It was pointed out in the beginning of this study the Swabians in Rumania and Yugoslavia would be given but a limited, summary treatment. One reason for this is that the overwhelming majority of the Swabians lived in territories which had been detached from Hungary and annexed to Rumania and Yugoslavia only at the end of World War I. Thus, a considerable proportion of the history of the Swabians in Rumania (and in Yugoslavia), that is the period from the beginnings until 1919, was included in the Hungarian part of our narrative. Omitting, therefore, the analysis of the situation that existed before 1919, we now turn to the scene of Great Rumania, as that country was called after its territorial gains under the Paris peace settlements.

a. Volume and habitat

Rumania, until the end of World War I almost mono-national, became through its aggrandizement a multi-national state, since the population of the newly gained areas was to a great extent non-Rumanian. According to the census of 1930, the ethnic picture of that country was somewhat as follows. Total population: 18,057,028 (100 percent); Rumanians (mother tongue): 13,180,936 (73.0 percent); Magyars: 1,554,525 (8.6 percent); Germans: 745,421 (4.2 percent); Ruthenes-Ukrainians: 641,485 (3.6 percent); Jews: 518,754 (2.9 percent); Russians: 450,981

1 In the newly gained areas there lived in 1930 a total of 9.25 million people of which only 5.2 million were Rumanians; the remainder was Magyar, German and others. Thus, Rumania, with 28 percent of its population non-Rumanian, became an ethnically heterogeneous entity, which it was not before the first World War.
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(2.5 percent); Bulgarians: 364,373 (2.0 percent); Turks, Tartars, Gagaus: 288,073 (1.6 percent); Gipsies: 101,015 (0.6 percent); miscellaneous: 196,199 (1.1 percent).\(^1\)

The greater part of the (Rumanian) German population lived in massive, coherent enclaves such as those in the erstwhile Hungarian territories of Transylvania, Banat and Satmar (Szatmár); in Bessarabia, Bukovina and the Dobrogea (Dobrudsha); and in smaller settlements in the so-called Regat (pre-World War I Rumania). Since the subjects of this study are only the Danube Swabians, we will concentrate on them and omit all the other Germans, among them the quarter of a million Transylvanian Saxons (see above, Chapter I). The Danube Swabians lived in the western border lands in the Banat (281,067) and Satmar region (21,845), adjacent to Hungary. There existed also a smaller group of them (12,439) in the Dobrogea in the easternmost end of the Danube valley.

b. Socio-economic fabric

As in Hungary and Yugoslavia, the Swabians of pre-1945 Rumania were primarily peasants; some 80 percent of them belonged to the rural population and only 20 percent lived in the cities, mostly as artisans or small shopkeepers and partly as white collar workers. Being peasants, they formed no exception in the overall socio-economic fabric of Rumania, which in the interwar period was overwhelmingly (about 80 percent) agrarian. Again, as in Hungary and Yugoslavia, the Swabian peasantry in Rumania proved to be in the main above average in production, in living standards and in economic resources. The neat, clean and generally prosperous Swabian villages were easily distinguishable from the non-German ones.

However, to advance from peasant status into the higher social echelons was difficult for the Swabian in Rumania, too. Although Rumania, herself only recently (1867) having graduated to nationhood and having been mono-national until 1919, was not so intolerant towards her national minorities as were the Magyars, or Slavs yet she too knew how to give preference to her own children for positions in government and administration and in admitting them to higher education. This was done

\(^1\) Compiled from Recensamantul general al populatiei Romanei din 29 Decemvrie 1930. Book II, (Bucharest: 1938) p. XXXII.