

Hungary:
A Curriculum Guide for Secondary School Teachers



Created by the **Center for Russian and East European Studies**
University Center for International Studies
University of Pittsburgh
December 2004

INTRODUCTION

Hungary: A Curriculum Guide for Secondary School Teachers was created to provide information on the historical and contemporary development of the Hungarian nation, and in so doing, to assist teachers in meeting some of the criteria indicated in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Academic Standard Guidelines (http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_board_of_education/8830/state_academic_standards/529102). To fulfill the fundamental themes for many of the disciplines prescribed by the state guidelines, this curriculum guide provides the following information:

- A description of the unique traits of Hungarian culture.
- A description of the effects of political, economic and cultural changes and how these changes shaped the present Hungarian nation.
- Identification and explanation of the contributions of key historical individuals and groups in politics, science, the arts, and religion in Hungary.
- Examination of the changing economic and political system of the Hungarian Republic, and how these changes have affected Hungarian society.

These and other areas of Hungarian society and culture are explored in an attempt to assist the secondary school teacher in fulfilling the Academic Standard Guidelines. As the unique transitions in Hungary provide a laboratory for studying political, economic and cultural change, this guide may be additionally useful as a means for comparison with our own country's development. Whether as a tool for meeting the Academic Standard Guidelines, or as a means to explore issues affecting a society in transition, we expect that this guide will be useful in your classroom preparation.

Each section of this guide is designed to be suitable for classroom use either independently, or as part of a comprehensive study of Hungary covering the entire guide. Therefore, you may tailor your use of the guide to fit the amount of time that you have available and the specific topics that are most relevant to your subject area. The guide also contains references to sources of additional information.

This guide was prepared by the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. It is part of a series of curriculum guides on post-communist countries in East Central Europe that have entered the European Union in 2004.

Contributors:

Jeanette A. Hahn, School of Law, University of Pittsburgh (primary researcher and author)
Gina Peirce, Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Pittsburgh (editor)

About the Center for Russian and East European Studies

Founded in 1965, the Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) at the University of Pittsburgh is designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Resource Center. This distinguishes REES as one of the nation's strongest language and area studies centers. The Center is responsible for coordinating the efforts of the University of Pittsburgh in teaching, research, and public service related to the former Soviet and Central/East European world region. The 69 faculty members affiliated with REES are based in 14 arts and sciences departments and five professional schools at the University of Pittsburgh.

REES offers undergraduate and graduate certificates to students who complete a multi-disciplinary study of the area and attain proficiency in a language of the region. The Center coordinates the collection of materials on its world region in the University of Pittsburgh's library system, publishes the *Carl Beck Papers in Russian and East European Studies*, maintains academic exchanges with 26 overseas partner institutions, and sponsors lectures and special events on a weekly basis. REES also sponsors study abroad programs and, since 1986, a Summer Language Institute for students throughout the U.S., offering intensive courses in nine Slavic and East European languages.

The REES Outreach Program is dedicated to providing elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools and community organizations with a broad understanding of the cultures, languages, histories, politics, and economies of former Soviet and Central/East European nations. For educators at all levels, REES offers a school visits program, instructional resource lending library, outreach newsletter, and professional development workshops. Most of these services are free of charge. For more information, please see the REES Outreach website at <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/outreach.html>.

Contact Information:

Center for Russian and East European Studies
University Center for International Studies
4400 Posvar Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Phone: 412-648-7407

Fax: 412-648-7002

E-mail: crees@pitt.edu

Web: <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. General Background	
A. Hungary in a Nutshell	1
B. Basic Facts	3
II. History	
A. Origins of the Hungarian People	7
B. Invasion of Mongols	7
C. Rule under the Ottomans	8
D. The Country Divided	8
E. Habsburg Empire	8
F. The Dual Monarchy: Austria-Hungary	9
G. World War I	9
H. Inter-War Period	10
I. World War II	11
J. Post World War II and Communism	11
K. Fall of Communism	12
III. Economy	
Overview	14
Hungary's EU Membership	16
IV. Government	
A. National Government	22
B. Local Government	22
C. Political Parties	23
V. Judicial System	24
VI. Health	
A. Health System and Welfare	25
B. Turkish Baths	27
VII. Hungarian People	
A. Population & Ethnic Groups	29
B. Regions	31
C. Famous Hungarians	36
D. Language	40
VIII. Religion	
A. Early Religion	43
B. Modern Religion	44

IX. Art and Culture	
A. Architecture	47
B. Art	54
C. Music	57
D. National Anthem	59
E. Mythology	61
X. Education	65
XI. Food	
A. Main Dishes	67
B. Desserts	71
XII. Additional Resources	73

Hungary in a Nutshell



Overview

Based on its central geography in the heart of Eastern Europe, Hungary has been a political and cultural focus of Europe. It converted to Western Christianity before AD 1000. During the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary from 1867 until 1918, Budapest expanded from a town into an influential and powerful European center. However, at the end of World War I, the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy resulted in the loss of two-thirds of Hungary's territory and nearly as much of its population. Following a brief communist dictatorship and counterrevolution in 1919, the country began a 25-year regency under Admiral Miklos Horthy whose efforts resulted in the recovery of some of the former lands. In return for help in repossession of some of its frontiers (1939 and 1941), Hungary allied itself with Germany in World War II. After 1938, Hitler's Germany used promises of additional territories, economic pressure, and threats of military intervention to pressure the Hungarians into supporting Hitler's policies, including those related to Europe's Jews, which encouraged Hungary's anti-Semites. Although Hungary fought in most of World War II as a German ally, it fell under German military occupation following an unsuccessful attempt to switch sides on October 15, 1944.

The end of World War II marked the beginning of Soviet occupation. Led by Matyas Rakosi, there was forced collectivization and industrialization in Hungary. In 1956, a revolt and announced withdraw from the Warsaw Pact were crushed by Soviet military intervention. The next few years were ones of repression. But under Janos Kadar, there was a period of liberalization and the creation of the New Economic Mechanism and "goulash communism." Goulash communism was the creation of a more relaxed and revised form of the communist system, distinct from the Soviet form of communism. Goulash communism allowed private shops, selling of western goods, and the relaxation of demanding industrial production quotas and requirements placed on workers. The objective of goulash communism was to prevent Hungarians from going hungry and provide prosperity for the nation.

However, by the 1980s Kadar's prosperous economy began to decline, and in 1988 his regime was replaced by that of the Reform Communists. In October 1989, the communist party convened its last congress and re-established itself as the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP). In a historic session on October 16-20, 1989, the Parliament adopted legislation providing for multiparty parliamentary elections and a direct presidential election. The legislation transformed Hungary from a people's republic into the Republic of Hungary; guaranteed human and civil rights; and created an institutional structure that ensures

separation of powers among the judicial, executive, and legislative branches of government.

Hungary was one of the first targeted countries in Central and Eastern Europe for integration into the European Community (EC), now referred to as the European Union (EU). The EU provided Hungary with pre-accession assistance funding through a program called PHARE in 1990. PHARE provided more than 1 billion Euros to Hungary for economic development and restructuring initiatives. This assistance program greatly prepared Hungary for membership into the EU. In March 1994, Hungary was the first country from Central and Eastern Europe to formally apply for EU membership. Negotiations began in 1997. Hungary's entry in the EU was finalized in May 2004.

Basic Facts

Official Name:

Republic of Hungary

Regions:

Alföld (Great Plain), Kisalföld (Small Plain), Nyugat-Magyarországi peremvidék or Alpokalja (Western Hungary or Lower Alps), Dunántúli-dombság (Transdanubia hills), Dunántúli-középhegység (Transdanubia mountain range) and Északi-középhegység (Northern mountain range)

Cities:

Capital- Budapest (est. pop. 2 million) Other cities- Debrecen (220,000, Miskolc (208,000), Szeged (189,000), Pecs (183,000)

Geography

Bordering Countries:

Hungary is a landlocked country located in Central Europe. It neighbors Austria to the west, Croatia to the southwest, Romania to the east and southeast, Serbia and Montenegro in the south, Slovakia to the north, Slovenia to the west, and Ukraine to the northeast.

Area:

35,910 sq. mi. (93,030 sq. km.); about the size of Indiana.

Terrain:

Mostly flat, with low mountains in the north and northeast of the country, also low mountains are to the north of Lake Balaton, which is located in the west.

Climate:

Temperate

People

Nationality:

Noun and adjective-Hungarian(s). The majority of inhabitants are Magyars, who originally migrated from the Black and Caspian seas between the 7th and 9th centuries.

Population (est.):

10.1 million

Ethnic groups:

Hungarian 92%, Romany 4% (est.), German 2%, Slovak 1%, others 1%.
Religions: Roman Catholic 68%, Calvinist 21%, Lutheran 4%, Jewish 1%, others (including Baptist Adventist, Pentecostal,

	Unitarian) 3%.
Languages:	Hungarian 98%, other 2%.
Education:	Compulsory to age 16 (attendance- 96%)
Literacy:	99%
Infant mortality rate:	15/1,000
Life expectancy:	Men 66 yrs., Women 75 yrs.
Work force (4 million):	Agriculture 8%, Industry and Commerce 42%, Services 32%, Government 7%.

Government

Type:	Parliamentary republic, Hungary is an independent and democratic state.
Constitution:	August 20, 1949. Substantially rewritten in 1989, amended in 1990.
Branches of government	<p><i>Executive-</i> president of the Republic (head of state), prime minister (head of government), Council of Ministers</p> <p><i>Legislative-</i> National Assembly (386 members, 4-year term)</p> <p><i>Judicial-</i> Supreme Court, Constitutional Court</p>
Principal political parties:	Fidesz-Hungarian Civic Party (center-right), Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP) (center-left), Alliance of Free Democrats (SZDSZ) (center-left), Hungarian Justice and Life Party (MIEP) (far right), Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF) (center-right).

Economy

GDP:	(2003 est.) \$72.8 billion
Annual growth rate:	(2002) 3.3%, (2003 est.) 3.5%
Per capita GDP:	(2003 est.) \$7,280
Natural resources:	Bauxite (main source of aluminum), coal, natural gas, fertile soils, arable land.
Agriculture/forestry (2002, 4% of GDP):	<i>Products-</i> meat, corn, wheat, sunflower seeds, potatoes, sugar beets, vegetables, fruits.
Industry and construction (1999, 24% of GDP):	<i>Types-</i> machinery, vehicles, chemicals, precision and measuring equipment, computer products, medical instruments, pharmaceuticals.
Trade (2003 est.):	<i>Exports</i> (\$40.6 billion)- machinery, vehicles, medical instruments, food and beverages, agricultural products. <i>Imports</i> (\$46.3 billion)- machinery, vehicles, consumer manufactures, energy, food and beverages.
Major markets:	European Union (Germany, Austria, Italy), Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA, includes Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS, includes Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine), U.S. <i>Major suppliers-</i> EU (Germany, Austria, Italy, France), CIS, CEFTA, U.S.

References:

Background Note: Hungary, United States Department of State

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/26566.htm>

The World Fact Book 2004

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/hu.html>

Country Studies, Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

Hungary.hu

<http://www.magyarország.hu/angol/orszaginfo/alapadatok>

Europa (Gateway to the European Union)

http://www.europa.eu.int/pol/enlarg/overview_en.htm

Hungary's EU Integration Website

<http://www.kum.hu/euint/index.html>

Origins of the Hungarian People

In 895, the original Hungarian tribes came from the east and conquered the Carpathian Basin, an area that surrounds the Carpathian mountain chain and the Alps. Hungarians trace their origins to Finnish-Ugric tribes, who first migrated from the Asian side of the Ural Mountains and Volga River. Evidence of this linkage is illustrated through phonic similarities between the Hungarian and Finnish languages.

Hungary became a Western kingdom independent of the Holy Roman and Byzantine Empire under Stephen I (Saint Stephen), who ruled from 997 through 1038. After Stephen I ousted rival clan chiefs and confiscated their lands, Pope Sylvester II crowned Stephen I as King of Hungary, providing King Stephen with almost absolute power. As ruler, King Stephen required his people to pay tithes, which are payments made to the Church, and required every tenth village to construct a church and support a priest. Stephen donated land to support dioceses and monasteries, required all persons except the clergy to marry, and barred marriages between Christians and pagans. Foreign monks worked as teachers and introduced Western agricultural methods. A Latin alphabet was devised for the Magyar (Hungarian) language.

In the 11th century, King Stephen's successors continued to impose strict laws regarding ownership relations and Christian values. In the 12th century, a weakened monarchy gave rise to a constitutional structure, whose main document was called the Golden Bull. Historians have compared the Golden Bull to the English Magna Carta (1215). The Golden Bull limited the king's power by giving lesser nobles the right to resist the king's illegal acts.



Stephen I- **Saint Stephen-Confessor, King Of Hungary 975-1038**

Lives of the Saints-John J Crawley & Co Inc

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/965385/posts>

Invasion of Mongols

The Mongols' invasion in 1241 wiped out over half of the population. Subsequently, King Béla IV (1235-1270) made attempts to reconstruct the country, and to better fortify the country to fend off future invasion.

During the reigns of Charles Robert I (1307-1342) and Louis the Great (1342-1382), who were two kings from a foreign dynasty called the Anjou dynasty, Hungary experienced new growth and development. Charles Robert implemented monetary reforms and developed a new tax policy. In 1335, Charles Robert further unified the region and established the first Central European Alliance through a trade agreement between Hungary, Bohemia, and Poland.

Under Louis the Great, the economy continued to prosper. Mining of gold and precious metals provided the region with an increase in wealth. The region expanded its trade, and new towns and villages sprang up throughout the country. Along with economic

prosperity, the area experienced a cultural awakening. Louis promoted the illumination of manuscripts, and in 1367, he founded Hungary's first university.

Rule Under the Ottomans

Throughout the end of the 14th century and beginning of the 15th century, the Ottoman Turks swept through the Balkans and threatened Hungarian sovereignty. From 1387 to 1444, a series of Hungarian kings died in battle against the Turks.

Hunyadi, a regent ruler who was appointed to rule until the maturity of the infant king, Laszlo V, launched a largely successful anti-Turkish campaign. Hunyadi first established a mercenary army and defeated the Ottoman forces in Transylvania in 1442 and Serbia in 1443. In 1456, Hunyadi fought his greatest and last battle against the Turks in the battle of Belgrade. Hunyadi's army was greatly outnumbered. The Ottoman army was over 100,000, while the Hungarian army was between 60,000 to 75,000. The defeat against the Turkish army is considered a colossal victory in European history because it temporarily halted the Turks from advancing further into Europe. Hunyadi's victory has been honored in Catholic countries all over the world, by the ringing of church bells every day at noon. This practice continues today.

Mátyás, son of Hunyadi, initially strengthened the Hungarian Army. However, the Turkish wars, combined with Mátyás's continuous and costly military campaigns in the west, economically weakened, politically destabilized, and drained the military's power. By 1541 after a victory over Belgrade, the Turks successfully invaded and occupied Hungary.

The Country Divided

The country was divided into three parts: 1. *Conquered Part*, the central section, which Turkish forces occupied; 2. *Royal Hungary*, the western and northern parts, which were governed by Ferdinand of Habsburg, the possessor of the Hungarian throne; and 3. *Transylvania Principality*, the region east of the Tisza River, which was occupied by native princes, who paid the Turks a tribute in exchange for some autonomy.

The partition of Hungary between the Ottoman and Habsburg empires lasted more than 150 years. Fighting was continuous in much of the central part of the country. Hungary was divided between European Christianity and Turkish Islam. The country was further transformed during the Protestant Reformation in the early 17th century. The Protestant Reformation sparked a Counter-Reformation led by Archbishop Peter Pazmany. Pazmany reorganized the Roman Catholic Church and converted a large number of Hungarians in Royal Hungary, especially the upper nobles, back to Catholicism. Consequently, the region was divided into Catholic Hungarians, who often sided with the Habsburgs, and Protestant Hungarians, who developed strong sentiments of nationalism.

The Habsburg Empire

In 1683, the Turks' failed attack against Vienna triggered the Ottomans' departure from the region. By the end of the century, the Habsburgs replaced the Ottomans.

In the midst of the Habsburg Empire, two Habsburg rulers, Maria Theresa (1740-1780) and Joseph II (1780-1790), implemented both economic and social reforms. Joseph II permitted religious tolerance, allowing individuals other than Roman Catholics to hold public office and other leading professions. Maria Theresa and Joseph II were followers of European Enlightened Absolutism, which was the seed of reformist thought throughout parts of Europe.

Count István Széchenyi (1791-1860), a Hungarian noble and considered by many Hungarians to be the greatest Hungarian in history identified that the cause of Hungary's backwardness was its continued system of serfdom. With his highly influential theoretical works, he gained support for his anti-serfdom principles. In addition to his efforts against the serf system, Széchenyi established the foundation of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He is credited for improvements in rail and other transportation systems for the country, including the initial planning of the first permanent bridge linking Buda and Pest, the Chain Bridge.

For the most part, however, the Habsburg years consisted of many bloody and costly wars. From 1792 to 1815, the Habsburg wars with France resulted in the deaths of more than 150,000 Hungarian soldiers. As a result of these wars, Hungarians revolted and drove out Habsburg military forces in 1848. However, Russian forces, in alliance with the Habsburgs, invaded Hungary and returned control to the Habsburgs.

The Dual Monarchy: Austria-Hungary

By the middle of the 1860s, the Habsburgs' series of disastrous wars isolated Austria internationally and drained its treasury. Distracted by the many wars, the Habsburgs had allowed the Hungarian elite class more power. The increase in power of the Hungarian elite combined with the weakened Habsburg dynasty resulted in the Dual Monarchy, Austria-Hungary in 1867. The Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary gave each country separate parliaments and governments.

World War I

The Hungarian military forces, however, remained under centralized Habsburg control. Consequently, in the summer of 1914, the Hungarian soldiers together with the other troops of the Habsburg nations mobilized for war against Serbia and Russia.

Following a brief communist government, led by Bela Kun, and counterrevolution in 1919, the country began a 25-year regency under Admiral Miklos Horthy. At the end of World War I, the defeated Austria-Hungary's new regime signed the Versailles Peace Treaty, also known as the Treaty of Trianon in 1920. Hungary lost two-thirds of its original territory, and more than half of its population. One-third of the Hungarian population, which in total included more than three million Hungarians, became an ethnic minority in several neighboring countries. New international borders separated Hungary's industrial base from its sources of raw materials and its former markets for agricultural and industrial products. Additionally, the treaty forced Hungary to limit the size of its armed forces, and required reparations payments. The harsh terms of the treaty created much bitterness among Hungarians.



Hungary
1913

■ Hungary
■ Austria

B. Bukovina
 D. Dalmatia
 H. Herzegovina
 M. Montenegro



Dissolution of Austria-Hungary
1920

■ Hungary until 1918
■ Austria until 1918
■ Hungarian losses 1918/20
■ Austrian losses 1918/20

■ Hungary 1920
■ Austria 1920
■ Czechoslovakia 1920
■ Romania 1920
■ Poland 1920
■ Italy 1920
■ SHS 1920

B. Bukovina
 D. Dalmatia
 H. Herzegovina
 M. Montenegro
 S.T. South Tyrol
 Sl. Slovenia
 V. Vojvodina

<http://www.zum.de/whkmla/histatlas/eceurope/trianon.gif>

Inter-War Period

After World War I, Horthy's appointed premier, Julius Gombos, entered into close alliances both with Germany and Italy. Gombos coined the term *Axis*, which was later

adopted by the German-Italian alliance. Hungary's economy remained severely depressed. Hungarians continued to resent the terms of the Trianon Treaty, which severely affected the Hungarian economy.

Hungary entered into a trade agreement with Germany to revitalize its economy. By 1939, Hungary depended economically on Germany. Over 50% of both Hungary's imports and exports were with Germany. In addition to economic assistance, Germany also provided Hungary with support in reclaiming some of Hungary's pre-Treaty of Versailles territories. In return for help in repossession of some of its frontiers and due to its economic dependence, Hungary allied itself with Germany in World War II.

World War II

After 1938, Hitler's Germany used promises of additional territories, economic pressure, and threats of military intervention to pressure the Hungarians into supporting Hitler's policies, including anti-Semitism. Successors to Gombos passed anti-Semitic laws that set Jewish employment quotas. Also, the government seized Jewish property, prohibited Jews from buying real estate, and barred Jews from working in a number of professions.

Although Hungary fought as a German ally for most of World War II, it fell under German military occupation following an unsuccessful attempt to switch sides. After suffering massive defeats on the eastern front, Hungary sought to withdraw from its alliance with the Axis powers and attempted to sign an agreement with the Allies. Upon learning of Hungary's attempt to align itself with the allies, Germany sent troops to occupy Hungary on March 19, 1944. Under Nazi control, Jews were sent to death camps in Poland. Of the approximately 725,000 Jews residing within Hungary's expanded borders of 1941, only about 260,500 survived.

The German forces did not remain in Hungary for long. The Soviet Red Army entered eastern Hungary in 1945. For several months, Hungary was a battlefield between the Soviet and German armies. The Soviets were eventually victorious over the Germans. However, the country was demolished. The Germans destroyed the rail, road and communication systems.

At the Yalta conference in 1945, much of Europe was carved up by the Allied Powers. Hungary became one of the Soviet Union's spheres of influence.

Post World War II and Communism

Stalin appointed Mátyás Rakosi as Hungary's communist dictator between 1948 and 1953. Under Rakosi, Hungary's communist program included forced collectivization and industrialization. Tens of thousands of people, considered enemies of the state, were deported to the countryside or forced to do hard labor.

Hungarians rebelled against the Soviet Union and the Hungarian communist government in the 1956 Revolution. Imre Nagy took over the short-lived revolutionary government. The Soviet Union crushed the uprising and executed the revolutionary leaders, including Nagy.



Picture 1: Hungarians attack a Soviet tank in Budapest- 1956-

<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Hungarian%20Revolution.%201956>

Picture 2: The radio building in Bródy Sándor utca (8th District) during the revolution. The banner reads 'Hungarian Free Radio', http://www.rev.hu/history_of_56/ora3/ora3_e.htm

However, in the aftermath of the revolution, a milder communist leader, János Kádár, came to power. Under Kádár, there was a period of liberalization and the creation of the New Economic Mechanism and “goulash communism.” Goulash communism was a more relaxed and revised form of the communist system, distinct from the Soviet form of communism. Goulash communism allowed private shops, selling of western goods, and the relaxation of demanding industrial production quotas and requirements placed on workers. The objective of goulash communism was to prevent Hungarians from going hungry and provide prosperity for the nation.

Fall of Communism

By the 1980s Kádár's prosperous economy began to decline, and in 1988 his regime was replaced by that of the reform communists. In October 1989, the Communist Party convened its last congress and re-established itself as the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP). In a historic session on October 16-20, 1989, the Parliament adopted legislation providing for multiparty parliamentary elections and a direct presidential election. The legislation transformed Hungary from a people's republic into the Republic of Hungary; guaranteed human and civil rights; and created an institutional structure that ensures separation of powers among the judicial, executive, and legislative branches of government. The new National Assemblies and the coalition governments formed after the elections committed themselves to the establishment and stabilization of the political, economic and legal foundations of the systemic change.



Janos Kadar- Hungary 1989,
<http://www.unc.edu/~wmckinne/hungarytoday.html>

References:

Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition, <http://bartleby.com/65/>

The European Enlightenment, <http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/ENLIGHT/ABSOLUTE.HTM>

The Great Depression, Hungary, Library of Congress Country Studies, Federal Research Division, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

Hungary Government Portal, Hungary.hu,
<http://www.magyarország.hu/angol/orszaginfo/alapadatok>

Radical Right to Power, Hungary, Library of Congress Country Studies, Federal Research Division, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

Renaissance and Reformation, Hungary, Library of Congress Country Studies, Federal Research Division, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

US Department of State, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/26566.htm>

The History Net, <http://www.thehistorynet.com/mh/blsiegebelgrade/index2.html>

Economy



Hungary has made the transition from a centrally planned economy to a market-based economy since the early 1990s. Currently, the private sector comprises 80% of the economy. Inflation has declined from 14% in 1998 to 4.7% in 2003. Unemployment is about 6%. The economy's main sector is services, which account for 64.2%, and industry accounts for the second major sector at 32.5% of the overall economy. The remainder is made up by agriculture. Hungary's main trading partner is Germany.

Hungary originally was mostly agricultural. Because the country does not have many natural resources, it has historically relied heavily on imports, specifically of raw materials. During the communist era, the country entered into an economic growth incentive aimed at developing its industrial base.

However, the end of the 1980s, Hungary's foreign debt was reaching \$15 billion. Hungary also faced a decline in exports due to the disintegration of the Soviet bloc, whose countries originally made up the majority of its trading partners. Hungary's first major step to address its economic crisis was its adoption of a law that introduced an income tax. Hungary also applied for membership in both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

After communism fell, the country became committed to market reform. The IMF implemented programs designed to provide technical and financial assistance with the privatization of enterprises, setting up central banks, issuing currency, and devising tax systems, along with other financial assistance programs. On the negative side, these were rapid changes that "shocked" the economy. Hungarians experienced high inflation, extreme rises in the prices of goods and services, and increases in unemployment as many state-owned facilities were shut down. By 1993, unemployment had risen to 12%. Hungary's foreign debt reached 250%.

In 1995, the Hungarian currency, the Forint, became convertible for international and national transactions, meaning that it could be used to trade globally as well as nationally. Recently, the Forint has faced challenges with its competition with the Euro, which has at times devalued the Forint. Hungary has plans to switch to the Euro by 2008.

Foreign investment has greatly helped the country in its transition to a market-based economy. Foreign companies have invested billions in the Hungarian economy. These companies have greatly expanded the industrial sector and have created one-quarter of the new jobs currently available.

The government has launched a number of programs aimed at increasing private-sector development. One goal has been to increase competition among mortgage providers in order to decrease interest rates.

A related initiative has been providing better incentives for the purchase of homes. The government has provided private subsidies to purchasers in order to improve living conditions and create new homes. As a result of these initiatives, 21,583 homes have been constructed in recent years. The program provides assistance to anyone who wishes to build or buy a new home, or to make repairs to their current home. Additional financial rewards are provided for those who make their homes more energy-efficient. For reconstruction and refurbishments that are energy-efficient, individuals and families can receive special funding from the government.



References:

A Country Study, Library of Congress, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/hutoc.html>

Economy, Hungary.hu, <http://www.magyarország.hu/angol/orszaginfo/gazdasag>

IMF, <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~ms348497/esp/imf.htm>

Market Transition, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/low/europe/1054642.stm>

Overview of Hungary's EU Membership

Hungary was one of the first countries of Central and Eastern Europe targeted for integration into the European Union (EU). In 1990, the EU provided Hungary with pre-accession assistance funding through a program called Phare. Phare provided more than 1 billion euros to Hungary for economic development and restructuring initiatives. In March 1994, Hungary formally applied for EU membership, and negotiations began in 1997. Hungary's entry into the EU was finalized in May 2004.

The following questions and answers provide essential information concerning Hungary's motivations for joining the EU, the process of accession, and public opinion concerning EU membership.

Question: Why did Hungary want to join the EU?

For decades while under communist rule, Hungary was a stranger to many of its European neighbors. The country did not share commonality of culture or politics because it was insulated as a communist country. By joining the EU, Hungary reunited with its European neighbors and re-identified itself as a European nation. Also, Hungary's inclusion in the EU protects Hungary's sovereignty, including its defense and global security interests. The country enjoys a louder voice in global politics through its membership and benefits directly from the strength of European solidarity.

In addition to these motivating factors, Hungary suffered from fluctuating interest rates which destabilized its economy. Beginning with Phare, Hungary received funding and program initiatives that helped the country to reform its economy. Once it was formally accepted for consideration as a member of the EU, a series of reform programs bolstered Hungary's economy.

Question: What steps did Hungary take to enter the EU?

Accession into the EU is no small task for any country. There are a number of stages and demanding criteria placed on each country. Countries need to effectively stabilize their local economies and harmonize their laws with those of the EU. The key words to remember during the accession process are patience and perseverance. For Hungary, the process of accession took nearly 13 years.

Hungary entered into an agreement with the European Communities, presently the European Union, in 1991. The agreement, which became enforceable in 1994, covered a number of trade-related issues. Under the agreement, Hungary needed to make reforms in a number of areas including its legal institutions, industrial practices, environmental regulations and procedures, and transport and custom regulations. Ultimately, Hungary needed to meet the political, economic, and legal criteria established by the EU.

Step 1- Pre-Accession

Hungary's pre-accession process included the implementation of three main programs:

- A. *Phare*
- B. *Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-accession (ISPA)*
- C. *Special Accession Program for Agricultural and Rural Development (SAPARD)*

A. Phare

The Phare Program initially began as a means to assist Central European countries in their transition to market-based economies and democracies. The program focused on institution building and *acquis communautaire*. *Acquis communautaire* provided support and training in the process of familiarization with over 80,000 pages of EU law. Initiatives included the creation of more efficient bureaucracies and administrative structures and improvement of judicial systems.

B. ISPA

ISPA supported large-scale infrastructure projects. Financial assistance was granted for environmental projects, which enabled Hungary to comply with the requirements of the EU's community-based environmental laws. ISPA financed transportation infrastructure initiatives that promoted sustainable mobility.

C. SAPARD

SAPARD supervised the improvement of the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, focusing on environmental protection, and enhanced the adaptation capabilities of rural areas.

Step 2- Joint Declaration

The EU parliamentary parties in cooperation with the Hungarian government entered into a joint declaration, which provided the order for how certain legal steps were to be implemented in Hungary. The declaration set a timeframe for adoption.

One major legal requirement prior to accession was the passage of an amendment to Hungary's constitution. The amendment allowed Hungary to transfer sovereignty to an international organization. This amendment was unanimously agreed upon by the Hungarian Parliament.

Step 3- Hungary's Communication With Its Citizens and Referendum

The Hungarian government worked closely with the EU to educate its citizens about accession. The government's main objective was to have as many citizens as possible learn about the EU. When Hungary finally held a referendum concerning accession, the government confidently considered the participants of the referendum to be "enlightened voters." The referendum was held in April 2003. Of the 46% of population who participated, 83.8% supported EU integration, and 16.3% disagreed with EU integration.

Step 4- Final Accession

Hungary's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister signed the accession treaty in 2003. EU membership took effect on May 1, 2004.

Step 5- Continued Monitoring

Following Hungary's accession, monitoring of the country's activities continues. After initial reforms in a number of its sectors, the EU drafted a comprehensive monitoring report which addressed reforms and improvements Hungary needed to continue beyond the accession process. Hungary agreed to transitional periods for adoption and implementation of EU legislation in certain sensitive areas. Hungary needs to continue reforms in a number of areas including:

- Agriculture
- Free movement of goods and Services
- Enforcement of intellectual and industrial property laws
- Agriculture and trade of wine and sugar

- Animal waste treatment
- Pesticide usage and veterinary control systems
- Environmental protection and monitoring of industrial pollution

Question: How did Hungary communicate with its citizens about integration?

Hungary launched a nation-wide communication program that sought to provide the general public, as well as specific targeted groups, with necessary information. Key elements of the country's communication program are described below.

Information Distribution

Hungary provided information in the form of pamphlets and advertisements in national and regional daily papers. The government sponsored a number of round-table discussions, interviews, and news features. Additionally, Hungary held public debates concerning the impacts of accession.

The government organized "Europe Days" in 30 cities throughout the country to provide the general public with information about the EU.

Government Surveys

Hungary monitored knowledge levels of citizens by conducting a number of surveys. According to the findings of the 1996 survey, more than two-thirds of the population supported the integration efforts of the government and accession to the European Union. Surveys were repeated to monitor the effectiveness of the communication strategy, enabling modifications of the program aimed at specific target groups.

Targeted Populations

Groups targeted by the communication program included journalists, educators, students, and entrepreneurs. Hungary also focused largely on the rural community because many aspects of EU integration directly impact the agricultural sector. Hungary targeted the rural population by specifically advertising through rural periodicals, agrarian events and television programs.

Referendum

Hungary held a referendum on accession four days before the accession treaty was signed. Of the 46% of voters who participated in the referendum, around 84% voted in favor of EU accession.

Question: How do Hungarians presently feel about the EU?

Below are results collected from the Gallup Organization for European Commission Reports.

	Do you think that becoming a member of the EU would bring you personal advantages?	Do you expect that your personal situation (life in general) will improve?	Do you expect that your personal economic situation will improve?	Do you expect your personal job situation to improve?
Yes	38	29	20	15
No	44	27	41	23
Neither	NA	39	29	40
Don't Know	19	5	11	23

	Do you think that membership of the EU would be a good thing?	Do you support the Constitution?	Do you support a common defense policy?	Do you support common foreign policy?
Yes	56	62	79	63
No	10	15	7	16
Neither	24	NA	NA	NA
Don't Know	10	23	14	21

	Do you tend to trust European Parliament?	Do you tend to trust the European Commission?	Do you support one single currency?
Yes	66	55	61
No	10	10	20
Neither	NA	NA	NA
Don't Know	24	35	19

Source: First Results Autumn 2003, Candidate Countries Eurobarometer European Commission, Public Opinion in the Acceding and Candidate Countries. The Gallup Organization, Hungary, 2003.

References:

Electionguide.org,

http://www.ifes.org/eguide/resultsum/hungary_EU_referendum2003.htm

Europa Enlargement Library, European Commission,

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report2001/index.htm>

Hungary, EU-CEEC Joint High Level Committee Progress Report, Consolidated Country Reports,

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/international/candidate_countries/doc/country_report.pdf

Enlargement of the European Union, An Historic Opportunity,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/docs/pdf/historic_opportunity_2003_en.pdf

Relations with Hungary Archives,

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/hungary/index.htm>

Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession,

<http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l60022.htm>

First Results Autumn 2003, Candidate Countries Eurobarometer European Commission, Public Opinion in the Acceding and Candidate Countries,

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/archives/cceb/2003/cceb2003.4 first_an nexes.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/archives/cceb/2003/cceb2003.4_first_an nexes.pdf)

Government

National Government

Since 1989, Hungary has been a parliamentary republic. Hungary made the transition to a parliamentary democracy through an amendment of its original 1949 constitution. In 1990, Hungary held its first open multi-party parliamentary elections.

Hungary has an executive branch, which includes the President and Prime Minister, both of whom are elected by the National Assembly. The Prime Minister possesses greater power than the President, who holds mainly a ceremonial position. In September 2004, the National Assembly elected a new Prime Minister, Ferenc Gyurcsany, who is a former businessman and a member of the Hungarian Socialist Party, the MSZP.



Gyurcsány Ferenc
Prime Minister

The National Assembly, or parliament, is the main body of the government and has the most power. It is a unicameral (single-chamber) legislative body with 386 members. Members are elected for four-year terms. In order to be elected, one must be a Hungarian citizen, living in Hungary, and over the age of 18. Within the parliament, there are two independent organs. They are the State Audit Office, created in 1990, and the Citizens' Rights Commission, called the Ombudsman, created in 1995.

The National Assembly decides the number of ministries. The ministries, such as the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance, administer various sectors of governance.

Local Government

The local government of each municipality includes a local assembly headed by a mayor and vice-mayor, who are elected by the public. The local government provides public education, basic healthcare and social benefits, and enforces the rights of national and ethnic minorities.

Political Parties

Fidesz - Magyar Polgári Párt (Fidesz)

Hungarian Civic Party

Conservative, support from center-right

Magyar Szocialista Párt (MSZP)

Hungarian Socialist Party

Support from previous communist Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party

Független Kisgazda, Földmunkás, Es Polgári Part (FKGP)

Independent Smallholders', Land Workers' and Civic Party

Conservative, support from agricultural and rural populations

Szabad Demokratak Szovetsege (SZDSZ)

Alliance of Free Democrats

Liberal, support from middle class, liberal intellectuals and entrepreneurs

Magyar Demokrata Forum (MDF)

Hungarian Democratic Forum

Conservative, support from Christian democrats

References:

Government Portal, Hungary.hu, <http://www.magyarország.hu/angol/orszaginfo/allam>

Hungary, Country Information, <http://www.state.gov/p/eur/ci/>

Prime Minister's Office, <http://www.meh.hu/english>

Judicial System

Background

Before 1989, the communist party determined the content of legislation and which crimes to prosecute. One of the negative effects of the new democratic system was the increase in crime. For the first time, Hungary saw increases in poverty, which were linked to increases in crime. As in other post-communist countries, the mafia and black market became common in Hungary.

Criminal offenses “against the state and private individuals” soared, including crimes of theft and more violent crimes like murder and rape. Also, white-collar crimes increased, particularly bribing of government officials and bureaucrats.

However, some areas of crime decreased. A number of crimes under the old system were no longer crimes in the new society; for example, many of the legal requirements for proper documentation and other “customs regulations” no longer bogged down the system.

Another negative result of the democratic transition was the rise in alcoholism and its correlation to the rise in alcohol-related crimes. Possibly attributed to new social and economic pressures, alcoholism rose throughout the 1980s. “In the first eight months of 1988, more than 18,500 crimes were committed under the influence of alcohol.”

Structure of System

Hungary’s legal system is influenced by Roman law. The original Penal Code emerged in the 1950s.

The judiciary consists of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the county courts, and the local courts. The National Judicial Council oversees the administration of all of the courts.

References:

Hungary Country Study: Criminal Justice System, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/hutoc.html>

Government Portal, Hungary.hu,
http://www.magyarorszag.hu/angol/orszaginfor/allam/igazsagszolgalatas/biroi_testulet_a.html

Health and Welfare

The Communist Era

Hungary's healthcare system initially improved under communism. The communist government made universal healthcare a priority and invested heavily in healthcare training and facilities. By 1972, the Constitution guaranteed that everyone would receive free healthcare, and by 1975, all citizens did receive these services for free.

In the early 1980s, Hungary provided a very good healthcare system by international standards. Patients were treated well. There were many facilities available and patients enjoyed adequate access to healthcare professionals, including doctors and nurses. Hungary's system was unique among communist systems in that it allowed private healthcare by the mid-1980s. Though the majority of hospitals and healthcare facilities remained state-owned, more than 3,600 doctors were allowed to practice privately.

However, beginning in the mid-1980s, healthcare began to drastically decline both in quality and availability. The increasing costs of healthcare burdened the government's budget. Regardless of the rises in healthcare costs, Hungary was only able to spend 3.3% of its national budget on health services. As a consequence, hospitals became run-down, and there were shortages in the supply of medicine.

The emerging healthcare crisis created problems throughout the country. Employees' sick days increased, affecting economic output. In 1985, the military found over 10% of servicemen unfit because of health problems. Other health issues included the increase in the rate of suicide and growing substance abuse.

Additionally, the welfare system faced other challenges. The original pension plan provided payments to every man over the age of 60, and every woman over the age of 55. In the 1980s, the number of pensioners substantially increased due to people living longer and the government's inclusion of more members of the population. As a result, there were 50 pensioners for every 100 active workers. Despite rises in inflation, the government was unable to increase the amount provided to each pensioner. Pensioners received the same \$54 per month beginning in the 1970s and throughout the 1980s.

Housing shortages were also a problem. Faced with the inability to build new public housing due to increasing problems with a lack of government funding, the government encouraged the public to build their own homes.

After 1989

Hungarians currently have the lowest life expectancy among the world's developed countries. Hungary's healthcare system continues to experience budget problems, particularly due to inadequate funding distributions, oversight in billing, and fraud concerning misdiagnosis of patients.

The social costs of the transition to the market economy have been higher than originally anticipated. The modern system aims at providing universal coverage, without distinction according to whether individuals actually contribute. The new system is administered by the National Health Insurance Fund Administration (HIFA), which has a separate budget and contracting system from the national government. The healthcare administration is given discretionary powers in its daily functions.

Under the new system, the state budgets finance a number of health services, including investments in certain healthcare facilities. Additionally, there has been an increase in private medicine and insurance providers.

References:

The Healthcare System in Hungary, Economic Department Working Papers No. 241, Eva Orosz and Andrew Burns, Economic Department, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development,
[http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2000doc.nsf/linkto/eco-wkp\(2000\)14](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2000doc.nsf/linkto/eco-wkp(2000)14)

A Country Study: Hungary, Health and Welfare, Library of Congress Country Studies,
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

Turkish Baths

Thermal or “Turkish” baths are an extraordinary feature enjoyed by native Hungarians, as well as visitors. Whether one visits the baths for curative or recreational purposes, a day at the baths ensures personal relaxation.

Thermal baths are made possible by a number of natural hot springs in Hungary. Bathhouses were originally built by the Romans. During Turkish occupation, the Turks built many more lavish bathhouses. Turkish baths were architecturally sophisticated with creatively shaped pools, colorful glass windows, decorative trims, and domed roofs. A number of these Turkish bathhouses still exist today including the Király, Rudas, and Rác.

Today, there are more than 1,000 thermal baths throughout Hungary. Though a number of baths were built in the Turkish style, a number are also in other architectural styles including Art Nouveau and Baroque.

Bathhouses usually have at least two pools, which vary in temperature. Commonly, one pool is about 86°F and the other baths are between 125°F to even 150°F, illustrating that Hungarians like it hot! Most baths are open year-round. Hungarians can plunge into warm waters even in the snow.



Photo of Széchenyi Gyógyfürdő Baths located in City Park, Budapest
<http://www.peterpawinski.com/baths.html>

These thermal waters usually contain dissolved minerals and are thought to have curative powers. Many frequent the baths “per doctor’s orders.” Hungarians are encouraged to visit the baths if suffering from chronic rheumatism, arthritis, skin and gynecological ailments.

Apart from their medicinal purposes, the baths are also a great place for recreation. In addition to pools, there are usually saunas, spas and other services provided. A day at the baths is usually around \$5 USD per person. Most baths operate on the system of refund.

Upon entry you pay the maximum for the day, but you receive a refund depending if you leave within a certain amount of time.

The baths themselves may catch some who are more modest by surprise. In a number of bathhouses, swimsuits are optional, particularly in single-sex facilities. But in some bathhouses swimsuits are common, and even required in a few.

Baths vary greatly in their ambience. Some are frequented mostly by singles, and others are visited more often by families. One popular form of recreation often seen is bathers engaging in a game of chess.



Photo of Széchenyi Gyógyfürdő Baths located in City Park, Budapest
<http://www.peterpawinski.com/baths.html>

References

Budapest Features, Fodors.com,
<http://www.fodors.com/miniguides/mgresults.cfm?destination=budapest%4037>

Budapest: Thermal Baths, Frommers.com,
<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/budapest/0047023857.html>

Budapest Spa and Thermal Baths
http://www.talkingcities.co.uk/budapest_pages/sights_baths.htm

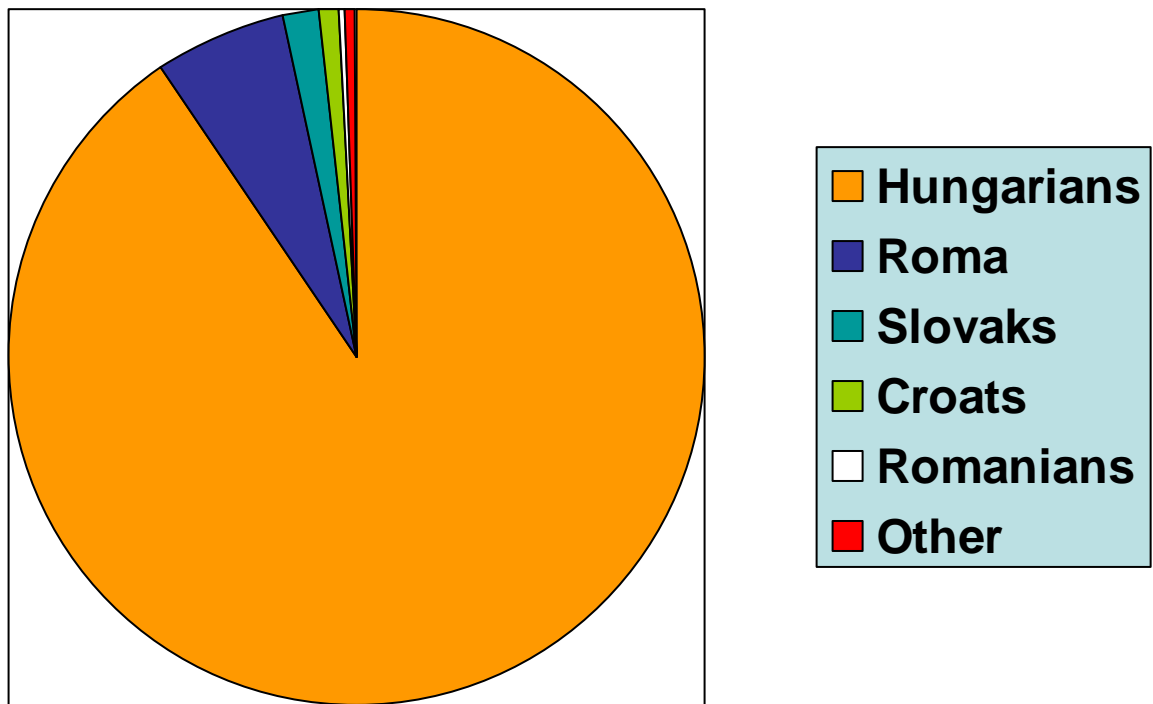
Photos Szechenyi Furdo Baths located in City Park, Budapest,
<http://www.peterpawinski.com/baths.html>

Populations in Hungary

Hungary's population is mostly homogenous. Over 8 million people in Hungary identify themselves as Hungarian. The largest of the minority groups is the Roma with a population between 400,000 and 600,000. Though there are 11 minority groups, when combined they only make up about 10% of the overall population.

In terms of religion, the majority of the population is Roman Catholic. Other religions represented include Calvinists and Lutherans, which account for about a quarter of the population. Though the Jewish minority only makes up about 1% of the population, the 80,000 to 100,000 who identify themselves as Jewish are a well-unified minority group.

Breakdown of Hungarian Population by Ethnicity



References:

Hungary, CIA World Fact Book,
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/hu.html#People>

Government Portal, Hungary.hu,
http://www.magyarország.hu/angol/orszaginfo/orszag/etnikum/nemzetisegek_a.html

Regions

Hungary has seven main regions: Central Hungary, Southern Great Plain, Northern Great Plain, Central Transdanubia, Western Transdanubia, Southern Transdanubia, and Northern Hungary. Each region has a distinct identity in terms of the type of land and culture.



Central Hungary



Central Hungary includes Buda and Pest, the two parts of the capital city of Budapest. Buda, located off the western bank of the Danube River, has many rolling hills and includes the historic Castle Hill; Pest, which is flatter, has many shopping areas, and it includes the government and commercial districts. Budapest has plenty of charms for sightseeing, including many architectural sites, museums, and Turkish baths. It is the urban center of Hungary with highly developed businesses, excellent shopping and fine dining.



Northern Hungary

The highest hills in Hungary are located in this part of the country. This region is best known for its magnificent folk art including embroideries, woodwork, and costumes.

Southern Great Plain



The Southern Great Plain is mainly agricultural. It consists of prairie land that expands for 20,000 square miles. Hungarians call their great plain region Alföld. This region is specifically known for its richness in folk culture and traditions.



Northern Great Plain

Hungary's "final frontier" and "wild west". This area borders Ukraine and Romania. The land is mostly grassland steppe, ideal for grazing cattle. The region is known in legend for "ther puszta" outlaws.



Central Transdanubia

This region is a sanctuary from the urban Budapest. The area is best known for its archaeological sites and romantic hillsides. It has many bed and breakfasts and small inns for weekend getaways.

Western Transdanubia



This region is an architectural enthusiast's dreamland. Medieval towns and villages are found throughout the western area. There are many Baroque and Renaissance palaces. The region has beautiful churches throughout the countryside. Other key attractions are the many thermal springs.



Southern Transdanubia

This region is rich in forests and wide open fields. It is very picturesque with valleys, rolling hills, many lakes and streams. It is delightful for recreation, including horseback riding and hiking. The villages in the fields preserve old-fashioned traditions.

References:

Regions of Hungary, Hungary Tourism Board, Hungarian Travel Vacation Information,
<http://www.gotohungary.com/regions/>

Regions in Hungary,
http://www.magyarorszag.hu/angol/orszaginfo/orszag/tajegysegek/foldrajz_a.html

Photos:

Regions of Hungary, Hungary Tourism Board, Hungarian Travel Vacation Information,
<http://www.gotohungary.com/regions/>

Hungary Map, CIA World Fact Book,
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/hu.html>

Famous Hungarians

Historical Figures:

Saint Stephen (896-1038): Ruler and King of Hungary. Under his reign, he brought Christianity to Hungary. He transformed the kingdom into a modern European Christian state.

Janos Hunyadi (1387-1456): A regent ruler who first established a mercenary army and defeated the Ottoman forces in Transylvania in 1442 and Serbia in 1443.

Count István Széchenyi (1791-1860): A Hungarian noble and considered by many Hungarians to be the greatest Hungarian in history. He identified the cause of Hungary's backwardness as its continued system of serfdom.

Maria Theresa (1717-80) and **Joseph II** (1741-1790): Habsburg rulers who implemented both economic and social reforms. Followers of European Enlightened Absolutism.

Bela Kun (1886-1937): Hungarian Communist leader. After the outbreak of the Russian Revolution in 1917, he was sent to Hungary as a propagandist. In 1919, the Communists and Social Democrats formed a coalition government under Kun.

Julius Gombos (1886-1936): Appointed premier of Hungary after World War I. Created close alliances with both Germany and Italy. He ruled with authoritarian methods and introduced anti-Semitic bills in the legislature.

Miklos Horthy (1868-1957): Hungarian admiral and regent. He commanded the Austro-Hungarian fleet in World War I.

Imre Nagy (1896-1958): Hungarian Communist leader. Nagy was a symbol of the 1956 Hungarian revolt against the Soviet Union.

Mátyás Rakosi (1892-1971): Communist leader from 1948 to 1953. Forced collectivization and industrialization. Tens of thousands of people, considered enemies of the state, were deported to the countryside or forced to do hard labor.

Janos Kadar (1912-1989): Communist leader after the 1956 Revolution. He introduced a milder form of communism called "goulash communism."

Inventors and Scientists:

Kármán Tódor (1881-1963): Engineer and developer of B-36, B-47 and B-52 bomber aircrafts, as well as the Atlas, Titan and Minuteman rockets. In 1963 he was the first one in the world to receive the highest scientific award of the United States, the National Medal of Science.

János Neumann (1903-1957): “Father of Computers” and great mathematician. He laid the foundation for set theory and developed the mathematical theory of games. He discovered that computers are capable of not only storing data, but also operating programs. The first computer based on the Neumann principle was constructed in 1952.

Erno Rubik (b. 1944): Inventor of the Rubik’s Cube. Rubik was the first millionaire from a Soviet Bloc country. Rubik filed his patent in 1975, and the first Cubes appeared two years later in 1977. Can you realign the colors to match all six sides?

Edward Teller (1908-2003): Scientist who developed “hydrogen bomb” in 1942. He was involved in the Manhattan Project, an effort during World War II to develop the first nuclear weapons. In the 1980s Teller began a strong campaign for “Star Wars,” the concept of using lasers or satellites to destroy incoming Soviet nuclear missiles.

Arts and Entertainment:

Harry Houdini (1874-1926): World famous escape artist and magician. Houdini and his family left Budapest when Houdini was only a toddler for his father to pursue a job opportunity.

Bertalan Farkas (b. 1949): First and only Hungarian astronaut to date. Trained in Moscow and participated in an eight-day space journey in 1980.

Imre Kertesz (b. 1929): Received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2002 for his novel *Sorstalanság (Fateless)*, written between 1960 and 1973 about his experiences in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps in WWII.

Tommy Ramone (b. 1952): Drummer and producer of the punk band, the Ramones. Born Thomas Erdelyi, he emigrated from Hungary at the age of four.

Gábor Csupó (b. 1952): Co-founder of Klasky-Csupo, which has created and produced some of the most popular animated television series on television such as “The Simpsons,” “Rugrats,” “Duckman,” “Aaahh!!! Real Monsters” and “Santo Bugito.” Also the founder in 1994 of Tone Casualties, which produces electric and experimental music.

Miklós Rózsa (b. 1907): His exquisite string arrangements, powerful use of percussion and unconventional approach to composition revolutionized the film score. He began scoring films in England in the 1930s and went to Hollywood to make

”The Thief of Bagdad” (1940). Rózsa's work ranges from “The Jungle Book” (1942) to the intimate, disturbing accompaniment for “Spellbound” (1945) to the epic, scores of “Julius Caesar” (1953), “Ben-Hur” (1959) and “El Cid” (1961). It was Rosza who came up with the “dum dum dum dum” beginning of “Dragnet”!

Franz Liszt (1811-1886): Classical composer and regarded as an extraordinary pianist. His unique compositions bewildered, inspired and inflamed the imaginations of his own era, yet quite miraculously he also laid the seeds for a series of schools that would flourish in the near and distant future: namely, the Late Romantic, Impressionist and Atonal schools.

Chef Louis Szathmáry (1919-1996)

Legendary chef and founder of Chicago’s “The Bakery.” He introduced the idea for the “Stouffer’s frozen dinner.”

Athletes:

Krisztina Egerszegi (b. 1974): 5-time Olympic gold medalist in backstroke. She also once held the record for youngest Olympic champion. Egerszegi was only 14 years old when she competed at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Janos Vas (b. 1984): Hockey Player for the Dallas Stars. Drafted in the second round (#32 overall) by the Dallas Stars and a dynamo on the ice.

Ferenc Puskás (b. 1927): Renowned soccer player. He played for the Hungarian team that won the Olympic gold medal in 1952. He also played for Real Madrid when they won the European Cup four times, including the classic final in 1960. He was known as the “Galloping Major” because of the post he held in the army. Hungary’s national stadium was renamed in his honor in 2001.

Other Interesting Hungarians:

George Soros (b. 1930): Stock trader and philanthropist originally born in Budapest. He used his wealth to create the Open Society Institute & Soros Foundation Network, which aids former Communist countries in promoting a democratic “open society.” He also established the Central European University in 1991.

Anna M. Rosenberg (1902-1983): Assistant-Secretary of Defense in Truman Cabinet. Under FDR, Rosenberg held appointments for the Manpower Consulting Committee of the Army and Navy Munitions Board and the War Manpower Commission. For her service to Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, Rosenberg was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 1945 and the United States Medal for Merit in 1947.

Eugene Fodor (1905-1991): Famed travel writer of “Fodor's Travel Guides” – the world’s largest English language travel guidebook publisher. He has published over 400 travel guides.

William Fox (1879-1952): Founder of Fox Film Corporation, now 20th Century Fox. He set up the Fox Film Corporation in 1915.

Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911): Renowned newspaper man and journalist. Father of the Pulitzer Prize, which was established through provisions from his will. In his will, Pulitzer identified four awards for journalism, four in letters and drama, one for education, and four traveling scholarships.

Adolph Zukor (1873-1976) Founded Paramount Pictures Studios in 1913. He was born in Ricse, Hungary, which was formerly a part of the Austria-Hungarian empire. Zukor was also an accomplished director and producer. He retired from Paramount Studios in 1959.

References:

History of Pulitzer, www.pulitzer.org

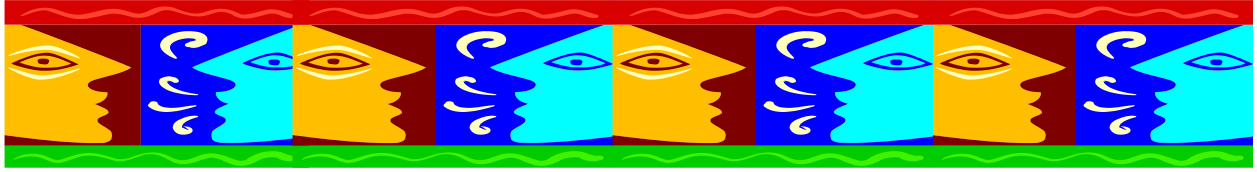
Houdini, <http://www.foxvalleyhistory.org/houdini/facts.html>

Hungary.hu, Famous Hungarians,
<http://www.magyarország.hu/angol/orszaginfo/magyarok>

Nationmaster.com, <http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/List-of-famous-Hungarians>

Nobel Prize Winners & Famous Hungarians,
<http://www.hungary.org/~hipcat/famous.htm>

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferenc_Puskas



Language

Classification

Though its origins are not exactly known, Hungarian is thought to be a member of the Finno-Urgic language. It is unrelated to Indo-European languages, and therefore, not linked Baltic-Slavic, Greek, Italic, or Germanic languages. There are some theorists who believe Hungarian may be more closely tied to Turkic roots; however most linguists categorize it as a Finno-Urgic language because it shares similar words and phonics to other languages in this group. The Finno-Urgic language family includes about 30 languages, including Swedish and Finnish, which are thought to have originated in the Ural Mountain regions.

Dialects

There are several different dialects of Hungarian identified. However, a native speaker can understand all of these dialects interchangeably.

Lexicon

Due to the existence of compound words, the Hungarian dictionary contains about 1 million words. Hungarian is what is called an agglutinating language, which means that it affixes prefixes and suffixes to the roots of words to create a “new word.” Hungarian words are built around word chains where one word can actually contain a number of smaller word links within its chain.



The following information is from
Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia on the Hungarian Language
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_language#General_information)

Common Hungarian Words and Expressions:

- Hungarian (person, language): *magyar* ['mAdyAr]
- hello: *szia* ['sia] (informal)
- good day: *jó napot (kívánok)* (YOnahpot) (formal)
- farewell: *viszontlátásra* (formal)
- good-bye: *viszlát* [vislAt] (semi informal)
- please: *kérem (szépen)* [kayrrem saypen]
- sorry: *bocsánat* [BOchAnAt]
- thank you: *köszönöm* [kYs-Yn-Ym] (pout your lips for a kiss and say "uh")
- that/this: *az* [Az] *ez* [ez]
- how much?: *mennyi?* ['mennyee]
- how much does it cost?: *mennyibe kerül?* ['mennyee-be keh-rool]
- yes: *igen* ['igen]
- no: *nem* [nem]
- I don't understand: *nem értem* ['nEm 'ayrtem]
- I don't know: *nem tudom* [nem 'too-dohm]
- where's the bathroom?: *Hol van a vécé?* ['hole vAn A 'vay-tsay], more polite (and word-to-word) version *Hol van a mosdó?* ['hole vAn A 'mosh-daw];
- generic toast: *egészségedre!* [this is tough. Say it like this: EGG-ayss-shay-ged-rreh]
- juice: *gyümölcslé* [dyu-mulch-lay]
- water: *víz* [veez]
- wine: *bor* [bohr]
- beer: *sör* [shuhr]
- milk: *tej* [tay]
- Do you speak English?: *Beszél angolul?* ['bes-ayl 'Ahn-go-lool?]
- I love you: *szeretlek* ['seretlek]
- Help!: *Segítség!* [shég-eet-shayg]

Numbers

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ○ one: <i>egy</i> | ○ six: <i>hat</i> |
| ○ two: <i>kettő</i> | ○ seven: <i>hét</i> |
| ○ three: <i>három</i> | ○ eight: <i>nyolc</i> |
| ○ four: <i>négy</i> | ○ nine: <i>kilenc</i> |
| ○ five: <i>öt</i> | ○ ten: <i>tíz</i> |

References:

Numerals of some Uralic languages, <http://www.ut.ee/Ural/num.htm>

Introduction to Hungarian, <http://impulzus.sch.bme.hu/info/magyar.shtml>

Hungarian Wikipedia, <http://hu.wikipedia.org>,
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_language#General_information

Religion

Introduction

Early religion in Hungary originated with influences from the east, most notably the Central Asian Turks. Even before Hungary converted to Catholicism under King Steven I, its religion was monotheistic. Though Hungarians had special respect for the elements (earth, wind, air, water and fire), they only worshipped one creator of heaven and earth. This is an interesting aspect that distinguishes Hungarians from other early peoples. When Christian priests first came into contact with Hungarians, some priests believed that Hungarians were already Christian because of their belief in one main god. Around the 10th century, Hungarian religion combined local legends, folklore, and the underlying belief in one creator. Under the one creator, Hungarians also recognized spirits or entities referred to as god's helpers. Hungarians believed not only in one god, but also in a devil, who incidentally has his own helpers.

God and His Helpers

The main god, who was the creator of the world, was called Isten. This is still the word used for the Christian God today in the Hungarian language. The word itself is a variation of the words which mean "first" and "ancestor". In old stories, god lives in the heavens in a golden kingdom. However, he does not interact with this world. Sometimes, out of anger, he would hurl stones down to earth or shoot arrows. These were "sacred flames", which were tended by priests.

The one god had other helpers in the form of lower gods and goddesses, angels, nymphs, and even heroes.

The goddess of birth and fertility was called Boldog Asszony. She was associated with birth, fertility, and harvests. This goddess was thought to be the protector of life and family, healing, bountiful harvests, and fertility. In her very early form, she had seven daughters. Her youngest daughter was called Beautiful. Beautiful was known to be troublesome and often caused mischief in old myths.

Interestingly, with the conversion to Christianity, Hungarians did not abandon their belief in Boldog Asszony. Instead, early Christianity included Boldog. She was thought to be associated with Mary. Many believed Boldog to be the mother of Mary, and Jesus' grandmother. Today there are many Hungarian hymns to her.



In addition to the fertility goddess, other ancient Hungarians gods became nymphs under Christian influence. These were called Tunder. These nymphs were often associated with heaven, water, and the mountains. In Hungarian fairy-tales, the Tunder are often illustrated by the presence of the swan.

The Devil and His Helpers

The origin name for the devil in Hungarian was “urdong”, which means lord of the dead. Another name for devil, which is still used, is “armany”, meaning deceiver. Other titles for various demons and devils were linked to curses and illnesses. For example, if one was bitten by a dog, it was thought that the demon Fene was called upon. In very early times, demons were thought to infect people, and the only way to cure someone was to drive out these devilish spirits. Both the devil and his helpers were often thought of as tricksters. They were not thought to be all-powerful. Though these demons were bad, it was believed that they could be tricked by a human who was wise. The devil was thought to be very limited in his powers in comparison to the Creator, who was omnipotent. The Creator reigned over the devil and all other spirits.

Other devils were the mano, who were dwarves of the underworld. A modern expression in Hungarian is “mi a mano?”, meaning “what the devil!” Other helpers to the devil were thought to be in human form, and considered priests of black magic. These priests were thought to control the weather and predict the future. They were put on trial during the Inquisition. Many were farmers who had very accurate abilities of predicting weather based on wind patterns and bird migration. But for the superstitious, these priests were not seen as predictors, but controllers of these elements.

Modern Religion

From the 10th century, when King Steven I converted the nation to Christianity, and with the continuance of his descendants in promoting the religion, the majority of Hungarians have identified themselves as Roman Catholic. Religion has consistently played an important role throughout Hungary’s history, including during the communist era. This is a distinction that sets Hungary apart from a number of other former communist counties.

For most of the communist era, the Roman Catholic Church was a voice of dissent, as it resisted communism and its promotion of atheism. In 1945, the Roman Catholic Church lost its property in the first postwar land reform, which occurred before the communist takeover. The majority of Catholic religious orders dissolved by 1948, and religious schools were converted into state institutions. The clergy resisted communism and its promotion of atheism. Consequently, in 1950, 2,500 monks and nuns were deported.

In 1964, the Vatican made an agreement with the Hungarian government. The agreement allowed certain members within the church community church to take an oath to follow the laws of the Constitution, but only those laws which did not violate the principles of the Catholic Church. This was a compromise between the Church and government; consequently, some criticized the Church for usurping too much of its power to the government. It has been alleged that the decline in the popularity of the Church during the 1960s and 1970s may be attributed to the community's discontent with the Church's more cooperative relationship with the government, as opposed to its prior role as a dissenter.

By the 1980s, the Church faced a crisis. In recent years, the number of priests, monks and nuns had declined, and the Church was not able to provide enough services for all of its community members. Because of the Church's reformed relationship with the state, they were given permission to organize a new order of nuns called the Sisters of Our Lady of Hungary.

In comparison to the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church was more successfully integrated into the state system. The Protestant, as well as Calvinist, Unitarian and Lutheran churches, created agreements with the government in the late 1940s. These agreements allowed the right to worship and provided these churches with some financial support. However, a number of people broke away from these churches after the 1956 Revolution. Many did not want to be associated with churches that they perceived to be allied with the government.

In 1986, about 68% of the Hungarian population identified themselves as Roman Catholic, 20% were Reformed (Calvinist), and 5% Lutheran. The remainder included 65,000 to 100,000 practicing Jews.

Even though there were nearly 5 million practitioners of traditional religions in Hungary at this time, religion did not play the major role in reform and unification that it did in other communist countries. The church was not used as a political vehicle in Hungary.

In the early 1980s, there appeared thousands of intensely active prayer and meditation groups. Many opposed the obligatory military service established by the government.

Though the constitution expressly stated that citizens had the right to practice freedom of religion during the communist era, religious activities were closely monitored by the State Office for Church Affairs. In 1989, this office was terminated and replaced by the National Church Council, which was intended to advise, as opposed to controlling the Church's activities. However, because the Church continued to rely on the state for financial support, the state still continued to greatly impose its influence. This influence only began to weaken when the communists lost power and democracy flourished in the 1990s.

References:

Devil and Helpers, <http://users.cwnet.com/millenia/devil.htm>

Goddess of Birth and Fertility,
<http://users.cwnet.com/millenia/BAU.htm>

Hungarian Mythology, <http://users.cwnet.com/millenia/myths.htm>

Hungary and Religion, <http://countrystudies.us/hungary/63.htm>

Architecture

Romanesque

Romanesque architecture was common in Hungary from 1066 to 1180. The style was one of practicality and largely lacked decorative detail. Romanesque provided fortification and protection, which were two major necessities for a society that feared invasion. A common trait was the defensive wall built around the town or castle. Thick castle walls (often as thick as 24 feet at the base) and the narrow slits as windows were designed to fend off invasions. Structurally, a main identifier of Romanesque is the rounded arch, which is often seen in doorways and windows. After the Tartar invasion in 1242, Béla IV encouraged the building of stone castles for increased protection.

Gothic

Beginning in the 14th Century, Gothic architecture appeared in Hungary. It reflected lightness, openness and elegance. The main components include the flying buttress, a free-standing support, usually made from stone, which attached to the main structure by an arch or a half-arch. Whereas Romanesque structures were heavy, Gothic architecture used narrow and light columns for structural support. Windows became much larger. Also, this was the advent of stained-glass windows.

Hungary's inclusion of Gothic design was at first more simple and less sophisticated than in other areas Europe, but later it did include the classic elegance of Gothic style. The construction projects of King Matthias, including both the building and design of the city of Visegrád and the reconstruction of Buda Castle, show late-Gothic influence.

Renaissance

Renaissance architecture was based on theories and practices of Classic Roman style. Classical orders and architectural elements such as columns, arches, and domes reflect this style. Also, Renaissance architecture is characterized by harmonious form and mathematical proportions.

King Matthias promoted the usage of Renaissance style in a number of his commissions. He had the Lady in Harvest Church, which was originally built by Béla IV in Roman style, rebuilt in the Renaissance style for his wedding ceremony. Consequently, the church was nicknamed "Matthias Church". He also organized a number of Renaissance workshops. The Bakocz Chapel, which was built in 1507, illustrates the style of the Renaissance. The entire chapel is in red marble. The Ottoman occupation put an end to the Renaissance in Hungary. Many beautiful relics were destroyed.

Turkish Occupation

During Turkish occupation, a number of Christian churches were converted into mosques. One example was the transformation of the Lady of Harvest in Buda Castle, which became a Turkish mosque.

In addition to mosques, the Turks also built lavish baths. Hungary is rich in hot springs, which heat thermal waters that are highly concentrated with mineral resources. During Turkish occupation, nine “Turkish baths” were built in Buda, as well as many others built throughout the country. Four of these are still functional today, including Rudas Baths, which is very decorative, and Király Baths, which is thought to be the best renovation.

Baroque

Baroque emerged in Hungary by the 17th and 18th centuries. Baroque buildings were created after the expulsion of the Turks as part of Hungary’s reconstruction phase. Among the general characteristics of Baroque is a sense of movement illustrated through strong contrasts in light and shadow. This style is very ornamental and extravagant. Most of the eye-catching spectacular buildings today are from this period. The city of Koszeg’s 500-year-old Town Hall is an example of this very ornamental style. In Győr, Baroque influence can be seen throughout the town with its elaborate wrought iron gates and decorative palaces and cathedral.

Also, from the Baroque period came the blueprint for a traditional Hungarian town. The basic layout included a fire tower, a town hall that was lavishly decorative, and a trinity monument to be placed at town center.

Classicism

In the beginning of the 19th century, Classicism became the popular architectural style. Greatly influenced by the Church, classicism was less monumental and lavish in comparison to the preceding styles. The most famous creations in this style are the Great Church in Debrecen, the Genevan College, the Bishop’s Palace in Székesfehérvár, and the National Museum in Budapest.

The concept of the county hall became very popular at this time, and most were styled in Classicist architecture. County halls emerged throughout 52 counties and became symbols of noble resistance against the court of Vienna. Many of these county halls were built from public contributions.

Romanticism

Romanticism was the culmination of Medieval, Oriental, Mesopotamian, and Byzantine styles. Romanticism began in Hungary in the middle of the 19th century. It included traditional decorations from Hungarian origins. Frescoes and colorful motifs were commonly used.

The main example seen today is the Vígadó Concert Hall, completed in 1864. The façade includes statues of former monarchs and famous Hungarians on top of columns. The building was badly damaged by fire toward the end of the Second World War, although the Romantic exterior was reconstructed. Also, the Dohány Street Main Synagogue, completed in 1859, illustrates this style. The torch-arch and frescoes are a mesh of Moorish, Oriental, and Byzantine influences. The western facade has stone-carved decorations and brickwork in the colors of Budapest: blue, yellow and red. With a seating capacity of 2,964, it is one of the largest synagogues in the world.

Historicism

The leading architectural movement from the second half of the 19th century until World War I was Historicism. This style combines diverse architecture from different styles with an urban imprint.

The thermal bath on Margaret Island and the Hungarian Scientific Building illustrate the hybrid form of Historicist architecture. Also, the Budapest Opera House, completed in 1884, contains an elaborate façade and central staircase modeled in a 16th century Italian design. Built in 1884, Keleti Railway Station's huge crescent shapes on the main façade illustrate this style.

Town Architecture

Town Architecture was a campaign in the 1890s to construct public utilities that would impress and awe Hungarians and visitors alike. One main adaptation from this period is the wide boulevard, seen in the Great Boulevard and Andrássy Street. Also constructed at this time was the Route of Honor, located between the city center and City Park. The Route includes a row of Neo-Renaissance palaces that run for one and a quarter mile through the city.

Nyugati Railway Station, with its iron-glass structural design, originated by the Eiffel company, was also part of this campaign. Other extraordinary commissions include the Heroes' Square and the Millennium Monument, completed in 1906, which is located in the middle of the Square. The monument includes statues of great historical figures. It consists of two arched rows of supporting columns and a rising Corinthian column, a very slender column with an ornate top. Two extraordinarily decorative museums were built on each side of the Heroes' Square, creating a sight to see wherever one decides to look.

Neo-Gothicism

Out of the Town Architecture mission, the biggest and most extraordinary building constructed at this time in the neo-Gothic style is the House of Parliament, completed in 1904. Located right off of the Danube, the 870-foot-long main façade illustrate the disciplined symmetry of Neo-Gothicism, with its strict formulation of arches and buttresses giving the House of Parliament a vibrating impression.

Other examples of neo-Gothicism include the Museum of Folk Arts and the Exchange Palace, as well as the front gate to the Vajdahunyad Castle. The Lady in Harvest Church, particularly its seven towers which symbolize the seven conquering chieftains of Hungary, was reconstructed in neo-Gothic style.

Secession

Secession refers to modern architectural styles, including art nouveau, begun in the second half of the 19th century. Included in many of Hungary's modern buildings is the incorporation of folk art seen in motifs and other decorative aspects of the design, aimed at preserving a sense of domestic authenticity. The Museum of Applied Arts, completed in 1896, reflects this modern style as illustrated by its Indian and Persian folk art motifs.

Another building that encompasses the theme of secession is the Cifrapalota, called the "Ornamental Palace", in the town of Kecskemét. The façade of this building is designed in folk motifs. Other examples are the Reök Palace in Szeged and the Town Hall in Kiskunfélegyháza.

References:

Architecture in Hungary, <http://www.ffg.sulinet.hu/hat97/nagyp/project/>

Fine Arts in Hungary, <http://www.hung-art.hu/index-en.html>

Hungarian Fine Arts, Hungary.hu,
http://www.magyarorszag.hu/angol/orszaginfo/kultura/kepzmuv/kezmuvesseg_a.html

Hungary, History & Culture,
http://www.hungary.com/servlet/page?_pageid=7034,6177&_dad=portal30&_schema=PORTAL30#modern

Renaissance, Elements of Architecture,
http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/itar/hd_itar.htm

Romanesque Architecture,
<http://216.109.117.135/search/cache?p=romanesque+architecture&ei=UTF-8&u=www.britainexpress.com/architecture/romanesque.htm&w=romanesque+architecture&d=89384E4F49&icp=1&.intl=us>

Bakocz Chapel

http://www.hung-art.hu/frames-e.html?/english/zmisc/faragvan/162_sz/



Parliament Building



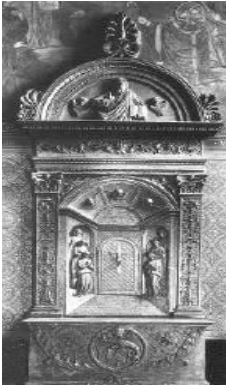
Chain Bridge



Gresham Palace



Art



Middle Ages and Renaissance

Art was tied closely to the Church. King Matthias commissioned artists to paint focusing on themes inspired by the Christian scriptures. A number of frescoes reflect important elements of Christianity. Matthias' descendants also encouraged the creation of other works to decorate Church alters and walls, like *the Tabernacle of Gyorzy Szathmary* (1510). The Church remained a strong influence of art throughout the 18th century.

Modern Era

By the beginning of the 19th century, there emerged more patriotic sentiments. Many artists focused on national heroes both in painting and sculpture. Also, “historic painting” which portrayed various historic scenes became very popular throughout this period. Two very famous paintings that encompass this style include *the Bewailing of Lazlo Hunyadi* and *The Recapture of Buda Castle*.



Folk Art



Hungary's most popular form of art is its wonderful folk art, including masterpieces in pottery, ceiling and wall painting, and carving. The folk patterns and designs are well-known very popular. Traditional patterns using bright and warm colors are seen in embroidery and needle-point. These designs are usually very ornate, as well as intricate. The folk patterns often include images of animals, home and family life. Wood-carving, another popular folk art, is linked to the country's agricultural tradition, which originated with herdsmen carving animals and symbols of nature. Weaving is another form of art in which folk influences are prevalent. A popular woven product is the "szur", which was originally worn by shepherds. Today this coat is seen mostly in ceremonial events like rural horse-shows, where the coats are used in celebration ceremonies.

References:

Recapture of Buda Castle in 1686,

<http://hungart.euroweb.hu/english/b/benczur/muvek/budavar.html>

Bewailing if Laszlo Hunyadi,

http://hungart.euroweb.hu/english/m/madarasz/muvek/hunyadi_.html

<http://hungart.euroweb.hu/tours/historic/content.html>

Folk Art, History & Culture, Hungarian National Tourist Office,

<http://www.gotohungary.com/history/folk.shtml>

Music of Hungary

Original Hungarian music is unique from other music in Europe because of its influences from the east, particularly China and Turkey. The original music seen in early Hungary was very much part of a folk tradition used to tell stories and myths.

Hungary moved away from its initial indigenous music to a more western style when the country became a Christian state under King Steven I. The Church greatly influenced new forms of music. Most notably, the Gregorian Chant became very popular. Under King Steven I, monasteries and other educational forums arranged special choruses. Distinct to Hungary, these chants also incorporated pipes and drums, which were remnants of a folk tradition.

Later, King Matthias continued to support musical development. He maintained a choir and chamber orchestra within his kingdom. The strong influence of the Church during this period coincided with more choral music ensembles and Christian-inspired hymns.

Apart from the inspiration encouraged by the Church, crises and invasions very much influenced Hungarian music. During and after the Turkish invasion and control, many musical hymns reflected themes of war. Many songs were lamentations of battles, as well as some triumphant songs of Hunyadi's earlier defeat against the Turks.

After the Turks were expelled, there was a resurrection in music. The Church again became the dominant influence. Beautiful choral arrangements and jubilant harmonies emerged during the Baroque period.

Later in the 18th century, a very distinctive form of Hungarian music emerged called *Verbunkos*, which is instrumental music that was used by the Habsburg army. This form of music was usually performed by Gypsy musicians.

In the 19th century, music largely encompassed the growing sentiments of nationalism. Many national operas were written at this time, as was the national anthem. Hungarian composers deliberately moved away from the musical influences of Germany and other countries. The inclusion of agrarian folk sounds and the continuation of the usage of *Verbunkos* created a truly authentic sound in Hungarian music.

The introduction of communism removed a great amount of creativity for musical composers. The communist government strongly mandated the creation of solely folk-based music.

Even without the strong push under communism, it would be difficult to determine whether folk music would have been abandoned. This influence has been a theme throughout the evolution of Hungarian classical music. However, there was a backlash to this strict formula of folk music in *Táncház*, a form of dance music that first appeared in the 1970s as a reaction against state-supported folk music.

References:

Bartok and Nationalism, the Handstand,

<http://www.thehandstand.org/archive/Dec2001/EdcellDec2001/articles/bartok.htm>

Hungarian Gypsy Music: Whose Heritage?

<http://www.cartage.org.lb/en/themes/Arts/music/Ethnomusic/Ethoworld/Gypsy/Hungarian.htm>

Hungary.hu, http://www.magyarország.hu/angol/orszaginfo/kultura/zene/zene_a.html

Hungarian National Anthem

Isten, áldd meg a magyart
Jó kedvvel, bőséggel,
Nyújts feléje védô kart,
Ha küzd ellenséggel;
Bal sors akit régen tép,
Hozz rá víg esztendôt,
Mebûnhödte már e nép
A múltat s jövendôt!

Ôseinket felhozád
Kárpát szent bércére,
Általad nyert szép hazát
Bendegúznak vére.
S merre zúgnak habjai
Tiszának, Dunának,
Árpád hős magzatjai
Felvirágóznak.

Értünk Kunság mezein
Ért kalászt lengettél,
Tokaj szőlôvesszein
Nektárt csepegtettél.
Zászlónk gyakran plántálád
Vad török sáncára,
S nyögte Mátyás bús hadát
Bécsnek büszke vára.

Hajh, de bûneink miatt
Gyúlt harag kebledben,
S elsújtád villámidat
Dörgô fellegedben,
Most rabló mongol nyilát
Zúgattad felettünk,
Majd töröktol rabigát
Vállainkra vettünk.

Hányszor zengett ajkain
Ozman vad népének
Vert hadunk csonthalmain
Gyôzedelmi ének!
Hányszor támadt tenfiad
Szép hazám kebledre,
S lettél magzatod miatt
Magzatod hamvedre!

Bújt az üldözött s felé
Kard nyúl barlangjában,
Szerte nézett s nem lelé
Honját a hazában,
Bércre hág és völgybe száll,
Bú s kétség mellette,
Vérözön lábainál,
S lángtenger fölötte.

Vár állott, most kôhalom,
Kedv és öröm röpkedtek,
Halálhörgés, siralom
Zajlik már helyettek.
S ah, szabadság nem virul
A holtak vérebol,
Kínzó rabság könnye hull
Árvánk hõ szeméből!

Szánd meg isten a magyart
Kit vészek hányának,
Nyújts feléje védô kart
Tengerén kínjának.
Bal sors akit régen tép,
Hozz rá víg esztendôt,
Mebûnhödte már e nép
A múltat s jövendôt!

(1823)

Original English Translation:

Translated by WILLIAM N. LOEW 1881

O, my God, the Magyar bless
With Thy plenty and good cheer!
With Thine aid his just cause press,
Where his foes to fight appear.
Fate, who for so long did'st frown,
Bring him happy times and ways;
Atoning sorrow hath weighed down
Sins of past and future days.

By Thy help our fathers gained
Kárpát's proud and sacred height;
Here by Thee a home obtained
Heirs of Bendegúz, the knight.
Where'er Danube's waters flow
And the streams of Tisza swell
Árpád's children, Thou dost know,
Flourished and did prosper well.

For us let the golden grain
Grow upon the fields of Kún,
And let Nectar's silver rain
Ripen grapes of Tokay soon.
Thou our flags hast planted o'er
Forts where once wild Turks held sway;
Proud Vienna suffered sore
From King Mátyás' dark array.

But, alas! for our misdeed,
Anger rose within Thy breast,
And Thy lightnings Thou did'st speed
From Thy thundering sky with zest.
Now the Mongol arrow flew
Over our devoted heads;
Or the Turkish yoke we knew,
Which a free-born nation dreads.

O, how often has the voice
Sounded of wild Osman's hordes,
When in songs they did rejoice
O'er our heroes' captured swords!
Yea, how often rose Thy sons,

My fair land, upon Thy sod,

And Thou gavest to these sons,
Tombs within the breast they trod!

Though in caves pursued he lie,
Even then he fears attacks.
Coming forth the land to spy,
Even a home he finds he lacks.
Mountain, vale - go where he would,
Grief and sorrow all the same -
Underneath a sea of blood,
While above a sea of flame.

'Neath the fort, a ruin now,
Joy and pleasure erst were found,
Only groans and sighs, I trow,
In its limits now abound.
But no freedom's flowers return
From the spilt blood of the dead,
And the tears of slavery burn,
Which the eyes of orphans shed.

Pity, God, the Magyar, then,
Long by waves of danger tossed;
Help him by Thy strong hand when
He on grief's sea may be lost.
Fate, who for so long did'st frown,
Bring him happy times and ways;
Atoning sorrow hath weighed down
All the sins of all his days

<http://www.goo-bear.com/tree/english/anthem.cfm>

Hungarian Myths

The most popular myths in Hungary concern the origins of the Hungarian people. There are two main myths, *the Legend of the Turul Hawk* and *the White Stag*, which tell how Hungarians came to inhabit modern-day Hungary. Both myths place the point of ancestry at the outer boundaries of the Persian Empire in the 9th Century. It is believed that the original Hungarians moved from the east to the west.

Legend of the Turul Hawk



Perched high in the tree tops sits the giant hawk and god's messenger, the Turul. Along with the Turul rest other birds, who are the spirits of the unborn.

In the land of Scythia, which was near the western boundaries of Persia, there was a young maiden. One day on her way to collect water, the Turul descended from the tree tops and visited the maiden. Upon his visit, the Turul revealed many images to the maiden. The Turul showed the maiden her future son and her descendants. Her descendants would become future kings. Her descendants would rule the mountainous and far-away lands.

After revealing the future to the maiden, the Turul then made her fertile by creating a spring of water that extended from her womb. Out of her womb, she conceived her son Almos, whose name means "dreamer".

Almos grew up very handsome and his true gift was communicating and putting others at ease. When he reached maturity, Almos made alliances with many foreign tribes, including the Greek, Kazar, and Kabar. In total, Almos formed an alliance of seven among these tribes.

However, the ancestral homeland was greatly troubled. There were many new tribes who migrated into the area. Consequently, they crowded the lands and depleted the resources, which created rivalries among the many different groups.



Almos and his
*Arrival of the
Conquering
Hungarians in the
Carpathian Basin*,
depicted by Árpád
Feszty, 1892 and
1894.

Almos and his alliance decided that the land could no longer support their tribes. Almos, who became the leader among the seven chiefs of the seven tribes, called the Hetumoger or the Seven Magyars, decided to leave the ancestral homeland and go where there was bountiful land. Together, the chiefs chose the land of Pannonia because of its rich soil, and because it was once the land of Attila the Hun, who was believed to be an ancestor of Almos.

The chiefs vowed allegiance to Almos as leader and guaranteed that his leadership would be passed down through his lineage. Each of the Seven Magyars cut their arms and mixed their blood in an urn, representing the unification of their people and made a blood oath to always be loyal to Almos and his descendants. If any of the descendants would be disloyal, their unfaithful blood would pour out and result in death. If anyone would break the oath, they and their descendants would be cursed.

Almos then led the tribes to re-unite in the west with other related tribes, the “White Hungarians”, who had settled in Hungary with the Avars. The new unification created the new empire of Hungary.

The White Stag



After a great flood in a far away land, the giant of a man named Menrot moved to the land of Evilath, which was part of Persia, with his wife Eneth. They had two twin sons, named Hunor and Magor. The twins were the original ancestors to the Hungarians. The others sons of Menrot became the Persians.

The twins were the oldest and often accompanied their father on hunts. One day while on a hunt, the twins separated from their father. The boys came across a magnificent horned stag, which shined brightly illuminated by supernatural light. They followed the stag and pursued him on a long chase. The stag led them through many distant lands for miles and miles. The twins chased the stag into a swamp. Then suddenly the stag jumped into a lake in the swamp and disappeared.

The twins searched the entire swamp looking for the stag, but they could not find the stag. They returned home and told their father about their hunt. The twins were determined to return, but believed that they had not caught the stag because they were not strong enough mentally. Their father built them a temple-retreat where they isolated themselves for five years in order to prepare both physically and mentally for their next chase of the stag.

In the sixth year, the father sent a great teacher to the twins. This teacher taught them about power and great kinship. Feeling fully prepared to embark, the twins accompanied with 200 men finally left the island.

The company went north hoping to continue their hunt of the stag. While traveling to the plains, the men encountered a group of beautiful women from the tribe of Allan. The women were dancing in the forest as part of the festival of spring, called the Festival of the Horn. Taken by their beauty and desire for their company, the men made these women their wives. The Huns and Magyars originated from them in the land called Scythia.

Today the White Stag is not only a legend, but a symbol for hunters and scouting. The stag is known for “springing forward and upward, ever leading scouts onward to leap over difficulties, to face new adventures in active pursuit of aims which bring happiness.”

References:

The Legend of the Stag, Fred Hámori, <http://www.pinetreeweb.com/stag.htm>

Turul Hawk, <http://users.cwnet.com/millenia/etana.htm>

Turul Hawk and White Stag,

http://groups.msn.com/TheWhiteStag/mythslore.msnw?action=get_message&mview=0&ID_Message=18&LastModified=4675475914299007848

http://groups.msn.com/TheWhiteStag/mythslore.msnw?action=get_message&mview=0&ID_Message=19&LastModified=4675476303313268683

Education

Type of School	# of years	Age During Attendance
Általános iskola (First Stage of Elementary School)	4 years	6 to 10 years
Általános iskola (Second Stage of Elementary School)	4 years	10 to 14 years
Gimnázium (Four-Year General Secondary School)	4 years	14 to 18 years
Szakkozepiskola (Higher Level Vocational)	4 years	14 to 18
Szakiskola (Lower Level Vocational)	3 years	14 to 17

Basic Education:

The elementary education lasts for a total of eight years. Once students complete their basic elementary requirement, they advance to secondary where they have three program options: general studies, skilled vocational and lower skilled vocational. The general studies' curriculum focuses on the humanities, mathematics, and sciences. Vocational schools train in the areas of technology, agriculture, and specific services. It is common for a secondary school to provide more than one program. For example, a secondary school may offer both a general curriculum and a lower level vocational program.

Higher Education:

There are two main options for higher education: university and college. A university education is between 4 to 5 years, while a college education is between 3 to 4 years. The university grants a "Egyetemi Oklevél," which is similar to a doctoral degree, and the college grants a "Főiskolai Oklevel," which is similar to a bachelor degree.

An alternative to both college and university study is the higher vocational training course called "akkreditált iskolai rendszerű felsőfokú szakképzés." Students are awarded with a vocational certificate upon completion.

References:

Education, <http://countrystudies.us/hungary/64.htm>

Euroeducation.net,
<http://www.euroeducation.net/prof/hungarco.htm>

Main Dishes

Hungarian cuisine is hearty and not for those with a light appetite. Meals often are a combination of egg or flour noodles and meats, such as beef, lamb, or veal. Stews and soups are very common. A spice used in almost every dish is paprika, which can range from mild to fiery.

Goulash Soup (Gulyás leves)

(serves 4)

Ingredients:

1 large onion
1 green pepper (diced)
1 tomato (diced)
1 carrot
2 parsley roots
2 diced potatoes
2 tablespoons of butter
1 teaspoon of paprika
1 pound of beef cut into cubes
1 teaspoon of caraway seeds

Preparation:

Finely chop one large onion and lightly fry using two tablespoons of butter.
Sprinkle 1 teaspoon of red paprika and add beef.
Add pinch of salt, green pepper and tomato.
Cover and cook ingredients until beef is tender.

Add ½ pound of mixed sliced carrot, parsley root, and diced potatoes.
Sprinkle ½ teaspoon of caraway seeds.
Add 5 cups of water.
Cover and simmer until tender.

When serving, add a few rings of hot green peppers as garnish and serve with egg noodles or little noodles (recipe below).

Little Noodles (Pinched Noodles)

(serves 4)

Ingredients:

7/8 cup of flour
1 egg
Salt for taste

Preparation:

Knead a stiff dough from 7/8 cup of plain flour, 1 egg and salt.

Cover the stiff dough piece with flour.

Pinch off small flat pieces at about 5x5x2 mm.

Place the pinched pieces on a side plate and be sure to keep the pieces separated.

Cook the noodles in the ready-made goulash (recipe above) until tender.

Highwaymen's Dumpling Soup (Mecseki betyárgombóclevés)

(serves 4)

Soup Ingredients:

4 cups of beef stock

1 carrot (finely chopped)

2 parsley roots (finely chopped)

1 stalk of celery (chopped)

1 tablespoon of lard

1 tablespoon of flour

1 cup of sour cream

1 egg yolk

1 teaspoon of thyme

Pepper and salt for taste

Dumpling Ingredients:

½ pound of minced pork

4 large potatoes (boiled in their skins)

3 tablespoons of flour

2 tablespoons of lard

1 egg

1 small onion (chopped)

Pepper and salt for taste

Preparation:

Brown the carrot, celery, and parsley root in the lard.

Dredge with flour and add the thyme.

Cover with the stock.

Season to taste, and let simmer for about an hour.

Meanwhile, prepare the dumplings.

Mash the potatoes and knead in 1 tablespoon lard and the flour, the egg and some salt.

Roll out the dough on a well-floured pastry board so that the dough is about half a centimeter in thickness.

Divide into 6 pieces and form into circles.

Brown the pork with the onion in the rest of the lard, season with salt and pepper.

Place a tablespoon of stuffing in the center of each circle of dough, fold the edges over and shape into dumplings.

Make sure that the edges are well sealed.

Drop the dumplings one by one into the boiling soup.

Cook until they rise to the surface (this takes about 20 min.).

Cut one in half to make sure the stuffing is sufficiently cooked.

Stir the sour cream with egg yolk in a soup tureen and add half a ladle of hot soup.

Put the dumplings in the tureen and pour the rest of the soup over them.

Paprika Chicken (Paprikás csirke)

(serves 4)

Ingredients:

1 large onion (chopped)

1 teaspoon of paprika (hot or mild)

2 ½ pounds of chicken (breasts, thighs or legs)

1 green pepper (sliced)

1 tomato (sliced)

4 teaspoons of flour

Preparation:

Lightly cover chicken with flour and set aside.

Finely chop a large onion and fry in 2 tablespoons of fat or butter until onion is transparent.

Add chicken to pan and sprinkle in paprika.

Brown chicken on each side over a high heat.

Add a green pepper and a tomato, salt and simmer until chicken is tender.

Occasionally stir ingredients and add extra water or chicken broth so that chicken remains in a broth.

Blend in 1 to 2 teaspoons of flour and ½ cup of sour cream for thickening.

Add salt and pepper for taste.

Serve with egg noodles or pinched noodles (see above) tossed in butter.

Stuffed Cabbage (Töltöttkáposzta)

(serves 8 or more)

Ingredients:

1 head of green cabbage

2 pounds of chopped hamburger, pork or veal

¼ cup of raw long grain rice
½ tablespoon of paprika
¼ tablespoon of salt (add more if needed to taste)
1 egg
2 cans of tomato sauce
1 large can of tomato paste

Preparation:

Core cabbage, put in salted water to boil to separate leaves.
Reserve the small leaves for lining the bottom of the pan.
Combine the meat, rice, spices, and egg; mix well with your hands.
Lay out a leaf of cabbage and center about 2 tablespoons of meat on it.
Fold up sides and roll up ends to seal each roll.
Continue with all the meat and cabbage.
Pour one can of tomato sauce on the bottom of the baking dish, with a little salt and a little water, enough to line the entire pan.
Line with small leaves, reserve a few for the top.
Fill baking dish with the cabbage rolls.
Spread one large can of tomato paste across the cabbage rolls.
Pour the remaining can of tomato sauce on top of all the cabbage rolls.
Add enough water to fill the roaster pan to just about the top.
Cover the top with the reserved leaves.

Cover and bake at 350°F. Watch for it to come to a boil, then allow 1-1/2 to 2 hours baking time.

For an optional gravy, take the drippings of the pan (add 1 cup of chicken stock if needed) and ¼ pound of sauerkraut.
Simmer and add ½ cup of sour cream.
Salt and pepper (if preferred, use a pinch of paprika) for taste.
Pour the gravy over the cabbage leaves.

Noodles with Cottage Cheese (Túrós csusza)

(serves 4)

Ingredients:

½ lb. egg noodles
7 oz. cottage cheese
1 teaspoon of finely chopped fresh or dried dill
2 ounces of bacon
1 ½ cups of sour cream

Preparation:

Bring water to a boil and cook noodles.

Cut bacon into small cubes and fry on low heat until crisp.
Remove bacon and put aside.

Drain the cooked noodles and add the noodles to the bacon-fat saucepan.
Add sour cream, stir and remove from heat.
Add the crumbled cottage cheese and chopped dill.
Put immediately into a heated dish (heat dish at a low temperature in oven).

Sprinkle the chopped, fried bacon on top and serve.

Desserts

Grape and Apple Strudel (Vegyés Rétes)

(for 2 rolls)

Grape Strudel Ingredients:

1 packet of ready-made strudel pastry (2 sheets each)
1 cup of seeded grapes
2 tablespoons of red or black currant jam
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of hazelnuts (chopped)
1 egg yolk

Apple Strudel Ingredients:

1 packet of ready-made strudel pastry (2 sheets each)
1 cup of apples
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of walnuts (chopped)
2 tablespoons of plain breadcrumbs
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar
1 teaspoon of cinnamon

Preparation for Grape Strudel:

Use packet of ready-made strudel pastry (2 sheets each).
Unfold the pastry on a clean cloth and brush with melted butter.
Mix 1 cup of grapes with 2 tablespoons currant jam.
Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of chopped hazelnuts and 1 egg yolk.
Heap mixture onto one set of pastry sheets and roll up.

Preparation for Apple Strudel:

Use packet of ready-made strudel pastry (2 sheets each).

Unfold the pastry on a clean cloth and brush with melted butter.

Roughly grate 1 cup of peeled apples and squeeze out juice of apples.

Add ¼ cup of chopped walnuts, 2 tablespoons of plain breadcrumbs, and ¼ cup of sugar flavored with cinnamon.

Heap mixture onto one set of pastry sheets and roll up.

Cooking instructions for both:

Place rolls in a baking dish coated with butter.

Brush the rolls with butter and bake in a hot oven until golden brown.

Allow to cool a little before slicing.

Serve sprinkled with icing sugar.

Walnut and Poppy Seed Bread (Diós és Mákos kalács)

(serves 4-6)

Ingredients for batter:

1 ¾ cups of flour

½ cup of butter

1 tablespoon of yeast

1 tablespoon of milk

Pinch of salt

½ cup of sour cream

Ingredients for walnut filling:

½ cup of sugar

2-3 tablespoons of milk

¾ cup of ground walnuts

½ cup of chopped sultanas (green raisins)

2 tablespoons of apricot or apple jam

1-2 peeled and grated apples

Grated lemon peel

Ingredients for poppy seed filling:

½ cup of ground poppy seeds

½ cup of sugar

¼ to ½ cup of milk

¼ cup of sultanas (green raisins)

2 tablespoons of apple jam or 1-2 peeled and grated apples

Preparation:

Dissolve the yeast in the lukewarm milk.

Rub the butter into the sieved flour and salt.

Add the sour cream.

Knead well.

Divide the dough into two and leave to rest for 15 minutes.

Roll out into fairly thin squares and spread one with walnut filling and the other with poppy seed.

To make the walnut filling, make syrup with milk and sugar.

Then add the ground walnut and the remaining ingredients.

For the poppy seed filling, make syrup with sugar and milk.

Then add the ground poppy seed and cook for a few minutes.

Remove from the heat and mix in the remaining ingredients.

After spreading the dough with fillings, roll up and leave to rest for 10 minutes.

Brush with egg yolk and prick with fork.

Place on a baking tin and leave for another 10 minutes.

Brush again with yolks and bake in a moderately hot oven until golden brown.

Hungarian Pancakes (Palacsinta)

(serves 4 to 6)

Ingredients:

4 whole eggs

2 cups of milk

2 teaspoons of sugar

2 cups of sifted flour

Butter

Preparation:

Mix flour, salt and sugar.

Combine well beaten eggs and milk.

Add egg and milk gradually to flour mixture, beating to a thin smooth batter.

Let batter sit for ½ hour.

Spoon thin layer of batter (should be about 2 tablespoons) onto a hot buttered skillet.

Tilt skillet quickly in a circular motion to distribute batter evenly in skillet.

Brown crepe lightly on both sides.

Continue this until batter is used up.

When crepe is done, spread one side with strawberry jam.

Roll crepes lightly and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

These can be made ahead of time and reheated in a slow oven for a few minutes. You can also serve crepes with a dollop of sour cream.

References:

Hungarian Cuisine, <http://www.fsz.bme.hu/hungary/cuisine/cuisine.html>

Hungarian Pancakes, <http://homepage.interaccess.com/~june4/hunpancakes.html>

Jewish Food, Stuffed Cabbage, http://www.jewishfood-list.com/recipes/beef_veal/stuffcabbage/stuffcabbagehungarian01.html

Rice, Grains and Pulses, <http://www.recipes4us.co.uk>

Additional Resources

A Country Study: Hungary, Country Studies, The Library of Congress,
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/hutoc.html>

Encyclopedia: List of Famous Hungarians,
<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/List-of-famous-Hungarians>

Gateway to the European Union, Europa, http://www.europa.eu.int/index_en.htm

The History Net, <http://www.thehistorynet.com/mh/blsiegebelgrade/index2.html>

Hungarian National Tourist Office, <http://www.gotohungary.com/index.php>

Hungary, the CIA World Factbook,
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/hu.html>

Hungary, U.S. Department of State, <http://www.state.gov/p/eur/ci/hu/>

Hungary, Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungary>

Hungary.hu, Government Website, <http://www.magyarország.hu/angol/orszaginfo>