

# Historical booklet about Slovakia



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# Important events up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century Great Moravia



In 846 King Louis the German attacked the Moravian Slavs who sought autonomy and Rastislav was made a ruler. He wanted to be independent from Frankish domination. In the year 862 he sent envoys to the Byzantine King Michael III. He asked him for teachers of the Slavic Language. The Emperor sent him Constantine and

Method (also known as Thessaloniki brothers). Method was interested in the Slavic language and Cyril studied philosophy, literature and Christian doctrine. He spoke Greek and Slavic, too.

In 863 the brothers came to Great Moravia. They got on well with simple people. They created the first alphabet in the history of the Slavs, glagolica, (38 small letters from the Greek alphabet). The brothers also made up the Slavic literary language - Slavonic.



# Kingdom of Hungary



Slovakia – or better to say the area that today is Slovakia - became part of the Kingdom of Hungary after the disintegration of Great Moravia. Hungary was recognized as a Catholic Apostolic Kingdom under the rule of Saint Stephen I.

Most of the castles in present-day Slovakia were owned by two oligarchs: Amade Aba and Matthew Csák in the 13th century.

Academia Istropolitana, the first university in the territory of Slovakia was founded in 1465.

The Kingdom of Hungary was under Ottoman`s power from 1521 until 1699. The treaty of Karlowitz ended the Turkish power. Bratislava became the capital and the coronation city of Hungary after this period.



# Codification of the Slovak literary language

Slovak, as a written language, did not exist until the end of the 18th century. Anton Bernolák, a Catholic priest, created the Slovak literary language. He based his language on Western Slovakian dialect. Bernolák published his new language in his *Grammatica Slavica* in 1790.

This language did not become today's language, because the Protestants would still keep writing in Czech language.



Few decades later it was Ľudovít Štúr who created modern Slovak literary language which is used from 1843 until today. The language is based on the Central Slovakian dialect. „*Náuka reči slovenskej*“ the first grammar of the new language, was published by Ľudovít Štúr in 1846.



# Important events from the 20<sup>th</sup> century Czechoslovakia

The first Czechoslovak Republic was formed on 28 October 1918 when Czechoslovakia became independent from the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk was the first president of Czechoslovakia. The country split in 1939 for the first time when Slovakia became independent with Hitler's help but it meant that the state became a „puppet state“. In 1945 Czechoslovakia was re-established with communist help. The Communist Party ruled in the country until 1989 when the country became democratic again through the Velvet Revolution.

1st September 1992 the Constitution of Slovak Republic was published and 1st January 1993 Czechoslovakia peacefully split into two countries (the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic).



# The World Wars



On 14 March 1939 the Slovaks created the independent Slovak State where the government allowed deportation of the Slovak Jews to Poland. The Slovak National Uprising was launched on 2 August 1944 from Banská Bystrica (a town in central Slovakia).

After the World War II, in 1948 Czechoslovakia was formed. It was a communist country with a centrally planned economy. People in Prague rose up against the communist rule in 1968 but the Soviet army struck down the uprising. This was the **Prague Spring**. In 1969 Czechoslovakia was turned into a federation of the Czech and Slovak Socialist Republic. In 1975 Gustáv Husák became the president of Czechoslovakia. In 1989 the Velvet Revolution turned Czechoslovakia into a democratic state. In January 1 1993 Czechoslovakia was divided into Czech and Slovak Republic.



# The European Union

The European Union is an economic organization of 27 member states. Its aims are peace, prosperity and freedom for its 498 million citizens — in a fairer and safer world.

The main bodies of the EU are: the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

Slovakia joined the European Union in May 2004. Slovakia introduced the euro in 2009 replacing the Slovak crown or „koruna“. Slovakia is the 16th state where euro is used as currency.





# Important characters from the history Ľudovít Štúr



October 29, 1815 - Uhrovec  
January 12, 1856 - Modra

Ľudovít Štúr was the leader of the Slovak national revival in the 19th century and the author of the Slovak language standard which gave rise to the contemporary Slovak literary language. On 2 February, 1843 in Bratislava, Štúr and his friends decided to codify the Slovak language standard which is still used today.

In the end of August 1844 Štúr took part in the creation of the Slovak cultural society called Tatrin.

In 1848 a Slovak National Council was formed by Štúr, Hurban and Hodža in Vienna. It organised an expedition of volunteers in Brezova and Myjava. However, the uprising failed. Power in Slovakia was in the hands of the aristocracy. Freedom of the press was over. Towards the end of his life Štúr lived in Modra (a small town close to Bratislava). The police investigated him, and he could not leave Modra without police authorisation. On 12 January, 1856, Ľudovít Štúr died in Modra.



# PéterPázmány



October 4, 1570 - Nagyvárad  
March 19, 1637 - Bratislava

Péter Pázmány was an archbishop of Esztergom (from 1616), a cardinal (from 1629), a leader of Counter-Reformation in Royal Hungary, a philosopher, a theologian, a pulpit orator, a statesman and a writer.

He worked to convert Protestants back to Catholicism in Hungary.

In 1613 Pázmány produced the greatest of his controversial writings – the most important is his Guide to Divine Truthin.

In 1619 he founded a seminary for theological candidates in Trnava (a town 50 km from Bratislava) in 1623 he laid the foundations of a similar institution in Vienna, the famous Pazmaneum. Pázmány also built Jesuit colleges and schools.



# Anton Bernolák



October 3, 1762 - Slanica

January 15, 1813 - Nové Zámky

Anton Bernolák was a Slovak linguist, a Catholic priest and the author of the first theology at the general seminary in Bratislava. He codified the first Slovak language standard which was based on western Slovak dialects spoken around Trnava with some elements from the central dialects. The language, called *berňolákovčina*, however, was not accepted as a national standard language although it was a milestone on the way to the formation of modern Slovak nation. From 1787 to 1791 he was a curate in Čeklís - Bernolákovo (close to Bratislava). In 1790 his capital work *Gramatica Slavica* (Slovak Grammar) was published. From 1791 he became a secretary in

the archbishopric vicar's office in Trnava and from 1797 until his death in 1813 he was a priest and the leader of the local school in Nové Zámky. During his whole life Bernolák collected materials for a dictionary: A Slovak, Czech – Latin – German – Hungarian Dictionary.



Statue of Anton Bernolák in  
Nové Zámky

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