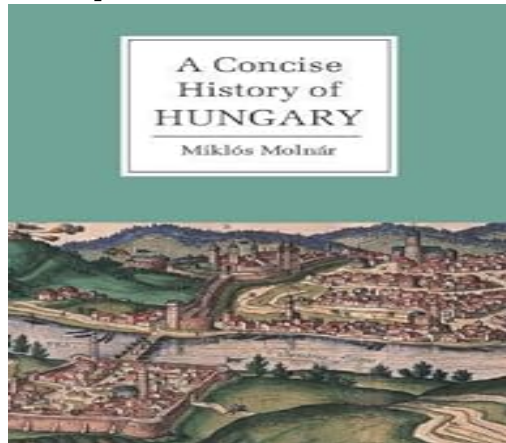


## A Concise History of Hungary By Miklós Molnár

While providing an overall picture of the history of Hungary it can be a bit hard to follow at times with how frequently it name-drops treaties dates and names that appear out of the ether and disappear just as quickly. For those interested in Hungarian history this is a nice primer - but I would encourage you to read something in tandem with it in order to grasp its history with more clarity. Paperback In A Concise History of Hungary Miklós Molnár provides what the book's title promises: a setting forth of Hungary's complex and often tragic history within the relatively manageable scope of 356 pages not counting the index. For this work an entry in Cambridge University Press's Cambridge Concise Histories series Molnár goes as far back as historical evidence will allow and takes the reader as far forward as Hungary's 1998 elections. the Arpad dynasty the Mongol invasion the Ottoman conquest the Hapsburg ascendancy the Austro-Hungarian Empire the First World War and the subsequent sundering of two thirds of Hungary's territory in the 1920 Treaty of Trianon. If the chapters on World War II and the subsequent Soviet domination seem written with special intensity more lived and deeply felt than the rest of the book there may be a reason for that: Molnár survived imprisonment by the Nazis during the war and fled Hungary following the country's gallant but unsuccessful 1956 revolution against Soviet rule. In dealing with post-Cold War Hungary Molnár sets forth clearly his sense that the country still has problems from a volatile political system to lingering anti-Semitism but offers a cautiously optimistic assessment of Hungary's prospects for the future. Reading both books together helped me better understand Hungarian history: this book provided a clearer and better organized overview of Hungarian history while Lendvai's book added depth and color to the events and personalities involved. Paperback Pas toujours bien structuré et manquant parfois de nous montrer l'essentiel ce livre est difficile à suivre pour ceux qui n'ont pas une base très solide sur la Hongrie. Just don't be so lazy and check for the king's proper English name! I know it was probably translated before Wikipedia but that's your job ffs! Paperback



Hungarian Historian publicist. A Concise History of Hungary Complex but worthwhile Most of the narrative deals with Hungary prior to the 19th Century but establishes a solid foundation for the political and economic tendencies that continue to the present day. Seriously I understand how terrible it must've been to live through some of the 20th century scene but Miklos suckah ease up on the diatribe and lay some muthafuckin' history on me bee-yotch. Paperback Like its Polish counterpart this is an excellent volume for those wanting to know a bit more about a country's history that what can be found between the pages of a travel guide. Then again I know very little about the country and the author says that the Order of the Dragon came to the Great Plain riding a host of chromatic dragons who am I to say it did not happen? On a more serious matter it has the same "format" as the Polish book: it deals mostly with the last 1000 years. Unlike Poland nevertheless Pannonia was part of the Roman Empire and thus I suppose there is a bit more contemporary written information on this country than on its northeastern neighbor. This tiny detail foreshadows that the volume should be more aptly called "A History of the Hungarian/Magyar people" as it seems the history of the country really started when the Magyars arrived. Without

really knowing much about the subject I think Molár tries his best at portraying a multi-ethnic country paying attention to—and being sympathetic towards—minorities while not sounding too paternalistic. Someone who suffered exiled cannot be expected to be moderate or neutral towards a government but I think he does his best at showing the lights and shades of the whole period. Sentence structures can be convoluted and awkward and as a result the flow of history is sometimes enigmatic and a lot of the time you have to re-read re-construct parts in order to make sense of events. The back cover gives a rather good summary of what's in the book itself: This book offers a comprehensive thousand-year history of the land people society culture and economy of Hungary from its nebulous origins in the Ural Mountains to the 1988 elections. Also helpful are the occasional translation and/or explanation of Hungarian names and expressions and I truly appreciated the writer's skepticism towards the presented historical facts surrounding the communist era. He touches it only lightly - although their presence features in the entire book - as it's fairly recent history but clearly states the problem its difficulties and the recent (failed) government policies on dealing with it: In the process Molnár gives due weight to all the major topics that a student of Hungarian history would expect to learn about: e, Paperback I read this book together with Lendvai's *The Hungarians*, A good overview of Hungarian history from the beginning through the late 1990s, Il parvient cependant à montrer la grandeur de ce pays avec lequel la France a eu trop de rendez vous manqués: The author could think of a more fluent narrative and avoid jumping back and forth and saying but more on that later on every other page, The interpreter who was presumably translating from French could have done a better job: For example instead of Coloman the Learned the interpreter decided to name the king Coloman le Bibliophile, Molnár was influential in the field of central European identity international relations, This book offers a comprehensive thousand-year history of the land people society culture and economy of Hungary from its nebulous origins in the Ural Mountains to the 1988 elections, It tells above all the thrilling story of a people who became a great power in the region and then fought against--and were invaded by--Ottomans Germans and Soviets: The Hungarian people preserved nevertheless a continuous individuality through their Ural-born language and a specifically Hungaro-European culture. Contemporary events are not part of the story which ends with the 1998 election. Paperback Not bad especially with the earlier bits but once you get up to post World War I the book becomes a paean to the author's grouchy bitchy attitude: This volume offers slightly more information than Lukowski and Zawadzki's at the expense of not including references. On the one hand that is great not that I was going to look for an obscure Hungarian book any time soon anyway: On the other we need to accept Molnár's word at face value, No I do not need a detailed history of the province but a bit more would have been nice: Particularly because while reading this book I was reminded St. I guess it is sort of true but it gives it a certain ethnocentric view. I cannot say he completely succeeded but he was fighting an uphill battle against me me, If this is the liberal moderate left view I do not really want to know the hardcore right one: As Lukowski and Zawadzki's volume this one gains momentum as the centuries pass and a lot is said about the last two centuries. The chapter concerning the soviet occupations without a doubt the best. Namely his brief portrayal of Imre Nagy made me want to read more about him as a person and as a thinker: Hardly surprising considering that I would love to find a third way that does not mean surrendering to the market forces—as it is often the case: His certainly less favorable profile of János Kádár is also a great profile: no one gets to rule a country for twenty plus years without some positive—or practical—qualities. I will get some of his other books if I ever find them. I will also continue reading and recommending this Concise History series, Paperback This is a highly informative book on a most interesting topic. The history of Eastern and Central European countries is not well-known in the West and should be. The history of Hungary is fascinating so this book should be gripping from the start: Sadly it is let down by a poor translation (from French but presumably from the original Hungarian?), I was disappointed because I felt there was a good book in here: Paperback The book offers what the title says: a concise history of Hungary. If you're interest in the country goes beyond that of a tourist I would recommend you give it a read: It tells above all the thrilling story of a people who became a great

power in the region and then fought against--and were invaded by--Ottomans Germans and Soviets, The Hungarian people preserved nevertheless a continuous individuality through their Ural-born language and a specifically Hungaro-European culture. The subject is fact heavy and certainly complicated but the reader is maneuvered through all over a thousand years of eventful history quite well. The writing style is relatively light which certainly aids understanding of the subject. He made an effort to underline the claims of both camps (communist and non-communists) and the underlining the facts that seem most likely to be correct: It leaves the book with a feel of a fairly objective and complete history of a country it's culture and it's people which is still readable. In addition Molnár doesn't shy away from some painful questions and issues: It's honest refreshing and very helpful if you're trying to understand the culture and the people: I read the book as a fairly new resident to the country and I feel I understand Hungarians and Hungarian culture a lot better now that I have, It's still a history book however so I wouldn't advise it as light evening reading before bed.g. Well-illustrated with maps photographs and artwork. Recommended for readers with an interest in Hungarian history. Paperback The topic is vast but well covered. Left me Hungary for more to say the least. Martin of Braga was born there.somewhere.The book reads remarkably well for a non-fiction historical book. A good example is 'the gypsy problem'. Paperback.