

The paper deals with the Hungarian conception of central Europe and indicates some Hungarian-Slavic relationships. The idea of great Hungary, which also included Slovakia, served as a positive example of coexistence of various nationalities within the multiethnic Hungarian state. In the context of literary studies, Hungarian comparatists have raised the question of central Europe as a scientific problem (S. Eckhardt, G.M. Vajda, G. Hegedüs, G. Kemény, J. Hankiss, etc.). In the 1980s, the concept of central Europe was revived by the intellectuals, mostly the dissidents and writers from the then Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. Alongside M. Kundera's essay *The Tragedy of Central Europe* (1984), it was especially G. Konrád who in his *Antipolitik. Mitteleuropäischer Meditationen* (1985) associated the central European identity with scepticism and irony as well as with its cultural and political belonging to the West.

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