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**Nationalsozialismus transnational. Rechts- und
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The volume *Nationalsozialismus transnational. Rechts- und Ideologietransfer insbesondere zwischen dem „Dritten Reich“ und Ungarn*, edited by Eva Schumann and Eszter Cs. Herger, was published by Göttingen University Press in 2024. The publication is the outcome of the research project “Theory and Practice of Disenfranchisement in the Second Half of the Horthy Era in Comparison with the Nazi Regime”, funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and conducted between 2019 and 2024 by two research teams led respectively by Prof. Dr. Eszter Cs. Herger (University of Pécs) and Prof. Dr. Eva Schumann (Georg-August University of Göttingen).

The subject of the book is an analysis of the transnational character of National Socialism, with particular emphasis on the transfer of legal thought and ideology between Nazi Germany and Hungary. Hungary serves as the primary reference point for assessing the effectiveness of the transfer of Nazi legal and ideological concepts, a choice that must be regarded as well justified. This is due above all to the anti-Jewish legislation introduced in Hungary up to 1938, which was modeled on solutions adopted in Germany. As will be discussed further below, the volume also includes references to Austria and Slovakia.

The book consists of an introduction and sixteen substantive chapters, grouped into five thematic sections: National Socialism in a Transnational Perspective; Legal Relations and Legal Transfer between Nazi Germany and Hungary; Transnational Discourses on

National Socialist Constitutional and International Law; Disenfranchisement of the Jewish Population; Nazi *Volksgruppenrecht* and Hungarian Minority Policy. A sixth section contains abstracts, biographical notes on the authors, a list of publications produced within the framework of the project, a list of illustrations, and an index of names. The published chapters represent a variety of methodological approaches to the subject matter, which undoubtedly constitutes a major strength of the volume. Most contributions are written in German, while three are published in English. The authors are at different stages of their academic careers and primarily represent the disciplines of legal studies and history; some of them are also active legal practitioners.

The first section, “National Socialism in a Transnational Perspective,” which has the most theoretical and introductory character, comprises three chapters. The opening chapter, authored by the editor of the volume, Eva Schumann, introduces the central themes of the book and provides a concise overview of all contributions. It also includes the introduction of key concepts, such as that of transnational transfer. Of particular importance is the concluding synthesis, which identifies a general thesis emerging from the individual studies: Nazi law was discussed in a relatively “normal” manner in certain parts of Europe and functioned as a guiding framework or at least as a point of reference. The Nazi regime successfully pursued a policy of consciously exploiting transnational relations to facilitate the transfer of law and ideology.

In the subsequent chapter, “A »Völkisch«-Fascist Europe,” Dieter Pohl examines the emergence of fascism and *völkisch* nationalism in Europe during the 1930s. Drawing primarily on the examples of Hungary and Romania, he demonstrates how far-right movements came to power in this period. He argues that the political landscape of the region was shaped by a mixture of fascism and nationalist tendencies, which assumed different forms in individual states, while antisemitism constituted a common denominator in many cases. The first section concludes with a chapter by Dan Sato, “The »New European Order« in Japanese Legal History Research,” which explores the influence of National Socialist legal doctrine on Japanese legal scholars, particularly Satoshi Nishimoto.

The second section of the book, “Legal Relations and Legal Transfer between Nazi Germany and Hungary,” includes a chapter by Schumann devoted to transnational cooperation, interactions, and legal discourses between German and Hungarian jurists, viewed primarily from the perspective of National Socialism. Herger, in turn, analyzes the diverse reactions of Hungarian legal scholars to the changes introduced by National Socialists in the field of private law and to attempts to transfer these legal concepts. The issue of legal assistance between Germany and Hungary in the years 1939–1942 is examined in the third chapter of this section by Gerit Hamann.

The subsequent section, “Transnational Discourses on National Socialist Constitutional and International Law,” contains three chapters. The first, by Kamila Staudigl-Ciechowicz, addresses the attitudes of Austrian – particularly Viennese – law professors toward German constitutional law in the period 1933–1938. Gábor Schweitzer discusses the influence of German constitutional doctrine on debates concerning the Hungarian constitution. The final chapter of this section, authored by Péter Tschet, examines the impact of Carl Schmitt on Hungarian legal scholarship and public discourse prior to 1945.

The fourth section of the book, comprising four chapters, is devoted to the process of disenfranchisement of the Jewish population in various states. The introductory contribution by Miloslav Szabó addresses antisemitism in Central Europe during the interwar period, focusing primarily on Austria and Czechoslovakia – and, after 1939, Slovakia – with references to Hungary. In the following chapters, Iván Halász analyzes anti-Jewish legislation in Slovakia; Helen Ahlke Abram offers a comparative analysis of anti-Jewish legislation in Germany and Hungary; and Veronika Lehotay examines the practical implementation of Jewish disenfranchisement through Hungarian criminal law.

The final section of the volume, also consisting of four chapters, is devoted to National Socialist *Volksgruppenrecht* and Hungarian minority policies. In the opening chapter, Timo Marcel Albrecht analyzes how German approaches to ethnic group law influenced legislation in Central Eastern and Southeastern Europe after 1939. Zsolt Vitári focuses on the consequences and challenges that National Socialist *Volksgruppenrecht* posed for Hungarian minority policy. Another chapter discusses the first trial of Franz Basch in 1934 and his subsequent fate, demonstrating the extent to which political considerations shaped minority issues in German-Hungarian relations during the latter half of the Horthy era. In the final contribution, Patrícia Dominika Niklai characterizes Hungarian assimilation policies in the fields of culture and education during the Horthy period.

The chapters published in the monograph demonstrate a high scholarly standard and are, for the most part, based on primary sources, providing readers with new empirical findings and interpretations. The editorial concept of dividing the book into five clearly delineated and thematically coherent sections also deserves high praise. In navigating the often highly detailed subject matter, more synthetic and introductory contributions – such as those by Pohl and Szabó – prove particularly helpful.

The decision to examine the transnational influence of National Socialist law on the legislation of other states, in this case Hungary, should likewise be assessed positively. Such a research design invariably broadens our understanding of legal institutions and their capacity for influence, even when – as in the present case – it concerns “inhuman” law that was discriminatory in both its foundations and objectives. Comparative research on Nazi law had already been undertaken by Raphael Lemkin, who juxtaposed various legal solutions adopted by German authorities in occupied territories in his seminal work *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe: Laws of Occupation, Analysis of Government, Proposals for Redress*¹. The originality of the reviewed volume consists in its comparative analysis of the impact and degree of reception of National Socialist law in the legal order of another sovereign state, which – under varying conditions of voluntariness – either incorporated specific legal solutions or was compelled to do so.

In a broader context, the volume reveals the imperial aspirations of the Third Reich, which sought not only to conquer and subordinate other states and nations, but also to exert influence over its allies through the transfer of knowledge, cultural ties, joint research initiatives, and formal agreements. The book will be of interest to both legal scholars and historians researching Nazi-era law, as well as German-Hungarian relations in the period 1933–1945. It may also prove useful for researchers examining legal transfer, legal reception, and transnational legal influence.

¹ Lemkin, *Axis Rule*.

It should be noted in passing that research on law and the judiciary in the various regions of occupied Europe during the years 1939–1945 has reached a high scholarly level. Examples include studies focusing on individual territories, such as the Netherlands (Derk Venema²), Norway (Hans Petter Graver³), the Czech lands (Jaromír Tauchen⁴), and the Polish territories (Konrad Graczyk⁵). This allows for the formulation of a postulate calling for a new reading of the legal forms of occupation employed by German authorities, through expanded comparative research into the applied legal solutions and the legal institutions introduced in occupied Europe.

Finally, it is worth noting that the reviewed publication is available in open access.

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² Venema, *Rechtters in oorlogstijd* (dissertation). Also volume edited by this author: Venema, *Supreme Courts Under Nazi Occupation*.

³ Graver, *Der Krieg der Richter*.

⁴ Tauchen, “The Judiciary,” 345–64.

⁵ Graczyk, *Ein Anderes Gericht*; Bartnicka, Graczyk, “How to »legally« decimate Jews?”, 169–96; Graczyk, Mielnik “Special courts,” 271–308.