

MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

Hungary

Snapshot

Country Name:

Republic of Hungary, short form: Hungary
(local form: *Magyarország*)

Country Founded in:

Tradition claims the country of Magyars (Hungary) was founded by *Arpád* in 896. King Stephen I established the Kingdom of Hungary in December of 1000 AD. The Republic of Hungary was declared independent on November 16, 1918.

Population:

10,006,835 (July 2005)

Government Type: (national, regional and local)

Parliamentary Democracy

Geography/location in the world:

Hungary is located on the Danube River Basin in Central Europe. It is a landlocked nation, (slightly smaller than the state of Indiana) bordered by seven other nations, including: Austria (W), Slovakia (N), Ukraine (NE), Romania (E), Serbia and Montenegro (S), Croatia (S), and Slovenia (W).

The terrain is primarily flat, slightly rolling plains, with some hills and low mountains in the north.

Number of people groups:

22

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot:

Major Religion and % of population:

74.4% Christian (Catholic 54.5%, Protestant 19.9%)

All religions and % for each:

- 74.4% Christian
- Roman Catholic 51.9%
- Calvinist 15.9%
- Lutheran 3%
- Greek Catholic 2.6%
- Other Christian 1%

11.1% Unspecified

14.5 % Unaffiliated

(Statistics from www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook 2001 census.)

Government interaction with religion:

Supportive. The Constitution guarantees freedom of conscience and religion, however, until 1989, the State Office for Church Affairs, regulated all church activities. In 1989, the government abolished this office, as well as a publishing “Principles of a Law on Freedom of Conscience, the Right of Free Exercise of Religion, and Church Affairs,” This document recognized churches as legal entities, banned believer discrimination, and recognized the churches’ equality before the law.

Profile Republic of Hungary

Basic Facts

Demographics

The Hungarian population is declining numerically. The 2001 census numbered the population as 10, 198,315. The 2005 census reported 10,006,835, reflecting a 1.9% decline. The government reported in 2005 a -.26% growth rate.

Birth Rate: 9.76 births/1000 population

Death Rate 13.19 deaths/1000 population

Life Expectancy: 72.4 years

- Male: 68.18
- Females 76.89

Sex Ratio:

- At birth 1.06 males/female
- Total Population .91 males/female

The median age is 38.57 years, with males reflecting the low end at 36.1 years and females reflecting the high end at 41.24 years.

Hungarians make up 90% of the population. Roma/Gypsies make up 4%, Germans 2.6% while the remaining 3.4% is simply labeled “others.”

Nearly two- thirds of the population lives in urban areas. Only 8% of the population is shown to live in areas with less than 1,000 inhabitants, and 60% of the overall population lives in cities of more than 10,000 inhabitants. Nearly 1/3 of the population lives in the Budapest metropolitan area, which is home to more than 2,000,000.

(www.cia.gov, www.factbook.net/hungary/demographics)

Language :

Hungarian 98.2%

Other 1.8%

- The Hungarian (Magyar) language is the only official language of Hungary. It belongs to the Finno-Ugric language family, and thus has no resemblance to common Western languages such as English, French, Spanish, or German. Hungarian is written in Latin characters, and the various dialects spoken throughout the country, including Alföld, West Danube, Danube-Tisza, King's Pass Hungarian, Northeast Hungarian, Northwest

Hungarian, Székely and West Hungarian, are intelligible to all Hungarians. It is a highly complex language which is notoriously difficult for non-native speakers to master,

- German and English are the most popular second languages.

Society/Culture

Hungary encompasses a historic elegance and medieval character, mingled among an emerging urban modernity. Any visitor to Hungary becomes a witness of history in the making. As they are reviving the traditions of the pre-Communist era, one not only can witness and explore monuments and reminders of the past, but more that that, can watch as a country strives to create for itself a new future. (Unlike most former Communist bloc nations, Hungary has not destroyed its Soviet monuments.)

Budapest, the capital city of Hungary, is a crossroads of “east meets west,” in European cultures, and is likely to fascinate and charm any visitor. The beautiful city, referred to as the “Pearl of the Danube,” is divided into two distinct sections (Buda & Pest) by the historic Danube River. Budapest is actually a combination of three separate cities: Obuda, Buda, and Pest.

Hungarians love good food, and lots of it. The main meal of the day is typically lunch, and the favored meat is pork. One of the most famous Hungarian dishes is Goulash, which is a soup typically made with chunks of beef, potatoes, and onions, and spiced with the famous Hungarian paprika.

Coffee houses are popular and in abundance in Hungary, especially in larger cities such as Budapest. Hungarians will go simply to enjoy the atmosphere and read, or to meet their friends for a long chat.

Clothing has become more westernized, especially in urban areas throughout the recent years.

Hungarian social interaction is formal and polite. The traditional greeting is giving a kiss on each cheek. This is common and widely practiced still today. It is also common and traditional for a man to kiss a woman’s hand upon greeting her.

Dogs are especially popular and beloved by Hungarians.

The Rubik’s Cube puzzle was invented in 1974, in Budapest, Hungary, by Hungarian Erno Rubik.

Hungarians love the literary arts, and frequent theatre performances, operas, and orchestras. They have significantly contributed to the literary arts of the world, in that they have produced several greats, such as the world famous composer Franz Liszt.

The majority of the Hungarian population claims to be Roman Catholic; however with the communist take over in the 1940’s, religious activities were discouraged and closely monitored.

It was not until constitutional changes in 1989, that the people were actually granted religious freedom.

Calendar Holidays:

- January 1- New Year's Day
- March 15- National Remembrance of 1848 Revolution
- March 31 & April 1- Easter Sunday, Monday
- May 1- Labor Day
- May 19 & 20- St. Stephen's Day
- October 23-1956 Remembrance Day (Independence in 1989, declared on the day of unsuccessful revolt in 1956)
- November 1- All Saint's Day
- December 6-Saint Nicholas Day—St Nick comes leaving candy in the boots of good children, and twigs for the bad.
- December 24-Christmas Eve
- December 25, 26- Christmas
 - Celebrated similar to how it is in the States, with a few noticeable differences. It is a 2 day holiday, even through the years of Communism. Christmas is mostly a private, family holiday. The lights and decorations always stay inside the household, and the tree is not decorated until Christmas Eve.

Other Holidays or Customs:

- Woman's Day
 - This has been celebrated in Hungary for more than 90 years. In 1910, the actual holiday "International Woman's Day" was established. It is celebrated by women, of all ages, throughout the country, and was originally established to show respect for the women's rights movement. It is usually recognized by flowers and candy. Men will often even stand on the street corners handing carnations to all the women who pass by.
- Sprinkling
 - This is celebrated on the Monday after Easter, when boys will visit all of their female friends, family, and neighbors. The tradition was to greet the girls by reading them a poem and sprinkling them with water, but now it is often done with cologne. The girls are to be prepared with desserts, drinks, and hand painted eggs. There is a competition among the girls to see who can get the most "sprinklers."
- Name Day
 - Hungarians not only celebrate birthdays, but also name days. In fact, name day celebrations are more widely known and celebrated than birthdays. So, when naming a child, parents must choose a name from an official list, and then there is a Name Day Calendar, with each name ascribed to a date. Name days are widely known and celebrated at work, among friends, and family. Typical gifts are flowers, sweets, or small gifts.

Hungarians are not reportedly a happy or satisfied people. In fact, data collected from a World Values Survey in 1981 reported Hungary having a 74.5 rate of well being, which was

comparable with Bangladesh or Turkey at the time but was lower than any other industrial societies. By 1990, Hungary's well-being level dropped to 62.5. This marked the lowest level of well-being of any non-communist society outside of Peru. A study done on climbing suicide rates by the OECD in 2004, reported that Hungary topped the charts, with a suicide rate of 24.3 (per every 100,000 persons a year). This is actually a lower rate than Hungary has seen through the years, The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention reports that from the beginning of the 20th century to 1994, Hungary held the highest suicide rate in the world. Even in 1997, while not number one, Hungary's suicide rate of 31.7 per 100,000 persons a year was almost three times that of the United States.

(<http://www.edu.pe.ca/southernkings/hungary.htm>, World Mark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, Volume 4, www.washtimes.com, www.afsp.org)

Government:

Hungary has a Parliamentary Democracy. The country is divided into 19 counties, 20 urban counties, and 1 capital city. Budapest, the capital city, houses the governmental offices. The rule of law is based on a Western model, and the government is subdivided into an executive branch, legislative branch, and judicial branch.

- Executive branch: Chief of State (President), Head of Government (Prime Minister), and Cabinet (Council of Ministers elected by the National Assembly on president's recommendation). The President is elected by the National Assembly for a 5 year term and the Prime Minister is elected by the National Assembly on the recommendation of the president.
- Legislative branch: Unicameral National Assembly with 386 seats. Members are elected by popular vote, under a proportional and direct representation system, to serve for 4 years.
- Judicial branch: Constitutional Court where the judges are elected by the National Assembly for 9 year terms.

(www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook)

Economy:

In the past decade, Hungary has demonstrated strong economic growth, and has transitioned from a centrally planned economy to a market economy. They, with the Czech Republic, represent the two highest rated Central European transition economies, and joined the European Union in May of 2004. Hungary's sovereign debt has improved since 2000, however rating agencies have expressed concerns towards Hungary's shaky budget and existing deficits. The Hungarian budget in 2005 was set at \$51.4 billion, but expenditures, coming in at \$58.34 billion, exceeded that budget. They have an external debt of \$76.23 billion. Hungary is to receive \$4.2 billion in EU structural adjustment and cohesion funds between 2004 and 2006. Their current economy is based on the Forint (approximately 200 Forint to \$1).

Inflation has dropped significantly, from 14% in 1998, to approximately 3.7% currently. The Hungarian GDP was approximately \$159 billion (USD) in 2005, with a 3.7% growth rate; the per capita purchasing power parity was estimated at \$15,900. The Hungarian labor force is 4.18 million, with a 7.1% unemployment rate. 8.6% of the population is below the poverty line. The Hungarian labor force participation rate is 57%, which is actually one of the lowest in the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.)

The primary agriculture products include: wheat, corn, sunflower seed, potatoes, sugar beets; pigs, cattle, poultry and dairy products. The major industries of the nation are mining, metallurgy, construction materials, processed foods, textiles, chemicals, and motor vehicles.

Hungary's main **export** partners:

- Germany 31.4%
- Austria 6.8%
- France 5.7%
- Italy 5.6%
- United Kingdom 5.1%

Hungary's main **import** partners:

- Germany 29.2%
- Austria 8.3 %
- Russia 5.7%
- Italy 5.5%
- Netherlands 4.9%
- China 4.8%
- France 4.7%

(www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook, Library of Congress Country Study)

Literacy

Hungarians of the age of 15 and older can read and write. 99.4% of the Hungarian population is said to be literate,

- 99.5% males
- 99.3% females

School is free and compulsory from ages 6-16. About 10% of the population has college degrees.

Hungarians actually love to read, and so you will most always see them while in transport reading something, whether a novel, poetry, or a newspaper.

(World Mark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life; www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook)

Land/Geography:

The landlocked nation of Hungary is located in Central Europe, northwest of Romania. It is actually bordered by 7 countries, including Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, and Slovenia. Hungary, which is in total 93,030 square kilometers (35,652 sq miles), is slightly smaller than the US state of Indiana.

The country is divided into three large regions by the Danube and Tisza Rivers.

The nation is mostly flat country, but the land rises into some rolling hills and low mountains on Slovakian border.

Hungary has a temperate climate consisting of cold, cloudy, humid winters and short, warm summers.

Hungary is home to *Lake Balaton*, which is the largest freshwater lake in Europe.



History

Ancient human footprints, tools, and even a skull found within the borders of present day Hungary, indicates that people were already living in land from 250,000 to 500,000 years ago.

Years later, Celtic tribes are known to have settled in Hungary even prior to the Roman occupation in 9 BC, with a civilization known as *Pannonia*. *Pannonia* was located in what is today Western Hungary. Beginning in the 4th century, a chain of invasions by the Huns, Goths, and Avars commenced. In 896 AD the present day Hungarians (Magyars), who were a nomadic people, composed of seven tribes, with 3 Khabar tribes joining them, migrated from the southwest plains of the Ural Mountains and invaded the Carpathian Basin under the leadership of *Arpád*. The name "Hungary," is most likely thought to have come from the Turkish term "*Onogur*," which means "Ten Arrows," and signifies the Magyar's united military strength in nomad symbolism. Through the years, they began spreading more throughout the area, raiding various lands as far west as Germany. In 955, they were defeated at the Battle of Lechfeld by Otto the Great.

In 1000, the first king of Hungary, King Stephen I, converted the nation to Christianity in the effort to align with the West, over the East. King Stephen, who was canonized in 1083, began to develop a constitution for the kingdom, and his Holy Crown became their national symbol. Years later, under the leadership of King Andrew II, an edict known as the Golden Bull of 1222,

was established, which provided Hungary with a basic framework of national liberties, to which every monarch of Hungary thereafter, had to swear fidelity.

During the Medieval period, the Kingdom of Hungary expanded and excelled, and for a time, Hungarian kings ruled territories from the Black to the Adriatic Seas. However, during this period, Hungary also suffered various invasions, the worst of which was the Mongols who demolished parts the county in 1241-42. King Matthias ruled the Kingdom from 1458-1490. During this era Hungary's cultural life flourished and Hungarian life was parallel to a Western European standard. Hungary's golden age was soon ended and Hungary was split by warring factions.

In the late 15th century, the Turkish armies began threatening Hungary. While the Balkan principalities south of Hungary had served as temporary buffer zones, they did not hold off the advance of the Turks forever, and Hungarian independence ended in 1526 with the Ottoman Turkish conquest. Power was eventually consolidated by the Hapsburg kings of Austria. The Turks were defeated at Vienna in 1683, and by 1713 Hungary was bound to Austria under the reign of the Hapsburgs.

During the beginning of the 19th century, following the French Revolution and Napoleonic wars, Hungary experienced a burst of Magyar Nationalism and a period of literary creativity. The failed attempt of the liberal reform movement in establishing a constitutional democracy, led to a revolt in 1848 under the leadership of Lajos Kossuth and Ferenc Deak,. This revolt resulted in a short-lived Hungarian Republic.

While Hungarian autonomy was abolished when Austrian and Russian armies intervened, a weakened Austria gave in to some of the Magyar's national inspirations, in the Compromise of 1867. This compromise established the dual monarchy of Austria and Hungary. The Hapsburg dual monarchy collapsed after Austria-Hungary was defeated in World War I, leading to the establishment of a Hungarian Democratic Republic.

The Hungarian Democratic Republic fell under the short lived Communist regime in 1919, led by *Bela Kun*, known as the "Red Terror." And, by 1920, Hungary was a kingdom without a King. In June, of 1920, the *Treaty of Trianon* was signed, which set Hungary's borders, reducing them by about two-thirds of their original size. Along with 72% of its land territory, Hungary lost 60% of its population to Romania, Serbia, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. Thus, millions of pure "ethnic" Hungarians suddenly found themselves outside the borders of Hungary.

The frustrated Hungarians signed an alliance with Nazi Germany and were drawn into World War II as an Axis power ally. The German army occupied Hungary in 1944, installing a puppet government, but Soviet troops invaded in 1945. In 1946, with Communist participation, a republican constitution was transmitted and a coalition government established. The Communist party (Hungarian Workers Party) seized power in 1948 and adopted a Soviet style constitution. Resentment towards the Soviet bloc increased , and in 1956, the Hungarians attempted a revolution, with a revolt that broke out in Budapest. For a few brief days, the Hungarians successfully withdrew from the Warsaw Treaty Organization. Nevertheless, the Soviet

Communist forces quickly stepped in, and hundreds of Hungarians were executed, thousands imprisoned, and about 200,000 fled the borders.

By the 1980s Hungary was one of the most prosperous nations of the Warsaw Pact. Still, Hungary owed nearly \$18 billion, making it the nation with the highest per capita indebtedness in Europe. This debt however, played a huge role in sparking political change. Reform-minded *Karoly Grosz* was appointed as prime minister in 1987, and led his party to change names from Hungarian Communist Party, to the Hungarian Socialist Party, and dismantled their section of the Iron Curtain.

In 1989, the constitution was amended, creating a multiparty political system. In 1990, Hungary held the first free election in more than four decades, and initiated a free market economy. In 1999 (becoming the first Warsaw-Pact nations to join the alliance,) Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic were formally admitted into NATO.

Despite economic improvements, the Socialist party was still destabilized by dissatisfaction of the people, as well as financial scandals. In 1998, a new coalition government was formed, giving way to the Federation of Young Democratic Hungarians Civic Party. Negotiations were begun in 1997, leading to membership within the European Union, and membership was granted in 2004.

(World Mark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Volume 5, Library of Congress Country Study, www.wikipedia.org)

Christian History

Christians in Hungary can trace their history back to the third century when the northern part of the Roman Empire had extended through the region. In the fifth century, Cyril and Methodius, early Catholic missionaries, worked in Moravia, where they introduced the Greek rite and worked on translating the liturgy and Bible into Slavic languages. Once Moravian converts spread, they brought the Roman rite to Hungary.

Later, in AD 1000, the Hungarian people who actually had early ties with the Byzantine Church chose instead to align with the Roman Catholic Church, under the leadership of King Stephen I. This move established Catholicism in the nation, and soon many missionaries set out to reach the relatives they had left behind in the Ural Mountains. During that time, in 1241, the Mongols invaded and captured the entire Hungarian Kingdom. Three centuries later, after Mongolian retreat and Hungarian reconstruction, the Ottoman Empire defeated the Hungarian army from the south. In this way, for 150 years, the Turks occupied central Hungary.

During the Reformation era, Hungary was split into three sections: the west, referred to as the Kingdom of Hungary, was actually under Austrian Hapsburg control. The central plains region was controlled by the Turks. The Transylvania principality was basically independent. In the 16th century, the Lutheran and Swiss Reformations reignited the Christian movement, and by the end of the century, the majority of Hungarians were actually Reformed Protestants.

By the 17th Century, Austria had finally driven out the Turks, and the Counter-Reformation that had been limited to the western kingdom, spread throughout the country. Then, a war of

liberation in the early 18th century, which was a failed attempt to free Hungary from Austria's rule, was soon followed by a mass movement of Catholic settlers into the central regions of Hungary. By the close of the century, the number of Protestants had been reduced to one-third of the population.

The Edict of Toleration in 1780, however, legally guaranteed religious freedom, and the Reformed churches were soon re-organized. After more political uprisings in the 19th century, the formation of the Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy in 1867, and the First World War, Hungary attained independence, but suffered huge losses in population and territory. At the time, more than half of the Lutheran Church adherents, which numbered approximately 1 million, was lost and dispersed. During the years Protestants faced restriction and suppression, the Catholic Church experienced an awakening and renewal of influence. By the end of the 19th century, there was an increase in religious vocations, publications, and missionary movements. Since that time, the Catholic Church has remained the dominant spiritual influence in the country.

As a religious state at the opening of the 20th century, Hungary became an atheistic one in 1949, only half a century later. Particularly during the early years of communism, the churches, mainly the Roman Catholic, faced much harassment and persecution. By 1950, all Christian schools were nationalized, and 53 religious groups and congregations were banned. Most of the Catholic clubs and organizations, approximately 4,000 in number, were dissolved. Roman Catholic churches in particular were distrusted and the members, especially the clergy were viewed as traitorous towards the party and government. About ¼ of the nuns and monks in Hungary were deported by 1950, and a number of the clergy were imprisoned under the charge of political resistance to the communist party.

During the 1960's, however, the government and church began trying to cooperate with one another, and in 1964 Hungary signed a landmark agreement with the Vatican, granting the church new freedoms and rights. The Protestant churches were accommodated to much sooner; the Communist regime did not perceive them traitorous organized rebellion. Contingent upon a loyalty oath, they actually were guaranteed rights and support from the government in the early mid century. In 1972, a constitution was given that proclaimed a separation of church and state, and was intended to guarantee free exercise of worship and conscience for all. These freedoms were nevertheless monitored and regulated for many years. Nonetheless, Hungary currently has complete religious freedom, which began in 1990, when they were the first Iron Curtain country to disentangle from Marxism and established a multiparty democracy.

(World Christian Encyclopedia, 2nd Edition, 354-55; Library of Congress Country Study)

Religions

Non-Christian:

- *Atheism and Agnosticism:*
 - The English word *atheism* is derived from the Greek term *atheos* which means, "without God," The term refers to the position of denying God's existence.

Agnosticism, on the other hand, comes from the Greek term meaning, “without knowledge,” holds that one cannot know whether or not God exists.

- These two views were held by most Communist party members and their peers. In Hungary this accounted for about 15% of the population in 1970, but only 4.4% in 1995, after communism's collapse.
- A study done in 1996, reports 490,000 Atheistic Hungarians.
- *Judaism*
 - This is a monotheistic religion with a 4,000 year history. Jews devote themselves to the study and observance of spiritual and ethical principles provided through and embodied in the Hebrew Scriptures and Talmud. They are still awaiting the promised Messiah.
 - The number of Jews residing in Hungary prior to World War 1 was approximately 1,000,000, but an estimated 600,000 of those, were deported to concentration camps in 1944. Budapest houses the principal Jewish organization in the country, which is the Central Board of Hungarian Jews. According to the World Jewish Restitution Organization, there are currently somewhere between 70,000 and 110,000 Jews officially recognized in Hungary. Budapest is also home to 32 Jewish synagogues, one of which is the Dohány Street Synagogue, the second largest Jewish Synagogue in the world. Budapest also houses a rabbinic seminary with a Jewish library, and a Jewish secondary school.
- *Islam*
 - Islam is a dominant world religion, with more than 840 million followers. Islam's foundation is in the Qu'ran, which is the Islamic holy book written by Muhammad, Allah's (God) prophet, in the 7th century. Islam holds that there is only one God, who they believe is the same God of the Christians and Jews.
 - For 150 years the Islamic Turkish empire—The Ottoman Empire, ruled the greater part of Hungary.
 - Today there are only a 2,000 adherents to the Islamic faith in Hungary. (study done in 2000)
- *Buddhism*
 - A Hindu, Gautama Buddha, first established Buddhism 2500 years ago in Nepal. Followers adhere to his 4 Noble Truths and 8 Fold Path. They do not believe in a god so much as they believe everything is in the mind. They value peace.
 - Buddhism's influence in Hungary is noted by the presence of The Gate of Dharma Buddhist College and The Gate of Dharma Buddhist Church, both located in Budapest and founded in 1991. There is also a Hungarian Buddhist Mission in Budapest, which was established in 1952. The mission is said to have approximately 1500 followers, and the College as of 2000, had approximately 150 students. There has been significant Buddhist literature printed in Hungarian, including a fundamental work on Buddhist philosophy, Bhikku Bodhi's Noble Eight-fold Path, the Brahmajala Sutta and its commentaries, and the Satipatthana Sutta and its commentaries.
 - According to the European Buddhist Union, there is said to currently be between 1-4 million Buddhists in Europe as a whole.

Christian Cults and Sects:

- *Jehovah's Witnesses*—41,375 adherents, 0.39% population, 256 congregations; 11,281 average Bible studies(2005).
- *Latter-day Saints*—2,800 adherents, 0.03% of population, 19 congregations (1997)
- *Scientology*— 10,000 adherents, 14 units (1999)
- *Unitarian Universalism*—25,000 adherents, 33 Congregations (1998)

Catholic/Orthodox Churches:

- *Catholic*—51.9% of population, 2,175 Congregations (2001)
 - After a 1964 agreement with the Vatican, the Roman Catholic churches in Hungary were reorganized and re-established. The church and state relations really began improving in the mid to late 70s, as Cardinal Laszlo Lekai, sponsored a new policy seeking to reconcile the differences between the two. After the state persecution was alleviated, the church suffered a falling out in attendance and no longer served as a primary focal point. By the 1980s, as the clergy were aging and decreasing in number, the Catholic Church struggled in providing adequate services to the community. Since that time, status has improved through the state's aide in getting new orders organized such as "Sisters of Our Lady of Hungary," and several training and theological institutions.
 - The Catholics tend to primarily live in the area between the Danube and Tisza Rivers, and in the northern mountains.
- *Romanian Orthodox*—10,900 adherents, .3% population, 18 congregations (1993)
 - One of the largest autocephalous Eastern Orthodox churches in existence. It is considered by adherents to be the first national, first attested, and first apostolic church in Europe, with Saint Andrew as its founder.

Evangelical Christianity:

After the communist take over in Central and Eastern Europe, the Protestant churches actually prospered as they were integrated into the state system because the government did not consider them an organized opposition, as they did the Catholic Church.

- Protestant—24.50% (1998)
 - *Baptists*—11,100 members and 22,300 adherents, 0.11% population, 245 Churches (1999). A later report claims 333 congregations.
 - Hungarian Baptist Union
 - 3 institutions for social service
 - Theological seminary
 - *Calvinist/Reformed*—400,000 members, 2,046,480 adherents, 20% of population, 1,500 congregations (1997). Other reports cite 1,600,000 adherents.
 - Hungarian Reformed--Only Reformed Church with an Episcopal policy
 - *Evangelical Lutheran*—250,000 adherents, 320 congregations (1999). Other reports cite 107,500 members, 430,000 adherents, and 398 congregations.

- Second Largest Protestant Church in country
- Theological Academy
- 37 educational institutions
- *Faith Church*—this independent group has 100,000 adherents (1997). Other reports place membership at 20,000, adherents at 40,000 and number of congregations at 305.
- *Lutheran*—500,000 adherents, 5% of population, (1998)
- *Seventh Day Adventist*—5,599 adherents, 111 Congregations (1993)
- *Fellowship of Evangelical Pentecostals* 126 congregations, 5000 members, 11,300 adherents
- *Seventh Day Adventists* 106 congregations, 4500 members, 10,000 adherents
- *Community of Evangelical Brethren* 80 congregations, 2000 members, 4400 adherents
- *Congregation of God* 48 congregations, 2000 members, 4000 adherents

(Library of Congress Country Study; *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd Edition, 354-55, www.webstationone.com/fecha/religion.htm , www.adherents.com, *Operation World*, 1993.)

People Groups

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American, U.S. (7,200)

English is the primary language of the American people living in Hungary. They are a North American people of the Anglo American people cluster. They are primarily Christian.

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Bosniak (53,000)

The Bosniak, or Bosnian people living in Hungary, who are originally from Bosnia, formerly a part of Yugoslavia, speak primarily Croatian, and are predominately Muslim. Alternate people names are Croatian and Muslmani. They are a Eurasian People of the Southern Slavic people cluster. They are one of the least evangelized peoples of Europe.

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British (3,300)

The British people living in Hungary are 79% evangelized and English is their primary language. Alternate names for this people group are Anglo-Pakistani, Euronesian, Scottish, White, and Anglophones. They are a Eurasian People of the Anglo Celt people cluster.

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Bulgar, Palityan (1,100)

The Bulgar people are a Southern Slavic people. Alternate names include Bogomil, Palityan, Moldovian, and Pomaks. The Pomaks are distinguished from the other Bulgarians in that they are devoted to Islam rather than Christianity. The Palityan Bulgars are 64.99% Christian.

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Chinese, generic (31,000)

The Chinese living in Hungary are an East Asian people and primarily speak Mandarin. China has been involved in a massive migration trend, trafficking large numbers throughout Europe, particularly Hungary. Smuggling networks have been uncovered in many of these European countries, including a large market in Budapest.

Nothing is reported as to their religious or evangelical status.

<http://archives.cnn.com/2000/US/11/02/labor.migration.reut/index.html>

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Croat (33,000)

The Croats are a Eurasian people of a Southern Slavic people cluster who speak Croatian and are considered 90% Christian, specifically Roman Catholic. Their alternate people names include Bosnian, Serbian, and Muslimani.

832

Deaf, Hungarian (33,100)

The Deaf in Hungary primarily use Hungarian Sign Language and are considered as adherents to Christianity. They are less than 2% Evangelical.

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French (22,000)

The French, alternately referred to as Franco-Mauritian Mulatto, are a Eurasian people and natively speak the French language. They are 76% Christian.

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German (256,000)

The German people in Hungary are a Eurasian people who speak the German language. Alternate names for this group include Saxon, Volga German, High German, and Transylvanian. They are 78% Protestant Christian adherents, and 1% evangelical.

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Gypsy, Hungarian (382,000)

The Hungarian Gypsies are a South Asian people who primarily speak Hungarian. They are 83% Christian adherents.

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Gypsy, Traveler (21,000)

The Traveler Gypsies living in Hungary, are a South Asian people, who primarily speak the Shelta language. Alternate people names include Mos Negrito, Tinker, Tonga, Shengwe, Toka, and Western Nyasa. They are 60% Christian. They need the Bible translated into their language.

831

Hungarian (Magyar) (8,689,000)

The Hungarians are a Eurasian people. Alternate names include Magyar, Szekely, and Siculi. They speak the Hungarian language and are 83.8 % Christian, specifically Roman Catholic, adherents, The Hungarians are 2.7% evangelical.

833

Hungarian Jew (96,000)

The Jews of Europe arrived on the continent at least 2,000 years ago during the early days of the Roman empire. Since that time, they have been a significant influence in the history and culture of Europe. Much of what is considered "Jewish" today finds its roots among the European Jews. The Hungarian Jews speak Hungarian and primarily adhere to Judaism. About .1% are Christian adherents.

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Polish (21,000)

The Polish, also known as Poles or Silesians, are a Eurasian people of the Western Slavic people cluster. They are primarily Roman Catholic Christians.

828

Romani, Carpathian (Gypsy) (3,100)

The Carpathian Romani people are a South Asian people, of the Gypsy people cluster. Alternate names include Galicia, Karpachi Roma, Sarvika, and Ungrike. They speak Carpathian Romani and Western Slovakian Romani. 70% are Christian adherents. They are less than 2% Evangelical, but there has been widespread church planting through multiple agencies taking place in the past couple of years. They only have portions of the Bible in their mother language.

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Romani, Vlax, Lovari (5,100)

Gypsies, often called Romani or Domari, are made up of two separate groups: the Ghorbati and the Nawari, originating from India. They speak the Domari dialect of the Gypsy language called Romani, which contains many Arabic words. Alternate people names include Arhagar, Baltic Gypsy, Cingane, Gitano, Gypsy, Kalderash, Lovar, Lowara, Norwegian Gypsy, Cale, and Colombian Gypsy.

Gypsies call themselves Rom, which in their language means "men." It is derived from the Indian word Dom, meaning "a man of low caste who gains his livelihood by singing and dancing." They were discriminated against in India and excluded from the temples. Later, they were sent to Persia as minstrels. From there they were separated into two groups. One traveled northward and became the Romani-speaking European Gypsies. The other traveled southward and became known as the Domari, or Middle Eastern Gypsies.

80% are Christian adherents, and the whole Bible has been translated in their language.

835

Romanian (102,000)

The Romanians are a Eurasian people, who speak Romanian and are 84% Christian adherents and 12.50% evangelical. Alternate names include Bacs-Kiskun, Bekescsaba, Hajdu-Bihar, Jasz-Nagykun-Szolnok, Bekes, Csongrad, and Hodmezovasarhely.

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Russian (40,000)

The Russians, also known as Eluosi, Olossu, and Russ, are a Eurasian people, of an Eastern Slavic people group. They speak Russian and are 31% Christian adherents.

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Ruthene (298,000)

The Ruthene people are a Eurasian originated Gypsy people. Alternate names include Balkan Gypsies, Hungarian Gypsies, Jerides, Rusin, and Ruthenian. They are Eastern Slavic, and primarily speak Hungarian. They also speak Romani and Balkan Zargari. Their primary religion is Christianity,

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Serb (21,000)

The Serbs are of Eurasian descent, and of the Southern Slavic people cluster. Alternate names include Bosnian, Continental Croat, Croatian, Muslimani, and Serbian. They speak Serbian and are 85% Christian adherents.

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Slovak (10,000)

The Slovak people, with alternate names being Rusyn, Ruthene, and Ruthenian, are a Eurasian people, of the Western Slavic people cluster. They speak Slovak and are 80% Christian adherents.

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Slovene, Prekmurian (4,300)

The Prekmurian Slovenes are a Southern Slavic Eurasian people. They speak Slovenian and are 90% Christian.

(www.peoplegroups.org, www.joshuaproject.net)

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to bond with Hungarian peoples with the intention of leading them to Christ. To be Hungarian is to be distinct. Hungarians have always had some degree of linguistic and cultural isolation, thus they are a unique people. No one else speaks their language or thinks quite like they do. They have learned to be survivors and pride themselves in their intellect. They desperately desire to be identified as western, rather than eastern, but in reality, they are not either one. Some of these factors of isolation and distinction have led a large number of Hungarians to experience loneliness and depression. After experiencing a history of broken promises and defeats, Hungarians have acquired a general attitude of mistrust and skepticism. Breaking through these negative attitudes would open bridges to Christ
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should target the minority peoples who need Christ. The various gypsy groups, though claiming to be Christian, do not have eternal life. These populations number over 1 million. Over 200,000 refugees from Yugoslavia reside in Hungary.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to further the work of Messianic Jewish communities. Over 90,000 Jews remain in Hungary and need to be reached for Jesus
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop methods to evangelize Chinese people in Hungary. Harvest waits among the over 30,000 Chinese in Hungary.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop evangelistic methods to reach the non religious or atheistic populations of Hungary. These groups are estimated to number as many as 460,000. Over much of Europe, this need is staggering.
6. Evangelical Christians and churches should introduce more efforts to establish house churches and other small group approaches to evangelism and church starting.
7. Evangelical Christians and churches should introduce approaches for evangelizing Roman Catholics in Hungary. These materials should be translated into the Hungarian language and made available. Hungarian believers should be trained in the means of sharing the Good News with Catholics.
8. Evangelical Christians and churches should introduce witness through lifestyle evangelism. The people of Hungary should be able to see the great difference Christ makes.

Links –

www.cyberhungary.net
www.budapest.com
www.budapestsun.com
<http://www.fsz.bme.hu/hungary/homepage.html>
<http://www.factbook.net/hungary/demographics.php>
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>
www.teambudapest.com