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Genocide in The Carpathians:

War, Social Breakdown, and Mass Violence 1914-1945

Genocide in the Carpathians presents the history of Subcarpathian Rus', a multi-ethnic and multi-religious borderland in the heart of Europe. This society of Carpatho-Ruthenians (the majority Slavic population), Jews, Magyars (ethnic Hungarians), and Roma disintegrated first under the pressure of state building in interwar Czechoslovakia and, during World War II, the onslaught of Hungarian occupation authorities. Charges of foreignness and disloyalty to the Hungarian state linked antisemitism to xenophobia and national security anxieties. Drawing on Raphael Lemkin who coined the term "genocide," *Genocide in the Carpathians* argues that genocide in the region unfolded as a Hungarian policy aimed at thorough social and cultural destruction, well before the German invasion of Hungary in March 1944 and the mass deportations of Jews to Auschwitz that followed it throughout the spring and summer. Hungarian authorities engaged in mass robbery, deportations, and killings against all non-Magyar groups in their efforts to recast the social fabric of the region as part of an ethno-national "Greater Hungary." The book focuses on the links in this system of mass violence, even as it traces the more intense and eventually murderous attack against Jews. This perspective reorients our view of the Holocaust not simply as a German drive for continent-wide genocide, but as a truly international campaign of mass violence, closely related to violence against non-Jews unleashed by projects of state and nation building across Europe. The genocidal assault on the people of Subcarpathian Rus' thus obliterated not only tens of thousands of lives but also a religiously and ethnically diverse society that today, from the vantage point of our world of nation-states, we find difficult to imagine.