

Editors: LÁSZLÓ DÁVID | TÖRŐ VILMOS ERŐS | APPROACHES TO HISTORIOGRAPHY II.

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Writing History under Dictatorships

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VILMOS ERŐS

with the contribution of

ZOLTÁN PAÁL



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VILMOS ERŐS

Foreword

The working group in historiography at the University of Debrecen (Faculty of Humanities, Institute for History) has been operating for about 15 years. I provided a detailed description of the foundation, the main goals and the main directions of our activity in the foreword of an earlier volume.¹ As mentioned there, besides giving lectures, holding meetings, preparing and discussing doctoral theses, an integral part of our range of work is organizing domestic and international conferences on a regular basis. These conferences are essentially the results of previous workshops and other aforementioned programmes, so they might as well be considered an organic continuation of, or even a kind of summary of these events. The present book belongs to a series of publications based on our events – and, the same as earlier volumes, it also comprises additional studies by authors who were not part of the conference, but were included due to some other occasion or consideration.

This volume contains material compiled from four different events. In October 2019, we organized our II. International Conference on Historiography, which we linked with the commemoration of two outstanding historians. One of them was István Szabó, the school-founding professor of the Institute of History at the University of Debrecen, who passed away in 1969, so we commemorated the 50th anniversary of his death.²

The other historian was Georg G. Iggers, an outspoken historiographer who passed away not long before our conference, and was internationally regarded as one of the most outstanding representatives of historiographic research in the 20th, but even in the 21st century.

In this spirit, professor György Kövér (corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, ELTE) gave a lecture at our conference on Hungarian economic history in the 1950s, a period primarily defined by the prevalent „planned economy”; in his presentation, Vilmos Erős (University of Debrecen) discussed the persecutions faced by István Szabó also in the 1950s³; finally, in his talk László Dávid Törő (University of Debrecen) addressed the border debates between

¹ Cf. “*A historiográfia műhelyében*”.

² On István Szabó, most recently cf. Erős, *Populus, plebs, rusticus*.

³ Cf. present volume.