Trianon 1920-2014: Not History Until Minority Rights Respected and Granted

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The Gross Mistakes

President Wilson: "Bohemia will be part of Czechoslovakia."
Ambassador Bullitt: "But Mr. President, there are three million Germans in Bohemia."
President Wilson: "President Masaryk never told me that."

"We [in the territorial Committees of the Peace Conference] were never for one instant given to suppose that our recommendations were absolutely final. And we thus tended to accept compromises and even to support decisions which we ardently hoped would not be approved. Had it been known from the outset that no negotiations would ever take place with the enemy, it is certain that many of the less reasonable clauses of the Treaty would never have been inserted." *Harold Nicolson, member of the British delegation to the Paris Peace Conference of 1919.*

The Consequences

"Of the three treaties which rearranged the map of Central Europe, the last and most ill-advised was that of Trianon, which Hungary was called upon to sign on June 4th, 1920. Instead of simplifying the network of nationalities existing there it entangled them still further." *Lord Rothermere, The Daily Mail, June 21, 1927*

Over three million ethnic Hungarians transferred to the Successor States without any voice in the matter and in violation of the principle of self-determination. The minorities have been subjected to various degrees of discrimination, intolerance and in some cases violence.

"For the sins of omission at that crossroads of history were in many cases as important as or more important than the sins of commission. . . .The lapses of that brief period in Paris in 1919 were driven by a chain of diplomatic DNA that has become embedded, with often the most pernicious results, in our own world order." David A. Andelman, *A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 and the Price We Pay Today, (2008), p. 3.*

The Remedy

Grant Hungarian minorities minority rights, including autonomy. Then at long last we relegate Trianon to the history books.