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## THE 'TRIANON TRAUMA' IN THE PAST AND IN THE PRESENT - NOSTALGIA IN THE SERVICE OF POLITICS

### ABSTRACT:

History can be rewritten at political requests, which is strongly conditioned by political interest. This issue is much more sensitive in the case of Central and Eastern European countries. We shall focus on Hungary and explore how historical events such as the end of the First World War, territorial loss, congested values, and narratives can influence society. Although it faded into the background during the Cold War period, only to resurface with renewed force after the fall of communism, deepening the divisions in Hungarian society. In the past decades, the Trianon syndrome has been successfully exploited by certain political tendencies, especially by politicians with nationalist and populist principles. The politics of grievance, which has centuries-old roots, has been combined with elements of *lieux de mémoire*, such as the so-called "Trianon crosses", memorials, the pedestal of literary works and their authors from the two world wars, or even the Hungarian Parliament's decision to celebrate 4 June as the Day of National Unity, the day on which the Trianon Peace Treaty was signed. Since the fall of communism, many decisions have been taken to normalise relations between Hungarians living beyond the borders of the EU and neighboring countries and Hungary, but an accidental or deliberate political slip of the tongue or commemoration of the Day of the Hungarian People's Republic of Independence has repeatedly led to the redefinition of the Trianon Treaty as a day of celebration of the Day of the Hungarian People's Republic of Independence. This lecture analyses how historical narratives can serve political aims and how the deep-rooted trauma of Trianon, a decision that determined Hungary's position more than a hundred years ago can still serve political ambitions. We would like to strengthen our arguments with concrete examples in order to explain the meaning of 'Trianon Trauma' from various aspects.

