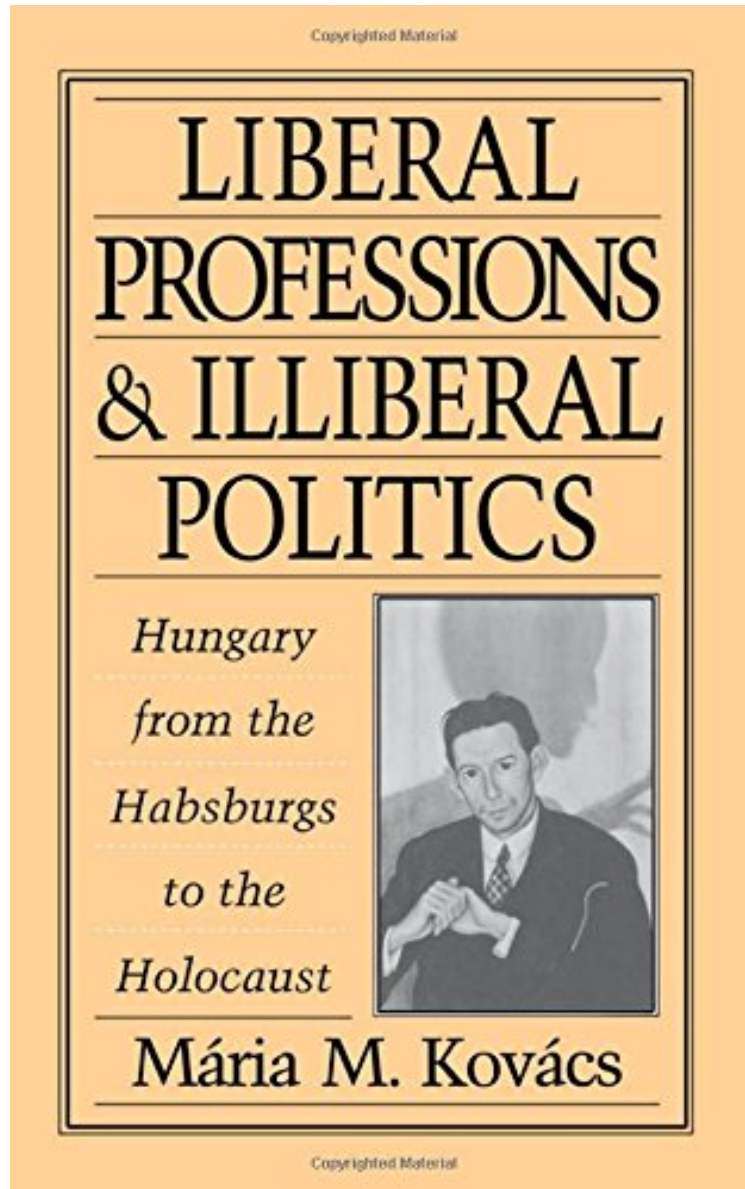


Liberal Professions and Illiberal Politics: Hungary from the Habsburgs to the Holocaust

Mria M. Kovcs

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Mria M. Kovcs : Liberal Professions and Illiberal Politics: Hungary from the Habsburgs to the Holocaust
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Illiberal Politics: Hungary from the Habsburgs to the Holocaust:

In this important new historical study, Maria Kovacs examines the struggle between liberal and anti-Semitic policies among professional groups--doctors, lawyers, engineers--in Hungary. Kovacs's main emphasis is on the interwar period when unemployment, expansion of the welfare system, and competition for state jobs during the Great Depression, combined with crass anti-Semitism on the part of engineers and medical associations, radically altered previously liberal policies of open entry and equal educational opportunity. *Liberal Professions and Illiberal Politics* analyzes to what extent these new policies were dictated by authoritarian governments from above and to what extent they originated within the professions themselves. The story ends with the Holocaust, which sealed the fate of those professionals who had become victims of persecution under the German occupation of Hungary.

"This book helps us to understand, more than most other studies, the reasons behind the current resurrection of East European xenophobia, nationalism, and anti-semitism."--Istvan Dek, Institute on East Central Europe, Columbia University "...impressive and convincing new study."--Austrian History Yearbook

From the Back Cover

In this important new historical survey of social and intellectual history, Maria Kovacs examines the struggle between liberal and anti-Semitic policies in professional groups - doctors, lawyers, engineers - in Hungary up to 1945. Kovacs's main emphasis is on the interwar period when unemployment, expansion of the welfare system, and competition for state jobs during the Great Depression, combined with crass anti-Semitism on the part of engineers, and medical associations, radically altered previously liberal policies of open entry and equal educational opportunity. *Liberal Professions and Illiberal Politics* uses extensive archival records to assess to what extent these new policies were dictated by authoritarian governments from above and to what extent they originated within the professions themselves. The story ends with the Holocaust, which sealed the fate of those professionals who had become victims of persecution under the German occupation of Hungary. This fascinating analysis, a copublication with the Woodrow Wilson Center Press, will be of interest not only to scholars and students of Jewish history but also to the general reader interested in a case study of ethnic segregation within the learned professions.

About the Author

Maria M. Kovacs is at University of Wisconsin.