

Hungary

Ethnicity in Hungary

Group selection

We identify two politically relevant ethnic groups: **Hungarians** and **Roma**.

Power relations

1946-1992

Romas were discriminated, and Hungarians held a monopoly on power.

1993-2017

While the Roma are discriminated in almost all fields of social life and often target of violence, this discrimination is more social than political. Roma are able to vote (²¹⁰¹). Some discrimination even extends to lower levels of government (separated schools program in one municipality). The Roma face discrimination in the fields of education, employment, health, housing, and criminal justice. Their situation worsened after the financial crisis. They are targets of organized racist violence by right-wing radical paramilitary groups, such as the “Hungarian Guard” (²¹⁰², 236). In these cases law enforcement has been criticized as weak, though the Guard was banned by the court in 2009 (and yet continued to operate). Critics called on the authorities to characterize such crimes as hate crimes under the Hungarian Criminal Code and prosecute them as such.

However, officially government fights discrimination, and there are no signs of any targeted exclusion from political participation (²¹⁰³). The Roma minority remains highly underrepresented in all stages of government. In the 2006 spring elections, only 3 Roma candidates won seats in the parliament (Ibid, 238). Between 2010 and 2014, the Roma minority has held just four seats in the National Assembly. (²¹⁰⁴) The far-right party Jobbik is openly anti-Roma and further nourishes anti-Roma attitudes and is electorally successful (²¹⁰⁵). Although Fidesz, the leading party, generally distances itself from anti-Semitic statements, it is less vocal in its condemnation of anti-Roma behavior (²¹⁰⁶).

With the recent shift in Hungarian politics towards the right, Roma have become frequent targets of harassment and hate speech (²¹⁰⁷).

²¹⁰¹ [U.S. Department of State, 2016]

²¹⁰² [Freedom House, 2013]

²¹⁰³ [United States State Department, 2009]

²¹⁰⁴ [Freedom House, 2010]

²¹⁰⁵ [Minority Rights Group International, 2014]

²¹⁰⁶ [Freedom House, 2010]

²¹⁰⁷ [Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2016]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Hungary

From 1946 until 1992

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Hungarians	0.9	MONOPOLY
Roma	0.05	DISCRIMINATED

From 1993 until 2017

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Hungarians	0.9	MONOPOLY
Roma	0.05	POWERLESS



Figure 380: Political status of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1946-1992.



Figure 381: Political status of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1993-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Hungary

From 1946 until 1946

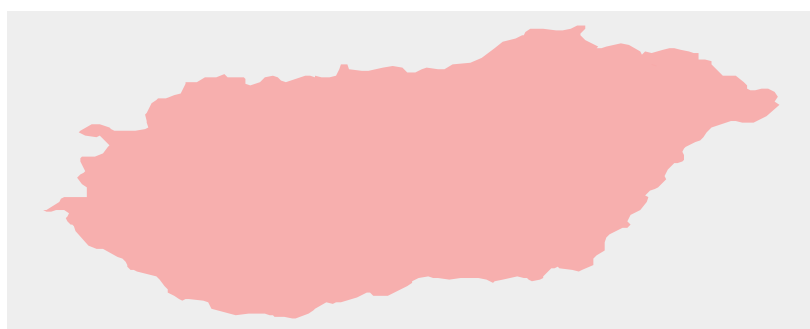


Figure 382: Map of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1946-1946.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Hungarians	102 428	Statewide
Roma		Dispersed

Table 124: List of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1946-1946.

From 1947 until 1947

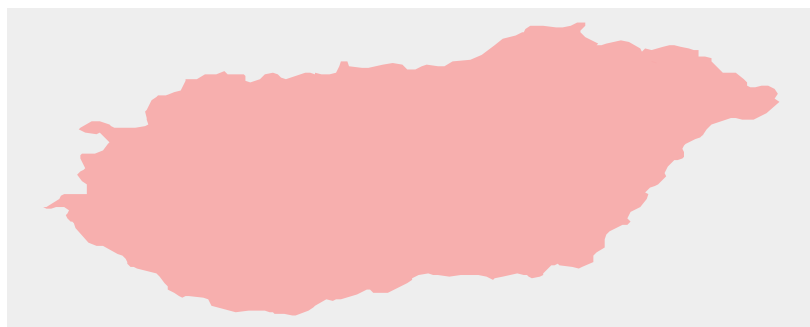


Figure 383: Map of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1947-1947.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Hungarians	102 428	Statewide
Roma		Dispersed

Table 125: List of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1947-1947.

From 1948 until 2017

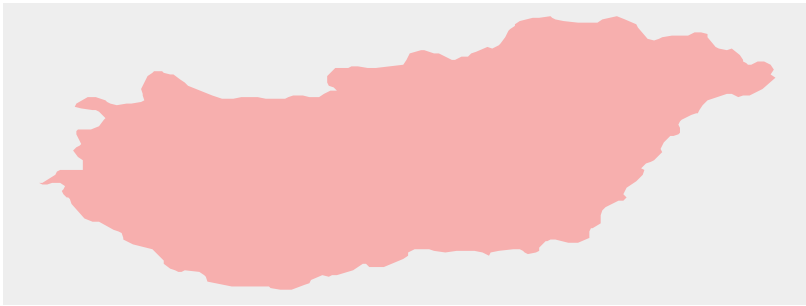


Figure 384: Map of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1948-2017.

	Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■	Hungarians	92983	Statewide
	Roma		Dispersed

Table 126: List of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1948-2017.

Conflicts in Hungary

Starting on 1956-10-22

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Hungary	Government of Russia (Soviet Union)		1956-10-22			