



Historical booklet about Slovakia



Content

Three important historical events up to the 20th century:

- ▶ The Great Moravian Empire
- ▶ The development of the Slovak language
- ▶ Slovak – Hungarian relations

Three important historical events from the 20th century

- ▶ Czechoslovakia
- ▶ The World Wars
- ▶ The European Union

Three important characters from the history:

- ▶ Ľudovít Štúr
- ▶ Juraj Jánošík
- ▶ Farkas Kempelen



THE GREAT MORAVIAN EMPIRE



The Great Moravian Empire was founded in 833 by Mojmir I. He contracted two principalities. His territory included the area of today's Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Czech



Republic. His residents were ancestors of Bohemians, Slovaks and Polish.

Rastislav followed Mojmir on the throne. Rastislav was famous for inviting missionaries into the empire.

The empire was the biggest when Svatopluk ruled. He denied obedience to the Franc Empire. At this time there were many fights between the Franc and Moravian armies. Later peace was bounded but their relationship was never the same as before.



The end of Big Moravian Empire was caused by the Hungarian tribes, when they harvested a smashing victory next to Bratislava. This glorious victory could happen partially because of the sibling

war between Svatopluk's children.



SLOVAK - HUNGARIAN RELATIONS



Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918 and Slovakia became independent only in 1993. The territory of Slovakia makes up to 49 thousand square miles which was taken from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The southern part of this area is the so-called Felvidék – Upper Land. 500 thousand Hungarian people live here who were left out when borders were drawn in 1918. So the Hungarian minority in Slovakia is a historical minority.



Bratislava the capital of Slovakia was an important strategic center in times of the Hungarian kingdom. King Matias founded the first university in Bratislava (Hungary at that time) in 1467. Under the Turkish power Bratislava was the capital of Hungary. The coronation jewellerys were kept here.

An other famous city is Kremnica. Karl Robert founded the first mint in the country. The city reached its golden age in the 14th-15th century. At those times more than 14 thousand golden coins were made in the **Kremnica** mint.



A lot of famous Hungarian people were born in Slovakia, like Lajos Batthyányi prime minister, Tivadar Csontváry – Kosztka painter, Imre Madách writer, and Sándor Márai poet.



CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Czechoslovakia was a sovereign state in Central Europe which existed from October 1918 until December 1992. On 1 January 1993 Czechoslovakia peacefully split into the **Czech Republic** and **Slovakia**.

Founders of the first country were **Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, Edvard Beneš and Milan Rastislav Štefánik**.



Jozef Tiso, a Catholic priest, proclaimed the independent Slovak Republic in 1939. The country existed for 6 years only as Hitler's puppet state.

Czechoslovakia was formed in 1945 again.

Edvard Beneš published a decree (still disputed) which punished the Germans and the Hungarians for the war and took away their Czechoslovakian nationality from them.

The Communists got to power in 1947. Inhabitants of Prague demonstrated against the communist rule in 1968 (named Prague spring) but the Soviet army quelled the revolt. The head of the state became a man who was loyal to the Soviet union.

In 1989 the country became democratic again through the **Velvet Revolution**. Václav Havel became president of the country.

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HISTORY OF SLOVAK REPUBLIC

(World War II and Communism)

In September 1939 World War II broke out in Europe. From 1941 ghettos were established. The first deporting carriages left Poprad (town in northern Slovakia) train station on 25 March. They went to Auschwitz. More than 12 000 people were deported.



1944 August - the Slovak national uprising broke out against German teams in Banska Bystrica. The Germans surrendered on 1 May. The country was overtaken by Soviet management.

- The Slovak National Advice published the Beneš decrees (the Czechoslovakian Germans resettled from the country and they were humiliated).
- The **Prague spring** was a Czechoslovakian attempt to democratise the state. It lasted from January until August 1968.
- On 29 November 1989 with the **Velvet revolution** the power of the Communist party in Czechoslovakia was peacefully turned down.
- Slovakia as an independent and democratic country was formed on 1 January 1993.



SLOVAKIA IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

1 May 2004 Slovakia joined the European Union with 10 other countries. It was celebrated in the whole country.



This union for Slovakia has been a huge opportunity for industrial, agricultural, legal and democratic development.

The next important date is **21 December 2007**. Since that day Slovakia has been a full member of the Schengen agreement. Joining the Schengen zone allowed car arrays to disappear at state borders.



But the most important date for Slovakia is **1 January 2009**. Since this date Slovakia has been member of the Euro zone. Slovakia was the second country from those joining the European Union in 2004 to introduce Euro. It shows financial and economical development and stability of the country.



ĽUDOVÍT ŠTÚR

(29 October 1815 – 12 January 1856)

- ▶ A Slovak national movement's leader
- ▶ Creator of the Slovak national language
- ▶ A politician, poet, author, journalist, a teacher, a philosopher and a linguist

Biography

Ludovít Velislav Štúr was the leader of the **Slovak national revival** in the 19th century. Was the **author of the Slovak language standard** which eventually led to the contemporary Slovak literary language. Štúr was an **organizer of the Slovak volunteer campaigns** during the 1848 evolution in the Kingdom of Hungary and a member of the Diet of the Kingdom of Hungary as well as a politician. He organized the Slovak National Rebellion against the Hungarian rule but that did not succeed. After the revolution he moved back to his parents and he engaged himself with literature. On December 22, 1855 Štúr accidentally shot and wounded himself during a hunt near Modra (a town close to Bratislava). Ľudovít Štúr died in Modra. A national funeral was held there in his honour.



Štúrovo (one Town in Slovakia) got its name in respect to Ľudovít Štúr's memory.

His portrait was visible on 500 crowns banknote.



JURAJ JÁNOŠÍK (JURO)

(1688 – 1713)

- ▶ He was a famous Slovak rogue
- ▶ He turned into legend among the Slovaks
- ▶ His life was adapted for several films and literary writings
- ▶ According to legends he plundered rich people and the takings shared out between the poor

Biography

He was born in **Terchova** in 1688. He grew up on mountain farms. He was 18 when he joined Rákóczi Ferencz's Kuruc army. He was in service as a guard in the castle of Bytča. There he acquainted with a prisoner, a rascal captain. Jánošík helped him escape from prison. They created a forest robber group. They did not kill any of the robbed victims and even helped an accidentally injured priest. They are also said to share their loot with the poor and this part of the legend may be based on the facts too. Jánošík was imprisoned and tried in Liptovský Svätý Mikuláš. He was sentenced to death.



Jánošíkovo (one Slovakian village) got its name in respect to Jánošík's memory.

His portrait was visible on 500 crowns banknote what was used in year 1944.



KEMPELEN FARKAS

(1734 –1804)

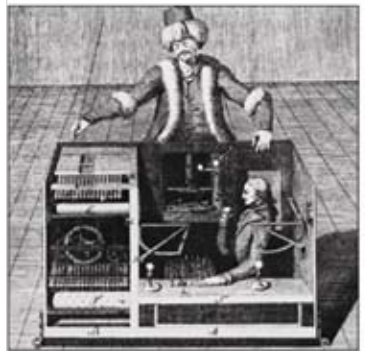
- He was a Hungarian author, a goldsmith, an architect and an inventor with Irish ancestors
- He made steam-machines
- He made water pumps
- He settled people to Bacska



Biography

Kempelen was born in Bratislava (Slovakia). He studied law and philosophy in his birthplace and then in Győr, in Vienna and later in Rome. He was also interested in mathematics and physics.

He started to work as a clerk in Vienna. Later he moved to Bacska. He resettled the unpeopled area, founded silk factories, and organized a village community.



He built a theatre in Budapest but he was most famous for his construction of „The Turk“ (chess-playing automaton). He also created a speaking machine which worked for steam. This machine was a genuine pioneering step in experimental phonetics. He prepared a typewriter for a blind pianist.

Kempelen died in Vienna. The Wolfgang von Kempelen Computing Science History Prize was named in his honor.



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Authors: Tomáš Danczi, Balázs Sári
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