

Criticism of minority policy of Czechoslovak governments expressed by political representatives of minority Hungarians (1918–1938)

The Czechoslovak Republic was the most typical example of the fact that the issue of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, determined by multinational composition of its population, was by far not solved by its substitution by nationally presented successor states. Austria-Hungary was finally substituted by several nationally mixed state units that became nearly analogical scenes of almost continuous national disputes. The only thing that changed from the perspective of this aspect in Central European space was the fact that the determinative nations changed their roles: the original national majority became national minority and the original national minority became national majority. The greatest share of nationality minorities in the population composition had Czechoslovakia, out of the successor states of Austria-Hungary, because about one third of the population of the state consisted of members of national minorities, not to mention the fact that the artificial concept of united Czechoslovak nation, consisting of two national branches, the Czechs and the Slovaks, without which the demand of creation of the Czechoslovak state in its proposed form would have been only difficultly justifiable, showed unstable in the end. Although the First Czechoslovak Republic ranks among the most democratic states of the Central European space, with legislation based on extensive individual rights of its citizens, the national minorities, and finally even the Slovaks were not satisfied with their position. It came out that even the broadest range of individual civil rights could not completely substitute collective rights in all areas in the given time. The second biggest national minority of Czechoslovakia, after the Germans, consisted of the Hungarians whose share in the composition of the state population amounted about to seven hundred fifty thousand persons. In the First Republic, two Hungarian minority political parties represented the rights of the Hungarians in the Czechoslovak National Assembly: the Land Christian-Socialist Party and the Hungarian National Party, merged under the name of United Hungarian Party in 1936. In the first half of the Twentieths, both political subjects dealt with the issue of choice between passivism and activism, but in the second half of the Twentieths, both parties positioned themselves in unified manner on the base of passivism in state-political life. But they acted actively in the Parliament, criticizing permanently the national policy of Prague governments and the position of the Hungarian minority in Czechoslovakia, primarily in political, educational and economic areas.