

**Chapter 1 : Hungary: A Nation in Transition**

*From the happy story of the transition from dictatorship to democracy, there is a looming potential tragedy, a transition from democracy. In the second part of , we Hungarians have been witnessing something that I, for one, never expected.*

We began our stay in Eger, a small city northeast of Budapest in the wine-growing region of the country. My first impression of this college town was that it was much more advanced than I expected. I could tell little or no difference from Western Europe, and not until that thought occurred did I realize I had been expecting the former Soviet Satellite State to be different. Eger has many streets of cobblestone, and the buildings are painted interesting colors. Geraniums, Iris, and other flowers bloomed the whole time we were there. On our drives through the countryside we often saw locals tending their gardens in front of immaculate houses with interesting wrought iron gates. We visited it during a walking tour of the town our first full day there. The fort now houses a number of museums, and is most famous for the battle staged from there that held off the Turkish aggressors for years before succumbing this was the only significant success against the Turkish invasion. It was destroyed 13th cent. Francis II Rakoczy used the fortress in his fight against the Hapsburgs, who had it razed. Our rooms were comfortable and functional with clean lines. There was also a very nice swimming pool area with saunas, steam room, ice room, light room, aroma therapy room, hot tubs, and so on. The hot tub was not very hot, but this was clearly a luxury hotel. We ate most meals at our hotel as part of the program " in a luxurious dining room in the old part of the joined buildings. There was a big city park just behind our hotel " with a fountain and tree lined paths. Many cafes and wine bars were enjoyed all around the city in the evenings. We were provided with access to computers with internet in one of the campus buildings just down the street from our hotel. One of the first days there we had a lecture from a history professor about how things were in the Soviet era and why they are much better now. He painted Ronald Reagan as the greatest hero of all time. So they are happy to stay home. But not as many people speak English there. None of the words are really anything like other Western languages except for new words having to do with technology or recent products of the West. Our hosts arranged lectures for us from faculty members from American studies, telecommunications, sociology, political science, physical education, biology, history, and other areas. The day we walked uphill to the natural sciences department, we heard from two lecturers, one who tried to convince us that there are no more environmental problems in Hungary. In response to questions about toxic wastes that had been dumped in Hungary during the Soviet era, he claimed that they have cleaned everything up in a few short years since the Soviets left, and no new companies ever do anything bad. But the second scientist who spoke to us seemed more honest. Most of the lecturers spoke to us in English many have studied in the States ; though if they spoke in Hungarian, our hosts translated for us. They said it was an amusement for the wealthy citizens of Eger. One highlight was the day we went to see school children in their classes at a school near the center of town. We watched an English lesson with 6th graders and then a music lesson with 4th graders who sang several folk songs for us. They were very eager and excited to have us in their classroom. The halls of the school were decorated with art made by the children grade through high school , and included some beautiful examples of fine art. He circled our wagons we took a ride out to the field where they were. Others got their horses to lie down I guess it helped them hide from enemies. They also cracked a lot of whips very dramatically. There was folk art for sale near the car park. For instance you could buy whips, ceramics, lace, embroidery, cooking utensils " like big pots and wooden spoons for making goulash. Another day we visited Bukk National Park, a place of mountains, trout streams and waterfalls. They arranged a lunch for us that started with a strong shot of liquor and progressed to cooking trout over a long stone trough of hot coals. The trout was on one stick and was moistened while being cooked with pig fat literally in a big chunk on another stick. I assume the trout was from breeding ponds we passed on our walk down the hill along the stream. On the way up the mountain we took a train with hundreds of Hungarian school children. The lunch providers also poured us wine dramatically from an interesting contraption, a glass bulb with a long glass tube attached. The man operating it held his finger over the open tube and removed his finger once he had the spout positioned, to let the wine shoot directly into our glasses. He was practiced

enough to aim correctly. A huge thunderstorm opened up on us, but not until we had enjoyed the experience for a good half hour. We visited other outdoor sights as well, including lakes, mountains, forests, and caves. Hungary is very green and lovely, and Hungarians seem very proud of their beautiful natural environment. We also visited a resort town for a few days and drove by former Soviet industrial cities where the factories are now mostly closed and decaying in the fields, leaving many people there destitute in their concrete block apartment buildings. One day we visited a national palace outside Budapest. Another day we drove to a large cliff outcropping and walked through the caves therein. This was on the border with Slovakia, a border we crossed briefly; but it was hard to see any difference from Hungary, except for the language in fact that part of Slovakia was once part of Hungary. Our last few days in the country we stayed in Budapest, the capital. Our hotel was a tourist chain Ibex near the airport. Budapest is a vibrant, modern city. We took the subway into various sites of interest. Stephen in its reliquary which we saw. We saw a Soviet style apartment in one of those giant sets of huge concrete block apartment complexes. It was small and full of propaganda. We learned that the kitchen was purposely made to be extremely small, for instance, in order to forestall people from gathering for meals where they might complain or plot against the government. We heard that one statue of Lenin in a main square was decaying badly, so a new statue was made to replace it, but the switch was done secretly in the middle of the night, to hide or deny the fact that the original statue had decayed in the first place, thus removing any stain of decay that might be attached to Lenin himself. We will use what we learned in classes and research. Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition, Copyright c

**Chapter 2 : Hungary Dissatisfied with Democracy, but Not Its Ideals | Pew Research Center**

*The Hungarian Communist elites believed the economic crisis they faced could turn into social upheaval, which came on the backs of decreasing real wages, high inflation, and a mounting debt crisis.*

The capital is Budapest. Hungary Parliament Building, Budapest. The modern country appears to be split into two irreconcilable factions: This split is evident in most aspects of Hungarian political, social, and cultural life. Linguistically surrounded by alien nations, Hungarians felt isolated through much of their history. This may be the reason why after Christianization they became attached to Latin , which became the language of culture , scholarship, and state administration—and even the language of the Hungarian nobility until Cast adrift in a Slavic-Germanic sea, Hungarians are proud to have been the only people to establish a long-lasting state in the Carpathian Basin. Only after six centuries of independent statehood did Hungary become part of two other political entities: But even then Hungarians retained much of their separate political identity and near-independence, which in made them a partner in Austria-Hungary This was much more than the other nations of the Carpathian Basin were able to achieve before Buda CastleBuda Castle, Budapest. This made them eager to prove themselves and also defensive about lagging behind Western developments elsewhere. Their geographical position often forced them to fight various Eastern invaders, and, as a result, they viewed themselves as defenders of Western Christianity. In that role, they felt that the West owed them something, and when, in times of crisis, special treatment was not forthcoming e. Today Hungary is wholly Budapest -centred. Budapest is situated on both banks of the Danube Hungarian: Duna River , a few miles downstream from the Danube Bend. It is a magnificent city, even compared with the great pantheon of European capitals, and it has been an anchor of Hungarian culture since its inception. BudapestTake a video tour of Budapest. During the 20th century, many talented Hungarians emigrated, particularly to the United States. Among them were leading scientists who played a defining role in the emergence of American atomic discovery and the computer age. Relief Dominating the relief are the great lowland expanses that make up the core of Hungary. Transdanubia is dominated by the Bakony Mountains , with dolomite and limestone plateaus at elevations between 1, and 2, feet and metres above sea level. Regions of hills reaching elevations of to 1, feet to metres lie on either side of the mountain backbone, while to the south and west of Lake Balaton is an upland region of more-subdued loess-covered topography. The Great Alföld covers most of central and southeastern Hungary. Like its northwestern counterpart, it is a basinlike structure filled with fluvial and windblown deposits. Four types of surface may be distinguished: These lowlands range in elevation from about to feet 80 to metres above sea level, with the lowest point at feet 78 metres , on the southern edge of Szeged, along the Tisza River. Drainage and soils Hungary lies within the drainage basin of the Danube , which is the longest river in the country. The Danube floods twice a year, first in early spring and again in early summer. During these phases, discharge is up to 10 times greater than river levels recorded during the low-water periods of autumn and winter. The Tisza forms a floodplain as it flows through Hungary; large meanders and oxbow lakes mark former channels. At Szolnok , peak discharges 50 times greater than average have been recorded. Devastating floods have occurred on the Danube, the Tisza, and their tributaries. About 2, miles 4, km of levees have been built to protect against floods. The relatively dry climate of the central and eastern areas of the Great Alföld has necessitated the construction of large-scale irrigation systems, mostly along the Tisza River. Lake Balaton , however, is the largest freshwater lake in central Europe, covering square miles square km. Lake Velence lies southeast of Budapest. Gray-brown podzolic leached and brown forest soils predominate in the forest zones, while rich black earth, or chernozem, soil has developed under the forest steppe. Sand dunes and dispersed alkali soils are also characteristic. Climate Because of its situation within the Carpathian Basin, Hungary has a moderately dry continental climate. In the lowlands, precipitation generally ranges from 20 to 24 inches to mm , rising to 24 to 31 inches to mm at higher elevations. The central and eastern areas of the Great Alföld are the driest parts of the country, and the southwestern uplands are the wettest. As much as two-thirds of annual precipitation falls during the growing season. Plant and animal life Human activities over the ages have largely destroyed the natural vegetation of Hungary. Just about half of the land is regularly cultivated , and

about one-sixth is used for nonagricultural purposes. The remainder comprises meadows and rough pasture as well as forest and woodland. No part of the country is of sufficient elevation to support natural coniferous forest. Beech is the climax community at the highest elevations; oak woodland alternating with scrubby grassland are the climax communities at lower elevations in the upland regions. The once-numerous varieties of marsh waterfowl survive only in nature reserves. There are diverse species of freshwater fish, including pike, bream, and pike perch. Significant water and air pollution occurs in some of the industrial regions of the country.

**People Ethnic groups and languages** From its inception in the 10th century, Hungary was a multiethnic country. Major territorial changes made it ethnically homogeneous after World War I, however, and more than nine-tenths of the population is now ethnically Hungarian and speaks Hungarian Magyar as the mother tongue. The Hungarian language is classified as a member of the Ugric branch of the Uralic languages ; as such, it is most closely related to the Ob-Ugric languages , Khanty and Mansi, which are spoken east of the Ural Mountains. It is also related, though more distantly, to Finnish and Estonian, each of which is like Hungarian a national language; to the Sami languages of far northern Scandinavia; and, more distantly still, to the Samoyedic languages of Siberia. A small percentage of the population is made up of ethnic minority groups. The largest of these is the Roma Gypsies. Religion Hungary claims no official religion and guarantees religious freedom. More than one-third of the people are Roman Catholic , most of them living in the western and northern parts of the country. About one-tenth of the population are Calvinist principally members of the Reformed Church in Hungary , concentrated in eastern Hungary. Lutherans constitute the next most significant minority faith, and relatively smaller groups belong to various other Christian denominations Greek or Byzantine Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and Unitarians. The Jewish community , which constituted 5 percent of the population before World War II , was decimated by the Holocaust and is now much smaller. The Roman Catholic Church struggled with the communist government after it enacted laws diminishing church property and schools. As a result of resistance to these changes, the church was granted broader rights via a agreement with the Vatican, and in the Hungarian constitution proclaimed the free exercise of worship and the separation of church and state. Since the fall of communism in , more than religious groups have been officially registered in the country. Nominal membership in a religious denomination, however, does not necessarily mean active participation or even active spiritual belief.

**Settlement patterns** Traditional regions The Great Alfold is the largest region of the country. It is divided into two parts: It is more favourably endowed with natural resources than is the Great Alfold; both agriculture and industry are more advanced there. The third major region, Transdanubia , embraces all of the country west of the Danube exclusive of the Little Alfold. It is a rolling upland broken by the Bakony and Mecsek ridges. Lake Balaton is a leading resort area. Also found in Transdanubia are the Bakony Mountains , whose isolation, densely forested ridges, small closed basins, and medieval fortresses and monasteries have protected the local inhabitants over the course of many stormy centuries. Agriculture is also important, especially viticulture ; notable are the Tokaj Tokay and Eger vineyards. Tourism in the Northern Mountains is well-developed, and numerous spas and recreation centres are located there. Miskolc is the main economic centre for the region. Urban settlement About seven-tenths of the population is urban, but, outside of the major cities, the bulk of towns in Hungary have populations of less than 40, Until the late 20th century, these were functionally vastly overgrown villages rather than towns. About one-third of the urban population lives within the Budapest metropolitan area. Central Budapest, looking north along the Danube River, with the Parliament Building on the east bank. Urban Hungary is dominated by Budapest , which is several times the size of any of the other major cities. It has the largest industrial workforce in the country. Budapest, scenes of

**A brief look at Budapest, Hungary.** Also worthy of note are the predominantly industrial towns located close to the mineral resources of the Northern Mountains, which, from small beginnings in the late 19th century, have developed into major industrial centres. In addition, a number of industrial towns were created in the late 20th century on greenfield sites as part of deliberate planning policy. Rural settlement The distribution of rural population varies widely from one part of the country to another. For historical reasons connected with resettlement following the Turkish occupation in the 16th century, the villages of the Great Alfold are small in number but large in size. By comparison, rural settlement in Transdanubia and in the Northern Mountains takes the form of many small

nucleated and linear villages. Since then, however, Hungary has experienced a negative natural increase rate meaning the number of deaths has outpaced the number of births. These demographic trends were influenced by the urbanization and modernization process. As modernization spread from urban areas where people generally have fewer children into the countryside, so did the declining birth rate. As a consequence of a net overseas emigration of 1. After the collapse of communism and the splintering of Yugoslavia, roughly , refugees migrated to Hungary from Romania and the former Yugoslav federation. Half of them were ethnic Hungarians. Beginning in , a forced industrialization policy based on the Soviet pattern changed the economic character of the country. A centrally planned economy was introduced, and millions of new jobs were created in industry notably for women and, later, in services. This was accomplished largely through a policy of forced accumulation; keeping wages low and the prices of consumer goods as opposed to staples high made it possible for more people to be employed, and, because consumer goods were beyond their means, most Hungarians put more of their earnings in savings, which became available for use by the government. In the process, the proportion of the population employed in agriculture declined from more than half to about one-eighth by the s, while the industrial workforce grew to nearly one-third of the economically active population by the late s.

**Chapter 3 : End of communism in Hungary () - Wikipedia**

*During the transition years, Romanians earned on average more than ethnic Hungarians, yet the discrimination component was almost zero in and negative (â" ) in , suggesting that ethnic Hungarians were not wage discriminated during the first years of transition.*

The Magyars established Hungary in , after they had arrived there from their previous, Eastern European territories. In , after the first king, Saint Stephen had been crowned, the country became a Kingdom. In , the Tatars Mongols invaded the country, causing many deaths and damages. Later on, kings from various houses ruled over Hungary. The greatest of them is Matthias Corvinus, famous for protecting the country against the Ottoman aggression. The Kingdom was cut up to three parts: Between [ change change source ] The Kingdom of Hungary became a Habsburg dependency, because an agreement made in Vienna in said that the Habsburg family would take over the territory of the Jagellion family in Bohemia and Hungary if the line of kings should die out. In , the Ottomans were forced to leave, and the country was reunified. Many nationalities were living in the country at this time. Along with Hungarians, there were also the ancestors of modern Slovaks , Serbs , and Romanians. However, his revolution failed in , and he had to go to exile. The next most important event is the "Hungarian Revolution of ", when the inhabitants of the country mutinied again. Fighting ended in , with Habsburg success. The leaders of the revolution were executed. Austria-Hungary, [ change change source ] The country tried to find the way towards consolidation: The new situation was feasible for both sides: Between the World Wars, [ change change source ] In after the defeat in World War I , the Kingdom was abolished, and a republic was established, as people had enough of war. This republic was short-lived, and soon the Communists seized power Their rule was irresponsible and many people, including the peasants and the intelligentsia , were tortured. The communists had to abandon the country as Romanian troops invaded. In response to the communist terror, they launched the "White Terror", in which they persecuted the communists and their supporters. The kingdom was re-established but there was no king. Horthy was elected as the regent of the country, as the assembly decided not to recall the Habsburgs. Hungary lost the war. According to the Treaty of Trianon , Hungary lost two thirds of its territory. On the majority of these territories, non-Hungarians were the majority; however, many Hungarians also found themselves outside their country, in the nation state of Romanians or Slovaks. Thus, the main political goal of the governments under Horthy was to revise this treaty, and at least, to regain the Hungarian-inhabited lands. Communist Hungary, [ change change source ] After the fall of Nazi Germany , Soviet troops occupied all of the country. So Hungary gradually became a communist satellite state of the Soviet Union. He forced collectivization and planned economy. This led to the Hungarian Revolution. Hungary withdrew from the Warsaw Pact. But the Soviets sent in over , troops and 2, tanks. In Soviet military presence in Hungary ended and the transition to a market economy began. This section needs more information. December Today, Hungary is a democratic republic. Elections are held every four year. The largest of these are Romas and Germans. Hungarian is the most widely used language in Hungary but of course ethnic communities often use their own languages as well. Transdanubia has a hilly landscape and many small villages and towns. Along the Slovakian border there are mountains. This small country has several thermal spas too. Hungary, however is a landlocked country it has no seacoast. Szolnok is found at the juncture of the Tisza River and the Zagyva River stream.

**Chapter 4 : The Hungarian Shock: Transition from Democracy? | IWM**

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Social Education 57 6 , , pp. The transition period has been difficult for many, and it is still too early to predict the directions in which it might lead. In Czechoslovakia, events have brought division; in Yugoslavia, smoldering rivalries and animosities have resulted in the virtual destruction of a nation born only after World War I. Hungary is a relatively small and homogeneous country. With a land area and population about the size of Pennsylvania, Hungary prides itself on the industriousness of its people. Most people also hold two or three jobs. Many teachers offer lessons after school hours. Hungary is a relatively poor country, with incomes about one-tenth of those in the United States. Still, the transition in Hungary has had many powerful effects on society. During and , for example, the price of public transport increased by 35 percent. The uncertainty raised by these economic concerns has propelled Hungary to look toward the European Community, the United States, and Japan for economic ties. Connections with Western nations have been forthcoming, although not always with mutually beneficial results- and certainly not without difficulties. Investments and joint ventures have been arranged with the United States as well as Japan and EC member states. Restraints on getting small loans, however, make it difficult to start a small business. Despite these drawbacks, the climate for economic change is improving rapidly. Changes in the development of the economy are parallel to the political transformation. With the ouster of the Communist party in , the people elected a multiparty government-the prime minister comes from one party and the president comes from another. With the Communists in eclipse, the legislature is made up of representatives from several parties. The coalition government treads warily through a thicket of sticky problems: Should former Communists be punished? How should the large industries be privatized? How will the country dispose of properties confiscated by the Communists? The present government has handled these questions in a responsible and democratic fashion. As Friedrich Kuebart , , a senior research associate at Ruhr University, notes, "national values and traditions play a major role in overcoming the heritage of several decades of Soviet political hegemony. Street names honoring Soviet heroes have reverted to traditional Hungarian names. Monuments to the Soviet liberators have been obliterated. The government has reinstated national holidays honoring the heroes of the Revolution such as Sandor Petofi. People now practice their religions openly. Couples may now hold wedding ceremonies in churches. These social and political changes have also affected education and schooling. The government has taken initial steps toward removing centralized ideological control Belousov As a case in point, the curriculum guide for geography Ministry of Culture and Education , , states that "geography teaching at secondary level is to offer various forms of assistance in forming the Marxist-Leninist world view of the students. Through its nature [geography] is to play a leading role in educating students for socialist patriotism, proletarian internationalism and thus serving military training as well. Although some administrators and teachers have been members of the Communist party, I have observed little of this ideology in Hungarian schools today. In fact, religious groups are reclaiming their church properties and beginning to open schools. The growth of new types of schools, private and nonpublic, portends the demise of the state monopoly. Additional schools with different characteristics will promote flexibility in curriculum and teaching approaches. Other school plans are under discussion. One is for an eight-year gymnasium an upper level academic school that will parallel the reformed comprehensive school. Students will be selected at the end of the 4th grade. Another alternative under consideration is a system consisting of six years of primary education followed by a six-year gymnasium Kuebart , In addition to an increasingly diverse and pliable system attuned to localities, other avenues to the decentralization of curricular decision making have been proposed. Schools may be granted a larger voice in curricular matters. For now, however, the Ministry of Culture and Education has taken a "go-slow" attitude. A national core curriculum and "a system of standardized national examinations to be taken at the completion of 6 and 8 years of schooling, in every type of school, along with a final examination to be administered

following the end of the upper secondary level, is aimed at guaranteeing national standards" Kuebart , Hungarians are keen to emphasize their relationship to the West, especially to Europe. Hungarians want to gain admission to the European Community. The study of Russian, once a compulsory language for students, is now optional. In its place have come English, German, and French. Currently, eight bilingual English-Hungarian schools exist in Hungary. At these secondary schools, students may choose to take all their subjects in English, giving them an advantage in seeking careers with international business firms. Generally, school curricula have reduced or eliminated vocational elements such as polytechnical or labor education Kuebart , They were a helpful, friendly, and congenial lot. Students at my school were, generally speaking, courteous, bright, disciplined, and hard working. The well-equipped school was built in ; the library, however, did not offer many English-language materials. I was able to supplement the collection with the one thousand U. My weekly teaching assignment consisted of four hours of geography and twelve hours of English. Prior to embarking for Hungary, I read the two-volume geography text approved and printed by the Hungarian government. When I arrived in Hungary, I discovered that the geography course was to consist of physical geography in favor of the previously taught economic, political, and social geography. This change was obviously necessary because the texts reflected the Communist ideology. So, I taught a physical geography course and tried to eliminate the ideologically biased cultural aspects. Course content included material on maps, lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and geographical zones. To teach this content, I used the text provided by the government, globes, maps, models of the earth, and satellite photographs. Methods of classroom presentation encompassed lecture, student presentations, worksheets, field trips, videos, map work using compasses, and debates. I used both oral and written evaluation of student performance. I required students to recite at least once per week. All instruction was in English Bonstingl My year abroad as a Fulbright exchange teacher stimulated me to think about how a nation responds to the broad changes taking place in the world. As Hungary struggles with the basic problems of government, economy, and society, individuals are searching for new directions in a time of transition. Ministry of Culture and Education. Curricula for Academic Secondary Schools: Ministry of Culture and Education, Jack Susskind teaches social studies education at Pennsylvania State University in Middletown, Pennsylvania

*Hungary in Transition -- Faculty Development Seminary -- May (University System of Georgia) Including Travel in Eger, Budapest, and Surrounding Regions.*

Andras Bozoki With all of its problems, Hungary after has been a success story, but now the success is challenged in ways that are very much unexpected. From the happy story of the transition from dictatorship to democracy, there is a looming potential tragedy, a transition from democracy. In the second part of , we Hungarians have been witnessing something that I, for one, never expected. We grew up in a soft dictatorship which slowly but surely opened up in response to the pressure of civic movements, the increasing weakness of the structure of the party-state and also external pressures. In the s, the post-totalitarian regime slowly devolved, culminating in the dramatic democratic changes of . They could travel, watch foreign movies, start their own enterprises and speak freely about their lives in public. Free elections and a representative government, a constitutional court, and democratic opposition were all firmly established. The last twenty years were far from being unproblematic, prime examples: But still, what we all experienced was a genuine liberal democracy. Governing parties lost elections. The media aggressively criticized politicians. Democracy was consolidated, and the country successfully joined the European Union. But then there was the revolutionary victory of Fidesz at the polling booths in April , and a reversal of the above developments. I cannot believe my eyes: Is it possible to roll back history? Is it possible to take the oxygen of democracy away within a few weeks and months? Is it possible to make a reverse transition, back to a semi-authoritarian regime within the European Union? Although Fidesz received 53 per cent support from voters at the general elections, due to the oddities in the proportional electoral system, this translated into a two-third majority in Parliament. With such a super majority, the ruling party now is willing and able to change all fundamental laws, including the Constitution. Although the electoral campaign of Fidesz said nothing about these steps, the governing majority started a fundamental restructuring of the political system. Public offices have been renamed as government offices. Those in the civil service became easily and legally dismissible. Central and local public administration has become heavily politicized. All leading positions in the purportedly independent institutions were filled by Fidesz party-cadres. Retroactive taxation regulations have been introduced to punish the personnel of the previous governments. As opposed to common European standards, a rare combination of anti-social policies have been enacted. By introducing a flat tax system, the cabinet has aimed to win the support of the wealthy against the interests of the poor. New laws on public and higher education control high school and university students more strictly, aiming to significantly reduce the number of university students. Strict regulations on trade unions effectively have limited the right to strike, and the government has campaigned against some trade union leaders, seeking to discredit the unions. Electoral laws have been changed before the municipal elections held last October in order to narrow the chance of smaller parties to enter local governments. The broad powers of the Constitutional Court have been significantly curtailed. Citizenship has been given to ethnic Hungarian who lived outside Hungary in order to gain more potential voters for Fidesz in the next elections. The private pension system was nationalized, forcing people into the state pension system. By doing this, Fidesz kept the annual deficit under 3. Importantly, while Fidesz pursued scrupulously restrictive fiscal policies to please the EU technocrats, in the terrain of politics, they took steps that drove Hungary away from the rest of democratic Europe. Commentators, analysts and the press hopelessly lagged behind this breathtakingly speedy legislation. Government controlled public media radio and television channels do not give a chance for opposition figures to tell their opinion. Central propaganda machine transmits messages of nationalism, Christian and patriarchal family values, with demands for law and order. In the meantime, the governing majority changed the Constitution nine times in the past half year already, which effectively destabilized legal security, responsiveness and accountability. The next step of the governing majority is to change the Constitution to be completed by late April , which supposedly will emphasize Christian values, national history, and state interests. Since that time he was defeated twice: Especially his second defeat was humiliating and since that time he is driven by the feverish wish for revenge.

Strangely, these defeats did not weaken his unquestionable leadership position within Fidesz, which he transformed from a democratic to a highly hierarchical, centralized party which is controlled exclusively by him. People are scared and silent since nobody wants to lose his or her job. The popularity of Fidesz is still relatively high because the new taxes did not directly target ordinary people, but banks and multinationals. Some of these comparisons might seem to be tempting but most of them miss the point and include exaggerations. He pursues unorthodox policies like Meciar did in Slovakia, but he is more consistent in attacking democratic institutions. Despite all efforts to the contrary, Hungary still has a multiparty system, though its democracy is increasingly non-competitive because of a rigging of the political and media systems. Freedom of the press is increasingly restricted to the blogosphere Facebook and the like and to opposition leaning journals “ but it still exists. There is still hope for democratic elections next time. There is a need for visible, prevalent and consistent democratic, liberal resistance to the authoritarian tendencies. Hungarian civil society, including employees, students, workers and others, should wake up from their long sleep. If Hungary survives this authoritarian challenge, with broad resistance, it is even possible that democracy may become stronger than it was before. The current Hungarian situation clearly demonstrates that democracy cannot be reduced to certain institutional frames, because those can be compromised. It can survive only if it is supported by committed active people. His most recent book is *Diversity and the European Public Sphere: The Case of Hungary* with R. Huszka , Bergen In he joined Fidesz, at that time a liberal opposition party, and in was a negotiator at the Roundtable Talks. In , he was spokesman for Fidesz. Thanks to Jeffrey C. Goldfarb and his Blog Deliberately.

## Chapter 6 : Hungary in Transition

, *Hungarians in transition: interviews with citizens of the nineties* / by Leland R. Cooper and Andrea Kenesei McFarland & Co Jefferson, N.C Wikipedia Citation Please see Wikipedia's template documentation for further citation fields that may be required.

Grab a cuppa and join us: Tracey Wheatley shares the nuts and bolts of Transition Hungary – a community organising and working together for a better future. Contrary to popular belief, however, Hungary is full of inspired and motivated individuals doing just what their compatriots say they are predestined not to do: They may not be the majority, but over the last few years with the growth in so many Transition-type activities, being a community activist can feel almost mainstream. Our Transition HUB became alive when we asked people like this to share their stories. Somewhere there was a great local fuel project, somewhere else a great local food and farmer link-up, another place had a community cooperative, another a kitchen-garden or allotment program. Lots and lots of small scale stuff, largely experimental, and according to the Transition Law of Just Doing Things, each had accumulated learning that creates a base for Something Greater. Where do we put our energy? Into being and creating the change we want to see happen. Perhaps this was a term we chose too lightly – as someone better versed in chemistry than we are pointed out; a catalyst gives life to a process, but remains unaffected by it. This is far from true for those we work with, those people within eco-village, urban subculture and Roma communities that are zig-zagging along their own locally specific path towards some aspect of greater resilience. Their work affects them greatly. We try to support them by creating times to get together, for trainings, summer camps, study visits, experience exchanges; by helping with new skills like mediation, mentoring, communications, motivation, cooperation; by opening doors to a different way of seeing things, challenging attitudes and assumptions and beliefs. And of course by telling these story still further, through social media, tale-books and pictures: Transition is not the main identity of those we work with, rather a secondary one that facilitates networking and links for wider support, bridging communities in a way that increases their resilience. Where Transition Groups have been set up they have proven in most cases to be pretty short-lived, for a variety of reasons that are probably quite unique to the Hungarian context; in most cases the initiators have been looking for a way to coordinate local environmental activity and Transition has been seen – wrongly – as a melting pot. The one exception is Transition Wekerle, the first and best known Transition initiative in Hungary, but that is another – long – story. How does the Transition HUB deal with this? And that is our niche: Most of us are volunteers juggling family, work and passions at the one time, in the face of many frustrations. Most local initiatives are completely volunteer based and self-funded. Relatively few have reliable and sufficient income. And some communities deal with problems that seem more reminiscent of the Global South than Europe! And beyond Transition? Thankfully local level organising is becoming more widespread in Hungary: This is really important to us: That, again, will be another tale, hopefully one where the combined actions of all levels of civil society defeat this particularly nasty looking 7-headed dragon. Transition always has a context; would we be wrong in wishing for one more supportive of urgent citizen action for climate change?

**Chapter 7 : The Hungarian pension system in transition (English) | The World Bank**

*Hungary, which might show only 65 percent of the economy under state control, are somewhat misleading. It is more appropriate to include the cooperatives, too, especially the relatively large.*

Pressure[ edit ] Decades before the Round Table Talks , political and economic forces within Hungary put pressure on Hungarian communism. These pressures contributed to the fall of communism in Hungary in Economic pressure[ edit ] The New Economic Mechanism was the only set of economic reform in Eastern Europe enacted after the wave of s and 60s revolutions that survived past It sought to accomplish reforms in many sectors of its economy, attempting autonomous self-management of collective farms, the break-up of monopoly industries, and curtailing subsidies other than those used for exports. It also began linking prices to the world market via exchange rates, authorizing workers to produce independently in the state-owned plants after their regular hours, and substituting economic regulators for compulsory directives in the dominant state-owned sector. Finally, it legalized private artisanal, retail, and service activity. Hungary, being a resource-poor satellite of the USSR, was, for its politically-independent spirit, very dependent on Soviet imports. This made it clear that the huge industrial combines, which had more ideological than economic value, would continue to receive the same state protection as in the past, underlining a basic weakness in the system. By the s, Hungary began to suffer from inflation, which particularly hurt people on fixed incomes. Hungary ran a massive foreign debt, and poverty became widespread. Following the institutionalization of the NEM in the s, price hikes became commonplace in Hungary. Thus, he could explain the higher prices as a down payment to the NEM, and promise good times to come without losing public approval and social order. This allowed East Germans, who were allowed only to travel to Communist countries, to go to Hungary and escape to West Germany through Austria , never to again return to communist East Germany. Another survey from indicates that the Hungarians were fully aware of their relative decline. However, they disagreed as to whether or not political democratization was a prerequisite for gaining public support for said reforms. Politically, the s brought a wave of discontent and demands for reform. Unlike in , there were many reformers from within as well as outside of the Communist Party, showing the political fragmentation of the Hungarian system. Radical reformers and many others demanded a multi-party system which was impossible to attain under a Soviet system. They did not want the Soviet system, but instead to claim the right to national self-determination. On the other hand, General Secretary Grosz was known for advocating "one-party pluralism. That same year, the Parliament adopted a "democracy package", which included trade union pluralism; freedom of association, assembly, and the press; a new electoral law; and a radical revision of the constitution, among others. The Pan-European Picnic was a peace demonstration held on the Austrian - Hungarian border near the town of Sopron on 19 August , an important event in political developments which led to the fall of the Iron Curtain and the reunification of Germany. In a historic session from 16 October to 20 October, the parliament adopted legislation providing for multi-party parliamentary elections and a direct presidential election. First free elections[ edit ] Main article: Hungarian parliamentary election, The first free parliamentary election, held in May , was a plebiscite of sorts on the communist past. The revitalized and reformed communists performed poorly despite having more than the usual advantages of an "incumbent" party. End of the Soviet occupation[ edit ] Main article: The total number of Soviet military and civilian personnel stationed in Hungary was around , The withdrawal was performed with 35, railway cars. Since , by a special bill passed in the Hungarian Parliament, 16 June was declared a national memorial day. Economica , New Series.

**Chapter 8 : Demographics of Hungary - Wikipedia**

*he Health System in Transition (HiT) profile on Hungary was co produced by the European Observatory on health Systems and Policies and Semmelweis University, which is a member of the network of National.*

Overwhelmingly, Hungarians are dissatisfied with the way democracy is working and discontent with political elites, with about three-in-four saying political corruption is a major problem. All of this bodes well for the electoral prospects of Fidesz, the right-of-center opposition party, which is expected to soundly defeat the incumbent social democrats in the upcoming elections. In fact, as the survey illustrates, they are more likely than other former Eastern bloc publics to say it is very important to live in a country with democratic rights and institutions. But few believe Hungary currently has these democratic freedoms. As a result, Hungarians enjoyed somewhat better living standards than their Iron Curtain neighbors. Two decades later, however, Hungarians give their economy dismal ratings, and they are generally less enthusiastic about the free market than others in the region. The global economic crisis had a powerful effect across much of Central and Eastern Europe, and it hit especially hard in Hungary, which was forced to seek a financial bailout from the IMF, World Bank and European Union. The fall survey revealed the extent of Hungarian economic gloom: Again, Hungary stands apart from the other post-communist societies surveyed – in no other country did so many believe that economic life is worse now than during the communist era. As in much of the region, many Hungarians had hoped that accession to the European Union would result in major economic benefits and improved living standards. However, most have been disappointed. Disillusionment With Politics Too But Hungarians are not only disappointed with the economic transition their country has experienced – they are also disappointed with the transition to democratic politics. Not so, however, in Hungary, where old and young alike tended to give the current state of democracy a grim assessment. As in much of Central and Eastern Europe, Hungarians are clearly disenchanted with political elites. However, when reviewing these gloomy findings about the state of democracy in Hungary, it is worth remembering that they do not mean Hungarians are abandoning democratic values. To the contrary, Hungarians continue to want democratic rights and institutions – in fact, they place a higher premium on these things than their post-communist neighbors. When asked to rate the importance of six key features of democracy, Hungarians stand out for their strong embrace of democratic values. Among the eight Central and Eastern European publics surveyed, Hungarians are the most likely to say it is very important to live in a country with honest multiparty elections, freedom of religion, free speech, and civilian control of the military tied with Czech Republic. Meanwhile, only Bulgarians are more likely to say it is very important to live in a country with a fair judiciary; and the Czech Republic and Bulgaria are the only countries more likely to rate a free media as very important. The challenge for Hungary is that, while most Hungarians want democratic values and institutions, few think they have them. The gap is large throughout Eastern Europe, but is widest in Hungary – evidence that Hungarians, who once pioneered the transition away from communism, are not turning their backs on democracy. Instead, they are frustrated by the fact that democracy has yet to fully flourish in their country.

**Chapter 9 : transition - English-Hungarian Dictionary - Glosbe**

May 24, , Page 10 *The New York Times Archives*. CLEVELANDâ€”Steve Menyhart, an American citizen and confirmed suburbanite, used to be Istvan Menyhart, a Hungarian rebel.

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: These latter movements, however, stopped short of initiating a transformation of the political system itself. Instead, they invariably limited themselves to the task of reconstructing civil society within the bounds set by Communist Party control over the levers of state power. Yet now it seems that this era of self-limitation is ending: In both Poland and Hungary, the Communist leadership itself has offered opposition movements legal status and a share in the government. It is crucial to understand both the motives for these gestures and their meaning. It would be misleading to view the current situation as analogous to the Gdansk negotiations. This time, however, they offered talks in response to much weaker pressure because they deemed it in their interest to include the opposition in the political structure. At the end of the s-a decade whose opening [End Page 75] years saw first the official recognition and then the outlawing of Solidarity-Polish as well as Hungarian Communists have recognized that they cannot rescue their regimes from continuing economic and social decay unless they share responsibility with partners who are truly independent of them. For the first time since the Sovietization of Eastern Europe, ruling parties are seeking to make room in the power structure for a legal opposition with the design of using its authority to legitimize austerity measures and demobilize social resistance. In joining the game that the negotiation offers have started, both sides incur tremendous risks. The danger for the Communist elites arises from the possibility that the process initiated by their talks with the opposition will lead much farther than they wish. The breach thus opened in the one-party system may progressively widen until the way is cleared for the logical outcome, which is a truly competitive parliamentary democracy. Indeed, this prospect provides the only reason for democratic elements to accept the bargain. But the opposition leaders must face the danger that instead of initiating a transition to democracy, the deal may shore up Communist power-and discredit them for having gone along with it. Being manipulated into helping to legitimize Communist rule is not the only risk with which the opposition in Poland and Hungary must reckon, however. The transition process, even if successfully launched, is likely to prove rocky. The sway exercised by both sides over their respective organizational bases will probably come under severe strain. Communist apparatchiks in strategic positions may try to upset the deal, perhaps by stage-managing outright provocations. Opposition radicals, on the other hand, may push to delegitimize any compromise with the Communists. The social contract may thus collapse before producing any tangible results. Another danger threatening the transition to democracy arises from the economic crisis. Unavoidable austerity measures and continuing decay may convince the "silent majority" that democratization is only aggravating the trouble. The opposition might then be held partly responsible for the accumulating hardships. The Communists could see such a development as advantageous to themselves since it would seem to remove any conceivable political alternative. Indeed, it could even result in an increasingly widespread longing for order, which would favor the advent of a Stalinist strongman promising to save the fatherland from political and economic chaos. But a chain reaction of spontaneous outbursts of mass violence could also occur, prompted by a disgust with politics of all kinds, official or oppositionist. Dangers threaten from abroad as well. Sharp oscillations in Soviet politics remain possible and could easily derail internal reforms. Exacerbated ethnic and national conflicts may draw public attention away You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles: