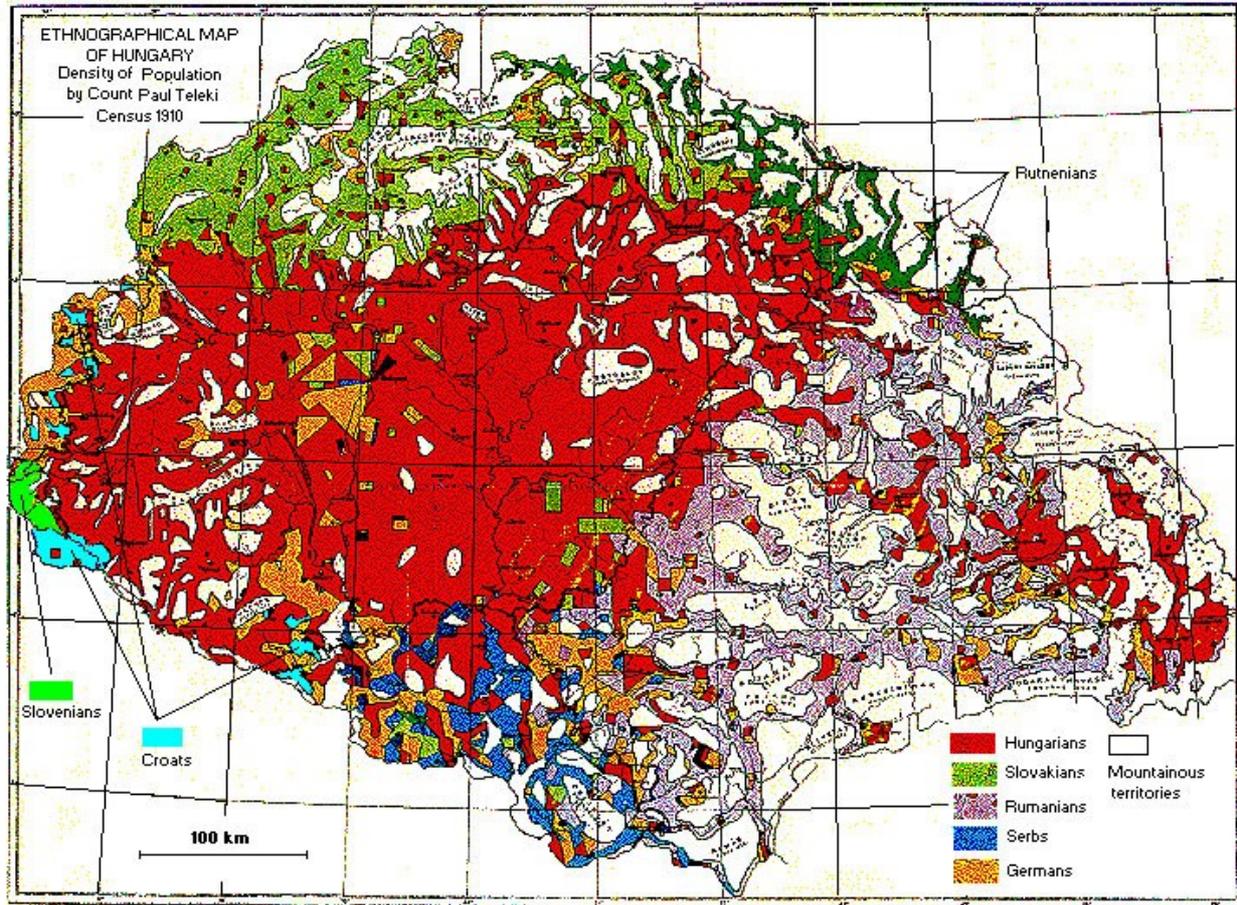


What caused the Decline of Austria-Hungary, and how did that become one of the factors leading to World War One?

Source A. A map over the ethnic diversity of the Hungarian part of the A-H Empire. Census 1910.



Source B.

### *"National Song*

*Rise up, Magyar, the country calls!  
It's 'now or never' what fate befalls...  
Shall we live as slaves or free men?  
That's the question - choose your 'Amen'!  
God of Hungarians, we swear unto Thee,  
We swear unto Thee - that slaves we shall no longer be!*

... "

Petőfi, Sándor proclaimed this poem on the steps of National Museum in Budapest on 15 March 1848.

## Source C.

### The Revolution

The Revolution started on , 1848, March 15th bloodless events in Pest and Buda (mass demonstrations forcing the imperial governor to accept all demands), followed by various insurrections throughout the kingdom, which enabled Hungarian reformists to declare Hungary's autonomy within the Habsburg Empire, under the governor Lajos Kossuth and the first Prime minister Lajos Batthyány. The new government approved a sweeping reform package, referred to as the "April laws", which essentially created an autonomous national Kingdom of Hungary, with the Habsburg Emperor as its king. They also demanded that the Hungarian government receive and expend all taxes raised in Hungary, and have authority over Hungarian regiments in the Habsburg army.

In the summer of 1848, aware that they were on the path to civil war, the Hungarian government ministers attempted to gain Habsburg support against Conservative Josip Jelačić of Croatia-Slavonia by offering to send troops to northern Italy. By the end of August, the imperial government in Vienna officially ordered the Hungarian government in Pest to end plans for a Hungarian army. Jelačić then took military action against the Hungarian government without any official order.

With war raging on three fronts (against the Croats, in the Banat, and in Transylvania), Hungarian radicals in Pest saw this as an opportunity. Parliament made concessions to the radicals in September rather than let the events erupt into violent confrontations.

Faced with revolution at home in Vienna too, Austria at first accepted Hungary's autonomy. However, after the Austrian revolution was beaten down, and Franz Joseph replaced his mentally retarded uncle Ferdinand I as Emperor, Austria again refused to accept Hungarian autonomy. The final break between Vienna and Pest occurred when Field Marshall Count Lamberg was given control of all armies in Hungary (including Jelačić's). In response to Lamberg being attacked on arrival in Hungary a few days later, the imperial court ordered the Hungarian parliament and government dissolved. Jelačić was appointed to take Lamberg's place. War between Austria and Hungary had officially begun.

From Wikipedia.

## Source D

- "One of the major problems in the Habsburgian Empire was the huge economic division between the different parts of the Country. A clear majority of the industry was put in the Moravian, Bohemian and Austrian parts, all agriculture was put in the Hungarian part etc. If a person wanted to start an industry in for example Budapest he wouldn't get the permit from the Emperor in Vienna.

This caused a problem especially for the Lower Nobility that had little or no income from their backward goods. Big landowners never bothered about this since they could make a good profit from their landowning. The Lower Nobility was usually non-german, many were Hungarians. Kossuth, the leader from 1848 was from this class for example.

Why was this a problem? Because the Lower Nobility wanted to start industries and make good money on the modernization of their country, but since the emperor in Vienna decided were to put the industry very little ended up in the Slavic or Hungarian part of the country, and that was a major contributor to the nationalism in the area."

Christian Ohlsson, your teacher talking to himself and recollecting his knowledge on this area.

## Source E Map over Austria- Hungary 1867 - 1914



## Source F

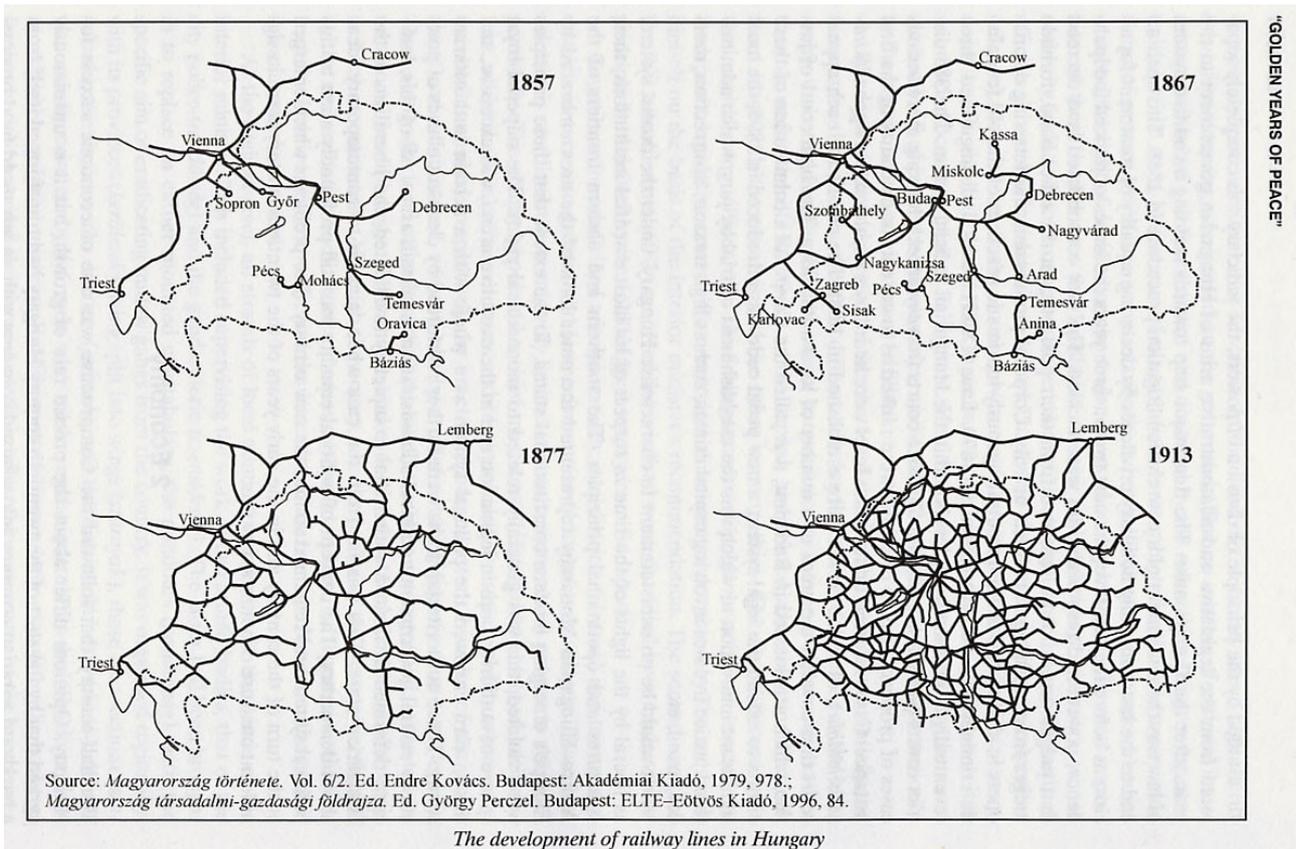
In 1866 The Austrians were defeated by the Prussians. This led to the fact that Austria was kicked out from the German Confederation.

In 1867 the Compromise between Hungarians and Austrians gives Hungary a partial independence, the Emperor of Austria is also the King of Hungary, constituting the Dual Monarchy. Kaiserlich und Königlich abbreviated K u. K.

The Austrians still ran the foreign policies but almost everything else was left to the Hungarians.

Simple facts.

**Source G** Railroad expansion in the Hungarian part.



**Source H** (Figures from "An Illustrated History of Hungary" and "Hungary in the Twentieth Century")

Economic development in the Hungarian part between 1867 and 1914:

Channels and water transport is expanded and makes the transport go double speed. (9 h from Budapest to Vienna by boat along the Danube)

Yearly growth rate of production 1,8 - 2,2 %

Manufacturing industry and mining employs in 1913 18 % of the population and is 25 % of GDP.

About 1 million workers.

Agricultural industry is the biggest, 20 % of the world production of flour.

Big manufactures of electric and mechanical industries..

There are Hungarian Cars, Trains etc

Tungsrn Light Bulbs is a Budapest company.

Population growth: 1851 13,2 million citizens in the Hungarian part, 1910 20,9 million

The entire Empire had approx. 53 million citizens.

**Source I** (Figures from "An Illustrated History of Hungary" and "Hungary in the Twentieth Century")

The Social Structure in the Hungarian Part:

In 1910 63 % of the population is still employed in the agricultural sector.

It is still a very Feudal society.

The Upper Nobility consisted of 2000 personer (1 % of the population), but owned 20 % of the land..

About 1000 persons are Capitalists (about 100 families)

Agricultural proletariat were 24 % of the population) urban proletariat 18 %. These group consisted of the minorities (Czechs, Slovaks, Romanians etc).

"These were the strata whom the upper classes viewed from afar ... 'as if they were Negroes or Chinamen' and with whom they spoke, if at all , ' rather as one would with a sick person or charity case' "

The Salaries in the industries were 50 % of that that a German worker got but 137 % of a Russian, 182 % of a Japanese worker.

71 % of the population lived in villages with less than 5000 inhabitants. Villages were mainly ethnic.

Tasks:

1. Use the different sources and answer the question "Why did the Austrian-Hungarian Empire decline?". Be sure to use the different facts to back up your answer. Your answer should have three headlines:
  - a) Political Events leading to the Decline of the Austrian-Empire.
  - b) Economic factors leading to the Decline of the Austrian-Empire.
  - c) Social factors leading to the Decline of the Austrian-Empire.
2. In your opinion, did this decline lead to the first world war? Use your own knowledge to answer that question.
3. Do you agree that there was a Decline in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire? A Decline for whom?