



EASTERN  
EUROPEAN  
NATIONAL  
MINORITIES

1919/1980



A HANDBOOK

Stephan M. Horak



Eastern European National Minorities  
1919-1980

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A Handbook

By

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and

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## Introduction

The problem of national or ethnic minorities became and has remained inseparable from the spread of national consciousness in the early nineteenth century, which soon translated into the political concept of nationalism aimed at the creation of nation-states. Although nationalism spread to all continents, eastern Europe became the classic historical example of its force and implication. The complexity of the issue grew as national minorities became "subject nationalities." This division of ruling nationality and subjugated ethnic minorities led to a multiplicity of issues, conflicts, and problems. In short, these problems became a historic force dangerous to overlook or underestimate as an element of cause and effect.

Realizing the importance of the national minorities in eastern Europe and the absence of scholarly tools necessary for an in-depth study of and understanding of the problem, a group of experts was assembled for the production of a one-volume handbook comprised of basic information to serve as a guide to the pertinent international literature on the subject. While being aware of the difficulty of covering the vast material within one volume and providing a complete bibliography, the decision was made to introduce the student and researcher to the better-known international sources, monographs, and periodical literature. Additionally, the *Handbook* reveals the substance, extent, and importance of the issues related to national minorities as they emerged after World War I and assesses the developments up through 1980. The bibliography, international in scope, should make the *Handbook* useful not only in the English-speaking world but in other countries as well.

The contributors made an extra effort to include material for all the minorities populating the respective countries. However, the number and quality of entries vary, depending on the number of works that have been printed and their availability. For this reason an unevenness remains as a

witness to existing gaps, a problem to be considered by experts in future research and publications.

The *Handbook's* organization and scheme are patterned on my *Guide to the Study of the Soviet Nationalities: Non-Russian Peoples of the USSR* (1982), which, in fact, pointed to the need for the *Handbook*. Thus, this volume can be seen as a logical extension of the *Guide*, since several east European national minorities after World War II were incorporated into the Soviet Union, and in some instances still reside on both sides of the present Soviet frontiers.

As to the technical organization of the *Handbook*, the following should be observed:

1) A general chapter brings the national minorities issue into the focus and context of east European history and the present situation. This chapter is followed by a list of works discussing various aspects of eastern Europe as introductory literature and then by works on national minorities in general.

2) Chapters on individual countries discuss the treatment of the national minorities, statistical data, and political, social, economic, and educational aspects and changes that have occurred during the three periods: the interwar period, World War II, and post-World War II up to 1980. Each essay is followed by an annotated, selected international bibliography of titles representing different views and interpretations.

3) Entries under the respective national minorities are arranged in alphabetical order. However, when the number of entries surpassed 30, a subdivision by subject headings seemed appropriate, offering the user a more direct access to the material. A complete description of the work cited is accompanied by an annotation informing the user of the work's special features, value, and point of view. Most of the titles in non-Western languages have been translated into English to facilitate wider use.

The inclusion of Austria and Italy, with their small ethnic groups of Slovenes and Croats, extends the *Handbook's* coverage to countries which otherwise are not geographically considered a part of eastern Europe. Likewise, Theodor Veiter's contribution on "Nationality Research Centers in Eastern European Countries" provides information not always available, increasing the *Handbook's* value as a guide to further study.

The magnitude of the problem with which this volume concerns itself has been very recently acknowledged by the British author Raymond Pearson in his study *National Minorities in Eastern Europe 1848-1945* (London: Macmillan Press, 1983), offering a general overview of national minorities in eastern Europe with the background development since 1848. Pearson's volume, together with titles included in the general chapter of the present work, provides additional material for experts and as well as general readers.

In my capacity as contributor, organizer, and editor of the project, I would like to express my thanks to all the contributors for their part of the project and for their collegial collaboration during all stages of the work for the last eighteen months. While the *Handbook* is the product of a team of scholars, I personally am obliged to Professor Joseph Rothschild from

Columbia University for his advice in the preparation of my contribution, and to Professor Donald F. Tingley from Eastern Illinois University for his generous assistance in the execution of my editorial responsibility. A generous grant from the U.S. Department of Education in support of the project made it easier for contributors to complete their assignments. Certainly my wife, Marie Louise, after many years of loyal collaboration and support, deserves my gratitude not only for the preparation of the final draft but also for her involvement in the work from the beginning.

Stephan M. Horak