

Anna Dévényi

A programme to defeat the economical and psychological crisis - the reform plans of Gyula Gömbös

In the first half of the 20th century it was a widespread opinion all over Europe that the liberalism, which was flourishing in the 19th century, was dead in both economically and politically. It seemed impossible to make a state function well on the base of liberal and democratic views. This point of view was deepened by the economical world crisis. The national dictaturas, developping in the 20s and 30e seemed to be able to react to the challenges of the crisis more successefully. Also in Hungary there was a strong need to appoint a "hard handed" prime minister.

Gyula Gömbös claimed, refering to the crisis, that according to his point of view it was not merely an economical crisis but a total social crisis. In his program, called Nation Workplan, he stressed that besides steps to handle the economical problems he wanted to take steps to defeat the psychological problems of the nation and the country as well. He believed that the foundation of defeating the economical, social and political problems was the moral and psychological renovation.

Acording to Gömbös and the politicians supporting him, mostly new leaders of the Party of National Union the new foundations, the new state form and the new ideology were necessary due to the changing of the ideology of the age (decadency of liberalism). The nations create to themselves living forms adequate to the actual ideology of age and the follow the changes if it. However, these alternations can be realized at the cost of great sacrifices and hardships and these can generate, many times, shocks, revolutions. Thes changes can happen without free of pian if the society was prepared profoundly for them before carrying them out. More or less this is the core of the process which is called by Béla Béldi (leader of Propaganda office of The Party of National Union) "nationmanagement". He wrote about it detailly in his serial of articles entitled "Nationmanagement". The model/idol to follow this program, for Béla Bédi, was Saint Stephen (firts hungarian king) who managed to make the asian, pagan, nomadic hungarians pass to european, christian way of living.

Behind the steps of the policy of Gömbös the intention was to realise a similar process. The new stateform would have been based on the ideological union. The conception, the idea was that of the national union. It is not an accident that they put special stress on reeducating the society and creating a strong national propaganda. As a matter of fact that was the reason why they established the Movement of National Union, besides the Party of National Union, and its mission was to organize the whole hungarian society into union. We can say that it was virtually party organization behind the process of society organization. The final result of this work would have been a society which could have been controlled from several sides and which would have been strong in its national confidence. It

should have supported in everything the policy of Gömbös, therefore he could have had the possibility to form, change the constitutional order of the country at his will.

This presentation is focusing on what plans were to lead the nation, how they wanted reeducate the people and create the union of the nation. What role did the want to give to the public education in that process? How all this would have served the the moral and psychological rebirth and the defeat of the crisis?