The Outbreak of World War II and Its Impact on The Policy of The United States of America Towards Hungary 1939 - December 1941

Mohammed Yacoub Youssef¹, Haidar Abdul Ridha Altimimi²

Abstract

At the beginning of World War II, the United States of America had restrictions towards Hungary, which were to prevent Hungary from falling under German influence, as this influence would lead to entering the war against the Allies to the possibility of losing it, and thus resulting in sanctions that may be heavier than the sanctions that Hungary was subjected to under The Treaty of Trianon in 1920. On the other hand, Hungary had limitations in its foreign policy, represented by its endeavor to get rid of the sanctions imposed on it under The Treaty of Trianon, the most important of which was to regain the lands it had lost to Czechoslovakia and Romania. At the same time, it did not want to enter the war on the side of Germany, but its fear of being exposed to German occupation prevented it, and thus the attempts of the United States of America to keep it from entering the war on the side of Germany failed.

Keywords: World War II, United States of America policy, Hungary, 1939 - 1941

INTRODUCTION

The outbreak of World War II (1939-1945) led to the division of the major powers among themselves according to the interests and goals on which these countries were based. Although the United States of America declared neutrality at the beginning of the war, it worked to support Britain, especially after the Germans succeeded in occupying the country. France in 1940. At the same time, the American administration worked to distance Hungary from the German orbit, out of a desire to prevent Hungary from being defeated in the war again, as it was defeated in World War I. On the other hand, Hungary declared neutrality in the war, but it had a desire to get rid of the sanctions imposed on it after World War I, the most important of which was to regain the lands it lost under the Trianon Treaty signed in 1920. Therefore, Hungary was closer to Germany than to the Allies, especially since Hitler worked to achieve what the Hungarians aspire to in regaining some of their lands that they lost after World War I, but at the same time she was afraid of Hitler’s unbridled policy - to which there was no limit - on the one hand, in addition to the fact that she believed that victory would be the share of Britain and its allies in War on the other hand, especially if the United States of America provides support to Britain as well as entering the war on the latter's side. Despite the attempts made by the American administration to prevent Hungary from entering the war alongside Germany, its attempts failed.

The Main Topic:

The main topic: Although the interest of the United States of America in Hungary0 dates back to the years before (1) the outbreak of World War II (2) following Adolf Hitler’s occupation of Poland. On September 1, 1939, the latter represented a major turning point in... American policy towards Hungary. Although the United States of America. Its position was clear: non-interference in European affairs. When US President Franklin Roosevelt (5) announced the American Neutrality Act (6), according to which he prohibited the sale of weapons to all warring countries, the United States of America issued, on November 3, 1939, a decree allowing the warring countries to purchase American weapons. In cash and on a cash and carry basis, provided that the sold weapons are not transported on American ships (7).
When the tide of the war tipped in favor of the Axis powers, with German forces occupying France in 1940, the position of the Western Allies became very difficult in the face of the Axis powers, so US President Roosevelt decided to support the Western Allies (8) in an “unofficial and undeclared” manner (9).

On a related level, the United States of America worked to prevent the collapse of Hungary, in the arms of Germany, and this is what its ambassador, John Flourney Montgomery, indicated (John Flourney Montgomery) (10) Saying: “My mission may be more than that of an observer, who can protect the interests of his country, and the interests of his citizens, and convey the views of his government to the Hungarian leaders, and to some extent to the public, and at times I have strayed far from the line of strict neutrality. We worked as closely as possible with Britain and the other Allied Powers, and helped wherever we could to strengthen the courage of the Hungarian Government and to counter German pressure as much as possible (11).

At the outbreak of World War II, the Hungarian government issued a statement bearing its neutral position on the war (12), and in addition, Hungarian Prime Minister Paul Teleki (13) refused to allow Hitler to use the Hungarian railways to transport troops The Germans crossed Hungarian territory to attack Poland (14), as he sought to spare his country from the scourge of war. On a related level, Tilke tried to take the necessary measures in the event that his country was exposed to occupation. He sent Tibor Eckhardt (15), a high-ranking politician and leader of the Small Landlords Party, to the United States of America with an amount of (5) million Dollars to the Hungarian embassy there, to arrange the situation of the Hungarian government in exile, in anticipation of his and Miklós Horthy’s departure (16), if Germany exerts political and military pressure to force his country to enter the war in its favor and defend Hungary’s territorial gains (17).

He attributes the reason for the Hungarian government's choice of the United States of America to the fact that the latter embraces a Hungarian community that is very interested in Hungarian political affairs (). Although Hungary remained neutral until 1941, it was closer to the Axis powers than to the Allies, as there were mutual interests between it and the Axis powers, especially Germany and Italy, in terms of economic and military agreements and political positions, which ultimately made it prefer the Axis camp over Allied camp (19).

It is worth noting that the Hungarian people were inclined to side with the Allies, but Hungarian politics had a different opinion, and this is what Montgomery pointed out by saying, “Hungary was inclined to side with the Allies, but circumstances made it not a matter of what the people wanted to do, but rather a question of what the people wanted to do.” What was known had to be done. The Hungarians may now feel that their leaders made mistakes, and they certainly did, but in my opinion, whatever policy was adopted at any given time the result was exactly the same” (20).

In any case, and based on Hungary’s efforts to regain the lands it lost in the Trianon Treaty (21), it headed towards Rutenia (Carpathian Ukraine), as Hitler had previously promised it, in granting it to him, he had no intention of fulfilling his promise (22). At the same time, the British government was in favor of Hungarian control over Rutenia, as Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Alexander Cadogan (23) noted. The interest of the routine people requires their joining Hungary, regardless of these local interests. The interest of the great powers and European peace requires preventing Germany’s push towards the East, by establishing a joint Hungarian-Polish border” (24), but the American administration had Another opinion: When the Hungarian military campaign carried out a routine occupation during the period extending from the fifteenth of March to the eighteenth of March 1939 (25), Hungary informed through its ambassador in Budapest that the American President hoped that “Hungary would never again be in a position She finds herself on the side that wins the first battles, but loses the war.” On the other hand, the Hungarian government made it clear to the United States of America that control of Rutenia was against the will of Germany (26). Therefore, the US State Department showed understanding of this matter. Meanwhile, US Under Secretary of State William C. Bullitt (27) tried to provide moral support to Hungary, through a letter he addressed to the Hungarian government, in which he noted, saying: I believe that the best elements of the country in Hungary will strongly resist being drawn into the war by Germany, and I am certain that anything that can be done to strengthen it in this field will be beneficial to the public interest.” (28).

It is worth noting that Poland also worked to encourage Hungary to control Rutnya (29), to establish a joint Polish-Hungarian border, and to prevent the German army - which entered Slovakia - from moving east to
The Outbreak of World War II and Its Impact on The Policy

Poland, which was threatened by German occupation at the time, in addition to establishing direct contact. Routinely crossed with Romania.

In the meantime, Romania sent regular forces to Rutenia to establish a junction with the German army. This junction was disrupted by the Hungarian occupation of Rutenia, although it did not extend west to the Dukla Pass as Poland wanted, due to the German ultimatum on the day. The third for the occupation (30).

It seems that the American administration's attempts to distance Hungary from the German orbit were futile, and what confirms this is that the Hungarian government was informing Germany about its relations with the United States of America. In a meeting between German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop (31) and the Hungarian ambassador in Berlin, the latter informed Ribbentrop that the United States of America had inquired of the Hungarian government about its ideas regarding disarmament and economic issues with the aim of establishing a peace settlement in the future, the ambassador also indicated that his government had shown its readiness to cooperate in resolving all outstanding issues, and at the same time expressed its reservations regarding the issue of disarmament, explaining that the issue of the Hungarian minorities in Romania had not been settled satisfactorily (32). This means the Transylvania issue.

It can be said that the Hungarian government's policy was wavering. At times, it sought to distance itself from the war and distance itself from the European orbit by preparing arrangements for the Hungarian government in exile, based in the United States of America, if it were exposed to German pressure. At times, it worked to get closer to the axis to achieve its interests, and it found itself largely on the side of the axis, through the latter's contribution to achieving some of Hungary's demands to recover some of its lands. As for its refusal of the passage of German forces towards Poland, or a routine occupation, this revolves around its relations with Poland, as it had strong relations with the latter, especially since Poland refused to recognize the Treaty of Trianon, which carved out large parts of Hungary for the benefit of neighboring countries.

Hungary continued its policy of regaining its territories that it had lost under the Treaty of Trianon, taking advantage of its relationship with Germany, and this time at the expense of Romania, as it obtained, under the Second Vienna Control held on August 30, 1940, half of Transylvania (33). After the arbitration decision was issued, Regent Horthy sent a letter to Hitler on September 2, 1940, in which he expressed his gratitude to Germany, appreciating at the same time the role it played in helping Hungary obtain its demands (34).

Although Hungary was gradually approaching the axis, the American administration did not lose hope in pursuing many attempts to distance it from the German camp. The American ambassador in Budapest warned the Hungarian government of the consequences of an alliance with Germany and the consequences of responding to the demands of its army, It will leave a bad impression on the United States of America (35). Meanwhile, the American administration tried to discover the amount of military, economic, and political assistance that Hungary provided to Germany, and the amount of resistance that could be expected from Hungary in defending its national sovereignty. The Americans concluded, through information they obtained from some Hungarian politicians, that the Hungarian government had no intention of rejecting Germany's demands to allow its forces to cross through Hungary, as they indicated that the result of this refusal would be the occupation of Hungary. In the same regard, Horthy pledged to the American ambassador in Budapest that his country would not provide the Germans with any military or air bases on the country's territory. Despite this, the US administration warned Hungarian Ambassador Janos Pelenyi (36) that any action taken by the Hungarian government, contrary to what Horthy pledged, “would be regrettable” (37).

Despite American warnings, Hungary was unable to reject Germany's demands, as rejecting them would expose it to German occupation. As a result, the Hungarian government agreed to the crossing of German forces through its territory into Romania on September 38, 1940 (38). On a related level, the Romanian legation in Berlin announced, on November 7, 1940, that sending German forces to Romania (39) came with the latter's approval. It commented on this by saying, “The reorganization of the Romanian army with all equipment is necessary for modern warfare.” Meanwhile, German news agencies reported that Germany had sent its forces in response to Romania's request (40).
Youssef and Altimimi

It is worth noting that Hungary witnessed a tight security atmosphere during the crossing of German forces through its territory, and it even prevented military attaches from leaving Budapest without permission. Montgomery mentioned that the American military attaché - after hearing of the arrival of German forces in the city of Szolnok - asked for permission to go to an American doctor there, and he was arrested by the German authorities as soon as he entered the Szolnok station, as he arrived there at the time. The train carrying German forces arrived there, but he was released after he informed them of his identity (41).

It can be said that the military attaché was likely charged with tracking news of the German forces, and knowing the extent of the services provided to them by the Hungarian side, especially after we pointed out that the American administration was during this time monitoring the extent of the development of Hungarian-German relations.

The Hungarian government took further steps towards joining the German camp, including joining the Triple Alliance Pact (42) in (Germany, Italy, Japan) on November 20, 1940 (43).

Hungary concluded another pact with Yugoslavia, called the “Pact of Permanent Peace and Mutual Friendship,” on December 12, 1940 in Belgrade, in the presence of its Foreign Minister, Count István Tsáky.

(Istvan Casky) and his Yugoslav counterpart, Cincar Markovitch (44). This agreement stipulated consultation between the two parties on all matters of common interest (45). But Yugoslavia's accession to the Triple Alliance Pact on March 25, 1941 led to a massive wave of dissatisfaction sweeping the country, ending in a military coup carried out by General Dusan Simovic (46) who formed a Yugoslav government loyal to the British and the Soviets (47). This turned his country into a new arena of conflict. The Germans interpreted this change in Yugoslavia as a "hostile act" directed against it, and decided to mobilize a military force to eliminate the "coup government" in Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, Hitler asked the Hungarian Prime Minister Tilke to participate. In a military campaign with Germany to overthrow the new Yugoslav government (48). This issue put terrible pressure on Tilke, so he sent a special envoy to Benito Mussolini (49), to ask him whether Hungary could count on his help in this matter, but the Italian leader refused to provide him any assistance (50). At the same time, Tilke received from the Hungarian ambassador in London a message stating that British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden (51), threatened to sever diplomatic relations with Hungary, unless it refused the passage of German forces through its territory (52).

As a result of the above, Tilke was unable to bear the "disgrace" of attacking a country whose government had concluded a friendship agreement with him several months earlier, so he committed suicide on April 3, 1941 (53). Regent Horthy entrusted Foreign Minister Laszlo De Bardossy (54) to form the Hungarian government on April 4, 1941 (55). Who agreed to the issue of the crossing of German forces (56).

The Allies did not delay in sending letters of protest to Hungary over its acceptance of the passage of German forces through its territory to Yugoslavia. During his meeting with the Regent to offer condolences over the death of Prime Minister Tilke, British Ambassador Owen St. Clair O'Malley protested against the German forces' intention to pass through his country and attack Yugoslavia. Horthy responded by saying: “The Crown Council considered that all resistance to German demands was futile, as there was no evidence of Britain's ability to help Yugoslavia, and because of long-standing German friendship, Hungary decided, as a means of conducting a territorial review, and obtaining access to the sea, Accepting Germany's offer to occupy Croatia and also Fiume, since Croatia had separated from Yugoslavia, or been abandoned in the military sense for strategic reasons (57), in exchange for the freedom of movement of German military forces in Hungary” (58). It is worth noting that the President Upon his death, the late minister left a letter to the regent explaining his suicide as a protest against the loss of Hungarian honor.” Meanwhile, the British ambassador made it clear that Britain did not support such "treacherous action" against Yugoslavia, recommending that Horthy take measures against Germany, as he suggested that he leave Hungary, saying that this was the only means of protest, and at the same time warning the Regent that Hungary would regret siding with Germany after the Allied victory (59).

On a related level, the American administration sent its warnings to the Hungarian government on April 5, 1941. These warnings were summarized in the fact that the United States of America does not hesitate to
provide support and assistance to countries that are “exposed to aggression” from Germany and its allies, in order to defend their independence and safety (60). The matter was not limited to this point, but the US Chargé d’Affaires in Hungary, Howard Travers, made intense efforts to persuade Hungarian officials not to allow Germany to attack Yugoslavia from Hungarian territory. Frears repeated his contact with Hungarian Prime Minister Berdossi on April 7, 1941, warning him of the consequences of an attack on Yugoslavia, but Berdossi replied that Hungary was only working to defend itself, denying at the same time that his country was providing assistance to Germany in this regard (61). Despite the warnings issued by the United States of America and Britain to the Hungarian government, the latter participated in the military campaign led by Germany - along with Italian and Bulgarian forces - against Yugoslavia. This campaign succeeded in invading Belgrade on April 6, 1941 (62).

The Hungarian forces were able to control the city of Ba'csca (63). As a result of this military campaign, the Yugoslav army was forced to sign the receipt document on April 17 of the same year (64). On the other hand, Berdossi sent telegrams to Washington and London, in which he affirmed that Hungary “does not have any aggressive intentions towards Yugoslavia other than that it is interested in the fate of the Hungarian minorities in Yugoslavia.” However, these telegrams arrived late, before the Hungarian ambassador in London could deliver them to The British government: British aircraft bombed some Hungarian cities on April 7, 1941, and on the same day Britain announced the severing of its diplomatic relations with Hungary (65).

Hungarian politicians did not stop issuing their justifications. Regent Horthy announced on April 11, 1941, that Hungary’s duty was to recover the lands that Yugoslavia had seized from them, and to protect the Hungarian population who were living there, and for that, the Hungarian army performed its duty (66). On the other hand, the American administration rejected all the justifications provided by Hungarian officials regarding the attack by Hungarian forces on Yugoslavia. Despite this, the American administration did not intend to sever its diplomatic relations with Hungary, or give up the advantage that could be gained from forming a diplomatic mission in Budapest, so it sent Robert Pell, its new ambassador to Hungary, He enjoyed a friendly relationship with President Roosevelt (67).

Hitler continued his expansionist policy of controlling what he called “Living Space” (68), and although Hungary was aligned with the Axis powers, it did not declare war on the Soviet Union when Germany began attacking Soviet territory in June 22, 1941 (69).

The American administration obtained information that Hungary announced partial mobilization, but did not participate in the German-Soviet war, despite the fact that the Hungarians were strongly anti-Soviet, because they had never forgotten what communism had done (70) to their country (71). But Hungary soon declared war on the Soviet Union on June 27, 1941, following Soviet aircraft bombing the city of Kassa (72), and deployed its forces on the eastern front, which sparked Americans’ resentment over the actions of the Hungarian government. Meanwhile, the US State Department rejected an appeal submitted by a group of conservative Hungarian capitalists and Western-oriented Hungarian landlords to exert influence on Britain, to prevent the latter from declaring war on Hungary. This appeal was mediated by the American ambassador in Budapest (73).

It is worth noting that Britain declared war on Hungary, Romania, and Finland on December 7, 1941 (74). Meanwhile, US Deputy Secretary of State Sumner Welles (75) warned Hungarian Ambassador Chica in Washington that Hungary was playing a “failed role” in the German-Soviet war, and that it would face the danger of severing diplomatic relations. With the United States of America. In a related interview, Wells also indicated that the involvement of the United States of America in the war against the Axis powers would negatively affect the fate of American-Hungarian relations (76).

CONCLUSION

At the beginning of World War II, the United States of America had restrictions towards Hungary, which were to prevent Hungary from falling under German influence, as this influence would lead to entering the war against the Allies to the possibility of losing it, and thus resulting in sanctions that may be heavier than the sanctions that Hungary was subjected to under The Treaty of Trianon in 1920. On the other hand, Hungary
had limitations in its foreign policy, represented by its endeavor to get rid of the sanctions imposed on it under the Treaty of Trianon, the most important of which was to regain the lands it had lost to Czechoslovakia and Romania. At the same time, it did not want to enter the war on the side of Germany, but its fear of being exposed to German occupation prevented it, and thus the attempts of the United States of America to keep it from entering the war on the side of Germany failed.

REFERENCES


World War II broke out when Hitler invaded Poland, then Britain and France declared war on Germany on September 3, after which countries began to align with both fronts - the axis included many countries, the most important of which were (Germany, Italy, Japan) As for the Allies (Britain, France), which were joined by the Soviet Union and the United States of America. The war continued until 1945 after Germany announced its surrender on May 7, 1945, followed by Japan on August 15, 1945. For more, see: Ramadan Lawand, The Second World War: An Illustrated Presentation, 4th edition, Dar Al Ilm Lil-Millain, Beirut, 1974; any. Gee. with me. Taylor, World War II: An Illustrated History, translated by Samir Abdul Rahim Al-Chalabi, reviewed by Major General Alaeddin Hussein Makkia, Baghdad, 1987.

Adolf Hitler 1889 - 1945: German leader and head of state, also called the Führer. He was born in Austria in 1889 in the village of Bernau. He received his education in the city of Linz, but the death of his father in 1903 made him leave his studies. He moved to Vienna in 1909 with the aim of entering the Faculty of Fine Arts, but failed to pass the examination. He joined the ranks of the German Army as a volunteer at the outbreak of World War I. He was seriously wounded in 1916 and 1918. Hitler joined the National Socialist German Workers’ Party, which was later known as the Nazi Party, in 1919. Hitler led a failed coup attempt known as the Munich Putsch in 1923. He was subsequently arrested and sentenced to five years in prison, but he remained for thirteen months. During this period, he wrote the book Mein Kampf. He became Reich Chancellor on January 31, 1933. He was a major cause of the outbreak of World War II following his invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. He committed suicide on April 30, 1945 after his armies suffered defeat before the Allied armies in World War II and their entry into Berlin. For more, see: Jad Taha, Germany, where is the Destiny, Dar Al-Maaref, Cairo, 1990, p. 96; Roger Parkinson, Encyclopedia of Modern Warfare, translated by Samir Abdul Rahim Al-Chalabi, vol. 1, Dar al-Ma’mun, Baghdad, 1990, pp. 294-295; Alan Barmer, Encyclopedia of Modern History 1789-1945, translated by Sawsan Faisal Al-Samer and Yusuf Muhammad Amin, vol. 1, 1st edition, Dar al-Ma’mun, Baghdad, 1992, pp. 366-368.


Franklin Roosevelt (1882 - 1945): The thirty-second president of the United States of America. He was born in New York in 1882. He studied at Columbia Law School at Harvard University. He was elected as a senator from the state of New York in the period 1911 - 1913. He worked as Undersecretary of the US Navy in 1913 - 1920. He was paralyzed in August 1921. However, he continued to practice his political work. He entered the elections with the Democratic candidate Alfred I. Smith, but they lost in it. He then became governor of the state of New York in the period 1929-1932, and then entered the elections as a candidate for the American presidency for the Democratic Party. In contrast to President Hoover, when the United States of America was going through the ordeal of the economic crisis, he was able, through his program (The new approach) is to gain the trust of the American people. During his reign, the United States of America recognized the Soviet Union in 1933. He worked to help Britain in its war against the Axis Powers through the Lend-Lease Decree. President Roosevelt also provided assistance - under the Lend-Lease Decree - to the Soviet Union, and declared war on the Axis Powers on December 11th. 1941, due to Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor. He played a major role in the unity of the Allies during the war and the unity of their goals. He died on April 12, 1945. For more, see: Alan Palmer, History of the Modern History Encyclopedia 1789-1945, translated by Sawsan Faisal Al-Samer and Yusuf Ahmed Amin, vol. 2, 1st edition, Dar Al-Ma’mun, Baghdad, 1992, pp. 238-240; Ahmed Khadr, Franklin Roosevelt to the Summit in a Wheelchair, Dar Al-Maaref, Cairo, (D, T), pp. 54-55.

Before this decree, the United States of America issued several decrees: When Italy launched its military campaign against Ethiopia in 1935. The Congressional Foreign Affairs Committee issued a resolution authorizing the President to prevent the shipment of weapons to the warring countries, as well as to prevent American citizens from traveling on the ships of the warring countries. The American administration issued a neutrality decree in 1936, prohibiting the extension of loans to warring countries. In 1937, he issued another decree following the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, which included a ban on the export of ammunition to the warring parties. For more, see: Sadiq Hassan Al-Sudani, History of the Great Powers (1914-1945), 1st edition, Baghdad, pp. 193-194.

The American administration began to pump more aid to Britain, to prolong the latter's resistance against German attacks. On September 2, 1940, it loaned fifty destroyers to Britain, in exchange for the latter leasing a number of naval and air bases in the French Indies and the island of Newfoundland. To the United States of America for a period of (99) years. The American administration issued the Lend-Lease Decree in March 1941, and Congress approved it after (260) members voted for it against (165). Under this decree, the president had the right to provide weapons and war materials to the warring countries that he determined, provided that they did not harm the interests of the warring countries. United States Defense. Britain benefited greatly from this decree, through the influx of weapons and war equipment as well as money from the United States of America. Fisher, previous source, p. 685, Salah Al-Akkad, World War II, Studies in the History of International Relations, Cairo, 1963, p. 267. (Haider Sabri Shaker Al-Khiaymi, previous source, pp. 292-293.

John Flournoy Montgomery (1878 - 1954): An American businessman and diplomat, he was born in the state of Missouri on September 20, 1878 in the town of Sedalia and received his education there. He worked as head of a dairy industry factory, and in 1925 he became president of the International Milk Company in Vermont until 1933. He was a supporter of the policy of the Democratic Party, and after Roosevelt assumed the presidency of the White House, he appointed him ambassador to Hungary in June 1933, and he continued in his position until 1941. Montgomery published his memoirs in which he dealt with the events he experienced in Hungary. He died in 1954. For more see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Flournoy_Montgomery


Pál Teleki (1879–1941): Hungarian scientist and statesman, descendant of a historic Transylvanian family. He obtained his doctorate in 1903, and began his university teaching career as a geographer. He traveled extensively in Europe and other places, and in 1905 he was elected as a member of Parliament in the period 1919-1921. He held several ministerial portfolios and then became Prime Minister in the period June 1920 - April 1921. After leaving his position, he continued his activity in academic and public life. He was a consistent advocate for the revision of the post-war territorial settlement and was the founder of the Hungarian Revision Association, which opposed the 1920 Treaty of Trianon that formalized those revisions. He became prime minister again in 1939. He wanted Hungary to control more of the territory it had lost after World War I. Under Teleki, Hungary was regained routinely through military action and northern Transylvania through arbitration mediated by Germany and Italy. During his reign, Hungary joined the Tripartite Pact (Germany, Italy, and Japan). He committed suicide when his efforts to prevent Hungary from involvement in the invasion of Yugoslavia failed. For more see: Richard Frucht (ed.), Encyclopedia of Eastern Europe From the Congress of Vienna to the Fall of Communism, New York, 2000, p. 678.


Tibor Eckhart (1888-1972): Hungarian lawyer and politician. He received his university education in Budapest, Berlin, and Paris. He began his career as an official in one of the cities of Hungary in the period 1918-1919. He became involved in the movement opposing the revolutionary governments in Hungary. He joined the Small Landlords Party. In 1930, and became its leader two years later, he became a delegate of Hungary to the League of Nations in the period 1934-1935, and during this era he supported the pro-British orientation in Hungarian foreign policy, in addition to that he was a supporter of the establishment of a federal union between Austria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. After World War II, he became a prominent figure in the anti-Soviet Hungarian émigré community. He died in 1972. For more, see: Richard Frucht (ed.), Op.Cit., p.202.

Miklós Horthy (1868–1957): Hungarian regent and the dominant political figure in Hungary in the era of the two world wars. Horthy was born into a Protestant gentry family in 1868, and began a successful career as an officer in the Austro-Hungarian Navy. After World War I, he rose to power as a war hero, and in 1920, Parliament elected him regent, a position he held for twenty-four years. His strategy when war broke out was to cling to armed neutrality while simultaneously cooperating with Germany to regain lost Hungarian territories. This policy ended in disaster in 1941 when Horthy agreed to Hungarian participation in the German attacks on Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. The Germans forced him to abdicate and transferred him as a prisoner to Bavaria. The victorious Allies chose not to try Horthy as a war criminal, and Horthy spent his remaining years in exile in Portugal, never returning to his native country. He remained a staunch opponent of the communist regime until his death in 1957. In 1993, Horthy's remains were returned to Hungary and he was reburied in his home village of Kindres. For more see: Richard Frucht (ed.), Op.Cit., p.284.

Most of the Hungarian immigrants who emigrated to the United States of America were concerned with gaining wealth and then returning to their homeland. But emergency circumstances befell Hungary, which made some of them prefer to remain in the United States of America permanently. At the forefront of these circumstances is the carving out of parts of Hungary and annexing them to Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Romania. This is what made them fear that their status as a minority would be upon their return to their homeland, and this is what made them refuse to return. In addition to the poor economic conditions that Hungary was suffering from after the war, especially after the imposition of the Trianon Treaty on it, this prevented a large portion of Hungarians from returning. Accordingly, these immigrants began to integrate and assimilate into American society, which made their children born in the United States of America Americans. However, they did not forget the motherland. They played an important role in defending the interests of the homeland of their fathers and grandfathers, by establishing a movement known as “ “Movement for an Independent Hungary” in January 1941, aimed to
create a balance in the policy of the Hungarian government, after the latter had turned, due to its wrong orientations, into a weak tool in Hitler's hands to achieve his ambitions. It is worth noting that this movement was founded through the efforts of both the Hungarian-American Federation, which was founded in 1906 and reopened in 1939, and the Consultative Assembly, which was founded in 1940. Upon Eckhart's arrival in the United States of America, he established contacts with American government departments and leaders of Hungarian-American organizations, after presenting himself as a political refugee. He succeeded in merging the movement for an independent Hungary with his movement that bore the same name, and was able to assume leadership of both movements. However, he failed to gain the trust of American official circles. This is what caused the movement's activity to diminish little by little. For more information see: Ibid, Pp. 128-133.

Many agreements were concluded between Germany, Hungary, Italy, and Hungary. These agreements had political and economic goals. The meeting point between Germany and Hungary was the strong desire to get rid of the provisions of the Treaties of Versailles and Trianon, which Germany and Hungary considered a disgrace. Accordingly, the rapprochement between them took many forms. At the beginning of 1934, a secret trade agreement was signed, through which Germany expressed its willingness to increase its purchases of Hungarian agricultural products, and Hungarian grain shipments doubled by 1935.

Germany worked to supply weapons to Hungary out of a desire to build Hungarian military forces in order for the latter to regain its lands that it claimed by force. There was also a military deal for grain in 1935. As for Italy, it concluded a friendship and cooperation agreement with Hungary in 1927, in addition to concluding alliances in March 1934 alongside Austria, one of the desired goals of which was the formation of an economic bloc led by Italy in the Danube. Not to mention Italy providing a loan to Hungary worth 513 million liras to develop the Hungarian military force. The rapprochement between Germany, Italy, and Hungary culminated in the latter obtaining some of the territories it had lost under the Treaty of Trianon to Czechoslovakia, through the first Vienna arbitration in 1938. See more. Farqad Abbas Qasim Rashid, Britain's position with the German expansion in Europe 1938-1939 (Austria and Czechoslovakia), unpublished master's thesis, College of Education, University of Basra, 1999, p. 135; Ruqayyah Muhammad Ghanem Abul-Akaishi, Joachim von Ribbentrop and his influence on German politics (1893-1946), unpublished master's thesis, College of Education for Girls, University of Kufa, 2020, pp. 214-217; Hoda Abdel Fattah Muhammad, Italian-German Relations (1933-1939), unpublished master's thesis, College of Arts, Iraqi University, 2021, p. 93; Thomas L. Sakmyster, Hungary, the Great Powers, and the Danubian Crisis 1936-1939, The University of Georgia Press, 1980, pp.40,50. (20)Quoted in: John Flournoy Montgomery, Op.Cit., P. 81.

(Under the Treaty of Trianon, which was imposed on Hungary in 1920, Hungary was stripped of two-thirds of its territory and two-thirds of its population. Its population became eight million people, up from twenty million people. As for its area, it became, according to the treaty, thirty-five thousand miles. square, after it was one hundred and twenty-five thousand square miles. Yugoslavia got Croatia and part of the Banat, while Romania took the rest of the Banat, Transylvania, and part of the Hungarian plain in the west, and even Austria granted “German West Hungary,” meaning what is known as the “Burgland Region,” which is the only case in which the Allies granted a country defeated in the war. As for Czechoslovakia, it granted the Slovak region as well as Routenia, on the condition that it be granted autonomy and its own legislative council. In addition, Hungary lost the port of Fiume, despite the recommendations of the American committee that the Hungarians should obtain a commercial port for themselves. It was also decided, according to the Treaty of Trianon, to reduce the Hungarian armed forces to thirty-five thousand fighters, armed with light weapons. Their mission is to maintain internal security and secure the borders only. The matter was not limited to the above, but financial compensation was imposed on Hungary as it was responsible for the outbreak of the war on the side of Austria, and therefore it had to bear part of those financial obligations. It was decided that Hungary would pay compensation for a period of thirty years, starting from the first of May, 1921, according to the financial agreement dated March 11, 1921, provided that the Compensation Committee determines the amount due. In addition, the treaty stipulated that Hungary provide livestock to the devastated countries, and that Yugoslavia receive annual quotas of coal for a period of five years. Sabah Karim Riah Al-Fatlawi and Iman Nassif Jassim, Decisions of the Peace Conference of the German Empire in 1919 (Analytical Study), Journal of the Center for Kufa Studies, University of Kufa, Issue 6, 2007, p. 273; Ruqayyah Wali Hussein Al-Barkawi, The Role of the United States of America in the Peace Conference (1919-1921), unpublished master's thesis, College of Arts, University of Kufa, 2014, pp. 132-133; Dezo Janos Barth, Trianon and the Predestination of Hungarian Politics: A Historiography of Hungarian Revisionism, 1918-1944, Unpublished thesis, University of Central Florida Orlando, Florida, 2006, p. 48; Zoltán Péterecz, Jeremiah Smith, Jr. and Hungary, 1924–1926: the United States, the League of Nations, and the Financial Reconstruction of Hungary, London, 2013, p.82.


Alexander Cadogan (1884-1968): British diplomat, born in 1884, graduated from Balliol College/Oxford University. He was appointed ambassador to Beijing for the period 1933-1936. He was a supporter of the appeasement policy adopted by Chamberlain towards Germany and Italy. He was appointed permanent agent in Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1938, and accompanied Churchill to all the important conferences held during wartime: Casablanca, Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam. Then he was appointed as Britain's permanent representative to the United Nations in 1946. He died in 1968, and his memoirs were published three years after his death. It was a shock to contemporaries at the time, as it contained critical remarks about politicians and diplomats alike. For more see: Peter Neville, Historical Dictionary of British Foreign Policy, Maryland, 2013, P.59.


Italy was opposed to Hungary's decision to seize control of Rutinia, warning it that this action could jeopardize what it obtained in the 1938 Vienna arbitration. Bryan Cartledge, The Will To Survive: A History Of Hungary, London, 2011, p. 375.

William C. Bullitt (1891–1967): An American diplomat, born in Philadelphia in 1891, from a wealthy family. He graduated from Yale University in 1912. He worked as a newspaper correspondent in Europe, then worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1917 to become an attaché to the mission. The American President at the Paris Peace Conference at the beginning of 1919. American President Wilson sent him on a secret mission to Russia to consult with Lenin and other communist leaders. When he returned to the United States of America, he recommended recognition of the Russian government that resulted from the October Revolution of 1917, but President Wilson rejected this proposal, which led to Bullitt's resignation from the Peace Committee in the US State Department in late 1919.

Joachim von Ribbentrop (1893–1946): German politician and statesman, born in the Rhineland in 1893. He participated in World War I and joined the Nazi Party in the mid-twenties of the last century. He was appointed ambassador of the Soviet Union to Britain in 1936 until January 1939. To become Minister of Foreign Affairs, he played an important diplomatic role in concluding the Non-Aggression Pact concluded between Germany and the Soviet Union in 1939, as well as his role in concluding the Tripartite Pact in 1940. He was sentenced to death, because of his role in stoking World War II, and was executed in October 1946. For more, see: Allan Barmer, previous source, vol. 2, pp. 229–230; Essam Abdel Fattah, World War II: Weapons in the Service of Politics, Cairo, 2006, p. 145.


The Charter of the Triple Alliance was signed between Germany, Italy, and Japan on the twenty-seventh of September 1940 in Berlin. The charter stipulated the spread of peace among all countries of the world, mutual assistance, and cooperation in
efforts among the signatory countries, whether in East Asia or in Europe, especially The purpose of this agreement is to preserve the new order to which these countries aspire. One of the objectives of the Charter was to promote prosperity and achieve well-being for peoples. In addition to other items, the most important of which was Japan’s recognition of the establishment of a new regime in East Asia, in which they would take the leadership role. Japan must respect this role, in exchange for Germany and Italy’s recognition of the establishment of a new regime in East Asia, in which Japan would take the leadership role, and the two countries must respect that role. For more, see: Hossam Tohme Nasser, German-Japanese Political Relations 1933-1941, unpublished doctoral thesis, College of Arts, University of Basra, 2018, pp. 271-272; Anmar Hamid Awad Hamad Al-Halbousi, Count Galeazzo Ciano and his role in political life in Italy 1903-1944, unpublished master’s thesis, College of Arts, Iraqi University, 2018, pp. 144-145.

An elite group of French military leaders, 2194 days of World War II: War diaries supported by photos and secret documents, translated by the Arab House of Encyclopedias, vol. 1, 1st edition, Beirut, 1994, p. 92.

Sankar Marković (1889 - 1952): Serbian diplomat. Born in 1889, the son of a Serbian general and prime minister, he graduated from high school in Belgrade, and in 1911 he graduated in law in Freiburg and Berlin. Then he obtained his doctorate in France. He worked as Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1918, and as personal secretary to Nikola Pašić, he participated in the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. He was also Secretary General of the delegation to the Rapallo Conference, where the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes signed the peace treaty with Italy in 1920. Sankar Marković became Minister For Foreign Affairs in the government of Dragisa Cvetković in February 1939. When Yugoslavia declared neutrality on September 5, 1939, Marković did not hide his sympathies with Poland and France. Until February 1941, Cvetković’s government was reluctant to join the Tripartite Pact, but in light of increasing German pressure, it surrendered. Marković held talks on this matter with the German side, and obtained positive German answers to questions about whether territorial integrity would be respected. Yugoslavia, whether Yugoslavia would be free from pressure to allow German or Italian forces in, and whether Yugoslavia could count on support for its claims to the port of Thessaloniki. On March 25, 1941, Cvetković and Marković signed the tripartite agreement in the presence of Hitler. The Yugoslav government believed that it had saved the country from war, but on the night of March 26-27, it was overthrown in a bloodless coup led by Dusan Simović. On April 6, Germany attacked Yugoslavia. Marković was forced to sign the surrender document, in his capacity as a representative of the Yugoslav General Staff. During the war and under communist rule, he remained in Yugoslavia but did not play any role. He died in 1952. For more, see: Wojciech Roszkowski and Jan Kofman (eds.), Biographical Dictionary of Central and Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century, New York, 2008, P.159.

Dusan Simović (1882-1962): A Serbian general and politician, born on November 9, 1882. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1900. He participated in the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) and then fought in World War I as Chief of staff of a division. Between the two world wars, Simović held several military positions, including the position of Area Commander of the 2nd Division, then he served as Chief of Staff of the Army until the fall of 1940, after which he became Commander-in-Chief of the Yugoslav Air Forces. After the outbreak of World War II, and from 1939, Simović assisted in the intensive development of military forces. He had a critical attitude towards Yugoslavia’s rapprochement with the Axis powers. British and American diplomats supported his position, especially since Simović promised them that Yugoslavia would fight against Italy and Germany. Simović hoped for British assistance for Yugoslavia, and believed that Great Britain, with support from the United States, would defeat Germany. After Prince Regent Paul and Prime Minister Dragisa Cvetković signed the protocol on Yugoslavia’s accession to the Tripartite Pact in 1941, a military coup was organized in Belgrade on the night of March 26-27, 1941. As a result of this coup, Prince Peter ascended the throne and Simović became head of government. Seeking external support, Simović and Foreign Minister Momcilu Ninisic entered into negotiations with British Chief of Staff John Dale. On the night of April 5-6, Simović also signed a treaty of friendship and non-aggression with the Soviet Union. However, his efforts did not prevent Germany from launching a military campaign to invade Yugoslavia, which occurred on April 6. Simović became Chief of the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army, which was soon defeated. On April 14, 1941, Simović resigned his leadership and went into exile in Great Britain with the government. He sought British assistance for the secret army led by General Dragoljub (Draza) Mihailović in occupied Yugoslavia, but British assistance was relatively small. The Soviets, who supported the Communist Party led by Josip Broz Tito, had a more negative attitude towards the Simović government. On January 12, 1942, Simović resigned from the post of Prime Minister of the government in exile. In February 1944, when the Communists controlled a large part of Yugoslavia, Simović saw it necessary to reach a compromise with Tito. He returned to Yugoslavia in May 1945. But he did not play any political role. He died on August 26, 1962. For more, see: Wojciech Roszkowski and Jan Kofman (eds.), O.P. Cit., p.916.


Benito Mussolini (1883 - 1945): Italian politician and statesman, born in 1883. He is the son of a blacksmith and his mother was a teacher. He worked as a teacher for one year, after which he fled to Switzerland in 1902 to escape military service. He was influenced by socialist ideas in Switzerland. When he returned to Italy in 1904, he began calling for socialism, and at the same time he worked as a journalist for eleven years. He became prime minister in 1922. He worked hard to restore the
The Outbreak of World War II and Its Impact on the Policy

glory of the Roman Empire, so he began implementing an expansionist colonial policy, as a result of which he occupied Abyssinia from 1935 to 1936. In addition to the fact that his policy was in line with Hitler's expansionist policy, as a result the two parties reached an agreement called the Rome-Berlin Axis 1936. He succeeded in occupying Albania in 1939. He entered World War II on the side of Germany after the latter occupied France in 1940. King Victor Emmanuel forced him to resign in 1943 because he brought Italy into the furnace of war. He was thrown into prison as a result, but German forces were able to rescue him in September. 1943. He succeeded in establishing a government in northern Italy, but that did not last long. He was soon captured by the Italian revolutionaries and executed in April 1945. For more, see: Allan Barmer, previous source, vol. 2, pp. 122-125; Issam Abdel Fatiah, previous source, pp. 144-153.


Anthony Eden (1897 - 1977): British politician and statesman, born in 1897. He completed his university studies at Oxford and graduated with honors in Oriental Languages. He served in World War I, and was elected to the House of Commons in 1923. Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin appointed him Foreign Minister in 1935, but he resigned in 1938 due to his opposition to Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's appeasement policy towards Germany and Italy. He assumed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs again during the period 1940 - 1945 during the era of Churchill, then he assumed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a third time during Churchill's second term 1951 - 1955, and he became Prime Minister in 1955 following Churchill's resignation due to the latter's advanced age, but Eden resigned from the position of Prime Minister in 1955. 1957 due to deteriorating health. He died in 1977. For more, see: Muhammad Shafiq Ghorbal, The Easy Arabic Encyclopedia, vol. 1, 3rd edition, Beirut, 2009, pp. 545-546; Robert G. Parker, British Prime Ministers, translated by Sadiq Hassan Al-Sudani, Baghdad, 2020, pp. 177-179.

John Flournoy Montgomery, O.P. Cit., p. 125.


After its occupation of Yugoslavia, Germany and the powers allied with it worked to divide the latter, establishing the state of Croatia and annexing Bosnia and Herzegovina and part of Serbia, annexing the coasts of Croatia to Italy, dividing Slovenia between Germany and Italy, and working to establish a military administration. Italian territory in Montenegro, placing Macedonia and the eastern part within the influence of Hungary, in addition to the latter obtaining the Serbian Banat region. As for the Serbian province of Kosovo, it came under Italian control. Alaa Razzak Fadel, previous source, p. 21.

Telegram From The Charge in Hungary (Travers) to the Secretary of State, Budapest, April 3, 1941, Cited in: FRUS., Vol. I, p. 299.

Ibid.

Telegram From The Secretary of State to the Chargé in Hungary (Travers), Washington, April 5, 1941, Cited in: FRUS., Vol. I, P.P. 300-301.

Telegram From The Charge in Hungary (Travers) to the Secretary of State, Budapest, April 7, 1941, Cited in: FRUS., Vol. I, P.P. 302-303.


Peter Sitos and Istvan Vida, Op. Cit., p. 84.


Peter Sitos and Istvan Vida, Op.Cit., p. 84.

Lebensraum: is a term that means space or living space, that is, the acquisition of lands and colonies and making them subject to German settlement, and the expansion of German lands to the east to provide land and material resources for the German people. Hitler explained in his book (Mein Kampf), which he wrote in prison in the year 1924, to the importance of the biosphere, pointing to the importance of food, material resources, and vast lands in Eastern Europe, especially obtaining raw materials in the Ural Mountains and Siberia, and agricultural wealth in Ukraine. In addition, the vital space had a racial factor, as Hitler believed that the Slavs and Jews in the East were subhuman. For more see: https://www.britannica.com/topic/Lebensraum

The Soviet Republic was established in Hungary under the leadership of Belakon on March 21, 1919. He worked to create an army called the Red Army, as the goal of this was to regain the lands that Hungary lost with Czechoslovakia and Romania. On the other hand, Belakon launched campaigns to eliminate elements Moderate Hungarianism and the nationalization of agricultural lands instead of distributing them to the peasants. For more see: Rudolf L. Tokes, Bela Kun and the Hungarian Soviet Republic: The Origins and Role of the Communist Party of Hungary in the Revolutions of 1918-1919, California, 1967, Pp. 123-207; Mihlós Molnár, A Concise History of Hungary, Cambridge University Press, 2001, P153; https://www.britannica.com/biography/Bela-Kun.


Telegram from The Minister in Hungary (Pell) to the Secretary of State, Budapest, June 27, 1941, Cited in: FRUS., Vol.1, P. 319.

Peter Sitos and Istvan Vida, Op. Cit., p. 84.


Sumner Wells (1892 - 1961): A career American diplomat who figured prominently in policy-making in Latin America and World War II. Sumner Wells was born in New York City on October 14, 1892, and graduated from Harvard University in 1914. Upon entering the Foreign Ministry in 1915, he held a number of subordinate positions. He held posts in Tokyo, Buenos Aires, and Washington before 1922, and was a delegate to several international committees during the 1920s. In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed him Assistant Secretary of State, a position he held until 1937 except for the period from April to December 1933. While he was ambassador to Cuba, Wells, who believed in the principle of "friendly intervention," was directed to help stabilize situation and thus strengthen trade relations between the United States and Cuba. During his short term, Wells witnessed the overthrow of a government and its replacement with a clearly anti-American government, which eventually forced him to leave the island. He recommended armed intervention and encouraged other Cuban factions to form a new government. After his return to Washington, he served as Deputy Secretary of State. Wells continued his deep involvement in Western Hemisphere affairs and is credited with an innovation "Good Neighbor Policy". He coordinated the flow of information during the Munich Conference (1938), headed the US delegation to the Panama Conference (1939) on inter-American security, undertook an exploratory mission to several European capitals (1940), met with Hitler, Mussolini, and Chamberlain, and accompanied Roosevelt to the Atlantic Conference with Churchill (1941). Because of disagreements with Secretary of State Cordell Hull over access to the president, and perhaps attitudes toward the Soviet Union, Wells resigned in September 1943. He devoted most of his time after 1943 to writing about foreign affairs, authoring numerous books, including "A Time to Decide" (1944), "To Where are we headed?" (1946), No Need to Fail (1948), and Seven Decisions That Shaped History (1950). He died in New Jersey, on September 24, 1961. John E. Findling, Dictionary of American diplomatic history, Greenwood Press, USA, 1980, Pp.504 -505.

Peter Sitos and Istvan Vida, Op. Cit., p. 84.