

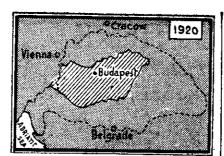
Hungary before 1914: 125,600 square miles; 20,886,487 population.

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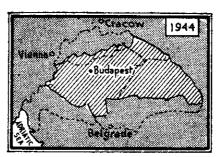
Back home around the Caspian the Jewish Empire of the Khazars was flourishing. Five hundred years it lasted, while Rome fell and Europe passed into a confusion of migrating conquerors. Under Khazar rule, certain families of Turanian Megyeri (Magyars) and Onogurs (Hungarians) grew slowly into a nation. Ancestors of theirs—their skinclad Shamans chanted—had camped with Attila's men on a great empty plain among the peopled forests of the West, and to them in departing the demi-god had willed that territory for ever. Therefore, on being pressed for grazing space by their neighbours, the Petchenegs, the tribe set out in search of its home.

Into the Promised Land

Passing by Kiev (where their statement that they were on a religious pilgrimage and would interfere with no man by the way was recorded), they swam the Dnieper on bladders and camped for some generations in Bessarabia. From here the Emperor of the East summoned their great chief Arpad to drive off the newly-arrived Turkish Bulgars who were investing Byzantium itself. But when Arpad's horde returned to Bessarabia it was to find that their hereditary enemies, the Petchenegs, had followed them and were installed in their place. Obviously destiny was driving the Magyars on Adventurous groups of them had already spied out the mid-Danubian plain, and had taken service under the German (Holy Roman) Emperor at its farther edge. Now the whole encampment swore a great "Blood Comsettling in advance the distribution and government of the territory, and sacrificed the aged father of Arpad that his ghost might guide them through the intervening forests and mountains. Thus did the Chosen People enter upon their Promised Land.



Hungary after Trianon: 35,900 square miles; 7,614,000 population.



Hungary to-day: 66,350 square miles; 14,562,000 population.

In later centuries Hungary was baptised into Christendom and its horsemen learned, through Benedictine settlements from Cassino, the arts of agriculture and peace. It became the bulwark of Europe, ravaged in turn by Tartars and Turks, with the successors of St. Stephen often cut off as on an island in the Seven Castles of Transylvania. But the Magyar claim to the whole sweep within the mountains has never relaxed. However conquerors may dispose of it, whatever foreign colonists may occupy its wardevastated areas, it is the Land Sworn Unto Their Fathers, and must, they say, remain so for ever.

Is this legend or is it fact? I believe it is considered by historians to be perhaps 90 per cent fact. But proving it 90 per cent pure fiction would not help us to settle Central Europe. A people bound together by a myth can neither be liquidated nor neutralised. Only a larger myth can incorporate them into a wider community. Perhaps the Century of the Comman Man may do this for many of to-day's irreconcilable nationalisms... Unfortunately no Magyar believes he is a common man. Look at his dress.

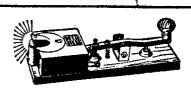


In a Hungarian school, girls saw, read, and pray for restoration of the old frontiers.



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