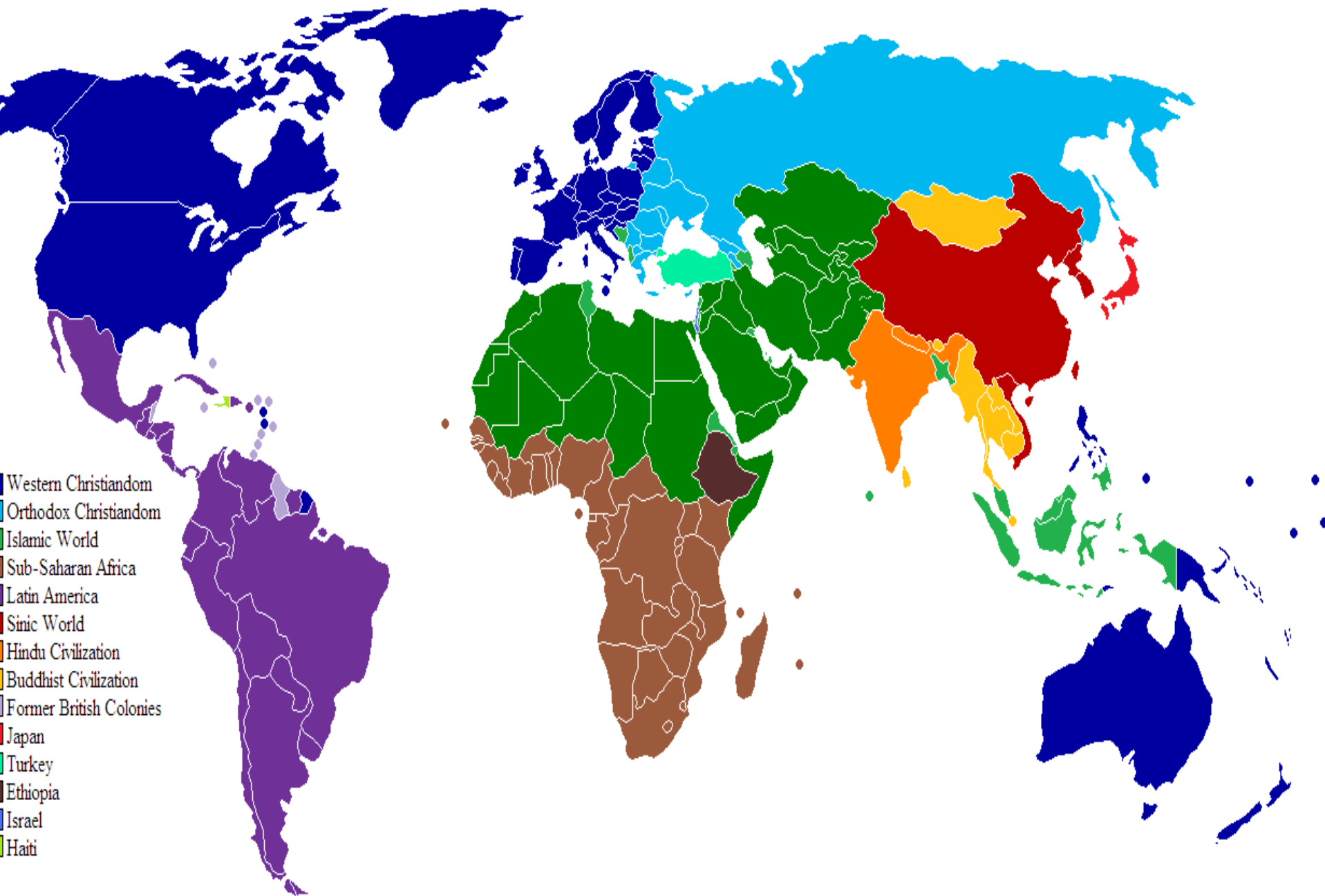


Introduction to the concept and history of Central Europe

Richard Q. Turcsányi

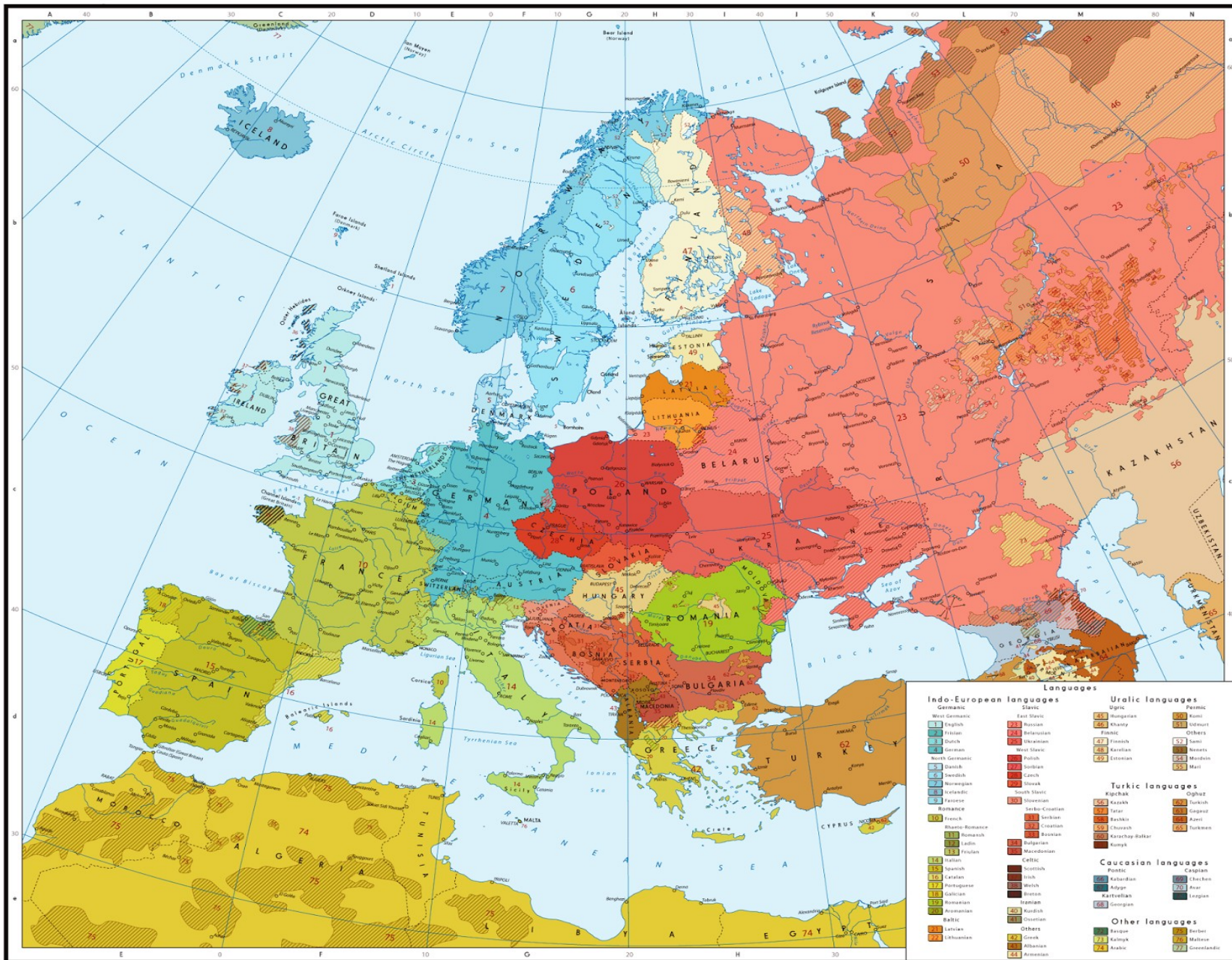
Central Europe

- What is Central Europe?
- Where is Central Europe?
- What are the defining characteristics of Central Europe?

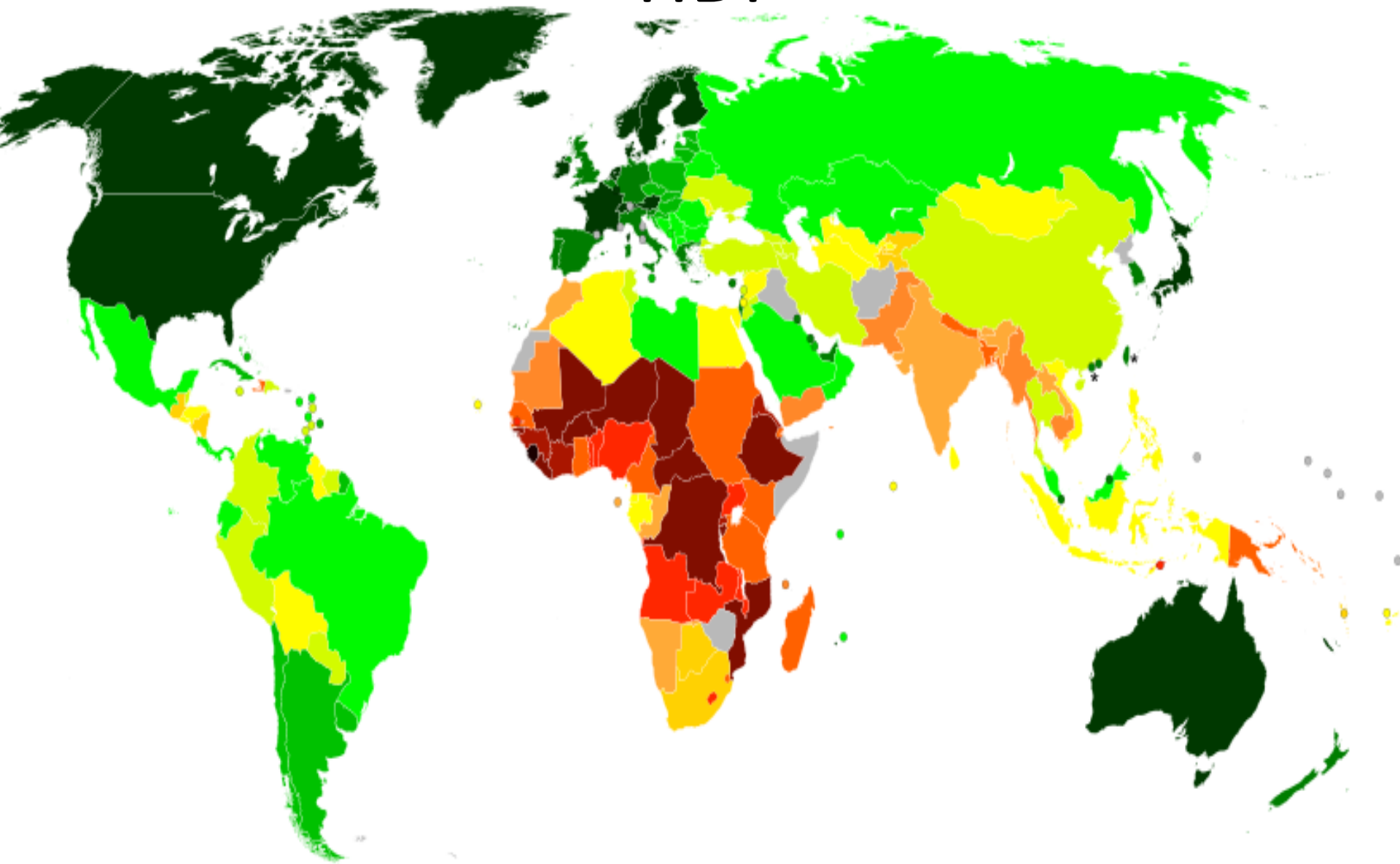


- Western Christianity
- Orthodox Christianity
- Islamic World
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Latin America
- Sinic World
- Hindu Civilization
- Buddhist Civilization
- Former British Colonies
- Japan
- Turkey
- Ethiopia
- Israel
- Haiti

Languages of Europe



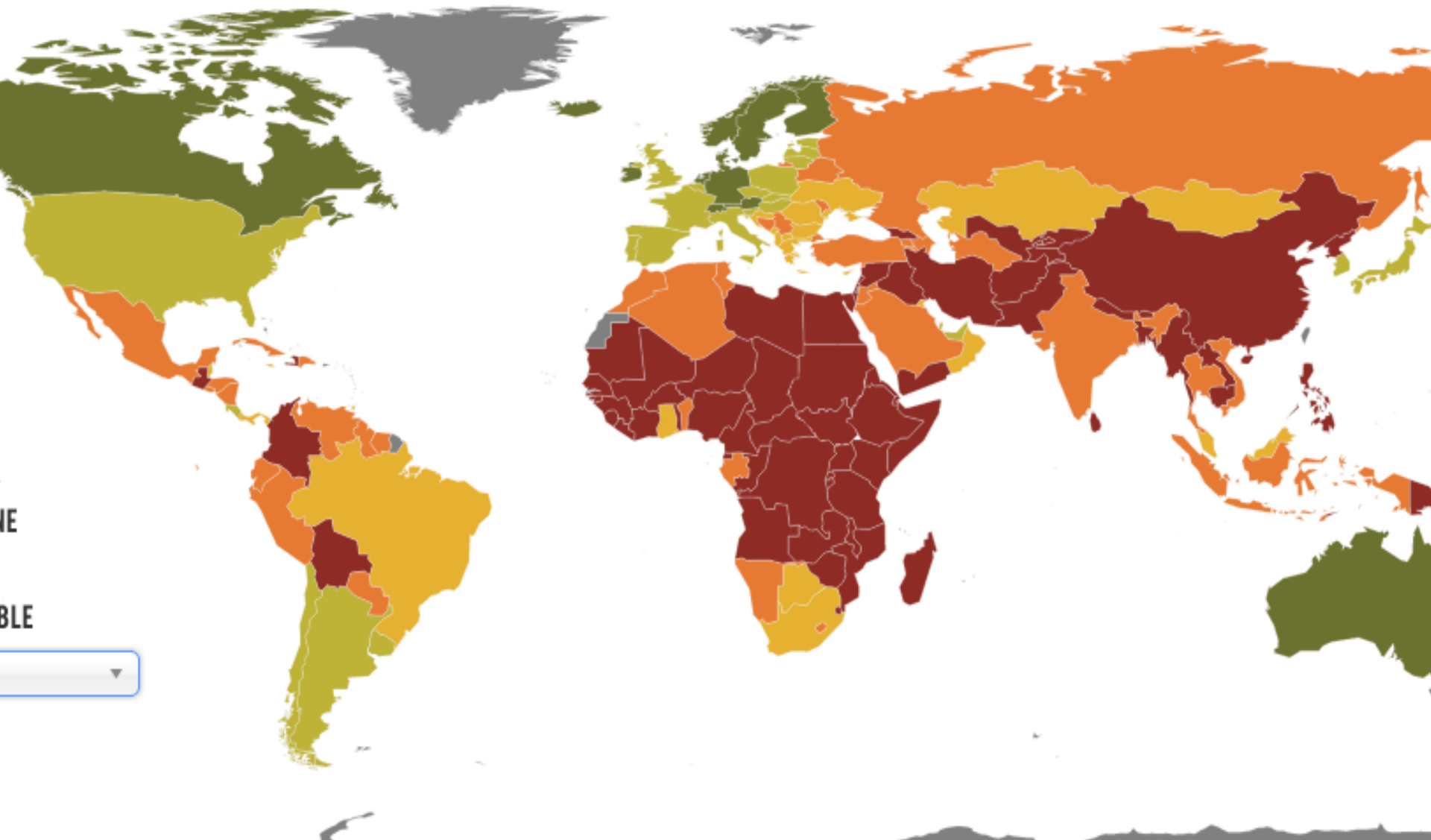
HDI

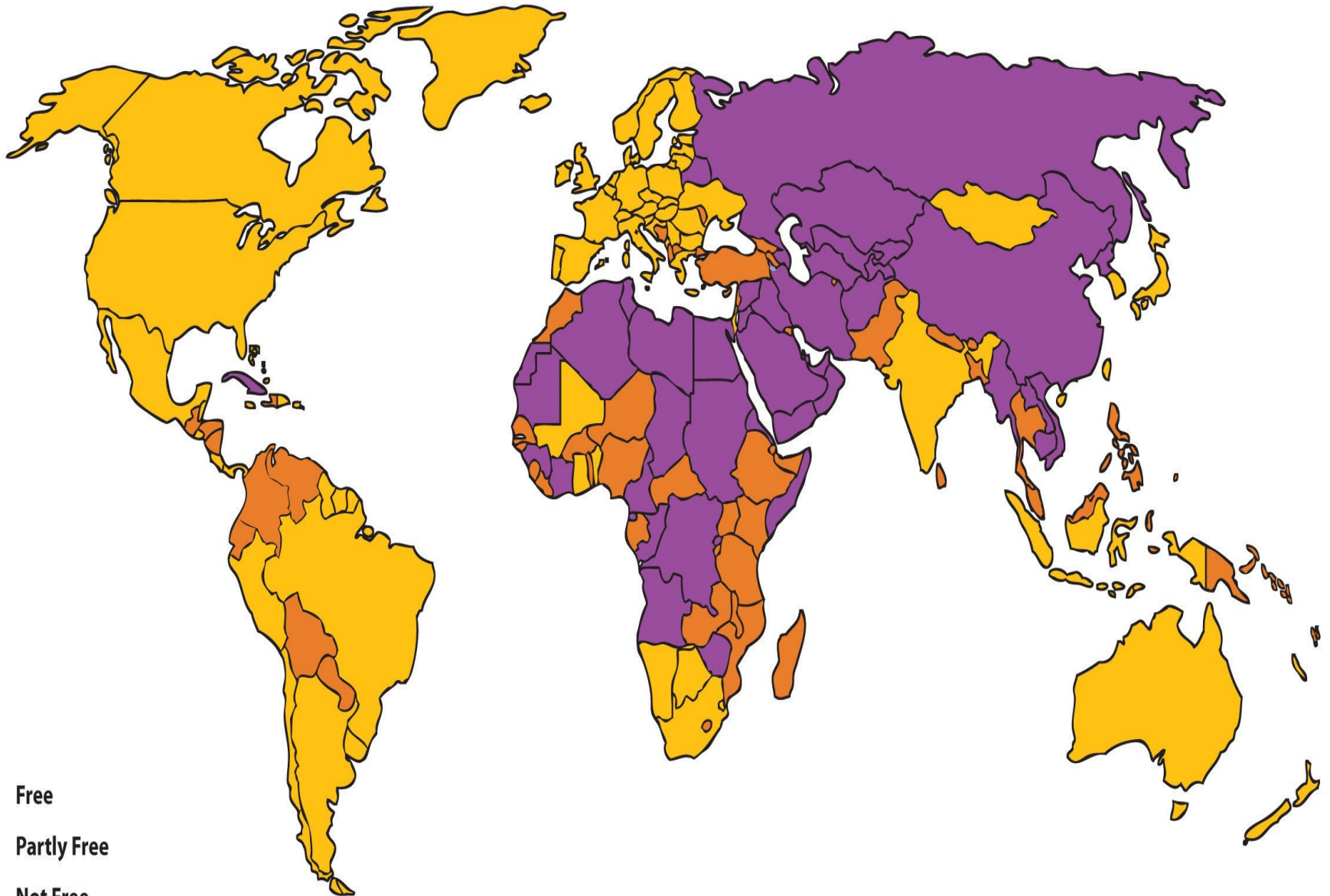


FAILED STATES

AN ANNUAL SPECIAL REPORT BY FP AND THE FUND FOR PEACE

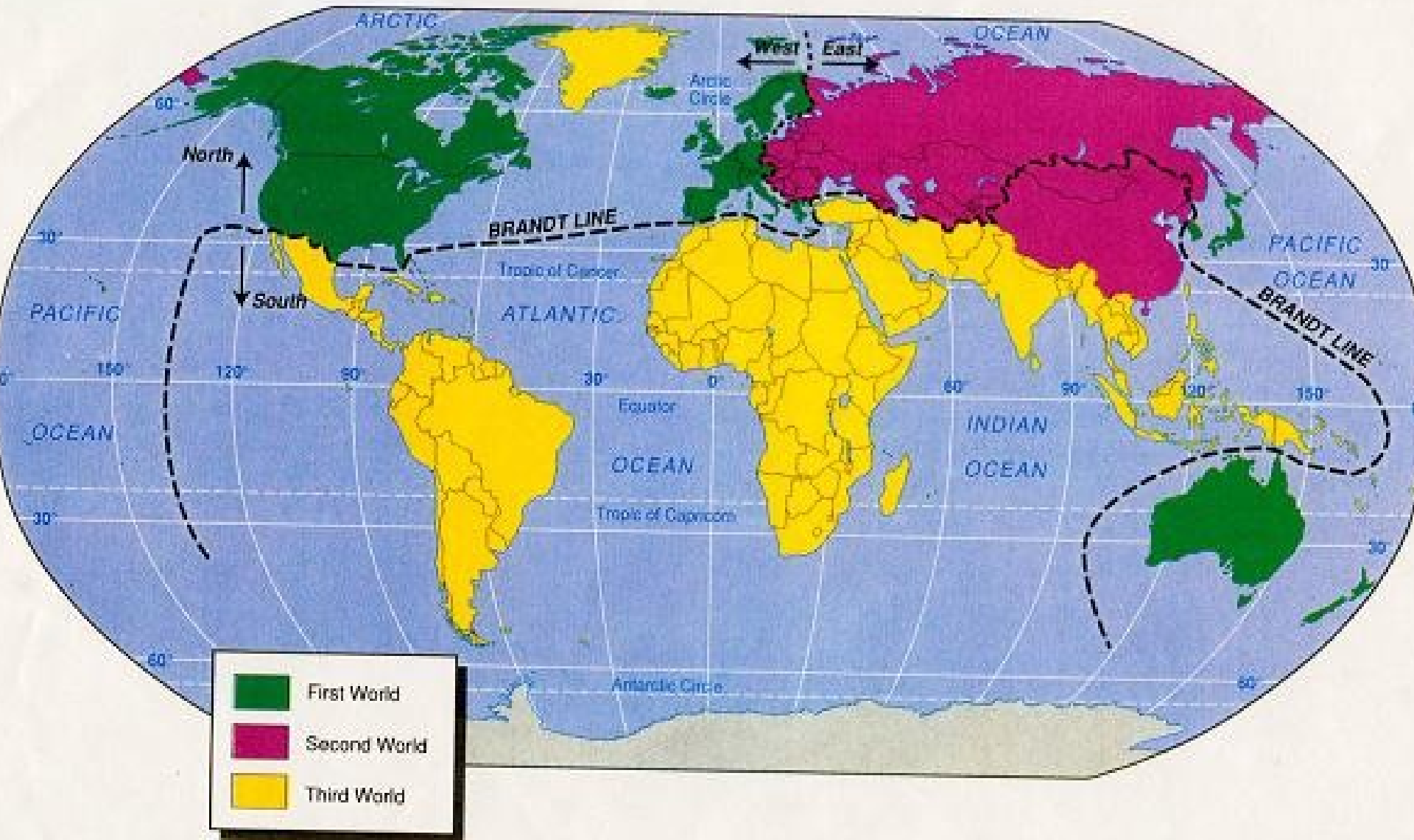
2013





- Free
- Partly Free
- Not Free

West v. East



Communist States

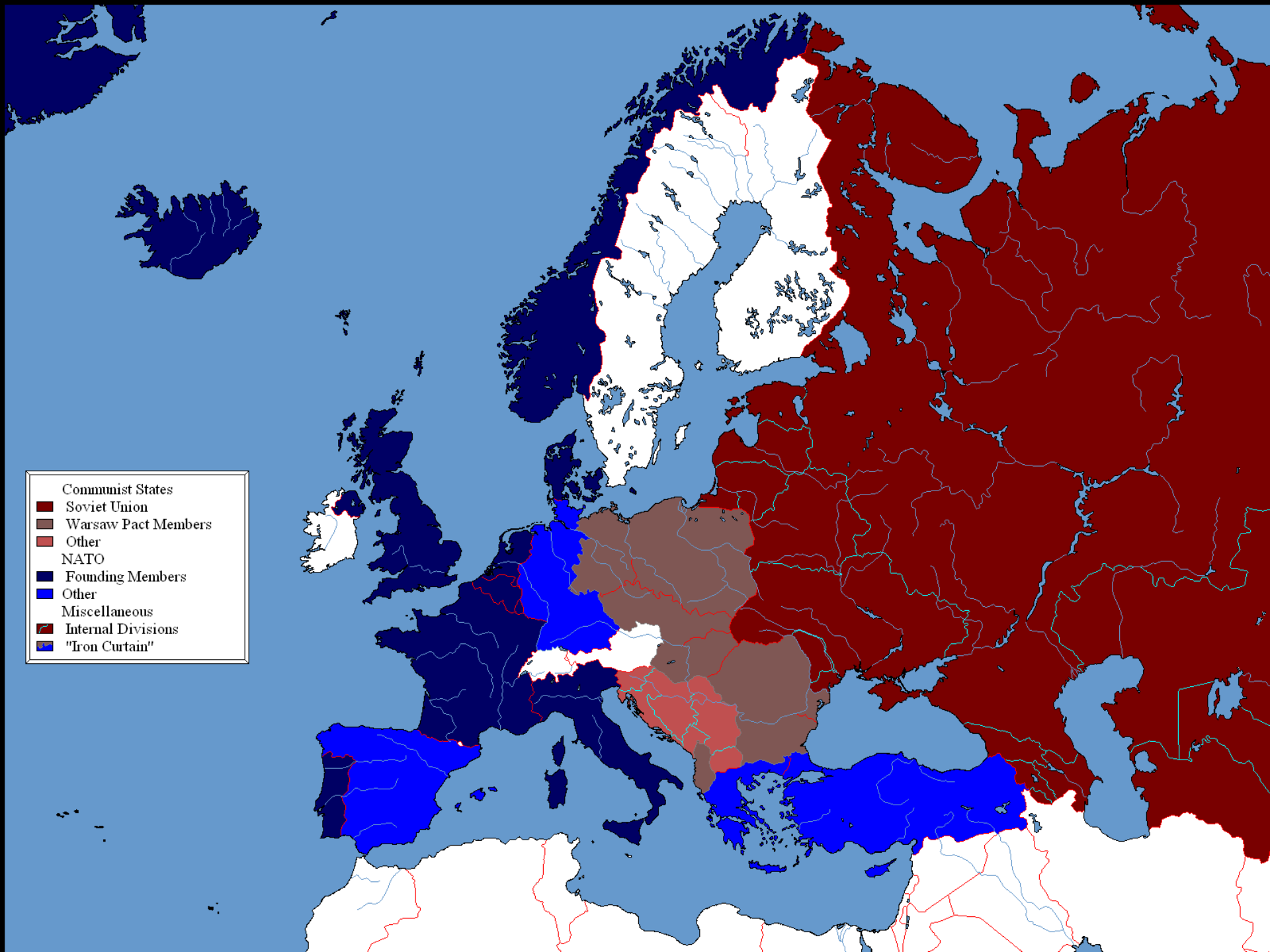
- Soviet Union
- Warsaw Pact Members
- Other

NATO

- Founding Members
- Other

Miscellaneous

- Internal Divisions
- "Iron Curtain"



EUROPE

EUROPEAN UNION

- EU Member States
- EU New Members 2004
- EU New Members 2007
- EU Candidates
- EFTA Member States

© Nations Online Project

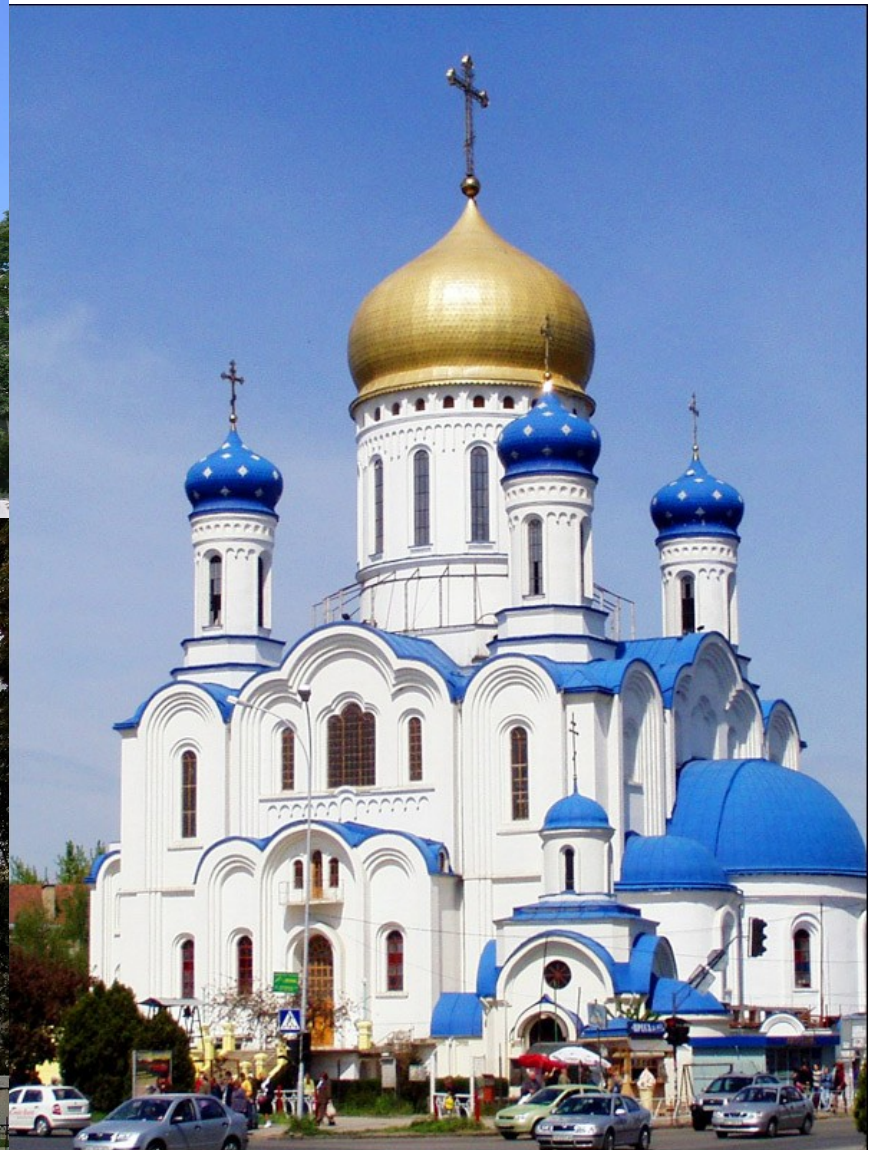


Region as a concept

- What makes region a region?
- Geography
- History
- Culture
- Religion
- Identity
- Politics
- Region = theoretical concept
- **Where is Central Europe?**

Where is Central Europe?

- Between West and East, North and South
- 1948 – 1989: “Culturally part of the West, politically part of the East” (Milan Kundera)
- The borderland of the Western Christian civilization
- Small countries, never played a significant role outside of the region, always at the receiving end of conflicts, always behind the West, yet ahead of the East.
- More developed than the (Russian) East, less developed than the Western Europe
- Internally very heterogeneous – major dividing lines in Europe
- A cultural and historical regional concept















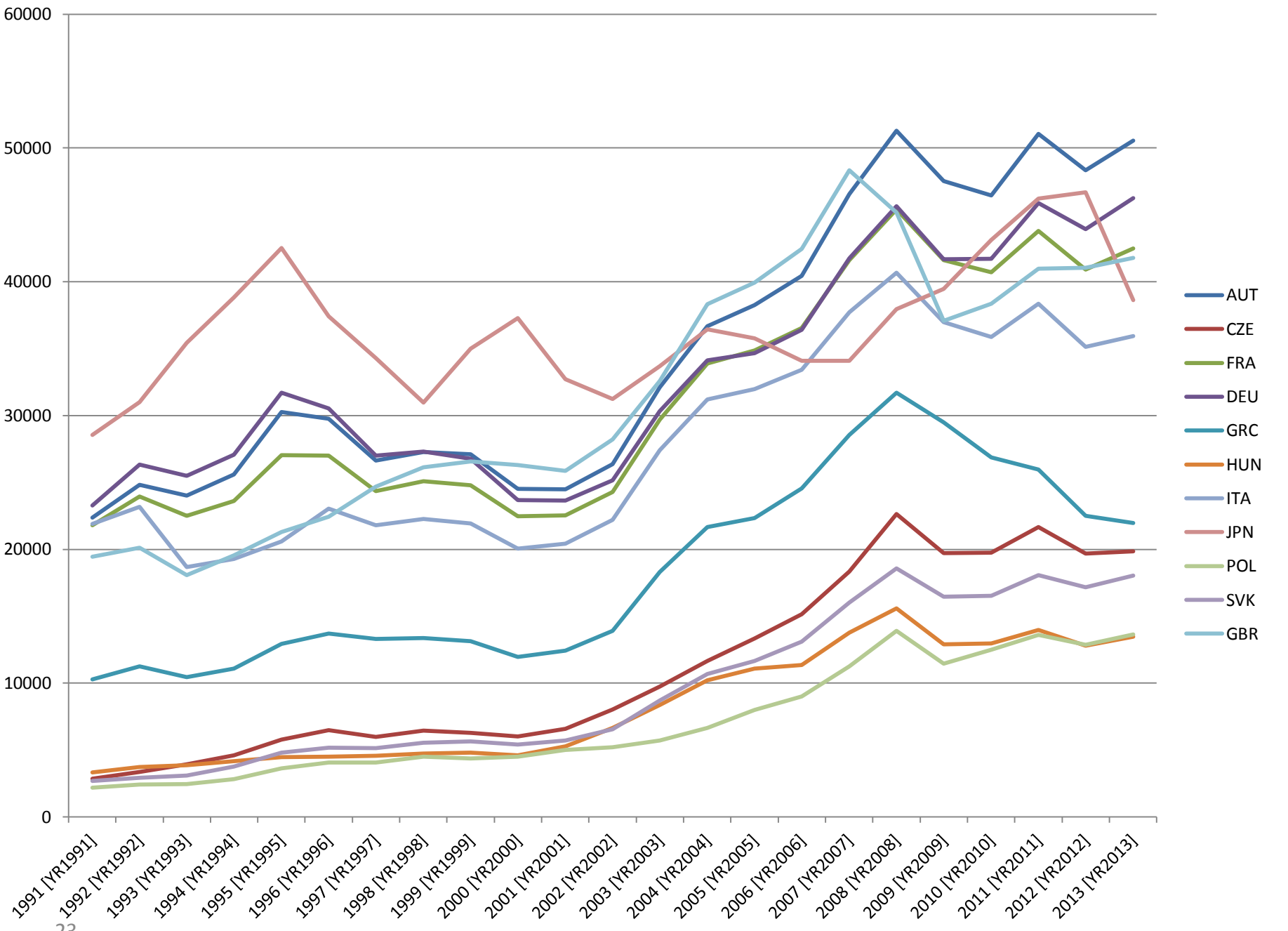


PL + CZ + HU + SK = Visegrad Group (V4)

- Population: 64 million (~ UK)
- Area: 533 thousands sq. km (~ France)
- GDP (PPP): 1.6 trillion USD (~ Spain)
- GDP per capita: 25 thousands USD (~ Portugal or Greece)
- Membership in international organizations: UN, IMF, WB, WTO, OECD, EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, NATO, V4
- Voting in the Council of the EU
 - 4 countries out of 16/28
 - 13 % of the EU population (need to be 65 %)
- Seats in European Parliament: 107 (more than Germany)

Political freedom

- Before 1989:
 - Partly Free (Poland and Hungary in 1980s)
 - Not Free (Czechoslovakia)
- After 1990
 - Free
 - (Slovakia Partly Free in 1994-1998)
- Today
 - Free 1-1
 - (Hungary 2-1)



Why has Central Europe always lagged behind?

- Loss of national sovereignty at the end of Middle Age
- Parts of autocratic empires – Habsburg Austrian Empire, Russian Empire, Ottoman Empire, Prussian Empire
- Military conflicts – ... Tatars, Mongols, Ottomans, Thirty years war, Napoleon wars, WW I and WW II, possibly WW III, Balkan wars
- Limited/belated reach of colonialism, reformation, enlightenment, liberalization and industrialism
- Part of the Soviet Eastern Europe in 1948-1989

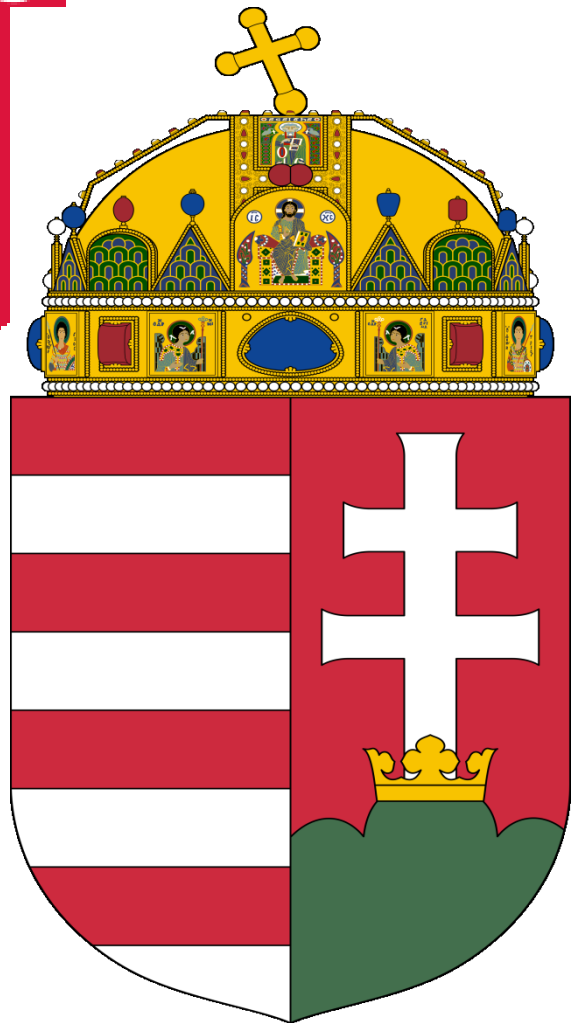
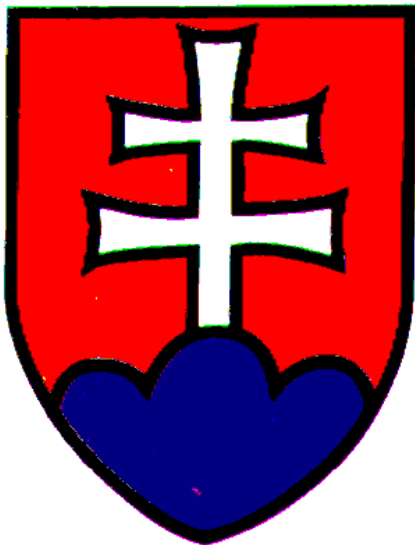
Current issues in the region

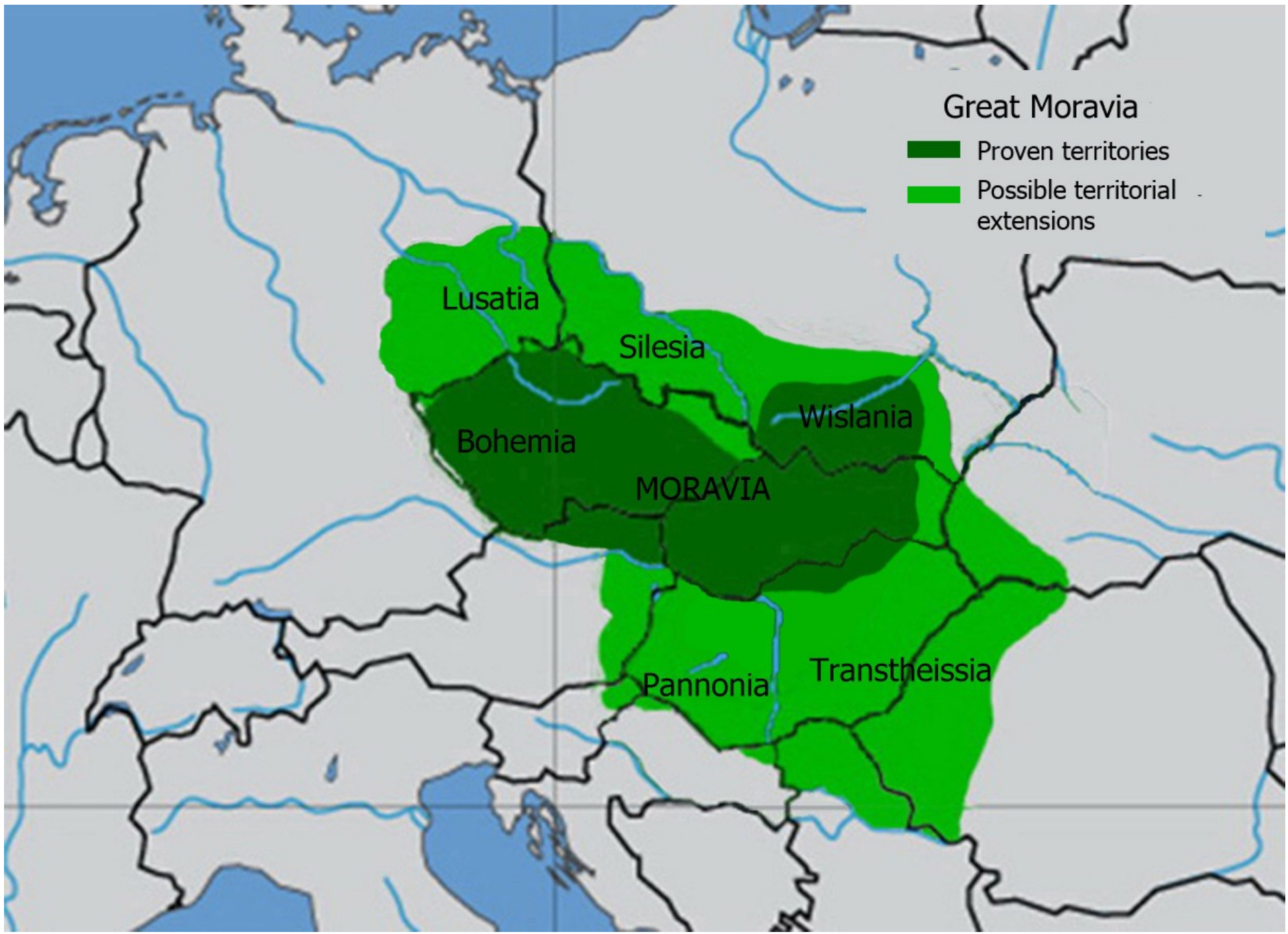
- Economy
 - Growth slowed down after 2008
 - Investments from the Western Europe and the US were withdrawn
- Politics
 - Rise of populism
 - Corruption
- Security
 - Ukraine crisis and relations with Russia
 - Energy security

Historic memory I.

- PL: Lech, Mieszko I., Boleslaw I., Casimir III., Jadwiga, Wladislaw I. Jagiello, Sobieski, Czarniecki, Dabrowski, Bonaparte, Constitution of 1791
- CZ: Grandfather Czech, C+M, Saint Wenceslaus, Premysl Ottokar, Saint Agnes of Bohemia, Charles IV., Jan Hus, Jan Amos Comenius
- HU: Turul, Hun, Arpad, Stephen I., Mongols, Charles Robert, Matthias Corvinus, Turks, Gabor Bethlen, Francis II. Rakoczy,
- SK: Pribina, Svatopluk, C+M
















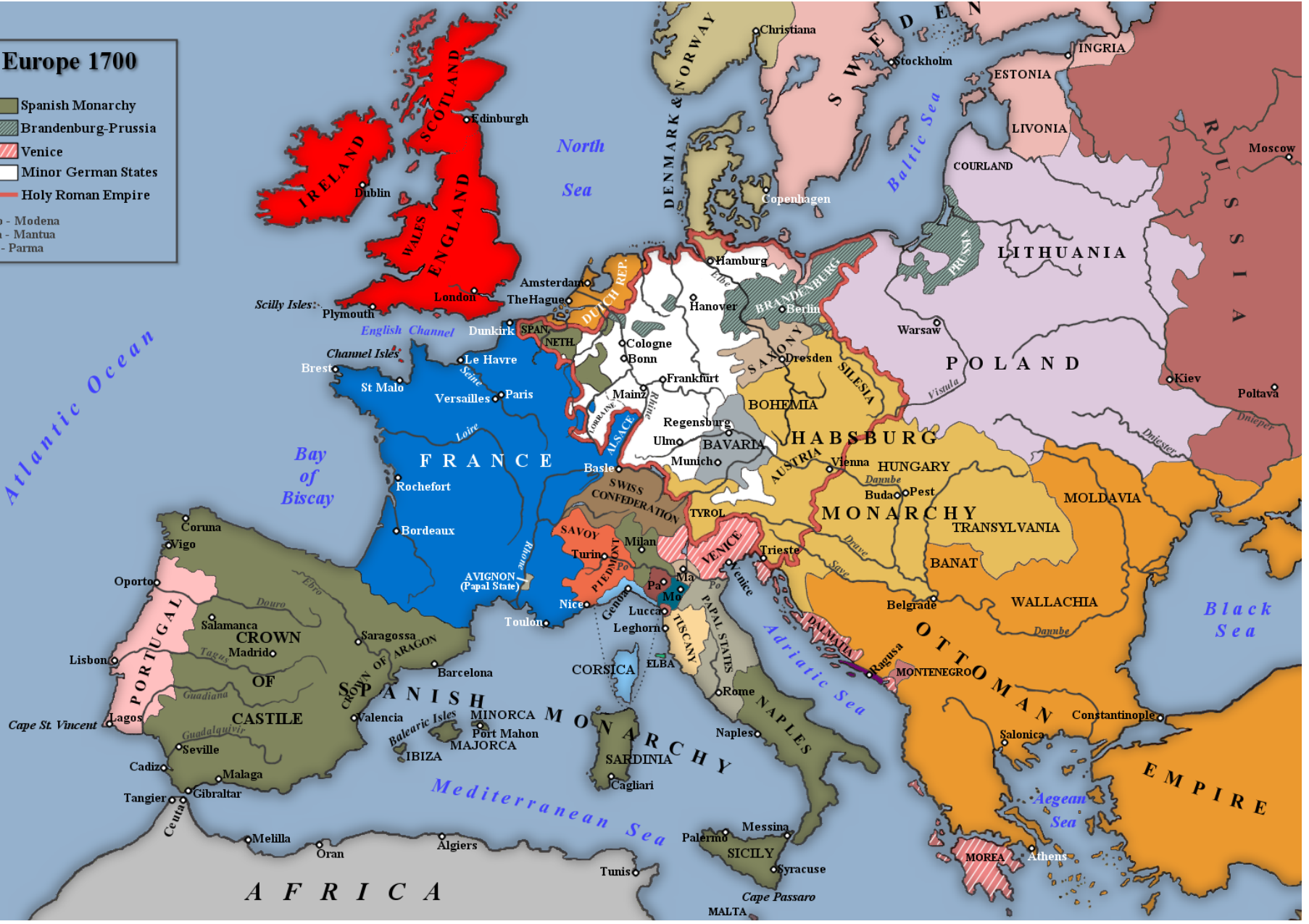
1600bigfonts



Europe 1700

-  Spanish Monarchy
-  Brandenburg-Prussia
-  Venice
-  Minor German States
-  Holy Roman Empire

Mo - Modena
Ma - Mantua
Pa - Parma





Loss of sovereignty

- 1. Slovakia – Nitra Princedom, Great Moravia, 10th century
- 2. Czech Republic – loss to catholics at White Mountain in 1620, Habsburgs ownership of the crown until 1918
- 3. Hungary- loss to Turks at Mohacs in 1526, Habsburgs on the trone until 1918
- 4. Poland – partition at the end of 18th century, regained sovereignty after WWI
- Who suffered the most?

Nation and nationalism

- Nation: modern inventions vs. ancient group?
- Enlightenment (France v. UK v. Poland v. Austria v. Russia)
- French revolution
- Romanticism (Herder)
- Imagined community (Anderson)
- Economic and political development

- Def: a group of people sharing language, culture, history, religion, ethnicity etc – different to other groups

- -- Central Europe v. Western Europe (v Asia?)

Revision: questions

- What makes region a region?
- How would you define Central Europe?
- What are the major historical influences in Central Europe?
- What are the cultural characteristics of Central Europe?
- What are the reasons for belated development of Central Europe before 19th century?
- What was the high historical point of national histories?
- What were the biggest historical tragedies for CE nations?

Main points from the history

- Three ancient kingdoms
- Losses of sovereignty before the Modern Age
- Grand past, promise of future
- National history?

National awakening

- PL: Dabrowski, Kosciuszko, Mickiewicz, Pilsudski
- CZ: Frantisek Palacky, T. G. Masaryk
- HU: Lajos Kossuth, Istvan Szechenyi
- SK: Jan Kollar, Ludovit Stur

- Levels of national development:
 - 1. Poland and Hungary
 - 2. Czech Republic
 - 3. Slovakia

- Three periods of national revivals
 - Intellectual movement
 - Higher middle classes
 - Mass movements

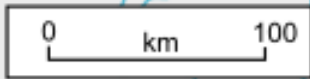
- 1848 and 1867

History of the long 19th century

- 1772 – 1795: Partition of Poland
- 1815: Congress of Vienna
- 1848: Spring of nations
- 1867: Austro-Hungarian compromise
- 1871: German “Second” Reich
- 1914-1918: WWI

- Three periods of national revivals
 - Intellectual movement
 - Higher middle classes
 - Mass movements



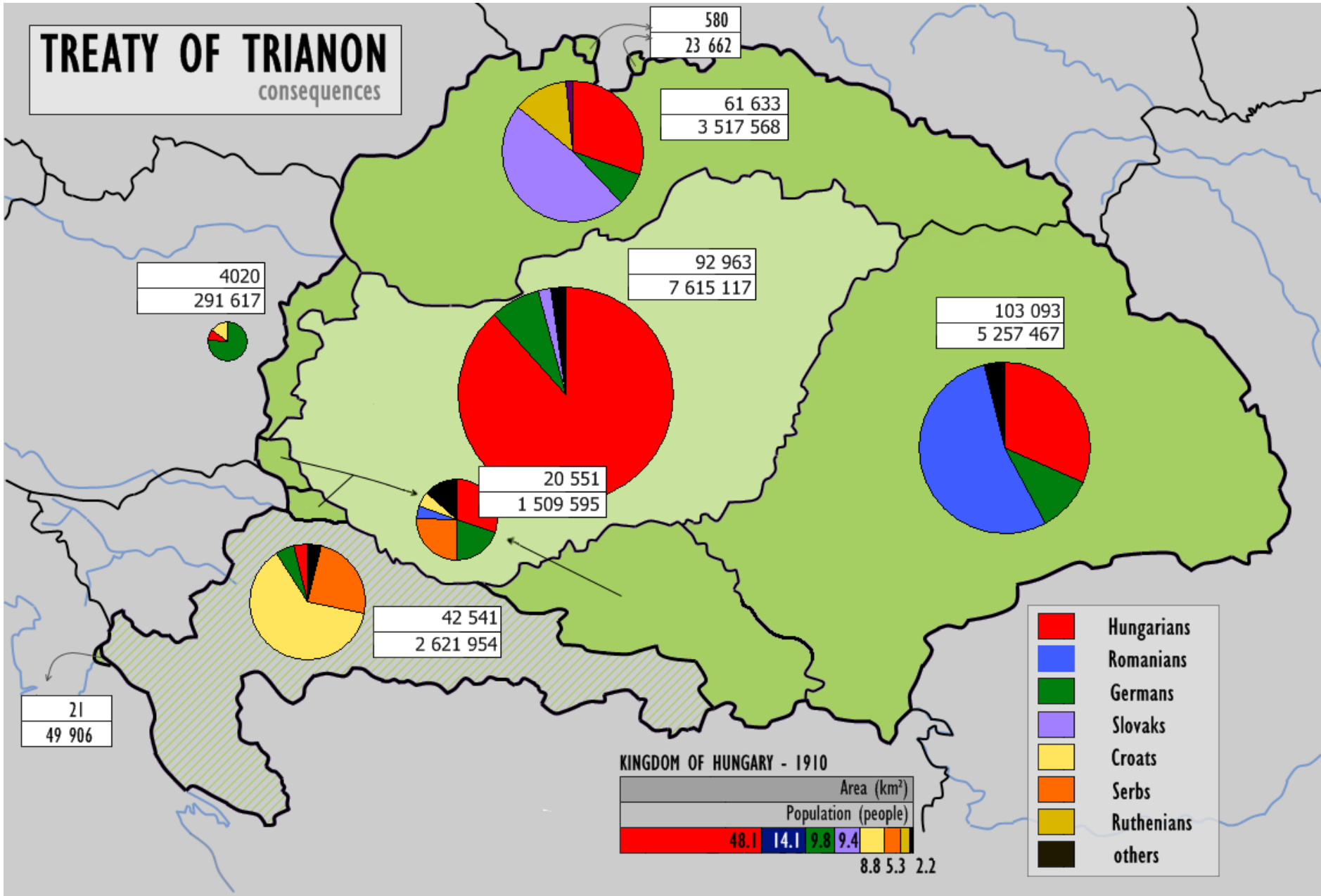


■	Germans
■	Hungarians
■	Czechs
■	Slovaks
■	Poles
■	Ukrainians
■	Slovenes
■	Croats, Serbs
■	Romanians
■	Italians

THE ETHNIC GROUPS OF AUSTRIA-HUNGARY IN 1910

TREATY OF TRIANON

consequences

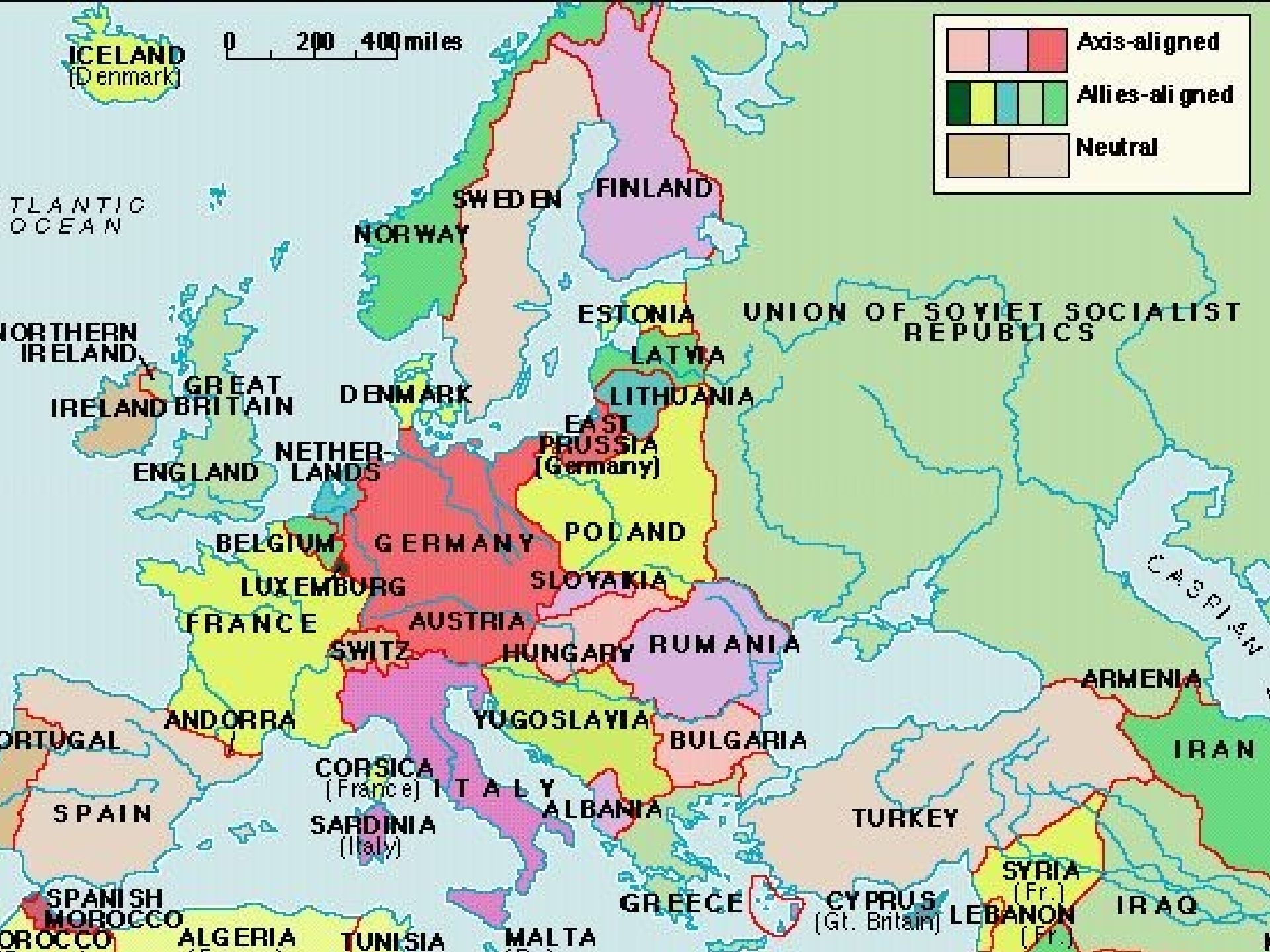


Questions

- What were the most important processes in Central Europe in 19th century?
- Who are the national heroes of CE countries from the 19th century and why?
- What are the gaps between the 'real' history and the historical memory of the Middle Age?

Interwar period

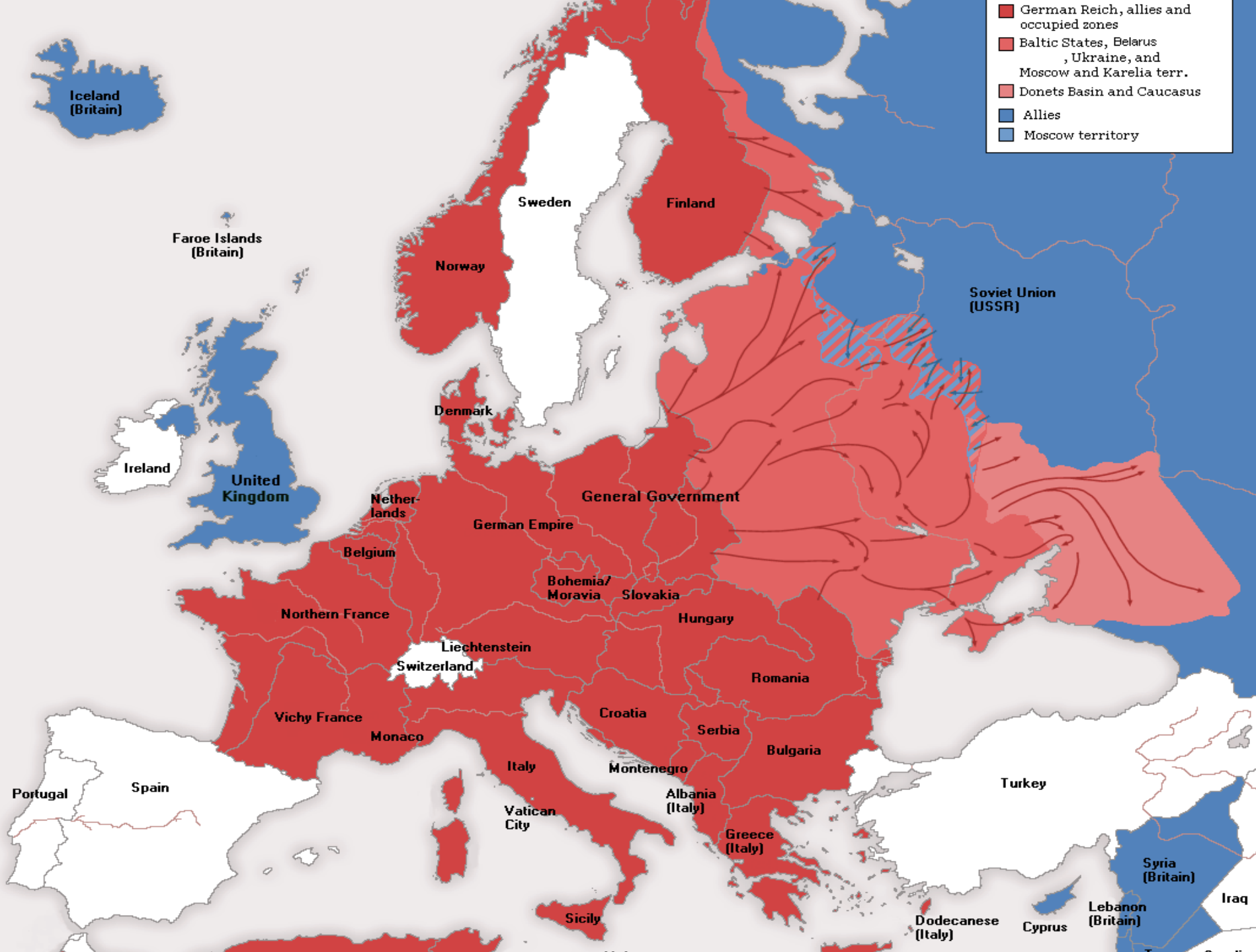
- The end of WWI - Versailles system, Trianon Treaty
 - Collapse of Austria-Hungary
 - Partial collapse of Germany, Russia, territorial losses of Hungary
 - New states: Czechoslovakia, Poland, (and many others)
- Ideas and realities
 - Self-determination
 - Cordon sanitaire and Central Europe cooperation
- Masaryk, Pilsudski









World War II

- 1933: Hitler becomes German Chancellor
- March 1938: Austrian Anschluss
- September 1938: Munich Agreement (Dictate)
- March 1939: Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, independent Slovak state
- August 1939: Molotov-Ribentrop Pact
- September 1939: Germany (+ SK) and USSR attacks Poland
- April 1940: Katyn massacre
- 1940: Germany invades Denmark, Norway, Benelux and France
- 1941: Germany (+ SK and HU) invades USSR
- 1942: Operation Anthropoid (killing of Rainhard Heydrich)
- 1944: Warsaw Uprising, Slovak National Uprising, German occupation of Hungary and Arrow Cross party rule
- February 1945: Yalta conference
- May 1945: Germany surrenders

- Holocaust and Jewish question
- The end of multicultural and multinational states in Central Europe



**EASTERN BLOC AREA
BORDER CHANGES
1938 TO 1948**

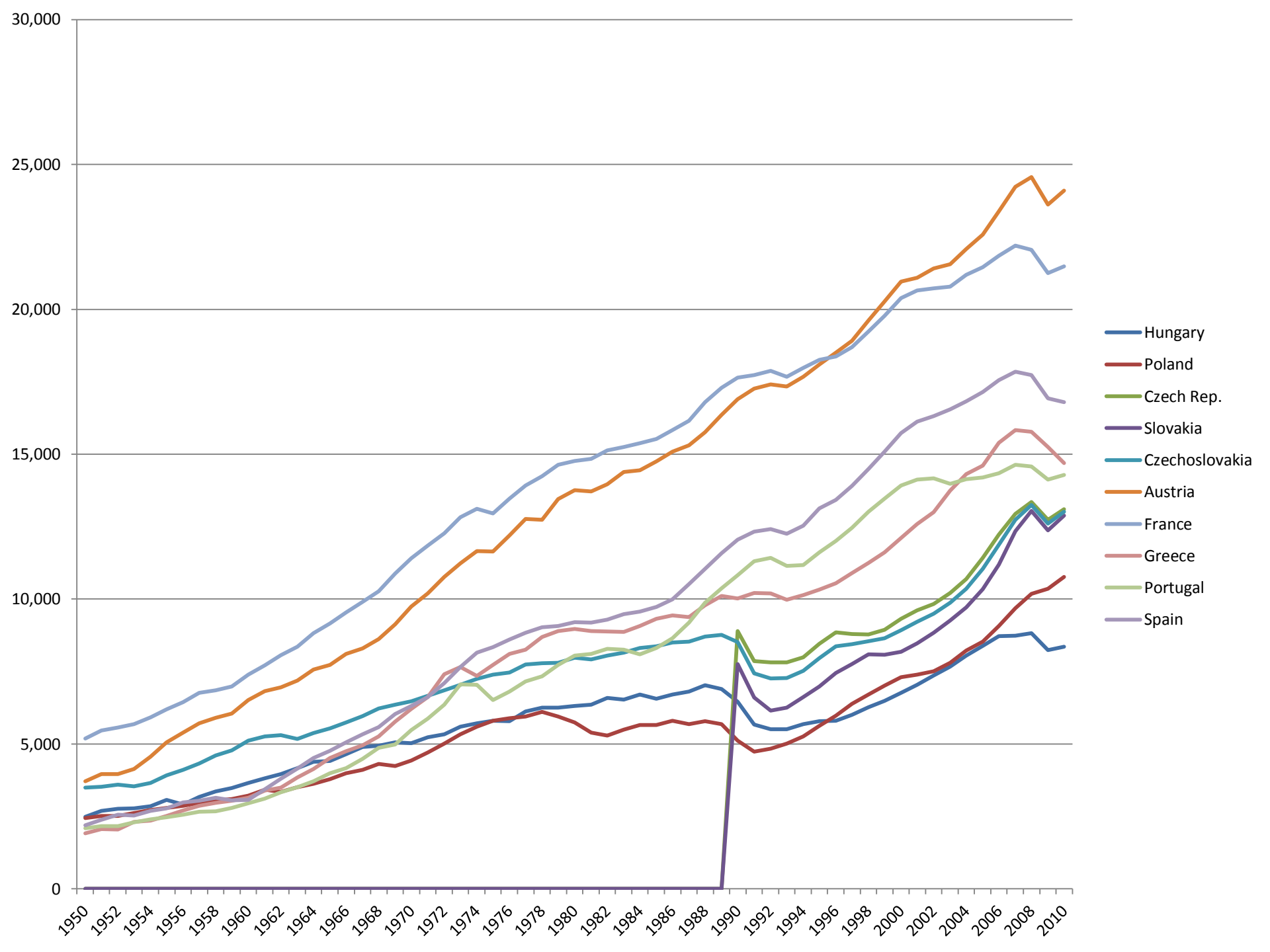
-  **USSR 1938**
-  **Annexed or Expanded SSRs**
-  **Satellite States**
-  **New Satellite State Land**
-  **1938 Borders**
-  **New Borders**



Central Europe under communism

- 1945-1948: bases for the communist regimes
- 1956: uprisings in Poland and Hungary
- 1968: Prague spring and the invasion of Czechoslovakia
- 1980: Solidarity general strike in Poland
- 1989: the end of communist regimes in CE

- Three ideas of Central Europe
 - In West Germany
 - In Austria
 - Among dissidents and emigrants from Eastern bloc



1989 revolutions in Central Europe

- 1980 Solidarity movement
- 1981-1983 Martial Law in Poland
- 1988 Easing of travel restriction in Hungary
- 1988 (December) Hungarian PM declares market economy the only way forward
- 1989 (May) destruction of wired border fence in Hungary
- 1989 (June 4) First semi-democratic elections in Poland
- 1989 (October) Hungarian Communist party renamed and reformed itself, allowed for multi-party system
- 1989 (November 9) Fall of Berlin Wall
- 1989 (November 17) Beginning of Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia
 - Nov 24: Leadership stepped down
 - Nov 27: General strike for two hours
 - Nov 28: dismantle of one-party state
 - Dec 29: Havel elected the president by the parliament
- 1990 (May) Elections in Hungary
- 1990 (June) Elections in Czechoslovakia
- 1991 Elections in Poland

Revision: questions

- What are the reasons for belated development of Central Europe?
- What was the high historical point of national histories?
- What were the biggest historical tragedies for CE nations?
- How communist regimes started in Central Europe?
- How communism was and is perceived in Central Europe?
- Why communism in Central Europe fell? Why it did not fall in China, North Korea, Cuba?