

Hungary

Ethnicity in Hungary

Group selection

We identify three politically relevant ethnic groups: **Hungarians**, **Roma** and **Germans**.

Power relations

1946-1992

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

1993-2014

The situation of minorities changed drastically in 1993 when the Hungarian Parliament enacted Act 77 on the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities which not only shifted away the assimilationist policies of the communist regime but also approved legislation which granted minorities the right to use their languages, the right to self-organize politically, the right to take control over educational issues of the respective minority group etc. ⁽²⁴³³⁾. Following the adoption of the new constitution in 2011, the Act of National and Ethnic Minorities was replaced by the Act of in the Rights of Nationalities in Hungary recognizing 13 nationalities, among them Roma and Germans who comprise the largest share of the national minorities in Hungary ⁽²⁴³⁴⁾. This is why we divide the coding into three phases: 1946-1992, 1993-2014 and 2015-2021.

²⁴³³ [Ferkovics et al., 2016]

²⁴³⁴ [Minority Rights, 2018]

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 ⁽²⁴³⁵⁾. 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” ^(2436, 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.

²⁴³⁵ [U.S. Department of State, 2016]

²⁴³⁶ [Freedom House, 2013]

However, officially government fights discrimination, and there are

no signs of any targeted exclusion from political participation ⁽²⁴³⁷⁾. 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 ⁽²⁴³⁸⁾

²⁴³⁷ [United States State Department, 2009]

²⁴³⁸ [Freedom House, 2010]

2015-2021

Since 2014, registered voters from the minority groups can now vote on the minority candidate list instead of a party list ⁽²⁴³⁹⁾. However, several incidents were recorded during the 2018 electoral campaign by international organizations of increased pressure on Romani voters not to register as minority voters and to vote for national lists instead ⁽²⁴⁴⁰⁾. For the first time in the history of the Hungarian National Assembly, only the German minority received the necessary votes, thanks to special lower electoral threshold for minority lists, to enter the National Parliament, even though all minority groups registered candidate lists in the 2018 elections (separate minority voting process). Thus, Imre Ritter remains the only minority MP representing Germans living in Hungary who comprise about 1.9% of the population. ⁽²⁴⁴¹⁾. We include Germans in the coding list from 2015, however we code them as powerless. Nevertheless, according to the law, minority lists that fail to win preferential seats are entitled to maintain a "nationality advocate" observer for minority rights in the parliament ⁽²⁴⁴²⁾.

²⁴³⁹ [Freedom House, 2020]

²⁴⁴⁰ [U.S. Department of State, 2019]

²⁴⁴¹ [U.S. Department of State, 2019]

²⁴⁴² [Balázs, 2016]

The far-right party Jobbik is openly anti-Roma and further nourishes anti-Roma attitudes and is electorally successful ⁽²⁴⁴³⁾. Although Fidesz, the leading party, generally distances itself from anti-Semitic statements, it is less vocal in its condemnation of anti-Roma behavior ⁽²⁴⁴⁴⁾. With the recent shift in Hungarian politics towards the right, Roma have become frequent targets of harassment and hate speech ⁽²⁴⁴⁵⁾. The "Hungarian Guard", an unarmed paramilitary group, was banned by the court in 2009, yet they continue to operate ^(2446, 236).

²⁴⁴³ [Minority Rights Group International, 2014]

²⁴⁴⁴ [Freedom House, 2010]

²⁴⁴⁵ [Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2016]

²⁴⁴⁶ [Freedom House, 2013]

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Political status of ethnic groups in H

From 1946 until 1992

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

From 1993 until 2014

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

From 2015 until 2021

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Hungarians	0.9	MONOPOLY
Roma	0.05	POWERLESS
Germans	0.01	POWERLESS



Figure 446: Political status of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1946-1992.



Figure 447: Political status of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1993-2014.



Figure 448: Political status of ethnic groups in Hungary during 2015-2021.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Hungary

From 1946 until 1946

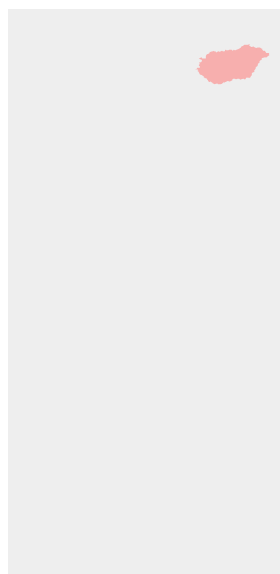


Figure 449: Map of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1946-1946.

	Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■	Hungarians	102 428	Statewide
■	Roma	0	Dispersed

Table 159: List of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1946-1946.

From 1947 until 1947

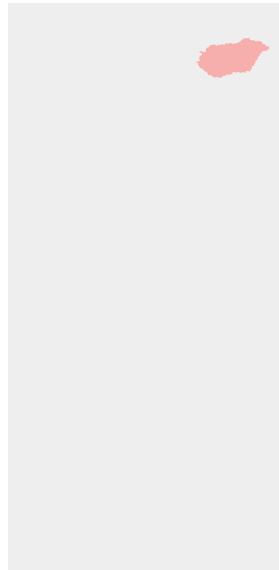


Figure 450: Map of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1947-1947.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Hungarians	102 428	Statewide
■ Roma	0	Dispersed

Table 160: List of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1947-1947.

From 1948 until 2014

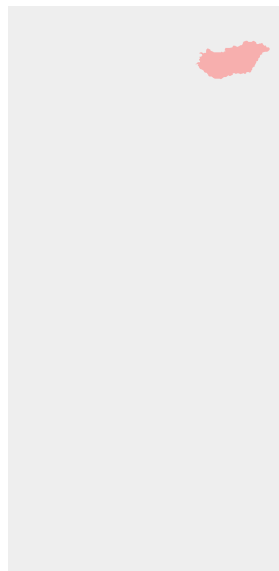


Figure 451: Map of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1948-2014.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Hungarians	92 983	Statewide
■ Roma	0	Dispersed

Table 161: List of ethnic groups in Hungary during 1948-2014.

From 2015 until 2021

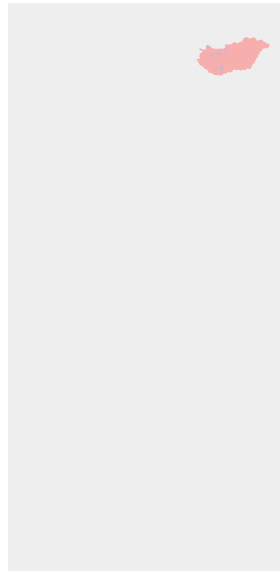


Figure 452: Map of ethnic groups in Hungary during 2015-2021.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Hungarians	92 983	Statewide
■ Germans	4722	Regional & urban
■ Roma	0	Dispersed

Table 162: List of ethnic groups in Hungary during 2015-2021.

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			