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Elimination of the rural elite in Hungary in the 1950's

In 1945 the big land estate was eliminated by the agrarian reform carried out in Hungary. According to this kulaks, rather regarded to be medium land property owner, became the biggest group of the rural society making individual farming and having the biggest land property. They were the so called cream of the farmer's elite that were not only the most proficient in farming but took significant role in the local communities' life. The one-party state considered this social group as the last survival of the exploiting capitalism. They were regarded to be the biggest obstacle of reorganization of agriculture on socialist base and they were qualified to be enemy. Consequently this group fell to prey to the inevitable feature of communist regime was the constant enemy-making.

Those farmers were regarded to be kulak whose land property exceeded 14 hectare. From 1948 on the basis of this farmers were listed in every settlement and these lists were called kulak's list. Since that time these people (60.000-80.000 persons) were stigmatized and the communist regime pursued them. They lived amid fear and they were hit by taxes disproportionally. Due to this, many of them tried to get rid of their landed property and they offered it to the state or to the forming local agricultural co-operative farms. Consequently, the number of kulaks registered by their land's size significantly decreased by 1951 in comparison to 1948. The communist regime could not tolerate declining number of its enemy. According to Mátyás Rákosi's definition, everyone was regarded as kulak who had private property or ran a pub, butchery, mill or pursued other commercial activity. Basically, the regime qualified the whole elite of the villages as kulaks and tried to eliminate them with help of high taxation, fines and imprisonment.