

Recommendation

“The royal capitals of Buda and Pest, as well as the market town of Ó-Buda and Margaret Island, the latter having been carved out of Pest County, shall be united into a single municipality under the name of Buda-Pest Capital.”

One hundred and fifty years ago, the sentence quoted above marked the start of Act XXXVI of 1872, which established the unified capital. For the momentous occasion of this anniversary, this exquisite collection of studies has been released under the title *Budapest Past and Future*. Within the pages of this magnificently crafted volume, the spotlight shines on the historical narrative, the present and the future of Budapest, a city that stands as a beacon in the Carpathian Basin and a defining force within East-Central Europe. Beyond mere historical reflections, the authors delve into recent developments, revolutionary concepts, and defining trends that shape the city’s evolving landscape. From the intricate details of urban infrastructure to the shifting spatial dynamics, this volume examines the development, current situation, and every aspect of Budapest and its agglomeration, revealing a multifaceted story of progress and transformation. Expounding upon the rich tapestry of the capital’s administrative history, the evolution of its housing market over a century and a half, and the burgeoning opportunities within the local retail sector, our authors paint a vivid portrait of Budapest’s societal fabric. Peering into the realm of residents’ well-being, they address the critical nexus between health and quality of life, offering a nuanced exploration of the creating and cultivation of ‘good places’ that enrich leisure pursuits. Amidst a backdrop of economic globalisation and the rise of multinational enterprises, the authors dissect the intricate web of Budapest’s economic landscape, showcasing both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Positioning Budapest within the broader context of the East-Central European urban hierarchy, a diverse array of statistical measures are employed to illustrate the city’s strategic significance. Looking towards the horizon, they offer a compelling vision of Budapest’s future, anchored in digital innovation, sustainable growth, and a commitment to liveability for all residents. Through their deeply insightful analyses, the authors provide a candid and far-reaching exploration of the city’s legacy and a roadmap for navigating the complexities of the years to come. This collection is sure to captivate and inspire readers with its thoughtful reflections and bold vision for Budapest’s ongoing journey towards excellence.

Tibor Navracsics
Minister of Regional Development