

Association for Borderlands Studies World Conference  
11 July, 2018, Fertőrákos

# IRON MAIDEN

BEHIND THE

# IRON CURTAIN

AUG 9 WARSAW, POLAND  
AUG 10 ŁÓDŹ, POLAND  
AUG 11 POZNAN, POLAND  
AUG 12 WROCLAW, POLAND  
AUG 14 KATOWICE, POLAND  
AUG 17 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY  
AUG 18 BELGRADE, JUGOSLAVIA  
AUG 19 LJUBLJANA, JUGOSLAVIA

TSHIRTS LAYER



1984: Rock Over Borders





1918: Fall of empires – new „one-nation-states”, new borders



1920: Peace treaty in Trianon for Hungary (5 successor states)

Consequences: application for passport and visa

rigid border control, border guards are parts of the armies

local border traffic

border area = borderland + border district





1945-1948: Occupation zones in Europe and new border changes  
 Allied occupation in Austria (Russian zone) West from Hungary  
 Old and new political ideologies: nationalism and communism  
 Restoration of the former borders in Hungary  
 Reconstruction of the border guard under Communist control





The Iron Curtain (Churchill, 1946) in 1949 and 1955  
 2 blocks: democracy vs dictatorship  
 Isolation, fear, militarization and cold war





**1949-1955: main direction in border protection in Hungary: South war hysteria** towards Yugoslavia (enemy of the Soviet Union) espionage, distrust, relocation from border area **power concentration** fortresses, 600 km barbed wire fences, 2 Millions land mines, Hungarian Border Guard is part of the State Defense Authorities (infamous ÁVH) militarization (machine guns, mortars)

Collapse of local border traffic, economic connections, social connections, infrastructure towards every neighbour country





**1953-1956: little detente in border control**

Mine clearing in the Southern borderland

**1956: anti-stalinist revolution in Hungary  
and Soviet invasion – fall of the control**

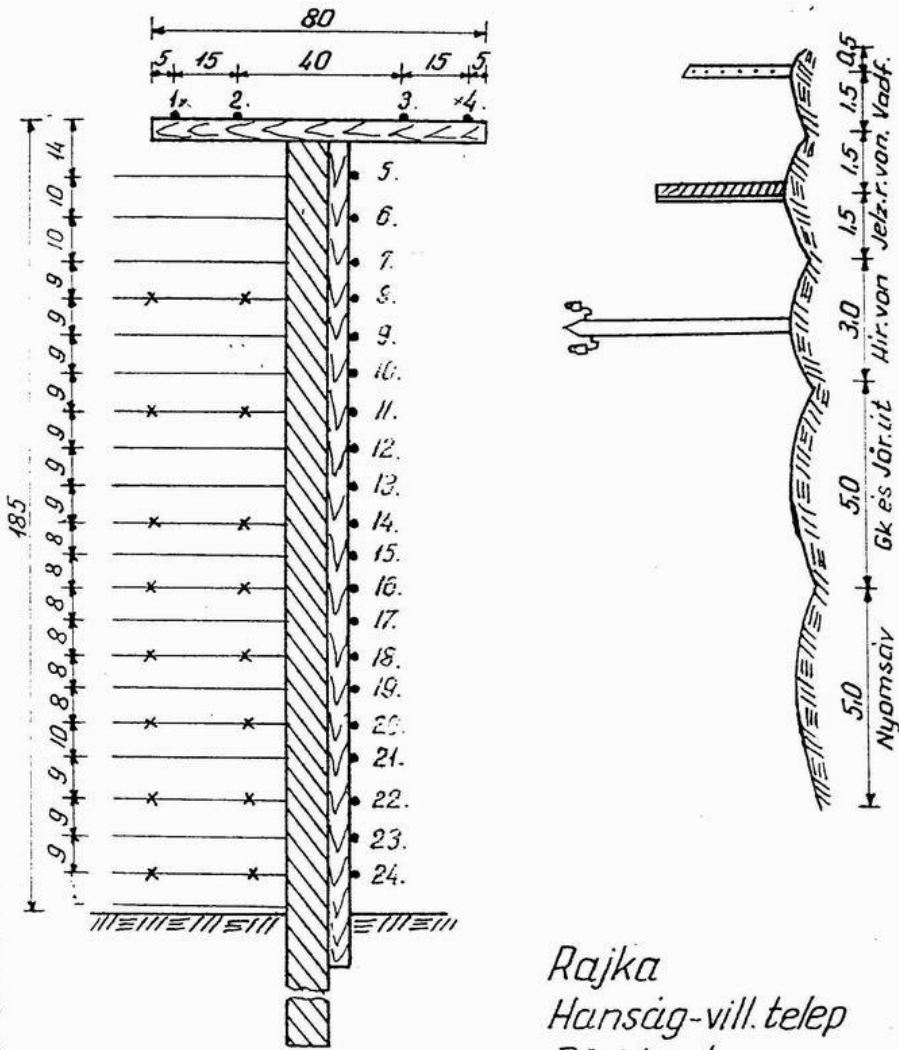
Open borders 1 November 1956 -1 March 1957

Ca. 200 000 Hungarian citizens emmigrated





# Sz-100. jelzőkerítés



Rajka  
 Hanság-vill. telep  
 Dörödomb.  
 Miklósmajor  
 Tőzeggyár



1956-1965-. Restoration of the Iron Curtain  
 – and the rigid border defense

The main direction: West - towards Republic of Austria  
 350 km expensive and barbed wire fence



1965-1970: Building of an electric indicating system on the Western border –  
frontier of the Warsaw Pact countries

33 villages stuck between the system and the border line

Many false alerts: 3000-4000 per year, 2/3 part because of wild animals





1965: introduction of 2 passport: red passport for the socialist countries and blue passport for the "capitalist" countries (+Yugoslavia)  
1970 and 1974 passport system reforms („little liberties”)

Control on the Czechoslovak-Hungarian border  
1960:







20 August 1968: Invasion of the troops of Warsaw Pact in Czechoslovakia against political reforms  
The Hungarian People's Army convoy on border area



1975: Helsinki Accords (Breznev in centre and Tito in right)  
E.g. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,  
including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief  
Co-operation among States etc.





K.u.K: Bruno Kreisky chancellor of Austria and János Kádár general secretary – special Austrian-Hungarian in foreign politics and border connections



Spring and summer in 1988: Romanian border guards and Hungarian refugees  
With Hungarian border guards at the time of systematisation in Romania





1 January 1988: Introduction of „world passport” in Hungary  
1988: 62 million passport control and 12 million car control (!)

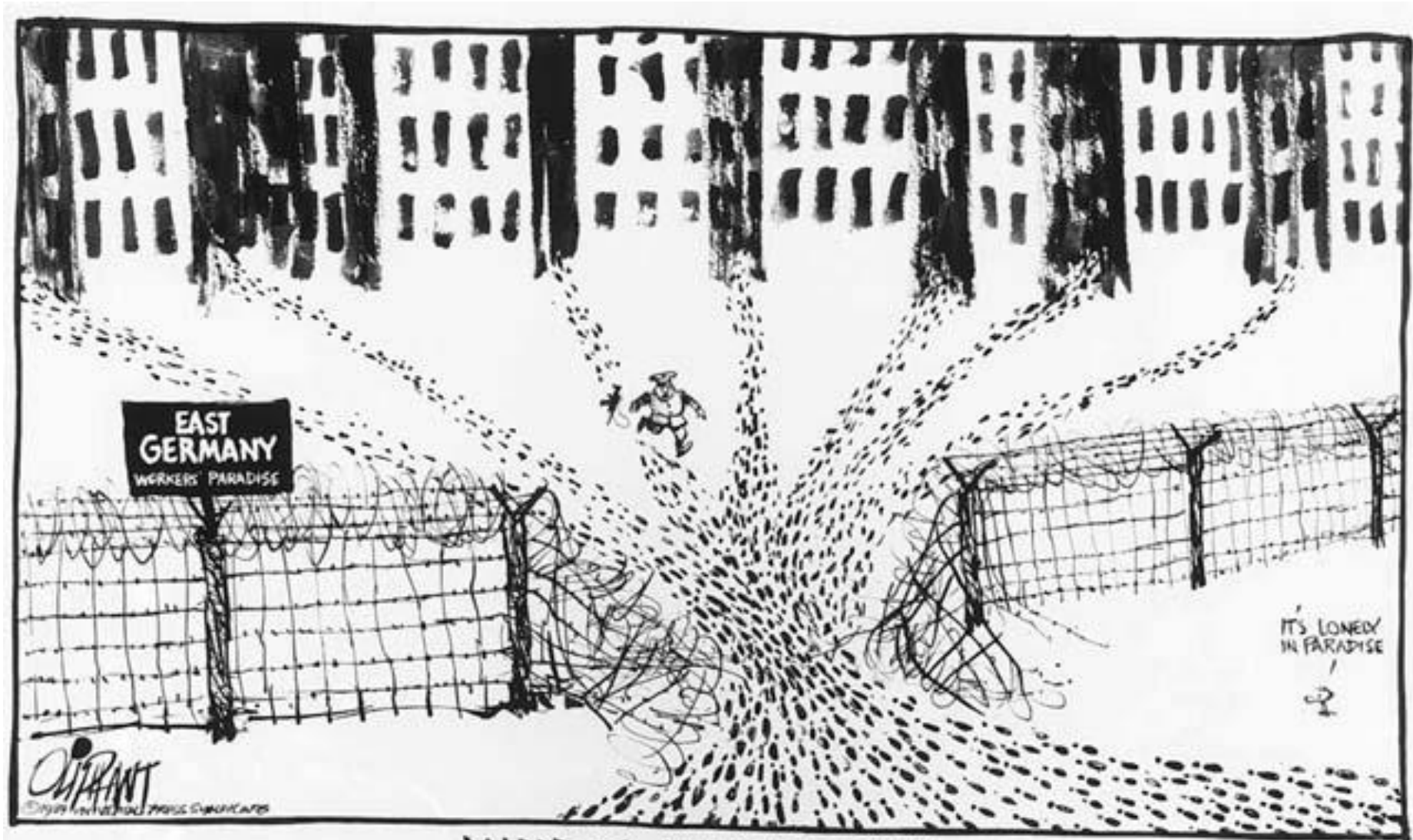


27 February 1989. Communist party's political committee decision  
2 May 1989: Start of the release of technical indicator system on the Western border  
and Károly Grósz communist general secretary with border guard officers





Thank You for Your Attention



'HOLD IT...WAIT FOR ME!'