

Chapter 1 : Hungary's 'illiberal democracy'

Hungary is a country in Eastern-Central Europe whose history under this name dates to the Early Middle Ages, when the Pannonian Basin was conquered by the Hungarians (Magyars), a semi-nomadic people who had migrated from the uralic steppes.

How has Orban changed Hungary? He is turning it into a crony capitalist state with what is effectively one-party rule. Fidesz controls all branches of government, including the judiciary. It has gutted the independent press, with the media now dominated by outlets that overtly support Fidesz and Orban. Businesses that are close to the party, or to Orban and his cronies, get favorable contracts, while those that are not face punishing taxes and regulations. Fidesz got just 53 percent of the vote in , but quirks of seat distribution gave it a two-thirds majority, and it quickly exploited its position to remake the country. In a speech, Orban explained that his vision for Hungary was an "illiberal democracy," citing strongman states such as Russia and Turkey as models. He is well on his way to achieving that goal. How did he do it? By exploiting nationalism and fear of foreigners. Orban used government funds to wage a massive propaganda campaign depicting Hungary as under assault by Muslim and other dark-skinned immigrants and by liberals in the EU bureaucracy in Brussels. The campaign was effective because Hungary has had a long history of foreign domination, and just a few decades of experience with democracy, capitalism, and a free press; it was a Communist state in the Soviet-dominated Warsaw Pact until Orban changed the constitution to have judges appointed by a single person, instead of an all-party committee, and replaced experienced judges with his apparatchiks. He passed media laws imposing heavy fines on any press outlet deemed biased against the government, silencing those voices. Local TV stations were bought up by friendly oligarchs. Gerrymandering and biased electoral laws make it highly likely Fidesz majorities will continue. Do Hungarians approve of this? The election last week, giving Fidesz a third straight supermajority, had a strong turnout of 69 percent. The vote was free in that there were opposition candidates and ballots were counted correctly, although it was unfair because of regulations disfavoring other parties and the suppression of government criticism. Orban has succeeded in convincing Hungarians that only they can preserve Christianity in Europe from a rampaging horde of Muslim refugees, just as Hungary held the borders of Christendom against the Ottoman army in the 15th century – an image he invokes frequently. In service to this nationalist narrative, he has demonized Hungarian-American billionaire George Soros, who funds civil society groups across Eastern Europe see below , and sealed Hungary off from the wave of more than one million migrants fleeing Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq. How did he do that? A propaganda campaign ensued, warning that Muslim immigrants would bring crime and rape Christian women. After the EU struck a deal to resettle some of the migrants in each of the member countries, Hungary refused to accept its quota. More recently, the flow of migrants has stopped, yet Orban still used the threat of Muslim criminals as his main campaign theme. Before the election, television news repeatedly showed a video of terrorist attack in Stockholm, in which an Uzbek asylum seeker drove a bus into a crowd. Who are his allies? Kaczynski is limiting press freedom and politicizing the court system, as Poland slides toward authoritarianism. What can the EU do? This "nuclear option," though, would be vetoed by Poland, just as any penalty against Poland would be vetoed by Hungary. Orban sees this promotion of human rights and the rule of law as a threat, and has demonized the Hungarian-born Soros, who is Jewish, in a propaganda campaign filled with anti-Semitic code words and stereotypes.

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Hungary - Government and society: The modern political system in Hungary contained elements of autocracy throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, but in the period between and it had a functioning parliament with a multiparty system and a relatively independent judiciary.

Government and society Overview The modern political system in Hungary contained elements of autocracy throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, but in the period between and it had a functioning parliament with a multiparty system and a relatively independent judiciary. After the communist takeover in , a Soviet-style political system was introduced, with a leading role for the Communist Party , to which the legislative and executive branches of the government and the legal system were subordinated. Constitutional framework In dramatic political reforms accompanied the economic transformation taking place. In October a radical revision of the constitution, which included some changes, introduced a multiparty parliamentary system of representative democracy , with free elections. The legislative and executive branches of the government were separated, and an independent judicial system was created. The revision established a Constitutional Court, elected by Parliament, which reviews the constitutionality of legislation and may annul laws. Parliament Building on the far side of the Danube River, Budapest. Among other significant recent revisions of Hungarian law was a change in that allowed nonresidents to attain citizenship if they could prove their Hungarian ancestry and mastery of the Hungarian language. Supreme legislative power is granted to the unicameral National Assembly , which elects the president of the republic, the Council of Ministers, the president of the Supreme Court, and the chief prosecutor. The main organ of state administration is the Council of Ministers, which is headed by the prime minister. The president , who may serve two five-year terms, is commander in chief of the armed forces but otherwise has limited authority. The right of the people to propose referendums is guaranteed. Local representative governments are responsible for protection of the environment , local public transport and utilities, public security, and various economic, social, and cultural activities. Public administration offices, whose heads are appointed by the minister of the interior, supervise the legality of the operations of local governments. Justice Justice is administered by the Supreme Court, which provides conceptual guidance for the judicial activity of the Court of the Capital City and the county courts and for the local courts. A chief prosecutor is responsible for protecting the rights of citizens and prosecuting acts violating constitutional order and endangering security. The constitutionality of the laws is overseen by the new Constitutional Court, which began operation in A constitutional amendment in called for the addition of regional appellate courts, which came into force in the early 21st century. Political process Parliamentary elections based on universal suffrage for citizens age 18 and over are held every four years. Under the mixed system of direct and proportional representation , candidates may be elected as part of national and regional party lists or in an individual constituency. In the latter case, candidates must gain an absolute majority in the first round of the elections or runoff elections must be held. Candidates on territorial lists cannot be elected if their party fails to receive at least 5 percent of the national aggregate of votes for the territorial lists. The same six parties were returned to Parliament in , and for the following decade most of them remained represented in the legislature. Fidesz appended Hungarian Civic Party later changed to Hungarian Civic Alliance to its name, and between and it became the dominant party and formed the government. The Christian Democrats organized the Centre Party alliance in but failed to make it into the Parliament. Security The Hungarian armed forces consist of ground forces, air and air-defense forces, a small navy that patrols the Danube, the border guard, and police. Military service was compulsory for males over the age of 18 until , when Hungary established a voluntary force. The term of duty varies according to the branch of service but is typically less than one year. The armed forces are not permitted to cross the state frontiers without the prior consent of Parliament. In the decade between and , the armed forces declined from , members to just under 60,, but, at the same time, they also underwent a process of modernization to prepare Hungary to join the Western military alliance NATO. Membership was finally achieved in March , eight years after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact , of which Hungary was a member. Health and welfare Following

World War II, health care improved dramatically under state socialism, with significant increases in the number of physicians and hospital beds in Hungary. By the s, free health care was guaranteed to every citizen. Higher-quality private health care, permitted but limited before the transition period, grew in importance from the early s. A broad range of social services was provided by the communist government, including child support, extensive maternity leave, and an old-age pension system for which men became eligible at age 60 and women at age 55. At the end of the communist era, Hungary ranked 20th among European countries in terms of per capita GDP, but it was 12th in social spending. The Hungarian system had become one of the most expensive in the world, yet there was considerable resistance to efforts to scale it back. When health insurance was reformed in 1997, it retained its all-encompassing nature and was also made mandatory. The private financing of health care slowly increased with the introduction of co-payments for some prescription medications, office visits, and hospital stays. Housing shortages were constant in Hungary for decades after World War II, despite the million housing units built by the state in urban centres from 1945 to 1989. In the immediate postwar period, Hungary maintained an average of three persons per room, a rate that eventually dropped to one per room by the mids. Moreover, by the late s, electricity was available for nearly the entire population it had been in fewer than half of Hungarian homes in 1945, when apartment houses were nationalized, and running water was available for more than three-fourths of homes. In the s, as the cost of home ownership and rents soared, the housing market became increasingly polarized. The lower class continued to live in shabby, prefabricated, and often deteriorated apartments, while the upper class occupied expensive apartments or villas that approximated Western standards both in their construction and in their internal outfitting. Education Ever since the start of obligatory universal education initiated by the Law of 1868, Hungary followed the German system of education on all levels. These universities were also organized along the German model, with basic degrees after four or five years, followed for those in the humanities and sciences by the doctorate based on a modest dissertation. This system of education survived until the s, when the fall of communism resulted in a partial return to the traditional educational system. During the s the uniformity of the communist educational system was further shattered by the introduction of private secondary education. Nationalized religious schools were returned to churches and religious institutions, and various new private secular schools were created. Between the mids and mids, the number of secondary schools increased from 1,000 to 1,500, even though the student-age population had declined from 1.5 million to 1.2 million. Mass industrialization obliged women to take outside jobs, resulting in the creation of an extensive system of preschools and kindergartens. Attendance was not mandatory, but, given that in many homes both parents worked, most children attended. Up to the mids, education was free from the kindergarten through the university level and also obligatory from age 6 to 15. At that time a modest tuition was introduced at the state universities and a much steeper one at the increasing number of private schools and institutions of higher learning. This growth continued even after the communist regime had ended; in 1990 there were only 70,000 full-time and 100,000 part-time college and university students, but by the first decade of the 21st century the number of full- and part-time students had risen to almost 1 million. There was a major reorganization of Hungarian higher education in 1990. There were also dozens of specialized schools and colleges throughout the country. In addition, some of the specialized colleges of music, fine arts, theatre, and military arts were elevated to university status. The postcommunist period also saw the restructuring of the university diplomas. But, whereas previously it was awarded on the basis of a comprehensive dissertation, it is now given in recognition of major life accomplishments by a very select group of scholars and scientists. Cultural life Cultural milieu The cultural milieu of Hungary is a result of the diverse mix of genuine Hungarian peasant culture and the cosmopolitan culture of an influential German and Jewish urban population. Both the coffeehouse as meeting place for intellectuals and the music of the Roma Gypsies also have had an impact. Cultural life traditionally has been highly political since national culture became the sine qua non of belated nation building from the early 19th century. Theatre, opera, and literature in particular played crucial roles in developing national consciousness. Poets and writers, especially in crisis situations, became national heroes and prophets. Governments also attempted to influence cultural life through subsidy and regulation. During the state socialist era, culture was strictly controlled; party interference was influenced by ideological principles, and mass culture was promoted. National Theatre building, Budapest. These intellectuals were

divided by their social origins village versus city and also by their disagreements about the type of culture that can best serve as the fountainhead of modern Hungarian culture. The populists were suspicious of the urbanists, many of whom were of non-Hungarian origins mostly German and Jewish , and regarded the village as the depository of true Hungarian culture. Daily life and social customs Genuine traditional Hungarian culture survived for a long period in an untouched countryside characterized by rootedness. Peasant dress, food, and entertainment, including folk songs and folk dances—the rituals of weddings and Easter and Christmas holidays—continued until the mid 20th century. The drastic and in the countryside brutal modernization of the second half of the 20th century nearly destroyed these customs. They were preserved, however, as folk art and tourist entertainment. Folk dancers performing during a St. Families became smaller, and ties with extended families diminished. The culture also became less traditional. Clothing styles began to follow the international pattern, and traditional peasant dress was replaced by blue jeans. Folk songs are still occasionally heard, but in daily life they have been replaced by rock and pop music. Urban culture, especially in the capital city, is highly cosmopolitan and encompasses the tradition of coffeehouse culture. Watching television is a popular pastime, and Hungarians average nearly four hours of TV viewing per day. Hungarian food is very rich, and red meat is frequently used as an ingredient. The most distinctive element of Hungarian cuisine is paprika , a spice made from the pods of chili peppers *Capsicum annuum*. Paprika is not native to Hungary—having been imported either from Spain , India by way of the Turks, or the Americas—but it is a fixture on most dining tables in Hungary and an important export. Before World War II , Hungary was a wine-drinking country, but beer has become increasingly prevalent. Although Hungarians were not quick to accept foreign cuisines, they appeared in Budapest in the 1950s, a sign both of the growing influence of the outside world and of the presence of increasing numbers of foreigners who have settled in Hungary. After the communist takeover, these traditional national holidays were replaced by April 4 Liberation Day , May 1 May Day , and the transformed August 20 Constitution Day. After these communist-inspired holidays were replaced once more by the original national holidays, augmented by October 23, which commemorates the Revolution of 1956. All of these holidays are occasions both for solemn remembrance and for popular festivities, including folk dancing, choral singing, and the display of traditional folk arts. Hungary and Germany Learn about harvest festivals, including those in Hungary and Germany. National high culture emerged at the turn of the 19th century, with literature taking a central role. The first non-Hungarian-language newspaper published in the country may have been the *Mercurius Hungaricus* [10]. Ferenc Kazinczy , an advocate of Enlightenment ideas, founded a movement of language reform and promoted literature through his high standard of literary criticism. In his view, literature was a nation-sustaining or even nation-creating force. The 19th century was witness to the emergence of the populist-urbanist controversy and the publication of a series of major sociographies about the realities of Hungarian peasant life. Following World War II, the nationalist and populist tendencies of Hungarian literature and culture were expurgated and replaced by politically inspired manifestations of Socialist Realism. And this applied equally to literature as to writings in the social sciences such as history. The best of the poets, writers, historians, and social philosophers were silenced, and the rest were forced to toe the party line. The first two of these were Transylvanians who wrote great literature based on traditional literary models, while the latter four were Budapest urbanites who pursued the diverse paths of avant-garde literature.

Chapter 3 : Politics of Hungary - Wikipedia

Hungary's current government is a coalition between Orbán's Fidesz party and the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP). These parties have held a supermajority (over 66% of available government seats) since

It spanned almost , square kilometres and occupied much of central Europe: Eleven major ethno-language groups were scattered across the empire: Like Germany, the Austro-Hungarian empire was a new state comprised old peoples and cultures; it was formed in by a compromise agreement between Vienna and Budapest. Franz Josef was its sovereign and emperor, though he was first crowned as king both of Austria and Hungary. As one might expect in a political union of this kind, there were grievances, dissatisfactions and frequent disagreements. The empire as a whole was overseen by a central government, responsible for matters of foreign policy, military command and joint finance. This imperial government was comprised of the emperor, both prime ministers, three appointed ministers, members of the aristocracy and representatives of the military. He often rejected demands for strong action or the deployment of the imperial army, the interests of which he guarded jealously. Historians like Lewis Namier suggest that Franz Josef was a reluctant ruler; he was afraid of big decisions and decisive orders, in case they turned out to be wrong: Shy, sensitive and vulnerable, and apprehensive that he might cut a poor or ridiculous figure, he took refuge in a still and lifeless formalism, which made him appear wooden, and in a spiritual isolation, which made him seem unfeeling or even callous. The empire shed its final feudal remnants and began developing and expanding capitalist institutions, such as banking, industry and manufacturing. The National Austro-Hungarian Bank was formed, supplying credit and investment funds, as well as forming a vital financial link between the two halves of the empire. Austro-Hungarian annual growth was the second-fastest in Europe, behind that of Germany. Industrial growth and modernisation led to improvements in trade, employment and living standards. There was considerable division between the three. The two older armies were protected by their respective parliaments, receiving more funding and better equipment and training. The imperial army was perpetually short of qualified officers, and three-quarters of those it had were Austrian. This created its own problems, since Austrian officers spoke German but the majority of soldiers were Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks and others. To combat this language gap, enlisted soldiers were taught a set of 68 single-word commands; this allowed the Imperial and Royal Army to function, though with considerable communication problems. Most soldiers were conscripts, which did not help morale. Despite these difficulties, the Austro-Hungarian imperial army was as professional as could reasonably be expected. Its high command and its officers drew on Prussian military methods, and most regiments were comparatively well-equipped with modern small arms, machine-guns and artillery. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was a dual monarchy, formed by a merger of the two older states in Though Austrians were dominant, the empire housed many different ethnic and language groups. Like Germany, went through a significant period of industrial growth and modernisation in the late s. Its government, led by Emperor Franz Josef, was autocratic and dominated by aristocrats and militarists. Austria-Hungary had a powerful modernised army, though its was effectiveness was undermined by internal political and ethnic divisions, such as language barriers between officers and their men. Content on this page may not be republished or distributed without permission. For more information please refer to our Terms of Use. To reference this page, use the following citation:

Chapter 4 : Hungary declares war on Germany - HISTORY

Politics of Hungary takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The Prime Minister is the head of government of a pluriform multi-party system, while the President is the head of state and holds a largely ceremonial position.

A chronology of key events: Giant parliament building is a Budapest landmark Buda-Pest created from unification of districts Population: Ottoman invasion - Ottoman Turks defeat forces of Hungarian king at Battle of Mohacs, establishing control over most of the country. Hungarian republic is proclaimed following a revolution. Kun wages war on Czechoslovakia and Romania. Romanian forces occupy Budapest and hand power to Admiral Miklos Horthy. The National Assembly restores Kingdom of Hungary; Horthy becomes regent and remains influential until Hungary declares war on the Soviet Union. A large part of the Hungarian army is destroyed. Hungary declares war on the United Kingdom and the United States. Hungarian Jews and gypsies are deported to death camps. Large parts of Budapest are reduced to rubble by the fighting. New Hungarian government introduces land reform bill, redistributing land from large estate owners to peasants. Hungary aligns itself more and more with the Soviet Union. Industry is nationalised, agriculture collectivised and a wave of police terror launched. Protesters demand the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Imre Nagy becomes prime minister. Nagy announces plans for Hungary to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact and become a neutral power. Soviet forces crush the rebels, thousands are killed. Nagy takes refuge in the Yugoslav embassy, from where he is abducted by Soviet agents. Janos Kadar becomes head of government. Political prisoners and church leaders are freed, farmers and industrial workers given increased rights. Spearheading change - Kadar is replaced by Karoly Grosz. Opposition groups form the Hungarian Democratic Forum. Thousands of East Germans escape to the West. Communist state in Hungary is dismantled and a transition to a multi-party democracy starts. A centre-right coalition wins elections. The Warsaw Pact is dissolved. A new era - Former communists and liberals form coalition following elections. Gyula Horn, the leader of the reform communists, pledges to continue free-market policies. The European Union decides to open membership talks with Hungary, which begin in Hungarians backed EU accession, but voter turnout was low Danube waters reached record levels in spring December - EU summit in Copenhagen formally invites Hungary to join in Parliament ratifies EU constitution. Uprising anniversary was overshadowed by protests.

Chapter 5 : History of Hungary - Wikipedia

Cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry are raised in Hungary, but, in response to the government's efforts to combat overproduction of animal products, substantial reductions in livestock occurred in the s.

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

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

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

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

A brief look at Budapest, Hungary. Also worthy of note are the predominantly industrial towns located close to the mineral resources of the Northern Mountains, which, from small beginnings in the late 19th century, have developed into major industrial centres. In addition, a number of industrial towns were created in the late 20th century on greenfield sites as part of deliberate planning policy.

Rural settlement The distribution of rural population varies widely from one part of the country to another. For historical reasons connected with resettlement following the Turkish occupation in the 16th century, the villages of the Great Alfold are small in number but large in size. By comparison, rural settlement in Transdanubia and in the Northern Mountains takes the form of many small

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

Chapter 6 : Hungary's Viktor Orban fosters antisemitism - Opinion - Jerusalem Post

But instead of fueling xenophobia and treating asylum seekers like him with contempt, Hungary's government should remind the country of its own history and create a more welcoming and humane.

This took the form of demands for political and cultural equality for all the different national groups in the Empire. The response of the Germans and Hungarians to these demands was very different. Austria In the Austrian half of the Empire, the power of parliament was restricted by the fact that the government was responsible to the Emperor. He also had control of foreign affairs. The parliament was elected on a limited franchise. The Austrians made attempts to give their subject nationalities a share in the government of their half of the empire. The peoples controlled by the Austrians were the Poles who received better treatment than in either Russia or Germany , the Czechs, the Slovenes, the Ruthenians and the Italians. The problem for the government was that when it introduced reforms to improve minority language or cultural rights, it drew opposition from the Germans and vice versa. This made reform very difficult. There was also a movement among many Germans that wanted to see the creation of a greater Germany. The major cause of difficulty for the Austrian half of the empire was relations between the Czechs and the Germans in Bohemia. The industrialised and prosperous Czechs resented German domination, e. They hoped to see their position elevated to equality with that of the Germans and the Hungarians. They demanded the creation of a Triple Monarchy. He ruled with support from a coalition of German, Polish and Czech Catholics and landowners. However while successful in the short-term, his reforms caused outrage among the Germans who saw their position of political supremacy being undermined. Nationalist rivalry between the Czechs and the Germans became intense. Count Badeni, a Polish landowner Prime Minister from until introduced a reform proposing that every civil servant in Bohemia had to be fluent in German and Czech. Whereas most educated Czechs and the other subject nationalities could speak German, very few Germans could speak Czech or any other language. This measure caused outrage, demonstrations and riots among Germans all over Austria. Badeni was forced out of office. In the constitution of Bohemia was suspended amid renewed inter-ethnic tension. There was also rivalry between Slovenes and Germans in Styria and Carniola. A dispute over the funding of Slovene language classes in a predominantly German town led to the resignation of the Prime Minister in Many Italians wished to join with Italy especially in the town of Trieste which was one of the largest cities in the Empire. Universal male suffrage was introduced in the Austrian half of the empire in partly as a result of pressure from the growing Social Democratic Party. The Emperor hoped that extending the right to vote would increase support for parties that supported the Empire and weaken nationalist parties. Hungary In the Hungarian half the Magyars monopolised political power more fully than the Germans in Austria. Nationalities in Hungary- Romanians, Serbs, and Slovaks- were forced to endure a policy of Magyarisation. The Hungarian language was made compulsory in government, education, the law and the railways. Teachers were liable to be dismissed if their pupils did not know Magyar. Nearly all towns and villages were given Hungarian names even in areas where there were few Hungarians. The Hungarian nobility controlled the Parliament in Budapest. Out of members of Parliament in , only 18 were non-Magyar. Tensions were particularly strong between the Hungarians and the Croats. By the turn of the 20th Century a further source of concern for the Empire was the growth of south Slav nationalism among the Slovenes, Croats and especially the Serbs. This movement was called Yugoslvism. The growth of Serbian power in the Balkans had encouraged this movement. Many hoped for South Slav unity with Serbia while others hoped for greater political control within the monarchy. This movement and the growth of Serbia was seen by both the Hungarians and Austrians as the major threat to the unity of the Empire. It was agreed that Serbian power had to be destroyed. This unleashed World War I and the eventual ending of the Empire. For all the tension between the different nationalities the destruction of the empire was not seriously wanted by any of the major national groups before Imperial rule was seen as a protection for many against a worse oppression. Historians debate whether the empire would have collapsed without defeat in World War I. However the inability of the Empire to solve its ethnic problems meant it was too weak to survive defeat in war. To prevent the growth of

South Slav nationalism Yugoslavism undermining her Empire. She viewed with considerable unease the growth of Serbian power in the Balkans. Serbia was seen as the major threat to the unity of the Empire as there was a large Serbian minority in the Empire. To prevent Russian influence from spreading in the Balkans or in the Mediterranean e. A power in decline since her defeat at the hands of Prussia in In most European crises before Russia and Austria were to be found on opposite sides. German-Austrian relations were close particularly after This was because of the presence of an Italian minority in the Austrian Empire Trento, Istria and Trieste These materials may be freely used for non-commercial purposes in accordance with applicable statutory allowances and distribution to students. Re-publication in any form is subject to written permission. Last modified 12 January,

Chapter 7 : Geography for Kids: Hungary

Hungary also is an observer to the Organization of American States. Bilateral Representation The U.S. Ambassador to Hungary is David Cornstein ; other principal embassy officials are listed in the Department's Key Officers List.

His new fiscal, customs and monetary policies proved successful. After Italy, Hungary was the first European country in which the Renaissance appeared. The second Hungarian king of the Angevin line, Louis the Great r. In 1222, the Golden Bull of 1222 was completed with a law of entail. He also became king of Poland r. Louis had become popular in Poland because of his campaign against the Tatars and pagan Lithuanians. In two successful wars against Venice 1380 and 1381, he was able to annex Dalmatia, Ragusa and further territories on the Adriatic Sea. Venice was also required to raise the Angevin flag in St. He retained his strong influence in the political life of the Italian Peninsula for the rest of his life. Some Balkan states such as Wallachia, Moldova, Serbia, and Bosnia became his vassals while the Ottoman Turks confronted them ever more often. In 1395 and 1402, Louis led successful campaigns against the Ottomans such as the Battle of Nicapoli in 1395. From the time of the death of Casimir the Great in 1399, he was also king of Poland. King Louis died without a male heir, and after years of anarchy, the future Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund r. It was not for entirely selfless reasons that one of the leagues of barons helped him to power: Sigismund had to pay for the support of the lords by transferring a sizeable part of the royal properties. The restoration of the authority of the central administration took decades. In 1437, Sigismund introduced the Placetum Regnum. According to this decree, Papal bulls and messages could not be pronounced in Hungary without the consent of the king. Sigismund summoned the Council of Constance that met between 1414 and 1418 to abolish the Avignon Papacy and end the Western Schism of the Catholic Church, which was resolved by the election of Pope Martin V. During his long reign, the royal castle of Buda became probably the largest Gothic palace of the late Middle Ages. He died, however, in 1437. The first Hungarian Bible translation was completed in 1384 just before. For a half year in 1456, there was an anti-feudal and anti-clerical peasant revolt in Transylvania which was strongly influenced by Hussite ideas. In 1456, the parliament elected him governor 1456, then regent 1457. He was a successful crusader against the Ottoman Turks, one of his greatest victories the Siege of Belgrade in 1456. During the siege, Pope Callixtus III ordered the bells of every European church to be rung every day at noon as a call for believers to pray for the defenders of the city. However, in many countries such as England and the Spanish kingdoms, the news of the victory arrived before the order, and the ringing of the church bells at noon was transformed into a commemoration of the victory. The Popes did not withdraw the order, and Catholic and the older Protestant churches still ring the noon bell in the Christian world to this day. The last strong Hungarian king was Matthias Corvinus r. His accession represented the first time in the history of the medieval Hungarian kingdom that a member of the nobility without dynastic ancestry mounted the royal throne. Matthias was a true Renaissance prince: The serfs considered Matthias a just ruler, because he protected them from excessive demands and other abuses by the magnates. It was an unusually large army for its time[citation needed], and it secured a series of victories in the Austrian-Hungarian War by capturing parts of Austria including Vienna in 1483, as well as parts of Bohemia in the Bohemian War of 1478. In 1472, Mathias and his Black Army fought against Moldavia. In this case, the attempt to expand Hungarian territories was unsuccessful when Matthias lost the Battle of Baia. Decline and partition[edit] Further information: Ottoman-Hungarian Wars and Classical Age of the Ottoman Empire Events of the 16th period in Hungarian history created conditions that would lead to a loss of independence unforeseen by contemporary observers and policy makers. Besides internal conflicts, the Hungarian state was gravely threatened by the expanding Ottoman Empire. By the early 16th century, the Ottoman Empire 15th century directly south of Hungary 15th century had become the second most populous political state in the world, which facilitated the raising of the largest armies of the era. However, Hungarian policy makers at the time were not as conscious of this threat as they should have been. Instead of preparing for the defence of the country against foreign powers, Hungarian magnates were much more focused on the threat to their privileges from a strong royal power. The magnates also dismantled the administrative systems in the country that had worked so successfully for Matthias. The resulting degradation of order paved the way for Ottoman ambitions to acquire

Hungarian territory. The early appearance of Protestantism further worsened internal unity in the anarchical country. Early modern period[edit] See also: This period was characterized by political chaos. Armed conflicts between the new rival monarchs further weakened the country. With the Turkish conquest of Buda in 1541, Hungary was riven into three parts. The Siege of Eger in 1571, in which 2,000 Hungarians fought against close to 35,000 Turk warriors. The battle finished with Hungarian victory. The northwestern part of the old kingdom of Hungary present-day Slovakia, western Transdanubia and Burgenland, plus western Croatia and parts of present-day northeastern Hungary remained under Habsburg rule as the realm of King Ferdinand. Although initially independent, it would later become a part of the Habsburg Monarchy under the informal name Royal Hungary. The Habsburg Emperors would from then on be crowned also as Kings of Hungary. The Turks were unable to conquer the northern and western parts of Hungary. The eastern part of the kingdom Partium and Transylvania at first became an independent principality, but was gradually brought under Turkish rule as a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire. The remaining central area most of present-day Hungary, including the capital of Buda, became a province of the Ottoman Empire. Much of the land was devastated by recurrent warfare. Most small Hungarian settlements disappeared. Rural people living in the new Ottoman provinces could survive only in larger settlements known as Khaz towns, which were owned and protected directly by the Sultan. The Turks were indifferent to the Christian denominations practiced by their Hungarian subjects. For this reason, a majority of Hungarians living under Ottoman rule became Protestant largely Calvinist, as Habsburg counter-Reformation efforts could not penetrate the Ottoman lands. Largely throughout this time, Pozsony in German, Pressburg, today Bratislava acted as the capital of the kingdom of Hungary, the town in which the Hungarian kings were crowned and the seat of the Diet of Hungary. Nagyszombat modern Trnava acted in turn as the religious center beginning in 1525. The vast majority of the soldiers in service in the Ottoman fortresses in the territory of Hungary were Orthodox and Muslim Balkan Slavs, instead of ethnic Turkish people. In 1551, the Diet extended this freedom, declaring that, "It is not allowed to anybody to intimidate anybody with captivity or expulsion for his religion". Four religions were declared as accepted recepta, while Orthodox Christianity was "tolerated" though the building of stone Orthodox churches was forbidden. In 1601, two years after the unsuccessful Battle of Buda, a renewed European campaign was started to re-take the Hungarian capital. This time, the army of the Holy League was twice as large, at over 74,000 men, including German, Croat, Dutch, Hungarian, English, Spanish, Czech, Italian, French, Burgundian, Danish and Swedish soldiers, along with other Europeans as volunteers, artilleryman, and officers, and the Christian forces reconquered Buda in the second Battle of Buda. At the end of the 17th century, Transylvania also became part of Hungary again. As a consequence of the constant warfare between Hungarians and Ottoman Turks, population growth was stunted and the network of medieval settlements with their urbanized bourgeois inhabitants perished. The years of Turkish wars fundamentally changed the ethnic composition of Hungary. As a result of demographic losses, including deportations and massacres, the number of ethnic Hungarians at the end of the Turkish period was substantially diminished.

Chapter 8 : Hungary's Government Accused of Starving Asylum Seekers | Democracy Now!

On April 5, the Hungarian parliament passed a law that would close down the Hungarian American Central European University (CEU). This is the university that businessman and philanthropist George.

Still, the April results should not be taken as a vindication: Given the disproportionate allocation of mandates in the new election system, the opposition alliance received only 19 percent of the parliamentary seats. On the far right, Jobbik garnered 21 percent of the vote, a near 4 percent gain from . Though it performed poorly in Budapest, it was the second-largest vote-getter in much of the countryside, but the new rules skewed its presence in the new Parliament. As the third-largest party, its share of seats sank from 17 to 12 percent. LMP, a tiny, vaguely green party, squeaked over the 5 percent threshold and entered the Parliament with almost 3 percent of the seats. While it may be tempting, it would be a mistake to draw lessons from the election about the future of the left in Hungary or the rise of the far right. He acted not as the conservative he claims to be but as a populist radical. The Socialists had presided over an IMF-mandated austerity program begun in , when they were last in power, and could hardly be said to represent the left. Their smaller counterparts in the coalition were liberals of various indeterminate stripes who had little discernible ideology. Since , Fidesz has rewritten the Constitution without engaging any opposition parties and has granted overwhelming and unchecked power to its party leader, who in turn wasted little time in wresting control of every state institution from opposition hands, entrenching his political allies everywhere, bringing the judiciary to heel and radically centralizing political authority. The component pieces of the Hungarian Frankenstate might have operated perfectly well in their original contexts, but combined in a new constitutional system, these once-normal rules produce abnormal results. As government spokespeople have said every time there is criticism of a particular aspect of the new constitutional order: Or the United Kingdom. But nowhere do all those rules exist together, except in the Hungarian Frankenstate. The laws that provided the framework for the electoral system are a case in point. Those who supported the government found it easy to register and vote from abroad, while those who opposed it had to contend with red tape and misleading instructions circulated by new Fidesz-installed election officials. Unless the allied opposition had garnered at least 6 percent more votes than Fidesz, it could not have won even a bare majority of the parliamentary seats. It is a nationalistic celebration of victimization, pure and simple. The Socialists collapsed in after eight years in power and have wallowed in scandal and debt ever since. The various other left-leaning parties had either split from the Socialists'and therefore were not particularly eager to work with them again'or emerged from the wreckage of the Free Democrats, the former liberal party that had disbanded before the election. Several new upstart parties on the left, eager to demonstrate their purity, refused to form alliances. Yet no sooner had the campaigning started than the allied opposition disappeared. Its vanishing act was partly managed by the government. Fidesz had written the election rules to block virtually all advertising on television and radio by political parties and candidates during the campaign period, even though the same rules allowed the government to broadcast its accomplishments everywhere. Because oligarchs close to Fidesz dominate the media space, from broadcast to print to display advertising, the allied opposition could not count on disseminating its message through those outlets. Still, there were some avenues that the allied opposition could have taken to communicate its message. It could have put volunteers on the streets distributing fliers. It could have sent mass mailings. It could have organized rallies early and often. Not easy, of course, but possible. Virtually none of that happened. Even if it had, however, the allied opposition would have been hard-pressed to say what it stood for. It never had a coherent party platform or catchy slogan. Even its name was baffling: In the end, the ballot featured no name for the allied opposition, just a collection of logos of the separate parties. There was also a new party called Together , which had been the name of one of the most visible groups forming the allied opposition'but the Together appearing on the ballot had nothing to do with that alliance. In the end, the allied opposition had a new name that was not on the ballot, and multiple old names that were on the ballot but affiliated with other groups. Voters intending to cast their ballots for the allied opposition had to be savvy enough to not vote for the names with which the alliance had been publicly affiliated in the recent past and to cast their ballot instead

for the party with no name. But since the allied opposition ran a virtually invisible campaign, it had no chance of conveying these ballot complexities to potential voters. In the end, the name confusion was crucial in at least one district, where the number of votes allotted to the other Together party was larger than the gap between Fidesz and the left alliance. Throughout the campaign, there were many signals that the opposition had already thrown in the towel. Denied access to the conventional media by legal restrictions, it announced that it would make its case online. With the name change, however, it got off to a bad start: The last entry was from Nor was the allied opposition present on the campaign trail. A surprising number of people provided some evidence for this accusation, and even more believed it. Bajnai relinquished his parliamentary seat and announced that opposition actions were best conducted outside Parliament. The left seems in complete disarray, more disunited than ever. And the campaign was visible: Jobbik campaigned with an effective organization and palpable energy. It should not be surprising that the party performed better than in The Jobbik campaign did not appear threatening or beyond mainstream conservative politics in Europe. Despite having run a robust campaign, Jobbik saw its efforts dwarfed by those of Fidesz, which was ever-present across the media. While the campaign rules ban political parties from paid advertising on television and radio except for a small amount of time set aside on public television which is mostly ignored, those same campaign rules permitted the government and civil-society groups to run ads anywhere at any time. And so they did. A Supreme Court decision during the run-up to the election chided the government for placing ads on a prominent television station, TV2, that used the same campaign slogan as Fidesz. But given that the law specifically exempts government communications from the campaign rules, the Supreme Court could not stop the endless barrage of pro-government messages on the commercial channels. Journalists told election monitors that they had engaged in self-censorship out of fear. It was impossible to miss the huge billboard ads that appeared all over the country as soon as the election was announced in January. They featured three or four men holding placards with their names, looking like suspects in a lineup. Shortly thereafter, he attacked someone trying to film him. No charges were brought against him for the attacks. Most billboard space in Hungary is dominated by three companies owned by important friends of Fidesz—most prominently, Lajos Simicska, the ex-treasurer of Fidesz, and Zsolt Nyerges, an oligarch close to the party. At first, allied opposition leaders were reluctant to buy billboard space during the campaign because it would have put money in the pockets of their opponents. Then they realized that worse things could happen. But by the time the parties finally set aside their very public differences to organize a coalition and fight Fidesz, they discovered there was no billboard space available; it was sold out for the duration of the campaign. Virtually all of the major groups, including churches, are funded by the state, either through the National Civil Fund now known as the National Cooperation Fund or direct allocations by Parliament. Few groups have independent or private funding. Besides, in the absence of any regulation to the contrary, the government-allied billboard companies allocated all of the space to their friends. Though rarely reported in the Hungarian press, small demonstrations occurred almost daily in Budapest before the campaign started. These demonstrations were persistent and varied, but they typically attracted only handfuls of protesters. And they were largely uncoordinated, even once the campaign began. But the speech fell flat: The applause at the end was polite, and lasted only long enough to fill the time it took the prime minister to walk from the podium to the head table. During the intervening years, he has become a year-old sullen public man. The Friends of Hungary dinner, with a knot of protesters outdoors and its unenthusiastic guests inside, symbolized the state of democracy in Hungary. There is neither broad support for the governing party nor vigorous protests in favor of an alternative. Fidesz has gloated about its overwhelming support, because it polls higher than any other party. Fully 37 percent of voters stayed away from the polls, and 35 percent voted for other parties. People retreated to their social circles and private lives, leaving politics to the politicians. After, politics returned to Hungary in a vigorous contest among the six parties that entered Parliament. What frightens them are not the harsh tools of Cold War authoritarians—the knock on the door in the middle of the night, the confiscation of unauthorized writings, detention without charge, brutality in custody and worse. Instead, they fear the creative methods of the new authoritarians, who have figured out how to use the weapons of neoliberalism against their opponents. What are those weapons? Market forces, politically targeted. Markets can wreak havoc on the lives

of individuals, especially when times are tough. But even when an economy is humming, market forces are hardly gentle or egalitarian. They award prestige and power to some, ruin and poverty to others. In a textbook market economy, rewards and punishments are distributed according to economic criteria like competitiveness, efficiency and making all the right bets. But when a state is required to engage in austerity, it can no longer deflect the cruelty of markets. In fact, states under austerity are handed new tools that can compound the damage caused by them. In states under austerity, people who are suffering must seek private cures, and the privatization of pain may turn them away from public life. By now, the bleak landscape of austerity is familiar. People lose their jobs in large numbers, and businesses falter and die. The poor, never comfortable at the best of times, sink deeper into desperation. Students find they can no longer afford to attend university. Grant money to artists evaporates, and the coffers of civil-society groups empty without replenishment. Those nearing pension age are pushed over the edge by budget cuts into pensioner status, which makes their lives ever more precarious, while school graduates trying to enter the workforce find it nearly impossible to find paying work.

Chapter 9 : BBC News - Hungary timeline

History Hungary and the End of Politics Hungary and the End of Politics Hungary and the End of Politics. On April 6, Hungarians went to the polls and re-elected their government. In most.

From its magnificent Parliament building to its castles, churches, and neoclassical statues, Hungary is a country with history on full display. Hungary is a member of the European Union and NATO, but politics here have steadily become more nationalist led by Prime Minister Viktor Orban, considered to be the most influential populist leader in Europe today. The most visible symbol of nationalist Hungary? We truly believe that in Europe Christianity has a special role. Islam and Christianity are not going to integrate because they are different. Many have accused us of islamophobia. This is not the case. We all know that the clash of cultures and civilizations is indeed existing and when it comes anew as it happened back in , it was really alarming. The crisis, when hundreds of thousands of mostly Muslim migrants and refugees fled north into Europe, was a tipping point says Kovacs. While other governments debated what to do, Hungary acted. We have built a fence, a physical barrier. We have reinforced our border control, thousands of Hungarian policemen and soldiers are securing the border. Over , cross the borders into Hungary and passing through Hungary that year. Today these numbers are basically down to zero. Sure but the reason is the other way around. It is something that the Hungarian government is extremely proud of. Marta Pardavi is co-chair of the non-profit watchdog organization, Hungarian Helsinki Committee. She says the government recently changed the laws to make it virtually impossible for refugees to get asylum and accuses it of human rights abuses. So we had to take emergency measures and turn to the European Court of Human Rights to get an emergency order from the court saying Hungarian Government you have to give these people food. Orban has singled out one particular man as an enemy, American billionaire philanthropist George Soros. The year old Soros who was born in Budapest supports democracy and human rights causes around the world. Orban considers him a foreign influence and threat, so much so that this summer he enacted a package of laws called "Stop Soros," aimed at further confronting illegal immigration. Pardavi says it impacts her work directly. Now we have legislation that makes it a criminal offence to assist asylum seekers in Hungary in filing an asylum application. Or an asylum lawyer, an immigration lawyer would do. This since July, just a few months ago, this is a criminal offense. You can be prosecuted for it and you could face one year in prison for this. The Hungarian Parliament also passed a special percent penalty tax on all non-governmental organization revenues that promote migration. This used to be their offices. They packed up and moved to Berlin. Higher education is also being targeted in this new political battlefield. But another new Orban law requiring foreign universities to have campuses in their home countries, threatens to force CEU to move most of its programs out of Hungary. I got a gun pointed at my head here. Mr Orban thinks we are trying to run some type of campaign against his government. He won an election. I got no question about that. My issue is about academic freedom. Teaching what we want to teach. The government has just gone after the Academy of Sciences here. They have penalized anybody who tries to teach refugees and asylum seekers. Press freedom in Hungary has also been compromised, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists and a recent EU parliamentary report. They say pro-Orban oligarchs have been buying up TV stations and newspapers, and that state-funded advertising is going largely to outlets loyal to the government. We have over 65 thousand civil organizations in this country. We are quarreling with maybe two dozen or three dozen of them. They believe in an activist democracy. The problem is when they cross the red line. Most of these very loud and effective civil organizations are being financed from abroad and they come into the field of politics, vindicating that they are entitled to tell Hungarians and others what directions their legal system, their behavior, their values should be taken and this is what we are trying to refute here. So we are trying to reinstate the very fundamental values and rules of democracy in Hungary. In a Democracy this is exactly the kind of sentiment that you should be fighting against. You should do it. This is not a totalitarian state, this is not a fascist state. Theoretically under Article 7 the country could be stripped of its EU voting rights, though that is unlikely because Poland has promised to veto such a move. Orban has condemned the EU vote calling it a political witch hunt. Hatred against this

government? And what about American "interests? At the time, one of the politicians at the forefront praising Reagan for standing up for freedom was none other than Viktor Orban. That was then, this is now. Trump does that in the United States. Mr Orban does that here. And there are other people who I think are beginning to follow him. Poland, The Czech Republic, Turkey. In all of these places you have strong single-party regimes that are using democratic institutions to consolidate their power. And so it would repay Americans to pay some close attention to what happens in Budapest. Listen to this Segment.