

What's Wrong with Orbán's Foreign Policy?

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Hungarian foreign policy doctrine

Long list of problems, shortcomings and failures

Let us start with the fundamentals: the Hungarian foreign policy doctrine

The previous (Antall-Jeszenszky) doctrine (1990-2010)

Three major prioritized directions:

a.) Euro-Atlantic integration,

b.) good neighbourly relations and

c.) responsibility for ethnic Hungarians living abroad

New doctrine: Eastern opening

Declared in 2011, prevailing since 2014

Three pillars:

- a.) Ideological pillar: illiberalism
- b.) foreign policy: reorientation
- c.) foreign trade and FDI

Orbán's Illiberalism and its sources

Vladislav Surkov, sovereign
democracy

Aleksandr Dugin: neo-
Eurasianism

- - *the West is nihilistic and in constant decline*
- - *liberal democracy is obsolete*
- - *strong state, strong leader*
- - *traditional values*



Reorientation in foreign policy since 2014

- The Western orientation replaced by the so-called „bridge role”, and „peacock dance”
- A spectacular rapprochement between Hungary and Russia , Hungary-China
- Visible distancing from the Western allies
- „Freedom fight” with the EU institutions (Commission and EP)



Весь год с президентом

календарь

AN AMICAL,
CORDIAL
FRIENDSHIP
THE ODD COUPLE

2012

THE ODD COUPLE
AMICAL, CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA

Владимир

Hungary - Russia

2014, agreement on Nuclear Power Plant Paks 2 built by Rosatom

Since then annual meetings (sometimes annually more meetings),: 13 meetings, his last meeting with Putin in Moscow, on 1 of Febr. 2022

Increased energy dependence on Russia

Sharp criticism on EU sanctions (already in 2014 and since then constantly)

2019, Internat. Investment Bank – „spybank” in Budapest

Russian aggression against Ukraine

Reluctant, unwilling attitude - ambivalent position, neutrality

Ban of direct transport of military equipments to Ukraine

reluctance for new sanctions

No expulsion of Russian „diplomats”, spies

IIB undisturbly further operates in Budapest

Accelerated construction of Paks 2 by Rosatom



Since the April
elections are
no changes in
stance
towards
Russia

- The new government with strengthened „Pro-Kremlin” wing (FM Szijjártó , Antal Rogán Minister for Propaganda and Intelligence, Szalay-Bobrovniczky, Minister for Defense)
- Patriarch Kirill case (vetoing in order to release him from the sanction list)
- Permanent threatening with veto
- Sharp criticism of sanctions and negative attitude towards them („We are sitting in a car with flat tyres.” PM Orbán)

Hungary-China

- 2011, privileged partner position for China
- 2015, first European country signed an MoU with BRI
- Flagship project: Budapest-Belgrade railways reconstruction
- Planned project: Campus of Fudan University in Budapest
- Huawei and ZTE in 5G Network



Relationship with the West: EU and USA

The relationship is tense and strained,
several conflicts

EU: Freedom fight, rule of law conflict,
corruption issue

USA: rule of law problem, corruptions,
unwillingness, opaque, ambivalent
relations with rivals

General distrust, „Trojan horse” effect,
unpredictability, unreliability

Drivers behind the foreign policy

- There are known and unknown drivers :
 - a.) The widening of the room of manoeuvre
 - b.) Building up a strong position
 - c.) domestic policy: standing for sovereignty
- Possible hidden agenda – only assumptions, hypothesis
 - - private business interests
 - - secret political deals
 - - blackmailing.

01

It is hardly to imagine:
it comes from the
nature of his illiberal
regime

02

Sofar deeply embodied
and deeply rooted, it is
difficult to change

03

The electorate is
adapted, accomodated
to that, it is perilous to
change and confuse
them

Will be or can be any correction?

Thanks for your
kind attention!

