

THE TRAGEDY OF  
CENTRAL EUROPE

*By the Same Author*

PORT ARTHUR, THE SIEGE AND  
CAPITULATION.

THE PASSING OF THE  
SHEREEFIAN EMPIRE

WITH THE TURKS IN THRACE

DESPATCHES FROM THE  
DARDANELLES.

EXPERIENCES IN THE GREAT  
WAR



COUNT ALBERT APPONYI

*Camera Portrait*  
by B. O. Hoppé

# THE TRAGEDY OF CENTRAL EUROPE

BY  
ELLIS ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, C.B.E.

AUTHOR OF

"PORT ARTHUR, THE SIEGE AND CAPITULATION"; "THE PASSING OF  
THE SHEREFIAN EMPIRE"; "WITH THE TURKS IN THRACE";  
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## PREFACE

IT has been my endeavour in this book to describe some of the strange events in Central Europe of which I was an eye-witness during the year of 1919, when the future of millions of men of many races and of many creeds was being decided at the Conference of Paris.

The year 1919 witnessed the collapse and disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, an event of such far-reaching results that no one can foretell what future lies in store for the small dominions and republics which have arisen from amidst the ruins of the old Dual Empire.

The year 1919 saw the desperate struggles between the Royalists and the Bolsheviks in Russia, and was rendered memorable by the amazing attempt of Lenin to convert the ancient feudal kingdom of Hungary to the doctrines of Moscow.

This strange adventure, by which a small gang of Lenin's agents captured the entire machinery of government in Hungary and exercised despotic sway for a period of five months, was intended as the preliminary step towards a vast campaign to convert all the states of Central Europe to Bolshevism.

The attempt failed, and Bolshevism collapsed because of the economic ruin it brought on Hungary, and owing to



the commonsense of the Hungarian peasants, who were quick to discover that they had nothing to gain and everything to lose by deserting their former political leaders and ranging themselves under the red flag of Lenin and Bela Kuhn. I have attempted to describe—from personal observation and intimate association with the Soviet leaders—what life is like under a Bolshevist régime, and how all classes would fare should the same experiment be tried in this country at some future date.

On the downfall of Bela Kuhn there followed the Rumanian occupation of Hungary, which inflicted enormous economic damage. Finally, this unhappy country was ruthlessly partitioned by the Treaty of the Trianon, so that at the present time only one-third of her former territory remains under the rule of the Magyars.

The year 1921 was a memorable one in Hungarian history because of the two abortive attempts of the late Emperor Karl to regain his throne. This unhappy young monarch, beloved by all who knew him, ended his short but chequered career in exile and death on the island of Madeira. The account of his two attempts to re-establish his dynasty, and of his melancholy end, has been written for this book by a young Hungarian, Aldemár Boroviceny, who was the Emperor's intimate friend for many years and accompanied him on his last fateful journey by aeroplane from Switzerland to Hungary. Boroviceny is an ardent loyalist and supporter of the old régime, and the reader should remember that throughout this account of the late Emperor's peregrina-

## PREFACE

II

tions he is listening to the words and views of Boroviceny, and not to mine.

In the final chapters I have attempted to describe the appalling economic and political chaos into which Central Europe has been thrown by the Balkanizing of the former territories of the Dual Empire.

E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT.

London,

April 17th, 1923.

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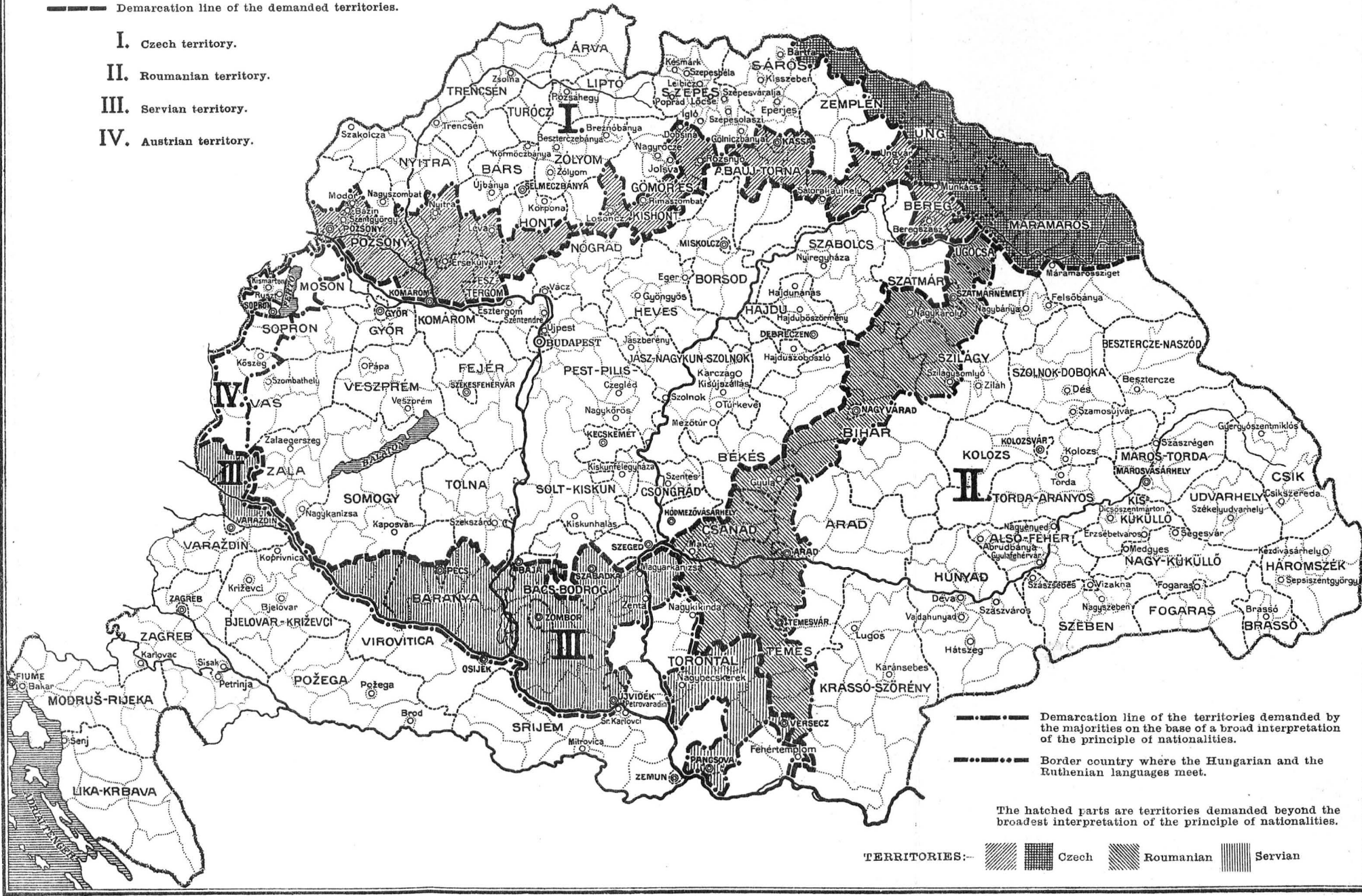
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— — — Demarcation line of the demanded territories.

- I. Czech territory.
- II. Roumanian territory.
- III. Servian territory.
- IV. Austrian territory.



— — — Demarcation line of the territories demanded by the majorities on the base of a broad interpretation of the principle of nationalities.

..... Border country where the Hungarian and the Ruthenian languages meet.

The hatched parts are territories demanded beyond the broadest interpretation of the principle of nationalities.

TERRITORIES: — Czech — Roumanian — Servian