

collectives were left with poor leadership, demoralized workers, and a severe labor shortage.

Revolution and the Early 1960s

By July 1956, Rakosi had been removed at Moscow's order, and Nagy was again in charge. Collectivization was abandoned, and Nagy, under pressure from the revolutionaries, instituted a number of economic and political reforms. The amount of socialized land fell to eleven percent of the total, employing 6.1 percent of the agrarian workers. Private farmers enjoyed standards of living equal to or better than industrial workers and much better than those on collectives. These farmers also enjoyed freedom in marketing almost seventy percent of their agricultural products (Volgyes, "Dynamic Change" 385).

After suppressing the Hungarian revolution in November, the Soviets established Janos Kadar as head of the Party. It was not until December 7, 1958, however, that the Central Committee announced that its goal was the "socialist transformation of the countryside." A new collectivization campaign was launched, using incentives and increased investment along with "administrative pressures." This time collectivization was swift and complete: by 1962, over ninety percent of arable land had been socialized and over one million farmers were members of cooperatives. In November of that year, the Eighth Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (formerly the Hungarian Workers' Party) declared that collectivization had been completed and that the foundations had been laid for the construction of a fully socialist society (Kovrig 80).

Between 1962 and 1968, the agricultural situation in Hungary changed little. Grain production had reached pre-war levels by 1959, and more or less stayed at these levels through 1968. Grain imports slowly decreased