

Oborni Teréz (Budapest)

The Legal Relations between the Principality of Transylvania and the Kingdom of Hungary
(1570-1615)

The legal characteristics of the eastern Hungarian state that broke away from the Kingdom of Hungary after the fall of Buda (1541) were laid down in treaties negotiated over a long period. The first agreement between the two Hungarian kings was the Treaty of Speyer (1570/71), which was the basis for all subsequent treaties in the following decades.

The Principality of Transylvania was both a taxpayer of the Sultan, i.e., a vassal province with a special status and could be recognized by secret agreements as a member of the Hungarian Holy Crown and a territory under the sceptre of the Hungarian kings of the time.

The Habsburg kings, drawing on the idea of the unity of the Holy Crown, made an unshakable claim to the province of Transylvania, which was under Ottoman influence and had, in their view, only temporarily separated from the Kingdom of Hungary but in principle remained part of it. For many decades, the Hungarian kings tried to extend their rule to the eastern part of the country by all means at their disposal, with little success.

The lecture will present the various stages of these experiments and the treaties signed during the reigns of the Báthorys and Gábor Bethlen.