

THE GAP BETWEEN A LONGTERM PERSPECTIVE AND
MICRO HISTORY ILLUSTRATED ON THE EXAMPLE OF
KOMÁROM/KOMARNO/KOMORN IN THE INTERWAR
YEARS

Éva Kovács

Methodological aspects of local history and the question of the enlightening properties of micro history when applied to history in general form the central part of this study. Taking as an example the town Komárom/Komarno, which in 1918 was divided by a border between sovereign nations, formation and reproduction of ethnic boundaries and their eventual disappearing from the scene are traced. The author illustrates the difficulties for those who try to link up Slovak and Hungarian historical narratives, but she also shows that the local angle of the people in Komárom/Komarno again and again blotted out "big history". Thus a seamless integration of the Slovak town of Komárno in the Hungarian state after the 1938 First Viennese arbitration proved impossible. The author concludes that multiplying the contacts between "big history" and micro history might bring about greater awareness of the interdependence between larger and smaller social and ideological structures.