

ABSTRACTS

Gábor Gyáni

■ ***Twentieth-Century Hungarian Societies***

Keywords: *Hungary, social development, structural duality, modernisation, individualization*

Hungary's history was closely shaped or even determined throughout the 20th century by a few recurring breaks and renewals caused by the several shifts of the political regime, the drastic territorial and demographic changes, and the transition from an imperial half-dependence to the quasi or real nation-state sovereignty and/or imperial subordination again. Each of the hectic changes did their impact on the societal processes going on in the country. The rhythm and the way Hungarian society headed for modernity was thus always affected negatively by these outer influencing factors. This was to give birth to the idea declaring that the development towards modernity is and has always been hindered by survival of the many remnants of feudalism. The notion was developed further in the form of the theory of a dual structure of Hungary's society, held to be the main defining structural characteristic before 1945. The plausibility and great popularity of the hypothesis has been shown by the fact that even the late Kádárist socio-economic structure was frequently interpreted by basing on the notion of a structural duality. When the whole problem is seen now from the perspective of the turn of the 20th and 21st century, the individualization process seems to play the most decisive or at least the most persisting role all the time in the social development of Hungary.

Pál Pritz

■ ***Twentieth-Century Hungarian Foreign Policy***

Keywords: *Austria-Hungary, World War I and II, revision, Hungarian Revolution, foreign policy*

After the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867, Hungarians assumed the status of a partner nation, and their national interests have been taken into account in a realistic measure in the foreign policy of the Empire. Hungary's involvement in World War I was not the result of national interest, yet it could not be avoided. The fall of St. Stephen's empire was essentially brought about by the fact that the victorious Entente powers could no longer view the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, and the Hungarian state within it, as a factor of balance in its relations with Germany, and have set out to create a new equilibrium at Hungary's expense by way of the new independent states. The Hungarians' tragedy was that, after losing the war, the national and the social project entered in sharp conflict, and finally they lost on both sides. The central inconsistency of Hungarian politics during the interbellum lies in a revision achieved in lack of their own forces, with the aid of the great foreign powers, which resulted in the loss of independency as a state. After 1945, there were many on the left who hoped for help from Moscow, yet it was instead in favour of punishment. The supporters of the bourgeois ways, on their turn, counted on western democracies as supporters of Hungarian interests, for whom these interests were of little importance in the wider context of the new bipolar world order. Although the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 had no chance to succeed, the heroes of this national uprising were the ones to have done the most for Hungary's national interests. Its legacy triumphed in rendering Kádárist Hungary more liveable, and the change of regimes devoid of bloodshed. The two fundamental successes of the last two decades consist in Hungary's admission in the NATO and in the European Union, and the future of this nation still depends in no small measure on the efficiency of its foreign policy, which also requires that the chasm between folk and nation narrows.

Ignác Romsics

■ *Twentieth-Century Hungarian Political Regimes*

Keywords: *Hungary, political regimes, dualism, the Horthy era, state socialism, Hungarian Republic*

Hungarian history in the 20th century is made up of four largely differing periods divided by three major historical events. These were the era of dualism until 1918, the Horthy era between 1920 and 1944, the period of state socialism established after World War II and the Third Hungarian Republic in the last 20 years. In this essay the nature of the political regime of these four time periods is treated. In respect of its most essential institutions, their structures and operational principles the dualist system can be characterized as liberal. To the extent that these liberal principles were violated, this was generally related to monarchical rights. The imperial-royal sphere of authority, both in legislations and in the executive arena, was excessive, and this in turn endowed the political system as a whole with certain authoritarian stamp. In the terminology proposed by Juan Linz and Giovanni Sartori, the Horthy regime should be characterized as one of authoritarianism with predominant party relations. It was not a democratic one and it definitely cannot be said to have displayed the distinguishing marks of Fascist or National Socialist totalitarianism. After a short – more or less democratic – transitional post-war period, Soviet-type dictatorship was established in Hungary. There can be no dispute that this regime which had developed by 1949 qualifies to be called totalitarian. All power was concentrated in the hands of the sole remaining party, which both dictated and oversaw the work of parliament, government and local administration alike. In the 1960s the regime became less totalitarian and more “liberal”. However, the earlier features of the dictatorship including one-party system and communism as state ideology remained unaltered. In 1989-1990 the one-party dicta-

torship has been replaced by multiparty democracy. By this, Hungary was again back on the path that had originally been signposted for it a century and a half before by István Széchenyi, Lajos Kosuth and Ferenc Deák, the “founding fathers” of the modern parliamentary Hungarian state.

László Szarka

■ *A Century Spent as Minority: Hungarians in Twentieth-Century Central and Eastern European Nation-States*

Keywords: *Hungarians, the Treaty of Trianon, nation-building, external homeland*

Within the boundaries of the Central and Eastern European nation-states established by the Treaty of Trianon, minorities have lived under various legal, political and economical circumstances. This study examines the nation-building processes of Hungarian minority communities in the neighbouring countries of Hungary between 1918–1920. The author traces a comparison of the ethnopolitical conditions offered by states in this region during the interbellum and in the period of the communist party-state. Although there existed strong ties between the self-interpretation of the minorities and the state of Hungary, which assumed the role of the external homeland, the pragmatic political practice of the minorities and the revisionist politics of the Hungarian governments also differed in many ways. The Hungarian minority communities in Romania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia conducted important clarifying debates about their possible roles, political agendas and duties as a community. The ideology of Transylvanism emphasized the cooperation of nations living in Transylvania, while the *couleur locale* theory from Wojwodina accentuated the importance of regional characteristics, as well as the mediating function of a bridge for the minorities. The revisionist changes associated with World War II and then the Paris Peace Treaty from 1947 burdened the relationships between the majority nations and the Hungarians even

more. Then, for four decades, the communist party-state regimes of the Soviet block rendered impossible the efficient treatment of the minority problem.

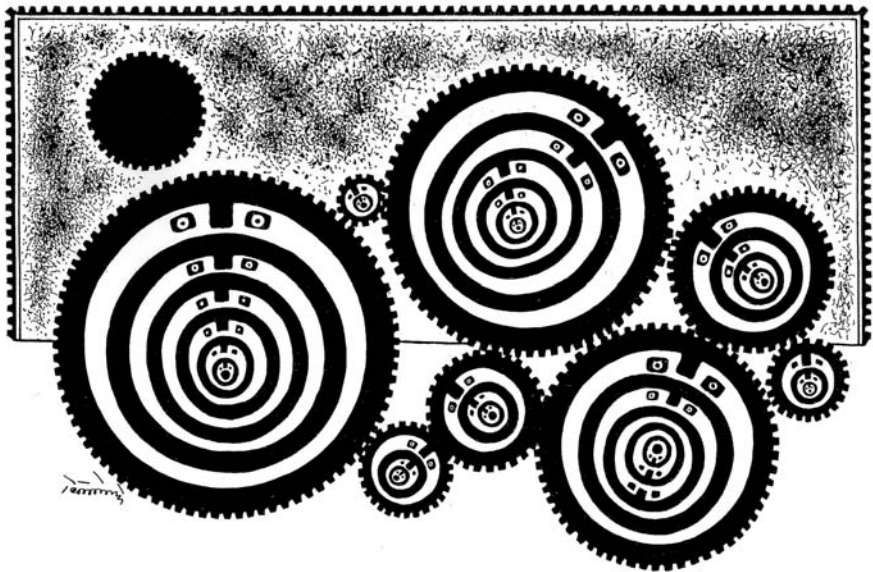
Béla Tomka

■ ***Economic Growth and Consumption in Twentieth-Century Hungary: Divisions, Dynamics and Determinants***

Keywords: *Hungary, Western Europe, history of economics, economic growth, stagnation*

The study analyses in a long-term and comparative perspective the most important economic trends in twentieth-century Hungary (more exactly, in the period between World War I and 1990). Its interest is primarily oriented toward the dif-

ferent periods and the dynamics of economic growth in Hungary, as well as toward the relation of this dynamics to the changes which occurred in the western part of the continent. On these grounds, the author argues that the middle of the twentieth century could be considered a turning-point in the relation between Hungarian and Western European economic growth. In the decades before World War II periods of approximation toward and divergence from Western Europe have alternated with each other. In the second part of the twentieth century, however, after an initial period of relative stagnation, Hungary began to persistently drop behind more and more, up until the nineties.



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„Egy hosszú és/vagy rövid – esetleg akár keresztbe metszett – századról szól a lapszám, amelyet az olvasó a kezében tart: a magyarság 20. századáról, amely – nemzetünk tekintetében egyértelműen – az ismétlődő kényszerhelyzetek és gyakorta beszűkülő mozgásterek okán a szinte állandósult törések és többnyire egymást tagadó, folytonos újrakezdések időszakaként is körülírható.

Olyan századról szól, amely – európai és ezen belül magyar vonatkozásban egyaránt – egyidejűleg keltett felfokozott reményeket és pillanatokon belül szenvtelenül rombolt le illúziókat. Nehezen érthető, ráadásul megérthető száz év volt, melyben mintha több évszázad történései sűrűsödtek, »teleszkopizálódtak« volna. Súlyos és mindmáig értelmezésre váró, több olvasatú történeti üzenetek és tanulságok tárháza – a »szélsőségek százada«.

(Kovács Kiss Gyöngy)

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