

Ladies and Gentlemen, our dear young friends!

Our town celebrates the five hundredth anniversary of the diet took place here in the year 1510.

Three questions of great importance defined this century:

- 1. the discovery of the New World**
- 2. protestant reformation**
- 3. the great age of the Ottoman Empire**

During the 16th century, Spain and Portugal explored the world's seas and opened world-wide oceanic trade routes. Large parts of the **New World** became Spanish and Portuguese colonies, and while the Portuguese became the masters of Asia's and Africa's Indian Ocean trade, the Spanish opened trade across the Pacific Ocean, linking the Americas with Asia. They brought about an agreement with the help of Rome in Tordesillas in 1494 dividing the world into two parts. The Spanish king, Charles V. from the Habsburg-dynasty (1516-1556) who became the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in 1519 owned huge territories in Europe and in South-America as well. That was the reason why some other European countries (France, Venice, Milan, Florence and the Pope, and Turkish Sultanate form a league (League of Cognac) against his domination in 1526. But the emperor proved to be the most powerfull.

Mention must be made of agricultural products having their origin from America came into general use in Europe within 2/3 centuries: e. g. maize (corn US), potato, chocolate, green/whole pepper, tomato.

On the other hand the **protestant reformation** gave a major blow to the authority of the Papacy and the Roman Catholic Church. European politics became dominated more or less by religious conflicts. It began when Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses in Saxony in 1517.

The English Kingdom became separated from the Roman Catholic Church and a new national Church the so called Church of England was established in 1533. The Roman Catholic Church held a council between 1545–1563 — the Council of Trent (Northern Italy). The council framed the new articles of Catholic faith/dogmas.

The **Ottoman Empire** continued to expand his borders.

Between 1508–10, an alliance was formed by Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I., King Louis XII. of France, Pope Julius II., King Ferdinand V. (Catholic) of Aragón, and several Italian city-states against the republic of Venice to check its territorial expansion. On 10th of December in 1508 these countries formed a league in Cambrai (**League of Cambrai**) against the Turkish rule and Venice, in reality aiming to get territories of Venice. In the beginning of 1509 they called Hungary to join them territories in Dalmatia. The archbishop Tamás Bakócz was against joining because Venice gave him hopes of becoming the Pope. The palatine of Hungary (his was the highest administrative dignitary in Hungary that time) Imre Perényi supported joining because he was an enemy of archbishop. But the Hungarian king, Wladislas Jagello II. was in a difficult situation: the Republic of Venice aid his court financially, and was a possible ally against Turkish occupation. The king would like to gain some time that was why he convene the diet in 1510 to about joining the League.

Deputies of Venice came into the Hungarian royal court. One of them Peter Pasqualigo has mentioned this diet at Tata in his letters and this the only document about this event.

The king and the Hungarian magnates came into our town in May (because the pandemic of pest) and the lesser nobility send 40 deputies as well.

The diet began on 24 of June. Deputies from the Polish Kingdom (count Leonard Nogarola), from the Holy Roman Empire (Cuspisianus), from the French Kingdom (Louis Helie) took part at negotiations. It was a significant moment of the diet when the deputy of the Roman Catholic Church and of the Pope, named Achilles De Grassis handed over a sword blessed by the Pope himself to the Hungarian king on 10 of July (in our days it can be seen in the Hungarian National Museum but tomorrow – only for one day – it will be seen here in our museum). They wanted to make Hungary taking the part of Venice and against the Ottoman Empire.

Eventually Hungary joined the League against Venice and Hungarian deputies signed the treaty in Konstanz (in the Holy Roman Empire) in that year. But France was defeated in Italy so the League collapsed.

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