 2001 when the Hungarian legislative body, the parliament, passed the Hungarian Status Law with the overwhelming majority of 92%. The justification for that was that there was an immediate need for the improvement of the conditions for the preservation of the national identity of Hungarians living outside the borders. This could also function as a deterrent for contingent acts of assimilation of their cultural and ethnic identity by the neighboring countries. So, the granting of citizenship to Hungarian diaspora was the only efficient way to keep as many as possible Hungarians adherent to their home country.

Euronews.com provide us with a graph depicting the incredible increase of Hungary's new citizens. In 2010, Hungary accepted only 5,714 new citizens, while the next year 146,635 people were able to be granted the Hungarian citizenship and all the rights it entails. According to Romanian media by December 2011 200,000 Romanians had applied for Hungarian citizenship aiming at having access to the European labor market and using

their new citizenship in order to bypass restrictions still applied to Romanians. The following years the increase was respectively high.



The 2011 increase took place due to the simplification of the procedure. More and more ethnic Hungarians living abroad as well as people of neighboring countries with a view to benefiting for the privileges of the Hungarian citizenship were now able to request the granting. Dr Zsuzsanna Árendás from the Central European University, while commenting the Hungarian legislative acts, told among else the following: “The issue has a long history in Hungarian politics and is strongly related to Hungary’s still ongoing nation-building project. But this citizenship law intends to address ethnic Hungarians’ [needs] by giving them citizenship without expecting them to literally move to Hungary”.

Slovakia didn’t accept the law with happiness and its reaction was indeed predictable. Slovakia banned its nationals from having dual citizenship. Adversely, Romania is facing a different reality. Romania’s legal framework accepts those who obtain passport from another country and there is no cancelation for the Romanian citizenship. Logically, Romanians with second citizenship granted from Hungary, for example, are able to seek employment in the Romanian public sector. Yet, with so much nationalist discord who is sure in Romania that such people with dual citizenship are loyal to their original country? If we take into consideration the bulk of ethnic Hungarians living in Romania and their intense national sentiment, does the granting of dual citizenship create the ideal circumstances for

them to seek autonomy for the regions that they constitute majority? Such questions should be taken into account by delegates because they provide us with the appropriate cognitive speculation for the purpose of reaching an effective international solution.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Hungary

As it has been made clear until now in the study guide, Hungary's role in our issue is dominant. The foreign policy of Hungary has been exercised during the past years based on the following ideological principle: Anything serving the Hungarian interest and benefit ought to be adopted by the Hungarian politicians even if could easily harm Hungary's neighborly relations, disparage the country's name and decrease its influence within the international fora.

The Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Péter Szijjártó, when speaking at a press conference, he made clear the intentions of his government's policy. "In every case, Hungarian foreign policy makes its decisions based exclusively on Hungarian interests" he claimed.

From 1947 to 1989 Hungary under the rule of the communist party maintained a Soviet-oriented foreign policy aiming at friendship, cooperation and mutual respect with Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Romania, and Bulgaria. Nationalistic reactions were really often in Central Europe stemming from the mixing of population that had taken place. From that perspective, the election of the right-of-center government in Hungary in 1998 led by PM Victor Orbán inaugurated an era of greater demands and better treatment for Hungarians living abroad. The main goal of FIDESZ, Orbán's political party, was to ensure the rights of Hungarians for the preservation of their cultural and linguistic heritage and dissuade them from being culturally alienated, as it was crucial to prevent their assimilation in the foreign countries they were living. This was the so-called nation-building project that was undertaken by the Hungarian Government. Another attempt was the proposal of a law extending special privileges for fellow Hungarians deciding to visit the country or seeking opportunities of employment.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that Orbán's party has repeatedly opposed to the EU refugee policies and projects placing emphasis to an anti-immigrant campaign that puts many obstacles to the pan-European attempt to solve the very subversive issue of the

refugee crisis. Orbán is also against the reform of the EU because of its commitment to enforce national sovereignty and initiative.

From the very beginning of its foundation Orbán's political party has adopted an irredentist and nationalistic policy, something that has wide references to historical revisionism, as the Transylvanian region is portrayed as a former ethnically Hungarian region. Irredentism seems to provide the Hungarian government with two options in that case; either take back the whole pre-World War I Transylvanian region, thus resulting in the adding of more than 5 million ethnic Romanians, or just take the Szeklerland, the area where the majority of the population are Hungarians. The latter will culminate in an awkward condition as the Hungarian borders will be expanded within Central Romania. It is obvious that both options refer more to imaginary prospects and nationalist pursuits rather than they constitute a forthcoming reality. However, it is also evident that such ventures are indicative of the core of Orbán's ideological principles and political clout that place significant emphasis to the priority of Hungary, often ignoring the international balance of powers and the European political and economic entity.

Romania

Over time Romania has repeatedly claimed Transylvania as a territory belonging to its administrative discretion. Likewise, Romanians all these years have cultivated a mentality according to which Transylvania consists an integral part of the Romanian entity even if ethnic Hungarians constitute the majority. From that aspect a fear with roots in history seems to emerge to many Romanians when hearing the autonomy pursuits of Szeklers. Such pursuits can be easily seen as the motivating power to open a "Pandora Box" for Romania, meaning that the creation of a threatening precedent for the breakup of the country's unity could become tangible reality.

The involvement of Romania to the issue has to do more with the management of the international political and diplomatic processes, as -speaking with terms of rationality- it is extremely difficult for a new state to be established in the middle of the country where the separatist groups are acting, or even for Hungary to annex the whole Transylvanian region. Romania's role is more related to the regulation of the situation by granting more rights to ethnic Hungarians living within its territory, something that could blunt the differences and pave the way for convergence and mutual respect for both communities. Otherwise, if Romania does not move toward the aforementioned direction, the nationalist feelings would be exacerbated, the hostilities would dominate and the whole spectrum of

Romania's and Hungary's neighborly relations would deteriorate, concurrently bringing about a dead end.

European Union (EU)

Since the entrance of Romania to EU on 1st January, 2007 ethnic Hungarians believed that such a progress was exactly what they were seeking in order to ensure and guarantee their human rights with a view to requesting autonomy. The context of a multinational organization determined at the protection of human dignity was seemingly more than favorable. Whereas the EU framework was the ideal environment for the human rights to be respected, ethnic Hungarians didn't see the improvement they had expected. EU's policy on the issue was but the relegation of this very specific problem to an internal Romanian affair.

Although EU claims to be intensively sensitive about human rights and especially that of self-determination, an autonomous Transylvania would damage the organization's cohesion, security and stability. With so many problems raging, from the refugee crisis to the financial crisis of the Eurozone, EU's pursuit is to soothe every dispute rather than spark the separation of a member state or even the reclamation of Romanian territory by Hungary. The latter seems more an irredentist and nationalist provocation rather than a realistic scenario. We should then take into consideration that the role of the EU has to do more with the regulation and the reaching of a compromising realistic mutual agreement that respects sensitivities, yet is does not overbalance the existing conditions and facts. EU would play the role of the arbitrator by engaging in negotiations moving to the direction of ameliorating the living conditions of ethnic Hungarians within the context of Romania, that is, without the granting of autonomy, as well as by adopting a stability-maintaining strategy that ensures prosperity and security.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
11 November, 1918	World War I ended.
1 st December, 1918	Romanian nationalists demanded the annexation of Transylvania.
4 June, 1920	Treaty of Trianon was signed. Hungary was shorn two thirds of its territory.

August 1940	Hungary regained about two fifths of Transylvania during World War II.
1949	Hungary got under communists' rule.
1989	Communist state in Hungary was dismantled.
1998-2002	Orbán's first period servicing as Prime Minister of Hungary.
1 st May, 2004	Hungary became member of the EU.
2001	Hungarian Parliament passes law allowing ethnic Hungarians living abroad to apply for Hungarian citizenship.
1st January, 2007	Romania became member of the EU.
2010-present	Orbán's second period servicing as Prime Minister of Hungary.
2010	Hungarian Parliament simplifies the procedure of granting Hungarian citizenship
10th March, 2017	Petition on The Day of the Szekler Freedom

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Generally speaking, the UN involvement on the issue has not been tremendously penetrating, since the controversy still remains more latent than manifest. Although, UN has done a lot for the protection of ethnic minorities, the promotion of democratic principles and the enforcement of the respect of the fundamental human rights. From that perspective delegates should bear in mind several UN resolutions and treaties.

First and foremost, the UN Charter explicitly refers to the right of self-determination as an inalienable human right whose the respect constitutes one of the main purposes of the organization.

Secondly, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (Adopted in 1992), consists the fundamental international document that urges all member states to take measures in order to encourage public knowledge and awareness of the history, traditions, language and culture of minorities existing within their territories. It has also laid the foundations for the

enabling of persons belonging to minorities to participate fully in the economic progress and development of their country.

Thirdly, during the World Conference against Racism that took place in 2001 in Durban, South Africa, another significant resolution was adopted by consensus: The Durban Declaration and Program of Action. The document urges all governments to enhance the conditions for the minorities living within their territory in order to create the favorable environment for them to freely express their differentiated characteristics as well as it urges the implementation of policies against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Last but not least, emphasis should be placed on the analysis efforts of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Committee has examined the status of minorities' human rights in Romania. During the Committee's sessions the Hungarian representatives have repeatedly referred to the cultural assimilation of their fellows in Romania as well as they have highlighted the autonomy of Transylvania as the only path to eliminate the Romanian nationalistic pursuits and violations. Ethnic Hungarians in Romania conceive the Committee as an ideal way to internationalize their problematic situation with a view to bringing about a viable mutual agreement that will grant them several forms of autonomy.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

As we have previously stated such a controversial issue isn't able of being solved without deep negotiations, compromises and consents. All the engaging parts ought to follow the diplomatic path in order to reach the desirable viable solution that would be beneficial for both Romania and Hungary, taking into account all the minority issues. In that respect it is at the discretion of the delegates to come up with constructive solutions that are the result of a multifaceted consideration of the proximate causes of the issue. Several possible solutions are the following:

- The establishment of a special UN body with the jurisdiction to conduct the negotiations, oversee the social, political and economic activities in Transylvania, cater for the implementation of international and European human rights law as well as lay the foundations for the extinction of nationalist propaganda in both opposing countries,

- The raising of the international public awareness for the issue in order to attract more and more attention that could be easily transformed to financial support for educational reasons able to eliminate nationalist feelings in the long-term run,
- The examination of a potential special status attributed to the ethnic Hungarian minority in Transylvania that- among else- will be set according to the degree of the administrative, political and economic independence that would be decided to grant,
- The regulation and the reform of the international and European law about the potential special status that would be granted,
- The imposition of sanctions by the EU to both Hungary and Romania if nationalist projects are promoted by their governments,
- The examination of potential violation of human rights in Transylvania by the Romanian authorities in order to hold them accountable in front of international courts,
- The reconsideration of the Hungarian citizenship legislation with the contribution of an ad-hoc international committee composed by experts.

All the aforementioned are not but several indicative possible solutions that could be used by the delegates as an orientation tool for their own solutions. According to their research and their country's policy delegates should propose whatever they consider to be useful and productive for the arrangement of the issue.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic Facts about the United Nations. New York: The United Nations Department of Public Information, 2014

Harris, Chris. "Hungary and Romania in row over Transylvania autonomy remarks" <<http://www.euronews.com/2018/01/12/hungary-and-romania-in-row-over-transylvania-autonomy-remarks>> January 12, 2018

Harris, Chris. "What's the link between WW1 and Hungary's 675,000 new citizens?" <<http://www.euronews.com/2015/01/28/whats-the-link-between-world-war-1-and-hungarys-675000-new-citizens>> January 28, 2018

Harris, Chris. "Explained: the 'Hungarians' in Romania marching for more independence" <<https://www.euronews.com/2018/03/11/explained-the-hungarians-in-romania-marching-for-more-independence>> March 11, 2018

Dragomir, Elena. "Revived Transylvania Dispute Strains Romanian-Hungarian Relations, with Potential for Future Internationalization of the Issue" <<http://www.balkananalysis.com/romania/2013/02/11/revived-transylvania-dispute-strains-romanian-hungarian-relations-with-potential-for-future-internationalization-of-the-issue/>>

Britannica, Encyclopaedia. "Treaty of Trianon" < <https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Trianon>> May 28, 2018

Britannica, Encyclopaedia. "Transylvania" <<https://www.britannica.com/place/Transylvania>> April 24, 2017

Li, Timothy. "Irredentism in Orban's Hungary" < <http://urbanlabsce.eu/irredentism-in-orbans-hungary/>> January 31, 2018

Pereira-Meanaut, A. C. "Concepts of State and Regional Autonomy" <<https://www.law.kuleuven.be/apps/jura/public/art/24n1/pereirameanaut.pdf> >

Korybko, Andrew. "Szeklerland" Might Spark A "Slovak Crisis" That Destabilizes The "Three Seas" < <https://orientalreview.org/2018/01/22/szeklerland-might-spark-slovak-crisis-destabilizes-three-seas/>> January 22, 2018

Bridge, Adrian. "Budapest and Bucharest bury differences over Transylvania" <<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/budapest-and-bucharest-bury-differences-over-transylvania-1363583.html>> September 16, 1996

Lugosi, Nicole. "Options and Limits of a Constructivist View of Hungarian Minorities in Transylvania" <<https://ecpr.eu/Filestore/PaperProposal/ae9bf5fe-bc94-45d6-9e99-dacfc7625339.pdf>>

Kovács, Zoltán. "That day when the Romanian PM threatened to hang ethnic minorities" <<http://abouthungary.hu/blog/that-day-when-the-romanian-pm-threatened-to-hang-ethnic-minorities/>> January 12, 2018

Bottoni, Stefano. "Szeklerland as the new Crimea?" <<https://visegradinsight.eu/szeklerland-as-a-new-crimea1652014/>> May 16, 2014

Lestyánszky, Ádám. "Diplomatic row breaks out between Hungary and Romania" <<https://budapestbeacon.com/diplomatic-row-breaks-out-between-hungary-and-romania/>> August 13, 2015

