

WiSe 2022/23 504002731

**Die Geschichte der ethnischen Minderheiten in Osteuropa von 1800 bis heute/  
The History of Ethnic Minorities in Eastern Europe from 1800 to the Present**

Konrad Adenauerallee 4-5, 3010

Hauptseminar  
Tuesday 10-12

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Béla Bodó

Office Hours: Wednesday 12 -13:30 or by appointment

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**Course Description:**

This course will examine the political and social history of ethnic minorities in Eastern and East-Central and South-Eastern Europe from the rise of nationalism and nation states in the nineteenth and early twentieth century until today. The focus of this course will be on political and ideological history; we will examine such important questions and explore issues as: the development of national consciousness; the changing legal status of ethnic minorities in empires and nation states; ethnic parties and political mobilization; accommodation and resistance; the issue of cultural and political autonomy and ethnic conflicts in the context of wars. However, students will also have the chance to discuss social and cultural issues, such as: social mobility and urbanization and their impact on the lives of ethnic minorities; discrimination on the labor market and in the cultural and political arenas; forced assimilation; gender and ethnicity; the development of ethnic institutions from schools to newspapers, theaters and films and their role in identity formation; the spread and changing nature of ethnic stereotypes, and harmony and conflict in everyday life. The course will pay special attention to the role of minority issues in interstate and international relations, and to the importance of international institutions, such as the League of Nations, the United Nations and the European Union to settle ethnic disputes, create the legal frame for the protection of minority rights and enforce their will and decisions. The main goal of this course is to provide students with the historical understanding of the nature of nationalism and ethnic conflicts in the twentieth century and with the background information and skills necessary to develop a nuanced view of minority issue in the region today.

**Course Requirements:**

**1. Active Participation (aktive Teilnahme)**

Active participation in the class is a course requirement. If you do not contrite regularly to class discussion or fail to make your presentation, you will not be allowed to write your research paper. Active participation entails preparation for the class: the reading of the assigned texts; and the preparing of the answers to the two questions (see the weekly schedule bellow) in advance of the class session. Students should bring brief notes and responses to the class discussion questions.

**2. Exhibiton Review**

You are required to review the exhibition entitled **Young Women Who Could Not Study**. The Exhibition deals with the Numerus Clausus Law of 1920 which limited the admission of women and Jews to Hungarian universities. You are expected to attend the opening of the exhibition held on November 20 2022 (from 16-18) in the Frauenmuseum in Bonn. The review should be between two and three-page long.

### 3. Class Presentation

You are required to make a 15-20 minutes class presentation on a topic of your choice (see list of possible presentation topics below). Please hand in the outline of your presentation.

### 4. Reseah Paper

Every participant is expected to write a major paper. The length of the essay (Hausearbeit) depends on the module (about 20 pages for Master students, and about 12 pages for B.A students). It is your responsibility to learn which module you are in, and tell me about you module. The list of possible presentation/essay topics can be found on Ecampus. If you want to pursue a topic that is not on list, you have to talk to me and obtain my approval before you delve into the research, however. You are encouraged to **start your research early**. You are encouraged to discuss you topic with me and hand in a one or two-page outline later in the semester describing the question or theme to be pursued, as well as al bibliography in advance. **We will use the office hours to discuss your paper and give you advice** on how to proceed. You should familiarize yourself with the resources of the library, including electronic journals. Since the resources of the library are limited, you should avail upon the services of the Interlibrary Loan Office.

#### Language Requirement:

**This is a bilingual course.** Students have the option to discuss issues, do their presentations and write their research papers either in German or English.

#### Dropbox Link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ab8mezikmiq7vs1/AAD1tGUMVT0FAto6LeItDuoYa?dl=0>

## Weekly Topics and Required Readings

### 1. The Rise of Nationalism (October 18, 2022)

#### Required Readings

John A. Hall, "Nationalisms: classified and explained," *Daedalus* (1993), pp. 1-28. **OR**  
Rogers Brubaker, "Myths and Misconceptions in the Study of Nationalism," In John A. Hall (ed.): *The State of the Nation: Ernest Gellner and the Theory of Nationalism* (1998), pp. 272-305.

### 2. Ethnic Conflict during and after WWI (October 25, 2022)

#### Required Readings:

Piotr Wróbel, "The Seeds of Violence. The Brutalization of an Eastern European Region, 1917-1921," *Journal of Modern European History* 1/1 (2003), pp. 125-149 **OR**  
Robert Gerwarth, *The Vanguished. Why the First World War Failed to End, 1917-1923* (2016), pp. 227-247

### 3. Peace Treaties/League of Nations (November 8, 2022)

**Required Readings:**

Mark Mazower, "Minorities and the League of Nations in Interwar Europe," *Daedalus* Vol. 126, No. 2, Human Diversity (Spring, 1997), pp. 47-63

Ignác Romsics, *Hungary in the Twentieth Century* (2005), Part 2, pp. 117-126 **OR**

Elisabeth MacMillan, *Paris 1919* (Toronto, 2002), pp. 208-242

**4. Numerus Clausus Law of 1920: Jewish Women in Interwar Hungary (November 20)**

Visit to **the Frauenmuseum Bonn** on Sunday, 20.11.2022 (from 16 to 17:30).

**5. German Minority in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary in the Interwar Period (November 22, 2022)****Required Readings:**

Ingo Eser, *Volk, Staat, Gott: Deutsche Mindenheit in Polen* (2010). 115-248; 659-675 **OR**

T. Hunt Tooley, "German Political Violence and the Border Plebiscite in Upper Silesia," *Central European History* 21(1988), pp. 56-98.

John C. Swanson, *Tangible Belongings. Negotiating Germaneness in Twentieth-Century Hungary* (2017), pp. 1-184 **OR**

Manfred Alexander, "Die Deutschen in der Ersten Tschechoslowakischen Republik: Rechtsstellung und Identitätssuche." in Umberto Corsini eds., *Die Minderheiten zwischen den beiden Weltkriegen*. (1997), pp. 117-131.

**6. Hungarian minority in Czechoslovakia and Romania (November 29, 2022)****Required Readings:**

László Szarka, "Hungarian National Minority Organization and the role of Elites Between the Two World Wars," *Hungarian Studies Review* 2, No. 3(2013), pp. 415-448.

Lucian Nastasă, "The Hungarians in Romania and Minority Politics in Post-Trianon Era," in Mihai I. Spariosu ed., *Intercultural Conflicts and Harmony in Central European Borderlands* (2017), pp. 239-254 **OR**

Stefano Bottoni, "National Projects, Regional Identity, Everyday Compromises. Szeklerland in Greater Romania (1919-1940)," *Hungarian Studies Review* 2, no. 3 (2013), pp. 477-811

**7. Soviet Policy towards Ethnic Minorities (December 6, 2022)****Required Readings:**

Terry Martin, "Affirmative Action Empire: the Soviet Union as the Highest Form of Imperialism," in Ronald Suny (eds.): *A State of Nations: Empire and Nation-Making in the Age of Lenin and Stalin*, (2001), pp. 67-93 **OR**

Martin Aust, *Die Russian Revolution* (2017), pp. 156-212.

Terry Martin, *Affirmative Action Empire. Nations and Nationalism in the Soviet Union, 1923-1939* (2011), pp. 1-125; 273-392

**8. Second World War: War, Ethnic Cleansing, Holocaust (December 13, 2022)****Required Readings:**

Timothy Snyder, *Black Earth. The Holocaust as History and Warning* (2016), pp. 145-225

Mischa Glenny, *The Balkans. Nationalism, War and the Great Power 1804-2011* (2012) Or

Marie-Janine Calic, *A History of Yugoslavia* (2019)

## **9. Expulsions and Ethnic Cleansing after WWII (December 20, 2022)**

### **Required Readings:**

Anne Applebaum, *Iron Curtain. The Crushing of Eastern Europe* (2012), pp. 124-157.

R. M. Douglas, *Orderly and Human: The Expulsion of Ethnic Germans After the Second World War* (2012), pp. 55-129. 255-300 **OR**

Eagle Glassheim, *Cleansing the Czechoslovak Borderlands* (2018), pp. 8-67; 92-123

## **10. Ethnic Minorities under Communism 1: Hungarians in Romania and Czechoslovakia, 1945-1990 (January 10, 2023)**

### **Required Readings:**

Stefano Bottoni, "The Creation of the Hungarian Autonomous Region in Romania (1952)," in *Stalin's Legacy in Romania, The Hungarian Autonomous Region, 1952-1960* (2018), pp. 71-93.

Raphael Vago, *The Grandchildren of Trianon: Hungary and Hungarian Minority in the Communist States* (1989), pp. 201-261.

## **11. Ethnic Minorities under Communism 1: History of Yugoslavia (January 17, 2023)**

### **Required Readings:**

Maria Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans* (2009), pp. 140-160

Misha Glenny, *The Balkans: Nationalism, War and the Great Powers, 1904-2011* (Penguin Books, 2000) pp. 545-633.

## **12. Ethnic Violence in the Balkans in the 1990s. (January 24, 2023)**

### **Required Readings:**

Charles King, *Extreme Politics: Nationalism, Violence and the End of Eastern Europe* (2011), pp.

103-133 or Misha Glenny, *The Balkans. Nationalism, War and the Great Power 1804-2011* (2012), pp. 634-709 or Marie-Janine Calic, *A History of Yugoslavia* (2019), pp. 251-333.

Film: *No Man's Land*

## **13. Ethnic Minorities in Eastern Europe Today (January 31, 2023)**

### **Required Readings:**

Rogers Brubaker, "Ethnicity in Post-Cold War Europe, East and West," in Roland Hsu ed., *Ethnic Europe: Mobility, Identity, and Conflict in a Globalized World* (2010) pp. 44-62.

Pascal Bonnard, "Memory of the Soviet Union and European Norms on Diversity as Rival Framework for Ethnic Borders Making. A Case Study in Lithuania's Russian-Speaking Schools," in George Mink and Laura Neumeyer, *History, Memory and Politics in Central and Eastern Europe: Memory Games* (2013), pp. 193-297 **OR**

Tamás Kiss, "Increasing Marginality, Ethnic Parallelism, and Asymmetric Accommodation. Social and Political Processes Concerning the Hungarian Community of Transylvania," *Increasing Marginality, Ethnic Parallelism, and Asymmetric Accommodation. Social and Political Processes Concerning the Hungarian Community in Romania* (2018). pp. 33-70