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STEPHEN SZÉCHENYI AND THE AWAKENING OF HUNGARIAN NATIONALISM, 1791-1841

By George Barany

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In this political biography of Count Stephen Szechenyi Professor Barany asks the question, "Why is it that a nation gave the epithet 'greatest' to a man who seemed to have failed as a practical politician?"

Professor Barany finds Széchenyi a man of paradoxes. He was a forerunner and political opponent of Louis Kossuth, yet Kossuth repeatedly called him "the greatest among Magyars." As captain of hussars, previously unknown in Hungarian public life, he founded the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. A damby at the Congress of Vienna, he became one of his nation's most renowned thinkers and writers on welfare, culture, and commerce. As a great landowner, he spoke in support of the serfs.

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