

I. THE MILLENNIUM IN BRIEF

Century to century

9th-10th centuries

Rulers

-890	Álmos
890-908	Árpád
908-944	Solt
944-950	Fajsz
950-970	Taksony
970-997	Géza

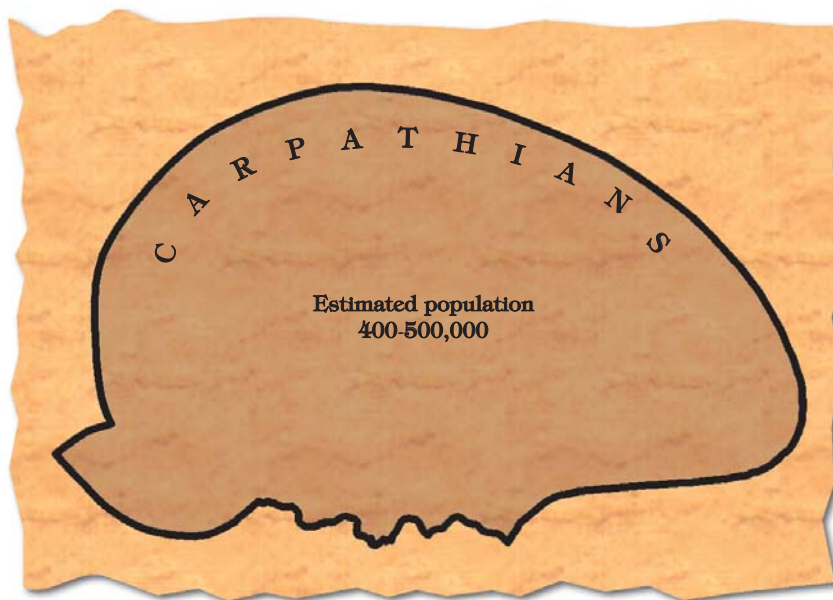
Events

862	The Magyars first appear in the Carpathian Basin.
895	Magyar forces cross the Verecke Pass and occupy the Great Plain. Those Magyars remaining in Etelköz move into Transylvania.
900	The conquest is complete with the occupation of Pannonia (Transdanubia).
900-970	Incursions abroad.
972	Géza invites Christian evangelists into the country.
996	Founding of the Benedictine Monastery in Pannonhalma.

In this period

- Cyril and Methodius, Slavic priests from Salonica, start evangelizing in the Moravian principality (864)
- The Benedictine Monastery is founded (910) in Cluny, France, and later becomes the centre of church renewal.
- The construction of St Mark's Cathedral in Venice is in progress (from the 800s to 1100).
- The German-Roman Empire is founded with the coronation of Otto I in Rome (962).

Hungary around 900



11th-12th centuries

Rulers

997-1038	(St) Stephen I
1038-1041	Peter (Orseolo)
1041-1044	Aba Samuel
1044-1046	Peter (Orseolo)
1046-1060	Andrew I
1060-1063	Béla I
1064-1074	Solomon
1074-1077	Géza I
1077-1095	(St) Ladislaus I
1095-1116	Colomon I. (Beauclerc)

Events

1000	Stephen is crowned king with a crown given by Pope Sylvester II
1030-1051	The Hungarians fight several battles with the German-Roman Emperors, with various outcomes.
1041-1074	Members of the royal family fight for the throne.
1068-1091	The Pecheneg incursions are repeatedly beaten back by the Hungarian armies.
1091	When the Croatian royal dynasty dies out, Ladislaus I's son Prince Álmos is made King of Croatia.
1102	Colomon I (Beauclerc) is crowned king of the

1116–1131 Stephen II
 1131–1141 Béla II. (the
 Blind)
 1141–1162 Géza II
 1162–1172 Stephen III
 1172–1196 Béla III

1140–1160 Croats. The Hungarian-Croatian personal union begins. Géza II settles the Saxons in Transylvania and the Szepesség.
 1181–1185 Béla III recaptures Dalmatia from Venice. He conquers territories from, then makes peace with, the Byzantine Empire.

In this period

- The Vikings conquer Greenland and reach the coast of America (1000).
- Canute, King of Denmark (1018-1035) unites the Danish, English and Norwegian kingdoms.
- Schism of the Roman and Greek churches (1054).
- The first universities are founded in Europe (1100 – medicine in Salerno, law in Bologna, divinity and philosophy in Paris).
- The Yoruba city states are founded in the south of Nigeria (1150).

13th century

Rulers

1196–1204 Emeric
 1204–1205 Ladislaus III
 1205–1235 Andrew II
 1235–1270 Béla IV
 1270–1272 Stephen V
 1272–1290 Ladislaus IV
 (Kuman)
 1290–1301 Andrew III

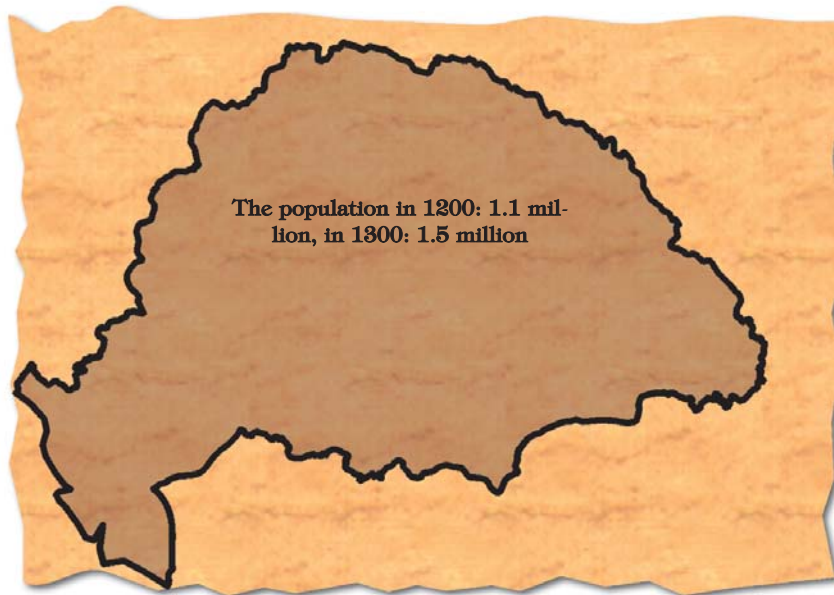
Events

1213 The aristocratic band led by Bánk bán kills Queen Gertrude.
 1222 The King issues the Golden Bull.
 1232–1236 Brother Julianus and his Dominican associates discover the Magyars remaining in the East (Magna Hungaria).
 1239 The Kumans led by Kötöny convert to Christianity and settle in the country (about 40,000)
 1241 The Tatars invade the country. Inflict a decisive defeat on the Hungarians at Muhi.
 1285 Simon Kézai produces the Gesta Hungarorum.
 1301 The male line of the House of Árpád dies out with Andrew III.

In this period

- Genghis Khan unites the Mongol tribes (1200–1210).
During the century, the Mongols conquer a large part of China, Central Asia and Burma.
- The English nobles force the signing of the Magna Carta (1215).
- The early Inca culture of the Cuzco Valley begins (1250).
- Marco Polo reaches China (1275).
- Spectacles are invented in Italy (1290).

Hungary (with Croatia) in the 13th century



14th century**Rulers**

1301–1305	Wenceslas Ladislaus
1305–1307	Ottó (the Bavarian)
1307–1342	Charles Robert
1342–1382	Louis I (the Great)
1382–1387	Mary (daughter of Louis I)

Events

1325	Charles Robert, of the Anjou family, orders the minting of the golden forint.
1335	The Kings of Hungary (Charles Robert), Bohemia (John of Luxembourg) and Poland (Kazimir III) forge an alliance in Visegrád.
1339	The Hungarian and Polish kings sign a treaty of succession in Visegrád.
1348–1349	The European plague spreads to Hungary.
1351	Louis the Great sets entailment into the law (the right of the nobility to retain their inheritance)
1367	University is founded in Pécs.
1370	Louis the Great is elected King of Poland by the Polish nobility, under the Visegrád treaty.

In this period

- Pope Clement V transfers his seat to Avignon (Avignon exile, 1309–1377).
- The revival of ancient culture starts in Italy with the work of Dante, Giotto and Petrarch.
- The Aztecs found the city of Tenochtitlan (1325).
- The Hundred Years War between the English and the French begins (1339–1453).
- The plague starting in Asia (1341) spreads to Europe, where it becomes the continent's most destructive ever (1347–1353).
- Timur Lenk comes to power in Central Asia (1370).

15th century**Rulers**

1387–1437	Sigismund of Luxembourg (from 1410 the Holy Roman Emperor, and from 1420 King of Bohemia, too)
1437–1439	Albert (Habsburg)
1440–1478	Wladislas I (Wladislas III of Poland)
1445–1458	Ladislaus V
1458–1490	Matthias I (Hunyadi)

Events

1401	King Sigismund is taken prisoner by a group of Hungarian nobles (Visegrád, Siklós).
1402	King Sigismund and Albert Habsburg make a treaty of succession. This brings Albert and his son Ladislaus V to the Hungarian throne.
1428	Hussite incursions start in Upper Hungary.
1437	A peasant rebellion starts in Transylvania under Budai Nagy Antal.
1446	János Hunyadi is elected regent over child King Ladislaus V.
1456	Battle of Belgrade. János Hunyadi dies of plague.
1457	Execution of László Hunyadi.
1468–1478	Bohemian-Hungarian war.
1473	First book press is set up in Buda.
1485	Matthias captures Vienna.
1488	Chronica Hungarorum printed in Brünn (Brno), the work of János Thúróczy.

In this period

- The Presbytery of Constance sits (1414–18), and burns John Huss (1415).
- The English burn Jeanne d'Arc (Rouen, 1431).
- Gutenberg invents book printing (Mainz, 1445).
- The Turks take Byzantium (1453).
- The Inca Empire is founded (1463).
- Christopher Columbus discovers America (1492).

16th century

Rulers

1490–1516	Wladislas II (Wladislas IV of Bohemia)
1516–1526	Louis II
1526–1540	John Szapolyai
1526–1564	Ferdinand I (the house of Habsburg comes to power)
1564–1576	Maximilian I
1576–1608	Rudolf I

Events

1514	Peasant rebellion breaks out under György Dózsa.
1526	In the battle of Mohács the Turks defeat the Hungarian armies. After the loss of the king, two kings are elected (John Szapolyai and Ferdinand).
1529	The Turks sack Buda.
1538	In the peace of Várad, the country is divided between the two kings.
1541	The Turks take Buda.
1570	Szapolyai's son and – after Izabella – heir, John Sigismund renounces the throne and becomes Prince of Transylvania.
1576	István Báthory, Prince of Transylvania, is elected King of Poland.
1581	Báthory founds a university in Kolozsvár with Jesuit professors.
1590	Gáspár Károli's Bible translation appears in Vizsoly.

In this period

- Cabral of Portugal discovers Brazil (1500), which is later colonized (1530).
- Luther publishes his theses (Wittenberg, 31 October 1517)
- Magellan's expedition circumnavigates the world (1519–1522)
- Peasant war in Germany (1524–1525)
- Copernicus' heliocentric work "On the revolutions of celestial orbs" is published (1543).
- Pope Gregory XIII modernizes the calendar (1582).

The three-way divided country, 1568

17th century**Rulers**

1608–1619	Matthias II
1619–1637	Ferdinand II
1637–1657	Ferdinand III
1657–1705	Leopold I

Events

1608	The Parliament of Bratislava enshrines free choice of religion in law.
1616–1626	Gábor Bethlen, Prince of Transylvania, joins the Thirty Years' War. He finally withdraws after the Peace of Linz (1645).
1635	Péter Pázmány, Archbishop of Esztergom, founds the University of Nagyszombat, led by Jesuits.
1666	Led by Palatine Ferenc Wesselényi, an anti-Habsburg plot commences. The plotters are executed in 1671.

- 1672 The Kuruts movement starts, led from 1678 to 1685 by Imre Thököly.
- 1686 The allied anti-Turkish forces retake Buda, Szeged and Pécs.
- 1690 Several tens of thousands of Serbs settle in Hungary after fleeing Turkish rule.
- 1699 The expulsion of the Turks ends with the Treaty of Karlóca.

In this period

- Giordano Bruno is burned in Rome (1600).
- Dutch mariners begin the exploration of Australia (1606).
- The English settle 100,000 Scottish protestants in Northern Ireland (1609).
- The Romanov dynasty (1613–1917) comes to power in Russia, the Manchu Ching dynasty in China (1644–1911) and the Alavita dynasty in Morocco (1666 to the present),
- The Dutch found New Amsterdam, later New York (1626).
- The English Civil War ends with the victory of Parliament, the execution of the King (Charles I) and the proclamation of the republic (1642–1649). This is followed by the restoration of the absolute monarchy (1660) and the foundation of the constitutional monarchy (William III, 1688).

18th century

Rulers

1705–1711 Joseph I
 1711–1740 Charles III
 1740–1780 Maria Theresa
 co-rulers:
 1741–1765: her husband, Francis of Lotharingia from
 1765: her son, Joseph II

Events

1703 The Rákóczi War of Independence begins.
 1707 The Ónod Parliament announces the overthrow of the Habsburgs.
 1708–1713 Great plague lays waste.
 1708 The Kuruts suffer a decisive defeat in the battle of Trencsén.
 1711 The Treaty of Szatmár concludes the War of Independence.
 1738–1742 The last great plague epidemic in Hungary.

1780–1790 Joseph II
1790–1792 Leopold II

1777 The University of Nagyszombat is transferred to Buda (and 6 years later to Pest).
1780 The Magyar Hírmondó, the first Hungarian-language newspaper, is published in Bratislava.
1784–1787 The first Hungarian census is held.
1787 The national land survey begins.
1790 The first Hungarian theatre company is formed in Buda.
1795 Ignác Martinovics and another 4 leaders of the Hungarian Jacobins are executed at Vérmező

In this period

- The kingdoms of England and Scotland are united under the name Great Britain (1707).
- China invades Tibet (1720).
- The Great Northern War ends with the Treaty of Nystadt, and Sweden's hegemony in the Baltic region is replaced by Russia's (1721)
- The first volume of the French Encyclopaedia is published (1751).
- James Cook circumnavigates Australia (1770).
- The 13 North American British colonies begin their war of independence against the mother country (1775).
- The North American colonies issue the Declaration of Independence (1776).
- The storming of the Bastille marks the start of the French Revolution (1789).
- Napoleon establishes a military dictatorship (1799).

19th century

Rulers

1792–1835 Francis I
1835–1848 Ferdinand V
1848–1916 Francis Joseph I

Events

1808 Foundation of the National Museum (opened in 1848).
1809 Napoleon defeats the Hungarian noble rebels in the battle of Győr.
1825: Parliament meets – the Reform Era begins.
The Hungarian Academy of Sciences is founded.
1830–1831 Cholera epidemic.
1837 The National Theatre opens in Pest.

1849	The overthrow of the house of Habsburg is declared (Debrecen, 14 April). The War of Independence ends with the Világos capitulation (13 August). Prime Minister Lajos Batthyány is executed in Pest, and 13 Hungarian generals in Arad (6 October).
1867	Parliament passes the act ratifying the Compromise.
1868	The Hungarian-Croatian treaty makes way for the Dual Monarchy
1871	The National Hungarian Royal Statistical Office is founded. (From 1867, the service had operated as the Statistical Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Trade.)
1872–1874	The last serious cholera epidemic in the country.
1873	Budapest is created by the unification of Buda, Óbuda and Pest.
1876	The metric system is introduced into Hungary.
1884	The State Opera House is opened.
1885	The International Institute of Statistics (IIS, later ISI) is founded one, of whose founding members is Károly Keleti, the Chairman of the Office, and another 7 Hungarian statisticians are admitted among the 100 members.
1892	The Monarchy adopts the Gold Standard.

In this period

- Napoleon is crowned emperor in France (1804).
- Liberation movements start in Latin America (1810).
- Napoleon’s power is broken in the 1812 Russian campaign, by the “people’s battle” (Leipzig, 1813) and the defeat at Waterloo (1815).
- The Suez Canal is built (1859–1869).
- Civil war fought between North and South in North America (1861–1865).

- The First International is formed (London, 1864).
- Telegraph link established between Europe and America by undersea cable (1866).
- Bell produces the first telephone (1876).
- Daimler and Benz build the first petrol-driven car (1886).
- Hertz discovers radio waves (1886).
- Pope Leo XIII proclaims the Rerum Novarum (1891).
- Röntgen discovers X-rays (1895).

The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy at the end of the 19th century



First half of the 20th century

Rulers and heads of state

1916–1918	Charles IV
1918–1919	Mihály Károlyi, President of the Republic
1920–1944	Miklós Horthy Regent
1946–1948	Zoltán Tildy, President of the Republic
1948–1949	Árpád Szakasits, President of the Republic

Events

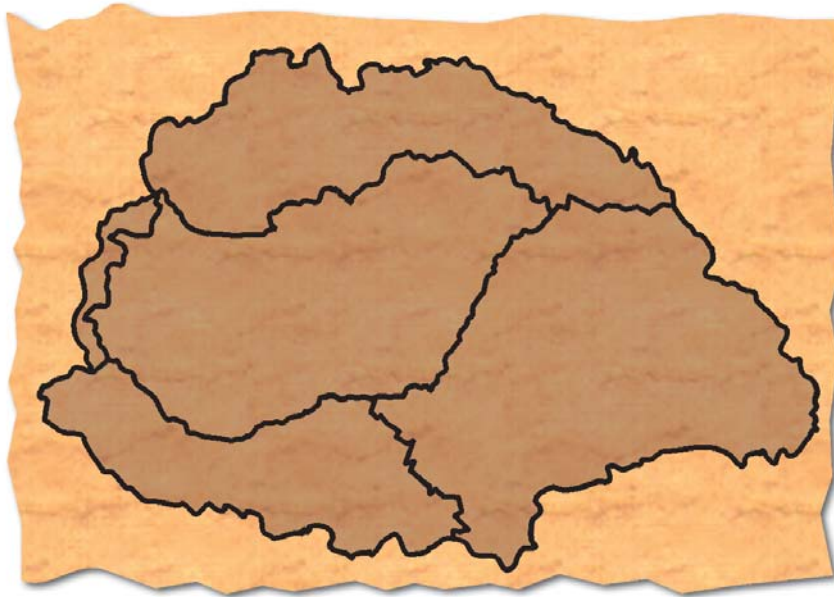
1914–1918	Hungary, as part of the Monarchy, takes part in the First World War as an ally of Germany
1918	The “Aster Revolution” breaks out with the proclamation of the Republic, and the country withdraws from the Monarchy. Croatia and Slovakia break off from Hungary, and the Romanians of Transylvania proclaim union with Romania.
1919	The Republic of Councils is proclaimed, and after its fall, Romanian units enter Budapest. The national army under Miklós Horthy – after the Romanians leave – enter the city.
1920	Miklós Horthy is elected Regent. The Trianon Peace Treaty is signed.
1938–1941	The southern part of Slovakia (1938), Ruthenia (1939), Northern Transylvania (1940) and the southern lands (1941) are annexed to Hungary.
1941–1945	Hungary participates in the Second World War on the side of the Axis countries (Germany, Italy, Japan)
1945–1946	The great estates are divided.
1947	The Paris Peace Treaty restores the Trianon borders.
1946–1949	The banks, mines, industry, transport and trade are nationalised.
1949	The front people’s (non-party) parliamentary elections are held

In this period

- The first Nobel Prizes are awarded in Stockholm and Oslo (1901).
- The Wright brothers make the first flight (1903).
- Peary reaches the North Pole (1909) and Amundsen the South Pole (1911).
- The Panama Canal is opened (1914).
- 16 countries join in the First World War. Their combined population is 580 million, 35% of the world’s. During the fighting, 8.5 million people lose their(1914–1918).

- The Socialist Revolution is victorious in Russia, and Soviet power is established (1917).
- Japan attacks China (1937), and the war ends with Japan's Second World War defeat in 1945.
- 25 countries join in the Second World War, with over one-half of the world's population. The number of fatal casualties exceeds 36 million, of which nearly one-half were civilians (1939-45).
- The atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945).
- Representatives of 50 countries pass the Constitution of the UNO (1945).
- The people's democratic (socialist) system is established in most Central and Eastern European countries (1945-49).
- India wins its independence (1947).
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is formed (1949).
- The civil war ends in China with victory for the Communist Party. The Kuomintang is confined to Taiwan (1949).
- The Soviet Union also becomes an atomic power (1949).

The dismemberment of Hungary under the Trianon Peace Treaty



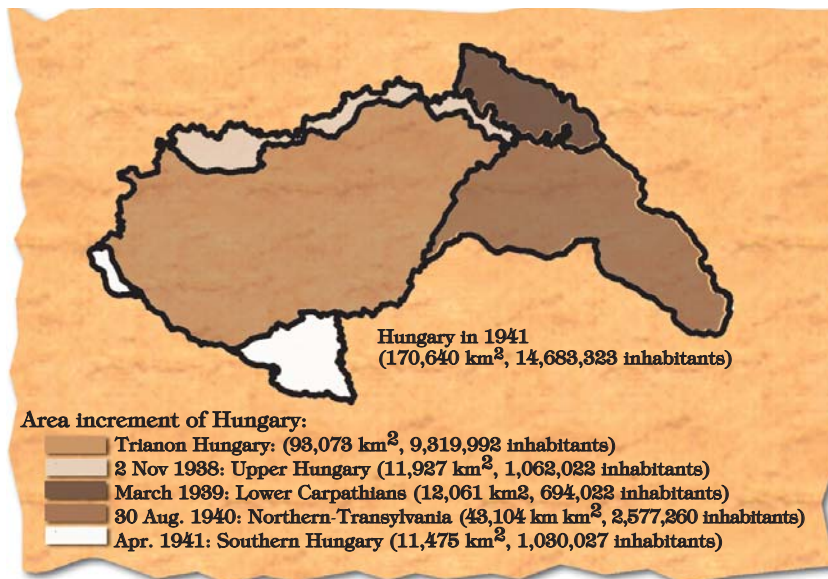
Population by mother tongue in 1910

(thousands)

Mother tongue	On the territory of the country in 1910 ^a	Of which: (later)	
		area of the country after the Trianon Treaty	areas outside the Trianon boundaries
Magyar	9 944.6	6 730.3	3 214.3
German	1 903.3	553.2	1 350.2
Slovakian	1 946.4	165.3	1 781.0
Romanian	2 948.2	28.5	2 919.7
Ruthenian	464.3	4.3 ^b	460.0 ^b
Croat	194.8	62.0	132.8
Serbian	461.5	26.2	435.3
Romany	108.8	9.8	99.0
Other	292.6	32.5	260.1
Total	18 264.5	7 612.1	10 652.4

a Without Croatia-Slavonia, and with the city and region of Fiume.
 b Estimate.

Hungary in 1941



Second half of the 20th century**Heads of state**

1949–1989	The Presidium of the People's Republic of Hungary
1989–1990	Mátyás Szűrös, Speaker of Parliament, becomes temporary President of the Republic
1990–2000	Árpád Göncz
2000–	Ferenc Mádl, Presidents of the Republik

Events

1956	Revolution and War of Independence, put down by Soviet forces.
1957	Regular television broadcasts begin.
1959–1960	In agriculture, production cooperatives become the dominant form of farming.
1963	Electrification of the country is completed.
1968	Fundamental economic reforms begin (“new economic mechanism”).
1989	The Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party makes statement in favour of the multi-party system. The changeover is agreed between representations of the regime and the opposition in “round table discussions”.
1990	Parliamentary elections are held with the participation of several political parties. Of the 65 court-registered parties, 28 manage to put up candidates, and 12 a national list. 6 parties cross the 4% Parliamentary threshold. A coalition government is formed incorporating the Hungarian Democratic Forum, the Independent Smallholders' Party and the Christian Democratic Party.
1990–2000	In parallel with the restoration of parliamentary democracy, the market economy is put in place, a large proportion of the production cooperatives close and a large section of the economy is privatized. Foreign capital flows into the country.
1996	Hungary is admitted into the OECD.
1997	Hungary on the basis of the association agreement (1991) with the European Union registers its intent to accede.
1998	The country becomes a member of NATO.

In this period

- Six Western European countries – Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, the German Federal Republic and Italy – form the European Coal and Steel Community (Paris 1951), later European Economic Communities, (Common Market, Rome, 1957).
- The first artificial satellites are launched, the Soviet Sputnik 1 (1957) and the American Explorer 1 (1958).
- Space flight begins with Gagarin's mission on orbit of the Earth (1961).
- The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is formed (1960).
- The President of the United States, J. F. Kennedy, is assassinated (1963).
- The European Security and Cooperation Committee is formed (Helsinki, 1973–1975).
- The United States of America sides with South Vietnam in the Vietnam War (1964) which ends with victory for the North (1975).
- The African colonies win their independence.
- American astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin are the first to land on the Moon (1969).
- The socialist countries undergo democratic transformation and introduce multi-party systems (1989-1990).
- GDR joins Federal Republic of Germany (1990).
- The member republics of the Soviet Union declare or force their independence and split from the Union (1990-91).
- The majority of Yugoslavia's member republics split off from the state federation (1990).
- Czechoslovakia splits into the Czech and Slovak Republics (1993).

Geographical situation and environment

By virtue of its situation, Hungary's climate is continental. There are 1900–2200 hours of sunshine annually. The annual mean temperature in Budapest in 2000 was 13.9°C. Of the 20 meteorological observatories in the country in 2000, Békéscsaba recorded the highest temperature, 41.7°C, and in Szécsény the lowest, –22.8°C. The several-year averages of Budapest measurements show a rise of annual average temperature over the last century. In the last decade of the 19th century, an average of 10.6 °C was measured in the city as opposed to 11.8 °C a century later.

Precipitation averaged over the last five years, – using figures for Debrecen, Budapest and Szombathely – was 590 mm. However, the 820 mm that fell in 1999 was followed by hardly more than half that amount, 460 mm, the next year.

Most of the country's territory is plain. 84% of the total area is less than 200 metres above sea level, and only 2% is over 400 metres. A large proportion of the area (62-63%) is suitable for agricultural cultivation, but mineral extraction potential is modest. The area covered by forest - the result of growth in the second half of the last century - approaches one-fifth of the total area. Most (86%) of the forest is broad-leaved. The largest, almost equal, areas are taken up by oak and acacia, together accounting for half of the broad-leaved forest area. More than two-fifths of the forests may be regarded as healthy, and a similar fraction, on the basis of leaf loss, as slightly damaged. 14% of forests are moderately damaged, more than 2% severely, and 2% are dead.

The country has annual renewable water stocks of 120 billion m³ on the multi-year average. 95% of this comes from rivers entering the country, and is supplemented by 6 billion m³ excess rainfall (rain that falls and does not re-evaporate). The water that enters the country originates from the catchment areas of the rivers

Danube (57%), Tisza (29%) and, Dráva (14%).

Measurements and studies show that most surface water is class II or III, which means good and tolerable quality. The population is satisfactorily supplied with healthy drinking water. Some 30 settlements are supplied with water by tanker or packaged/bottled water. (This number was 640 in 1985 and 475 in 1990).

Emission of air pollutants

Pollutant	1990	1998
Quantity, thousand tonnes		
Sulphur dioxide	1 010	592
Nitrogen oxides	238	203
Solid material	205	127
Carbon monoxide	997	737
Carbon dioxide	76 042	62 354
Quantity, tonnes		
Zinc	98	39
Nickel	67	46
Lead	634	82

At the end of the century, 44% of sewage requiring treatment was treated adequately, 26% partly and the remaining 30%, some 250 million m³, not at all.

The emission of air pollutants fell considerably at the end of the century.

The per capita emission of atmospheric pollutants is still very high: 6 tonnes a year of carbon dioxide, 59 kg of sulphur dioxide, 74 kg of carbon monoxide, etc. These figures are lower than those for Western Europe and North America (USA), however.

A disproportionate amount, 15%, of all atmospheric pollutants is emitted in the capital. In addition, the atmosphere of North Hungary and Central Transdanubia is considerably more polluted than average.