

Béla Kovrig: Catholic Democratic and Social Reform Movements in Hungary (Edited and annotated by Éva Petrás. Barankovics István Foundation - Gondolat Publishing House 2019. p. 498)



The Barankovics István Foundation presented Béla Kovrig's volume, hitherto unknown in Hungary, on June 18, 2019, in the ceremonial hall of the Sapientia Theological College. This work, originally written in English, was in the American legacy of the scientist until 2016 and was published thanks to the support of the EPP. The book, reviewing the history of Christian public thinking from the Reformation to the communist takeover in 1948, was published by the Barankovics István Foundation on the 75th anniversary of the birth of Christian Democratic party politics. Its significance lies, among other things, in the fact that such an overarching work on the subject - uniting sociological, political and theological aspects - had not been published in Hungary before. According to Kovrig, modern Catholic politics was only successful when it found its connection with the Hungarian society and successfully expressed social interests in its own way contributing to the democratic and social renewal of the country.



The volume was praised at the presentation by Zsolt Semjén, Deputy Prime Minister, President of KDNP and György Hölvényi MEP, advocate of the publication. In his speech, György Hölvényi emphasised that the volume is a new treasure in the history of Christian democracy, which has now been made available. Looking back at the heroic beginnings of Christian Democratic politics, he referred to the less than favourable historical conditions under which the movement was born, and due to which many of its prominent representatives, including Béla Kovrig, were forced to emigrate and were largely forgotten.