

HELP US END
RACISM



IN HUNGARY

URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM

As William Wheeler observed it in the New York Times “Far-right ultranationalist groups are exploiting old enmities and new fears across the Continent. Although this is not the Europe of the 1930s, the disillusioned citizens of countries like Greece and Hungary have turned increasingly to simple answers, electing parties that blame familiar scapegoats – Jews, Gypsies, gays and foreigners – for their ills. What’s at stake is the health of European democracy, and the values and institutions on which it rests.”

In Hungary, the extreme right Jobbik party managed to gain an unprecedented 16.6%, gaining 45 out of 386 seats in Parliament, and three seats in the European Parliament. Their radical advocacy of nationalist values, the propagation of the reunification of pre WWI Greater Hungary, their clear xenophobia and the outspoken EU skepticism pair up with cases that even attracted international attention, like a blood libel claim, or demands for a list of members of parliament with Jewish origins. Meanwhile, Jobbik constructed a surprisingly sophisticated parallel, nationalist universe of radio stations, web pages, dating sites for radicals, and their particular clothing styles and music genres. They must have gotten something right: according to recent surveys, Jobbik attracts 33% of university students, and out of them, 52% say that in some cases, they would prefer dictatorship over democracy.

Nationalism and racism are part of not only the political discourse, but also the popular culture. One of the most important terrains for the expression of nationalism and racism is soccer stadiums, which have, by now, been absolutely taken over by Nazi groups. In addition, paramilitary organizations such as the Betyársereg have formed, and openly demand that Jewish people to be put in cattle wagons again.



SUMMARY OF 2013 ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTINUING PROJECTS OF THE FREE MARKET FOUNDATION

This year the Free Market Foundation (FMF) of Hungary is focusing on two major projects.

A. Ridicule the Radical

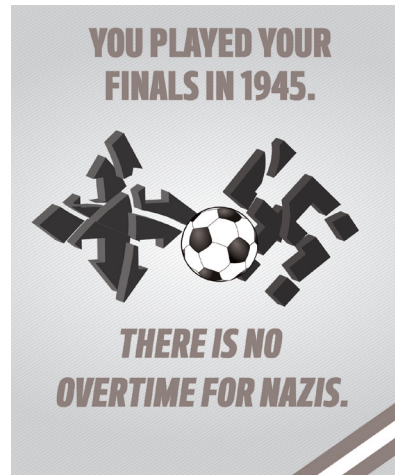
With the project, the FMF intends to face and tackle the problem of radicalism. With the help of social media, we have created a website to ridicule the radicals, [facebook.com/Turulpata](https://www.facebook.com/Turulpata), which has become quite popular. We believe that humor can help to discredit the extreme right.

In September, we held a conference on Liberty vs. Radicalism. We invited speakers from all over the world to speak about possible solutions.

We have also created a damage calculator which is our unique invention with a very unique methodology to measure how much damage is caused by radicalism. kalkulator.kapitalizmus.com/

The latest project related to radicalism was staging an anti-racist demonstration at a soccer game. It was really a big hit as we got a lot of media attention because nothing like this had ever been present in Hungary. Most of the reactions from the media, politicians and the population were very positive.

As part of this project, the director of the Foundation has been invited to give lectures, such as with an online Atlas event, a Friedrich Naumann confer-



ence in Budapest, Liberty Seminars in Slovenia. In the near future, he will also make a presentation in Greece and at the Atlas Club Briefing in New York in November.

This topic is quite interesting for our partner organizations, and our articles have been translated into several languages.

B. Civic Platform

The FNF has created the Civic Platform to call for a campaign which focuses on boosting voter turnout at the next elections in 2014. In Hungary, there is an unprecedented two thirds majority of the governing party, which means that they are turning Hungary into a cronyist, illiberal, and paternalistic state. The majority of the population is so skeptical about politics that they would not go to the polls next year. This could lead to the growth of the power of the dominant party and an increase in the number of radicals in Parliament.

In order to persuade people about the importance of the vote, we have started this campaign, which will last until May, 2014. It is important to help people understand that liberty, individual freedom, entrepreneurship, free trade, personal responsibility, and tolerance are vital for the future of the country. rajtammulik.blog.hu/

We aim to help restore freedom and democracy in Hungary.

Donations may be made to help the Hungarian Free Market's work through Atlas. If donating online, please write "Hungarian Free Market Foundation Anti-Fascism Campaign" in the box under "Please designate my gift to specific Atlas program." If donating by mail, please include a note reflecting this designation. Atlas's address, and additional donation information, are found on its website: atlasnetwork.org/donate/

A man in a dark pinstriped suit, white shirt, and patterned tie is holding a book. The book cover features a portrait of a man and some text. The background is a solid yellow color.

**RECOMMENDATION BY
TOM G. PALMER**

Executive Vice President of the Atlas
Economic Research Foundation

The work of the Free Market Foundation of Hungary is vitally important to the future of our civilization. The backsliding toward authoritarian statism and even primitive collectivism in the heart of Europe is extremely disturbing and so it is truly inspiring to see the work that the Free Market Foundation is doing. I was very active in the region as Communism was crumbling and remember vividly the struggle of Hungarians to free themselves from the horrors of Communism. Hungary and its people and culture are quite dear to my heart.

I am especially impressed by the Free Market Foundation's mobilization of young Hungarians under the banner of the free market, of limited government, of toleration and equality before the law. They do so, not only as young classical liberals, but as patriotic Hungarians who refuse to stand by and see their country taken back to the darkest chapters of its history by the authoritarian and collectivist extremists of the far "right" or the far "left."

I am very committed to supporting the Free Market Foundation's innovative team. I shudder to think of what will happen if they fail.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom G. Palmer", is written on a yellow background.

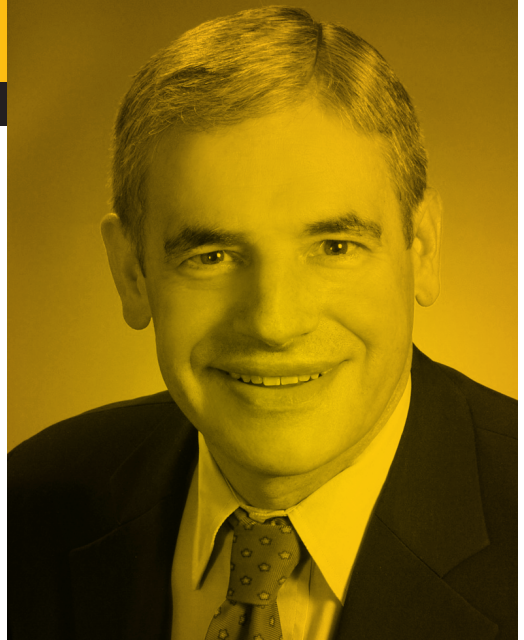
Tom G. Palmer

RECOMMENDATION BY DAVID E. SHELLENBERGER -

Libertarian Commentator

I know Zoltán Kész through my support of the Atlas Network, and attendance at Atlas conferences, and hold him in the highest regard. I have written about the decline of liberty and the threat of neo-fascism in Hungary, and the important work the Foundation is doing to address these problems and help create a free, prosperous, and peaceful country.

I have contributed to the Foundation, and encourage others to join me. The Foundation's work is important to the future of Hungary and the region, and its success will stand as an example for the rest of the world.



David E. Shellenberger

**VISION BY ZOLTÁN KÉSZ,
CO-FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR**

I was 16 when I attended high school in the USA. Having arrived from a former communist country, I envisioned that by the time my children reach the same age, we would also possess the values that are so dear to most Americans. Now my son is 12 years old, and as far as democracy, individual responsibility and liberty are concerned, the country is still lagging behind. The case for liberty is losing its battle 20 years after the transition.

Democracy is on the losing side again, and there is a risk that Russian influence will again take over Central and Eastern Europe in the future. I do not want this kind of future for the next generation. I



Zoltán Kész

truly believe in free enterprise, free competition, individual responsibility, and responsible decision-making. Our foundation is committed to creating a community of principled Central and Eastern European leaders who, like the visionaries who helped found the United States, understand the importance of dispersing power and protecting individual liberty as a means of creating a prosperous and virtuous society.

VISION BY ZOLTÁN SOMOGYI, CO-FOUNDER

I was born in 1973 into a family that experienced the horrors of the twentieth century. Two thirds of my family was exterminated in the Nazi concentration camps, then later all the private properties of the remaining family were nationalized by the communists. As a sociologist I am aware of social processes and know very well that they are not static but always changing. In Hungary, these processes are now shifting to a negative direction as there is a totally ostracized group (Romans) and another one (Jews) that is hated for other reasons. Several radical groups emphasize hatred, and this racist and active political minority is winning its battle over the silent and passive majority.

If we do not change this attitude, racism will become the prevalent style. Still I am optimistic. I believe that we can help bring about change. I envision intelligent and powerful political and social debates. I have faith in the majority of the citizens of my country, and I believe that together we can quiet down the loud voices of the radicals, and liberty will prevail.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Somogyi Zoltán', located at the bottom of the portrait area.



Zoltán Somogyi: somogyizoltan@somogyizoltan.hu

Zoltán Kész: kesz.zoltan@gmail.com