

## **Slovakia in 16th and 17th century.**

**1526** Defeat of Hungarian army and the death of **Louis II. Jagellion** at the **Battle of Mohács** ended relatively prosperous period of the region.

The defeat at Mohács was caused by many events but mostly:

1. the weakened position of Hungarian king at the time;
2. Rich aristocrats preferred their own, mostly selfish, interests;
3. European countries didn't support the fight against turcs;
4. half of the Hungarian army led by John Zápolya didn't come to help;

The defeat at Mohács had a long-term impact on the Hungarian history:

1. More than half of the kingdom was occupied by Turcs for almost 200 years (till 1699)
2. The rest of the country was looted by turkish troops, peoples was suffering from diseases, starvation, plague...
3. to complete the picture of the anarchy of the era the conflict between protestants and catholics broke out (which in Hungary take the form of uprisings against Habsburgs led by aristocrats - Bocskay, Bethlen, Rakoczi)

So what happened years after Mohács?

Louis II. was the last Hungarian and Bohemian kings from Jagellion dynasty. According to agreements between royal families of Jagellion and Habsburgs, the Bohemian and Hungarian throne inherited son of emperor Charles Quint, **Ferdinand** – his wife Anne was Louis' sister.

But the most powerful landowner in Hungary **John Zápolya** refused to recognise Ferdinand Hungarian king and persuaded the Estates generals to proclaim himself the king of Hungary. End with the support of Turkish sultan he controlled the Eastern part of the country (**Eastern Slovakia and Transylvania - Sedmohradsko**) until his death in 1540.

The western part of Hungary, including the rest of Slovakia and western Hungary was controlled by Habsburgs and it was called **Royal Hungary**. All central institution moved to Bratislava (1536), the archbishop of Estergom moved to Trnava.

In 1541 **Hungary was divided between** Turcs, Habsburgs and successors of John Zápolya: **Buda pashalic** – the central part and two other part that we already mentioned.

In this **period of anarchy** without any important central power in Hungary protestantism and also calvinism found fertile land to spread its ideas. But later, while Habsburgs had stabilised their power, they started to persecute protestants, they even abolished freedom of religion etc. This anti – protestant attitude of Habsburgs caused a several **anti - habsburgs uprisings** which started in 1604 by Bocskai uprisings and ended by Rakoczi uprising in early 18th century by defeat of protestant movement **against Habsburgs' absolutism**.

The list of uprisings:

1604 – 1608 uprising of Stephan Bocskai

1619 – 1622 uprising of Gabriel Bethlen  
1643 – 1645 uprising of Juraj Rakoczi  
1671 Vesselenyi conspiracy  
1680 – 1687 uprising of Imrich Tokoli  
1703 – 1708 uprising of František Rakoczi

**1711 Peace of Satu Mare** (in Transylvania) which concluded the fights between Habsburgs and nobles was a compromise between Habsburgs and Hungarian aristocracy. Some of the old privileges was conserved - even the freedom of religion and nobles recognised the hereditary rights of Habsburgs on the Hungarian throne. Jesuits were allowed to set up in Hungary.

Turks were pushed back with the help of polish king **John III. Sobieski** in 1683 nearby Vienna and definitely defeated at Mohács in 1699 and pushed out of Hungary.

Other important events:

**1610 - Synode of Žilina** - established the organization of Protestant church in Hungary

**1635 - University of Trnava** -

**1657 - Jesuit University in Košice** -

- both established to pursue aims of Catholic Church, so to strenghten the position of Catholicism in Hungary

18th century - beginning of inner migration in Hungary after defeat of Turks, when people from Northern part of the country went south (to populate, better conditions, also supported by government) Begining of Slovak settlements in Vojvodina, Békés and other southern counties.