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The Transformation of the Landscape in Hungary from the Age of the Turkish Wars until the Age of Modernization: The Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century

My project explores the development of landscape usage in the Carpathian Basin in the age of the Turkish wars, focusing on the wars' impact on land policies and environmental concerns. Taking into account the simultaneously occurring "little ice age," I will examine the development of farming, maintenance, and fortification techniques, as well as the effect of reconstruction and extensive population growth on land use. Furthermore, I will analyze the period of modernization in the nineteenth century, examining changes in farming and water use and its impact on land management.

The primary scene of my research is the Carpathian Basin, which is the most extensive part of the Central European basin area (Czech and Vienna Basin) and is approximately 320,000 square kilometers. The Carpathian Basin was the geographical frame of the Hungarian Kingdom, therefore it can be taken as equivalent to it. The Carpathian Basin is used as the framework for my research, but of course regional and local studies will be used.

My project is divided chronologically into three periods. The historical era lasting from the beginning of the sixteenth century to the end of the nineteenth century can be divided into three great periods. During the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries the country's population had to adapt to the continuous war conditions. After the expulsion of the Turkish army, the Hungarian Kingdom was permanently integrated into the Habsburg Empire. The eighteenth century and the first decades of the nineteenth century were periods of extensive economic growth: the country's population doubled and the signs of overpopulation appeared in certain areas.

Given the spatial and temporal framework of this endeavor, my project aims to answer the following three questions:

- How did the forms of landscape usage develop in the Carpathian Basin in the age of the Turkish wars?
- What landscape usage systems did the extensive and intensive modernization create in the Carpathian Basin?
- What kind of environmental crises did the wartime situation and the modernization induce?