

Lecture 6

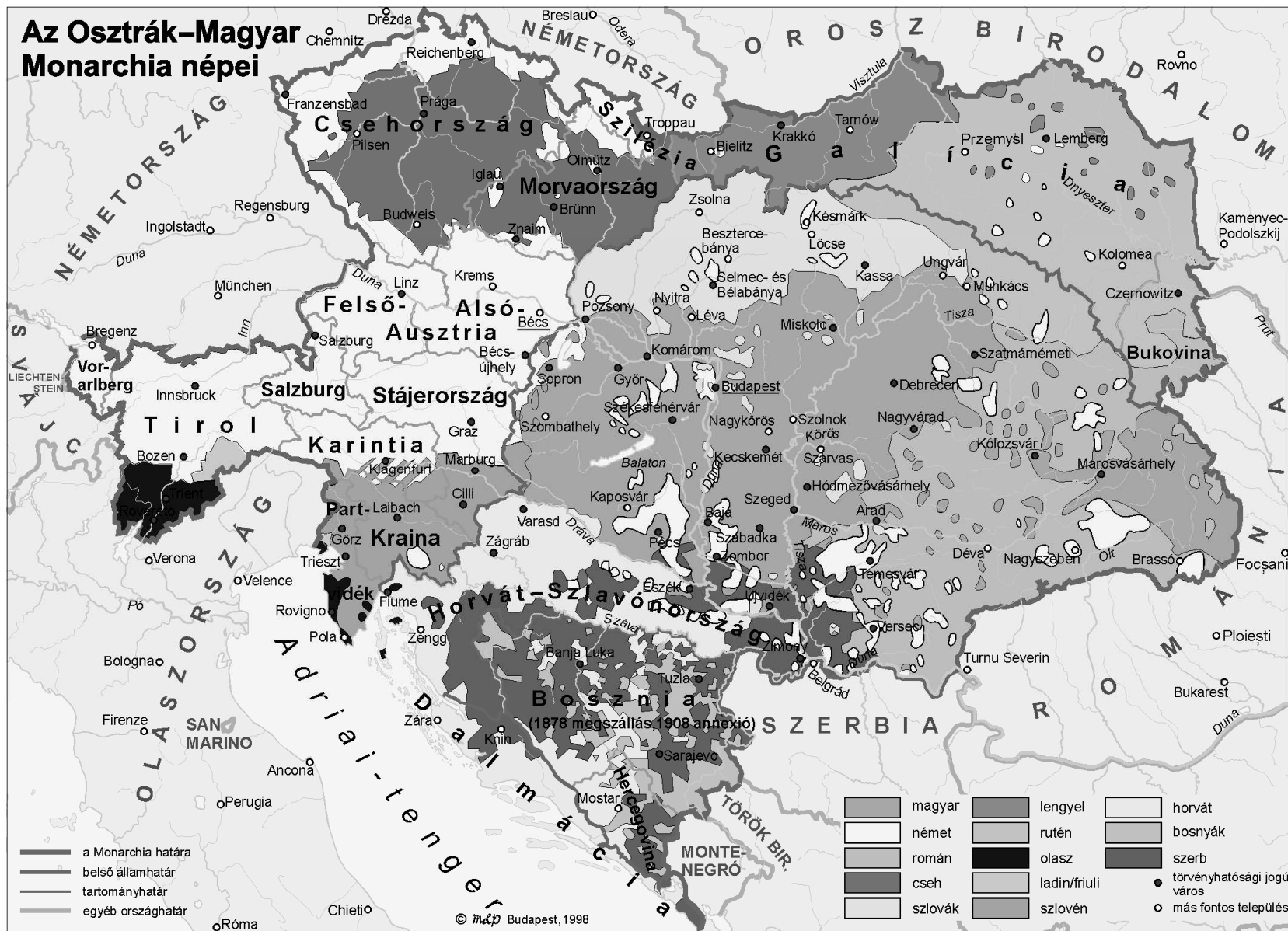
Nation and state



Maps

- Maps represent the world as a world of ‘nation-states’
- Changes in state-borders, changes in nations?
- Czechoslovaks? Yugoslavs? Who are the Bosnians and who the Bosniaks? ...

Az Osztrák–Magyar Monarchia népei





Former Yugoslavia



Serbia and Montenegro have asserted the formation of a joint independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized as a state by the United States. Macedonia has proclaimed independent statehood but has not been formally recognized as a state by the United States.



‘Nation-state’

- The modern ‘nation-state’ owes its current predominance to the historical fact that its Western European antecedents were militarily and economically so successful – an ‘example’ that others followed.
- The predominance and ongoing persistence of the term is indebted to the two hundred years-long state-building process of Western Europe.

‘Nation-state’

- The existence of the state is instrumental to the modernist theory of nationalism (e.g. Gellner, 1992).
- However, if one is to assume an ethnicist idea of nation (Hutchinson, 1994; Smith, 1995), the ‘nation-state’ is almost a fiction because most of the world’s states are ethnically or nationally heterogeneous.

‘Nation-state’

- Walker Connor: only 12 of 132 states he examined were sufficiently ethnically and culturally homogeneous to be ‘justifiably’ described as nation-states.
- In Connor’s view, nation-states “are those relatively rare situations, characterized by an extremely homogeneous population, where a nation has its own state”.

‘Nation-state’

- Giddens: a nation “only exists when a state has a unified administrative reach over the territory over which its sovereignty is claimed”
- the term ‘nation-state’ implies that the cultural and the political correspond; that the ‘people’ who are ruled by the institutions of the state are culturally (ethnically) homogeneous – when in fact:
- only nations which have their own state can be described as ‘nation-states’ and the reality is that these are very few
- the ideas of ‘nation’ and ‘state’ have been so successfully merged that they are usually treated as synonymous

Nations and states

- Multiethnic and multinational states (Belgium; UK; Nigeria; Canada; Spain...)
- ‘Nations without states’ (Guibernau - Catalans); ‘stateless’ (McCrone - Scots); ‘small nations’ or ‘non-dominant ethnic groups’ (Hroch – most EE nations)
- ‘Nation-states’: Japan? Iceland?

Nation as ethnic majority

- Creating the ‘nation-state’ (historical examples, e.g. France)
- ‘Nationalising’ nationalism (Brubaker): are post-communist states specifically nationalising or can we link them to ‘nation-building’ processes of the ‘civic’ West at earlier periods in history? (classical top-down homogenisation of peoples)

Nationalism and nation-building

- Modernisation, centralisation, industrialisation
- Educational system, bureaucracy, military
- High cultures vs. low cultures (Gellner)
- ‘Civic’ nationhood, citizenship, territoriality

Minorities

- Ethnic and national minorities within states
- A different view on national minority:
Herrenvolk democracy (Pierre L. van den Berghe): pre-1994 apartheid South Africa; the state of Israel
- Preservation of minority national identities: multiculturalism

Readings for next lecture:

- Hobsbawm, Eric J. “The Nation as Invented Tradition”, in Hutchinson & Smith (1994) *Nationalism*. pp. 76-83
- Schöpflin, George “The Functions of Myth and a Taxonomy of Myths”, in Hosking & Schöpflin (1997) *Myths and Nationhood*, pp. 28-35 – if you can find the book
- Smith, Anthony D. (1999) *Myths and Memories of the Nation*. Oxford University Press, New York, pp. 57-58, 63-70 – if you can find the book
- Hobsbawm, Eric J. “Introduction: Inventing Traditions”, in Hobsbawm & Ranger (1993) *The Invention of Tradition*, pp. 1-14
- David McCrone (1998) *Sociology of Nationalism*. Chapter 3
- A. D. Smith (1998) *Nationalism and Modernism*. pp. 41-46, 117-120, 190-192
- Case-study: Solonari, Vladimir (2002): “Narrative, Identity, State: History Teaching in Moldova” *East European Politics and Societies* Vol. 16, No. 2, pp. 414-445
- Pdf files