



MEANS OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES IN 19TH CENTURY HUNGARY

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THE AIM OF THE COURSE IS TO GIVE AN OVERVIEW ON MEANS OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES IN 19TH CENTURY HUNGARY AND TO HIGHLIGHT THE DIFFERENCES IN NATIONAL MODERNIZATION COMPARED TO THE COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE:

THE FIRST, INTRODUCTORY PART OF THE PROGRAM IS DEVOTED TO THE HUNGARIAN HISTORICAL CONSTITUTION AND ITS MOST SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS. THE AIM IS TO GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE HUNGARIAN CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIOR TO 1848.

THE SECOND PART OF THE COURSE DEALS WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OF THE 19TH CENTURY. THE MAIN FOCUS IS ON THE TIME PERIOD BETWEEN 1825 AND 1867, WHICH MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE SO-CALLED 'REFORM ERA' AND ENDS WITH THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN COMPROMISE. THIS TUMULTUOUS PERIOD SAW ON THE ONE HAND THE BIRTH OF CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY, CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE ABOLISHMENT OF MANY REMNANTS FROM THE FEUDAL ERA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE HUNGARIAN CONSTITUTION WAS SUSPENDED AFTER THE REVOLUTION OF 1848 AND WAS GOVERNED THROUGH ABSOLUTISTIC MEANS DURING THE 1850S BY EMPEROR FRANZ JOSEPH. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE HUNGARIAN STATESMEN AND THE VIENNESE COURT DID NOT START IN THE 19TH CENTURY. EVEN IF HUNGARY MAINTAINED ITS SPECIAL POSITION IN THE HABSBURG EMPIRE UNTIL 1848, THE HABSBURGS SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE THE ABSOLUTISTIC MONARCHY NUMEROUS TIMES IN HUNGARY AFTER SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHING THIS FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN THE HABSBURG HEREDITARY LANDS. THE HUNGARIAN NOBLEMEN TRIED TO DEFEND THEIR POLITICAL PRIVILEGES, AND ACCORDING TO THEM BY DOING SO, THEY ALSO PROTECTED THE CONSTITUTION. THEREFORE, THE ADHERENCE TO THE HISTORICAL CONSTITUTION PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ERA OF NATIONAL MODERNIZATION.

LITERATURE

SOURCES AVAILABLE PARTLY VIA THE INTERNET AND IN THE FACULTY LIBRARY:

BALÁZS RIGÓ: 1867 AS THE YEAR OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AROUND THE WORLD
BARNA MEZEY: TRADITIONS OF HUNGARIAN LEGAL DEVELOPMENT
FERENC HÖRCHER, THOMAS LORMAN (EDS.): A HISTORY OF THE HUNGARIAN CONSTITUTION - LAW, GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CULTURE IN CENTRAL EUROPE
GYÖRGY KÉPES: STRUCTURAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE HUNGARIAN JUDICIARY FROM THE BEGINNING UNTIL THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY



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JUDIT BEKE-MARTOS: RESTORING THE HUNGARIAN HISTORICAL CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER WITH A CORONATION IN 1867

IMRE KÉPESSY: NATIONAL MODERNIZATION THROUGH THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION OF 1848 – PRETEXT AND CONTEXT –

MARTYN RADY: CUSTOMARY LAW IN HUNGARY: COURTS, TEXTS, AND THE TRIPARTITUM

ZOLTÁN SZENTE: THE HISTORIC ORIGINS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN HUNGARY

ASSESSMENT

EACH STUDENT

1. SHALL HOLD AN ORAL PRESENTATION (15-20 MINUTES, USING A SLIDESHOW IS OBLIGATORY) AND
2. TAKE A WRITTEN EXAM AT THE END OF SEMESTER.