

NOTES ON THE DISCUSSION OF THE CROATIAN-HUNGARIAN CROSS-BORDER RELATIONSHIPS. (BALI, LÓRÁNT: A HORVÁT-MAGYAR HATÁRON ÁTNYÚLÓ KAPCSOLATOK JELENE ÉS JÖVŐJE.**AZ UNDERGROUND KIADÓ TÁMOGATÁSÁVAL, A SZERZŐ KIADÁSÁBAN, BUDAPEST - SZEPETNEK, 2012. 212 P., ISBN 978-963-08-4126-9)**

Hungarian geography and spatial science has recently been enriched by a new book discussing the Croatian-Hungarian border, written by a young Hungarian geographer, Lóránt Bali. The over 200-page publication reflects the current views of Hungarian – and Central European – geography on state borders, that is, the attitude that – conforming to Europe's spatial and political geographical processes – emphasizes the function of borders that connects societies and peoples. The topic of the book is the coexistence of Croats and Hungarians, which goes back centuries, and the analysis of the subject is likely to attract widespread academic interest. This is the major reason for considering Lóránt Bali's book in greater detail than it is customary in the current geographical and spatial science. The present study attempts to place the attitude of the book, as well as the approach of the author to boundaries and state borders in the history of geography, and then – briefly – to provide a professional opinion of the study.

To begin with, Lóránt Bali's book is an excellent work, which unequivocally features modern political geography as well as the characteristics of history and historical geography. Moreover, due to its topic, it indicates the future of Croatian-Hungarian relationships in the upcoming decades. Still, if it were necessary to classify the publication under a field of science or a discipline, it would primarily be identified as a work in political geography; however, it might also be considered to belong to economic geography. (It is worth mentioning that previous generations of Central European geographers dealt with questions like this only within economic geography (Bernát, T. 1978, Fleszar, M. 1974) at the beginning of their careers.)

In the history of science the predecessors of the attitude of the way modern geography – including political geography – views borders between states, societies, and people, go back to the turn of the 20th century. Political geography, which took shape and gradually became an independent discipline in the second half of the 19th century, and the geopolitical thinking stemming from this discipline have always considered the geographical phenomena and spatial factor of borders important (Milleker, R. 1917; Dix, A. 1923; Sieger, R. 1925; Tóth, J. 2011; Haggett, P. 2006). The foundation of this kind of approach and the basic theses of border studies were laid down and organized by Friedrich Ratzel in his fundamental work (1903), which soon gained followers among Hungarian geographers, too (Cholnoky, J. 1922; Hajdú, Z. 1998). Hungarian geography also viewed the geographical phenomena of borders as historical factors (Haushofer, K. 1939; Schoppen, W. 1941; Rónai, A. 1948) whose existence fundamentally affect the development of space, the spatial structure of a landscape. The observations stated in the extensive chapter on borders in Ratzel's book have reappeared in the academic geographical literature of the following century through the present. At the same time, these observations have been complemented and revised by research carried out since. In fact, one of the most significant syntheses of political geography (Schwind, M. 1972), in its discussion of borders, repeats Ratzel's theses to some extent, classifies borders (into three major types and nine subtypes) and calls attention to their manifestations in the 20th century. In other words, it doesn't do more than actualizes the system set up by Ratzel. The developmental history of borders described in the political geography of the turn of the 20th century is featured in the academic literature half a century ago as well as in modern research, though the illustrations might be different from time to time according to the cultural affiliations of their authors (Maull, O. 1956; Haggett, P. 2006).

Based on all the above, anybody could assume that geography has nothing new to say about borders. However, this is not true. All periods of the past century since the publication of Ratzel's book have had their own attitudes towards the phenomenon of state borders, which have also been reflected in the academic literature. Nowadays in Europe, the issue of borders takes on a very different meaning than the one it did a hundred years ago. It is especially true for the European Union, which does not have official internal borders. While the core content of border issues in geography has changed very little, history has

always influenced which elements became emphasized when and to what degree. What makes Lóránt Bali's book especially interesting is how its attitude and approach fit into the current field of political geography, including the current Central European academic geographical literature.

In order to be able to answer the questions framed above, changes in geography's approach to border issues have to be pointed out. The highlight of Ratzel's work in political geography (Mendöl, T. 1999) overlapped with an important period in the spatial development process of great European states. In a Europe that was preparing for a world war, the historical period of the evolution of nation states seemed to have ended. At the same time, the sentiment at the time favored the works of comprehensive syntheses. These two factors together led to Ratzel's political geography. There is an obvious correlation between processes of political history and geography when we say that the manifold characteristics of borders (of division and connection, linear and zone-like) could be formulated in the intellectual atmosphere of only this era. The decades of the 20th century – the two World Wars and the Cold War – were pervaded with armed confrontation regardless of periods of wartime and peace. Thus, it is no surprise that in political geography, borders primarily appeared as dividers, as the means of separating societies, and in fact, as problems of state power (Baumgartner, F. 1941; Haushofer, K. 1939; Rónai, A. 1948). The task of classification was carried out during the Cold War, when the military standoff was somewhat easing, though still within a tense international environment. If we analyze the original source correctly, six of the nine subclasses in the classification system of the Schwind-study (1972) were clearly spatial elements with division functions. (The year this book was published was also the year when the SALT-1 treaty was signed, which was the first step towards ending the Cold War.) Great changes in the attitude of political geography towards state borders would only happen after the end of the bipolar system (after 1989), as the issue of borders had been greatly dominated by military factors since World War I (Nagy, M. M. 2009).

The 1990s and then the turn of the millennia have brought great changes in Europe. Following the cessation of the military standoff and the significant spatial expansion of the European Union, new dimensions opened up in the matter of borders. Even the attitude towards the external borders of the European Union went through a sudden change: for Europeans, these elements of division have become regions and zones of connection. Both the societies and their political elite suddenly realized the geographic fact that geographers have been familiar with since Ratzel, and which has been recently emphasized by professor József Tóth (2011) in Hungarian geography: all borders – whether natural or artificial – inhibit societies' expanding spatial connections (Tóth, J. 1996). Thus, the attention of geographers has turned to cross-border relations, and the main question became to what extent the state border – just by its mere existence – determines the geographical development and the establishment of tight social and economic relationships of two neighboring regions (Hardi, T. – Hajdú, Z. – Mezei, I. 2009, Bali, L. 2009).

Lóránt Bali's book is a part of this process of cultural history. Due to its theme, we cannot expect his endeavor to completely reconstruct the balance in the interpretation of borders that Ratzel's book represented. Ratzel's borders might currently be interpreted as wonderful, self-operating spatial entities, which connect to the same degree as they divide. Lóránt Bali's analysis is about current issues for a present-day audience in a world where the common history and historical coexistence of a millennium might be interpreted differently on the opposite banks of the Drava River, just as the European Union might be viewed differently there as well. The greatest merit of the book is that, following a brief historical introduction, the author provides an accurate and detailed account of the Croatian-Hungarian cross-border connections and these descriptions also reflect the current relationship between the Croatian and Hungarian societies. Cross-border relationships, however, are temporal – at least in their current form of EU-induced programs and regions. The author must be aware of this. Also, as a well-qualified geographer, he must be familiar with the geographical reality that what belongs together geographically will eventually end up together. So, it is likely that the more and more intensive Croatian-Hungarian cross-border cooperation is not merely the result of Euroregional relationships. The author actually refers to this when he discusses that until the end of 1990s, the »cooperation [between settlements on the two sides of the border] rarely had beneficial social-economic environments« (p. 154). These days, when Croatia's joining the European Union is a political issue prompting politicians to do whatever they can for cross-border cooperation,

we tend to forget about the fact that these two societies are mostly bound together by the river running between them. The cross-border relationships Lóránt Bali discusses have a geographical axis, the Drava River, which – if politics does not view it only as a line of defense – could generate tight relationships between people living on its two sides by itself (Bali L. 2008., Bali L. 2012).

Lóránt Bali's book is the endeavor of a young geographer who is clearly knowledgeable about his topic. This might explain the fact that the book lays out the geographical theory he deems relevant to the Croatian-Hungarian border. It might have been more appropriate, however, to discuss the relevant theory based on Ratzel's theses and apply those to the Croatian-Hungarian relationships. Still, this is only this reviewer's professional opinion. The information the reader receives from this book about border theories is more than enough for the further explanation and understanding of this topic. The author is mainly interested in the cooperation between the people living on each side of the border, which is supported by information on border theories. Practicing professionals will find the case studies of Croatian-Hungarian cross-border cooperation more interesting, as this chapter justifies the utility of modern geography, as well. It is worth mentioning though, that these case studies will probably lose their relevance before long. In two hundred years, they will be no more than tiny pieces in the microhistory of the relationship between the two nations. Still, if the border zone based on the currently reviving Croatian-Hungarian cross-border cooperation is able to become an organic part of both the Croatian and the Hungarian states, the case studies cited in this book have not been unnecessary at all. The coalescence of border regions is a natural historical and geographical process, whose stages must be documented by science. Lóránt Bali has carried out this task with solid knowledge and determination and we can only congratulate him for that.

Miklós Mihály NAGY

MIRA KOLAR-DIMITRIJEVIĆ: POVIJEST NOVCA U HRVATSKOJ OD 1527. DO 1941. GODINE, HRVATSKA NARODNA BANKA, ZAGREB, 2013., 196 STR.

U lipnju 2013. godine, pred sam 80. rođendan, sveučilišna profesorica i hrvatska povjesničarka prof. dr. Mira Kolar-Dimitrijević dočekala je objavljivanje svoje knjige *Povijest novca u Hrvatskoj od 1527. do 1941. godine*. Nakladnik ove vrijedne knjige je Hrvatska narodna banka čiji je prvi guverner, preminuli prof. dr. Ante Čičin-Šain (kojem je knjiga posvećena), osmislio i predložio projekt istraživanja povijesti novca i bankarstva u Hrvatskoj, a guverner dr. Željko Rohatinski je prihvatio njegovo izvođenje. Ovo je prva knjiga izdana u okviru spomenutog projekta, a predviđa se izdavanje i drugih naslova u kojima će biti obrađena povijest hrvatskog monetarnog sustava sve do današnjih dana. Recenzenti knjige su Ivan Mirnik i Vladimir Geiger. Knjiga je više nego bogato opremljena ilustrativnim materijalom (na svakoj je stranici otisnuta barem po jedna ilustracija) na čijem je prikupljanju i odabiru sudjelovalo više stručnjaka. Rezultat rada autorice, suradnika i izdavača je luksuzna i dugo očekivana monografija o novcu u Hrvatskoj.

Autorica je predstavljanje rezultata svojih istraživanja oblikovala podjelivši sadržaj knjige u devet poglavlja koja se poklapaju s važnim razdobljima hrvatske i europske povijesti. Nakon autoričinog predgovora slijedi sadržajni uvod u kojem opisuje antičko i srednjovjekovno novčarstvo na hrvatskom tlu; u doba Rimskog Carstva na našem području su radile kovnice novca, no »novcem su se Hrvati počeli služiti tek u 9. stoljeću, a prije toga kunino je krzno imalo ulogu robnog novca«. Upotreba novca različite provenijencije u doba srednjovjekovne Kraljevine Hrvatske uveliko je utjecala »na podijeljenost hrvatskih prostora na dva kulturna kruga«. Za vladavine Arpadovića kovanje denara u banskoj kovnici, hrvatskih frizatika i bagatina odraz je svojevrstne hrvatske financijske autonomije unutar Hrvatsko-Ugarske države. U Hrvatskoj su od srednjega vijeka novac kovali hrvatski banovi i hercezi iz plemićkih rodova, primjerice Frankapani, Zrinski i grofovi Celjski. Mira Kolar-Dimitrijević kao vrsna povjesničarka s pravom mjerom ističe posebnost hrvatskog monetarnog sustava unutar šireg konteksta monarhija u kojima su se hrvatske zemlje stoljećima nalazile.

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