The population of Szentes and its continuity between 1715 and 1840

Theses

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Reasons for choosing the theme

I intended my work to discover new facts on historical sources, which have not been discussed by our time.

By Edward Hallet Carr's view the history writing is a dialogue between past and present times and historian selects past events and facts according his determined theory. But his theory is based on development of things towards new aims.

Regarding development of today's Szentes as it would be a new aim founded in ancient time we can find among the determining elements, which effectively took parts in development of the town, we have to give keyrole the continuity of the population. My work has been written wishing to help the dialogue between the identity researching present and the secret hiding past,which is proceeding during our time.

Working with newly invented data might have caused failure also,but I controlled my results and in a such way the usage of the source. I tried to interpret data given in matriculas truly, correctly.

My work also has been seemed to fill in the lack of history-writing, which has been waited for itself for long time so that the results of the new methods of the historical demography havent been applied on the scale of wide range of the historiography. The population of Szentes in 18th and 19th has not been counted yet by our time. However there was a work last in 1928. on political history of the town, but there are not any discussions on the number of population, its mobility and power of reproductivity. Reader can find numbers estimated after some schemes,which are incorrect and even unbelievable figures.

We have two rather old monographs on the history of Szentes: the first one written by Imre Nagy, was published in 1928. But the history written by him adapted an earlier work. Namely it was titled *Szentes*, its author was László Sima and it was published in 1914.

Lots of towns, cities even villages can be proud of their latest, outgoing monographs, in which is presented wide range of the mobility of population scientifically detailed.

Imre Nagy discussed the geographical sorrundings of the town and he emphasized the special situation of the town saved inhabitants from the Turkish invaders' devastation, which could be thanked to river Kurca and its moors in 1566. During

the 150 years' rule of Turkish Empire there were lots of occasions when the river and moors helped the community to survive several enemies' attacks.

The author mentioned in his monograph one of the historical sources namely the *dica-register* recorded in 1553. In that were recorded totally only twenty sites, private properties and if it is multiplied by five times, like the classical five multiplication number.(He considered four houses to be found on a site.)

In that way the result would be four hundred people as a taxpayers' number in 1553.

He did not enterprise to construct the figure the number of people who were unable to pay taxes.

He gave some general statements in his work about the circumstancies in 1695. according depopulation in the area around rivers Maros and Körös, from Szentes to Maros the countryside depopulated and dehumanised, but in 1720 the town was equal economically with Gyula. He cited for supporting his arguments a figure taken from 1773rd year's counting the population, when the total amount of the town's population compounded 7250 souls. In 1720th ,during János Harruckern, domain's life there lived only 1500 people, supposedly.

In Ignác Acsádi's work titled *Population of Hungary in the age of Pragmatica Sanctio* was mentioned a figure by that the town's population 1380 heads on the base of 1715th taxpayer's conscription.(In that conscription there were 230 taxpaying households and that would have been multiplied by six.)

Later, the author on base of 1753rd conscription about five thousands people got mentioned,

in 1785th 8996, in 1827th 15840 were the numbers of population by his view.

In the historical demography literature there has been existing a problem of multiplying number or how to multiply the given taxpayers' amount to get the right number of population. It is very difficult to clear up how big could be that population which could not be to involve into the paying taxes. That is why is the most suitable and the most reliable the usage of parish registers.

My research is based on three historical sources arranged by family names recorded between 1741 and 1760 compared with another list of names taken from Calvinist marriage register in 1790th and 1791st years.

But I used up another kind of sources, kind of taxregister named *dica- register recorded from 1696th* in the whole country, particularly in county *Csongrád*. The latest mentioned source could have been used by me for supporting the continuity of population in the area of the town.

The second -in indirect way- seemed to have been supporting source for my thesis also the *1715th year's country taxregister,* named *"regnicolar"* census taken down data, which were unpublished.

The third used up source by me for sake of deeper analysis were there the *parish registers of birth, marriages and deaths of Calvinist and Catholic religion.* In case of Szentes babtism had been started recording in 1741st year, by the Calvinist register and in 1751st by Catholic register.

Main aims

My first aim to try to give the whole number of the town's population correctly against the several estimated data according to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Then I wish to prove the continuity of the community over centuries. I would like to show the development of the town by discussing and selecting the details taken from the parish registers.

It turned out, obviously from the discovered data the vast major of inhabitants belonged to the Calvinist religion in 1720s, but this measure had changed completely afterwards the continuous Catholic population's moving into the town.

My further considered aim would be to track the natural reproduction. This average number 0.009 was during the examined period. This figure is not too big and not too small in accordance the country's average. The question occured, where from and which source had fed the relatively rapid growth of the town.

I have managed to explain this phenomenon, as it would be in direct consequence of having been set the town free from the depression made by Turkish rule.

We can answer modify in this way also:the area about its preferable geopolitical advantages was suitable outstandigly for running households for peastants who wished to be settled down.There had been lots of attractive .opportunities for newcomers to start new life. This economical program got more massíve or stronger with a domain's support namely János Harruckern. He gave lots of subsidies to his workers to help them with settling down. Settlers did not have to pay their taxes to him personally one by one, only the bargained amount in a determined price they had to pay altogether in total sum. It was the most important advantage. Their situation could be compared with situation of copyholders' situation in England.

But settlers came from all of the parts of the country, from 111 villages or towns, mostly from the neighbourhood, from the town named Vásárhely and from the villages sorrounded Szentes.

The very important part of my thesis is compounded by highlighting the immanens legality of growth of population, which intend to show the figure of reproduction.

I wish to prove expressively, giving reasons for my statement, *there could be found inner growing power, even though* if only two children could live in age of adults:one boy and one girl. In my representative sample of one hundred families 93 girl and

114 boys there were the " childhood-survivers ".But from the 732 children who were born in the given families 515 died in their childhood (it was 70.35% of the all)

Way of methods

First I have attempted to estimate the number of inhabitants lived in the town. I could get my result by technics of reconstitution of hundred of families ongoingly from 1st of January, 1790 by November in 1791.

I had maden earlier a list families from the surnames recorded in birth register between 1741 and 1760 years.

Then I collected the numbers the birth and deaths from 1741 or 1751 because I wanted to get the number, that could show the natural growth of the population.

I compared these data and discussing them I got the result.

For the continuity I used up material of family names emerged in 1715th , between 1741 and 1760, and 1770.

Following the records of the marriage register I could distinguish outer and inner marriagies, where bride or mostly bridegrooms came into the town to settle down.

Results of my discussion

I have got a number according to the inhabitants of the town between 1741 and 1760: it might had been about 13.600 heads (against the numbers 7250, and 8.223-mentioned by Imre Nagy and Ferenc Maksay).

In other hand I took relevant statement on continuity of genealogical descent of families. 93.8 % of families registered in 1715 remained on spot in the town.

The third part of my results worths to mention the natural growth ofthepopulation could be 0.8-1.0 % a year.

The fourth important point the rate of the netto reproduction 0.93 % was during the examined course.

The fifth aspect of my thesis was the experience about the relationship of outer fellows, whose figure was 20 %. From one hundred marriages 20 were assented as one member of the couple came from other village.

That could be said The town had in 18th century unique attractive and holding power,which caused it to grow bigger, made people settle down in hope getting more freedom.

Works in connection with the theme

Magdolna, Patai 1976. Population and the continuity of the population in the 17th and 18th centuries. In. József Sipos and Jenő Kóbor edited, *Szegedi Tanárképző Főiskola Tudományos Diákkörének kiadványai*. Szeged, 78- 105.

Magdolna, Patai 1985. The chart of the family names of the birth register of Szeged Alsóváros between 1663 and 1683. In. József, Farkas edited History of Szeged. 2. 1686-1849. Published by County Council of Szeged and Library named Somogyi. 111-118. Cited by Zoltán Kováts.