

# HISTORY AND CULTURE OF BUDAPEST

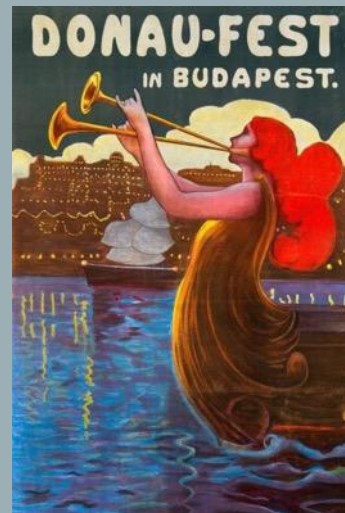
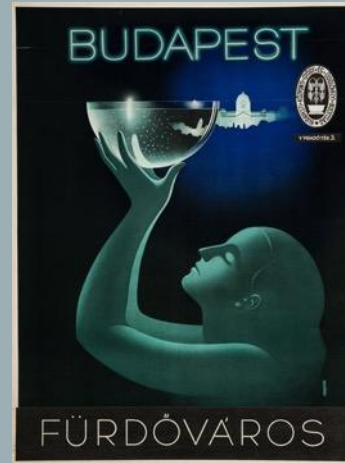


# THE PAST



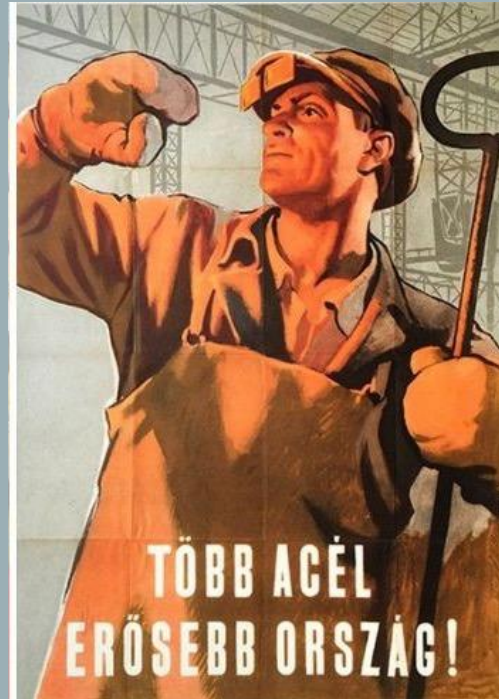
- People have been living here for **more than 4000** years, signs of the **Romans** from the 1st century are still visible
- In the 9<sup>th</sup> century Hungarian tribes arrived and in 1000 our first Christian king, **Stephen** was crowned
- By the 14-15th century it became a blooming settlement, with **Buda as a royal city**, together with Pest and Óbuda
- In the 16th century the **Ottoman** Empire occupied the 3 cities, which had already strategically important location, and they enjoyed our hospitality for **150 years**, leaving us memories like turkish spas
- The **reconquering** with the help of Habsburgs damaged the cities, after that a long reconstructual project started and the city become important center of the political, economical life of the country again by the 19th century
- Exactly **150 years ago**, in 1873 the 3 parts were merged, only few years after the first permanent bridge, Lánchíd was built (1849) phisycally connecting two sides, Pest and Buda. Since than 14 more bridges appeared

# MODERN BUDAPEST



- From the Millenium to the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW, a cultural and infrastructural **golden age** characterised the city
- Building railways connected the city with other European metropol, trams symbolized the **modernity** as well
- The first European **underground** appeared in Budapest for the Millenium and it still exists
- Iconic and **important buildings** were built, e.g. Parliament, Opera House, Széchenyi Bath, or the Parisian Department Store
- Cultural and night life became very **intense**, opening cafe houses, music bars, theatres and cinemas and sausage stands on the streets

# SOCIALISTS BUDAPEST



- Reconstruction needs after the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW and **industry** getting into the focus, the view of the city changed a lot
- Block of houses, working class district, public administration buildings appeared as well as public statues promoting the **socialist** values
- Bourgeois downtown apartments were split into small flats for workers
- Old factory buildings still part of the city view  
Today, sculptures can be visited in a special park called Memento
- After the **change of regime** (1989) and **joining the EU** (2004), the cityscape became a mix of old and modern, somewhere between the East and the West

# HIGHLIGHTS



In the **last 20-30 years** Budapest is getting more and more popular from business and investment aspect as well as a touristical destination

- Buda Castle
  - original buildings, National Gallery and Mathias Church, Fishermen's Bastion and the old Funicular
- Margaret Island
  - large green area in the middle of the Danube
- Parliament
  - cultural World Heritage, exhibiting the Holy Crown
- City Park
  - under major reconstruction as a future museum quarter
- Hero Square
  - Two major museums and statue of most important historical persons
- Gellért Hill
  - Statue of Liberty visible from every part of the city
- And many more...

# MUSEUMS, THEATERS

- Almost 100 museums from classical fine art to contemporary, including small galleries. Major ones are organizing events as well (Night of Museum, Theater in the museum)

- More, than 100 theaters including music halls and dance venues, classical ones and very contemporary as well, offering hundreds of programs every day



# FESTIVALS

- Several themes, constant programs during the year on city and district level as well
  - Cultural
    - Theater, music, dance
  - Culinary
  - Wine and beer
  - Seasonal (Christmas)
- Sziget
  - biggest European music festival in August with almost half million visitors from all over Europe



# SPAS

- Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, thanks to Ottoman occupation
- More than 100 hot mineral springs even under the Danube
- One of the most significant tourist attractions
- At least 15 spas
  - Széchenyi, Rudas, Gellért, Király, Dandár, Szent Lukács, Dagály, Palatinus, Veli bej, Rácz, Császár, Csillaghegy, Paskál, Római...





# FILMS AND MUSIC

- Several famous composers, film directors and actors are from Budapest
  - Ferenc Liszt, Béla Bartók
  - Mihály Kertész, Zsazsa Gábor, Béla Lugossy
- Nowadays Budapest is a popular destination for music video and movie shooting
  - Singers: Ellie Goulding, Selena Gomez, Katy Perry
  - Films: Mission Impossible Tom Cruise, Gemini Man, Red Sparrow, Die Hard 5, Red Cop, Spy Game
  - Scene of Paris, Moscow, Rome, Berlin
- Angelina Jolie is in town (not for the first time) and Johnny Depp just left a week ago



# CULINARY



- Old, classical, traditional venues
    - Gundel Restaurant
    - New York Cafe, Gerbeaud
  - Modern street food places in the city center
    - 'Karavan' food court with food truck
    - River side Római and Népsziget
    - Lángos and Kürtőskalács stands
    - Chinese food court in Kőbánya
- Food from all around the world

# UNIQUE THINGS



- Extremely difficult language that nobody learns and speaks
- Ruin bars and pubs
- Paprika in every food
- Train line run by children
- Surname and family name in reverse order
- Second largest synagogue of the world
- City centre is home for yelling bachelor party guys and girls coming to Budapest from other European countries



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