Lajos Kossuth

Hungarian Patriot
In America
Kossuth Pre-1848

- 1826 (age 24) - he speaks out against Austrian king’s attempt to unilaterally raise taxes on Hungarians.
- 1833 – attends Hungarian Diet as ‘absentee’ delegate and circulates reports on its meetings.
- 1836 – establishes journal, arrested for it, becomes national martyr. Released in 1840
- November 1847 – Prince Metternich calls new Hungarian Diet into session. Kossuth leader of opposition.
Lead-in to the Hungarian Revolution

- March – unemployment, rising food prices, paper currency collapse in Vienna.
- Kossuth demands separate Hungarian financial system and other financial and fiscal reforms as well as effective political autonomy within Austrian Empire.
- April to August – Kossuth becomes Hungarian finance minister and issues several series of notes.
- Austria considers notes unconstitutional and prohibits their use in Austria. Kossuth retaliates by declaring Austrian notes unacceptable in Hungary.
Hungarian Revolution of 1848-49

• September - Croatian army in service to Habsburgs enters Hungary, blocked by Hungarian army and turns to Vienna, crushing liberals there.
• December - Austrian armies enter Hungary and drive government from Buda-Pest.
• January 1849 – Kossuth becomes head of National Defense Committee, regroups armies and sends the Austrians into retreat.
• April 14, 1849 – Kossuth, approaching Buda-Pest, declares Hungarian independence.
• May – August – Austrian forces, aided by 200,000 Russian soldiers crush Hungarian revolt. Last Hungarian forces surrender in October.
• August 17 – Kossuth crosses border into Turkey and an internment camp and exile.
Kossuth in America

- September, 1851 – Kossuth and internees freed by Turks.
- U.S. frigate Mississippi picks up Kossuth, and brings him to New York, following stops in Marseilles, Southampton and London. One hundred gun salute entering NYC harbor December 4, 1851.
- Visits President Fillmore at the White House; guest of honor at Congressional banquet.
- Tours U.S.; gives more than 600 speeches.
- Departs U.S. in July 1852 for London.
 Movements of Kossuth

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

New York, Dec. 11, 1848.

Having come to the United States to save myself, for the sake of my country, of the sympathy which I had reason to believe existed in the heart of the Nation, in the memory of my services, in the independence of Hungary and the liberty of the European continent, before the great republic of the United States, my principles in this respect, that every nation has the sovereign right to dispose of its own domestic affairs without any foreign interference; that, therefore, shall not meddle with any domestic concerns of the United States, and that I appeal to all the friends of my cause and all doing anything to injure, or, if they cannot avoid it, to be acquitted by the tribunal of the United States, where I was for a long time and for a valid cause.

THE EIGHTH DAY IN AMERICA.

Yesterday, in account of the failure of the previous attempt, the Austrian government, in which Kossuth retired from the banquet, he delivered his speech, which lasted about 12 minutes. The speech was made by the Kossuth, in the hall, where the press was assembled.

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A NEW YORK.

The Kossuth was admitted, and one from the colored people. They had taken their place in the room some time ago. They were met by an applause of the colored people. It was said that the Kossuth was not allowed to speak.

The Kossuth was then admitted, and the speeches were delivered, which they call "Kossuth speeches."
One Forint Hungarian Fund
Five Forint
Two Forint
Some Kossuth Statues in the U.S.

U.S. Capitol

New York City

Cleveland
Numismatic Readings