

## THE TREATY OF TRIANON BETWEEN LEGEND AND REALITY

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**Abstract.** The Paris Peace Conference introduced a new international juridical concept as a decisive factor in their decisions: the right of all nations to self-determination. The Treaty of Trianon from June 4<sup>th</sup> 1920 was not a bilateral one (Hungary-Romania) as it was signed by Hungary along 22 other states from all the continents. The Treaty does not contain the word Transylvania, and the border between Hungary and Romania was established based on the will of the majority. The Treaty came into effect on July 26<sup>th</sup> 1921 after its ratification by Romania and Hungary along the other signatory states.

**Keywords:** *Conference, Paris, drafting, peace treaty, Trianon, provisions, ratification.*

Thousands of books have been written on the Treaty of Trianon, some of which offered an objective perspective (based on historical documents) while others offered a biased, partisan view. Various legends about it were spread at the time and some are still in circulation, more than 100 years later after its signing<sup>1</sup>. Those who cultivate such legends view the Paris Peace Conference as an attempt to *punish* Hungary and a decision to mutilate it.

The reality is completely different, though. The comparative analysis of the peace congresses (conferences) that have taken place throughout history leads to a major conclusion: until 1919, decisions were made in small forums, with the victors dividing the conquered territories according to their own will, without taking into consideration the desires of the respective nations.

The Peace Conference after the First World War introduced a new international legal concept, i.e. the right of all nations to self-determination as a decisive factor in the decision-making processes. In other words, the nation and the free expression of the people's will come first<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See a detailed study, Ioan Scurtu, *Trianon ... Trianon. 4 iunie 1920 - victoria principiului naționalităților. Argumente pro și contra*, Iași, Editura Tipo Moldova, 2020

<sup>2</sup> Ion M. Anghel, *Tratatetele de la Trianon și Paris din 1920. Documentele prin care s-a consfințit înfăptuirea ROMÂNIEI MARI*, București, Editura Academiei Oamenilor de Știință din România, 2018