



**Central Europe in
Reneissance and in Early
Modern Age**

❖ The House of Habsburgs

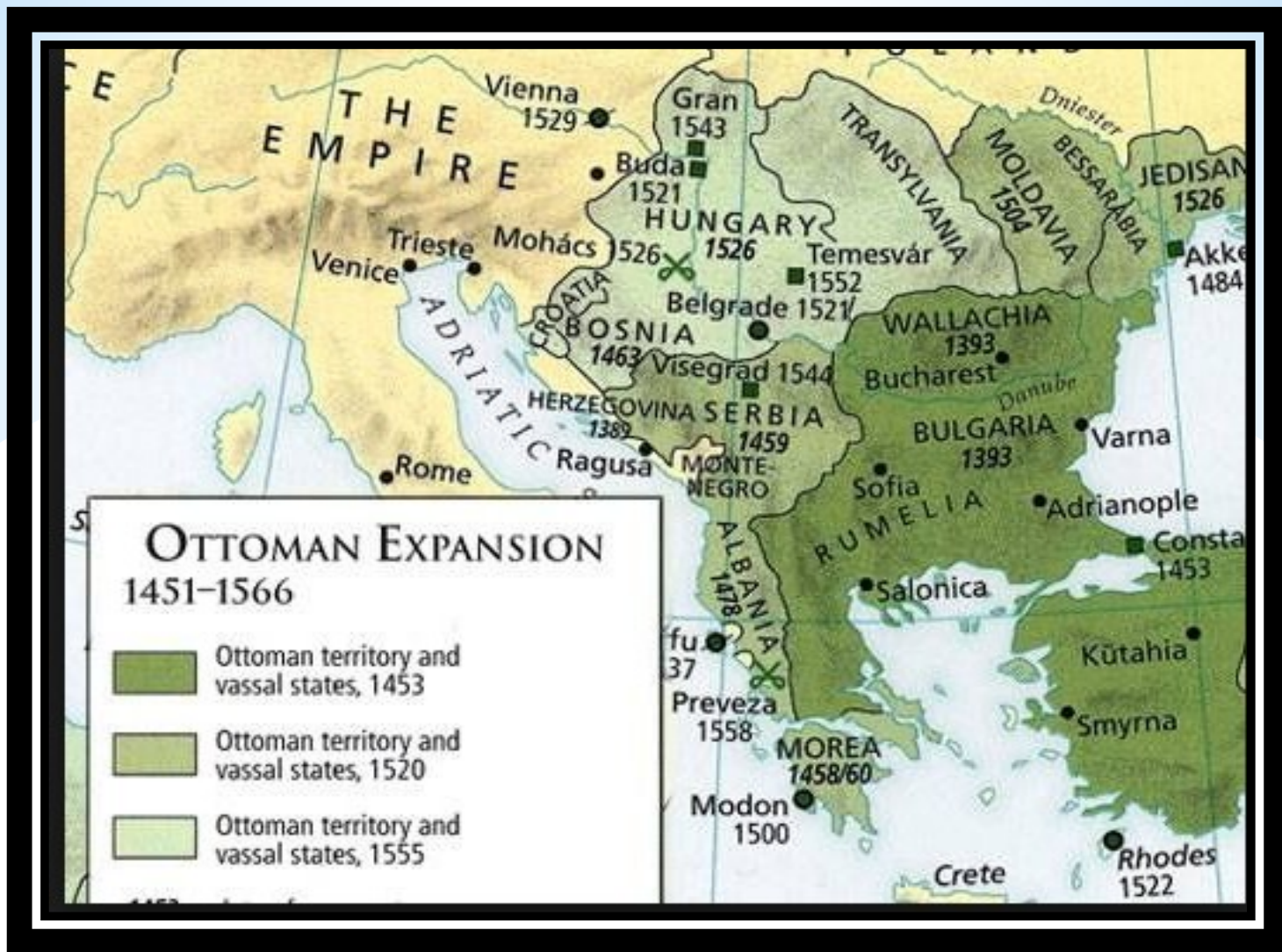
- Habsburgs originally came from Switzerland
- During 13th century – the domains in Austria
- Since 14th century – the growth of their power
- **1526 – 1918** ruled over **Bohemia Kingdom**
- The Habsburg rule brought the re-introduction of the Roman Catholic faith, centralization and the construction of a multi-national empire
- The Habsburgs included the Crownlands of Bohemia into their monarchy, the Habsburg domination over Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia lasted by **1918**

- ❖ **Ferdinand I** (*1503–1564), he married Anna of Jagiellon (sister of Louis II)
- King of Bohemia and Hungary since 1526 (elected by Bohemian and Hungarian nobles, clergy and representatives of the royal towns)
- King of the Romans since 1531
- Holy Roman Emperor since 1558 (after his brother Charles V death)
- King of Croatia, Dalmatia, Slavonia, and formally king of Serbia, Galicia (in Eastern Europe) and Lodomeria, etc. → large and powerful empire



❖ **Contest with the Ottoman Empire**

- Their great advance into Central Europe began in the 1520s
- 1529 – they unsuccessfully assaulted Vienna, the capital of Habsburg Monarchy. The **Siege of Vienna** took 150 days
- The aim of the campaign was securing control over all of Hungary and weakening of the Habsburgs' power
- Weather conditions saved Vienna, the heavy rain and snowfall made the Ottoman Turks to leave, they returned in 1533, but their army wasn't strong enough
- 1533 – a peace treaty with the Ottoman Empire was concluded – **split Hungary** into a Habsburg sector in the west and a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire in the east

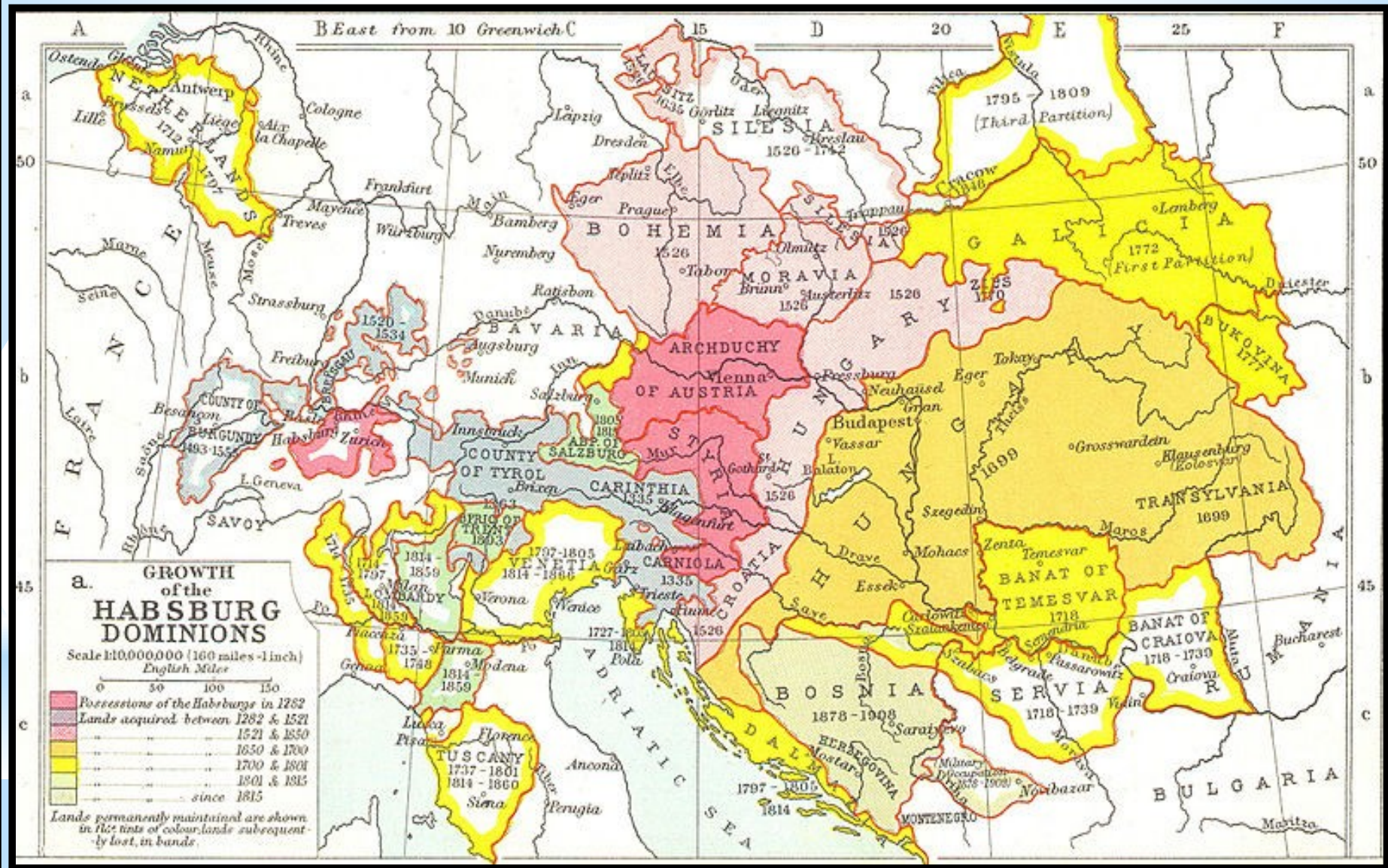


❖ Map of Ottoman Expansion to Balkans and CE

❖ *The contest with the protestant Reformation, which resulted in several wars of religion*

- 1519 – The ninety-five thesis of Wittenberg - was written by **Martin Luther** in 1517 and is widely regarded as the primary catalyst for the **Protestant Reformation**
- The disputation protests against clerical abuses, especially the sale of indulgences
- 1546–1547 – **The Smalkaldic war** – the Smalkaldic Union of protestant towns and princes united against ruling catholic Habsburg dynasty
- Ferdinand and his brother Charles V, the Emperor, formed a strong army
- They also asked the Bohemian estates (nobility, clergy and towns) to form an army and send it to fight against Smalkaldic Union
- The Bohemians refused to do it because they didn't want to fight against protestants and also because the Bohemian national army could be called only to defend the country not to conquer foreign lands or to fight abroad → the Bohemian estates were protesting and they **rose up against Habsburgs**, but the rebellion was easily suppressed and the repressions followed
- The repressions against nobility weren't so strict (usually the noblemen lost their property) but the towns, which were also participating on the uprising, were excluded from the political life and the town government was put under the control of the royal clerks, also the Hussite church was persecuted in Czech Lands

❖ The Habsburg Monarchy



❖ Maxmilian II (*1527–1576)

- Son of Ferdinand I
- He faced the rising power of new Protestant movements in Bohemia – so called Bohemian Brethern and Lutherans
- He ratified the religious programe of Bohemian non-catholic estates - so called **The Bohemian Confession**. But he ratified it only orally so it didn't bring the religious liberty as the Bohemian estates wished
- 1567 - he affirmed the Jewish privileges and issued a majesty to liberate the existing restrictions on Jewish trade and business and promised that the Jews would never be expelled from the Czech kingdom
- War with Ottoman Empire



❖ Rudolph II (*1552-1612)

- Son of Maximilian II
- Eccentric person and weak ruler, not very interested in politics
- Left Vienna for **Prague** - important center of European culture
- 1593–1606 – “*The Long War*” – with Ottoman Empire
- 1609 – The Czech Estates forced Rudolph II to issue a decree - so called “*Maiestatus*” or the **Letter of Majesty** - Rudolph was compelled to grant far-reaching concessions to the nobility and to proclaim freedom of religious confession in Bohemian Lands
- 1604 –1606 – uprising in Hungary
- Since 1608 – he ruled only over Bohemia, Silesia and Lusitania, his brother Matthias became a ruler in Moravia, Austria and Hungary

- Rudolph supported **culture, arts, sciences etc...**
- Due to the presence of many artist and scientist and the development of culture and natural sciences his capital city was called "***the Golden Prague***"
- Rudolph also supported natural philosophers such as the astronomers ***Tycho Brahe*** and ***Johannes Kepler***, also ***Giordano Bruno*** spent some time in Prague when he was on the run from the inquisition
- Rudolph kept a menagerie of exotic animals, botanical gardens, and Europe's most extensive "***Cabinet of Curiosities***" (Kunstkammer)
- Rudolph also patronized *occult sciences*, many alchemists stayed in Prague during his reign such as ***Edward Kelley*** and ***John Dee***, had his private alchemy laboratory where he arranged his own experiments, his lifelong wish was to find the Philosopher's Stone and become immortal, apart from the Philosopher's Stone the alchemists also wanted to construct an artificial human being – homunkulus

Prague Castle by A. Sadeler

- 50.000 inhabitants
- *Praga Caput Regni* (1583 - 1597)
- Multicultural
- Cabinet of Curiosities



❖ Prague and Rudolph II



* Prague by Roelandt Savery



❖ Prague 1595

Encyclopaedic collection of natural and artificial objects intended to represent the world in miniature. These types of collection were especially popular among the wealthy of Northern Europe where they were kept in specially furnished private rooms.

Portrait by A. Sadeler



Portrait by G. Arcimboldo



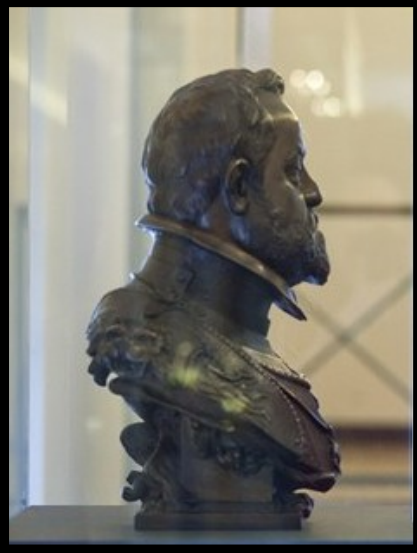


- ❖ Rudolf II in the middle of his art collections surrounded by artists and astrologers



 Codex Gigas

Exhibition: 400 Years
Anniversary of the
Death of the Emperor
Rudolph II: selected
objects



Painters e. g. :

Giuseppe Arcimboldo

Hans von Aachen

Aegidius Sadeler

Roelandt Savery

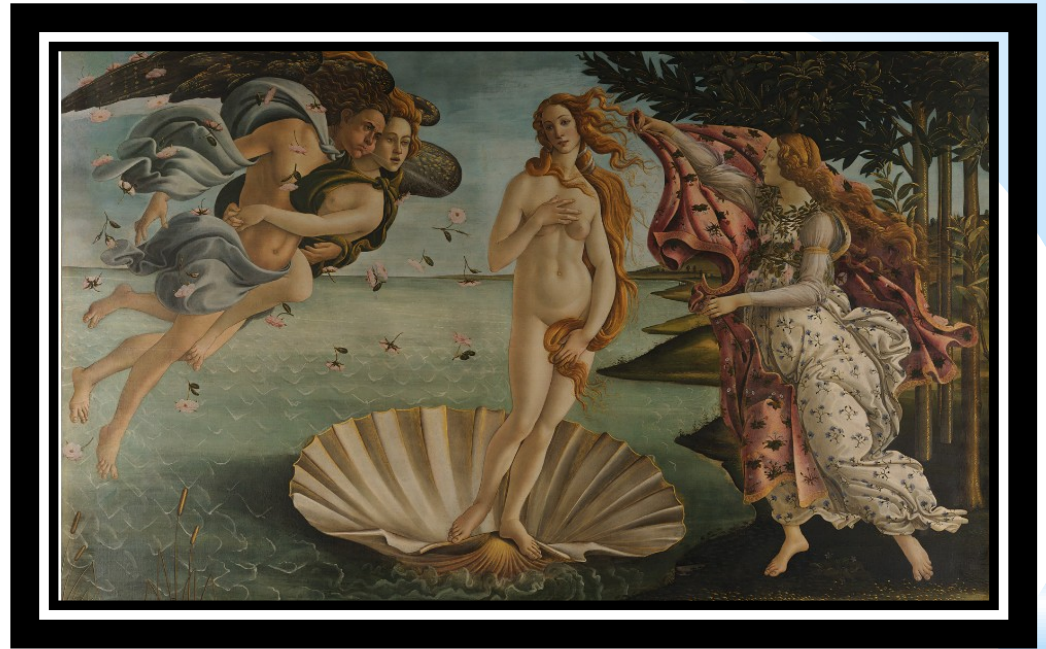
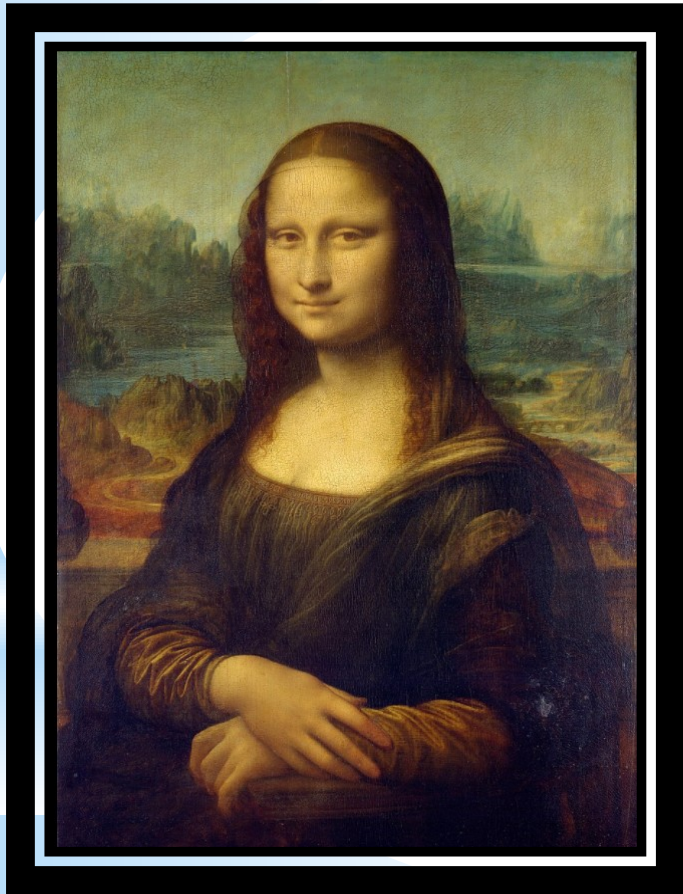
Bartholomeus Spranger

Sculptors e. g.:

Adrian de Vries

Paulus van Vianen

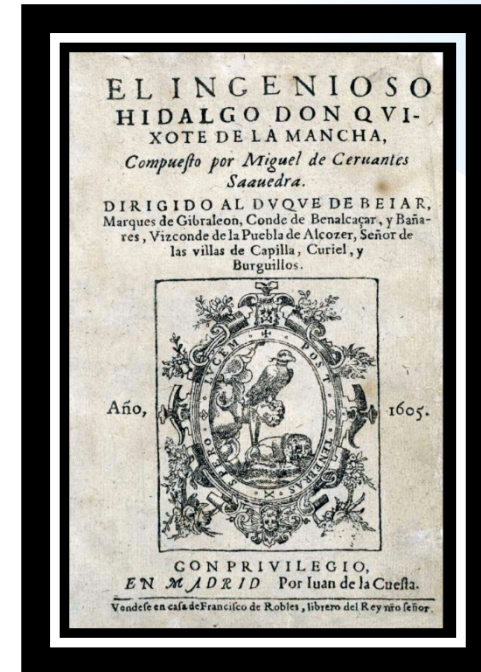
❖ **Renaissance Art** - painting, sculpture, architecture, music, and literature produced during the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries in Europe under the combined influences of an increased awareness of nature, a revival of classical learning, and a more individualistic view of man





Literature

- Dante Alighieri – Divine Comedy
- Giovanni Boccaccio – The Decameron (film by Pier Paolo Pasolini, 1971)
- William Shakespeare
- Francois Villon – The Testament (<https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/pdf/ebh450b2626373.pdf>)
- Miguel de Cervantes y Saavedra -The Ingenious Nobleman Mister Quixote of La Mancha



❖ Renaissance Style



The Town of Telč and
Chateau



Chateau of
Litomyšl

❖ Renaissance Style

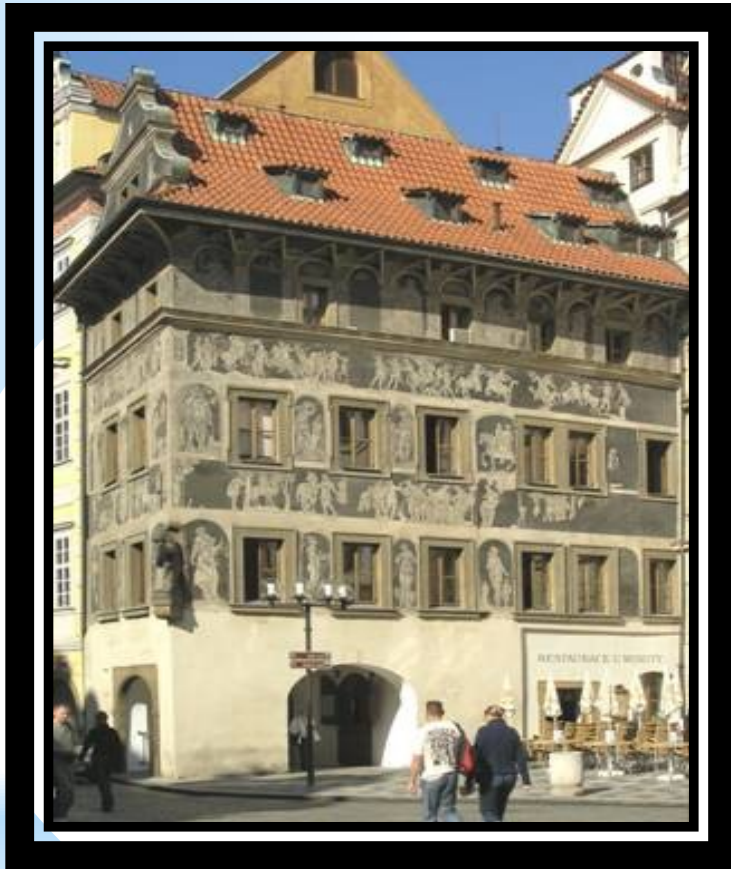


Belveder – The Royal
Summer Palace (Prague)



Český Krumlov

❖ The Renaissance Style



The house at the Old
Town Square in Prague



The Town Hall in Pilsen



Pardubice



Hvězda

❖ The Renaissance Style

❖ The Renaissance Style



Chateau of Opočno



Chateau of Bučovice

❖ The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648)

- **Matthias** (*1557–1619) – disregarded the Letter of Majesty - the Bohemian noblemen revolted
- 1618 – **Second Defenestration of Prague** – the unpopular king's representatives of Bohemia (the governors, high officials) were thrown out of a window of the Prague Castle
- The provisional government of 30 directors was established
- The Bohemian nobility declared that Matthias' son **Ferdinand II** was deposed, in his place **Frederick V** was elected – called "*Winter King*"

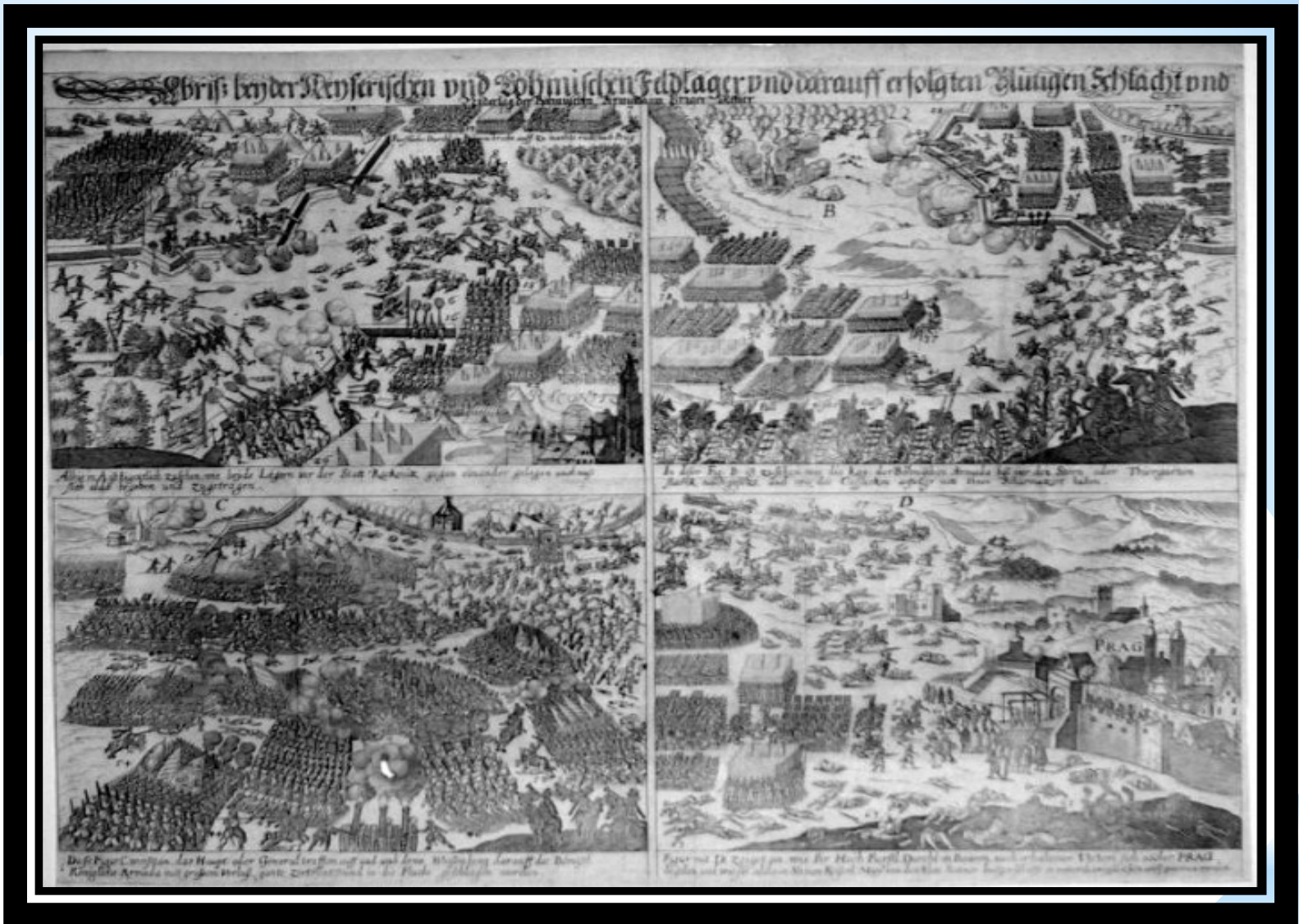


Frederick wearing the Crown of Saint Wenceslas, other Bohemian regalia and the collar of the Order of the Garter



❖ The window (top floor) where the second defenestration occurred

- The decisive clash between the two opposing camps took place in 1620 in **Battle of the White Mountain**
- Frederick, Bohemian Estates and their army were defeated and **the Kingdom of Bohemia lost its independence for the following almost 300 years**
- The **Catholic faith** was declared to be **the only permitted** confession of faith in Czech Lands
- The Bohemian revolt was an episode of the r 'Thirty Years' War that swept over Europe between the years 1618 and 1648
- The period of the 'Thirty Years' War brought political disorder and economic devastation to Bohemia and to the Central Europe in general which had far-reaching consequences on the future development of the country

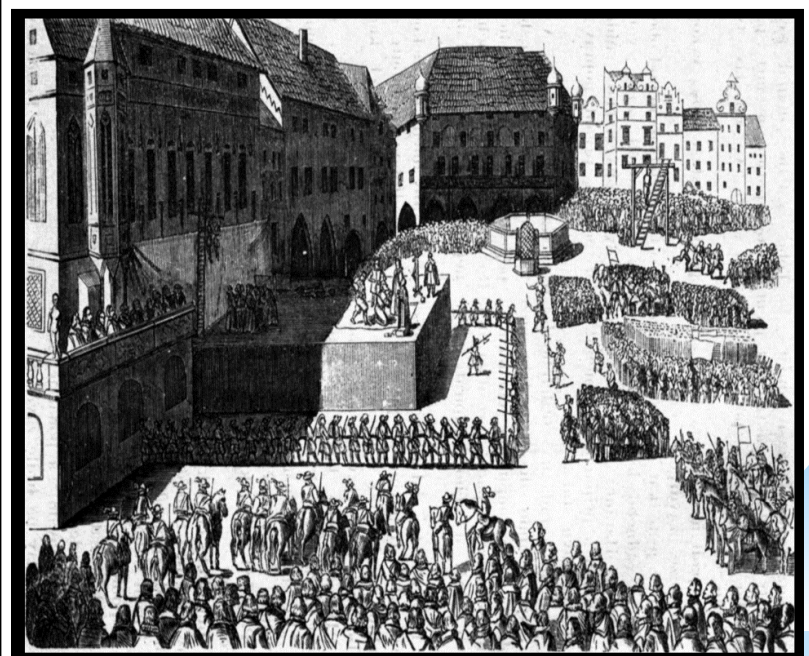


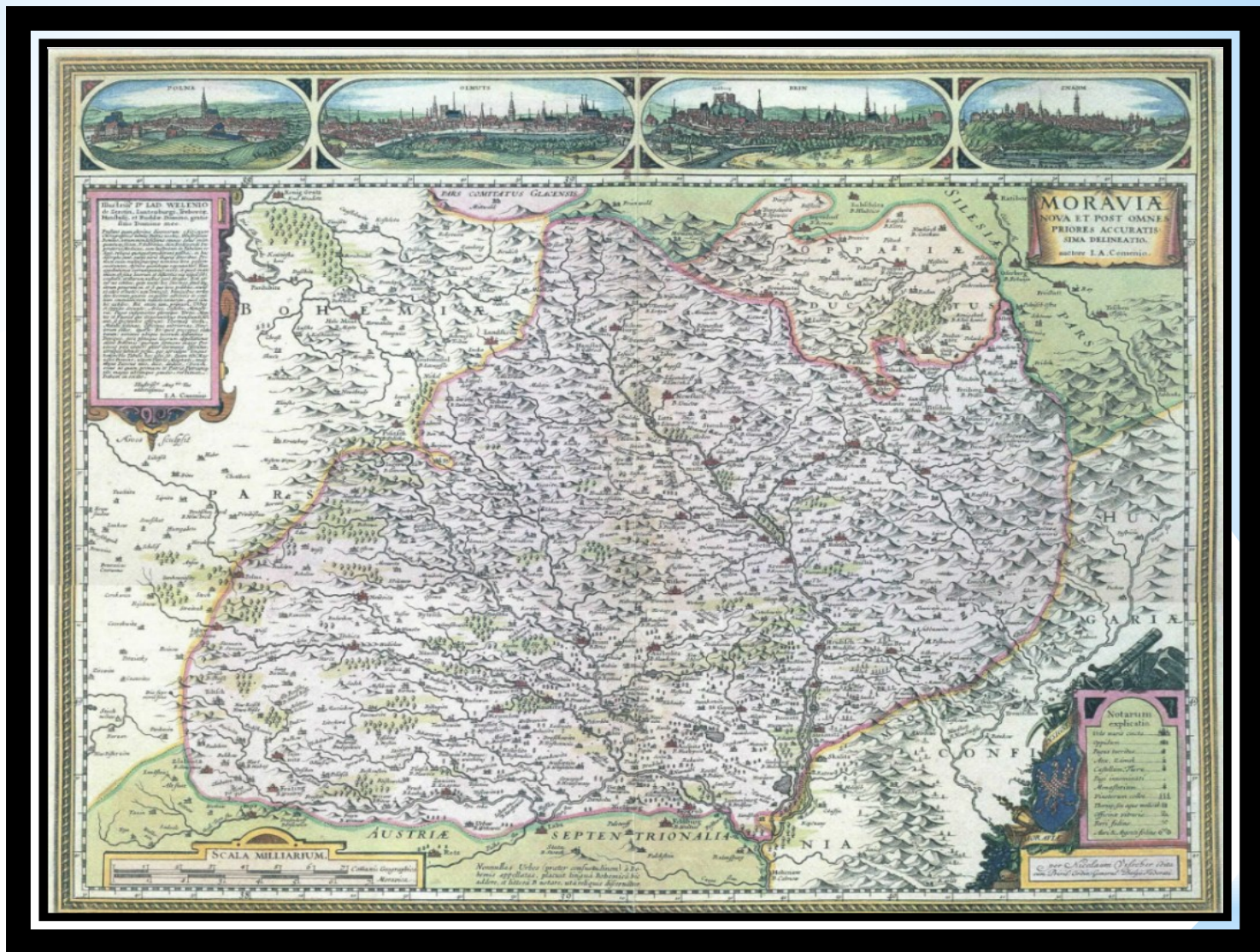
❖ Historical Picture of the Battle of the White Mountain

❖ **Consequence for non-Catholic opposition** (after Battle of The White Mountain):

- 1621 - trial with politicians who had been active in rebellion took place in Prague, confiscation of their properties and divided among the Catholic nobility from Bohemia, Austria and Hungary
- **21 June 1621** – 27 prominent opposition leaders were executed in the Old Town Square in Prague
- **The Bohemian throne became hereditary in the Habsburg dynasty and the most important offices were transferred permanently to Vienna**
- The confiscation of property of the Protestant leaders
- German soon became the main language of the country

A drawing of the execution, 19th century.





❖ Map of Moravia © Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius), 1680

❖ The Consequences of 'Thirty Years' War in Habsburg Monarchy and the Czech Lands

❖ *Political:*

- The defeat of Czech Estates and the liquidation of the Czech Lands confederation enabled the Habsburgs to introduce a model based on a powerful's monarch's rule, traditionally called **Royal (Baroque) Absolutism**
- The Habsburg decided to eliminate the Estates opposition completely, to establish a strong ruling position and to incorporate the Lands of the Bohemian Crown into the Habsburg monarchy much more firmly than ever before
- 1627 – Ferdinand II formally declared Bohemia a **Habsburg Crown Land**

❖ *Economical and social:*

- The country was destroyed, many people died in the consequence of diseases, famine, black death epidemics etc.
- not enough labour power – that caused tightening of serfdom
- About 36 000 Czech families had been compelled to emigrate from Bohemia – replaced by foreigners
- Among the emigrants were many excellent scholars and intellectuals, such as **Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius)** a prominent thinker, teacher and scholar of European renown

❖ *Economical and social:*

- After the Battle of the White Mountain unprecedented property and financial speculations
- Devaluation, literally cutting the coins
- The peasants were not allowed to marry, move house, study or learn a trade without their landlord's consent, they had to work on landlord's fields several days in a week
- Ruthless taxation of Bohemian people – the peasants also had to pay heavy governmental taxation
- Large number of German colonists
- Germanization, national humiliation
- Economic misery

❖ *Religious consequences:*

- After 200 years, the Catholic clergy was elevated to become the first and the most important Estate in the Czech Lands
- The dominance of the Roman Catholic Church was secured – the **re-Catholicization** started
- **Ferdinand II** issued an edict, which ordered all non-Catholic noblemen to convert or to emigrate – so the large wave of emigration succeeded
- Protestant preachers were expelled
- The Jesuits assumed a dominant role as close counselors of the ruler, school administrators and censors of the books

❖ *Religious consequences:*

- **The Catholic faith the only permitted confession of faith in the country**
- The Hussite or protestant inhabitants were often violently forced to convert
- Forced conversion along with the tightening of serfdom and aggravating the social situation, resulted in unrest in the rural parts of the country and led to several peasant rebellions

❖ The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) - Summary

- One of the most destructive conflicts in European history
- The war was fought largely as a **religious conflict between Protestants and Catholics in the Holy Roman Empire**
- Later the war became more a continuation of the Bourbon (French)–Habsburg (Austrian and German) rivalry for European political pre-eminence, and in turn led to further warfare between France and the Habsburg powers
- All European states participated on the Thirty Years' War – directly or indirectly
- **The Peace of Westphalia** finished The Thirty Years' War – series of peace treaties signed between May and October of 1648

❖ The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) - Summary

❖ *The main principles of the Peace of Westphalia (1648):*

- All parties would recognize the Peace of Augsburg of 1555 (each Prince in **Holy Roman Empire** could choose the religion of his own state – or Catholicism, or Lutheranism or Calvinism) – *cuius regio, eius religio*
- Christians living in principalities where their denomination was not the established church were guaranteed the right to practice their faith in public during allotted hours and in private at their will
- General recognition of the exclusive sovereignty of each party over its lands, people, and agents abroad.

Readings:

- Grafton, Anthony (2001): *Thirty Years War*. *New York Review of Books*.
- Duchhardt, Heinz : *Münster/Osnabrück as a Short-Lived Peace System*. In: Goudeover, Albert P. van (ed.) (1993): *Great Peace Congresses in History 1648–1990*. Utrecht. Pp 13–19.

❖ Habsburg monarchy after 30 Years' War

- The wars with Ottoman Empire – OE was ruling over the whole Balkan Peninsula and a part of Hungary
- 1683 – Vienna besieged by the Ottomans
- Polish king **Jan (John) III Sobieski** (*1629–1696) helped Vienna → Ottoman Empire was defeated
- 1697 – The Ottomans were defeated at the Battle of Zenta, 1699 - **Peace Treaty of Karlowitz** – Hungary, Croatia and Slavonia incorporated into the **Habsburg Monarchy** again
- 1701–1714 – **The Wars of Spanish Succession** – Habsburgs x Bourbons (French ruling dynasty), Bourbons won and got Spanish throne, Habsburgs got territories in Italy (Naples, Sardinia, Milan) and Spanish Netherlands as compensation
- **Habsburg Monarchy became a great power at the beginning of 18th century and a leading power in Central Europe**

Before War



After War



❖ War of the Spanish Succession

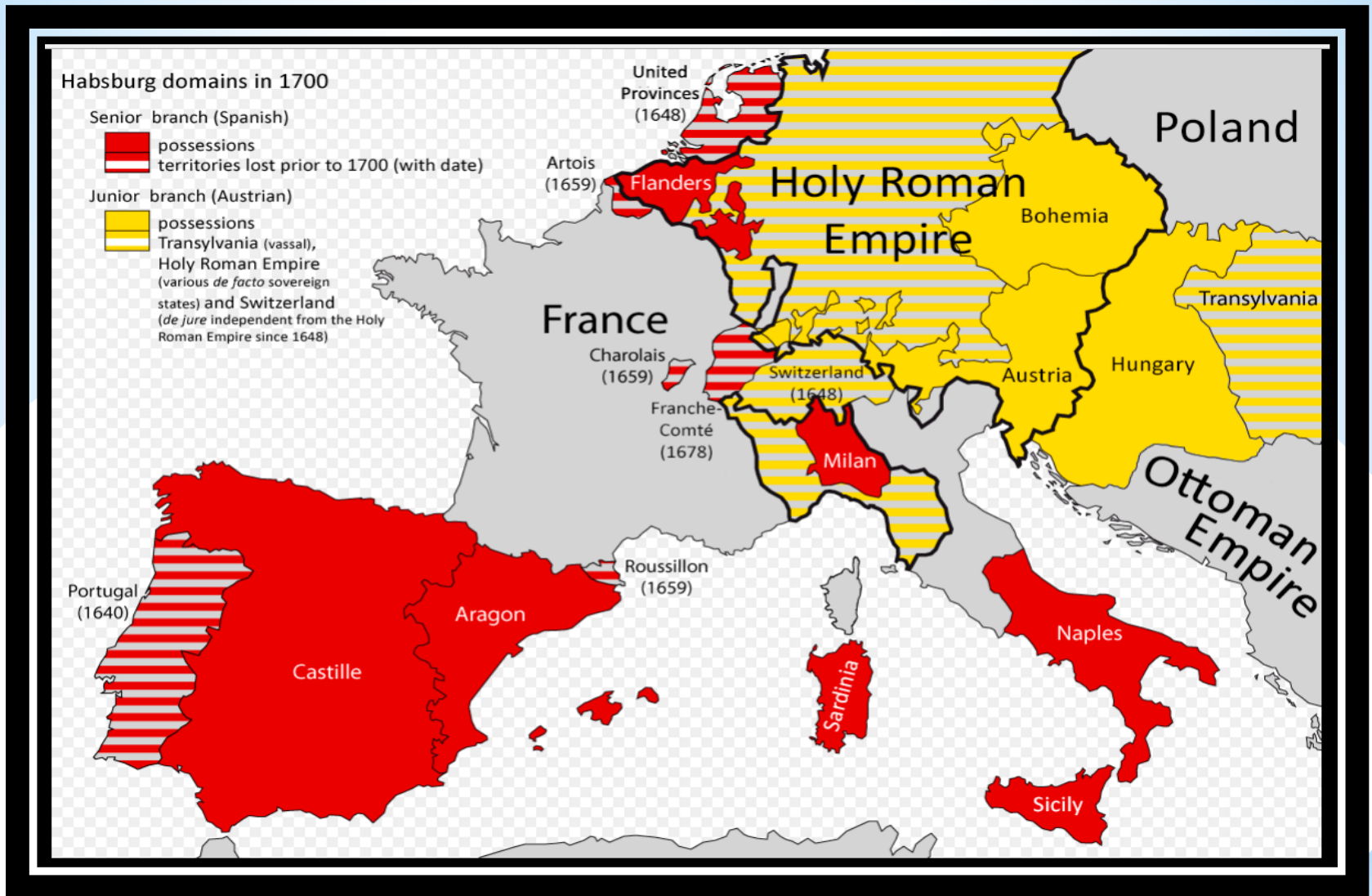


❖ The original document: Treaty of Karlowitz



Morrisk's Age of Anne.

Longmans, Green & Co. London, New York & Bombay.

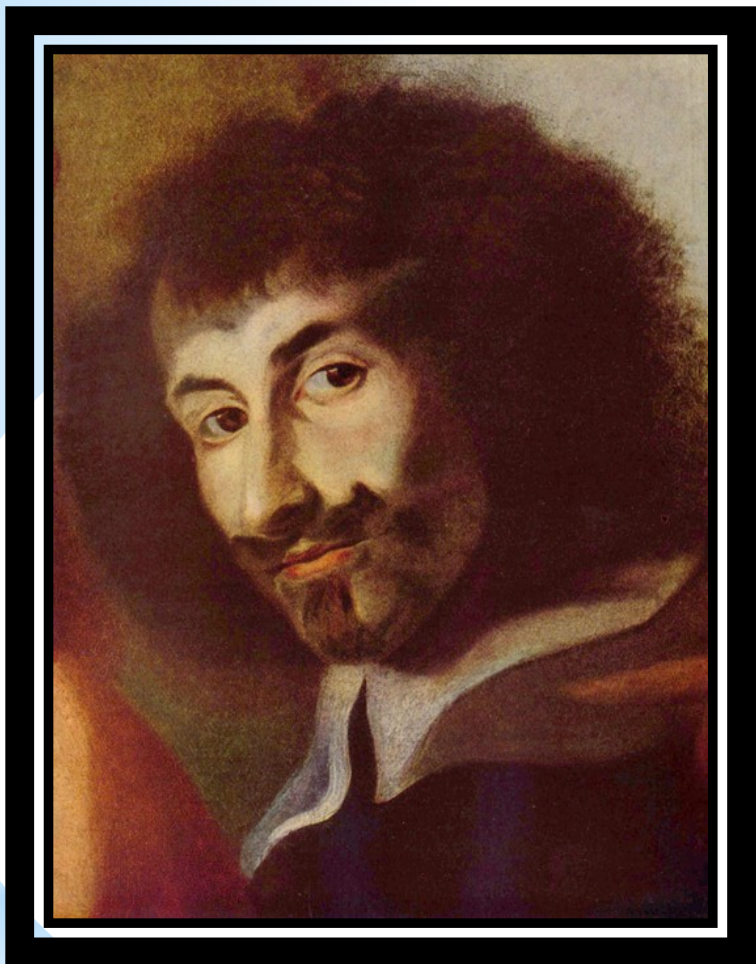


❖ The Spanish and Austrian Habsburg Dominions in 1700



Baroque Art

✦ Paintings

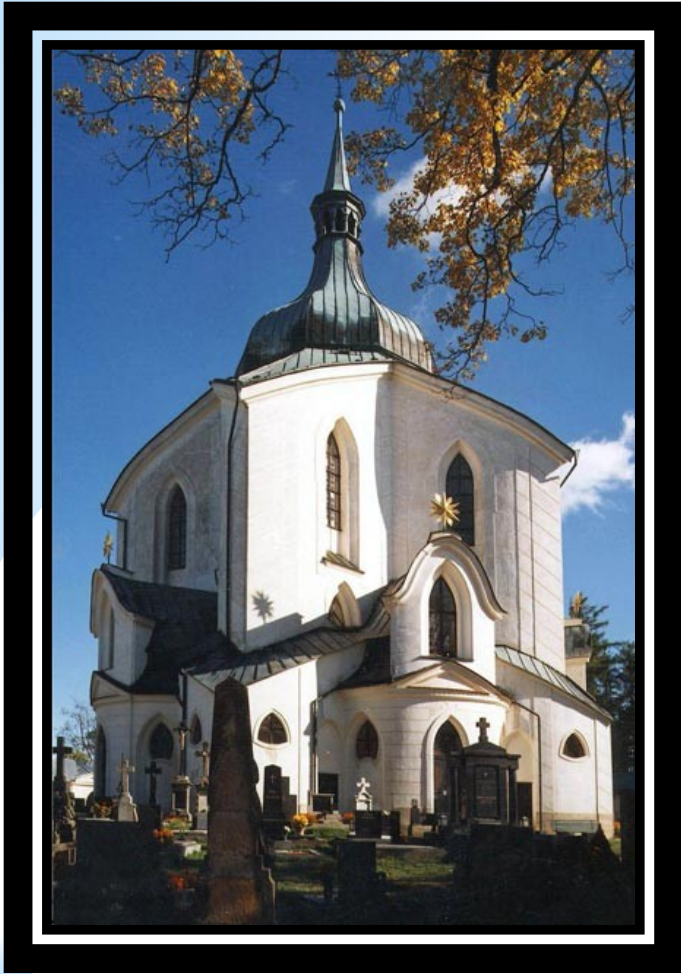


Karel Škréta – Self Portrait



Karel Škréta - Paris and Helen

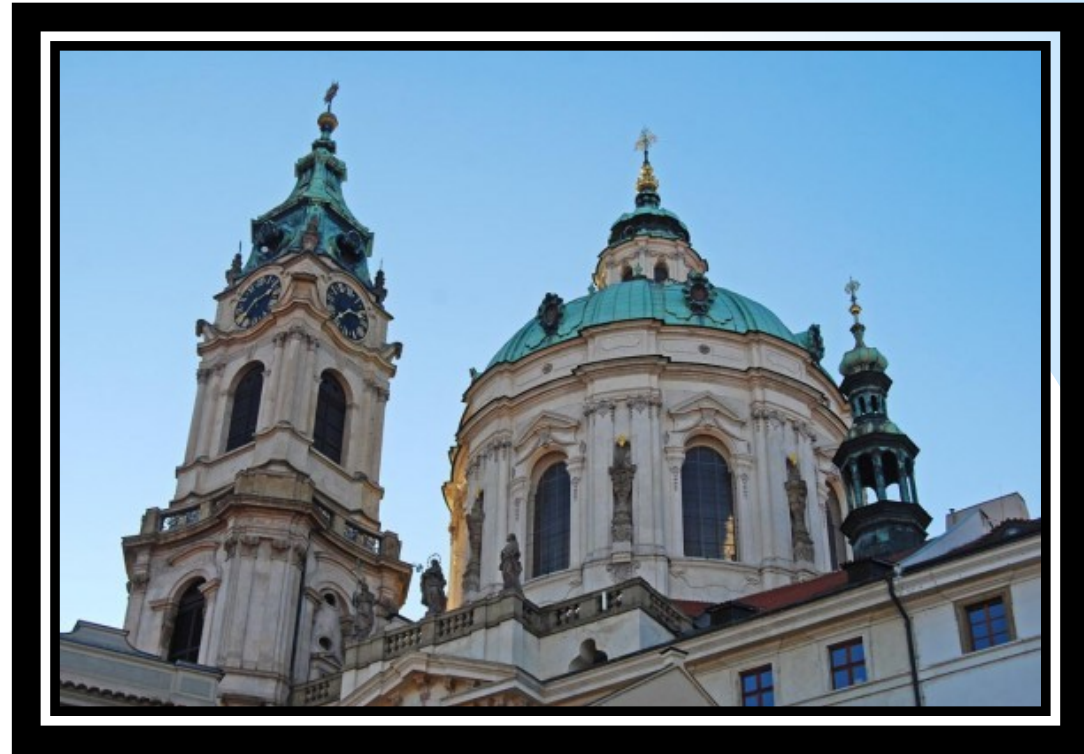
❖ Baroque in Czech Lands



Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk on
Zelená hora Hill

- Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel

<http://www.santini.cz/index-en.aspx>



Prague – St. Nicholas Church – Christof and
Kilian Ignac Dienzenhofer



**Kuks (western Bohemia) – Matyáš
Bernard Braun**



**Charles Bridge (Prague) – St.
Adalbert – F. M. Brokoff**

Marian Plague
Column



Church Of Name of Jesus



❖ Baroque monuments in Telč

❖ Baroque monuments in Brno



The Parnas Fountain



St. Johns' Church, Minoritská street,
Brno