

# The Destruction of Hungary by Stalinism

Bowen Liu <sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of History, Syracuse University, New York, US

<sup>2</sup> Syracuse University, New York, US

Bliu29@syr.edu

**Abstract.** This paper explores Hungary's historical journey post - World War II within the socialist context. After the war, Hungary, like other Eastern European nations, fell within the Soviet - influenced sphere and adopted a socialist model. In the initial implementation, the model's administrative and economic mechanisms faced certain frictions with Hungary's unique social, cultural, and economic characteristics. Intellectuals, who were crucial in Hungary's socialist construction, held diverse views on the country's development path, triggering internal deliberations on the socialist model. Politically, the Soviet - Hungarian relationship significantly shaped Hungary's political landscape. The 1956 Hungarian Revolution was a manifestation of Hungary's struggle to balance its own development with the broader socialist framework and the Soviet - led influence. Economically, the initially - adopted economic management models brought about challenges such as imbalanced economic structures and difficulties in resource allocation. The judicial system also underwent changes that affected public perception and social stability. Although the socialist model Hungary adopted had positive aspects in maintaining early - stage social order and promoting development during difficult times, as the global and regional situations evolved, especially from the 1960s onwards, certain elements of the model encountered obstacles in adapting to new requirements. Hungary's experience underscores the significance of considering national distinctiveness, continuously innovating and adjusting development models, and handling the relationship between international influence and domestic development in the process of implementing socialist development models.

**Keywords:** Cold War, Communism, Stalinism, Hungary, Law and the judicial system.

## 1. Introduction

Eastern Europe was engulfed in Stalin's one-country socialism after 1945, which impacted the region to varying degrees, with irreversible consequences felt throughout the 1960s and into the 1990s. Among the various socialist approaches taken by Eastern European countries, the practice of complete Stalinist socialism is viewed as the root cause of the Eastern European revolution. While it was effective in times of communism and adversity, Stalinist one-country socialism is not suited to prosperous periods and can be considered the worst solution. It can be said that the Stalinist model of socialism was the best solution for socialism in adversity. Still, it proved inadequate for the changing conditions in Eastern Europe during the 1960s and beyond.

## 2. Organization of the Text

### 2.1. The Flaws of Stalinism

The negative effect of Stalinist bureaucracy on the Hungarian political situation, and more about the collision between socialism with Hungarian characteristics and Stalinist model socialism; “<sup>1</sup>60% of university...the Petofi group.” The backbone of communism and the people of Hungary are composed of 60% intellectuals. These people have not given up their expectations for freedom and moderate democratic values. These people are the backbone of the communist revolution. “<sup>2</sup>Point 16” and “Point 9” are to distribute intellectuals among the work units, which is also the direction of

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<sup>1</sup> *The Hungarian Connection: The 1956 Hungarian Revolution and its impact ...* (n.d.).

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socialism with Hungarian characteristics. However, according to this passage, the Hungarian regime continued adopting the Stalinist model. However, for the people, this is an unacceptable plan. “<sup>3</sup>We... Committee.” the Hungarian people also hope to move towards a moderate or characteristic socialist road; Hungarian people want to correct some problems because these problems make Hungary not like a country that will always have sovereignty. However, regardless of the current situation of the Hungarian authorities, the Soviet Union chose to use force to intervene actively. Instead of retreating, Soviet troops were authorized to use force to suppress the Hungarian uprising in defense of socialism; bureaucratic corruption and strong divisions between classes exacerbated the situation of Stalinist socialism in Hungary. Hungary was full of bureaucracy and corruption under the Stalinist model. Under the development, high-level officials wanted only to encroach on public property, aggravating the contradictions and estrangement between officials and the people.

The negative influence of the Stalinist model on the Hungarian government turned Hungarian politics into a paranoid Stalinist frenzy. “<sup>4</sup>We are communists, and we want social democracy.” and “<sup>5</sup>16 points” should prove that in Hungary's environment, the Hungarian people have not stopped thinking about how to move towards socialism. However, Hungary is in the plight of Stalin's model, forcing Hungary to seek other paths. It is a strong argument that the Hungarian government has produced a highly paranoid ideological fanaticism under the high speed of Stalinism. They do not care what is correct and valid now; it is accurate if it aligns with political ideology. Stalinism makes Hungary's political situation even more chaotic.

## 2.2. The Dilemma of Hungarian Communism

The Soviet Union's policies, which were fundamental to Stalin's model, pushed Hungary into the abyss and fostered a solid anti-Soviet sentiment. The 1956 Hungarian Revolution in Budapest serves as a clear example of this. However, it was not the support of the West that fueled Hungary's anti-Soviet upsurge, but rather the chauvinism and imperialism of the Soviet Union itself. This attitude destabilized not only Hungary but also the entire region. As a result, the unstable political foundations of Eastern European countries eventually developed into anti-Soviet ideologies and movements, which challenged the Soviet Union's dominance and contributed to the eventual collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe. The Soviet Union did not fully trust the Hungarian authorities and viewed Hungary as a satellite territory. The Soviet Union sought to use Hungary's socialist model to strengthen its control over Poland, the Czech Republic, and even Eastern Europe. “<sup>6</sup>If we leave Hungary...them Hungary,” highlighting the absurdity of Stalinist propaganda.

## 2.3. The Legal Predicament of Stalinism

Stalinism caused distrust among the public in the judicial system in Hungary, which caused the entire Hungarian situation to collapse from communism completely, thus losing the Hungarian people's hope for Stalinist socialism and even Hungarian socialism, which eventually led to the people's Turn against the West and embraced the West. “<sup>7</sup>the Hungarian Communist Party... enemies of the regime”, This series of abuses of the judicial system and even the distortion of the law by the Stalinization of the judicial system, “<sup>8</sup>the Hungarian government. ... loyal to the regime”, Stalin's model also persecutes these unidentified communists, that is, communists who want to support reforms or want to make Hungary walk on the correct path of socialism. Nagy's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact aimed to seek a more open, democratic, and autonomous Hungary. However, the highly repressive policy of Stalinism destroyed any possibility of Hungarian reform “<sup>9</sup>the center...

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<sup>3</sup> *The Hungarian Connection: The 1956 Hungarian Revolution and its impact ...* (n.d.).

<sup>4</sup> *The Hungarian Connection: The 1956 Hungarian Revolution and its impact ...* (n.d.).

<sup>5</sup> The 1956 Hungarian Revolution: 16 points/16 pontja. (n.d.). Retrieved April 21

<sup>6</sup> *Cold War, denouement and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution - Researchgate.* (n.d.).

<sup>7</sup> *The Hungarian Connection: The 1956 Hungarian Revolution and its impact ...* (n.d.).

<sup>8</sup> *Cold War, denouement and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution - Researchgate.* (n.d.).

<sup>9</sup> *Cold War, denouement and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution - Researchgate.* (n.d.).

Politicians”. This series of actions moved all over Hungary more and more fiercely, and the law symbolized the rights of the people or the only way for the people to Hungarian socialism. However, the closure of this way and the instability in the whole Warsaw Pact led to the secession movement. “<sup>10</sup>China is not Hungary... among the people.” These few examples prove that the Hungarian authorities have entirely lost the foundation of the people or that the Hungarian people have lost trust in the Stalin-style Hungarian government agencies. Then, it also heralds the complete failure of Stalinist socialism.

### 3. Summary

Any political system has two sides, so the advantages of Stalinism in adversity socialism cannot be denied. After the situation in Hungary became confusing and uncontrollable, the Stalinist socialist model was the only way to continue to control the chaotic situation. “<sup>11</sup>However, as the situation escalated.... over Eastern Europe.” After the situation is out of control, the situation in Hungary, as stated in this sentence, may have a loose influence on the entire Warsaw Pact and harm NATO. The impact of the conflict may break out, so at this time, Stalinist socialism is indeed the best solution to solve this problem, quickly quell the riots, stabilize the situation, and minimize friction with NATO. With the liberation of Hungary in 1989, the whole of Hungary was not optimistic about the experience of socialism. It can even be said to be hostile to those who are hostile to the Soviet Union. Behavior and thinking may have been produced during the revolution of 1956 from the very beginning.

The Stalinist model of socialism implemented in Hungary after World War II hurt the country's political and economic situation. The high-pressure policies within the socialist system, bureaucratic corruption, and strong class divisions exacerbated the problem. The negative influence of the Stalinist model turned Hungarian politics into a paranoid frenzy, and the Soviet Union's policies fostered an anti-Soviet sentiment in the country. The 1956 Hungarian Revolution in Budapest serves as a clear example of this. Despite the Hungarian people's desire for a moderate or characteristic socialist road, the authorities continued adopting the Stalinist model, which resulted in the country's destruction. This oppressive approach pushed the Hungarian population towards the West. Overall, the Stalinist model of socialism was effective in times of communism and adversity but proved inadequate for the changing conditions in Eastern Europe during the 1960s and beyond.

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<sup>10</sup> *The Hungarian Connection: The 1956 Hungarian Revolution and its impact ...* (n.d.).

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