

EAST CENTRAL EUROPE WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD ORDER

CHANGE OF REGIME

WHAT WAS THE CHANGE OF REGIME?



WHAT WAS THE CHANGE OF REGIME IN HUNGARY?

- Peaceful transition
- End of state socialism → Hungary became a democracy
- No longer a satellite state of the Soviet Union
- Free market economy



GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT OF EUROPE AFTER WWII

- Bipolar world order - a divided Europe
- A socialist and a capitalist economic and political system
- Two opposing military blocs
- Ratification of the Salt I agreement and the Helsinki Declaration eventually led to disintegration of the Soviet Union

TRANSFORMATION OF HUNGARY'S GEOPOLITICAL POSITION

- After WW II became part of the socialist bloc
- Questioned in 1956 - failed revolution
- Questioned again from the late 80s
- 1990: regained sovereignty —> Western orientation
- Joined NATO (1999)
- Joined EU (2004)

HUNGARY WITHIN THE SOVIET ALLIANCE SYSTEM

- Determined by the relationship between the US and the Soviet Union: Scope of action for small countries limited
- Hungary integral part of the SU's political, military and economic structure
- Comecon (1949): economic cooperation
- Warsaw Pact (1955): military treaty
- “Happiest barrack”: After the 60s foreign policy focused on reducing tension in international relations

HUNGARY WITHIN THE EUROPEAN TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

- End of the 80s paved the way for a more critical reaction to politics, culture and the state of society
- Political opening —› from 1986 pluralistic associations and organization founded within limits of the constitution
- Functioned as parties - FIDESZ, SZDSZ (Alliance of Free democrats)

TIMELINE OF THE CHANGE OF REGIME

- Feb 25, 1986: Mikhail Gorbachev introduces Perestroika - change in the political, economical system
- Sept 27, 1987: MDF (Hungarian Democratic Forum) is formed. First new party since 1956



TIMELINE OF THE CHANGE OF REGIME

- Jan 1, 1988: introduction of the world passport
- March 15: 15000 people protest on the national holiday, police use force, arrest opposition leaders
- March 17: the precursor of SZDSZ founded
- March 30: Fidesz founded
- June 29: 100.000 people protest against destruction of Romanian villages

1989-ANNUS MIRABILIS



TIMELINE OF THE CHANGE OF REGIME

- Feb 6, 1989: Roundtable talks start in Poland
- March 15: More than 100.000 people protest on the national holiday. Viktor Orbán makes a speech, speakers demand exit from the Warsaw treaty
- March 22: the Hungarian opposition round table is formed
- May 2: the start of the dismantling of the iron curtain on the border



TIMELINE OF THE CHANGE OF REGIME

- June 16: reburial of Imre Nagy, former prime minister, martyr of the 1956 revolution. Viktor Orbán makes famous speech
- August 19: Paneuropean picnic opened the borders to Austria for 3 days - East Germans could reunite with their families in the West





TIMELINE OF THE CHANGE OF REGIME

- Sept 10: Hungarian government opened the border to the West for the East German refugees stranded in Hungary, 12000 people leave
- Sept 18: Roundtable talks end
- Oct 23, 1989: The Third Hungarian republic is announced
- March 25, 1990: First free elections
- June, 1991: Soviet troops leave Hungary

REGIONAL CHANGES

- Disintegration of socialist federation, increasing number of independent states
- State building process in neighboring countries uncertain
- Slovakia, Ukraine, Croatia, Slovenia less influence, Hungary more
- V4 formed in 1990 (regional cooperation was not possible before)

GLOBAL POLITICAL INTEGRATION

- Country established relations with integration organizations in Western Europe
- Accession to EU and NATO priority
- Civil war in former Yugoslavia accelerated NATO accession
- Intergration changed the political situation and security policies, however the West didn't really have a political strategy to overcome historical traumas