

BOOK REVIEW

An In Depth Look at Hungary

Editor: Esperanta Rompa

The book of *An In Depth Look at Hungary* is a part of NOVA's series titled European Political, Economic, and Security Issues. This book continues the traditions of this series and approaches some socio-economic and historical aspects Hungary's development. The book consists of four chapters which were written altogether by twelve contributors.

In the first and the longest part of this book the authors, Annamaria Uzzoli, Attila Bán, Szilvia Beke, Viktor Pál and József Vitrai, deal with a very interesting issue, because they examine Hungarian health inequality and its regional disparities focusing on the role of access to health care. They analyze the main health indicators which can help them to define Hungary's position among the European countries and to describe health inequality within the country at local level. The authors apply both quantitative and qualitative techniques as mixed method firstly, to measure inequality based on statistical data with one of non-communicable cardiovascular diseases such as acute myocardial infarction and secondly, to evaluate barriers in access to cardiological care regarding infarction by making semi-structured interviews. Content-analysis is also used to discover the role of decision-making in solving health inequalities and in improving accessibility. One of the most important results in this research is that it should strongly emphasize the role of patient education, awareness-raising and health prevention programs in Hungary in the future to reduce health inequality.

In the second chapter the authors, Katinka Bacskai, Veronika Bocsi, Ágnes Engler and Gabriella Pusztai, give historical and comprehensive overview about the Hungarian teacher education system to describe its socio-cultural characteristics and some relevant consequences of its changes. The writers of the study emphasize the role of Bologna Process in major transition of the Hungarian higher education after 2000. After the economic and political transformation of 1989 the restructuring process in the education system resulted pluralism in education, and could give chances to run educational institutions by the state as well as by church managements, non-profit and for-profit organizations in the teacher education system. The chapter also highlights the importance of special training and professional help in extraordinary methods for those teachers who are employed in disadvantaged schools where low-status children are overrepresented. The authors conclude that the primary features of the Hungarian teacher education system are coming from the history, tradition and present social structure of Hungary.

The third chapter leads us from Hungary's present to the country's past between the 16th and the 18th century. The authors (Martin Krůl and Jan Saheb) examine the historical conditions of the Moravian-Silezian-Hungarian border protection and they especially investigate the development of irregular armed forces comprised of local citizens which were deployed in border protection. The chapter mainly analyse the role of small field fortifications in defence of the access corridors in mountain areas regarding the presence of a human factor. The special focus is on the explanation of the phenomenon so called Landesaufgebot, which was an executive power in defence organisation running by Moravian and Silesian provincial governors. The authors come to the conclusion that the defense of a country can be secured by state and regional units as well as the paramilitary units of the inhabitants.

In the last chapter, the author (Attila Moizs) approach the effect of crisis from a socio-cultural side. He examines how the last worldwide crisis can effect the level of the financial culture of a nation in the case of Hungary. One of important results is to declare that the Hungarian educational system do not emphasize the importance of financial knowledge. This concluding chapter also demonstrates those preventive possibilities which can reduce social inequalities in the near future. After the analyzation of

the Hungarian financial policy the writer determines that there is a close connection between legislation and the structure of future society.

The diversity of chapters provides insight into Hungary's history, society, culture and economy. In chapters, both historical and practical studies, which actually describe social, economic, cultural and historical features of the country as case studies, come into place. I recommend this book to those who are interested in Hungarian socio-economic and historical issues and would like to get more current information about Hungary.

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