

Mátyás Rákosi

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Matyas Rakosi)

Mátyás Rákosi (March 9, 1892^{[1][2]} – February 5, 1971^[3]) was a Hungarian communist politician. He was born **Mátyás Rosenfeld** in present-day Serbia. He was the *de facto* ruler of communist Hungary between 1945 and 1956^[4] — first in his capacity as General Secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party (1945–1948) and later as General Secretary of the Hungarian Working People's Party (1948–1956).^[5] His rule was aligned with USSR politics during Joseph Stalin's government.^{[6][7]}

Contents

- 1 Early years
- 2 Leader of Hungary
- 3 Economic policy
- 4 Forced retirement
- 5 Footnotes
- 6 External links

Early years

Rákosi was born in Ada, a village in Bács County^[1] in what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire (now in Vojvodina, Serbia). Born into a Jewish family, the fourth son of a grocer (his mother would give birth to seven more children)^[1] he later repudiated religion and totally repudiated Judaism.

He served in the Austro-Hungarian Army during the First World War and was captured on the Eastern Front. After returning to Hungary, he participated in the communist government of Béla Kun; after its fall he fled, eventually to the Soviet Union. After returning to Hungary in 1924 he was imprisoned, and was released to the Soviet Union in 1940, in exchange for the Hungarian revolutionary banners captured by the Russian troops at Világos in 1849.^[8] In the Soviet Union, he became leader of the Comintern. He returned to Debrecen, Hungary, on January 30, 1945, sent by Soviet leadership to organize the

Mátyás Rákosi



General Secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party

In office

1945 – July 18, 1956

Succeeded by Ernő Gerő

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Hungary

In office

August 14, 1952 – July 4, 1953
(0 years, 324 days)

Preceded by István Dobi

Succeeded by Imre Nagy

Personal details

Born March 9, 1892
Ada, Austria-Hungary

Died February 5, 1971 (aged 78)
Gorky, Soviet Union

Nationality Hungarian

Political party Hungarian Communist Party, Hungarian Working People's Party

Spouse(s) Fenia Kornilova

Religion None (Atheist)

returned to Debrecen, Hungary, on January 30, 1945, sent by Soviet leadership, to organize the Communist Party.^[8]

Leader of Hungary

When the communist government was installed in Hungary, Rákosi was appointed General Secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party (MKP). He was a member of the High National Council from September 27, to December 7, 1945. Rákosi was acting Prime Minister from February 1, to February 4, 1946 and on May 31, 1947. In 1948, the Communists forced the Social Democrats to merge with them to form the Hungarian Working People's Party (MDP). A year later, elections were held with a single list of candidates; although non-Communists nominally still figured, they were actually fellow travelers. This marked the onset of undisguised Communist rule in Hungary.

Rákosi described himself as "Stalin's best Hungarian disciple" and "Stalin's best pupil." He also invented the term "salami tactics", which related to his method of eliminating the non-Communist opposition. By portraying his rivals as either fascists or fascist sympathizers, he was able to get the non-Communist parties to push out their more courageous members, leaving only those willing to collaborate with the Communists. He later said that he destroyed the non-Communist forces in the country by "cutting them off like slices of salami." At the height of his rule, he developed a strong cult of personality around himself. Approximately 350,000 officials and intellectuals were purged under his rule, from 1948 to 1956.^[9] Rákosi imposed totalitarian rule on Hungary — arresting, jailing and killing both real and imagined foes in various waves of Stalin-inspired political purges — as the country went into decline. In August 1952 he also became Chairman of the Council of Ministers, but on June 13, 1953, to appease the Soviet Politburo, he was forced to give up the office to Imre Nagy, yet retained the office of General Secretary. Rákosi led the attacks on Nagy. On 9 March 1955, the Central Committee of the Hungarian Working People's Party condemned Nagy for "rightist deviation". Hungarian newspapers joined the attacks and Nagy was accused of being responsible for the country's economic problems and on 18 April he was dismissed from his post by a unanimous vote of the National Assembly. Although Rákosi did not resume the premiership, he quickly put the country back on its previous course.

Economic policy

The postwar Hungarian economy suffered from multiple challenges. The most important was the destruction of assets in the war (40% of national wealth, including all bridges, railways, raw materials, machinery, etc.)^[10] Hungary agreed to pay war reparations approximating US\$300 million, to the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia, and to support Soviet garrisons. The Hungarian National Bank in 1946 estimated the cost of reparations as "between 19 and 22 per cent of the annual national income." In spite of this, after the highest historical rate of inflation in world history, the new, stable currency was successfully in August 1946 on the basis of the plans of the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party. While consumer goods production was still low, industrial production exceeded the level of 1938 by 40% in 1949 and tripled by 1953.^[10] However, the backwardness of light industries resulted in frequent



Rákosi during the 2nd World Festival of Youth and Students.

A PRESENTATION 7 X 65(R)/20-BORE (2¾IN) DOPPELBÜCHS-DRILLING BY GEBRÜDER MERKEL, No. 19150, the two 7 x 65(R) rifled barrels over the 20-bore (2¾in.) smooth-bore short barrel, non-ejector, manual side-safe, bolstered scroll-back treble-grip action-body with matt detonating and side-clips, the top-strap mounted with the rifle/short-barrel selector-switch, cocking-indicators, best relief-engraving of scenes of the hunt, the whole surrounded and invaded by oak leaves and acorns on a matt ground, brushed bright finish overall, horn triggerguard, well-figured stock with semi-pistolgrip, cheekpiece and butt-plate, the butt inset with an enamelled red Soviet Star on a sunburst ground, sling-swivels, the Böhler-steel barrels with matt sight-rib, open-sight and ramp-mounted bead-foresight with fold-away moon-sight, the sight-rib with recessed presentation inscription 'RAKOSI MATYAS', the breech-end mounted with a Zeiss Diatal-Z 4 x 32 telescopic-sight in quickly-detachable mounts

Price Realized (Set Currency)

£5,060

(\$8,073)

Price includes buyer's premium

Estimate

£1,200 - £1,800

(\$1,915 - \$2,872)

IMAGE NOT
AVAILABLE**Sale Information**

Sale 5444

Guns

19 July 1995

London, King Street

Lot Description

A PRESENTATION 7 X 65(R)/20-BORE (2¾IN) DOPPELBÜCHS-DRILLING BY GEBRÜDER MERKEL, No. 19150, the two 7 x 65(R) rifled barrels over the 20-bore (2¾in.) smooth-bore short barrel, non-ejector, manual side-safe, bolstered scroll-back treble-grip action-body with matt detonating and side-clips, the top-strap mounted with the rifle/short-barrel selector-switch, cocking-indicators, best relief-engraving of scenes of the hunt, the whole surrounded and invaded by oak leaves and acorns on a matt ground, brushed bright finish overall, horn triggerguard, well-figured stock with semi-pistolgrip, cheekpiece and butt-plate, the butt inset with an enamelled red Soviet Star on a sunburst ground, sling-swivels, the Böhler-steel barrels with matt sight-rib, open-sight and ramp-mounted bead-foresight with fold-away moon-sight, the sight-rib with recessed presentation inscription 'RAKOSI MATYAS', the breech-end mounted with a Zeiss Diatal-Z 4 x 32 telescopic-sight in quickly-detachable mounts

Weight 8lb. 14oz. (with telescope), 13 7/8in. pull, 24¾in. barrels, approx. 7/8 choke, 2¾in. chamber, nitro proof

Lot Notes

Rákosi Matyas (1892-1971) was the Stalinist General Secretary of the Hungarian Workers' (Communist) Party from 1948-1956. In order to remain the undisputed leader he ordered many arrests and large scale purges, annihilating every actual or potential opposition both within and outside the party. After the death of Stalin in 1953, Moscow's destalinization policy lead Rákosi's dismissal in 1956. The new soviet leadership tried to placate the insurgent movements against the communist system in Hungary and Poland, but these measures failed and the anti-communist revolution started in October. This was crushed by the Red Army tanks and Rákosi fled to the USSR where he lived in exile until his death in 1971.

Rákosi was a passionate big game hunter and this drilling Merkel was a personal gift to him by one of the soviet leaders, probably Leonid Breshnev who himself was a keen hunter and often invited Rákosi to join big game parties in his presidential reserves.