

STRUCTURAL CHANGES OF THE POPULATION IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF HUNGARY, 1945-1950

Ágnes Tóth

After World War II, the Communist party in Hungary established itself as the sole ruler. However, Sovietization did not occur as a one-time, radical turnaround, but gradually as a series of changes, fundamental though each of them might have been. One element of this process was the reform of land ownership, which brought about an influx as well as an efflux of people, voluntarily as well as forcibly. These migration processes were linked in every aspect and on every level – locally, regionally, and nationwide – to the aspiration of taking over political power and to endeavours to restructure a society with many peasant traits. The present study is not limited to

economic aspects of the land reform. The author examines how the necessity to accommodate Bukovinian Szeklers and other ethnic Hungarian refugees, the quest for power and efforts directed at holding the German population responsible for the war, all had repercussions for the implementation of the land reform in the districts of Baranya, Somogy, and Tolna. The focus is both on the question whether the land reform had any consequences for the process of migration and on any alterations to the ethnic makeup of the population.