

= Kingdom of Hungary ( 1000 ? 1301 ) =

The Kingdom of Hungary came into existence in Central Europe when Stephen I , Grand Prince of the Hungarians , was crowned king in 1000 or 1001 . He reinforced central authority and forced his subjects to accept Christianity . Although written sources emphasize the role played by German and Italian knights and clerics in the process , a significant part of the Hungarian vocabulary for agriculture , religion and state was taken from Slavic languages . Civil wars and pagan uprisings , along with attempts by the Holy Roman Emperors to expand their authority over Hungary , jeopardized the new monarchy . The monarchy stabilized during the reigns of Ladislaus I ( 1077 ? 1095 ) and Coloman ( 1095 ? 1116 ) . These rulers occupied Croatia and Dalmatia , but both realms retained their autonomous position . Their successors ? especially Béla II ( 1131 ? 1141 ) , Béla III ( 1176 ? 1196 ) , Andrew II ( 1205 ? 1235 ) , and Béla IV ( 1235 ? 1270 ) ? continued this policy of expansion towards the Balkan Peninsula and the lands east of the Carpathian Mountains , transforming their kingdom into one of the major powers of medieval Europe .

Rich in uncultivated lands , silver , gold , and salt deposits , Hungary became the preferred destination of mainly German , Italian and French colonists . These immigrants were mostly peasants who settled in villages , but craftsmen and merchants also came . Their arrival had a key role in the shaping of an urban lifestyle , habits and culture in medieval Hungary . The location of the kingdom at the crossroads of international trade routes favored the coexistence of several cultures . Romanesque , Gothic and Renaissance buildings and literary works written in Latin prove the predominantly Roman Catholic character of the culture , but Orthodox , and even non @-@ Christian ethnic minority communities also existed . Latin was the language of legislation , administration and judiciary , but " linguistic pluralism " contributed to the survival of many tongues , including a great variety of Slavic dialects .

The predominance of royal estates initially assured the sovereign 's preeminent position , but the alienation of royal lands gave rise to the emergence of a self @-@ conscious group of lesser landholders , known as " royal servants " . They forced Andrew II to issue his Golden Bull of 1222 , " one of first examples of constitutional limits being placed on the powers of a European monarch " ( Francis Fukuyama ) . The kingdom received a major blow from the Mongol invasion of 1241 ? 42 . Thereafter , Cuman and Jassic groups settled in the central lowlands , and colonists arrived from Moravia , Poland and other nearby countries . The erection of fortresses by landlords , promoted by the monarchs after the withdrawal of the Mongols , led to the development of semi @-@ autonomous " provinces " dominated by powerful magnates . Some of these magnates even challenged the authority of Andrew III ( 1290 ? 1301 ) , the last male descendant of the native Árpád dynasty . His death was followed by a period of interregnum and anarchy . Central power was re @-@ established only in the early 1320s .

= = Background = =

The Hungarians , or Magyars , conquered the Carpathian Basin at the turn of the 9th and 10th centuries . Here they found a predominantly Slavic @-@ speaking population . From their new homeland , they launched plundering raids against East Francia , Italy and other regions of Europe . Their raids were halted by Otto I , future Holy Roman Emperor , who defeated them at the Battle of Lechfeld in 955 .

Hungarians lived in patrilineal families , which were organized into clans that formed tribes . The tribal confederation was headed by the grand prince , always a member of the family descending from Árpád , the Hungarians ' leader around the time of their " land @-@ taking " . Contemporary authors described the Hungarians as nomads , but Ibn Rusta and others added that they also cultivated arable land . The great number of borrowings from Slavic languages prove that the Hungarians adopted new techniques and a more settled lifestyle in Central Europe . The cohabitation of Hungarians and local ethnic groups is also reflected in the assemblages of the " Bijelo Brdo culture " , which emerged in the mid @-@ 10th century .

Although they were pagan , the Hungarians demonstrated a tolerant attitude towards Christians ,

Jews , and Muslims . The Byzantine Church was the first to successfully proselytize among their leaders : in 948 the horka , and around 952 the gyula , were baptized in Constantinople . In contrast , the grand prince Géza ( c . 970 ? 997 ) received baptism according to the Latin rite . He erected fortresses and invited foreign warriors to develop a new army based on heavy cavalry . Géza also arranged the marriage of his son , Stephen , with Giselle of Bavaria , a princess from the family of the Holy Roman Emperors .

When Géza died in 997 , his son had to fight for his succession with Koppány , the eldest member of the House of Árpád . Assisted by German heavy cavalry , Stephen emerged the victor in the decisive battle in 998 . He applied for a royal crown to Pope Sylvester II , who granted his request with the consent of Emperor Otto III .

= = " Patrimonial " kingdom = =

= = = King St Stephen ( 1000 ? 1038 ) = = =

Stephen was crowned the first king of Hungary on either December 25 , 1000 , or January 1 , 1001 . He consolidated his rule through a series of wars against semi @-@ independent local rulers , including his maternal uncle , Gyula . He proved his kingdom 's military strength when he repelled an invasion by Conrad II , Holy Roman Emperor , in 1030 . Marshlands , other natural obstacles , and barricades made of stone , earth or timber provided defense at the kingdom 's borders . A wide zone known as gyepű was intentionally left uninhabited for defensive purposes along the frontiers . Most of the early medieval fortresses in Hungary were made of earth and timber .

Stephen I 's views on state administration were summarized around 1015 in a work known as Admonitions . Stating that " the country that has only one language and one custom is weak and fragile " , he emphasized the advantages of the arrival of foreigners , or " guests " . Stephen I developed a state similar to the monarchies of contemporary Western Europe . Counties , the basic units of administration , were districts organized around fortresses and headed by royal officials known as ispáns , or counts . Stephen I founded dioceses and at least one archbishopric , and established Benedictine monasteries . He prescribed that every tenth village was to build a parish church . The earliest churches of the 10th century were simple wood constructions , but the royal basilica at Székesfehérvár was built in Romanesque style . Stephen I 's laws were aimed at the adoption , even by force , of a Christian way of life . He especially protected Christian marriage against polygamy and other traditional customs . Decorated belts and other items of pagan fashion also disappeared . Commoners started to wear long woolen coats , but wealthy men persisted with their silk kaftans decorated with furs .

If any warrior debased by lewdness abducts a girl to be his wife without the consent of her parents , we decreed that the girl should be returned to her parents , even if he did anything by force to her , and the abductor shall pay ten steers for the abduction , although he may afterwards have made peace with the girl 's parents .

From a legal perspective , Hungarian society was divided into freemen and serfs , but intermediate groups also existed . All freemen had the legal capacity to own property , to sue and to be sued . However , most of them were bound to the monarch or to a wealthier landlord , and only " guests " could freely move . Among freemen living in lands attached to a fortress , the " castle warriors " served in the army , and the " castle folk " cultivated the lands , forged weapons or rendered other services . All freemen were to pay a special tax , the " pennies of freemen " to the monarchs . With a transitory status between freemen and serfs , peasants known as udvornici were exempt from it . Serfs theoretically lacked legal personality , but in practice they had their own property : they cultivated their masters ' land with their own tools , and kept 50 ? 66 percent of the harvest for themselves . Stephen I 's laws and charters suggest that most commoners lived in sedentary communities which formed villages . An average village was made up of no more than 40 semi @-@ sunken timber huts with a corner hearth . Many of the villages were named after a profession , implying that the villagers were required to render a specific service to their lords .

= = = Pagan revolts , wars and consolidation ( 1038 ? 1116 ) = = =

Stephen I survived his son , Emeric , which caused a four @-@ decade crisis . Stephen considered his cousin , Vazul , unsuitable for the throne and named his own sister 's son , the Venetian Peter Orseolo , as his heir . Vazul was blinded and his three sons were expelled , thus Peter succeeded his uncle without opposition in 1038 . However , Peter 's preference for his foreign courtiers led to a rebellion , which ended with his deposition in favor of a native lord , Samuel Aba , who was related to the royal family . Supported by Emperor Henry III , Peter Orseolo returned and expelled Samuel Aba in 1044 . During his second rule , he accepted the emperor 's suzerainty . His rule ended with a new rebellion , on this occasion aimed at the restoration of paganism . However , there were many lords who opposed the destruction of the Christian monarchy . They proposed the crown to Andrew , one of Vazul 's sons , who returned to Hungary , defeated Peter and suppressed the pagans in 1046 . His cooperation with his brother , Béla , a talented military commander , ensured the Hungarians ' victory over Emperor Henry III , who attempted to conquer the kingdom two times : in 1050 and 1053 .

A new civil war broke out when Duke Béla claimed the crown for himself in 1059 , but his three sons accepted the rule of Solomon , Andrew I 's son , in 1063 . Initially , the young king and his cousins cooperated ; for instance , they jointly defeated the Pechenegs plundering Transylvania in 1068 . The power conflict in the royal family caused a new civil war in 1071 . It lasted up to Solomon 's abdication in favor of one of his cousins , Ladislaus in the early 1080s .

King Ladislaus promulgated laws that prescribed draconian punishments against criminals . His laws also regulated the payment of customs duties , tolls payable at fairs and fords , and of the tithes . He forbade Jews from holding Christian serfs , and introduced laws aiming at the conversion of local Muslims , who were known as Böszménys .

No one shall buy or sell except in the market . If , in violation of this anyone buys stolen property , everyone shall perish : the buyer , the seller , and the witnesses . If , however , they agreed to sell something of their own , they shall lose that thing and its price , and the witnesses shall lose as much too . But if the deal was made in the market , and agreement shall be concluded in front of a judge , a toll @-@ gatherer , and witnesses , and if the purchased goods later appear to be stolen , the buyer shall escape penalty ...

The death of Ladislaus ' brother @-@ in @-@ law , King Zvonimir of Croatia , in 1089 or 1090 created an opportunity for him to claim Croatia for himself . His troops soon occupied most of Croatia ; only a native claimant , Petar Sva?i? , resisted in the Petrova Mounts . Nevertheless , hereafter Croatia and Hungary remained closely connected for more than nine centuries . Ladislaus I appointed his nephew , Álmos , to administer Croatia . Although a younger son , Álmos was also favored against his brother , Coloman , when the king was thinking of his succession . Even so , Coloman succeeded his uncle in 1095 , while Álmos received a separate duchy under his brother 's suzerainty . Throughout Coloman 's reign , the brothers ' relationship remained tense , which finally led to the blinding of Álmos and his infant son .

Coloman routed two bands of crusaders who were plundering the Western borderlands and defeated Petar Sva?i? in Croatia . The late 14th @-@ century Pacta conventa states that Coloman was crowned king of Croatia after concluding an agreement with twelve local noblemen . Although most probably a forgery , the document reflects the actual status of Croatia proper , which was never incorporated into Hungary . In contrast , the region known as Slavonia , between the Petrova Mounts and the river Dráva , became closely connected to Hungary . Here many Hungarian noblemen received land grants from the monarchs . Zadar , Split and other Dalmatian towns also accepted Coloman 's suzerainty in 1105 , but their right to elect their own bishops and leaders remained unchained . In Croatia and Slavonia , the sovereign was represented by governors bearing the title ban . Likewise , a royal official , the voivode , administered Transylvania , the eastern borderland of the kingdom .

Like Ladislaus I , Coloman proved to be a great legislator , but he prescribed less severe punishments than his uncle had done . He ordered that transactions between Christians and Jews

were to be put into writing . His laws concerning his Muslim subjects aimed at their conversion , for instance , by obliging them to marry their daughters to Christians . The presence of Jewish and Muslim merchants in the kingdom was due to its role as a crossroad of trading routes leading towards Constantinople , Regensburg and Kiev . Local trade also existed , which enabled Coloman to collect the *marturina* , the traditional in @-@ kind tax of Slavonia , in cash .

The kingdom , with its average population density of four or five people per 1 square kilometre ( 0 @. @ 39 sq mi ) , was sparsely populated . The *Olaszi* streets or districts in Eger , Pécs and Nagyvárad ( Oradea , Romania ) point at the presence of " guests " speaking a Western Romance language , while the *Németi* and *Szászi* place names refer to German @-@ speaking colonists throughout the entire kingdom . Most subjects of the early medieval Hungarian monarchs were peasants . They only cultivated the most fertile lands , and moved further when the lands became exhausted . Wheat was the most widely produced crop , but barley , the raw material for home brew , was also grown . Animal husbandry remained an important sector of agriculture , thus millet and oats were produced for fodder . Fishing and hunting also contributed to nourishing , since even peasants were allowed to hunt in the royal forests that covered large territories in the kingdom .

= = = Colonisation and expansion ( 1116 ? 1196 ) = = =

Unsuccessful wars with the Republic of Venice , the Byzantine Empire and other neighboring states characterized the reign of Coloman 's son , Stephen II , who succeeded his father in 1116 . The earliest mention of the *Székelys* is in connection with the young king 's first war against the Duchy of Bohemia . The Hungarian @-@ speaking *Székelys* lived in scattered communities along the borders , but their groups were moved to the easternmost regions of Transylvania in the 12th century . Stephen II died childless in 1131 . During the reign of the blind Béla II , the kingdom was administered by his wife , Helena of Rascia , who ordered the massacre of the lords who had opposed her husband 's rule . Boris Kalamanos , an alleged son of King Coloman , who attempted to seize the throne from Béla II , received no internal support .

Béla II 's son , Géza II , who ascended the throne in 1141 , adopted an active foreign policy . He supported Uro? II of Rascia against Emperor Manuel I Komnenos . He promoted the colonization of the border zones . Flemish , German , Italian , and Walloon " guests " arrived in great numbers and settled in the *Szepesség* region ( Spi? , Slovakia ) and in southern Transylvania . Géza even recruited Muslim warriors in the Pontic steppes to serve in his army . Abu Hamid , a Muslim traveler from Al @-@ Andaluz refers to mountains that " contain lots of silver and gold " , which points at the importance of mining and gold panning already around 1150 .

If anyone of the rank of count has even in a trivial matter offended against the king or , as sometimes happens , has been unjustly accused of this , an emissary from the court , though he be of very lowly station and unattended , seizes him in the midst of his retinue , puts him in chains , and drags him off to various forms of punishment . No formal sentence is asked of the prince through his peers , ... no opportunity of defending himself is granted the accused , but the will of the prince alone is held by all as sufficient .

Géza II was succeeded in 1162 by his eldest son , Stephen III . However , his uncles , Ladislaus II and Stephen IV , claimed the crown for themselves . Emperor Manuel I Komnenos took advantage of the internal conflicts and forced the young king to cede Dalmatia and the *Szerémség* region ( Srem , Serbia ) to the Byzantines in 1165 . Stephen III set an example for the development of towns by granting liberties to the Walloon " guests " in Székesfehérvár , including their immunity of the jurisdiction of the local *ispán* .

When Stephen III died childless in 1172 , his brother , Béla III , ascended the throne . He reconquered Dalmatia and the *Szerémség* in the 1180s . A contemporary list shows that more than 50 percent of his revenues derived from the annual renewal of the silver currency , and from tolls , ferries and markets . According to the list , his total income was the equivalent of 32 tonnes of silver per year , but this number is clearly exaggerated . Béla III emphasized the importance of making records on judicial proceedings , which substantiates reports in later Hungarian chronicles ' of his order regarding the obligatory use of written petitions . Landowners also started to put their

transactions into writing , which led to the appearance of the so @-@ called " places of authentication " , such as cathedral chapters and monasteries authorized to issue deeds . Their emergence also evidences the employment of an educated staff . Indeed , students from the kingdom studied at the universities of Paris , Oxford , Bologna and Padua from the 1150s .

Aspects of 12th @-@ century French culture could also be detected in Béla III 's kingdom . His palace at Esztergom was built in the early Gothic style . Achilles and other names known from the Legend of Troy and the Romance of Alexander ( two emblematic works of chivalric culture ) were also popular among Hungarian aristocrats . According to a scholarly view , " Master P " , the author of the Gesta Hungarorum , a chronicle on the Hungarian " land @-@ taking " , was Béla III 's notary .

= = Development of the Estates of the realm = =

= = = Age of Golden Bulls ( 1196 ? 1241 ) = = =

Béla III 's son and successor , Emeric , had to face revolts stirred up by his younger brother , Andrew . Furthermore , incited by Enrico Dandolo , Doge of Venice , the armies of the Fourth Crusade took Zadar in 1202 . Emeric was succeeded in 1204 by his infant son , Ladislaus III . When the young king died in a year , his uncle , Andrew , mounted the throne . Stating that " the best measure of a royal grant is its being immeasurable " , he distributed large parcels of royal lands among his partisans . Freeman living in former royal lands lost their direct contact to the sovereign , which threatened their legal status . Royal revenues decreased , which led to the introduction of new taxes and their farming out to Muslims and Jews .

Andrew II was strongly influenced by his wife , Gertrude of Merania . She openly expressed her preference for her German compatriots , which caused her assassination by a group of local lords in 1213 . A new uprising broke out while the king was in the Holy Land on his crusade in 1217 and 1218 . Finally , a movement of the royal servants , who were actually free landholders directly subordinated to the sovereign , obliged Andrew II to issue his Golden Bull in 1222 . It summarized the royal servants ' liberties , including their tax exemption . Its last provision authorized the secular and spiritual lords to " resist and speak against " the sovereign " without the charge of high treason " . The Golden Bull also prohibited the employment of Muslims and Jews in royal administration . This ban was confirmed when Andrew II , urged by the prelates , issued the Golden Bull 's new variant in 1231 , which authorized the archbishop of Esztergom to excommunicate him in case of his departure from its provisions . For non @-@ Christians who continued to be employed in the royal household , Archbishop Robert of Esztergom placed the kingdom under interdict in 1232 . Andrew II was forced to take an oath , which included his promise to respect the privileged position of clergymen and to dismiss all his Jewish and Muslim officials . A growing intolerance against non @-@ Catholics is also demonstrated by the transfer of the Orthodox monastery of Visegrád to the Benedictines in 1221 .

Andrew II made several attempts to occupy the neighboring Principality of Halych . His son , Béla , persuaded a group of Cumans to accept Andrew II 's suzerainty in 1228 and established a new march in Oltenia ( known as the Banate of Szörény ) in 1231 . Béla IV succeeded his father in 1235 . His attempt to reacquire crown lands alienated by his predecessors created a deep rift between the monarch and the lords just as the Mongols were sweeping westward across the Eurasian steppes .

The king was first informed of the Mongol threat by Friar Julian , a Dominican monk who had visited a Hungarian @-@ speaking population in Magna Hungaria , in 1235 . In the next years , the Mongols routed the Cumans who dominated the western parts of the Eurasian steppes . A Cuman chieftain , Kuthen , agreed to accept Béla IV 's supremacy ; thus he and his people were allowed to settle in the Great Hungarian Plain . However , the Cumans ' nomadic lifestyle caused many conflicts with local communities . The locals even considered them as the Mongols ' allies .

= = = Mongol invasion ( 1241 ? 1242 ) = = =

Batu Khan , who was the commander of the Mongol armies invading Eastern Europe , demanded Béla IV 's surrender without a fight in 1240 . The king refused , and ordered his barons to assemble with their retinue in his camp at Pest . Here , a riot broke out against the Cumans and the mob massacred the Cuman leader , Kuthen . The Cumans soon departed and pillaged the central parts of the kingdom . The main Mongol army arrived through the northeastern passes of the Carpathian Mountains in March 1241 . Royal troops met the enemy forces at the river Sajó , where the Mongols won a decisive victory in the battle of Mohi on April 11 , 1241 . From the battlefield , Béla IV fled first to Austria , where Duke Frederick II held him for ransom . Thereafter , the king and his family found refuge in Klis Fortress in Dalmatia . The Mongols first occupied and thoroughly plundered the territories east of the river Danube . They crossed the river when it was frozen in early 1242 . A contemporary account by Abbot Hermann of Niederalteich stated that " the Kingdom of Hungary , which had existed for 350 years , was destroyed " .

[ The Mongols ] " burnt the church " [ in Nagyvárad ( Oradea , Romania ) ] " , together with the women and whatever there was in the church . In other churches they perpetrated such crimes to the women that it is better to keep silent ... Then they ruthlessly beheaded the nobles , citizens , soldiers and canons on a field outside the city . ... After they had destroyed everything , and an intolerable stench arose from the corpses , they left the place empty . People hiding in the nearby forests came back to find some food . And while they were searching among the stones and the corpses , the " [ Mongols ] " suddenly returned and of those living whom they found there , none was left alive .

However , the kingdom did not cease to exist . Batu Khan withdrew his entire army when he was informed of the death of the Great Khan , Ögödei in March 1242 . Nevertheless , the invasion and the famine that followed it had catastrophic demographic consequences . At least 15 percent of the population died or disappeared . Transcontinental trading routes disintegrated , causing the decline of Bács ( Ba? , Serbia ) , Ungvár ( Uzhhorod , Ukraine ) and other traditional centers of commerce . Local Muslim communities also disappeared , indicating they had suffered especially heavy losses during the invasion .

= = = Last Árpáds ( 1242 ? 1301 ) = = =

After the Mongol withdrawal , Béla IV abandoned his policy of recovering former crown lands . Instead , he granted large estates to his supporters , and urged them to construct stone @-@ and @-@ mortar castles . He initiated a new wave of colonization that resulted in the arrival of a number of Germans , Moravians , Poles , and Romanians . The king re @-@ invited the Cumans and settled them in the plains along the Danube and the Tisza . A group of Alans , the ancestors of the Jassic people , seems to have settled in the kingdom around the same time .

New villages appeared , consisting of timber houses built side by side in equal parcels of land . For instance , the settlement network of the so far scarcely inhabited forests of the Western Carpathians ( in present @-@ day Slovakia ) began to develop under Béla IV . Huts disappeared , and new rural houses consisting of a living room , a kitchen and a pantry were built . The most advanced agricultural techniques , including asymmetric heavy ploughs , also spread throughout the kingdom .

Internal migration was likewise instrumental in the development of the new domains emerging in former royal lands . The new landholders granted personal freedom and more favorable financial conditions to those who arrived in their estates , which also enabled the peasants who decided not to move to improve their position . Béla IV granted privileges to more than a dozen towns , including Nagyszombat ( Trnava , Slovakia ) and Pest .

Although threatening letters sent to Béla IV by the khans of the Golden Horde proved that the danger of a new Mongol invasion still existed , he adopted an expansionist foreign policy . Frederick II of Austria died fighting against Hungarian troops in 1246 , and Béla IV 's son @-@ in @-@ law , Rostislav Mikhailovich , annexed large territories along the kingdom 's southern frontiers . However , conflicts between the elderly monarch and his heir , Stephen , caused a civil war in the 1260s .

Béla IV and his son jointly confirmed the liberties of the royal servants , hereafter known as noblemen in 1267 . By that time , " true noblemen " were legally differentiated from other landholders . They held their estates free from any obligation , but everybody else ( even the ecclesiastic nobles , Romanian cneazes and other " conditional nobles " ) owed services to their lords in exchange for the lands they held . In a growing number of counties , local nobility acquired the right to elect four or two " judges of the nobles " to represent them in official procedures . The idea of equating the Hungarian " nation " with the community of noblemen also emerged in this period . It was first expressed in Simon of Kéza 's *Gesta Hungarorum* , a chronicle written in the 1280s .

The wealthiest landholders forced the lesser nobles to join their retinue , which increased their power . One of the barons , Joachim of the Gutkeled clan , even captured Stephen V 's heir , the infant Ladislaus , in 1272 . Stephen V died some months later , causing a new civil war between the Csák , K?szegi , and other leading families who attempted to control the central government in the name of the young Ladislaus IV . He was declared to be of age in 1277 at an assembly of the spiritual and temporal lords and of the noblemen 's and Cumans ' representatives , but he could not strengthen royal authority . Ladislaus IV , whose mother , Elisabeth , was a Cuman chieftain 's daughter , preferred his Cuman kin , which made him unpopular . He was even accused of initiating a second Mongol invasion in 1285 , although the invaders were routed by the royal troops .

When Ladislaus IV was murdered in 1290 , the Holy See declared the kingdom a vacant fief and granted it to his sister 's son , Charles Martel , crown prince of the Kingdom of Naples . However , the majority of the Hungarian lords chose Andrew , the grandson of Andrew II , even though his father 's legitimacy was dubious . Andrew became the first monarch to take an oath on respecting the liberties of the Church and the nobility before his coronation . He regularly convoked the prelates , the lords and the noblemen 's representatives to assemblies known as Diets , which started to develop into a legislative body . However , the kingdom disintegrated into autonomous provinces , each ruled by powerful noblemen ( including Matthew Csák , Ladislaus Kán , and Amadeus Aba ) who ignored the king 's authority . The powerful Croatian lord , Paul I ?ubi? of Bribir , even dared to invite the late Charles Martel 's son , the twelve @-@ year @-@ old Charles Robert , to Hungary in 1300 . The young pretender was marching from Croatia towards Buda when Andrew III unexpectedly died on January 14 , 1301 .

= = Aftermath = =

With Andrew III 's death , the male line of the House of Árpád became extinct , and a period of anarchy began . Charles Robert was crowned king with a provisional crown , but most lords and bishops refused to yield to him because they regarded him as a symbol of the Holy See 's attempts to control Hungary . They elected king the twelve @-@ year @-@ old Wenceslaus of Bohemia , who was descended from Béla IV of Hungary in the female line . However , the young king could not consolidate his position because many lords , especially those who held domains in the southern region of the kingdom , continued to support Charles Robert . Wenceslaus left Hungary for Bohemia in the summer of 1304 . After he inherited Bohemia in 1305 , he abandoned his claim to Hungary in favor of Otto III , Duke of Bavaria .

Otto , who was a grandson of Béla IV of Hungary , was crowned king , but only the K?szegis and the Transylvanian Saxons regarded him as the lawful monarch . He was captured in Transylvania by Ladislaus Kán , who forced him to leave Hungary . The majority of the lords and prelates elected Charles Robert king at a Diet on October 10 , 1307 . He was crowned king with the Holy Crown of Hungary in Székesfehérvár by the Archbishop of Esztergom , as it was required by customary law , on August 27 , 1310 . During the next decade , he launched a series of military campaigns against the oligarchs to restore royal authority . Charles Robert reunited the kingdom after the death of the most powerful lord , Mattheus Csák , which enabled him to conquer Csák 's large province in the northeast of Hungary in 1321 .