

NO AUSTRIAN RACE, EMPIRE WAS ONLY MEDLEY OF RACES

Washington, March 18.—Two new nations, Czecho-Slovakia and the Kingdom of the Croats, Serbs and Slovenes (Jugo-Slavia), have emerged largely from races and territory of Austria-Hungary. Further breaking up of the old dual empire is under discussion at the peace conference. To understand the causes of these realignments of peoples it is necessary to know the hodge-podge racial content of this polyglot state—always more of a racial reagent than a melting pot.

The following is the second of a series of geographic news bulletins on racial groups of Europe, based on a communication to the National Geographic Society from Dr. Edwin A. Grosvenor:

"The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was an anomaly, both as to its system and as to the ethnical composition of its inhabitants. Austria-Hungary consisted of two equal and independent parts, Austria and Hungary. In Austria, in 1910, there were 9,550,000 Austrian-Germans, as against 18,243,000 non-Germans of various races, mainly Slav. In Hungary, in 1910, there were 10,051,000 Magyars, as against 10,836,000 non-Magyars of various races.

"The Germans, though but one-third the population in the one, were dominant there, and the Magyars, though less than half the population in the other, were dominant there. To maintain this ascendancy of these two minorities summed up all the internal policy and determined most of the foreign policy of Austria-Hungary.

"The Austrian-Germans and the Magyars always disliked each other. The Austrian was a foreigner at Budapest and the Magyar at Vienna. But each recognized that his own political salvation depended largely on alliance with the other. To the Austrian especially it was an absolute necessity. The ascendancy of each was to be ascribed in part to long monopoly of power and to superior cleverness in manipulation.

"But always it could count on jealousies and divisions among the Slavic subjects, a condition always encouraged. More than once the hopes of some one of its subject Slavic peoples have approached realization, only to be thwarted by opposition of other Slavs, or by its own dissensions.

"The disruption of the Austro-Hungarian empire left the Magyars in much the same position as before, but broke Austria into fragments. The Austrian-Germans still formed a compact body, but each of the subject Slavic peoples sprang to a realization of the national idea.

"The Germans inhabit a large territory, extending from Switzerland south of Bavaria to a little east of Vienna; also a belt of German population almost surrounds the Czechs, and German enclaves are dotted like islands in the midst of neighboring Magyars and Slavs.

"Despite frequent usage, it must not be forgotten that the word 'Austrian' never was identified with or represented a race. It is a convenient distinguishing term, as in saying that the Austro-Germans have strong sympathies with the Germans in the former German Empire and will ultimately unite with them.