

## The Highlights of History of Slovakia

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**A.D. 623** - King Samo's Slavic Empire. Slovakia is the core part of the Empire.

**828** - The first Christian church and school built in the Carpathian basin (Central Europe) on Prince Pribina's Nitra (Nitra and Danube rivers region) Slovak Principality.

**826** - Prince Mojmir I, Slovak ruler of Moravia river region, ousted Prince Pribina, and joined the Principalities into one kingdom. Some historians call this Slovak kingdom Moravian kingdom.

**846** - Educated King Rastislav, who replaced Mojmir I, believed that his people should be educated in their own Slovak language. He aimed to be independent of German political influence. He invited highly educated brothers from the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium): Constantine-Cyril, called Philosopher, and Methodius, a lawyer, who arrived in A.D. 863. Constantine created the first Slovak (and Slavic) alphabet called Hlaholika. Constantine-Cyril, together with the Slovak scholars translated Bible, the holy liturgy and the law books from Greek into Slovak language.

**863** - Rastislav started an intensive Christian education of Slovaks in their own mother tongue, partly replacing Latin. Slovaks at that time called themselves Slovené (masc. plural) and Slovenky (fem. plural) as the Rastislav's embassy to the emperor Michael III themselves introduced, and is written in the St. Methodius Biography. The rulers of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation did not like the idea of independent Slovak Kingdom. The Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine) Caesar Michael III and Patriarch Fotius exhorted Rastislav's idea and compared his decision to that of the Caesar Constantine the Great who in the fourth century liberated Christian Church in his Roman's Empire. The Roman Popes (Nicholas I, Hadrian II, John VIII) approved the Slovak writings and liturgy. Thus the Slovak became the fourth Divine Liturgical Language in Europe, alongside Latin, Greek and Hebrew. Germans waged several wars to subjugate Slovak lands ("Slovenská zem") and tried to destroy the Slovak Church, language, administration and schools.

**870** - With the help of Slovak Prince Svätopluk of Nitra the

German king Ludovít (Louis the German) captured king Rastislav, tried him in Regensburg, blinded him and imprisoned him in the German monastery of Ellwangen. In the same time Germans kidnapped and imprisoned Archbishop Methodius returning from Rome. The Pope Hadrian II named him a Pope's Legate to the Slovak (in Pannonia and Moravia) and all Slavic peoples. In 871 Germans imprison Prince Svätopluk of Nitra as well.

**871** - Slovaks rebelled against the German oppressors. Newly elected king Slavomír lead the rebellion. Germans released Svätopluk and asked him to lead their army against Slavomír. Svätopluk joined the Slavomír's forces and beats the German army. Svätopluk became the king. Svätopluk enlarged his kingdom by integrating Slovaks of Pannonia and the Polish, Lusatian Serb and Czech tribes into his kingdom. Svätopluk's empire became a strongest power in the Central Europe. Gradually he earned due respect and blessings of the Pope and the rest of the Europe.

**880** - Methodius, liberated by the Pope on Svätopluk's request from the German prison, became the first archbishop of Svätopluk's Empire also known under name of Empire of Great Moravia. German priest Wiching was named the bishop of Nitra.

**885** - Archbishop Methodius dies. He named Slovak priest and scholar Gorazd as his successor. German clergy intensifies the intrigues and political pressure against Slovak Church and clergy. A year later, Bishop Wiching gains support of king Svätopluk by presenting him a falsified letter from Rome. Slovak clergy and scholars were imprisoned or sold to Jewish slave traders. Many were bought out from slavery by the Ambassador of the Byzantine ceasar Basil I in Venice and were brought to Constantinopol. Kliment Slovensky and other Slovak priests were later invited by Bulgarian king Boris. They established the schools and organized the church of Bulgaria. Exiled Slovak priests and scholars created a simplified Hlaholica alphabet and called it Cyrillica in honor of Constantine-Cyrril. Gradually the Cyrillica has spread to other Slavic and non-Slavic countries, including Russia. Yet modified form of Cyrillica is called azbuka and is used in today's Russia.

**889** - The first attack of the AsiaticUgric tribes (later called Magyars, Hungari in Latin) on Slovak kingdom upon instigation of German king Arnulf. King Svätopluk fought them off.

**894** - King Svätopluk dies. His empire was divided among his three sons: Mojmir II, Svätopluk II and Bratslav. Svätopluk II let the Ugric tribes settle on his part of kingdom between Danube and Tisa rivers. Mojmir II got approved three bishops by the Pope John VIII and continues with Slovak and Latin language in liturgy.

**907** - Under the constant attacks of the Asiatic Ugric tribes (later called Magyars), Germans and Czechs, the Slovak Moravian Empire collapsed. Until the end of eleventh century, Slovak lands are the battleground among Ugric (Magyar), German, Czech, and Polish rulers. Moravian Slovaks found themselves under Czech and German rule, Nitran and Pannonian Slovaks under Ugric rule. Ugric tribes gradually through the centuries occupied all Slovak lands on the right side of Danube. This was so until 1918. So the history of multinational Kingdom of Hungaria and Austria-Hungarian Empire is also Slovak history.

**1000** - Stephan I established the kingdom of Hungaria. Stephan, a son of an Ugric father Arpad and a Slavic mother took a German noblewoman Gisela for his wife. He accepted the German law and started rebuilding what was left from the Slovak Moravian kingdom. Slovak Nitra was Stephan's first station to power. King Stephan I decided to Christianize Ugric people. Most of the Ugric pagan tribes rebelled against Christianized Stephan and wanted to kill him. Two Slovak dukes Hunt and Požnaň saved Stephan and together they beat the Ugric pagan rebels to submission. With Stephan, son of Arpad, the Arpadian dynasty ruled the multinational kingdom of Hungaria for several centuries.

**1241** - The Mongols and Tatars jointly invaded Europe. Almost a half of the population of Slovakia was either killed or starved to death. German and other colonists were invited to repopulate Slovakia and other parts of the Kingdom of Hungary.

**1301** - The last king of Arpadian dynasty Andrew III of Venice dies. Slovak duke Matus Cak became "the lord of the Vah and Tatras", actual ruler of Slovakia. He used the title princeps (the first, knieza, duke). Paper was imported to Slovakia for the first time from Italy.

**1308** - The Angevin dynasty starting with king Charles Robert I of Anjou rules the kingdom of Hungary and thus Slovaks and other nations of the kingdom.

**1328** - King Charles Robert established a mint in Kremnica, Slovakia, close to the gold, silver and copper mines. Here the famous golden florens (dukáty) and silver Hungarian "groše" (grosche) were minted. This Slovak Mint continues to make coins even today for Slovak Republic and other international customers.

**1396** - The Turkish (Muslim) Army, led by Beg Bajazid, attacked the Kingdom of Hungary and beats the king Zigmund's army. This was the start of the centuries long "Turkish Wars".

**1437** - The last member of the Angevin dynasty, Zigmund of Luxemburg, the king of Hungary and the Roman Caesar, dies.

**1438** - The first member of the Habsburg dynasty is elected the king of Hungary - Albrecht of Habsburg. He dies in 1439 in war against Turks. Turoci's Chronicles, written in Latin language, exhorted "Poloni, Bohemi i Sclavi", "Poles, Bohemians and Slovaks" as the great Christian fighters of the Muslim Turks.

**1465** - The First University of Kingdom of Hungary is established in Bratislava. Slovakia traditionally was the most educated and industrialized part of the Hungarian kingdom.

**1526** - Kingdom of Hungary lost the war to the Turkish Ottoman Empire. The Muslims occupy the whole Southern Europe, and most of the Hungarian Kingdom. Bratislava became the Capital of the kingdom of Hungary. For the next 250 years Slovakia is all that is left of the kingdom of Hungary. Slovakia suffers bloody incursions of Turks into its territory.

**1645** - Trnava (western Slovakia) University was established. This university played an important role in the Slovak nation reawakening.

**1780** - Catholic priest and historian Juraj Papanek published his book "Historia gentis Slavae. De regno regibusque Slavorum" = "History of Slovak nation. The Slovak kingdom and its kings." He proved that Slovaks are the original inhabitants of the Hungarian Kingdom. In 1793 another priest from "Slovak Learned Society" Juraj Fandly published his book "Compendiata historia gentis Slavae" = "A short history of Slovak nation".

**1792** - The first codification of modern Slovak language by Anton Bernolak. Latin language that was used in the

multinational Hungarian Kingdom since the 10th century is outlawed and Magyar Asiatic Ugric language is forced upon the predominantly European population of the Kingdom as the official language.

**1844** - The nationalistic Magyar forces unilaterally renamed the Kingdom of Hungary as "Magyarország" = Magyarland. This act actually disinherited all non-Magyar nations and nationalities of the Kingdom. Without realizing it the Magyars thus started the disintegration of the Kingdom. This disintegration ended in destruction of the Kingdom of Hungary in 1918.

**1848** - Unable to change the Magyar decision in a legal way, the non-Magyar nations revolted against the Magyar oppression and the forceful magyarisation. Slovaks too revolted against the Magyar oppression and magyarisation, and declared independence of Slovakia (September 19th) from the "Magyarország". Slovak revolutionary government and its army led by the triumvirat Štúr, Hurban, Hodža lasted about a year. The short-lived independence was suppressed by the Magyar government forces led by a Slovak renegade Ľudovít (Lajos) Kossuth. Russian Army destroyed the Magyar government forces in summer 1849 at the village Vilagos, Rumania.

**1875** - Start of the massive emigration of Slovaks to America. Hungarian government dominated by the Asiatic Magyars gradually closed down all Slovak schools and cultural institutions and confiscated its properties. Invaluable Slovak artifacts and scientific collections were transferred to Budapest, the capitol of Magyarland. Magyars kidnapped and otherwise transferred about 60,000 Slovak children to Magyarland, forcefully magyarized them, and used them as the unpaid servants in the Magyar families. International outcry ended this Magyar barbarian practice in 1892.

**1904** - Slovak-Americans sent a Memorandum (and informed the press) to the visiting Magyar (Hungarian) Minister of Education count Apponyi, protesting the genocidal denationalization and oppression of Slovaks. Apponyi "educational" slogan was: "Give me the Slovak children and in my education machine I will make them Magyar". Thus Apponyi's mission in the USA trying to convince the world that Hungary is a democracy has failed. Apponyi went home with a shame.

**1907** - Magyar police shot 75 unarmed people, men, women and children in Slovak town Černova. All these Slovaks wanted was

that their favored son priest Andrej Hlinka consecrates their new church. This bloody act caused an international outcry. European and American press writes about the inhuman oppression of Slovaks in Hungary. Slovak League of America was established. Its goal was to liberate Slovak nation from the Magyar chains. The American ideals were the driving force of their actions.

**1918** - Czechia-Slovakia was founded. The Czech-Slovak National Committee, Slovak League of America, the Czech-Slovak legionnaires and the units of the French and Italian army were main forces in the liberation of Slovakia, Czechia, Moravia and a part of Silesia from the Austro-Hungarian domination. All the non-Magyar and non-Austrian nations of Austria-Hungary declared independence. "The prison of nations" Austria-Hungary was no more.

**1938** - The European powers and protectors France and Great Britain sold out the Czechia-Slovakia to Hitler's Germany. Germany occupied the Czech Sudetenland. Hitler and Mussolini approved the Magyar Army occupation of the one fourth of the territory of Slovakia. On the occupied territory the brutal persecution and forceful magyarisation of Slovaks started anew.

**1939** - On March 14th, Slovak parliament voted for independent Slovak Republic, to prevent a total Magyar and German occupation. On March 23rd, with Hitler's support Magyar Army attacked unprepared Slovakia. Germany grossly interferes in the affairs of SR. Upon declaration of the Slovak National Uprising against Germans and Magyars in 1944 Germany occupies the whole Slovakia.

**1945** - Soviet Red Army liberates Slovakia from the German and Magyar occupation. Slovakia is reintegrated into Czechoslovakia without any referendum. Thousands of Slovaks are imprisoned, killed, exiled, and thousands are sent to the concentration camps in Siberia.

**1948** - Prague's government forces the Communist system on Slovakia. Slovakia is gradually reduced to a Czech district irrespective of the Slovak-Czech Kosice Agreement of 1945 that guaranteed Slovakia an equal position with the Czech lands.

**1968** - Slovak leader Alexander Dubček started a drive for democratization and federalization of the Czechoslovakia today known as the Prague's Spring. USSR and its satellites occupied Czechoslovakia in August. The dream of freedom and

democracy of the Slovaks and Czechs was shuttered. 1969 - Federalization of the Czechoslovakia. Slovak Socialistic Republic is established within the Czechoslovak Socialistic Republic. Slovakia was granted a measure of the autonomy which has not fully satisfied Slovak nation.

**1992** - In the June's free and democratic elections Slovaks decided to end Czechoslovakism - a false Czech political theory that Slovaks are not a nation. The Czechoslovak oriented political parties obtained only about 2.5 % of the total votes in Slovak Republic.

**1993** - On January 1st an independent and democratic Slovak Republic (SR) was established. Bratislava is its Capital. SR became a member of the UN.

**1999** - Economically and politically SR is one of the most successful states of the former Soviet camp. Today, political, military, cultural, economic, sport, etc. friendly relations between SR and the USA are fully established. There are more than two million Slovak-Americans in the US. Slovakia aims to join the European Union and the NATO.

**2000** - Slovakia continues democratization of its political and judicial institutions. US Steel Co. purchased the Košice Slovak Iron and Steel Works Company employing more than 14,000 Slovak workers and engineers. SR has 5,4 million inhabitants, 87% of them are Slovaks. Predominant religion of SR is Roman Catholic.

Rudolf Schuster is the SR President, and Mikuláš Dzurinda is its Prime Minister.