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The Fundamental Law of Hungary and its Effect on Social Cohesion

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The New Fundamental Law of Hungary and Its Effect on Social Cohesion

**Responsibility of Right Wing Parties**

**Jobbik Party**
- **Symbols:** The party’s ideas of symbolic power, or a set of events, holidays, traditions, and symbols, indicate anti-Semitic feelings in the party’s core. For example, the posters seen by Rabbi Andrew Baker in Budapest calling for citizens to “Join the Fight” against the Jews were put out by Jobbik’s Hungarian Guard (2).
- **Vidra and Fox:** The Hungarian Guard, a large part of the Jobbik party, gathers in large groups, wears uniforms similar to those during World War II, and has been called militia-like by many other countries for being anti-Semitic and anti-Roma (1).
- **Creating a New Society:** After examining multiple sources, such as the ADL, survey and another Jewish research, Baker concludes that “No doubt the presence of the Jobbik Party in the Parliament is a contributing factor; for the first time in post-Communist Hungary one can hear overt anti-Semitic language from the mouth of MPs” (2). Their presence allows them to adjust laws in a way that helps them maintain their alternative society.
- **Openly Ignoring anti-Roma hatred:** Jobbik turns a blind eye when there is violence towards the Roma and openly sympathizes with the so-called “gypsy crime.”
- **Fidesz:** Vidra and Fox argue that right wing parties are factors in the extreme intolerance of modern Hungary. Jobbik pressures Fidesz to become more like them. This spreads anti-Semitic attitudes.

**Fidesz Party**
- **Jobbik followers:** The less moderate right wing Fidesz party, there are many members that are anti-Semitic and the Fidesz party seems to be not bothered by this, Hungarian Jews are nervous about the Fidesz party becoming more anti-Semitic due to an upcoming election and the need to obtain votes from those who are Jobbik followers. Baker (2) states that the coalition between the two right wing parties is pulling more citizens toward discriminatory views.
- **Media:** Through use of media, Vidra and Fox argue that right wing parties are factors in the extreme intolerance of modern Hungary. Fidesz, a large part of the Jobbik party, gathers in large groups, wears uniforms similar to those during World War II, and has been called militia-like by many other countries for being anti-Semitic and anti-Roma (1). Their presence allows them to adjust laws in a way that helps them maintain their alternative society.

**References**


**Responsible of The Fundamental Law of Hungary**

**Emphasizing Christianity in Hungary:** According to Tartakoff, since there are current threats to the predominance of Christianity due to the many Mongols, Turks, and Statists in the country, the new Fundamental Law included its importance to the nation. The Hungarian National Assembly included the statement “We recognize [on] the role of Christianity in preserving nationality” (National Avowal, Article A, Section 1). This produces the effect that the government does not care as much about other religions.

**Denying Responsibility for the Holocaust:** During World War II, Hungary was forced into the side of the Axis when Germany invaded in 1940. They were coerced into killing hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews, and men were driven into the killing camps. How the Governmentarium stood by their Jewish compatriots by accepting the fault. In fact, Laura Tartakoff pointed out that in 2010, “the Hungarian parliament passed a law making Holocaust denial an offensive punishment by imprisonment of up to 3 years” (2). However, the new Fundamental Law voided this law and took too much care of Hungary’s history by negating the blame of Hungary in the Holocaust.

**Violating the European Union’s Charter:** The Venice Commission, which is the Council of Europe’s body on constitutional matters, argued that the new Fundamental Law did not follow the EU’s charter since it failed to provide all human rights necessary and lowered the requirements for a law to pass. The Hungarian National Assembly, writers of the Fundamental Law of Hungary, decreased the requirements for a passed law by making it the approval of two-thirds majority of Members of Parliament (MP’s) rather than the four-fifths that the EU Charter wanted.

**Anti-Semitic Attitudes:** Vidra and Fox argue that right wing parties are factors in the extreme intolerance of modern Hungary. The Hungarian National Assembly only gave the Prime Minister one new power to appoint the other Ministers (The State, Article 16, Section 3). The Prime Minister is the leader of the Government, which is below the Hungarian Parliament. However, he is the leader of the Fidesz party and the Fidesz party has a majority in Parliament.

**References**