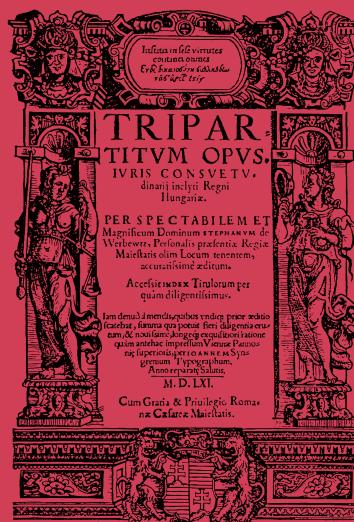


The new Hungarian Basic Law, which was ratified on 1 January 2012, provoked domestic and international controversy. Of particular concern was the constitutional text's explicit claim that it was situated within a reinvigorated Hungarian legal tradition that had allegedly developed over centuries before its violent interruption during World War II, by German invaders, and later, by Soviet occupation.

To explore the context and validity of this claim, and the legal traditions which have informed the stormy centuries of Hungary's constitutional development, this book brings together a group of leading historians, political scientists and legal scholars to produce a comprehensive history of Hungarian constitutional thought. Ranging in scope from an overview of Hungarian medieval jurisprudence to an assessment of the various criticisms levelled at the new Hungarian Basic Law of 2012, contributors assess the mutations of the constitution, their impacts and their legacies, as well as the social and cultural contexts within which they were drafted. The historical analysis is accompanied by a selection of original source materials, many translated here for the first time. This is the only book in English on the subject and is essential reading for all those interested in Hungary's history, political culture and constitution.

Ferenc Hörcher is Director of the Institute of Philosophy at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Professor at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Hungary.

Thomas Lorman teaches Central European History at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), University College London (UCL).



Front cover: Holy Crown of Hungary, Sámuel Decsy, *A magyar szent koronának és az ahoz tartozó tárgyaknak története*, Vienna, 1792

Back cover: cover page, Werbőczy, *Tripartitum*, 1561

ISBN 978-1-78831-263-9



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LONDON · NEW YORK

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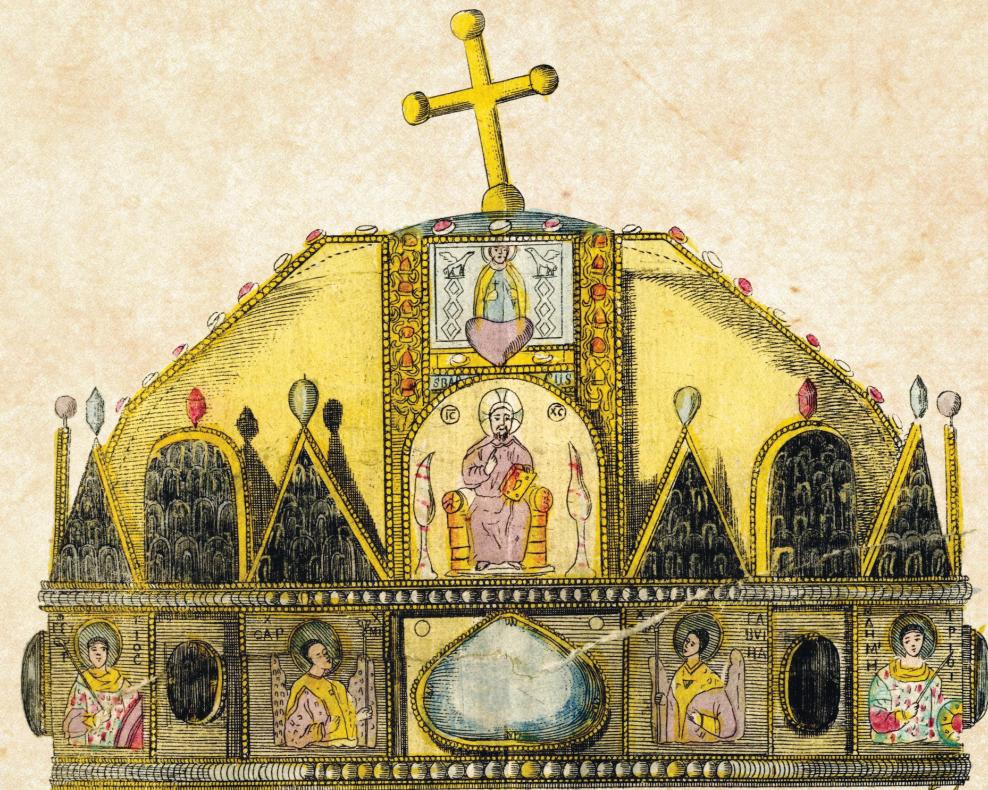
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