

The use of historical operas in the creation of a national master narrative

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- ▶ 19th century - period of „sacralization” of national history
- ▶ nations needed confirmations of their continuity and legitimacy
- ▶ National master narrative: an elaborate structures that tell of a nation’s past in a simple and easily understandable way; it presents the diachrony of the nation’s entire history in a way that signals continuity - an essential precondition for the 19th-century national integration
- ▶ Scientific historiography was available only to a narrow, the most educated, part of society - the rest relied in collective memory

Folk historiography

Zrinski and the Battle of Szigetvár:

- ▶ F. Črnko, *Podsjeđanje i osvojenje Sigeta* (1566/1567.)
- ▶ F. Forgach, *Zigethi Hungariae* (1587.)
- ▶ M. Istvánffy, *Historiarum de rebus Ungaricis*, (1622.)
- ▶ J. Rattkay, *Memoria regum et banorum* (1652.)
- ▶ M. Forstal, *Stemmatographia* (1663.-1665.)
- ▶ P. Ritter Vitezović, *Kronika* (1696.)

Bánk bán:

- ▶ Medieval chronicles (1213.-1270.)
- ▶ Chronicon rhythmicum Austriacum (c. 1270.)
- ▶ M. Kálti, *Képes Krónika* (c. 1360.)
- ▶ J. Thuróczy, *A magyarok krónikaja* (1488.)
- ▶ *De fundatoribus monasterii Diessensis* (15. st.)
- ▶ A. Bonfini, *Rerum Ungaricarum decades* (end of the 15. st.)
- ▶ G. Pethő, *Rövid magyar kronika* (c. 1626)

Enlightenment historiography

Zrinski and the Battle of Szigetvár:

- ▶ A. Kačić Miošić, *Razgovor ugodni naroda slovinskoga* (1756.)

Bánk bán:

- ▶ G. Pray, *Annales regum Hungariae* (1763.)
- ▶ I. Katona, *Historia critica regum Hungariae, vol 5* (1783)

Romantic-era historiography

Zrinski and the Battle of Szigetvár:

- ▶ M. Mesić, *Život Nikole Zrinjskoga* (1866.)

Bánk bán:

- ▶ M. Horváth, *A magyarok története* (1842.)
- ▶ L. Szalay, *Magyarország Története* (1852.)

F. Črnko, <i>Podsjeđanje i osvojenje Sigeta (1566/1567.)</i>	F. Forgach, <i>Zigethi Hungariae (1587.)</i>	N. Istvánffy, <i>Historiarum de rebus Ungaricis, (1622.)</i>	J. Ratkaj, <i>Sjećanje na kraljeve i banove (1652.)</i>	M. Forstal, <i>Stemmatographia (1663.-1665.)</i>	P. Ritter Vitezović, <i>Kronika (1696.)</i>	A. Kačić Miošić, <i>Razgovor ugodni naroda slovinskoga (1756.)</i>	M. Mešić, <i>Život Nikole Zrinjskoga (1866.)</i>
Sultan Suleiman sets off on a military campaign with a large army			Sultan Suleiman sets off on a military campaign with a large army				Sultan Suleiman sets off on a military campaign with a large army
Zrinski defeated the army's advance guard at Siklos.			Zrinski defeated the army's advance guard at Siklos.				Zrinski defeated the army's advance guard at Siklos.
Sulejman stopped in Belgrade, then decided to head to Siget							Sulejman stopped in Belgrade, then decided to head to Siget
The Ottoman army greeted Suleiman's arrival at Siget with gunfire.		The Ottoman army greeted Suleiman's arrival at Siget with gunfire.					The Ottoman army greeted Suleiman's arrival at Siget with gunfire.
Zrinski and the defenders take an oath to defend the city to the end.		Zrinski and the defenders take an oath to defend the city to the end.				Zrinski and the defenders take an oath to defend the city to the end.	Zrinski and the defenders feel strong Croatian patriotism
Appoints Gašpar Alapić as his deputy in the event of his death		Appoints Gašpar Alapić as his deputy in the event of his death				Appoints Gašpar Alapić as his deputy in the event of his death	
Regulations on behavior in the city during a siege		Regulations on behavior in the city during a siege				Regulations on behavior in the city during a siege	
							Zrinski is a caring commander, beloved by his men; he behaves chivalrously in battle.
Large numerical imbalance between attackers and defenders				Large numerical imbalance between attackers and defenders			
						The Sultan explicitly wanted to defeat Zrinski personally.	The Sultan was determined not to give up until he had conquered the city.
Constant Ottoman attacks				Constant Ottoman attacks			
Zrinski I set fire to Novi Varoš and withdrew with the garrison to Veliki Varoš.		Zrinski I set fire to Novi Varoš and withdrew with the garrison to Veliki Varoš.				Zrinski I set fire to Novi Varoš and withdrew with the garrison to Veliki Varoš.	
Retreat from Veliki Varoš to Stari Grad		Retreat from Veliki Varoš to Stari Grad				Retreat from Veliki Varoš to Stari Grad	
	Sultan Suleiman offers Zrinski "administration over Illyria and possession over Croatia" if he surrenders Siget		Sultan Suleiman offers Zrinski "administration over Illyria and possession over Croatia" if he surrenders Siget			Sultan Suleiman offers Zrinski "administration over Illyria and possession over Croatia" if he surrenders Siget	Sultan Suleiman offers Zrinski "administration over Illyria and possession over Croatia" if he surrenders Siget
	Suleiman pretends to have captured Zrinski's son Juraj and threatens to execute him if he does not surrender the city.					Suleiman pretends to have captured Zrinski's son Juraj and threatens to execute him if he does not surrender the city.	Suleiman pretends to have captured Zrinski's son Juraj and threatens to execute him if he does not surrender the city.
Defenders successfully repel attacks on the Old Town, significant Ottoman casualties				Defenders successfully repel attacks on the Old Town, significant Ottoman casualties			
Fire engulfs the Old Town, defenders retreat to the inner part of the Old Town				Fire engulfs the Old Town, defenders retreat to the inner part of the Old Town			
General Ottoman attack, burned the city				General Ottoman attack, burned the city			
Zrinski dressed solemnly and placed 100 Hungarian ducats and the keys of Sziget in the lining of his tunic.				Zrinski dressed solemnly and placed 100 Hungarian ducats and the keys of Sziget in the lining of his tunic.			
The decision to go to the final battle when the city was burned				The decision to go to the final battle when the city was burned			
He encouraged the defenders with a speech before the breakthrough.				He encouraged the defenders with a speech before the breakthrough.			
Lovro Jurančić carries the flag		Lovro Jurančić carries the flag				Lovro Jurančić carries the flag	
	The wife of one of the defenders fought alongside her husband in the last battle.						
A heroic battle, Zrinski and many defenders were killed							
At the end of the battle, a fire engulfed the city's powder magazine, which blew up, killing many of the attackers.				At the end of the battle, a fire engulfed the city's powder magazine, which blew up, killing many of the attackers.			
	The Sultan died three days after the fall of Siget.	Sultan died during the siege			Sultan killed in battle		Sultan died during the siege
		Grand Vizier Sokolović concealed the Sultan's death					Grand Vizier Sokolović concealed the Sultan's death
		Four defenders survived the fall of the city, and were later ransomed from captivity by Juraj Zrinski.			Four defenders survived the fall of the city, and were later ransomed from captivity by Juraj Zrinski.		



Ivan Zajc, <i>Nikola Šubić Zrinjski (1876)</i>
Sultan Suleiman sets off on a military campaign with a large army
Sulejman stopped in Belgrade, then decided to head to Siget
Zrinski and the defenders take an oath to defend the city to the end.
Zrinski and the defenders feel strong Croatian patriotism
Zrinski is a caring commander, beloved by his men; he behaves chivalrously in battle.
Large numerical imbalance between attackers and defenders
The Sultan was determined not to give up until he had conquered the city.
Zrinski I set fire to Novi Varoš and withdrew with the garrison to Veliki Varoš.
Sultan Suleiman offers Zrinski "administration over Illyria and possession over Croatia" if he surrenders Siget
Suleiman pretends to have captured Zrinski's son Juraj and threatens to execute him if he does not surrender the city.
The king did not send help to the defenders.
Fire engulfs the Old Town, defenders retreat to the inner part of the Old Town
The decision to go to the final battle when the city was burned
Lovro Jurančić carries the flag
The wife of one of the defenders fought alongside her husband in the last battle.
A heroic battle, Zrinski and many defenders were killed
At the end of the battle, a fire engulfed the city's powder magazine, which blew up, killing many of the attackers.
Sultan died during the siege
Grand Vizier Sokolović concealed the Sultan's death

Earliest chronicles (1213-1270)	<i>Chronicon rhythmicum Austriacum</i> (c. 1270.)	M. Kálti, <i>Képes Krónika</i> (c. 1360.)	J. Thuróczy, <i>A magyarok krónikája</i> (1488.)	<i>De fundatoribus monasterii Diessensis</i> (15. st.)	A. Bonfini, <i>Rerum Ungaricarum decades</i> (end of the 15. st.)	G. Pethő, <i>Rövid magyar kronika</i> (c. 1626)	G. Pray, <i>Annales regum Hungariae</i> (1763.)	M. Horváth, <i>A magyarok története</i> (1842.)	L. Szalay, <i>Magyarország Története</i> (1852.)
					Andrew II was a good and beloved ruler.			Andrew II was a weak ruler.	Andrew II was quiet and pious, Gertrude interfered in state affairs
Hungarian nobles were dissatisfied with the influence and privileges that German nobles were receiving.							Hungarian nobles were dissatisfied with the influence and privileges that German nobles were receiving.		
There was a noble conspiracy, directed against the king's policies					Bánk was the king's regent while he was on a military campaign.		There was a noble conspiracy, directed against the king's policies		
Queen Gertrude was an innocent victim in everything.	The Queen allowed her brother to rape Bánk's wife.			The Queen's brother raped Bánk's wife, she was unaware of his intentions and actions		The Queen allowed her brother to rape Bánk's wife.	Queen Gertrude was an innocent victim in everything.	Queen's brother Berthold receives undeserved honors	The Queen allowed her brother to rape Bánk's wife.
Gertrude was killed by Prince Peter.	That's why Bánk killed the Queen.			Bánk with several conspirators broke into the queen's chambers and killed her			Conspirators: Archbishop Péter and bans Simon and Mihály (Kacsics) - not Bánk	the second brother Ekbert raped Bánk's wife	Bánk was the king's regent while he was on a military campaign.
				As soon as they killed her, all but one were paralyzed and mute.	The Queen's Brother is Infatuated with Bánk's Wife	Bánk went to the queen's chambers and stabbed her with his sword.			Bánk's friends killed the queen for this
				The conspirator who could speak confessed everything	The Queen supports the potential relationship				
					Locked Bánk's wife in a room with her brother, he raped her	He went to the king's camp and confessed everything to him.			
	The king took revenge on the entire Bánk family.			All the conspirators were executed.	The wife begs Bánk to kill her.	Andrew believed him and pardoned him without trial.	Péter and Bánk executed, Simon removed from office		The king did not punish the perpetrators.
				Gertrude was credited with several miracles and was later canonized	Bánk went to the queen's chambers and stabbed her with his sword.				
					He announced that he had killed the queen in righteous anger.				
					He went to the king's camp and confessed everything to him.				
					At trial, the King concluded that the murder was just, acquitted of regicide charges				
					Gertrude's children later took revenge on Bánko and his family.				



Feeenc Erkel, <i>Bánk bán</i> (1861)
Hungarian nobles were dissatisfied with the influence and privileges that German nobles were receiving.
Bánk was the king's regent while he was on a military campaign.
The Queen allowed her brother to rape Bánk's wife.
The Queen's Brother is infatuated with Bánk's Wife
The Queen supports the potential relationship
She locked Bánk's wife in a room with her brother, he raped her
Melinda begs Bánk to kill her.
Bánk went to the queen's chambers and stabbed her with his sword.
Bánk announced to that he had killed the queen in righteous anger.
The conspirators killed all the Meranians at court
He confessed everything to the king
The King concluded that Gertrude has made mistakes

- ▶ both opera libretti heavily relied on collective memory, thus better corresponding with the audience's expectations
- ▶ the operas simultaneously recount the national past and comment on the present political circumstances
- ▶ the audiences interpreted the operas through the lens of their own contemporary concerns, identified with the characters, and accepted them as their representatives, which, in turn, reinforced the place of the portrayed events within collective memory
- ▶ that process became circular: once dramatized on stage, the historical events gained an even stronger presence in the shared memory, and their significance and emotional resonance grew with each performance

Thank you for your attention!

The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent triangles in various shades of orange, from light peach to deep, dark brown. These shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, primarily concentrated on the right side of the frame. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.