

In this study, an interesting chapter of Czechoslovak foreign policy linked with the High Tatras region in the north of present-day Slovakia is questioned – Polish-Czechoslovak dispute on Javorina. Unique natural setting of this mountainous pocket and a bit non-standard ethnical conditions of the periphery (the locals were at best amidst their identification with a modern political nation) played their part in the collision of Czechoslovak and Polish aspirations. The following dispute has broken twice in the inter-war period, thus being a question of recurring interest. Though not of a decisive importance, the Javorina question was one of symptomatic dissonances in the relations between Prague and Warsaw.

The story of the controversy about the village and its environs goes back to the formative months of the both Slavic states succeeding the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. In absence of Czechoslovakian troops, the whole country of northern Scepusia (better-known in German as Zips), as far as the towns of Stará Ľubovňa and Kežmarok on the river Poprad, was taken over by Polish troops in November-December 1918. Czechoslovakia did not want to give up the territory at any rate, and, with a slight delay, examined a local campaign to push the Poles north of historical Galician-Hungarian border. Collision was presented to the Allies, contacting their regional delegature in Budapest and, later, just-convened Paris Peace Conference (i.e. to the US President Wilson). Since the two countries were incapable of meeting a final and reconsolidating decision, their representatives, in September 1919, agreed on subduing to the decision proposed by the Conference.

The region in question was demilitarized and subdued to an international Plebiscite Committee nominated by the Ententé and dislocated in the town of Těšín (Teschen), for the town with its environs was the subject of a major Czechoslovak-Polish controversy, which Scepusian affairs had just become a part of.