

## ABSTRACTS

**Balázs Ablonczy**

■ ***Trianon: Layered Collapses***

Keywords: *Trianon, Austria-Hungary, World War I peace treaties, national self-determination, political collapse*

The study examines, in five points, the international political developments that led to the dismemberment of the Kingdom of Hungary after World War I. The poor international image of the Habsburg Empire and the Allies' realization that it was no longer capable of blocking Germany's advance in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, certainly played a role in this process, which unfolded in three or four stages beginning in 1916–17. The author argues that the dissolution of Austria-Hungary – in the form envisaged by the peacemakers – was essentially the result of a decision by the great powers, with national self-determination orchestrated by the successor states playing a much lesser role. The domestic political circumstances and the lasting impact of the Trianon experience were largely shaped by the conditions of the 1918 collapse: the post-war realities, foreign occupations, red and white terror, three years of incessant regime changes, economic breakdown, and fierce competition for housing, labor, and food caused by the influx of refugees fleeing neighboring countries.

**Miklós Csapody**

■ ***“I See Into My Lost Time”: On Béla Markó's Kufárok a templomban***

Keywords: *Béla Markó, Hungarian poetry, sonnet, memory, sacred and profane, ekphrasis*

This study offers a comprehensive reflection on Béla Markó's most recent sonnet collection, *Kufárok a templomban* (2024), placing it within the arc of a poetic career spanning half a century. Csapody interprets the volume as both a continuation and culmination of Markó's formal and thematic concerns – chiefly the tension between memory

and temporality, poetic tradition and innovation, the sacred and the profane. The collection, structured around fifty sonnets, is presented as a symbolic counterpart to *Friss hó a könyvön* (1987), and deepens Markó's dialogic use of ekphrasis, philosophy, and lyrical self-reflection. The study explores how poetic form becomes the vessel for existential insight, where light and shadow, presence and absence, sacred gesture and ethical paradox cohere in the metaphysical lyricism that defines Markó's mature voice.

**László Eörsi**

■ ***The 1956 Revolution and Its Impact***

Keywords: *1956 October, Hungarian Revolution, political impact, memory, Kádár regime*

The 1956 revolution was one of the most significant events in Hungarian history, as demonstrated by the unprecedented level of international public interest at the time. The Western world admired the freedom-loving heroism of the Hungarian people.

The most important geopolitical consequence of the Hungarian Revolution was that it was the first event to shake the Soviet empire, which had previously seemed like an immovable concrete fortress, and it dispelled the myth of the invincibility of communist tyranny. It is no coincidence that *Time* magazine named the Hungarian freedom fighter as its Person of the Year.

Under the Kádár regime, 1956 remained the number one taboo topic. Only distorted accounts were permitted, though silence was even more typical. In 1989, when freedom was regained and independent publishing became legal, a flood of memoirs and recollections appeared. Scholarly research also finally became possible.

**Márta Font**

■ ***Founding the State: The Age of Prince Géza and King Stephen (970–1038)***

Keywords: *state foundation, state organization, King Stephen, coronation*

Expressions such as “founding a state” and “organizing a state” highlight a historical process in which King Stephen could build on the achievements of his father, Prince Géza. Géza supported Christian missionaries and ensured peace along Hungary’s western frontier. Yet the entire Carpathian Basin was not under Árpáadian control during his reign – a task Stephen completed through military campaigns and state-building efforts.

A decisive step in this process was Stephen’s coronation and the establishment of an independent archbishopric. His intentions are clearly articulated in the Admonitions to his son and reflected in his legal codes. Crucial to the enforcement of royal decrees was the army, which necessitated the creation of royal counties, each governed by a king-appointed count. These counts included both foreign dignitaries and local clan members.

Stephen likely understood that his work as a statesman remained incomplete, which made the unresolved issue of succession especially significant. His canonization in 1083 – initiated by Ladislaus I, grandson of Vazul, whom Stephen had once had blinded – underscores the enduring success and legacy of his reign.

### Sándor Gebei

#### ■ *Prince Francis II Rákóczi’s Relationship to the Principality of Transylvania*

Keywords: *principality without a prince, lands liberated by arms and blood, princely legitimacy, universal peace*

The Rákóczi War of Independence unfolded simultaneously on two fronts: in Hungary and in “Transylvania”. With the election of Francis II Rákóczi as prince, a new chapter began in the fate of the so-called “principality without a prince” that had existed since 1690. The goal of restoring the autonomous Principality of Transylvania to its pre-1690 status was unacceptable to the Viennese court,

which declared both Hungary and Transylvania to be royal territories liberated by arms and blood.

Rákóczi, who considered himself a legitimate ruler by virtue of his election and inauguration, sought to frame the Hungarian and Transylvanian causes within a broader European context. In pursuit of international recognition, he appealed not only to anti-Habsburg powers such as France and Sweden, but also – when these failed – to Russia and even the Ottoman Empire. These efforts, however, proved fruitless.

Rákóczi could not realistically address Transylvania’s exclusion from the peace settlements of 1713–1714. In exile in Rodosto, he continued to uphold the idea of the “Transylvanian princely court”.

### György Gyarmati

#### ■ *Change of Sovereignty, 1945 – Out of the Frying Pan into the Fire*

Keywords: *regime change, 1945, Hungary, political turning points*

The study examines the political transformation of Hungary in 1945 through several key aspects: the composition of the newly elected parliament, the percentage representation of parties in both parliament and government, and the dynamics of a “balance-seeking” local and regional administration. It also addresses the dual structure of power that emerged, the division of key positions within the political hierarchy among the parties, and the gradual dismantling of the multi-party parliamentary system.

### Róbert Hermann

#### ■ *The Significance of 1848–49 in Hungarian History*

Keywords: *1848 revolution, independent responsible government, regime change, April laws, popular representation, freedom of the press, national guard, religious equality, emancipation of serfs*

The Hungarian transformation of 1848 can rightly be called the first (and

essentially successful) regime change in modern Hungary. In a historically extremely short period, laws were passed that radically transformed the country's public and political system as well as its social structure. The feudal government offices were replaced by an independent, responsible government which, apart from common issues to be resolved later, was almost exclusively bound to the other half of the empire by the person of the ruler. With the re-annexation of the Parts (Partium) and the union of Hungary and Transylvania, the territorial integrity of historic Hungary was restored (although this was only achieved after the Transylvanian Diet passed a law to the same effect and its royal sanction on 10 June 1848).

The established religions were emancipated, and the dominant role of the Catholic Church was abolished. The illegitimate institution of censorship was abolished, and freedom of the press made it possible to discuss differing political opinions in public. The legislature was based on popular representation, allowing significant additional groups of the adult male population to have a say in the composition of the legislature, alongside active and passive political rights holders. A national guard was organised to protect internal order, with a large proportion of those who exercised political rights also playing a role in protecting the established order.

The system created by the laws was not perfect, but it made possible the creation of a civil Hungary. A large proportion of the laws (about two-thirds) contained references to temporariness – but until 1867, they remained the main reference point for Hungarian politics.

#### **Richárd Horváth**

##### **■ *The “Turning Point” Era of Matthias***

Keywords: *Matthias Corvinus, King of Hungary, Renaissance*

The essay provides a short overview of the reign of Matthias Corvinus. In

recent decades, historiography has uncovered a wealth of new information about the life of one of the most important Hungarian rulers, and the historical sources of the period are constantly growing. The article presents these findings based on a few key themes. Due to the length and significance of Matthias' reign, a selection was necessary. The origin of the king's family and the controversies surrounding him – both past and present – are examined. The different periods of his reign are analyzed, along with previously unknown governmental solutions he implemented between 1480 and 1490 to address opposition from his contemporaries. The final chapter focuses on his marriage to Beatrix of Aragon, the challenges related to his succession, and the international implications of his marriage and succession. The article concludes with an overview of the legacy of Matthias's reign.

#### **János Kalmár**

##### **■ *Changes in Hungary after the Turkish Era***

Keywords: *Hungary, elimination of Ottoman rule, new administration*

During the elimination of Ottoman rule in Hungary, plans for reorganizing the former occupied territories were already being drafted. It is difficult to determine to what extent these plans were utilized from the second decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> century onward, following the end of the War of the Spanish Succession (1701–13/14) and the conclusion of the Rákóczi War of Independence in Hungary (1703–11). It was effectively from this period that opportunities for change opened. These changes involved administrative reforms in the southern and eastern territories of the Kingdom of Hungary recently recovered and considered new acquisitions (the Banat of Temeswar, the Frontier region, Transylvania). These areas were not fully integrated into the Hungarian administrative system; instead, Transylvania was granted partial autonomy, while the

others were placed under the direct control of central Viennese government bodies. In the more narrowly defined Hungary, institutional reforms were carried out, except in military matters, where the Viennese Court War Council remained competent even in this region. These reforms included modernizing existing institutions (such as those related to justice) and establishing new ones (like the Governor's Council). All these measures supported not only governmental efficiency but also the country's broader modernization and its economic and social advancement.

**Balázs Nagy**

■ ***The Mongol Expansion and the Tatar Invasion of Hungary***

Keywords: 1241–1242, Mongol attack, Genghis Khan, medieval Hungary

The Mongol attack of 1241–1242 brought one of the greatest crises in medieval Hungarian history. The establishment of the Mongol Empire was an extremely rapid process under the rule of Genghis Khan. After the conquest of Kiev, the attacks turned towards Central Europe, primarily Hungary and Poland. Historiography has long studied the Mongol campaigns in Hungary, yet many aspects of the events remain unclear. Although a significant portion of the country's leaders fell at the Battle of Mohi, King Béla IV survived, and resistance against the Mongols hindered the attackers' advance. Despite these strategic losses, Hungary did not cease to exist, and upon returning to the country, Béla IV made serious efforts to prepare it for a potential subsequent major Mongol invasion. Although the so-called second Tatar invasion occurred in 1285, its impact was not comparable to the first campaign.

**Mónika Rancz**

■ ***The Place of the Museum: An Attempt to Reopen a Gadamerian Question***

Keywords: Hans-Georg Gadamer, place,

*museum, hermeneutics, aesthetic consciousness, Museum of Fine Arts Budapest, printmaking, museum function, temporary exhibition, play, repetition, seriality, statuary arts, medial space, Vera Molnar, open structures*

Hans-Georg Gadamer formulates a sharp critique of the phenomenon of the museum. According to him, the removal of an image from the context of life to which it originally belonged and its relocation into a museum collection may have serious consequences. The museum becomes a space of placelessness when governed by aesthetic consciousness, which severs the image from its original world and elevates it into a synchronically timeless realm. All artworks are made contemporaneous when we standardise them by viewing them solely as products of history. In this sense, the museum becomes a placeless place, holding images in a temporality devoid of time. These works come to belong to a collecting and alienating form of consciousness, within which they can no longer fulfil the kinds of functions for which they were originally shaped. They no longer constitute a world, nor do they emerge as meaningful places. But is the museum necessarily conditioned by aesthetic consciousness alone? Or is there a possibility of understanding the museum as a place in its own right, in opposition to the workings of aesthetic consciousness? How might the site of artworks be organised so that they are not merely perceived as works or products of the past? This second sense of placeness within the museum is explored through an interpretation of the relationship between a specific exhibition and an exhibited artwork.

**Ignác Romsics**

■ ***On the Causes and Antecedents of the Change of Regime in Hungary, 1989–1990***

Keywords: Hungarian regime change 1989–1990, foreign policy dimension, economic difficulties, opposition organi-

*zation, collapse of the ruling party*

As with most major turning points in world history, the collapse of communism and the regime change in Hungary result from the concatenation and interplay of several internal and external factors. Fundamental among these is the realignment of international power relations. The Soviet–American rivalry, ongoing since the end of World War II culminates in victory for the United States. Of equal or at least similar importance is the historic defeat of the centralized planned economy, based on state and communal property, by capitalism, founded on private property and market mechanisms. Finally, the essay highlights individual initiatives and internal social movements that, by seizing or creating opportunities, contribute to the regime change through subversion or internal reform.

**János B. Szabó**

■ ***The Balance of Mohács***

Keywords: *Mohács, 1526, battle, Kingdom of Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Louis II, Suleiman I*

The study takes stock of the consequences of the Battle of Mohács and accounts for the losses. The author outlines both the short- and long-term effects of the battle. “The Battle of Mohács was not merely a military defeat, as it marked the loss of faith in the independence of the Kingdom of Hungary for later generations. The defeat shattered the illusion widely held among the Hungarian nobility that the Turks could be defeated and kept beyond the country’s borders”, the author concludes.

