

THE ROLE OF THE MIGRATIONAL ZONES IN THE HISTORICAL PROCESSES IN CENTRAL-EUROPE AND IN THE BALKANS

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Recibido: 7 julio 2013 / Revisado: 17 marzo 2014 / Aceptado: 14 noviembre 2014 / Publicado: 15 febrero 2015

Resumen: La región de Europa Central y los Balcanes es una de las zonas de flujo más importantes de Europa, donde la migración de los pueblos ha estado ocurriendo durante miles de años, las influencias económicas y culturales se han extendido y la política del poder ha tenido vigencia. Sus características históricas y geográficas determinantes son las siguientes: espacio geográfico común; flujos espaciales que unen los espacios; espacios estatales separados por acontecimientos políticos; espacios étnicos tipo mosaico creados por la migración; subdivisión de los espacios de amortiguamiento provocados por los intereses de la política del poder.

Palabras clave: Europa Central, Balcanes, Imperio Habsburgo, Imperio Otomano, zonas de migración.

Abstract: The Central European region and the Balkans are one of the most important flow zones in Europe where the migration of peoples has been going on for thousands of years, economic and cultural influences have been spreading and power politics has taken effect. Its determinative historical and geographical features are as follows: common geographical space; spatial flows linking the spaces; state spaces separated by political events; mosaic-like ethnic spaces created by migration; dividing buffer spaces brought about by the interests of power politics.

Keywords: Central Europe, Balkans, Habsburg Empire, Ottoman Empire, migrational zones.

INTRODUCCIÓN

The purpose of this article is to demonstrate the spatial relations of two neighboring political regions in Europe through the point of view of the Historical Geography. Basically, the study concentrates on the connections among geographical areas, migrational routes and models of territory of state. The lessons of the Historical interweaving of the cultural area organized into the Western Christianity along the Danube and Eastern Christianity and Balkan region formed by the Islam may interpret the present-day processes in many ways.

1. GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL AREAS

Central-Europe and its various regions are differently defined by Geography, History and Politology.¹ By the meaning of Historical Geography, this article analyses the territory of Central-Europe which organizes along the Danube. It means the following areas: the territory from the mouth of River Inn to the water-gap at the Iron Gate, including the region of the side-waters running into the Danube in the Eastern-Alps, the catchment basin of the Morava River, the hump of the Carpathian Mountains and the interstratified basin by this latter. In the case of the Balkans, this essay mainly consider the Slavic inhabited area between Central Europe and Minor Asia and we less focus on the southern

¹ Hodos, G. H. (1999): *The East-Central European Region: An Historical Outline*. Praeger, Westport, Connecticut, London, 1999. p. 157.

parts which are not so important in spatial relations.

Central-Europe is a special geographical area and a line of the linked lands by the Danube. The meandering river among mountains and foregrounds of mountains is a link between the western and the southeastern part of Central-Europe. Its tributaries connect different big landscapes to the river. The foreground of the Alps, the Swabian - and the Frankian Alb, the fragmented Swabian-Bavarian Basin among the Bavarian Forest pertain to the main area of Central-Europe. Going down the river, it meanders among the southern offsets of the Czech and Moravian Basin and the Eastern Alps. It has a tight linkage to valleys and inner places of mountains through its tributaries. After the Viennese Basin the area started to expand and it arrives to the Carpathian Basin at the Dévényi-Gate. The feature of this geographical unit, which markedly differentiates from its environment, is a regular basin structure. Its edge is created by higher separated mountains. While its inner part forms of plains and hills which are separated by lower, intermediate mountains. Its essential element is the central water-system, and its water is gathered by the Danube. The rivers flowing through the plain are surrounded by extensive floodplains. The situation of the established routes was significantly influenced by these geographical characters (hills, river runs, floodplains). The centers were mainly evolved next to estuaries, crossings, and foot of mountains. The routes among them followed rivers and valleys, bypassing the blocks of mountains and important floodplains.²

The Balkans shows a more complex geographical image, which differently affected the cultures.³ Its continental border in the northern part is the line of the Save river and the Danube. Geographically, it is divided into three major sections: into the Western, the Eastern and the Southern Balkans. Dinarides and the closed mountain ranges of the Hellenides dominate in western and southern parts. These are fragmented by less-rised basins, semi-basins and narrow river valleys. In eastern part, the

dominating areas are the Balkan mountain, the Pirin, the Rodope, the block of Rila Mountain blocks and the Marica-lowland among them. Its water-system is shared among the seas. The peninsula is pulled apart by the northbound Morava and the valleys of the south-directing River Vardar. Its coasts are various. The Adriatic, the Ionian and the Aegean coastlines are strongly fragmented. Along the Black Sea, the articulation is much smaller. The development of the routes among cultures was greatly influenced by the topographical and the hydrographical differences of the geographical constructions.⁴ There are just some route, the cross-linking one and the route which connects the three big units.⁵

2. MIGRATIONAL AND HISTORICAL ZONES

The culture-connecting, permanent migration zones were born by the binding of the routes which saw across different geographical areas. If we consider those geographical spaces which were directly affected by the moving population and by the processes increased through these routes, we can define the coherent migration zone. The migration areas, like the Carpathian Basin and the Western Balkans has been characterized by continuous historical spatial structure. This has some important elements as the various centers, their active attraction spaces, the main routes between them, an also the directions of migration on them, like the lines of the spatial structure. By time to time, these features have constantly changed.

The migration zone along the Danube, which has a European importance, can be defined by several distinct geographical and imperial spaces. Significant Balkan and Minor Asian influences arrived from the southern direction through the Morava Valley and the Lower Danube. By the beginning of the Iron Age, the Danube and the Rhine source region and the Czech-Morava Basin from the western area, while from eastern part the Eastern European Plain region became active. By the beginning of the

² Magocsi, P. R. *Historical Atlas of Central Europe*. University of Toronto Press, 2002, p. 274.

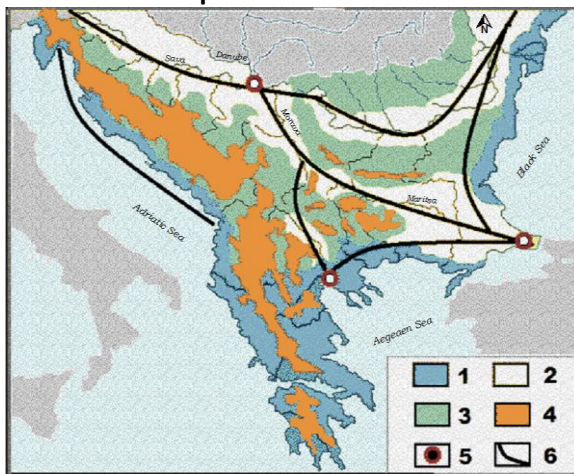
³ Carter, Francis W. *An historical geography of the Balkans*, Academic Press, 1977 p. 599.

⁴ Kostich, D. D. *The Land and People of the Balkans: Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania [and] Yugoslavia*. Lip-pincott, 1962. p. 160.

⁵ Csarnok, D. R.; Danta, Darrick R. *Reconstructing the Balkans: a geography of the new Southeast Europe*, Wiley, 1996, p. 260.

1st century PC, the north-Italian routes closely related to the Danube. The migrations and migration zones with different directions collected in the Carpathian Basin, and they continuously shaped the spatiality of the emerging cultures and forming states. The determining centers of the migration zone have been established along the Danube. The creation of the closed, left out space from the migrations were less characteristic. Naturally, the spatial activity decreased toward the mountains, but the connection has been steady by the valleys of the water system connected to the Danube.

FIGURE 1
Historical Spatial Structure of Balkans



Legend: 1. Seaside zones; 2. Plains, 3. River valleys; 4. Highlands; 5. Centers; 6. Main migration lines (Edited by Gábor Csüllög)

The western and the southern edges of the Balkans were determined by the maritime migration zones. Its inner area was marked by an opposite spatial situation: closed mountainous backgrounds, open migration zones linked to the large river valleys. The territorial bonding of the population was dual: the habitants of the enclosed, highlander background had strongly fixed geographic identity, while in the migration zones the spatial migration and the effect of the spatial migration and incisiveness forcefully predominated. Nevertheless the inner migrations were not only the define factors in the Balkan. There was another migration zone, which transmitted the external influences between the Danube and the Asia Minor during millennia. This main migration zone took up a position in the center of the peninsula, along the line of Morava –Marica-Vardar. Those centers, which had effects on the continental areas, like Salonika, Nándorfehérvár (Belgrade),

Zagreb, could be only formed in the peripheries. Nevertheless the latter three towns were not incidentally the important centers of the external areas (Asia Minor and the Carpathian Basin). The different constructed historical spatial structure of the two regions is not separated from each other. The ethnic, economic and migrational processes of the unified, Carpathian Basin and the mosaic, fragmented Western Balkan spatial structure were well matched to each other. However, in certain historical periods the religious, political and state spatial conflicts were common. (Figure 1)

3. MODELS OF TERRITORY OF STATE

The spatial, migrational routes, the creation, the characteristics and the organization of the zones have been influenced by geographical factors and primarily by spatial organizations, of the states since the Roman times. The latter can be divided into two specific types by the point of view of the Historical Geography view, especially by its nature of spatial organization. So one is the several earlier self-organizing, map-uiting imperial space, the other is the self-organizing, autonomous, geographically separated territory of state. A characteristic feature of history of Europe is the intervally varying scaled appearance of local organized statal spaces.

Analysis by Historical Geography of the imperial type of the territory of the state is partly diverged from the historiographical approach and it particularly focuses on the spatiality. This approach avoids that era's self-determination, and it does not concentrate on imperial, political system and the concept of the simple territorial greatness of political structures. Basically, it considers the incorporating of the spatial impact or the use of other statal structures as a criterion. The imperial areas were born in the European peripheries and main points of migration. They built on major European migration zones and they permanently possessed the important migration intersections. Their expansion and relation mainly reduces the number of the minor states, while their break-up, their fall or their recess helped in the growth. Their interest was to entirely govern and possess active and opened migration zones. They operated and ruled their inner borders by interests of the becoming local provinces. In reference to the

region, we can consider the Roman, Byzantine, Holy Roman, Ottoman and the Habsburg State as an empire in this period.⁶ However, we can insert the mediaeval Hungarian state into this line as well, based on its space structural characteristics.

The local-organized states existed in the shadow of the large empires and they strengthened in the era of the declines of the great powers. By the weakening of the imperial affects, the local governmental areas tried to govern more parts of the migration zones. Their existence related to the closing migration zones, which put themselves on strengthening their borders. Generally, the local states could not permanently equilibrate the migrations which were the part of their sphere of interest. This sometimes affected not only the borderline areas, but the whole state that frequently resulted entire changes of the borders.

Therefore, the Balkans can be described with a particular dynamics since a long time: migration-connecting influences of the imperial areas predominated for long term. While, in short historical periods, the migrations, which were suppressed by the borders of the local states, strained the area. Thus, the instability of the area which had been fragmented into small states pulled in again and again the surrounding great power areas.

4. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MIGRATIONAL ZONES AND THE TERRITORIES OF STATES IN DIFFERENT HISTORICAL PERIODS

The determining roots of the territories of the states of the region can be originated in the times of the Roman Empire. The political structure of this empire unified the eastern and western Mediterranean migrational zones and linked them to the European continental routes. It established the Danube limes in Central Europe and in the North-Balkans. This was not only a controlled border with military camps and forts, but an important route with intersections, with major cities and with concentrated population. The limes had a significant attraction towards the barbaric, which layed on the left side of the river. The Roman

⁶ Kia, M. *The Ottoman Empire*. Greenwood Publishing Group, Incorporated, 2008. p. 202.

commercial routes took from the Danube shore to the areas of different tribes, which lived outside the Roman Empire. As a result, all the migrations along the Danube and crossing the river became very vivid.

By the 3rd century, the continental roads became more important by the recruitment of the European population migration. The side of the Danube was the line of the migrations from the British Isles across the Balkans to Asia Minor. Its upper part was suppressed by the western Germanic people, while the Carpathian Basin was occupied by the eastern-coming Hun, Ostrogoth, Gepid nations. So Central Europe had become the significant contact and cultural mixing zone and region of Europe after the Roman era. The most active migrations were formed along the Danube or directed towards the river, and they organized the Central European region and linked it to the range of the Balkans and of Asia Minor.

By the end of the 6th century, the process of the two regions partly separated. Although the Slavic population appeared in both area, but the German population did not come to the Balkans. The eastern ethnicities settled either along the Danube (Avars, Hungarians) or in the Balkans (Bulgarian-Turks, Pechenegs). The triad, Germanic, Slavic and Turkic/Ugric cultural division became dominant, which is still characterized. However, strong differences can be shown in the geographical areas used by different cultures. The Avars linked to the catchment areas of floodplains and the estuaries of tributaries, while the Slavic people lived in the wooded hills, humps and floods which were out of the main migration lines. In contrast, the Germanic people occupied the migrational roads, the intersections and the fragmented Romanized areas. The different ethnicities located in a mosaic way and they complemented to each other and moved in the region.

The Frankian Empire slowed the westward moving of the Slavs and stopped the movement of the Avars. The geographical adherence of the different regional nations and the creation of the organization of the early medieval state forms along the Danube had an important role there. Regio Pannonia was established in the western part of the Carpathian Basin in the 9th century by Louis I. We should underline that the

Christianity and the relating spread of the law-system were the basic elements of these European population movements and they were an important factor of the adherence of the early feudal states. The religious, political, militaristic and economic effects of the organizing Holy Roman Empire strengthened the spread of the relations along the Danube towards East.

The events of the first half of the 10th century were significantly influenced by the militarily campaigns of the Hungarian tribes, settling in the Carpathian Basin.⁷ In 955, these were stopped by the unified German army. As a consequence, the independent (from the Byzantine and the Holy Roman power) Christian Hungarian Kingdom started to form in the whole Carpathian Basin. This state stopped the German expansion towards East for a long time, and it wedged in the Slavic nations and it cut off to the north, Czech-Moravian population from the Croatian - Slovenian Slavic people. It accelerated the development of the differences between the northern and southern Slavic cultures.⁸ Its specific spatial organization created one of the most enduring linguistic, ethnic and state borders of Central Europe.

This century brought a major change in the Carpathian Basin. Due to the consolidation of legal systems of the Holy Roman Empire and the commitment of the Hungarian state to the Pope, the Byzantine religion quickly pushed into the background.⁹ In the following centuries western Christian culture, three, partly distanced linguistic areas were born: the German, the Slavic and the Hungarian one. The fragmented culture of the Germanic nations was summed by the economic process, the strong feudal and urban law system of the Holy Roman Empire. However, the long-term imperial structure, the stability of the processes, the economic growth brought a migration compulsion. As a result, the German cultural and linguistic influence enforced for a long time in the culture of the Slavics, which were in contact with them,

and in some form in the culture of the Hungarians. Some form of German language appeared in different densities in the whole region.

The separation of the Slavic-speaking area (cause of the Hungarians) resulted several consequences. Firstly, the northern and southern Slavic languages separated from each other and they have been under a strong external migration and cultural pressure. In the western part, the political dependence has further strengthened by the German influence. For the Croatian language, the incorporation into Hungary brought an independent, language development. The Catholic culture, the use of the Latin Church language helped its separation and self-culture-building from the other Balkan Slavic languages, especially from the Serbian.

The ethnic diversity was developed by the newly arrived eastern Germans, Slavs, Avars, Bulgarians, Hungarians, Pechenegs, and Cumans. According to the sources it can be assumed that the remaining population of the surviving (from the peregrination) Celtic migrations, like Jazyges and German nations assimilated into them. From the 12th century, the Saxon, Flemish ethnicities from the West made a colorful image of the region. From the 14th century, the Romanians and the Serbs settled along the Danube. Over the centuries, many ethnicities had lost their previous language and had assimilated into the dominant, major language of the region. Even fewer ethnic groups could develop a level of statehood. This ethnic mosaic image formed a significant overlap between the two regions.

The transition, the process began with the weakening of the Byzantine imperial power in the Balkans. But the differently changing local territories of state – except for the success of the Bulgarians during few decades – could not overwrite the geographic distribution. This was strengthened by two other processes. The Schism drew a sharp line between the Orthodox and the Roman Christian population in Hungary. In the Balkans, instead of the separated Latin and Greek languages, the Slavic language became the dominant which had a connection with the orthodoxy, in the substantial part of

⁷ Sugar, P. F.; Hanák, P. Frank, T. *A History of Hungary*. Indiana University Press, 1994, p. 432.

⁸ Halecki, O. *Borderlands of Western Civilization. A History of East Central Europe*. Second edition, 1980. Simon Publications, Safety Harbor, p. 548.

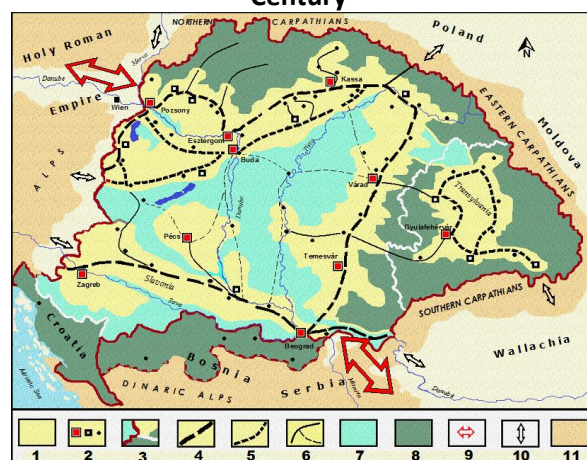
⁹ Sugar, P. F. Hanák, P. Frank, T. *A History of Hungary*. Indiana University Press, 1994, p. 432.

the area by the 12th century.¹⁰ In the southern part of the peninsula, especially in the coastal cities, the use of the Greek language remained.¹¹ While in the north-eastern part, the use of the Latin language became dominant by the Wallach population, which assimilated the Pechenegs and the Kun ethnics and migrated into the southern part of the Carpathians. Therefore some very serious dividing lines have been formed among the three major languages and the two main religions in the 14th century.¹²

By the 11-15th century, the lack of the stability of the Balkans brought the development of the geographically shifting spatial spaces.¹³ This condition had not been changed by the Serbs efforts. The multiphase nascent Serbian statehood created a long-term unstable local spatial structure, which was independent and it was born in the place of the earlier disintegrating imperial spatial structure, in the effected section by powers of the main migration zone.¹⁴ The migrations of the Balkans and the opportunities in the field of formation of a state were strongly influenced by the development and the mediaeval great power role of the Hungarian Kingdom. The processes in the Balkans were seriously limited by the incorporation of the Croatian zone and by the closing of the Danubian migration zone. As a result of the pressure of the external territories of states, of the decline of the earlier centers, the strength of local statehood decreased. By the 15th century, the people in the Balkans had been up against the very extended and progressive Ottomans.¹⁵ In a short time, but for centuries, the Turks inter-

linked the local state spaces, which were fixed to the geographic fragmentation.

FIGURE 2
The Spatial Structure of Hungary in the 15th Century



Legend: 1. Areal connectivity regions; 2. Centres; 3. Borders; 4. Areal structural lines; 5. Areal organizing lines; 6. Mediating lines and connection lines; 7. Foreground and intermediate space; 8. Backgrounds; 9. Main external effect directions; 10. External effect directions; 11. Mountains (Edited by: Gábor Csüllög)

The Hungarian Kingdom was the major political power of the region between the 11th and the 15th century.¹⁶ The keys of its spatial integrity were the rule of the main intersection of the migration line transmitted by the Danube and the controlment of its two main basin-entrances in North: the Moravia and in the southern parts: the Morava Gate. (Figure 2) These gates were the most important collecting points of the external territorial efforts (German-Roman Empire, Byzantine Empire and finally the Ottoman Empire) and of the migrations towards the Carpathian Basin for a long time. This had a significant impact on the history of Europe about five hundred years. And its building of the regional and defensive system was able to close down the migrations along the Danube. It was not in the way of these, but it checked and regulated them. It accepted and settled the effects from the West and also the continually coming migrational population. This regulated migration unitized the area along the Danube also under the rule of Sigismund of Luxembourg, the Holy Roman Emperor and King

¹⁰ Jelavich, B. *History of the Balkans* Cambridge University Press, 1983, p. 432.

¹¹ Halecki, O. *Borderlands of Western Civilization. A History of East Central Europe* Second edition, 1980. Simon Publications, Safety Harbor, p. 548.

¹² Ristelhueber, R. *A History of the Balkan Peoples*, Ardent Media, 1971, p. 470.

¹³ Gulyás, L.; Csüllög, G. *Kosovo's Territorial Characteristics from the Roman Empire to the Fall of the Medieval Serbian State* In: West Bohemian Historical Review, Pilzeň (Hamburg), 2012 / 1–2, pp. 11–26.

¹⁴ Ninić, I. (ed.) *Migrations in Balkan history* Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Institute for Balkan Studies, 1989 p. 170.

¹⁵ Nicolle, D. *Cross and crescent in the Balkans: the Ottoman conquest of Southeastern Europe (14th-15th centuries)*. Pen & Sword Military, 2011. p. 256.

¹⁶ Sugar, P. F. Hanák, P. Frank, T. *A History of Hungary* Indiana University Press, 1994, p. 432.

of Hungary.¹⁷ However, the southern and eastern borders of Hungarian state became a durable dividing line between the eastern and the western Christianity.

From the end of the 15th century, the weakening and becoming hesitant Hungary among dynasties was no longer able to control the migrations coming from the upper flow of the Danube and from the Balkans. By the end of the century, the Ottoman organization annexed much of the earlier states in the Balkans and built a very effective imperial structure. In the middle of the 16th century, it extended its rule as well on the Hungarian Kingdom. The western and southern seclusion, which were earlier developed by the Hungarian state, were ended along the Danube in the Carpathian Basin by the Hungarian royal crown-acquiring Habsburg Empire and by the conqueror Ottoman Empire. The area had been linked to the Central-European migrations by the Habsburg Empire, while the migrations of the Balkans had been started to include in the Carpathian Basin by the Ottoman Empire. In the 16-17th century, the two main migrational systems continuously buffered, but this did not cause the sharp seclusion of the migrations. An active frontier and a buffer zone, which established depopulation, appeared as a border between the two empires. However, it was not obstructive to the operation of the economic relations or to the cultural and religious developments from the West. The Reformation spread rapidly among the Hungarian population of the Ottoman territories. The commercial connections, which developed in the 16th century between the Ottoman-ruled Hungarian country towns (oppidum) and Habsburg areas, had a large European importance. The large number of military population, the labor force of a new system of fortifications, and the changing required a serious quantity of commercial food in the Habsburg areas. Some of these were provided by those cattles, which were easily shepherded for big distance and were well bred on the pastures of these cities. This coincided with the interests of the Ottoman power, since these towns taxed with large amounts for the Empire.

¹⁷ Csüllög, G. *The Trans Tisza Region within the Regional Division of the Carpathian Basin until the end of 17th Century* In: Eurolimes 6. Autumn 2008, IERS, Orodea University Press, Orodea, pp. 130-141.

FIGURE 3
Main Migration Directions on the Middle of the 17. Century



Legend: 1. Main migration directions; (Edited by Gábor Csüllög)

After the extrusion of the Ottoman Empire from the Carpathian Basin at the end of the 16th century, the wider region along the Danube became unified – except in the Bavarian areas – in the specific political spatial structure of the Habsburg state.¹⁸ The territories of Central-European and Balkan states separated from each other about 180 years. A change came by the Austrian-Hungarian occupation in Bosnia in 1876.¹⁹ The migrations in the empire had been determined by the centralized policy of the Habsburgs and by the maintenance of the provincial differences of the ruled states. In addition to the external borders, different internal and functional boundaries, and hierarchical system of border zones were developed.²⁰ The development of a centralized public administration, the military organization of the border regions and the cultural construction created a significant migration from German-speaking territories towards East. However, the internal migration of other ethnicities of the Empire was favored by the economic processes and the

¹⁸ Niederhauser, E. *The rise of nationality in Eastern Europe* Corvina Kiadó, Budapest, 1981, p. 339.

¹⁹ Lindström F. *Region, Cultural Identity and Politics in the Late Habsburg Monarchy* In: Tagil, S. (ed.) *Regions in central Europe*. C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., London, 1999, pp. 115-146.

²⁰ Niederhauser, E. Bódy, P. *A history of Eastern Europe since the Middle Ages. Social Science Monographs* 2003, p. 555.

ethnic policy of Habsburg empire policies. From the 18th century, German-linguistic predominance was established in the cultural processes of the region.²¹ The Hungarian linguistic culture had not an assimilating goal to use the non-Hungarian languages until the middle of the 19th century. The settling of the Jazyge and Cuman population had given up their own language by their own choice during a long time. However, the strong regulation was not favorable for the ethnic groups of the Empire and the European processes also increasingly encouraged the national aspirations in the Slavic and Roma population.²²

The transformation of the Ottoman Empire took place slowly. After the big conquering era, which ended in the 17th century, various problems started to begin in the periphery of this empire in the 18th century. Although only a small part of the mainly Slavic-speaking population of the Balkans islamized, but a significant number got into the military, administrative and economic system. This situation was helped by the religious, ethnic and linguistic tolerance of the Ottomans. Further weakening of the Ottoman Empire and a strengthening Russian, English and French power politics brought change. As a result, the spatial claims of ethnicities had been broken surface firstly by the Greek, later by the Serbian, Romanian, Bulgarian and Albanian efforts, which usually buffered with each other.

5. BUFFER ZONES

The ethnic fault lines put an edge in the period of the changes of territories of states, on the other hand in the cultural emancipation period. The emerging cultural dominance of the German Danube region still seemed to be permanent in the early 19th century. However, after the Napoleonic wars, the efforts to separate the non-German ethnic cultural identities started to intensify. In the second half of the century, this process led to an inter-ethnic segregation. In 1867, Austria and Hungary together entirely satisfied the Hungarians and partially the Croa-

tians. By the end of the century, the aim of territorial secession and connecting/creating an independent state is formulated in the Serb and Romanian population.²³

In the 19th Century the movements of the effort for the autonomic national identity started to begin (Greek, Romanian, Serbian, Bulgarian and Albanian movements).²⁴ These movements beard a fruit in the case of the Greek, the Montenegrin, the Serbia and the Romanian statehood. By the beginning of the 20th century, the Balkan wars resulted an entire volte-face and change against the Ottoman Empire. There was some serious conflict in this area, in 1914 the conflict between the Serbs and Austria-Hungary directed to the World War I. After the war, the two territories lost their imperial structure. The Imperial vacuum and efforts of the buffer zones by the new states (which were against to each other, too) caused an important lability.²⁵ The principle of the autonomic state or of the culture or of the geographic space created some separated closing national borders.²⁶ They cut off the real ethnic and cultural areas and they covered the interweaving historical values.²⁷ As a result, a specific fated Yugoslav state was born, which tried the imperial patterns and which was adjudged to failure because of the inherited Balkan conflicts.²⁸ Over seven decades, this state unsuccessfully tried to make a balance with Serbian dominancy among the different ethnic, religious and linguistic identities.²⁹

²¹ Garrison Walters, E. *The Other Europe: Eastern Europe to 1945* Syracuse University Press, 1988, p. 488.

²² Sugar, P. F.; Hanák, P.; Frank, T. *A History of Hungary* Indiana University Press, 1994, p. 432.

²³ Bade, K. *Migration in European History* Blackwell publishing, 2003, p. 416.

²⁴ Pavlowitch, S. K. *A history of the Balkans 1804-1945* Longman, 1999, p. 375.

²⁵ Ninić, I. (ed.) *Migrations in Balkan history* Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Institute for Balkan Studies, 1989, p. 170.

²⁶ Suba, J. *The Western Lines of the Kingdom of Romania* In: *Közép-Európai Közlemények* Vol. V. 3-4., 2012/No.18-19, pp. 5-14.

²⁷ Poulton, H. *Minorities in Southeast Europe: Inclusion and Exclusion* Minority Rights Group International, 1998, 40 p.

²⁸ Gulyás, L. *Structural Problems Leading to the Dissolution of the First Yugoslav State* Prague Papers on the History of International Relations, 6:(2) (2012), pp. 87-98.

²⁹ M. Császár, Zs. *The political, social and cultural aspects of the Islam in the Balkans* In: *In:Eurolimes* volume 10, (2010), pp. 62-76.

The examination of the spatial migrations shows that in the last 500 years, there was no sharp separation between the two regions, as it seemed in a substantial part of the century. In the coherent migration zones only the political and the religious ranges separated.³⁰ However, it did not happen starkly. The political borders did not correspond to the geographical boundaries of the region.³¹ Resulting from the expansion of a Great Power, the “Balkan” Ottoman was the major political figure along the Danube. Later, the Habsburg Empire became the Great Power in the Balkans. The main characteristic of spatial relations was the consistency of the ethnic, linguistic and cultural mix, which was especially maintained by the encouraging the role of the empires on spatial migrations.³² According to historical studies we cannot “simplify” or permanently unfold these mosaic fragmented, complemented, coherent historical spaces with precise, closed political borders.³³ The migration lines which keep these areas together might be able to consist provisionally without conflicts.³⁴ In conclusion, it can be said that the problems of the historical spatial structure, which affected the present are raised by the opposite spatial processes of local and imperial statehood, and the unsolved problems carried over the present-day political processes.

³⁰ Kocsis, K. “Changing ethnic-religious patterns in South Eastern Europe during the 20th century” In: Henkel R (ed.): *South Eastern European countries on their way to Europe: geographical aspects*. Leipzig, Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde, 2006, pp. 7–22.

³¹ King, R. *Albania as a laboratory for the study of migration and development* In: *Journal of Southern Europe and the Balkans*, Volume 7, Issue 2 (2005), pp. 135-155.

³² Bieber, F. *Internationale Minderheitenpolitik im westlichen Balkan Südosteuropa*, Mitteilungen. 6. H. (2003), pp. 33-43

³³ Reményi, P. “Borders, Settlement Structure and Regional Issues in Western Balkans” In: Kobilka I; Pap N. (eds): *European Perspective and Tradition The Western Balkans*. Budapest, 2011, pp. 155–231.

³⁴ Gianaris, N. V. *Geopolitical and Economic Changes in the Balkan Countries* Greenwood Publishing Group, 1996, p. 227.