

## HUNGARY. 1100 YEARS HISTORY in a nutshell

By M.I. Tóth

**895/896 Conquest.** Hungarians, from the Khazar region settle in the Carpathian Basin. [*Carpathians the border of Hungary until 1920.*] **1000 KINGDOM:** *St. Stephen I (House of Árpád)*. Crown from the Pope. *A multi-ethnic, multi-cultural country.* – **1102 Union with Croatia** (until 1918; Croatia with own parliament). – **13<sup>th</sup> century:** immigration Saxons (autonomy in Northern Hungary, now Slovakia and Transsylvania, now Romania). **1222 GOLDEN BULL, Hungarian Magna Carta:** *constitutional basic rights* with right to armed opposition against the king when violating these rights. Hungary is one of the **oldest constitutional countries in Europe;** as from the Middle Ages governed by laws accepted by Parliament (2 houses until 1945), signed and proclaimed by the king, executed by provinces and cities. Basic principle: unity of king, nation and territory. King couldn't govern but in co-operation with the Houses of Parliament. Symbol: **HOLY CROWN,** now in Building Parliament. – **1241/42 Mongol invasion.** Devastation of the country. Immigration of Kumans, Romanians as ayllum- and jobseekers. – **14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries:** Kings of the House of Anjou, Sigismund of Luxembourg (King and Holy Roman Emperor), Matthias Corvinus, etc. flourishing period; immigration Ruthenians. – **1514 TRIPARTITUM,** Code of Laws, used until 19<sup>th</sup> century. – **1526** after loosing the battle of *Mohács* against **Osman Turks the country brakes in 3 parts:** (1) *Royal Part* (Western and Northern parts), (2) *Turkish (Central) Part,* (3) *Transsylvania* (Eastern part), member of the Hungarian Crown, souzerain of the sultan, in 17<sup>th</sup> century ally of protestant countries (England, Holland)(Bocskai, Bethlen, G. Rákóczi I). – **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries** Hungary in great majority *protestant* (mostly Reformed, further Lutheran and Unitarian). **1568 Torda,** Transsylvania: *first law in Europe granting FREEDOM OF RELIGION.* **1590 Translation of the Bible.** – After **expulsion of Turks (1699)** centre of country devastated ('puszta'). Immigration of Germans, Croats, Serbians, Romanians. Suppression by House of Habsburg (as from 1526 kings). Forced *Counter-Reformation.* (Liberation of Hungarians protestant pastors from galleys by Admiral de Ruyter of Holland 1676.) Since then Roman Catholic majority. (Later religious compromise.) – **1703-1711 War of Independence** by Prince Rákóczi II of Transsylvania. - **19<sup>th</sup> century** political, economic and social **reforms.** **1848 New Constitution:** Government responsible to Parliament. **War of Freedom** against House of Habsburg, which called upon Russia to defeat it in 1849. Habsburg suppression; passive resistance in country. – **1867 'Compromise'/'Ausgleich': AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MONARCHY.** 'Booming country'. Liberal legislation. Immigration out of whole Europe including Jews from the Monarchy, especially Galicia: equality of rights (emigration including the USA). **1914-1918 WWI.** – **1918 Republic.** **1919 Communism.** **1920 'Peace Treaty' of VERSAILLES/TRIANON: PARTITION OF HUNGARY:**  $\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> to Czecho-Slovakia, Romania, Yugoslavia and Austria (with great forced Hungarian minorities),  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> Hungary remains kingdom with a Regent as head of state, chosen by Parliament. **1938 'Anschluss'/'Austria joining Germany:** growing German oppression on the country. **1938/39/40/41** some territories, lost in 1920, return to Hungary. **1941-1945 WWII.** **19<sup>th</sup> March 1944 GERMAN OCCUPATION.** A 'Quisling' (Sztójay) government. Deportation of Jews outside Budapest for '*labour service*' (example: the Netherlands; Eichmann). Due to Regents intervention (in Europe great exception): **Jews in Budapest excepted** (250.000,  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> of Jews of the country). **26<sup>th</sup> June 1944 Regent blocks trains** after getting informed about the truth of Auschwitz. **6<sup>th</sup> July: Regent prevents** (by 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Division) deportation of Jews Budapest. **15<sup>th</sup> October 1944 Armistice Moscow.** Regent deported to Germany. **Arrow Cross'** (Nazi) party. Start deportation Jews Budapest (partly). **Russian siege Budapest:** Civilians 'war prisoners'. **1945 Free elections. Communists swept away, but 'Coalition'.** **1946. Republic.** **1947. 'Peace Treaty' Paris = 1920;** no guaranties minorities. **1949 People's Republic.** **1956 REVOLUTION,** defeated by Russians. Continued cruel suppression. **1989 Hungary opens Iron Curtain. Republic.** **2004 EU.**