

INTRODUCTION

The essays presented in this modest collection have been published within the last ten years. Their unifying theme is the granting of rights to minorities, and the international protection of those rights. The subject assumed added importance recently in view of the worldwide increase in ethnic conflict, and in discrimination against - or outright oppression of - minorities, be they labeled national, ethnic, religious, linguistic, cultural, indigenous, or otherwise. The problem of minorities has become an international problem, and to underline its importance the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and a number of other organs and organizations are currently engaged in seeking a solution for it.

Renewed interest in the subject makes it feasible to publish this collection, despite the fact that some of the selected studies overlap both in scope and content. The order in which the essays are presented has no particular significance, but their original place of publication merits listing for purposes of acknowledgement.

The first study was originally presented at the Duquesne History Forum (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) in the fall of 1980. Subsequently it was published in the Fall, 1981, issue of *Nationalities Papers* (Volume IX, Number 2).

The second study was originally presented at the annual convention of the International Studies Association in 1987, and subsequently rewritten for publication in the Spring, 1988, issue of *Proteus*, devoted in its entirety to the United Nation.

The third study was presented at the Duquesne History Forum in the fall of 1984, and published in the Spring, 1986, issue of the *Middle East Review* (Volume XVIII, Number 2).

The fourth essay on "Trianon and the Problem of National Minorities" was written for, and published in, *War and Society in East Central Europe*, Volume VI, *Essays on World War I: Total War and Peacemaking, a Case Study on Trianon*, Bela K. Kiraly, Peter Pastor, and Ivan Sanders, editors.

The fifth article, dealing with "The Ethnic Principle and National Boundaries....", was written for, and published in, the Belgian quarterly *Documentation sur l'Europe Centrale*, Volume XV, Number 4, (1977).

The APPENDIX contains two public documents from the year 1990. Documents of earlier date, contained in the first edition, have been omitted.

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