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HUNGARY AT THE PARIS
PEACE CONFERENCE

*The Diplomatic History of the
Treaty of Trianon*

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The Paris Peace Conference
History and Documents

Hungary at the Paris Peace Conference

By FRANCIS DEÁK

Many people are inclined, even today, to blame the Second World War upon the errors and the mistakes of the Paris Peace Conference. On the other hand, there are people who believe that the Conference of 1919-1920 can contribute little, if anything, to the solution of the problems which will face the peace conference at the end of the present war. In between these two extremes are the scholars who look at the issues from the historical perspective. Their knowledge of what really happened in Paris has been enriched by the volumes prepared under Professor James T. Shotwell's direction for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of Economics and History, and published by Columbia University Press. The volumes heretofore published deal with the International Labor Organization, the Reparations question, and the issues which faced Italy and Germany, respectively, at the conference table.

The present volume, probably the last in The Paris Peace Conference, History and Documents, Series, is *Hungary at the Paris Peace Conference: The Diplomatic History of the Treaty of Trianon*, by Professor Francis Deák of the Columbia University School of Law.

Much has been written about the peace treaty with Germany, but little is known of the background of the peace settlement with the Danubian countries. Yet the First World War started in Southeastern Europe, and the Second World War became possible only after Nazi Germany successfully completed the atomization of the Danube Valley.

With the publication of *Hungary at the Paris Peace Conference*, a sorely missing link in our comprehension of recent European history is supplied. As Dr. Shotwell points out in his Foreword: "This volume records one of the most important chapters in the diplomatic history of Europe." Not only is brought to light a practically unknown phase of the peace settlement, but the history of the negotiations is placed in the background of political currents and cross-currents of the time, which are indispensable for the understanding of the decisions reached and their effect on subsequent events. Much of the narrative is based on heretofore undisclosed documentary sources.

Although the author is of Hungarian origin, he does not present the Hungarian point of view regarding the peace settlement. His approach is from the international point of view, presenting the problems of the Danubian area as a whole. Professor Deák's ability to read documentary sources in the original languages, his intimate knowledge of the Danubian countries, and his training in research in international affairs qualified him, perhaps better than any other person in the United States, to undertake the difficult task involved.

This volume is now offered not alone as the only authoritative and complete history of the peace settlement with Hungary, but also as a guide to the problems of the Danubian area which will confront and must be solved by the next peace conference more satisfactorily than the problems at the last conference were. For all those who believe that the repetition of the catastrophe now upon us must be avoided, Professor Deák has written a challenging and thought-provoking book.

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