

The Ottoman Empire



Sultan Suleiman (1494-1566)

In 1526, the army of Sultan Suleiman of the Ottoman Empire inflicted a decisive defeat on the Hungarian forces at Mohács. The King of Hungary, Dalmatia and Croatia, Louis II (king 1516-1526), was killed in battle without heir.



The Archduke of Austria, Ferdinand, was elected as successor (King of Hungary 1526 - 1564), while János Szapolyai, who ruled the areas of the kingdom conquered by the Turks as an Ottoman client, contested the Hungarian throne.

In 1533, Ferdinand signed a peace treaty with the Ottoman Empire, splitting the Kingdom of Hungary into a Habsburg sector in the west and a sector of John Zápolya (king of Hungary 1526 - 1540) in the east, the latter effectively a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire.

Habsburg–Ottoman Wars (1525–1718) – events

29 August 1526	King Louis II of Hungary leads many of the Magyar nobility in a headlong rush to destruction by the vastly superior strength of the invading Ottoman army, led by Sultan Suleiman I the Magnificent, at Mohács, Hungary; after Louis's death by drowning in the rout, Hungary loses its independence until 1918.
27 September 1529	The Ottoman army under Sultan Suleiman I the Magnificent besieges Vienna, the capital of the Habsburg archduke Ferdinand I of Austria; the march through flooded Hungary has taken over two months, allowing Ferdinand to rally veteran forces into the garrison.
14 October 1529	The Ottoman sultan Suleiman I the Magnificent is forced by stiff resistance and the onset of autumn to raise the siege of Vienna, capital of Austria; he retreats with heavy losses. Despite this, his ally and Archduke Ferdinand I of Austria's rival for the Hungarian crown, Janos Zápolya, remains in possession of the Hungarian capital Buda (now Budapest) and most of the country.
23 July 1532	The need for unity in the face of the Ottoman invasion, approaching the Austrian capital of Vienna, forces the Habsburgs to agree secretly the Peace of Nuremberg with the German Protestants; the Edict of Augsburg outlawing them is revoked and toleration is agreed until a general council meets.
7–28 August 1532	The Ottoman invasion of Hungary under Sultan Suleiman I the Magnificent stalls before the town of Günns (Burgenland); the stubborn resistance of a small garrison so delays the Ottoman Turks that the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V can reinforce the Austrian capital of Vienna in person, and autumn approaches. The Turks retreat, devastating Carinthia and Croatia (September).
2 December 1537	An invasion army loyal to Archduke Ferdinand I of Austria, including German and Bohemian troops as well as Styrian, Carinthian, and Carniolan levies, is utterly defeated by Ottoman frontier forces at Valpó.
26 August 1541	The Ottoman sultan Suleiman I the Magnificent, having invaded Hungary to prevent a Habsburg conquest through Archduke Ferdinand I of Austria's claim to that kingdom, takes the capital Buda (now Budapest) and annexes Hungary.
4 September 1543	Ottoman forces under Sultan Suleiman I the Magnificent assault and take the fortress of Székesfehérvár (Stuhlweissenberg), Hungary, southwest of Buda (now Budapest). The sultan returns to Constantinople, having strengthened the Danube frontier.
25–27 October 1595	The allied forces of Sigismund Báthory and Michael the Brave, Princes of Transylvania and Wallachia, destroy the Ottoman army in Wallachia at Giurgiu, on the River Danube, and expel them from the province. Their Habsburg imperial allies capture the fortress of Gran (Esztergom) in Hungary.

11 September 1697	Austrian forces under Prince Eugène of Savoy defeat an Ottoman army under Elmas Mehmed Pasha at Zenta, effectively ending the Ottoman sultan Mustafa II's campaign to recover Hungary. Ottoman losses in the battle amount to nearly 30,000 men.
12 October 1716	Austrian forces under Prince Eugène of Savoy take Temesvár (now Timisoara, Romania), the fortress that has resisted Habsburg advances for 164 years in the Banat, the last Ottoman possession in Hungary.
16 August 1717	The Austrian general Prince Eugène of Savoy defeats an Ottoman army of 200,000 men under Halil Pasha, at Peterwardein, Hungary. Halil had been ordered to relieve Belgrade, on the right bank of the River Danube in Serbia, which had been under Austrian siege since May. Belgrade surrenders on 22 August.
21 July 1718	The Peace of Passarowitz ends the war between the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire. By its terms, signed through British and Dutch mediation (the eastern trade of both states had been disrupted by the war), Austria completes its occupation of Hungary, and gains Belgrade and a strip of Serbia and Bosnia, the Banat of Temesvár (now part of Hungary), and Little Wallachia; Venice, in alliance with Austria since 1716, retains Corfu and its conquests in Albania and Dalmatia; the Ottoman Empire keeps the Morea (the Peloponnese) and the island of Aegina, in Greece. The parties agree to adhere to this agreement for at least 25 years.

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