

His 1500, Fall 2005, Newton Key, Eastern Illinois Univeristy

Suez and Hungary in History: The Context of 1956

from <<http://menic.utexas.edu/menic/cairo/students/timeline.html>>;

<<http://africanhistory.about.com/library/timelines/bl-Timeline-SuezCrisis.htm>>;

<<http://www.fsz.bme.hu/hungary/history.html>>; and Reg Gadney, *Cry Hungary!: Uprising 1956* (New York, 1986).

Regular text = Suez region; **Bold text** = Hungary region; (Parentheses = other events)

- 1760-1830s (1<sup>st</sup> Industrial Revolution mainly in Great Britain; spreads eastward across Europe through the rest of 19<sup>th</sup> century)
- 1848-1849 (Nationalist Revolts and Revolutions across Europe.) **A revolution broke out in Pest, which extended over the entire country. The Habsburg Emperor was dethroned after the Hungarian army won several significant battles. Lajos Kossuth was elected Governor. The longest European national revolution could only be oppressed in the summer of 1849 by the Habsburgs with the help of the Russian army.**
- 1854 Said opens Egypt up to planning and concessions for the building of a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea port of Suez.
- 1863 Said is succeeded by Ismail. Ismail begins spending lavish sums of money to build a new Cairo with the income from the cotton boom.
- 1867 **The Hungarians concluded a compromise with the Habsburgs. A double-centred monarchy was set up with seats in Vienna and Pest-Buda. A spectacular industrial upswing started.**
- 1869 Suez Canal is finished
- 1870s (Beginning of Second Industrial Revolution: developments within chemical, electrical, oil, and steel industries. Also spread beyond Western Europe and Northeastern United States.)
- 1873 **Pest, Buda and Obuda were unified: Budapest became a European metropolis. The buildings of that time - the Opera House, the National Gallery and Parliament - still determine the skyline of the city. The first subsurface underground railway on continental Europe was put into operation**
- 1875-1914 (Age of New Imperialism.)
- 1879 With Egypt in debt, Ismail is forced off the throne. Egypt briefly becomes a democracy, but the experiment fails and Tewfiq is appointed Khedive within eighteen months.
- 1881 Frustrated by the increasing European control of Egypt, Colonel Urabi Pasha takes control of the Parliament and begins agitating for an independent, democratic Egypt
- 1882 In response to the Egyptian army's loyalty to Colonel Urabi, the British

- and French land troops in Egypt and take control of the country. The Egyptian consul-general, Evelyn Baring, becomes the de facto ruler of the country
- 1914
- (World War One breaks out.) When Khedive Abbas tries to encourage the Egyptian population to support the Ottomans (who are allied with the Germans against the British and French), he is deposed in favor of his uncle, Hussein Kamil, and Egypt is officially annexed by Britain. Many of the Egyptian nationalists are sent into exile in Malta for the duration of the war.
- 1918
- (World War One ends.) The Egyptian nationalists return and begin a widespread, full scale effort to force the British out. The nationalist forces polarize with one faction under Khedive Fuad (who came to power in 1917). **Germany and its allies, including the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, lost the world war. The monarchy disintegrated.**
- 1920
- The Trianon Treaty reduced Hungary's area by two thirds and the population by one third. Since then, considerable Hungarian minorities lived in the neighboring countries.**
- 1922
- The British agree to give Egypt its independence, while retaining control over many important aspects of Egyptian sovereignty. Fuad adopts the title of "King" of Egypt.
- 1936
- Apr 28  
Aug 26
- Fuad dies and his 16-year-old son, Farouk, becomes King of Egypt. Draft of Anglo-Egyptian Treaty is signed. Britain is allowed to maintain a garrison of 10,000 men in the Suez Canal Zone, and is given effective control of Sudan.
- 1938-1940
- Germany concluded treaties in Munich and Vienna, according to which Southern Slovakia and Northern Transylvania were returned to Hungary.**
- 1939
- (World War Two breaks out in Europe). Again, Egypt is expected to contribute to the British war effort. King Farouk is resistant to all-out support of the British war effort.
- 1944
- The Nazis occupied Hungary, as they did not consider it a reliable ally. During the Second World War, the Hungarians suffered grave losses on the Soviet front. At the end of the war, Fascists took over the governing of the country.**
- 1945
- The Soviet Army liberated, then occupied Hungary. At the hastily held elections, the Communists gained only 17 percent of the votes.**
- 1946
- May 24
- British premier Winston Churchill says the Suez Canal will be in danger if Britain withdraws from Egypt.
- 1947
- The last, relatively free election in Hungary was followed by the years of Communist control: show trials, executions, forced settlement of hundreds of thousands, imprisonment, harassment, forced industrial**

## **development, a drop in living standards, and Stalinist dictatorship**

- 1948  
May 14 Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel by David Ben-Gurion in Tel Aviv.  
May 15 Start of the first Arab-Israeli War.
- 1951  
Oct 8 Egyptian government announces that it will eject Britain from the Suez Canal Zone and take control of Sudan.  
Oct 21 British warships arrive at Port Said, more troops are on the way.
- 1952  
Mar 1 The Egyptian Parliament is suspended by King Farouk when Ali Mahir resigns.  
May 6 King Farouk claims to be a direct descendant of the prophet Mohammed.  
July 23 Free Officer Movement, fearing King Farouk is about to move against them, initiate a military coup.  
July 26 Military coup is successful, General Naguib appoints Ali Mahir as prime minister.  
Sept 7 Ali Mahir again resigns. General Naguib takes over post of president, prime minister, minister of war and commander-in-chief of the army.
- 1953  
Jan 16 President Naguib disbands all opposition parties.  
May 5 Constitutional commission recommends 5,000-year-old monarchy be ended and Egypt become a republic.  
May 11 Britain threatens to use force against Egypt over Suez Canal dispute.  
June 18 Egypt becomes a republic.
- 1954  
Apr 18 For a second time, Nasser takes presidency away from Naguib.  
Oct 19 Britain cedes Suez Canal to Egypt in new treaty, two year period set for withdrawal.
- 1955  
Apr 27 Egypt announces plans to sell cotton to Communist China.  
May 21 USSR announces it will sell arms to Egypt.
- 1956  
June 13 Britain gives up Suez Canal. Ends 72 years of British occupation.  
June 23 General Nasser is elected president.  
July 19 US withdraws financial aid for Aswan Dam project. Official reason is Egypt's increased ties to USSR.  
July 26 President Nasser announces plan to nationalise Suez Canal.  
July 28 Britain freezes Egyptian assets.  
July 30 British Prime Minister Anthony Eden imposes an arms embargo on Egypt, and informs General Nasser that he can not have the Suez Canal.  
Aug 1 Britain, France and US hold talks on escalating Suez crisis.  
Aug 2 Britain mobilizes armed forces.  
Sept 5 Israel condemns Egypt over Suez crisis.  
Sept 12 US, Britain, and France announce their intention to impose a Canal Users Association on management of the canal.  
Sept 14 Egypt now in full control of the Suez Canal.  
Oct 7 Israeli foreign minister Golda Meir says the UN failure to resolve the Suez Crisis means they must take military action.  
Oct 13 Anglo-French proposal for the control of the Suez Canal is vetoed by the USSR during UN session.  
Oct 23 **Demonstrations and marches in Budapest. Demands for Imre Nagy to assume leadership and widespread reform of government. Nagy**

- addresses crowds in Parliament Square. Erno Gero broadcasts. First violence erupts at the Radio Station. Statue of Stalin is felled and broken up. Occupying Soviet military moves to quell people's spontaneous revolt.**
- Oct 24 **Uprising grows beyond Budapest. Nagy, re-appointed to Central Committee of the Hungarian Communist Party, replaces Andras Hegedus as Prime Minister. Direct conflict between people, the Soviet military and AVO. Nagy's appeals for an end to the uprising go unheeded.**
- Oct 25 **Erno Gero is replaced by Janos Kadar as First Secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party. Street violence continues in site of both Nagy's and Kadar's separate promises of a negotiated withdrawal of Soviet occupying forces.**
- Oct 26 **Uprising spreads nationwide. Communist Party promises of reforms fail to prevent growing violence.**
- Oct 27 **Nagy's new Cabinet comprises leaders from other parties but remains, of course, Communist.**
- Oct 28 **Amnesty offered to all freedom fighters. Nagy's Government committed to abolition of AVO. Nagy heads a committee within the Politburo to deal with growing crisis comprising Antal Apro, Janos Kadar, Karoly Kiss, Ferenc Munnich and Zoltan Szanto. Demands for reform intensify and include more than Government appears prepared to offer.**
- Oct 29 **Intense fighting involving Hungarian troops sympathetic to freedom fighters. Israeli invasion of Sinai Peninsula. Slow start to Soviet troop withdrawal.**
- Oct 30 **Janos Kadar gives support to Nagy's coalition. Cardinal Mindszenty freed after more than seven years in jail. Spread of non-official radio broadcasts. Colonel Pal Maleter declares support for freedom fighters. UK and France issue ultimatum to Egypt and Israel demanding cease-fire and troop withdrawal ten miles from Suez. Egypt refuses.**
- Oct 31 **Maleter promoted General and appointed Deputy to Minister of Defence. Mass release of political prisoners. Widespread revenge against AVO and public killings. Anglo-French forces launch bomb attacks against Egyptian airfields. Public protest in UK against Suez adventure. US airlifts aid to Israel.**
- Nov 1 **Imre Nagy announces Hungary's neutrality and withdrawal from Warsaw Pact. Soviet forces re-deploy. UK forces take Gaza.**
- Nov 2 **Nagy signals UN and issues appeals to world powers.**
- Nov 3 **Soviet troops close in on Budapest. UK and France accept cease-fire. Kadar and Munnich disappear. Maleter arrested.**
- Nov 4 **(UN agrees to send troops to Middle East.) Soviet forces launch massive dawn attacks on Budapest. Kadar and Munnich broadcast from across border in sympathy with Soviet action. UN agrees to debate crisis in Hungary. Freedom fighters appeal to world. Soviets crush resistance with great savagery.**
- Nov 5 **British parachute troops at Port Said. (Soviet rocket threat to UK and France.) Continued appeals to West for help.**
- Nov 6 **(President Dwight D. Eisenhower re-elected in US election.) Further appeals to West but free radio stations are over-run.**
- Nov 7 **Anglo-French cease-fire over Suez. UN Assembly votes 65 to 1 that invading powers should quit Egyptian territory**
- Nov 8 **Soviet withdrawal from Hungary demanded by UN General**

		<b>Assembly.</b>
	Nov 25	Egypt begins to expel British, French, and Zionist residents.
	Nov 29	Tripartite Invasion is officially ended under pressure from UN.
	Dec 20	Israel refuses to return Gaza to Egypt.
	Dec 24	British and French troops depart Egypt.
	Dec 27	5,580 Egyptian POWs exchanged for four Israelis.
	Dec 28	Operation to clear sunken ship in Suez Canal starts.
1957	Jan 15	British and French banks in Egypt are nationalised.
	Mar 7	UN takes over administration of Gaza Strip.
	Mar 15	General Nasser bars Israeli shipping from Suez Canal.
	Apr 19	First British ship pays Egyptian toll for use of the Suez Canal.