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## English Proofreading

Stephen Patrick

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Institute of Central European Studies (ICES)  
Eötvös József Research Centre (EJRC)  
Ludovika University of Public Service (UPS)  
H-1083 Budapest  
Ludovika Square 1. Side Building 025.

<https://horizontok.hu>  
<https://keki.uni-nke.hu>  
[info@horizontok.hu](mailto:info@horizontok.hu)

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A train carrying military trucks in Khust, Transcarpathia (1916)  
Fortepan / Magyar Műszaki és Közlekedési Múzeum / Archívum / Negatívár  
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Róbert Balogh and Miklós Mitrovits

Special Editors of the Issue

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# Introduction

The new issue of *Central European Horizons* discusses two themes the consequences of repressive violence on the long-term political conditions in Central Europe, and the consequences of wars on individual lives and on localities.

Luca Lecis offers a specific example of how the idea of Central Europe emerged and shaped intellectual milieus and institutions during the period of Cold War. Focusin on György Sebestyén's oeuvre an activities in Austria. Lecis tell s that in Austria, the East gradually became an increasingly central topic within intellectual debate in Austria. Several journals foregrounded a transnational heritage of the 'Danube region' and Sebestyén had an important role in this scene.

In his study based on his explorations in a wide range of the archives related to the politics of the former Czechoslovakia, Miklós Mitrovits foregrounds aspects of the history of post-1956 Hungary highlighting both the fragility of the newly imposed regime and the Central European dimensions of the regime change. Namely, the material and financial support that the Czechoslovakian regime provided made the János Kádár's government viable in its earliest days in 1956 and in 1957.

István Miklós Balázs shows that although it is a key political tool today, the violence during martial law took a backseat during the democratic transition in Poland in 1989. He argues that contemporary indifference or glancing aside in this regard had much to do with Polish society prioritizing economic well-being after decades of experiencing material deprivation. Balázs also points out, however, that there were relevant actors that found negotiation with the party state morally unacceptable already in the mid- and late1980s. If one takes these points further, the following questions emerge: can currently operating parties exploit the questionable pragmatism of the opposition involved in the round table discussion to the extent that it actually undermines democratic institutions functioning in Central European countries? Or, will the questioning of the transition and its institutions lead to a more grounded democracy in the region?

Here, in Central Europe, war is closer to us and impacts our minds more than at any time since 1956. Through a close look at historical cases, the second section of the current issue of *Central European Horizons* highlights those impacts of war and military violence that do not often make it to the news.

Róbert Szabó's paper talks of an aspect of the impact of wars that rarely comes to the focus of historical studies despite its prominence for everyday life: how can one continue education in a region that had been hit by war and where the policies of the state are still centered on the interests of the military. What can the case of the aftermath of the 1916 Romanian-Hungarian war in Transylvania tell us about the possible factors?

Gábor Csikós offers an interdisciplinary view of the post-1945 from the angle of a specific branch of medicine: psychiatry. Through reading the files of several patients the author brings together the way the development of notions used within psychiatry interacted with the taboos that the state socialist regime established and how this interaction made its way into patient files and into the lives of contemporaries.

Róbert Balogh takes the reader outside Central Europe to show that industrialization for military purposes changes the landscape of hinterlands for the long term. The paper on the history of the city of Jamshedpur during World War II also tells how the issue of discipline weighs on life in cities that become crucial for military supply, and how this eventually impacts human bodies.

We received so many submissions on the two themes that the current journal issue discusses that we decided to include some of the papers in the next *Central European Horizons*.

*Editors*



Vienna, the Mariahilfer Strasse (1971) - Fortepan / Urbán Tamás