

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN „AUSGLEICH“ OF 1867:  
A REVIEW OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN THE  
SLOVAK CAPITAL (28 AUGUST — 2 SEPTEMBER 1967)

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Notable was a Hungarian contribution (by P. Hanák) to the conference theme, drastically revising, as it did, by means of an analysis of the economic development since 1867, the old clichés of an alleged exploitation and colonialization of Hungary by the Western half of the Empire. A German participant (H. Mommsen) examined the repercussions of the *Ausgleich* legislation on the political mechanism of the state as a whole. The important fact was noted that the Dualist construction of the state permitted the Emperor and an intimate circle of unofficial advisors at the Court to intervene in the affairs of state with complete disregard for ministerial responsibility. This went so far as to allow a certain measure of absolutism to take root along the structural boundary-line between Austria and Hungary, and led to a dangerous partial paralysis of parliamentarianism in the Western half of the Empire. H. Lentze saw an essential feature of Austrian constitutional history after 1867 in the compromise between the high state bureaucracy and German liberalism; the Liberals hoped to profit from the preservation of bureaucratic centralism to secure German pre-eminence, while the ruling bureaucracy was, for its part, prepared to tolerate some degree of

parliamentarianism. G. Ranki discussed problems of economic growth, arriving at the noteworthy conclusion that the fall of the monarchy could not be explained primarily by economic factors. The consequences of this position became evident in the lively discussion which ensued between Hungarian and Rumanian participants. The Rumanians stressed the political suppression and de-nationalization of their compatriots within Hungary, while the Hungarians emphasized the considerably better economic position of the Rumanians who were living in Hungary. This highly interesting confrontation demonstrated very clearly the discrepancy resulting from an approach which stresses national values and one which underlines socio-economic ones.