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FOREWORD

On March 30, 2007, the Institute of Habsburg History and the Italian Cultural Institute organized a conference with the title of “The Era of the Monarchy—Today.” It was held in the former building of the National Assembly in which the Hungarian parliamentarians had agreed to the Compromise precisely 140 years earlier.

The goal of the conference was to have some leading Hungarian historians to present their views on the era of the Monarchy and offer their reassessment of the world of the Compromise according to the precepts of their specialty.

The conference was a single event while the changing emphasis of interpretations and alterations in perception are a long-term and ongoing phenomenon, which seems likely to continue under the influence of new inputs. Yet we believe that such a limited reexamination of the past is important because it provides some understanding what views historians hold today, 140 years after the Compromise.

Since the number of presenters was limited, it is possible that had we invited others, a somewhat different picture would have emerged. Yet, it seems likely that the perspectives outlined below give a generally accurate picture of how contemporary Hungarian historiography assesses the Monarchy.

This volume contains the presentations in essay form.

At the same time the volume is also a start of something new. It is the first in a series of publications by the Institute of Habsburg History, which it is hoped will be followed by a number of future volumes.
We would like to publish a series of monographs which deal with the various aspects of the history of the country and the empire ruled by the Habsburg during the period between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries.

*András Gerő*
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The Institute of Habsburg History