

My impressions from the lecture of the Ambassador of Hungary to USA



On November 06th, 2018 at Utah Valley University, we were pleased to hear from Dr. Laszlo Szabo, the Hungarian Ambassador to the United States of America. Before the lecture, I knew little about the history of Hungary so it was great to learn a little about the history and foundation of the country. Dr. Szabo explained that the country was established in 896 AD. Due to Hungary's geographic position, it has been a target of many empires throughout its history and has been under a variety of foreign powers. However, Hungary has withstood all challenges and it is independent now. Currently, Hungary is the driving force on some fronts including having the lowest tax rate in the whole of Europe, and it's advances on technology. It was a Pro-Soviet country, and still continues to have an interesting relationship with Russia.

Dr. Szabo mainly focused on the positive sides of his country, but he also briefly discussed some of the current political challenges that they face. He stated that one of the greatest challenges for Hungary is illegal immigration. Approximately ten thousand illegal border entrances happen on a daily basis. At this rate, the country cannot sustain to accept such amount of people. I feel that

for Dr. Szabo to talk about illegal immigration was very tactical, due to this issue as being a very similar to the ones in the United States of America as well.

Religion is also a common political subject. Hungary is known to have a significant and rich Jewish culture. Hungarians also have great relations with Israel. Israel's Prime Minister even labeled Hungary as “the best country in Europe for the Jewish people. The government supports aid for Catholics who are targeted and degraded in other countries such as in North Africa. Freedom and acceptance of religion is important and a vital right for all individuals across the world and in all continents; however people are not always lucky enough to live in such a place as Hungary or the United States. However, even when religion is a “right” there is always un-equality and judgments from people.

Ambassador Szabo focused significant attention on how Hungary has impacted the film industry and “Hollywood” including actresses, film directors, and film with Hungarian influence or background, films such as “The Martian” and “The Blade Runner.” After additional research, I found a large number of well-known movies that were filmed in beautiful Hungary. I find it interesting that the majority of the presentation VIP guest focused on the effect of Hungary in Hollywood when there are so many political domestic issues the Ambassador could have discuss as well. I do believe that highlighting media helped Dr. Laszlo connect with the University students.

Overall, the lecture was witty, informative and interesting. Dr. Laszlo was a great speaker and highlighted his country well. I loved learning about Hungary including some of its history, strengths, and political difficulties at this time.

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