

DIRECTIONS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN ARMENIA AND HUNGARY DURING THE SOVIET PERIOD

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the directions and nature of economic cooperation between the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Hungarian People's Republic during the Soviet period, with a particular focus on regional ties and the broader implications of economic relations within the socialist bloc. While operating under the constraints of Soviet ideological control, both countries developed meaningful channels of collaboration that contributed to their internal economic development. This study analyzes archival evidence of sector-specific partnerships, including product exchanges, industrial exhibitions, economic symposia, and regional cooperation—most notably with Hungary's Győr-Sopron region. On one hand, from industrial exchange and technology transfer to agricultural collaboration and cultural-economic partnerships, the Armenian–Hungarian economic relationship represents a complex yet productive chapter in intra-socialist cooperation. On the other hand, despite the technical engagement, these collaborations were largely shaped by centrally approved plans and ideological objectives. The findings offer critical insights into the nature of economic diplomacy under Soviet influence. By reexamining Armenian–Hungarian cooperation within this framework, the article contributes to an understanding of how historical patterns of planned economic interaction continue to form post-Soviet bilateral relations between the two countries.

Keywords: Armenia, Hungary, Soviet Period, Economic Relations, Socialism

INTRODUCTION

The economic relationship between Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic (Armenian SSR) and the Hungarian People's Republic during Soviet times provide a valuable perspective on how countries worked together under the Soviet Union economic system. This study aims to analyze the key directions of Armenian–Hungarian economic cooperation, from the Soviet period to the present, and to assess the long-term influence of these historical patterns on current bilateral relations.

Two countries had different positions within the Soviet Bloc's economic architecture. As a constituent republic of the Soviet Union, Armenia's economy was fully embedded within the centrally planned system governed by Moscow. While discussing this, it is worth mentioning that the Soviet economic model was defined by state ownership of production and the centralized planning of economic processes. Since 1928, the five year plan has been the main instrument of strategic development and the annual plan its short-term operational translation. (1, p.49) The State Planning Committee (Gosplan) was the highest-ranking economic planning organization in the USSR. According to the