

RESUME

Gabriel HARRACH

Autopsy of a Failed Election: The Election Statistics for the Hungarian Political Set-back of 2023 in Slovakia (1)

In the 2020 Slovakian election, none of the Hungarian parties obtained representation in parliament. Most–Híd (Bridge), which promotes a multi-ethnic ideology, and MKÖ – later known as Szövetség (Alliance) – which represents nationality Hungarian interests, both performed significantly below 5%. Three years later, in the 2023 Slovakian election, Most–Híd disappeared from the political map, while Szövetség, even in a new monopoly situation, remained below the parliamentary entry threshold – however, the party increased the number of its voters by 16 percent. If we examine the growth of the voters' support in a territorial breakdown, we do not obtain clear geographical or ethno-demographical pattern. Moreover, the significant increase in support for the Szövetség can be detected only in a few cities. The main reason for the election failure is that the party, which has a relatively determined ethnic policy, never had overwhelming support among Hungarian voters in Slovakia, and the fall of its competitor could not change this fact.

Csongor MOLNÁR

Elections in Serbia Again After Just More Than a Year: Special Parliamentary Elections and Vojvodina Provincial and Local Elections

After just more than a year special elections have been held again in Serbia. On 17 December 2023, special elections were held in parliament, the province of Vojvodina and 65 municipalities, including Belgrade. The first part of the study highlights the most important domestic political events that preceded the elections and ultimately led to their call. The second part of the study focuses on the pre-election campaign and election day. The third part presents the important conditions presents during the elections for the Hungarians in Vojvodina and the results for the Vajdasági Magyar Szövetség (Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians). The aim of the research is to highlight the main major shaping the country and the issues affecting the Hungarian minority in it by describing the period between the two elections and the nature of the elections themselves.

Tamás TARJÁN

Generous Deal or Cunning Blackmail? Evaluation of the Lex Apponyi and the Educational Policy of the Late Dualist Era

In this paper, I introduce and analyze the Hungarian Educational Act for Non-State Financed Elementary Schools enacted in 1907, also referred to as Lex Apponyi. The law, named after the then-Minister of Education, Albert Apponyi, marked a new stage in the protracted struggle between the Hungarian ruling elite and the national minorities which strove for cultural equality and wider political opportunities in Hungary. In enacting Lex Apponyi, the originators applied a double-barreled strategy. The Hungarian state gave extraordinary financial support to the elementary school system maintained mostly by the churches and local communities. However, this positive measure came for schools with the requirement to give up their autonomy. It soon became obvious that the government's financial help was a 'bait' for the national minorities' school to enforce 'patriotic education' and the compulsory teaching of the Hungarian language. Several sections of Lex Apponyi reduced the non-state financed schools' autonomy in effect since 1868. In the aftermath of the Treaty of Versailles, Lex Apponyi became vigorously debated. Due to its assimilationist aims, the historians of the successor states of prewar Hungary (e. g., Romania and Czechoslovakia) criticized it intensely. Similarly, some Hungarian historiographers condemned the law on political or moral basis, while others argued that it provided a relatively flexible environment for the education of national minorities—in comparison to the educational environments existent in the surrounding European nation-states. Applying a careful analysis of the law and its consequences on the educational system, in this paper I reevaluate the various historiographical narratives surrounding Lex Apponyi and I present new arguments in the century-long historical debate.