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Hungary

# Hungary 2026: An Autopsy of Sixteen Years of Illiberalism.

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**The Hungarian legislative elections of 12 April 2026 brought to an end sixteen years of uninterrupted rule by Viktor Orbán. Péter Magyar's Tisza (Respect and Freedom [Tisztelet és Szabadság]) party won a super-majority of 138 seats out of 199, inflicting on Fidesz a defeat explained by judicial scandals, saturation of the identitarian discourse, a generational fracture, and the concrete effects of the freeze on European funds.**

Adam Novak analyses the structural dynamics of the Orbán regime in this interview. His reading draws on the concept of the post-communist mafia state, forged by former liberal minister Bálint Magyar: not ordinary corruption coexisting with a degraded rule of law, but the criminalisation of the state itself, carried out through parliamentary means thanks to the two-thirds majority obtained in 2010. He analyses Hungary's function as a "proof of concept" for the global nationalist right — and assesses the asymmetric effects of Orbán's defeat on Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, European far-right parties, and Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico.

The interview addresses equally what the Tisza victory does not represent. Péter Magyar does not carry an alternative project for social organisation: his party voted against arms deliveries to Ukraine in the European Parliament and did not respond to pre-electoral trade union demands. The electoral left is absent from the new parliament. The Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP), long dominant, paid for its neoliberal conversion with the organic rupture of its working-class base. The social demand that fuelled Orbánism for sixteen years --- described here as anti-Westernism rather than pro-Russianism --- is not resolved by the change of government.

PS:

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