

1. Introduction

Lecturer: Pavel Pšěja

2. The notion of Central Europe and its relationship to the history of the region

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Objective: to inform students about the broad background and differing dimensions of the notion of Central Europe.

Lecture: The term “Central Europe” will be discussed in some depth, especially with regard to different cultural, political and social interpretations of the area. The lecture aims at explaining specific features of Central European culture and identity, thus giving specific background to further discussions in classes. Students will be invited to express their own opinions on the phenomenon and compare it with their respective societies, their own cultural and historical roots.

Assigned reading:

- Johnson, Lonnie R.: “Where is Central Europe?” *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbours, Friends*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2002. pp. 3-12.
- Wandycz, Piotr S. “What Do We Mean By the Term ‘Central-Eastern Europe?’” *Central Europe in History: The Price of Freedom*. Praha: Academia, 1998, pp. 11-20.

Additional reading:

- Wandycz, Piotr S. *The Price of Freedom: A history of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the present*, 2nd edition, London: Routledge, 2001.
- Johnson, Lonnie R.: *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbours, Friends*, 2nd edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Issues for discussion:

The cultural meaning of the notion of Central Europe.

Explain the role played by the German-speaking population in forming Central Europe.