

How the Trianon Peace Treaty impeded social and spatial structure progress in the Bánság (1918–2010) *

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This study discusses different geographic relationships and highlights a few regional problems in the Bánság and the surrounding area. The Bánság, being a separate region, has its own development curve, structure, and related systems. The region has internal cohesion and a particular texture, reflected among people living there today and those who are familiar with this area. The Bánság, based on local and situational energies, is a separate region born from socioeconomic self-development, where the socioeconomic processes and changes in the state organisation reflect the combination of regionalisation and regionalism, and their interdependence. At the end of the 19th century it became the most developed region in the Carpathian Basin. The Trianon Peace Treaty caused many problems (e.g. economic, national, etc.), affecting its traditional spatial structure and social connection.

Keywords:

Trianon Treaty,
Bánság,
spatial structure

Introduction

The role of the state has undergone a transformation over the years, partly because of the development of technology, owing to which classic defence functions are no longer as important as they used to be, while the political role of the border, and its functions in maintaining law and order, have assumed importance (Kókai 2010). For Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin, the gravest shock in the twentieth century was undoubtedly the Trianon Peace Treaty (Tóth 1997, Süli–Zakar 1997). It created sensitive issues that remain unresolved to this day, and the ethnic boundaries of the Hungarian people extend far beyond the state border. Furthermore, the peace treaty not only enforced a separation of territories and crowded out millions of Hungarians from their homeland, but also disrupted the process – centuries-old at that time – of the evolution of the nation and state (Hajdú 2020). It offered no possibility for unity later on in history, and broke the Hungarian people's faith and trust in the future. Today, however, the Bánság region may reborn. There is a new form of organisation as the region tries to create a place for itself in the new global society (Cretan 1997, Kicošev 1997).

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Place and role of the Bánság in the historical Hungary

The Bánság (Banatus Temesiensis), or the Temesi Bánság, is a region in the Carpathian Basin with an area of almost 30,000 km² (28,522 km²); this region stood out among all the other regions of historical Hungary owing to its characteristic socioeconomic development. The unique importance of this region is underscored by the fact that the area was placed under military administration after the Treaty at Pozsarevác (1718) up until 1778, and was governed directly from Vienna as a border guard region. The indirect and direct interactions with the Royal Chamber of Vienna changed after the restoration of the patrician counties (Torontál, Temes, and Krassó) in 1779; however, traces of its former distinction, covering all elements of the socioeconomic–urban space, and bearing the characteristics of enlightened mercantile absolutism, are detectable even today in this region. The effects of the regional reorganisation initiated when the Habsburgs were in power are clearly traceable in the development of the Temes Bánság in the 18th and 19th centuries; besides the separation of Croatia and Transylvania, the Bánság is the only extensive region in historical Hungary where regionality played a role in administration, regional development and settlement policy between 1718 and 1920, countering and sometimes disagreeing with traditional Hungarian constitutional law.

Development in the 18th to 19th centuries mobilised local and positional energies, helping ethnic groups (e.g. Germans, Serbians, Romanians, Bulgarians, etc.) and Hungarians dwelling here to establish a regional identity, making the Bánság the most developed culture in historical Hungary (Kókai 2010, Demeter 2020). The special socioeconomic characteristics of the Bánság (e.g. the lack or subordinate role of farms, the dense railway network, the formation of the modern factory industry, and the establishment of the basis of modern trading – 70% of the agricultural produce of the Bánság was transported by traders from Temesvár, and its spice trade was the most significant and its cattle markets the largest, etc.) may be further detailed. However, it is a specific region of the Carpathian Basin that is markedly separate from both the Great Hungarian Plain and the other regions of the southlands and Transylvania, in which the new borders drawn under the Trianon Peace Treaty brought about “space schizophrenia” and economic recession, creating underprivileged border-side peripheries, a problem that remains unsolved even today.

Changes in the population of the Bánság between 1910 and 2001/02

With the processing of the data from the 1910 census of the 801 settlements of the Bánság, it became possible to derive the ethnic spatial structure of the Bánság. No single ethnic group became dominant in the Bánság: Hungarians numbered 242,152 (15.4%); Germans, 387,545 (24.5%); Romanians, 592,045 (37.4%); and Serbians,

284,329 (18.0%). Therefore, on a linguistic–ethnic basis, none of the nationalities could have claimed exclusively the area.

The population growth and the formation of the ethnic and settlement space structure were disturbed only temporarily by World War II. The region's economic development, which grew and differentiated rapidly after 1945, was evident. According to the data of the national census of 1949/53/56, 1,622,564 people lived in the 849 settlements in the region (Tables 1–2), which is 3.25% higher (51,169 people) than the figure of 1910 (804 settlements = 157,1395 people). This small increase in the population indicates an unfavourable trend, because the region witnessed a huge (17.62%, 235,406 people) increase in the population between 1870 and 1910 (Kókai 2010).

Table 1

Ethnic distribution of the population in the Bánság (1910–2001/02)

Nationality	Hungarian Banat				
	1910	1930	1949	1990	2001
Hungarian	11,683	16,967	19,024	18,601	20,139
	69.7	91.9	98.4	100.0	100.0
German	1,248	1,045	–	–	–
	7.5	5.6	–	–	–
Serbian	3,588	471	–	–	–
	21.4	2.5	–	–	–
Romanian	85	–	–	–	–
	0.5	–	–	–	–
Others	154	–	310	–	–
	0.9	–	1.6	–	–
Total	16,758	18,483	19,334	18,601	20,139
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Romanian Banat				
	1910	1931	1956	1992	2002
Hungarian	120,959	97,854	86,592	67,497	59,691
	12.3	10.2	8.9	5.9	5.5
German	252,802	246,354	147,275	30,843	21,083
	25.7	25.6	15.1	2.7	1.9
Serbian	48,733	36,491	31,156	15,622	20,937
	4.9	3.8	3.2	1.4	1.9
Romanian	515,485	532,589	648,925	954,846	916,492
	52.3	55.3	66.7	83.5	85.1
Others	46,870	48,520	58,542	73,902	59,987
	4.8	5.1	6.1	6.5	5.6
Total	984,849	961,808	972,490	1,142,710	1,078,190
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(Table continues next page.)

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	Serbian Banat				
	1910	1931	1953	1992	2002
Hungarian	109,510	90,670	110,030	72,508	62,891
	18.8	15.4	17.4	10.5	10.5
German	133,495	116,900	6,277	–	854
	23.0	20.0	1.0	–	0.1
Serbian	232,009	271,900	388,268	460,929	435,685
	40.0	46.3	61.5	66.7	72.6
Romanian	76,398	61,743	55,439	33,795	26,521
	13.1	10.5	8.8	4.9	4.4
Others	29,175	45,693	69,911	124,072	74,059
	5.1	7.8	11.3	17.9	12.4
Total	580,957	586,906	631,485	690,314	600,010
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Banat				
	1910	1930/31	1949/56	1991/92	2001/02
Hungarian	242,152	205,416	215,646	158,606	142,721
	15.3	13.1	13.3	8.5	8.4
German	387,545	364,299	153,552	30,843	21,937
	24.5	23.2	9.5	1.7	1.3
Serbian	284,330	308,862	419,424	476,551	456,622
	18.0	19.7	25.8	25.7	26.9
Romanian	591,968	594,332	704,364	988,641	943,013
	37.4	37.9	43.4	53.4	55.5
Others	76,199	94,213	128,763	197,974	134,046
	4.8	6.1	8.0	10.7	7.9
Total	1,582,194	1,567,122	1,621,749	1,852,615	1,698,339
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: personal editing based on HCSO data.

Table 2

**Large- and middle-sized cities' population and ethnic composition
in the Bánság (1910–2001/02)**

Cities	1910						2001/02					
	Popu- lation	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	Popu- lation	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Temesvár	72,555	39.4	43.6	4.8	10.4	1.8	317,651	7.9	2.2	2.0	85.2	2.7
Lugos	19,818	34.7	31.0	1.1	31.4	1.8	44,571	9.6	2.9	0.1	82.9	4.5
Resicabánya	17,368	15.6	54.3	0.9	21.9	7.3	79,869	3.7	3.2	0.0	88.9	4.2
Versec	27,370	14.2	49.5	31.4	3.2	1.7	36,623	4.9	0.2	77.5	4.7	12.7
Nagykikinda	26,795	22.3	21.9	52.8	1.6	1.4	41,935	12.6	0.1	74.7	0.2	12.4
Nagybecskerek	26,006	35.2	26.2	34.4	1.3	2.9	79,773	14.5	0.2	70.9	0.8	13.6
Pancsova	20,201	16.7	37.0	43.1	3.8	0.1	77,087	4.3	0.2	79.1	1.0	15.4
Total	210,113	28.8	38.5	21.1	9.5	2.1	677,509	8.0	1.7	27.1	56.3	6.9

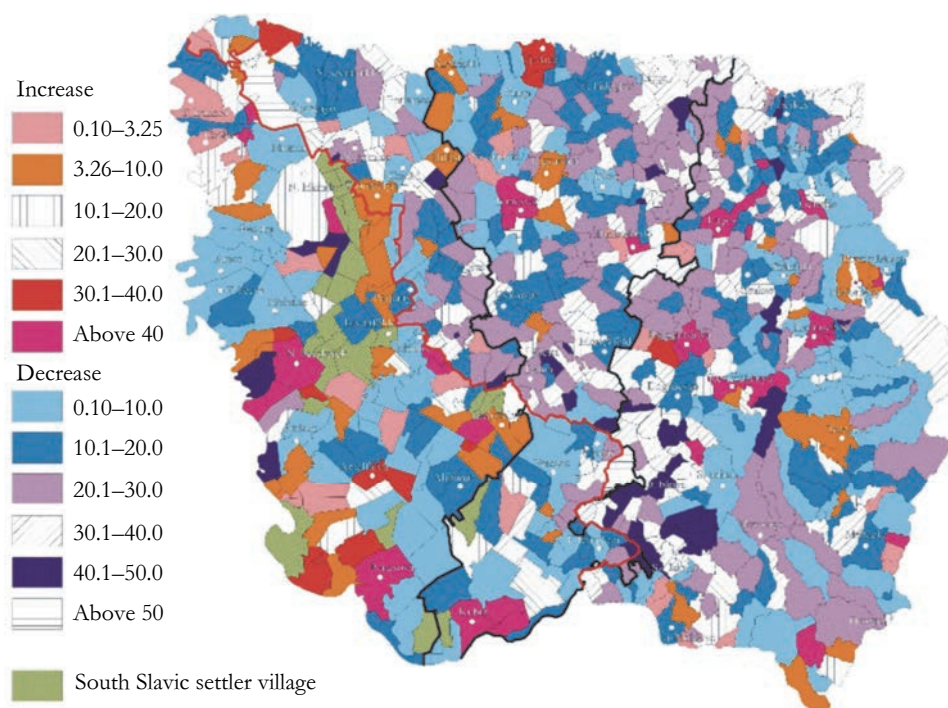
Notes: 1. Hungarians, 2. Germans, 3. Serbs, 4. Romanians, 5. Others.

Source: personal editing based on HCSO data.

According to the data, between 1910 and 1949/1953/1956, the population of Torontál increased by 6.53% (38,770 people), despite the population of Temes and Krassó-Szörény counties were decreasing. Until 1930/1931, the numbers of the Serbs had increased by 30,000 people, despite the Hungarian population decreasing more than 15,000 people in Torontál County alone. Within 30–50 km of the border, the number of settlements in which the Serbs were in the majority outnumbered the Hungarians (for example, Deliblat, Kubin, Pancsova, etc.). In this region, they settled in new villages (for instance, Aleksandrovo, Vojvoda Stepa, Banatsko Karadjordevo, Miletecevo, etc.). In the area of the Serbian Bánság, the number of Romanians decreased by 8–10,000 people in the 1920s because they moved to Romania (Figure 1). According to László Gulyás's (2007) data, 19,226 families settled in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (Bácska, Bánság, Szerémség) between 1919 and 1941. Assuming five members per family, this was a population of approximately 93,440 people. In the Serbian Bánság, 10,933 families settled (approximately 54,665 people), and they established 42 new settlements between 1919 and 1941 (Gulyás 2007).

Figure 1

Population growth and decrease (in %) between 1910 and 1949/1953/1956



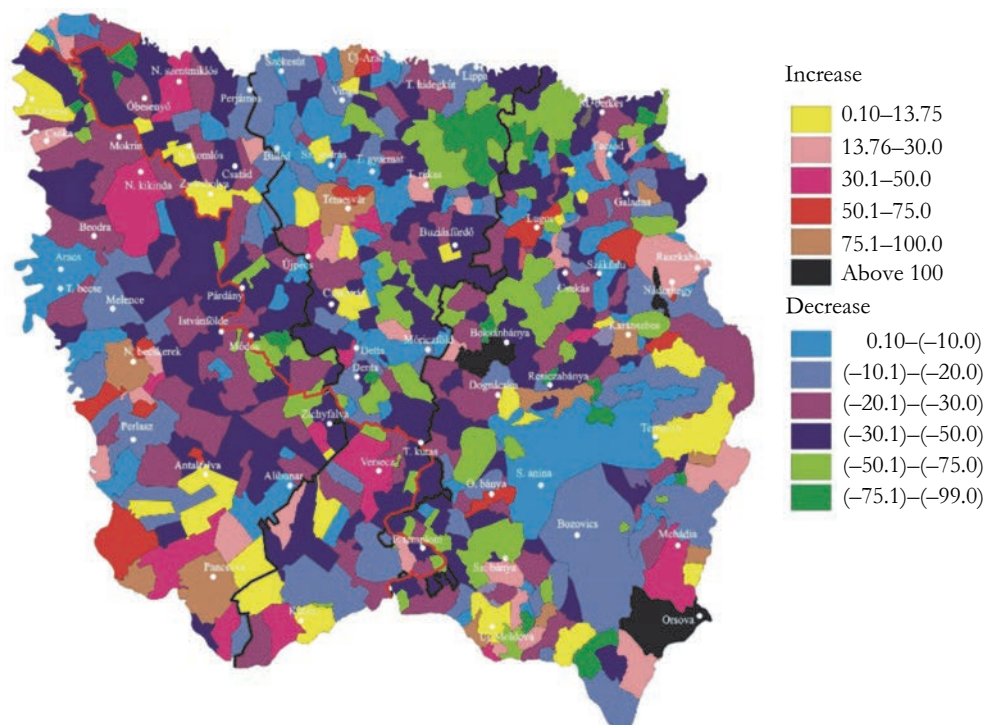
The spontaneous migration–assimilation processes were determined in the Romanian Bánság (Kókai 2010), and were not the result of Romanian villages having

been established. In 1910, 592,049 Romanian people lived in the area of the Bánság, while this number was 594,005 in 1930/1931. The Romanians in the Bánság had a low birth rate, and could not compensate for the influx of Romanians from the Romanian Old Kingdom (i.e. the Regat). Because of Trianon and the second Vienna Decision, many Hungarians moved out of the Romanian Bánság. The Hungarian population decreased by more than 23,000 people by 1930/1931. Romanians were most prevalent in the big cities (for example, Resicabánya and Temesvár).

The study of the population number of the Bánság settlements showed significant differences at the local level as well as in micro and macro respects. The region witnessed a 13.74% increase in population between 1949/1953/1956 and 1990/1991. This alone is a favourable tendency. Only 116 settlements had a natural increase (mainly in the agglomeration of Belgrade and Temesvár, as well as in the areas around Nagybecskerek, Orsova, Moldova, and Resicabánya). More than 700 settlements, however, have been in a state of constant population decrease (Figure 2).

Figure 2

**Population growth and decrease (in %) between
1949/1953/1956 and 1990/1991**



The natural decrease occurred differently; it was dramatic along the borders of the counties and also the Trianon borders, and these regions became extremely backward.

Figure 3

Figure 4

Bánság settlements with a Romanian population above 5% (2002)

The following data show that these two nations became stronger: the number of Romanians swelled to almost one million (988,641 people = 53.56%), while the number of Serbians became nearly half a million (474,831 people = 25.73%). These figures will be even larger if we take into consideration the other 32,527 Yugoslavian people (Kókai–Bottlik 2002). It is regrettable that the number of Hungarians decreased (152,609 people = 8.26%), as did the number of other small nationalities (except the Roma [gypsy] population, 13,108 people = 0.71%); the increasing number of Roma resulted in their absolute majority in Maguri village.

In the border zone, three micro-regions developed, which can be characterised by a dramatic natural decrease (Figure 2).

One of these is the region of the Hungarian–Romanian and Serbian triple border (Marosszög), where the rate of decrease might reach 50% in certain villages (e.g. Egyházaskér, 59.8%; Porgány, 77.7%; Bolgártelep, 80.7%, etc.). As a region of Banat, the 1,500 km² area of Marosszög is situated at the southeastern part of the Great Hungarian Plain, which extends from where the Tisza and Maros rivers join the line of Aranka river, and it can be interpreted as a borderland region of three neighbouring countries. From 1850 up to the end of World War I the tendencies in

the demographic changes were characterised by the domination of the spontaneous migration and assimilation processes, and the territory represented the contact region between people of Hungarian, Serbian, Romanian, and Schwab (Germans of Banat) nationality, with Hungarians and Serbians dominating. By 1910, these processes resulted in the population of Marosszög being composed of 35% Hungarian, 26.4% Serbian, 16.7% German, 14.9% Romanian, and 5% Bulgarian. Although the region was defined by the domination of the Hungarians in 1910, the Trianon borders did not respect ethnic structure or natural economic–commercial relations, and gave disproportionately large areas to Serbia and Romania. In the 20th century, inner migration and assimilation played a decisive role in population and ethnic configuration changes. In this way, by the millennium, these changes related to intense demographical erosion, with the focal points of the ethnic configuration moving away from the more progressive homogenising processes. In the Hungarian relative majority region (38.4%), among the other ethnic groups, Romanians reached 26.1%, Serbians 22.1%, and Germans essentially disappeared. Today the former 40% Hungarian population of the region live as a minority (14,899 persons) in neighbouring countries, with 10% Serbians (1,948 persons) and 0.1% Romanians (68 persons).

The second micro-region is between Nagyikinda and Versec along the Serbian border, and between Zsombolya and Detta along the Romanian border. The village of Zichyfalva was the only settlement in the area that had a natural increase; otherwise, the rate of natural decline here is above 30%. This region was the hinterland of the population increase of Temesvár and Nagybecskerek.

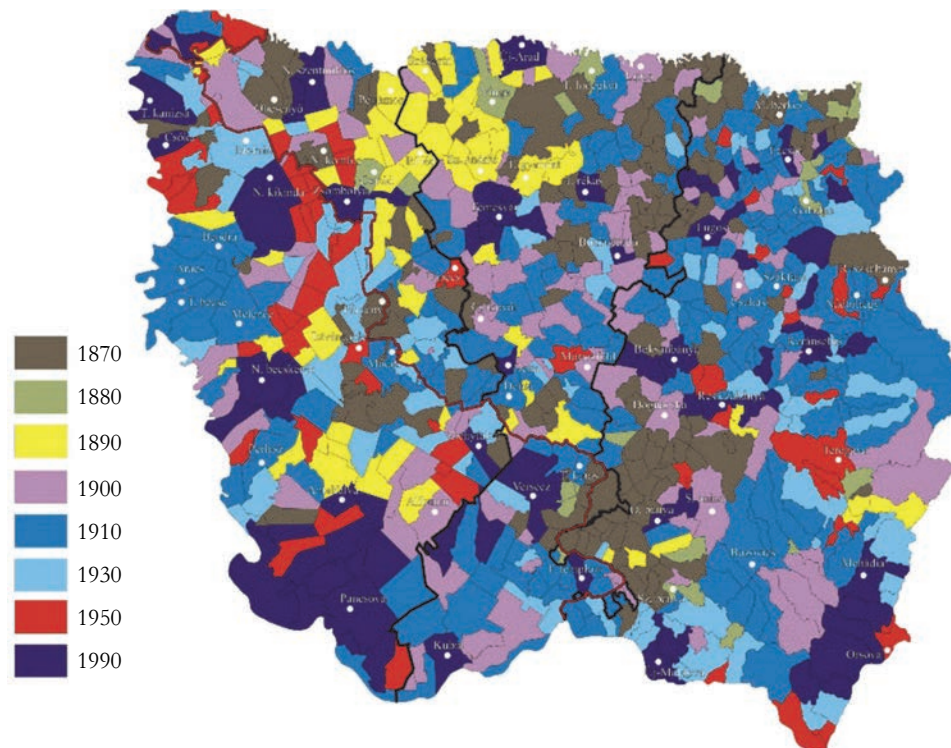
The third micro-region with a natural decrease was south of the Detta-Versecz-Fehértemplom line, a settlement of small villages, where the unfavourable transportation options resulted in a 20% decrease. The natural decrease in this region is remarkable because it is related to the ethnic composition of the Bánság.

The region witnessed an 8.3% (153,241 people) decrease in population between 1990/1991 and 2001 (Kókai 2010). Only 16 settlements had a natural increase (mainly in the agglomeration of Belgrád, Temesvár, and Szeged, as well as in the area of Nagybecskerek, Orsova, Moldova, and Resicabánya). The natural decrease took different forms; it was dramatic along country borders and along the Trianon borders, and these became distinctly backward regions (Figure 5). Along the Serbian–Romanian border, this decrease was remarkably different in both the regions and the territories. As a result of these unfavourable economic and social circumstances, the 238 settlements of the aforementioned zone along the border involved in the survey experienced a population decrease of 9% between 1990/91 and 2001/02. One of these is the region of the Hungarian–Romanian and Serbian triple border, where the rate of decrease might reach 15% in certain villages. The second micro-region is between Nagyikinda-Versecz, along the Serbian border, and between Zsombolya and Detta along the Romanian border. (this section refers to the time-span from 1990-to 2001 the previous one refers to the one from 1949 to

1990. This region formed the hinterland of the population increase in Temesvár, Nagybecskerek, and Pancsova. The third micro-region with natural decrease was south of the Detta-Versecz-Fehértemplom line, a settlement of small villages, where the unfavourable transportation options resulted in a 10% decrease. These ethnic and contact zones have changed irreversibly up until the present day.

Figure 5

Maximum population in the settlements of the Bánság



Spatial structure changes in the Bánság (1910–2010)

The indirect and direct interactions with the Royal Chamber of Vienna stopped, but the traces of the effects covering all the elements of the socioeconomic–settlement space are detectable even today in this region (Table 3).

Market towns with wide borders and their associated systems are not characteristic in the Bánság due to known historical reasons. Mid-sized villages with smaller borders and populations (two to five thousand people) were established instead of constructing even a small market–town network (Figure 6). Considering the categories of size of the settlements, it can be stated that most of the tiny and small villages are found in Krassó-Szörény County (66.3%). Torontál County is characterised by the dominance of mid- and large-sized villages (75.6%) and 15

extremely large villages. There were two villages (Nagyszentmiklós and Zsombolya) whose population exceeds 10,000 people. In this respect, Temes County is the most balanced, with a slight dominance of mid-sized villages.

Table 3

Settlements of the Bánság by population (1910)

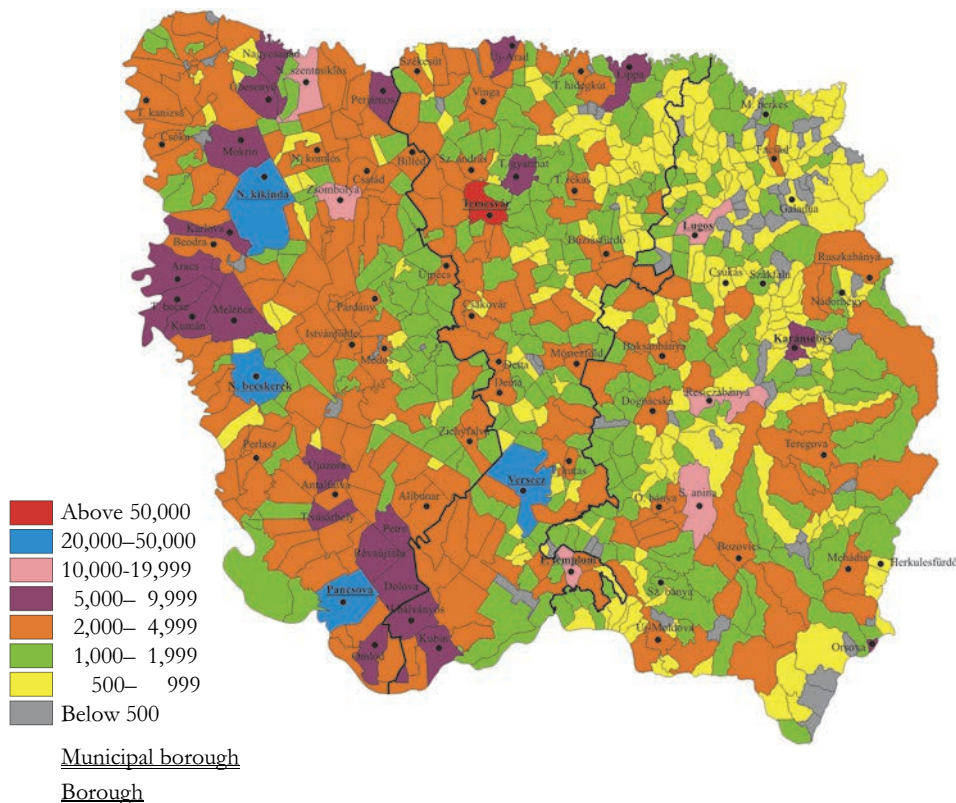
County	Settlement	Under 500 people	Between 500–1,000 people	Between 1,000–2,000 people	Between 2,000–5,000 people	Between 5–10 thousand people	Between 10–20 thousand people	More than 20 thousand people
Krassó-Szörény	363	56	145	113	44	Karánsebes 7,638 people Orsova 5,538 people	Lugos 19,126 people Resicabánya 17,368 people Stájerlakanina 12,323 people	– – –
%	100.0	15.4	40.0	31.2	12.1	0.5	0.8	–
Temes	225	14	56	81	66	Lippa 7,854 people Kevevára 7,022 people Homokbálványos 6,836 people Temesgyarmat 5,259 people Újarad 5,982 people	Fehértemplom 10,181 people	Temesvár 68,471 people Versec 26,941 people
%	100.0	6.2	24.9	36.0	29.3	2.0	0.4	1.2
Torontál	213	9	23	67	94	15 ^{a)}	Nagyszentmiklós 10,611 people Zsombolya 10,882 people	Nagykikinda 26,356 people Nagybecskerek 25,470 people Pancsova 20,201 people
%	100.0	4.2	10.8	31.5	44.15	9.1	0.1	0.15
Bánság	801	79	224	261	204	22	6	5
%	100.0	9.7	28.0	32.6	25.5	2.75	0.75	0.7

^{a)} *Torontál county settlements between 5,000–10,000 people:* Aracs 9,162 people, Melencze 8,935 people, Mokrin 8,830 people, Törökbecse 7,640 people, Dolova 6,905 people, Révaújfalu 6,597 people, Kumán 6,136 people, Óbesenyő 5,989 people, Petre 5,833 people, Nagycsanád 5,645 people, Újozora 5,581 people, Karlova 5,503 people, Omlód 5,344 people, Perjámos 5,336 people, Torontálvásárhely 5,173 people.

Source: personal editing based on HCSO data.

Figure 6

Settlements of the Bánság by population (1910)

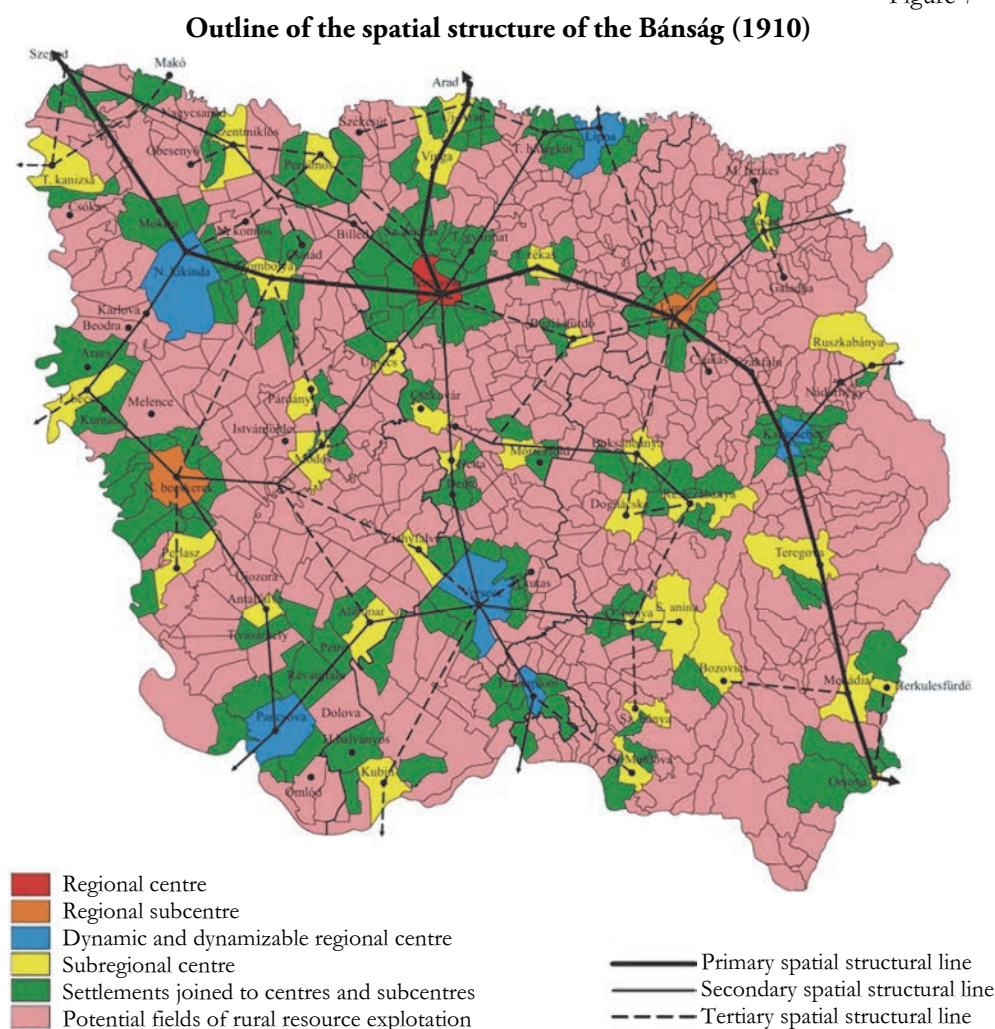


The Bánság town network started reshaping many settlements, which had only a few town functions, a small number of citizens, and an undeveloped town population; it inherited the town institution system, and some settlements thus owned town functions (e.g. Csanád, Gattaja, and Nagymargitta). According to our investigations, the number of the settlements having real centre functions in the Bánság was reduced by half (30 pcs.) by 1910 (Figure 7). This was intensified by the demographic boom, the speed of urbanisation, the establishment of a professional administration, the establishment of the modern banking and financial system, and the extension of its educational – cultural role – and these increased the gap within and between the given hierarchy levels.

- The inhabitants of the Bánság were offered three *primary centres* (Temesvár, Szeged, and Arad), which had a somewhat similar development but differed a great deal in their character, society, and economic specialties (based on examining 23 centre functions). However, a real choice was offered only to the inhabitants of a few settlements.

- Regarding *secondary centres* from studying 13 factors (e.g. population above 20,000, a central court of law, a medical centre or hospital, etc.), three full centres (Nagybecskerek, Pancsova, Versec) and two partial ones (Nagykikinda, Lugos) were defined.
- In the case of the *third and fourth centres*, 10 centre functions were involved in the investigations (e.g. district centre, tax inspectorate, a minimum of two banks, a population above 10,000 people, etc.), which produced ten third centres (e.g. Fehértemplom, Karánsebes, Lippa, Nagyszentmiklós, Oravica, Zsombolya, etc.) and 14 fourth centres (e.g. Perjámos, Vinga, Facset, Törökkanizsa, Buziásfürdő, Bogsánbánya, Resicabánya, Stájerlakanina, Új-Moldova, etc.).

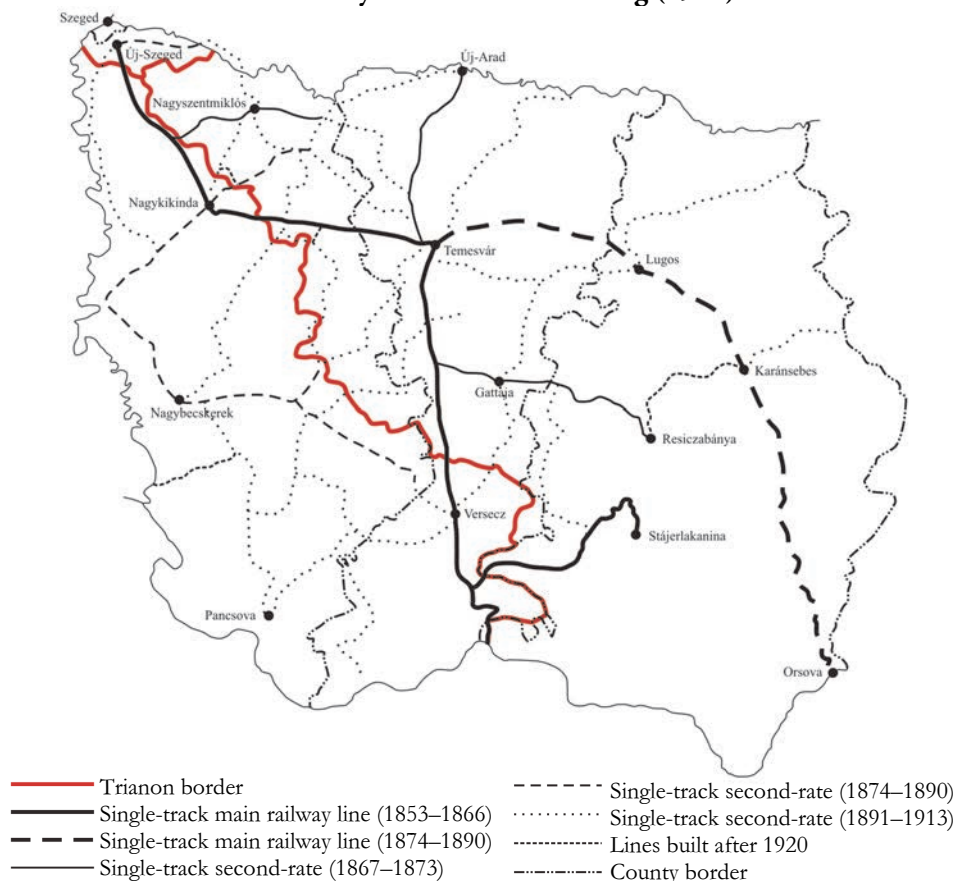
Figure 7



After World War I, the Bánság belonged to the relatively developed regions of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, as well as Romania, although it continuously lost its benefits for many decades. The traffic conditions of the Serbian Bánság (9,296 km²) changed disadvantageously after the Trianon Peace Treaty. The railway network has been cut in 17 places by the border lines (Figure 8). Until 1922 there was no direct railway connection between the historical Bács-Bodrog and Torontál Counties. In this era, the railway bridge between Zenta and Csóka was built. The main railway line (Szeged to Temesvár) was divided into three pieces by the borders (for instance, the settlement of Valkány was transferred to Romania, but the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes got its railway station). Today the Serbian Bánság has connection with the Romanian Bánság on three railway lines (Versec-Temesvár, Módos-Temesvár, and Nagykikinda-Temesvár). The area of the Serbian Bánság has four international main roads, which join the area of the Romanian Bánság. The previously regionally significant roads are either used for local transportation only or they are out of order.

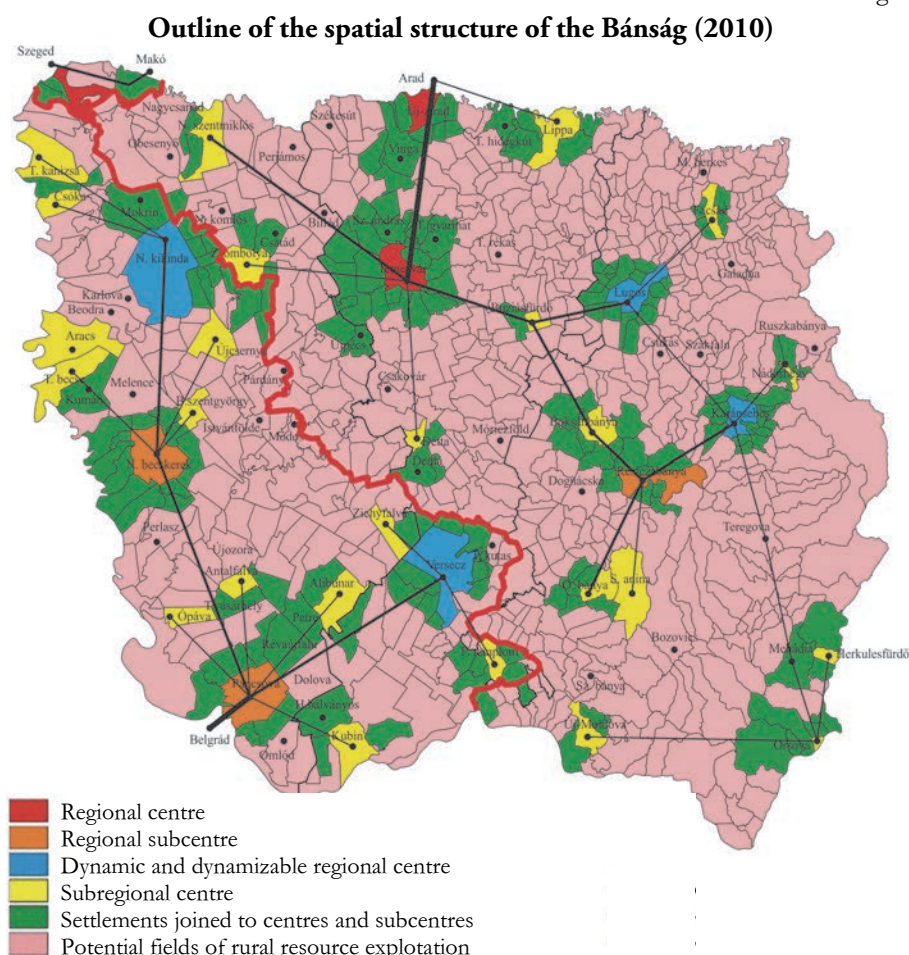
Figure 8

The railway network of the Bánság (1918)



The conditions of the traffic infrastructure financially limit communication between the two sides of the border (Serbian–Romanian), because there are only two public roads and two railway crossings. By contrast, at the Serbian–Hungarian border, there are potentially 20 crossing opportunities, thanks to the settlement network. The geographical situation of the Romanian Bánság is less beneficial compared to Transylvania, though the Vest region is mentioned as “the gate of the West” by Romanian scientists. There are several transportation connections in the region: toward Transylvania is the valley of Maros; toward Olténia is Turnu Severin; and toward Hungary there are public road crossings (Csanád-Kiszombor) and railway crossings (Lökösháza-Kürtös). The inhabitants of the Bánság were offered two primary centres, having a somewhat similar development (Temesvár, Belgrád). However, a real choice was offered only to the inhabitants of a few settlements (Figure 9).

Figure 9



I determined that among secondary dynamic centres, there are two full (Nagybecskerek, Resicabánya) and four partial (including Karánsebes, Lugos, and Pancsova) centres. I also determined the third and fourth centres. According to the results, there are two third centres (Versec, Nagykikinda) and 27 fourth centres (e.g. Csóka, Facset, Törökkanizsa, Stájerlakanina, etc.). These centres are positioned in the shape of a semicircle around Temesvár and Belgrád (Figure 8). Small market towns could fulfil the tasks given to them in the Bánság structure, so the dynamic of “speeding time”–“slowing time” prevailed to revive the “stopped time” atmosphere of the small towns (Tables 4–5).

Table 4

Large and middle-sized cities’ population in the Bánság and their position in the Carpathian Basin (1910–2011)

Cities	1910	1930/31	1953/56	1970/77	1991/92	2011	Changes (%)
Temesvár	72,555 (7)	102,390 (7)	142,257 (5)	269,353 (4)	334,115 (4)	319,279 (5)	440.1
Lugos	19,818 (61)	24,330 (58)	31,634 (50)	44,537 (49)	49,742 (64)	40,361 (67)	203.7
Resicabánya	17,368 (66)	25,307 (56)	47,305 (26)	84,786 (25)	96,918 (28)	73,282 (34)	421.5
Versec	27,370 (39)	29,411 (46)	23,038 (73)	34,256 (68)	35,585 (92)	36,040 (82)	131.7
Nagykikinda	26,795 (41)	28,400 (49)	28,665 (58)	37,576 (65)	42,707 (74)	38,065 (72)	142.1
Nagybecskerek	26,006 (43)	32,831 (36)	34,091 (42)	59,630 (35)	80,170 (37)	76,511 (31)	294.2
Pancsova	20,201 (59)	22,089 (66)	26,423 (64)	54,444 (39)	71,668 (43)	76,203 (32)	377.2
Total	210,113	264,758	333,413	584,582	710,905	659,741	314.0

Source: personal editing based on HCSO data.

Table 5

The 33 most populated settlements of Banat (1910, 2001/02)

1910		2001/02	
Settlements	Population	Settlements	Population
1. Temesvár	68,471	1. Temesvár	317,660
2. Versec	26,941	2. Resicabánya	79,869
3. Nagykikinda	26,356	3. Nagybecskerek	79,773
4. Nagybecskerek	25,470	4. Pancsova	77,087
5. Pancsova	20,201	5. Lugos	43,555
6. Lugos	19,126	6. Nagykikinda	41,935
7. Resicabánya	17,368	7. Versec	36,623
8. Nagyszentmiklós	12,350	8. Karánsebes	27,723
9. Stájerlakanina	12,323	9. Boksánbánya	16,911
10. Zombolya	10,882	10. Törökbecse	14,452
11. Fehértemplom	10,181	11. Kubin	14,250
12. Aracs	9,162	12. Orsova	12,965
13. Melence	8,935	13. Nagyszentmiklós	12,914
14. Mokrin	8,830	14. Zombolya	11,136
15. Lippa	7,854	15. Fehértemplom	10,675
16. Törökbecse	7,640	16. Nádorhegy	10,554
17. Karánsebes	7,638	17. Oravicabánya	10,222
18. A. és F. Ittebe	7,059	18. Stájerlakanina	9,167
19. Kubin	7,022	19. Lippa	7,920
20. Homokbálványos	6,836	20. Francfeld	7,624
21. Révaujfalu	6,597	21. Sztarcsova	7,615
22. Óbesenyő	5,989	22. Törökkanizsa	7,581
23. Új-Arad	5,982	23. Révaujfalu	7,345
24. Csanád	5,645	24. Dolova	6,835
25. Orsova	5,538	25. Antalfalva	6,764
26. Perjámos	5,336	26. Beodra+Karlova	6,763
27. Temesgyarmat	5,259	27. Melence	6,737
28. Antalfalva	4,963	28. Omolica	6,518
29. Perlasz	4,943	29. Torontálalmás	6,312
30. Törökkanizsa	4,938	30. Homokbálványos	6,106
31. Módos	4,746	31. Mokrin	5,918
32. Vinga	4,702	32. Nagykárolyfalva	5,820
33. Beodra	4,674	33. Detta	5,786
Total	389,957	Total	929,115

Source: personal editing based on HCSO data.

Conclusions

The Bánság, as one of the historical Hungary's most developed cultural regions, has not disappeared without a trace. On both sides of the Trianon border, these characteristics can be observed: an ageing population (Kulcsár–Brown 2017),

declining population, low economic performance, high unemployment rate, malformed economic structure, and a generally depressed situation. Our study found that the Bánság became one of the most advanced regions in the Carpathian Basin by the beginning of the 20th century. The new borders drawn by the Trianon Treaty not only caused economic impossibilities and schizoid space divisions, in addition to still-unresolved cumulative disadvantages, but also disrupted traditional socioeconomic divisions of labour. In 1990, the region appeared to have been resurrected in a new form, the Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa (DKMT) Euroregion. However, the process of forging a new identity for itself does not stop at territorial borders as societies and local and regional communities try to find their place in the global society. They realise that in neighbouring countries, like-minded people live, act, and are ready to cooperate. This cooperation can only be successful if we explore the region's past and its relationships in order to understand the historical-geographical unity. The frontier guard area is now an outer periphery. Cross-border cooperation means identifying ways to reduce differences between countries' social, economic, and community levels and outside forces, based on the existence of ethno-linguistic and cultural minorities.

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