

# ESTATES AND STATE IN HUNGARY DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY

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One can speak of three power factors in Hungary during the second half of the fifteenth century: the king, the magnates, and the nobility. The prelates and the cities strengthened the crown. The magnates had the most influence: they controlled almost half of the land and part of the nobility was in their service. The king had to take this situation into consideration because he could not rule without the support of some of the magnates. King Matthias Corvinus understood this and played off either the magnates against the nobility, or some of the magnates and the nobility against the magnates. The magnates exercised their right to speak in the royal council, the nobility did the same in the provincial diet. Indeed, the king was obliged to relinquish control of the chancellery to the council, but he found means to circumvent this. With the help of his financial reforms, the king raised the royal revenue, which he used to erect a standing army. Thus, the royal power factor was strengthened, but not so much that he could ignore the other two.