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# Hungary in the Late Eighteenth Century

## THE DECLINE OF ENLIGHTENED DESPOTISM

BELA K. KIRALY

Under the Habsburg rulers Maria Theresa and Joseph II, attempts were made to introduce reforms in Hungary and to bring Hungary more directly under the control of the Austrian court in Vienna. This centralizing trend was brought to an end in 1790, in a period of crisis, when the privileges of the Hungarian feudal nobility were reasserted. Mr. Kiraly attempts to show that the crisis, though resolved in favor of reaction, nevertheless contained and revealed all of the essential elements of the forces in Hungarian society that were to bring about social changes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. ¶ This is a volume in the East Central European Studies of Columbia University. Bela K. Kiraly, now Associate Professor of History at Brooklyn College, was superintendent of the War Academy in Budapest in 1950–51.

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