

Foreword

In a perfect society, in a functioning democracy every citizen, each human being who is part of the cogwheel of society is measured on his or her own merit. Measuring individuals on their own merit, always and at all times – it would be desirable.

However, no perfect society exists in this world. Yet, since God has created us in his own image, we long for perfection, even though our level of success changes depending on the various historical times. I believe that in order to be able to build the present, that is to be able to take part actively in the shaping of the future, it is imperative that we first restore the past. It is for this reason that we must strive for ending the falsification of history which is happening to this day. The communist regime and its disguised remains that live amongst us today have always wanted to and still want to erase the past because it creates an obstacle in their vision of a new world.

The book attempts to describe pivotal points of Hungarian history through the eyes of seven interviewees – including two historians – who are unique in many ways but have something in common: they view the world via glasses that have a Hungarian focus. We can learn a lot from their thoughts, and these days it is very much necessary for our country to draw the correct conclusions. Historical restoration is particularly important for my family and I, it is imperative that the virtues and failures of our thousand years old elite are measured at their true merit.

My family was forced to emigrate to Austria in 1945. I was three years old when I left the country with my father, Prince László Batthyány-Strattmann and my mother, Princess Mária Antónia Windisch-Grätz. I only returned in 1989 and settled down in Hungary for good. I find it important to note that upon arriving back home I did not know a single Hungarian word because we spoke exclusively in German in our family. When my paternal uncle told me about the history of the Batthyány's for the first time, he did so in German.

I owe my gratitude to prime minister József Antall, who played a major role in making my decision to return home and whose economic advisor I later became. It was also helpful that he supported me in distributing the donated money that I had collected for Hungarians living in Transylvania. Although I did not grow up in Hungary, it is here where I have learnt what it means to be Hungarian. Perhaps it is partially due to this circumstance that this country, my birthplace is beautiful in my eyes. Life here is particularly good and safe, and everybody has opportunities who wants to find them and is willing to act.

Besides attempting to show Hungarian history objectively, the book also attempts to describe the religion of Islam: the interviewees provide accurate descriptions that I agree with and I also share their anguish concerning the future of the continent. There is no other nation in Europe that understands and perceives it better what it is like to live together with Islam, or rather, under Islamic pressure than Hungarians do. We have experienced

it for 150 years, yet we are still here, we are home, we have survived, we have remained Christian meaning that we have been able to preserve our thousand-year-old culture. In the middle of the 1440s Boldizsár Batthyány had already fought against the Turks, in 1525 Ferenc Batthyány protected Jajce and in the following year, he partook in the battle of Mohács as the comes of Bratislava. He was the commander of the Hungarian right legion and he led a brigade of 4,000 army men including 3,000 equestrians and an infantry of 1,000. Therefore, my family has first-hand historical experience with Islam. As to more recent times, I have lived in Arabic regions as well, so I can rightfully state that Islam is relentless, and it resists all attempts of reform.

It is imperative that we do not just *look* at the events unfolding, but we also have to see them. We must see the irreconcilable differences that exist between the Islamic and Christian cultures. Christianity and Islam cannot complement one another, their fusion is impossible since the latter one does not intend to add an extra color to other cultures, instead it attempts to extinguish them. It is in its nature because it is not simply one religion out of many, but a lifestyle and a political system all in one. The will of Allah stands above anything and everything in Islam and accordingly, the legal system of Islam, sharia regulates the day to day activities as well.

We are not in an easy situation, particularly if we glance to the West; the West to which we belong in a cultural sense, yet the growing expansion of the neoliberal ideology is not at all favorable to the conservative Christian approach we represent. They have overly emancipated the masses and the resulting destruction has been going on for at least a century – religion, morale, and order along with those who have represented these values and do so today have been discredited. The situation in Western Europe is catastrophic and not merely in a moral sense. The political elite did not learn from the mistakes they have made in their economic strategy and they allowed the strong presence of Chinese influence in Africa regarding the land, the forests, the mines, and the market as well. Although there would have been opportunities, especially for the old colonist countries, to step up competitively and with the intent to develop the countries of the continent. Instead they are importing future voters, driving them here on foot, to cement themselves into power. The leadership of the European Union thinks exclusively in present tense and they are intoxicated by the power of the now. They are convinced that the new settlers will guarantee their staying in power. But this approach is nothing more than short-sightedness and for me, a descendant of a Hungarian historical family, this attitude is utterly unacceptable. I am hopeful however, that if the European people one day realize and get fed up with the destruction that their own ideology inflicts upon them, they will try to return to their own roots. I hope to God that it won't be too late for them. Because although at the moment Muslim communities are present in smaller numbers, their ability to enforce and manifest their interests is strong and unified. Today, these groups in Europe do not find themselves face to face with a similarly stable and firm force, instead – to use a fashionable choice of words – they are standing across all colors of the rainbow. And this ammunition is far from enough.

And what will happen to us? My hope is that we will continue to uphold our rock-solid stance and will not allow ourselves to be dissuaded. I look forward to sober voices be-

coming louder, however hesitant they may be today, and after all, time is on our side. If Hungary and the Hungarian people do not want their language, culture and history to be wiped out without a trace by the modern day migration – all thanks to the historical sin of the incompetent elite of the European Union – then we have to stand by our interests and not give way to the continuous badgering that is trying to push us towards giving up our sovereignty. With the help of our individual and shared accomplishments let us show that we are here, we are home here, and it cannot be in any other way. The history of the Batthyány family is part of the history of Hungarians, it validates and attests to the legitimacy of this one thousand years old nation in the Carpathian basin. If we want our history to remain ours, we must always represent our interests with earnest words and honest acts.

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¹ The family of Count Batthyány of Németújvár is a Hungarian aristocratic family with living descendants. The family has two branches: the count and prince branch. The latter one exists under the name of Batthyány-Strattman and it possesses the title of “prince of the Holy Roman Empire” since 1764.