

= Louis I of Hungary =

Louis I , also Louis the Great (Hungarian : Nagy Lajos ; Croatian : Ludovik Veliki ; Slovak : Ľudovít Veľký) or Louis the Hungarian (Polish : Ludwik Węgierski ; 5 March 1326 ? 10 September 1382) , was King of Hungary and Croatia from 1342 and King of Poland from 1370 . He was the first child of Charles I of Hungary and his wife , Elizabeth of Poland , to survive infancy . A 1338 treaty between his father and Casimir III of Poland , Louis 's maternal uncle , confirmed Louis 's right to inherit the Kingdom of Poland if his uncle died without a son . In exchange , Louis was obliged to assist his uncle to reoccupy the lands that Poland had lost in previous decades . He bore the title of Duke of Transylvania between 1339 and 1342 but did not administer the province .

Louis was of age when succeeded his father in 1342 , but his deeply religious mother exerted a powerful influence on him . He inherited a centralized kingdom and a rich treasury from his father . During the first years of his reign , Louis launched a crusade against the Lithuanians and restored royal power in Croatia ; his troops defeated a Tatar army , expanding his authority towards the Black Sea . When his brother , Andrew , Duke of Calabria , husband of Queen Joanna I of Naples , was assassinated in 1345 , Louis accused the queen of his murder and punishing her became the principal goal of his foreign policy . He launched two campaigns to the Kingdom of Naples between 1347 and 1350 . His troops occupied large territories on both occasions , and Louis adopted the styles of Neapolitan sovereigns (including the title of King of Sicily and Jerusalem) , but the Holy See never recognized his claim . Louis 's arbitrary acts and atrocities committed by his mercenaries made his rule unpopular in Southern Italy . He withdrew all his troops from the Kingdom of Naples in 1351 .

Like his father , Louis administered Hungary with absolute power and used royal prerogatives to grant privileges to his courtiers . However , he also confirmed the liberties of the Hungarian nobility at the Diet of 1351 , emphasizing the equal status of all noblemen . At the same Diet , he introduced an entail system and a uniform rent payable by the peasants to the landowners , and confirmed the right to free movement for all peasants . He waged wars against the Lithuanians , Serbia , and the Golden Horde in the 1350s , restoring the authority of Hungarian monarchs over territories along frontiers that had been lost during previous decades . He forced the Republic of Venice to renounce the Dalmatian towns in 1358 . He also made several attempts to expand his suzerainty over the rulers of Bosnia , Moldavia , Wallachia , and parts of Bulgaria and Serbia . These rulers were sometimes willing to yield to him , either under duress or in the hope of support against their internal opponents , but Louis 's rule in these regions was only nominal during most of his reign . His attempts to convert his pagan or Orthodox subjects to Catholicism made him unpopular in the Balkan states . Louis established a university in Pécs in 1367 , but it was closed within two decades because he did not arrange for sufficient revenues to maintain it .

Louis inherited Poland after his uncle 's death in 1370 . Since he fathered only daughters , he wanted his subjects to acknowledge the right of his daughters to succeed him in both Hungary and Poland . For this purpose , he issued the Privilege of Koszyce in 1374 spelling out the liberties of Polish noblemen . However , his rule remained unpopular in Poland . In Hungary , he authorized the royal free towns to delegate jurors to the high court hearing their cases and set up a new high court . Suffering from a skin disease , Louis became even more religious during the last years of his life . At the beginning of the Western Schism , he acknowledged Pope Urban VI as the legitimate pope . After the pope dethroned Joanna I of Naples and made Louis 's distant cousin , Charles of Durazzo , king of Naples , Louis helped Charles occupy the kingdom . In Hungarian historiography , Louis was regarded for centuries as the most powerful Hungarian monarch who ruled over an empire " whose shores were washed by three seas " .

= = Childhood and youth (1326 ? 1342) = =

Born on 5 March 1326 , Louis was the third son of Charles I of Hungary and his wife , Elizabeth of Poland . He was named for his father 's uncle , Louis , Bishop of Toulouse , canonized in 1317 . The first @-@ born son of his parents , Charles , died before Louis was born . Louis became his father 's

heir after the death of his brother Ladislaus in 1329 .

He had a liberal education by the standards of his age and learned French , German and Latin . He showed a special interest in history and astrology . A cleric from Wrocław , Nicholas , taught him the basic principles of Christian faith . However , Louis 's religious zeal was due to his mother 's influence . In a royal charter , Louis remembered that in his childhood , a knight of the royal court , Peter Poháros , often carried him on his shoulders . His two tutors , Nicholas Drugeth and Nicholas Knesich , saved the lives of both Louis and his younger brother , Andrew , when Felician Záh attempted to assassinate the royal family in Visegrád on 17 April 1330 .

Louis was only nine when he stamped a treaty of alliance between his father and John of Bohemia . A year later , Louis accompanied his father in invading Austria . On 1 March 1338 , John of Bohemia 's son and heir , Charles , Margrave of Moravia , signed a new treaty with Charles I of Hungary and Louis in Visegrád . According to the treaty , Charles of Moravia acknowledged the right of Charles I 's sons to succeed their maternal uncle , Casimir III of Poland , if Casimir died without a male issue . Louis also pledged that he would marry the margrave 's three @-@ year @-@ old daughter , Margaret .

Casimir III 's first wife , Aldona of Lithuania , died on 26 May 1339 . Two leading Polish noblemen ? Zbigniew , chancellor of Cracow , and Spycimir Leliwita ? persuaded Casimir , who had not fathered a son , to make his sister , Elizabeth , and her offspring his heirs . According to the 15th @-@ century Jan Długosz , Casimir held a general sejm in Cracow where " the assembled prelates and nobles " proclaimed Louis as Casimir 's heir , but the reference to the sejm is anachronistic . Historian Paul W. Knoll writes that Casimir preferred his sister 's family to his own daughters or a member of a cadet branch of the Piast dynasty , because he wanted to ensure the king of Hungary 's support against the Teutonic Knights . Louis 's father and uncle signed a treaty in Visegrád in July whereby Casimir III made Louis his heir if he died without a son . In exchange , Charles I pledged that Louis would reoccupy Pomerania and other Polish lands lost to the Teutonic Order without Polish funds and would only employ Poles in the royal administration in Poland .

Louis received the title of Duke of Transylvania from his father in 1339 , but he did not administer the province . According to a royal charter from the same year , Louis 's bride , Margaret of Bohemia , lived in the Hungarian royal court . Louis 's separate ducal court was first mentioned in a royal charter of 1340 .

= = Reign = =

= = = First years (1342 ? 1345) = = =

Charles I died on 16 July 1342 . Five days later , Csanád Telegdi , Archbishop of Esztergom , crowned Louis king with the Holy Crown of Hungary in Székesfehérvár . Although Louis had attained the age of majority , his mother Elizabeth " acted as a sort of co @-@ regent " for decades , because she exerted a powerful influence on him . Louis inherited a rich treasury from his father , who had strengthened royal authority and ruled without holding Diets during the last decades of his reign .

Louis introduced a new system of land grants , excluding the grantee 's brothers and other kinsmen from the donation in contrast with customary law : such estates escheated to the Crown if the grantee 's last male descendants died . On the other hand , Louis often " promoted a daughter to a son " , that is authorized a daughter to inherit her father 's estates , although customary law prescribed that the landed property of a deceased nobleman who had no sons was to be inherited by his kinsmen . Louis often granted this privilege to the wives of his favorites . Louis also frequently authorized landowners to apply capital punishment in their estates , limiting the authority of the magistrates of the counties .

William Drugeth , an influential advisor of Louis 's late father , died in September 1342 . He bequeathed his landed property to his brother , Nicholas , but Louis confiscated those estates . In late autumn , Louis dismissed his father 's Voivode of Transylvania , Thomas Szécsényi , although

Szécsényi 's wife was a distant cousin of the queen mother . Louis especially favored the Lackfis : eight members of the family held high offices during his reign . Andrew Lackfi was the commander of the royal army during the first war of Louis 's reign . In late 1342 or early 1343 , he invaded Serbia and restored the Banate of Macsó , which had been lost during his father 's reign .

Robert the Wise , King of Naples , died on 20 January 1343 . In his testament , he declared his granddaughter , Joanna I , his sole heir , excluding Louis 's younger brother , Andrew , Joanna 's husband , from becoming co -@-@ ruler . Louis and his mother regarded this as an infringement of a previous agreement between the late kings of Naples and Hungary . He visited his bride 's father , Charles of Moravia , in Prague to persuade him to intervene on Andrew 's behalf with Charles 's former tutor , Pope Clement VI , the overlord of the Kingdom of Naples . Louis also sent envoys to his Neapolitan relatives and the high officials of the kingdom , urging them to promote his brother 's interests . Their mother , Elizabeth , left for Naples in the summer , taking with her almost the whole royal treasure , including more than 6 @,@ 628 kilograms (14 @,@ 612 lb) of silver and 5 @,@ 150 kilograms (11 @,@ 350 lb) of gold . During her seven @-@ month @-@ long stay in Italy , she was only able to persuade her daughter @-@ in @-@ law and the pope to promise that Andrew would be crowned as Joanna 's husband .

According to the nearly contemporaneous chronicle of John of Küküll?, Louis launched his first campaign against a group of Transylvanian Saxons , who had refused to pay taxes , and forced them to yield in the summer of 1344 . During his stay in Transylvania , Nicholas Alexander ? who was the son of Basarab , the ruling prince of Wallachia ? swore loyalty to Louis on his father 's behalf in Brassó (now Bra?ov in Romania) ; thus the suzerainty of the Hungarian monarchs over Wallachia was , at least outwardly , restored .

Louis joined a crusade against the pagan Lithuanians in December 1344 . The crusaders ? including John of Bohemia , Charles of Moravia , Peter of Bourbon , and William of Hainaut and Holland ? laid siege to Vilnius . However , a Lithuanian invasion of the lands of the Teutonic Knights forced them to lift the siege . Louis returned to Hungary in late February 1345 . He dispatched Andrew Lackfi to invade the lands of the Golden Horde in retaliation for the Tatars ' earlier plundering raids against Transylvania and the Szepesség (now Spi? in Slovakia) . Lackfi and his army of mainly Székely warriors inflicted a defeat on a large Tatar army . Thereafter the Golden Horde 's control of the lands between the Eastern Carpathians and the Black Sea weakened . A conflict between Louis 's uncle and father @-@ in @-@ law (Casimir III of Poland and Charles of Moravia) led to a war between Poland and Bohemia in April . In this war Louis supported his uncle with reinforcements in accordance with the agreement of 1339 .

While Louis 's armies were fighting in Poland and against the Tatars , Louis marched to Croatia in June 1345 and besieged Knin , the former seat of the late Ivan Nelipac , who had successfully resisted Louis 's father , forcing his widow and son to surrender . The Counts of Corbavia and other Croatian noblemen also yielded to him during his stay in Croatia . The citizens of Zadar rebelled against the Republic of Venice and accepted his suzerainty . Louis meanwhile returned to Visegrád . He dispatched Stephen II , Ban of Bosnia , to assist the burghers of Zadar , but the ban did not fight against the Venetians .

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== = The Neapolitan campaigns (1345 ? 1350) = = =

Louis 's brother , Andrew , was murdered in Aversa on 18 September 1345 . Louis and his mother accused Andrew 's widow , Queen Joanna I , Robert , Prince of Taranto , Charles , Duke of Durazzo and other members of the Neapolitan branches of the Capetian House of Anjou of plotting against Andrew . In his letter of 15 January 1346 to Pope Clement VI , Louis demanded that the pope dethrone the " husband @-@ killer " queen and grant Naples to Andrew 's posthumous son by Joanna , Charles Martel , Duke of Calabria . Louis also laid claim to the regency of the kingdom during the minority of his nephew , referring to his patrilinear descent from the first @-@ born son of

Robert the Wise 's father , Charles II of Naples . He even promised to increase the amount of yearly tribute that the kings of Naples would pay to the Holy See . After the pope failed to fully investigate Andrew 's murder , Louis decided to invade southern Italy . In preparation for the invasion , he sent his envoys to Ancona and other Italian towns before summer 1346 .

While his envoys negotiated in Italy , Louis marched to Dalmatia to relieve Zadar , but the Venetians bribed his commanders . When the citizens broke out and attacked the besiegers on 1 July , the royal army failed to intervene , and the Venetians overcame the defenders outside the walls of the town . Louis withdrew but refused to renounce Dalmatia , although the Venetians offered to pay 320 @, @ 000 golden florins as compensation . Lacking military support from Louis , however , Zadar surrendered to the Venetians on 21 December 1346 .

Louis sent small expeditions one after one to Italy at the beginning of his war against Joanna , because he did not want to harass the Italians who had suffered from a famine the previous year . His first troops departed under the command of Nicholas Vásári , Bishop of Nyitra (now Nitra in Slovakia) , on 24 April 1347 . Louis also hired German mercenaries . He departed from Visegrád on 11 November . After marching through Udine , Verona , Modena , Bologna , Urbino , and Perugia , he entered the Kingdom of Naples on 24 December near L 'Aquila , which had yielded to him .

Queen Joanna remarried , wedding a distant cousin , Louis of Taranto , and fled for Marseille on 11 January 1348 . Their other relatives , Robert of Taranto and Charles of Durazzo , visited Louis in Aversa to yield to him . Louis received them amicably and convinced them to persuade their brothers , Philip of Taranto and Louis of Durazzo , to join them . After their arrival , Louis 's " smile was replaced by the harshest expression as he unveiled with terrible words the true feelings he had for the princes and that he had kept hidden until then " , according to the contemporaneous Domenico da Gravina . He repeated his former accusations , blamed his kinsmen for his brother 's murder , and had them captured on 22 January . The next day Charles of Durazzo ? the husband of Joanna I 's sister , Mary ? was beheaded upon Louis 's orders . The other princes were kept captive and sent to Hungary , together with Louis 's infant nephew , Charles Martel .

Louis marched to Naples in February . The citizens offered him a ceremonious entry , but he refused , threatening to let his soldiers sack the town if they did not raise the taxes . He adopted the traditional titles of the kings of Naples ? " King of Sicily and Jerusalem , Duke of Apulia and Prince of Capua " ? and administered the kingdom from the Castel Nuovo , garrisoning his mercenaries in the most important forts . He used unusually brutal methods of investigation to capture all accomplices in the death of his brother , according to Domenico da Gravina . Most local noble families (including the Balzos and the Sanseverinos) refused to cooperate with him . The pope refused to confirm Louis 's rule in Naples , which would have united two powerful kingdoms under Louis 's rule . The pope and the cardinals declared Queen Joanna innocent of her husband 's murder at a formal meeting of the College of Cardinals .

The arrival of the Black Death forced Louis to leave Italy in May . He made Ulrich Wolfhardt governor of Naples , but his mercenaries did not hinder Joanna I and her husband from returning in September . Louis , who had signed a truce for eight years with Venice on 5 August , sent new troops to Naples under the command of Stephen Lackfi , Voivode of Transylvania , in late 1349 . Lackfi reoccupied Capua , Aversa and other forts that had been lost to Joanna I , but a mutiny among his German mercenaries forced him to return to Hungary . The Black Death had meanwhile reached Hungary . The first wave of the epidemic ended in June , but it returned in September , killing Louis 's first wife , Margaret . Louis also fell ill , but survived the plague . Although the Black Death was less devastating in the sparsely populated Hungary than in other parts of Europe , there were regions that became depopulated in 1349 , and the demand for work force increased in the subsequent years .

Louis proposed to renounce the Kingdom of Naples if Pope Clement dethroned Joanna . After the pope refused , Louis departed for his second Neapolitan campaign in April 1350 . He suppressed a mutiny that occurred among his mercenaries while he and his troops were waiting for the arrival of further troops in Barletta . While marching towards Naples , he faced resistance at many towns because his vanguards , which were under the command of Stephen Lackfi , had become notorious for their cruelty .

During the campaign , Louis personally led assaults and climbed city walls together with his soldiers , endangering his own life . While besieging Canosa di Puglia , Louis fell into the moat from a ladder when a defender of the fort hit him with a stone . He dove into a river without hesitation to save a young soldier who was swept away while exploring a ford upon his order . An arrow pierced Louis 's left leg during the siege of Aversa . After the fall of Aversa to Hungarian troops on 3 August , Queen Joanna and her husband again fled from Naples . However , Louis decided to return to Hungary . According to the contemporaneous historian Matteo Villani , Louis attempted to " leave the kingdom without losing face " after he had run out of money and experienced the resistance of the local population .

To celebrate the Jubilee of 1350 , Louis visited Rome during his journey back to Hungary . He arrived in Buda on 25 October 1350 . With the mediation of the Holy See , the envoys of Louis and Queen Joanna 's husband , Louis of Taranto , signed a truce for six months . The pope promised Louis that the queen 's role in her husband 's murder would again be investigated , and he ordered her to pay 300 @,@ 000 gold florins as a ransom for the imprisoned Neapolitan princes .

= = = Expansion (1350 ? 1358) = = =

Casimir III of Poland urged Louis to intervene in his war with the Lithuanians who had occupied Brest , Volodymyr @-@ Volynskyi , and other important towns in Halych and Lodomeria in the previous years . The two monarchs agreed that Halych and Lodomeria would be integrated into the Kingdom of Hungary after Casimir 's death . Casimir also authorized Louis to redeem the two realms for 100 @,@ 000 florins if Casimir fathered a son . Louis led his army to Cracow in June 1351 . Because Casimir fell ill , Louis became the sole commander of the united Polish and Hungarian army . He invaded the lands of the Lithuanian prince , K?stutis , in July . K?stutis seemingly accepted Louis 's suzerainty on 15 August and agreed to be baptised , along with his brothers , in Buda . However , K?stutis did nothing to fulfill his promises after Polish and Hungarian troops were withdrawn . In an attempt to capture K?stutis , Louis returned , but he could not defeat the Lithuanians , who even killed one of his allies , Boleslaus III of P?ock , in battle . Louis returned to Buda before 13 September . A papal legate visited Louis to persuade him to wage war against Stefan Du?an , Emperor of the Serbs , who had forced his Roman Catholic subjects to be re @-@ baptised and join the Serbian Orthodox Church .

To deal with the grievances of the Hungarian noblemen , Louis held a Diet in late 1351 . He confirmed all but one of the provisions of the Golden Bull of 1222 , declaring that all noblemen enjoyed the same liberties in his realms . He rejected only the provision that authorized noblemen who died without a son to freely bequeath their estates . Instead , he introduced an entail system , prescribing that the estates of a nobleman who had no male descendants passed to his kinsmen , or if there were no male relatives to the Crown , upon his death . At the same Diet , Louis ordered that all landowners were to collect the " ninth " , that is one tenth of specified agricultural products , from the peasants who held plots on their estates . On the other hand , he confirmed the right of all peasants to freely move to another landowner 's estates .

The " general accord " between Louis and the royal couple of Naples " was accepted by both sides " during 1351 , according to the contemporaneous Niccolò Acciaioli . Joanna I and her husband returned to the Kingdom of Naples and Louis 's troops were withdrawn . Louis even renounced the ransom that Joanna I had promised to pay for the liberation of the imprisoned Neapolitan princes , stating that he had not gone to " war for greed , but to avenge the death of his brother " . Louis continued to use the titles of his grandfather , Charles Martel of Anjou (the firstborn son of Charles II of Naples) , styling himself as " Prince of Salerno and lord of Monte Sant 'Angelo " .

Casimir III laid siege to Belz and Louis joined his uncle in March 1352 . During the siege , which ended without the surrender of the fort , Louis was heavily injured in his head . Algirdas , Grand Duke of Lithuania , hired Tatar mercenaries who stormed into Podolia , Louis returned to Hungary because he feared a Tatar invasion of Transylvania . Pope Clement proclaimed a crusade against the Lithuanians and the Tatars in May , authorizing Louis to collect a tithe from Church revenues during the next four years . The pope stated that he had never " granted a tenth of such duration " ,

emphasizing the link between his magnanimity and the release of the imprisoned Neapolitan princes . The pope also authorized Louis to seize the pagans ' and schismatics ' lands bordering on his kingdom .

Although Louis signed an alliance with the Republic of Genoa in October 1352 , he did not intervene in the Genoese ? Venetian War , because his truce of 1349 with Venice was still in force . Louis married Elizabeth of Bosnia , who was the daughter of his vassal , Stephen II , in 1353 . Historian Gyula Kristó says that this marriage showed Louis 's renewed interest in the affairs of the Balkan Peninsula . While he was hunting in Zólyom County (now in Slovakia) in late November 1353 , a brown bear attacked him , inflicting 24 wounds on his legs . Louis 's life was saved by a knight of the court , John Beseny? , who killed the beast with his sword .

According to Matteo Villani , Louis launched an expedition against the Golden Horde at the head of an army of 200 @,@ 000 horsemen in April 1354 . The young Tatar ruler , whom historian Iván Bertényi identified as Jani Beg , did not want to wage war against Hungary and agreed to sign a peace treaty . Although no other primary source mentioned that campaign and treaty , the Tatars made no plundering raids in Transylvania after 1354 , which suggests that Villani 's report is reliable . In the same year , Louis invaded Serbia , forcing Stefan Du?an to withdraw from the region along the river Sava . Under duress , Du?an initiated negotiations with the Holy See for acknowledgement of the popes ' primacy . The following year , Louis sent reinforcements to Casimir III to fight against the Lithuanians , and Hungarian troops supported Albert II , Duke of Austria , against Zürich . The Venetian delegates offered Louis 6 ? 7 @,@ 000 golden ducats as a compensation for Dalmatia , but Louis refused to give up his plan to reconquer the province . He signed an alliance with Albert II of Austria and Nicolaus of Luxemburg , Patriarch of Aquileia , against Venice . Upon his order , Croatian lords besieged and captured Klis , a Dalmatian fortress that Stefan Du?an 's sister , Jelena , had inherited from her husband , Mladen ?ubi? .

In summer 1356 , Louis invaded Venetian territories without a formal declaration of war . He laid siege to Treviso on 27 July . A local nobleman , Giuliano Baldachino , noticed that Louis sat alone while writing his letters on the banks of Sile River on each morning . Baldachino proposed the Venetians to assassinate him in exchange for 12 @,@ 000 golden florins and Castelfranco Veneto , but they refused his offer because he did not share the details of his plans with them . Louis returned to Buda in the autumn , but his troops continued the siege . Pope Innocent VI urged the Venetians to make a peace with Hungary . The pope made Louis the " standard @-@ bearer of the Church " and granted him a three @-@ year tithe to fight against Francesco II Ordelaffi and other rebellious lords in the Papal States . Louis sent an army under Nicholas Lackfi 's command to support the pope 's troops in Italy .

Louis marched to Dalmatia in July 1357 . Split , Trogir , and ?ibenik soon got rid of Venetian governors and yielded to Louis . After a short siege , Louis 's army also captured Zadar with the assistance of its townspeople . Tvrtko I of Bosnia , who had succeeded Louis 's father @-@ in @-@ law in 1353 , surrendered western Hum to Louis , who claimed that territory as his wife 's dowry . In the Treaty of Zadar , which was signed on 18 February 1358 , the Republic of Venice renounced all Dalmatian towns and islands between the Gulf of Kvarner and Durazzo in favor of Louis . The Republic of Ragusa also accepted Louis 's suzerainty . The Dalmatian towns remained self @-@ governing communities , owing only a yearly tribute and naval service to Louis , who also abolished all commercial restrictions that had been introduced during the Venetians ' rule . The merchants of Ragusa were explicitly entitled to freely trade in Serbia even during a war between Hungary and Serbia .

= = = Wars in the Balkans (1358 ? 1370) = = =

Serbia started to disintegrate after the death of Stefan Du?an . According to Matteo Villani , an unidentified Serbian lord sought Hungarian assistance against his more powerful (and also unnamed) enemy in the late 1350s . Historians John V. A. Fine and Pál Engel write that the Serbian lord was a member of the Rastislali? family ; Gyula Kristó and Iván Bertényi identify him as Lazar Hrebeljanovi? . Royal charters of 1358 show that Hungarian troops fought in Serbia in October 1358

. The next summer Louis also marched to Serbia , but Stefan Uro? V of Serbia avoided battle .

Louis and the royal army stayed in Transylvania in November 1359 and January 1360 , implying that he planned a military expedition against Wallachia or another neighboring territory . A charter of 1360 said that a Romanian voivode , Drago? of Giule?ti , restored Louis 's suzerainty in Moldavia after a rebellion of local Romanians . According to most Moldavian chronicles , Drago? , who is sometimes identified with Drago? of Giule?ti and sometimes as Drago? of Bedeu , departed " from the Hungarian country , from Maramure? " at the head of his retinue , crossed the Carpathian Mountains while chasing an aurochs and settled in the valley of the Moldova River in 1359 . The same chronicles presented this " dismounting " by Drago? as a decisive step towards the development of the Principality of Moldavia . Another Romanian voivode , Bogdan , who had rebelled against Louis and plundered the estates of the Romanian landowners loyal to the king already in the 1340s , departed from Hungary and invaded Moldavia in the early 1360s . Bogdan expelled the descendants of Louis 's vassal , Drago? , from the principality . According to John of Küküll? , Louis launched several expeditions against Bogdan , but their dates cannot be determined . Bogdan ruled Moldavia as an independent prince .

Upon the pope 's request , Louis sent Hungarian troops to relieve Bologna , which was besieged by Bernabò Visconti 's troops . After Visconti lifted the siege , Louis 's mercenaries pillaged the region and refused to cooperate with the papal legate ; Louis had the commander of the army imprisoned . After a conflict emerged between Emperor Charles IV and Rudolf IV , Duke of Austria , rumors spread about a conspiracy to dethrone the emperor in favor of Louis or Rudolf . Charles IV , Rudolf IV and Louis met in Nagyszombat (now Trnava in Slovakia) in May . The emperor and the duke mutually surrendered their claims to the other party 's realms . Louis also persuaded the emperor to renounce his suzerainty over the Duchy of P?ock in Poland .

Louis decided to convert the Jews in Hungary to Catholicism around 1360 . After experiencing resistance , he expelled them from his realms . Their immovable property was confiscated , but they were allowed to take their personal property with them and also to recover the loans they had made . No pogrom took place , which was unusual in the 14th century , according to historian Raphael Patai .

Emperor Charles IV and Rudolf IV of Austria signed a treaty of alliance against the patriarch of Aquileia , who was Louis 's ally , in August 1361 . Fearing the formation of a coalition along the western borders of Hungary , Louis asked his former enemy , Louis of Taranto (Joanna I 's husband) , to send at least one of his brothers to Buda , and mediated a reconciliation between Rudolph IV and the patriarch . At a meeting with Louis 's envoys in Prague , Emperor Charles made an insulting remark about Louis 's mother , stating that she " was shameless " , according to Jan D?ugosz 's chronicle . Louis demanded an apology , but the emperor did not answer .

In preparation for a war against Bohemia , Louis ordered the mobilization of the royal army and marched to Trenčsén (now Tren?ín in Slovakia) . However , his supposed allies (Rudolf IV of Austria , Meinhard III of Tyrol and Casimir III of Poland) failed to join him , and the emperor initiated negotiations that lasted for months with the mediation of Casimir III . Louis was finally reconciled with Charles IV at their meeting in Uherské Hradišt? on 8 May 1363 .

Louis invaded Bosnia from two directions in the spring of 1363 . An army under the command of Palatine Nicholas Kont and Nicholas Fraknói , Archbishop of Esztergom , laid siege to Srebrenica , but the fortress did not surrender . As the royal seal was stolen during the siege , a new seal was made and all Louis 's former charters were to be confirmed with the new seal . The army under Louis 's personal command besieged Sokolac in July , but could not capture it . Hungarian troops returned to Hungary in the same month . Pope Urban V proclaimed a crusade against the Muslim powers of the Mediterranean upon Peter I of Cyprus 's request on 31 March 1363 . Urban V urged Louis to join the crusade , emphasizing that he was a powerful monarch , a devout Christian , and " well @-@ placed to help " . The next month the pope levied a three @-@ year tithe on the church revenues in Hungary and asked Louis to support the papal officials to collect the tax . However , Louis made every effort to hinder the activities of the papal tax collectors , stating that he needed resources to cover the costs of his future wars against the infidels and the pope 's enemies in Italy .

Louis signed a treaty with Emperor Charles and Rudolf IV of Austria in Brno in early 1364 , which

put an end to their conflicts . In September , Louis visited Cracow to attend the large congress where Peter I of Cyprus attempted to persuade a dozen European monarchs to join the crusade . Louis was the only monarch to promise assistance , but later failed to fulfill his promise . At the congress , Casimir III of Poland confirmed Louis 's right to succeed him in Poland if he died without a male issue . Louis , who had not fathered a son either , invited a distant relative of his , Charles of Durazzo , to Hungary in 1364 , but did not make the young prince his official heir . Louis allowed the Jews to return to Hungary in the same year ; legal proceedings between the Jews and those who had seized their houses lasted for years .

Louis assembled his armies in Temesvár (now Timișoara in Romania) in February 1365 . According a royal charter that year , he was planning to invade Wallachia because the new voivode , Vladislav Vlaicu , had refused to obey him . However , he ended up heading a campaign against the Bulgarian Tsardom of Vidin and its ruler Ivan Stratsimir , which suggests that Vladislav Vlaicu had in the meantime yielded to him . Louis seized Vidin and imprisoned Ivan Stratsimir in May or June . Within three months , his troops occupied Ivan Stratsimir 's realm , which was organized into a separate border province , or banate , under the command of Hungarian lords .

The Byzantine Emperor , John V Palaiologos visited Louis in Buda in early 1366 , seeking his assistance against the Ottoman Turks , who had set foot in Europe . This was the first occasion that a Byzantine Emperor left his empire to plead for a foreign monarch 's assistance . According to Louis 's physician , Giovanni di Conversino , at his first meeting with Louis , the emperor refused to dismount and to take off his hat , which offended Louis . John V pledged that he would promote the union of the Byzantine Church with the Papacy , and Louis promised to send him help , but neither the emperor nor Louis fulfilled their promises . Pope Urban encouraged Louis not to send help to Constantinople before the emperor guaranteed the Church union .

Louis stayed in Transylvania between June and September 1366 , implying that he waged war against Moldavia . He issued a decree authorizing the Transylvanian noblemen to pass judgments against " malefactors belonging to any nation , especially Romanians " . He also decreed that testimony of a Romanian knez who had received a royal charter of grant weighed the same as that of a nobleman . In the same year , Louis granted the Banate of Severin and the district of Fogaras to Vladislav Vlaicu of Wallachia , who had accepted his suzerainty . Tvrtko I of Bosnia also accepted Louis 's suzerainty after Hungarian troops assisted him in regaining his throne in early 1367 .

Louis made attempts to convert his pagan or " schismatic " subjects to Catholicism , even by force . The conversion of the pagan Cumans who had settled in Hungary a century before was completed during his reign , according to John of Küküllő . After the conquest of Vidin , he sent Franciscan friars to the new banate to convert the local Orthodox population , which caused widespread discontent among the Bulgarians . In 1366 , he ordered that all Serbian priests be converted and rebaptised . He also decreed that only Roman Catholic noblemen and knezes were allowed to hold landed property in the district of Sebes in Temes County . Louis supported the religious orders , especially the Franciscans and the Paulines , for whom he and his mother set up dozens of new monasteries . Upon Louis 's request , Pope Urban V sanctioned the establishment of a university in Pécs in 1367 , with the exception of a faculty of theology . However , Louis did not arrange for sufficient revenues and the university was closed by 1390 .

Vladislav Vlaicu of Wallachia made an alliance with Ivan Shishman , a half brother of the former ruler of Vidin , Ivan Stratsimir . Their united armies imposed a blockade on Vidin . Louis marched to the Lower Danube and ordered Nicholas Lackfi , Voivode of Transylvania , to invade Wallachia in the autumn of 1368 . The voivode 's army marched through the valley of the Ialomița River , but the Wallachians ambushed it and killed many Hungarian soldiers , including the voivode . However , Louis 's campaign against Wallachia from the west was successful and Vladislav Vlaicu yield to him in next summer . Upon his initiative , Louis restored Ivan Stratsimir in Vidin . Ivan Stratsimir swore loyalty to Louis and sent his two daughters as hostages to Hungary .

From the late 1360s , Louis suffered from a skin disease with symptoms similar to leprosy . Thereafter he became even more zealous and dedicated more time to praying and religious contemplation . After his meeting with Louis in 1372 , the papal legate , John de Cardailhac , stated : " I call God as my witness that I have never seen a monarch more majestic and more powerful ... or

one who desires peace and calm as much as he . " He also changed the priorities of his foreign policy and began neglecting the Balkan states . Casimir III of Poland and Louis signed a treaty against Emperor Charles IV in Buda in February 1369 . At their next meeting in Pressburg (now Bratislava in Slovakia) in September , Albert I of Bavaria , and Rupert I of the Palatinate joined their coalition against the emperor and the Habsburgs . However , Emperor Charles IV persuaded the two Wittelsbachs (Albert I and Rupert I) to break off the coalition in September 1370 .

= = = Union with Poland and reforms (1370 ? 1377) = = =

Casimir III of Poland died on 5 November 1370 . Louis arrived after his uncle 's funeral and ordered the erection of a splendid Gothic marble monument to the deceased king . He was crowned king of Poland in the Cracow Cathedral on 17 November . Casimir III had willed his patrimony ? including the duchies of Sieradz , ??czyca and Dobrzy? ? to his grandson , Casimir IV , Duke of Pomerania . However , the Polish prelates and lords were opposed to the disintegration of Poland and Casimir III 's testament was declared void . Louis visited Gniezno and made his Polish mother , Elizabeth , regent before returning to Hungary in December . His uncle 's two surviving daughters (Anna and Hedwig) accompanied him , and the Polish Crown Jewels were transferred to Buda , which raised discontent among Louis 's new subjects . Louis 's wife gave birth to a daughter , Catherine , in 1370 , seventeen years after their marriage ; a second daughter , Mary , was born in 1371 . Thereafter Louis 's made several attempts to safeguard his daughters ' right to succeed him .

During a war between Emperor Charles IV and Stephen II , Duke of Bavaria , Louis intervened on the duke 's behalf and the Hungarian army invaded Moravia . After the duke and the emperor signed a peace treaty , Louis and the emperor agreed upon the betrothal of their children early the next year . The Ottomans annihilated the Serbian armies in the Battle of Marica on 26 September 1371 . Lazar Hrebeljanovi? , one of the Serbian lords , swore loyalty to Louis . Pope Gregory XI urged Louis to resist the Ottomans but also pleaded with him to send reinforcements to Italy to fight against Bernabò Visconti . A war broke out between the Republic of Venice and Francesco I da Carrara , Lord of Padova , who was an ally of Louis , in the summer of 1372 . Louis sent reinforcements to Italy to assist Francesco da Carrara . The Venetians defeated the Hungarian troops at Treviso and captured its commander , Nicholas Lackfi , forcing Louis I to sign a peace treaty on 23 September 1373 .

Louis and the representatives of the Polish nobility started negotiations of Louis 's succession in Poland in the autumn of 1373 . After a year of negotiations , he issued the so @-@ called Privilege of Koszyce on 17 September 1374 , reducing the tax that Polish noblemen paid to the king by about 84 % and promising a remuneration to noblemen who participated in foreign military campaigns . In exchange , the Polish lords confirmed the right of Louis 's daughters to inherit Poland .

Louis invaded Wallachia in May 1375 , because the new prince of Wallachia , Radu I , had formed an alliance with the Bulgarian ruler , Ivan Shishman , and the Ottoman Sultan Murad I. The Hungarian army routed the united forces of the Wallachians and their allies , and Louis occupied the Banate of Severin , but Radu I did not yield . During the summer , Wallachian troops stormed into Transylvania and Ottomans pillaged the Banat .

From the middle of the 1370s , the Lackfis ' influence diminished and new favorites emerged in the royal court . James Szepesi was appointed judge royal in 1373 , and Nicholas Garay became the palatine in 1375 . The organization of central government was also modified to create a more centralized power structure . Louis 's " secret seal " , that he had always taken with him during his wars and journeys , was declared authentic , and Louis entrusted it to the secret chancellor who was always to accompany him . A new high official , the Lord Chancellor were authorized to use the great seal in the king 's name in 1376 or 1377 . Demetrius , Bishop of Zagreb , who was of humble origin , was the first to hold this new office . The Lord Chancellor became the head of a new central court of justice , called the court of " the king 's special presence " in 1377 . From around the same time , the royal free towns delegated jurors to assist the master of the treasury , who headed the court of appeal for the towns . A new official , the treasurer , took over the financial duties of the master of the treasury .

The Lithuanians made raids in Halych , Lodomeria , and Poland , almost reaching Cracow in November 1376 . A riot broke out in Cracow against the unpopular queen mother , Elizabeth , on 6 December . The rioters slaughtered about 160 servants of the queen @-@ mother , forcing her to flee to Hungary . Taking advantage of the situation , Władysław the White , Duke of Gniezno , who was a male member of the royal Piast dynasty , announced his claim to the Polish crown . However , Louis 's partisans defeated the pretender , and Louis made him abbot of the Pannonhalma Archabbey in Hungary . Louis appointed Vladislaus II of Opole his governor in Poland . In summer 1377 , Louis invaded the territories held by the Lithuanian prince , George , in Lodomeria . His Polish troops soon captured Chełm , while Louis seized George 's seat , Belz , after besieging it for seven weeks . He incorporated the occupied territories in Lodomeria , together with Galicia , into the Kingdom of Hungary . Three Lithuanian princes ? Fedor , Prince of Ratno , and two princes of Podolia , Alexander and Boris ? accepted Louis 's suzerainty .

= = = Last years (1377 ? 1382) = = =

Tvrtko I of Bosnia had himself crowned king , adopting the title of " King of Serbia , Bosnia and the Coastland " , in 1377 . Whether Louis had approved Tvrtko 's coronation cannot be decided . A new war broke out between Venice and Genoa in 1378 . Louis supported the Genoese and Trogir became the regular base of the Genoese fleet , which transformed Dalmatia into an important theater of war . Louis also sent reinforcements to Francesco I da Carrara to fight against the Venetians .

The cardinals who had turned against Pope Urban VI elected a new pope , Clement VII on 20 September 1378 , which gave rise to the Western Schism . Louis acknowledged Urban VI as the legitimate pope and offered him support to fight against his opponents in Italy . As Joanna I of Naples decided to join Clement VII 's camp , Pope Urban excommunicated and dethroned her on 17 June 1380 . The pope acknowledged Charles of Durazzo , who had lived in Louis 's court , as the lawful king of Naples . After Charles of Durazzo promised that he would not claim Hungary against Louis 's daughters , Louis dispatched him to invade Southern Italy at the head of a large army . Within a year , Charles of Durazzo occupied the Kingdom of Naples , and forced Queen Joanna to surrender to him on 26 August 1381 .

The envoys of Louis and Venice had meanwhile started negotiations on a new peace treaty , which was signed in Turin on 24 August 1381 . According to the treaty , Venice renounced Dalmatia and also promised to pay 7 @, @ 000 golden florins as an annual tribute to Hungary . Louis also stipulated that Venice was to transfer the relics of St Paul of Thebes to the newly established Pauline monastery at Budaszentlőrinc .

Royal charters referred to military actions in Lodomeria and Wallachia in the first half of 1382 , but no further information of those wars was preserved . Louis , whose health was quickly deteriorating , invited the representatives of the Polish prelates and lord for a meeting in Zólyom . Upon his demand , the Poles swore loyalty to his daughter , Mary , and her bride , Sigismund of Luxemburg , on 25 July 1382 . Louis died in Nagyszombat in the night on 10 or 11 September 1382 . He was buried in the Székesfehérvár Cathedral in a chapel that had been built upon his orders .

= = Family = =

Louis 's first wife , Margaret , was the oldest child of Charles , Margrave of Moravia , and his first wife , Blanche of Valois . Margaret was born in 1335 . The exact date of the marriage of Louis and Margaret is unknown , but it occurred between 1342 and 1345 . Margaret died childless on 7 September 1349 .

According to the Chronicle of Parthénopée , the Neapolitan princes whom Louis had imprisoned during his first campaign in Southern Italy proposed him to marry Queen Joanna I 's younger sister and heir , Mary . She was the widow of Charles of Durazzo , who had been executed on Louis 's orders . During the siege of Aversa in the summer of 1350 , Louis met her envoy in the nearby Trentola @-@ Ducenta and the terms of their marriage were accepted . However , Mary was forced

to marry Robert of Baux after Louis left Southern Italy .

Louis married his second wife , Elizabeth , around 20 June 1353 . Elizabeth was the daughter of Stephen II , Ban of Bosnia , and Stephen 's wife , Elizabeth of Kuyavia . Louis and his new wife were within the prohibited degree of kinship , because Louis 's mother and his wife 's grandmother were cousins , but they applied for a papal dispensation only about four months after their marriage . Historian Iván Bertényi says that this haste suggests that Elizabeth , who had been living in the court of Louis 's mother , was pregnant at the time of the marriage . If this theory is valid , Louis 's and his wife 's first child was stillborn . Their next child , Catherine , was born in 1370 and died in 1378 . The next daughter , Mary , who would succeed Louis in Hungary , was born in 1371 . Louis 's youngest daughter , Hedwig , who was born in 1373 , became queen regnant of Poland .

= = Legacy = =

Louis was the only Hungarian monarch to receive the epithet " Great " . He was mentioned under this byname not only in Hungarian chronicles in the 14th and 15th centuries , but also in a 17th @-@ century genealogy of the Capetians . Both his chivalrous personality and his successful military campaigns contributed to the development of his fame as a " great king " . Louis waged wars in almost each year during his reign . Louis " always desired peace at home and war abroad for neither can be made without the other " , according to Antonio Bonfini 's late 15th @-@ century chronicle . Historian Enikő Csukovits writes that Louis 's military actions show that he continued and accomplished his father 's policy through recovering Croatia and Dalmatia and waging wars in Southern Italy , in Lithuania and in the Balkan Peninsula . On the other hand , Pál Engel says that Louis 's " expeditions often lacked a realistic goal and sometimes even a reasonable pretext ... it was war itself that gave him pleasure " .

In the age of Romantic nationalism , Hungary during Louis 's reign was described as an empire " whose shores were washed by three seas " in reference to the Adriatic , Baltic and Black Seas . For instance , in 1845 the poet Sándor Petőfi referred to Louis 's reign as a period when " the falling stars of the north , the east and the south were all extinguished in Hungarian seas " . Actually , Poland remained an independent country during Louis 's reign and its borders did not extend to the Baltic Sea , and Louis 's suzerainty along the northwestern shores of the Black Sea was also uncertain .

In Polish historiography , two contrasting evaluations of Louis 's reign in Poland coexisted . The " pessimistic " tradition can be traced back to the views of the late 14th @-@ century Jan of Czerków , who was banished from Poland during Louis 's reign . Czerków emphasized that " there was no stability in the Kingdom of Poland " and the royal officials " continually pillaged the property of the poor people " during Louis 's reign . According to the " optimistic " historiographic tradition , Louis continued Casimir the Great 's policy of preserving the unity of Poland against the separatist magnates of Greater Poland with the assistance of lords from Lesser Poland .

John of Kükküll emphasized that Louis " ruled neither with passion , nor with arbitrariness , but rather as the guardian of righteousness " . Antonio Bonfini also described Louis as a just king wandering among his subjects in disguise to protect them from the royal officials ' arbitrary acts . Even Jan of Czerków underlined that Louis " did not rule in an absolute manner ; on the contrary , the foundations ... of [the Poles '] freedom were laid by him " .

New palaces and castles built at Zólyom , Diósgyőr and Louis 's other favorite hunting places were " masterpieces of the highest European standards " of his age , according to historian László Kontler . Louis initiated the compilation of the Illuminated Chronicle , which preserved the text of earlier chronicles . The 147 miniatures decorating the Illuminated Chronicle testify the mastery of Hungarian workshops during Louis 's reign .