

# \* History of Central Europe

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# \*Lecture 1

- Organization of the course
- Definition of the concept of Central Europe and Central Europe before WWI and during WWI

# \* Organization

- Introduction
- Jana Musilová 87562@mail.muni.cz
- Attendance – allowed one unexcused lecture
- Midterm test (**31. 10. 2019**) and final test (**12. 12. 2019**) 50 – 46 A; 45 – 41 B; 40 – 36 C; 35 – 31 – D; 30 – 25 - E
- Reading

# \*Materials

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Tutorial on the changes in  
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Previous versions of the  
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# \* Central Europe

- What is the definition of “CENTRAL EUROPE“?

Or

- Where is “CENTRAL EUROPE“?



# \* Central Europe

- ◎ Demarcation of CE:
  - Geographical
  - Historical and political development, CE as a cultural unit
  - Religion
  - Political and economical development
- ◎ A Yearbook of Central European Culture characterizes Central Europe "as an abandoned West or a place where East and West collide"
- ◎ Germany's Constant Committee for Geographical Names defines Central Europe both as a distinct cultural area and a political region. *George Schöpflin* and others argue that Central Europe is defined by being "a part of Western Christianity", while *Samuel P. Huntington* places the region firmly within Western culture

# \* Geographical demarcation of CE

- Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein (last 3 – Alpine countries)
- Earlier publication – CE includes also Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg and Romania (1935)
- X
- Slovenia, Croatia (new concept)
- climate, water – shed, mountains

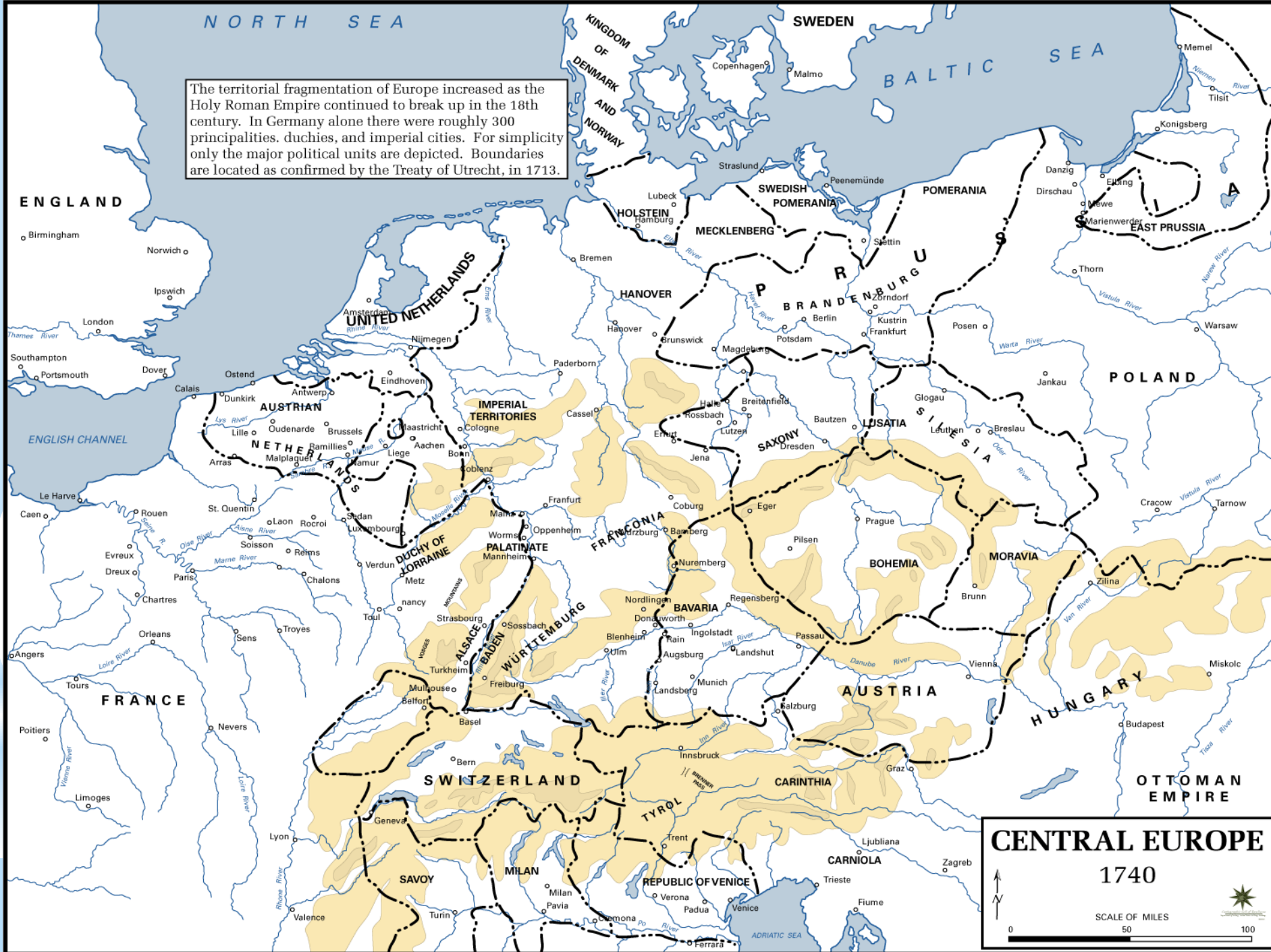


# Historical development of CE

- CE – direct influence of „Germany“ (Holy Roman Empire, The Habsburg Monarchy)
- Division of CE – capitalistic bloc x Soviet Bloc



The territorial fragmentation of Europe increased as the Holy Roman Empire continued to break up in the 18th century. In Germany alone there were roughly 300 principalities, duchies, and imperial cities. For simplicity only the major political units are depicted. Boundaries are located as confirmed by the Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713.



**CENTRAL EUROPE**  
 1740  
 SCALE OF MILES  
 0 50 100





**Divided Europe** During the cold war, Europe was divided into opposing military alliances, the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact (Communist bloc).

# \*CE as a cultural unit?

- Cultural concept of CE – till 1795 (disintegration of Poland) – The Habsburg Monarchy, Poland, Lithuania, part of Bavaria (this region had many common interests: politics, literature, architecture, fear of Russian Empire, Osman Empire, Swedes and Prussians)
- 1867 – emergence of Austria - Hungary and CE as a cultural unit: Czech part, Austria, Slovakia, part of Poland part of Ukraine, Hungary, Transylvania, western Romania, Vojvodina, Croatia, Slovenia, South Tyrol and Bavaria



# \* CE - Mitteleuropa

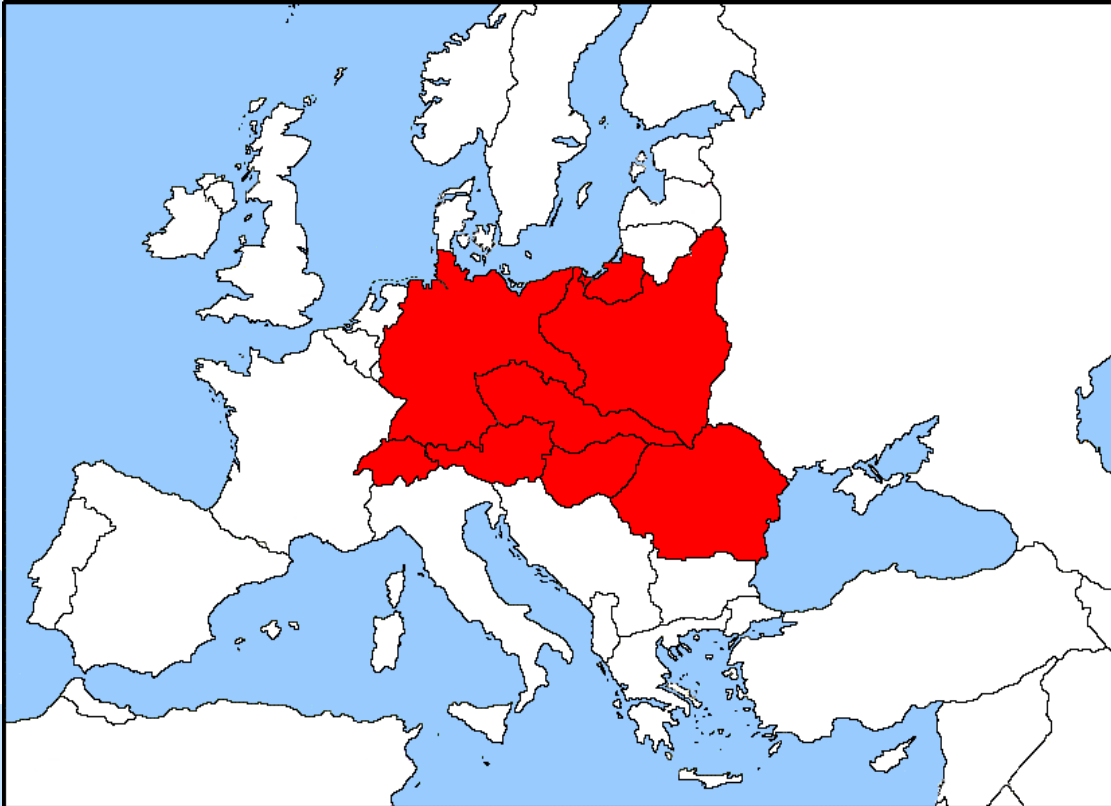
- Mitteleuropa meaning Middle Europe, is one of the German terms for CE. The term has acquired diverse cultural, political and historical connotation.
- The Prussian vision of *Mitteleuropa* was a pan-Germanist state-centric imperium, an idea that was later adopted in a modified form by National Socialist geopoliticians.
- Friedrich Naumann's *Mitteleuropa* (1915) was a liberal voice in the largely illiberal German discussion on the future of East Central and South East Europe. His reasoning, based on principles of free trade and voluntary cooperation, did not dominate this debate, which, in consequence, centered upon German territorial annexations.
- Plus other visions of CE eg. Jörg Brechtefeld "...*The term Mitteleuropa never has been merely a geographical term; it is also a political one, much as Europe, East and West, are terms that political scientists employ as synonyms for political ideas or concepts. Traditionally, Mitteleuropa has been that part of Europa between East and West. As profane as this may sound, this is probably the most precise definition of Mitteleuropa available...*"

# \*CE

- 1904 in Berlin Central European Economic Association (economic integration of Germany and Austria–Hungary with eventual extension to Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands)
- T. G. Masaryk – CE space between Germany and Russia

# \* CE: Interwar period

\* Emmanuel de Martonne (Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania)



# \* CE: Interwar period

- Little Entente



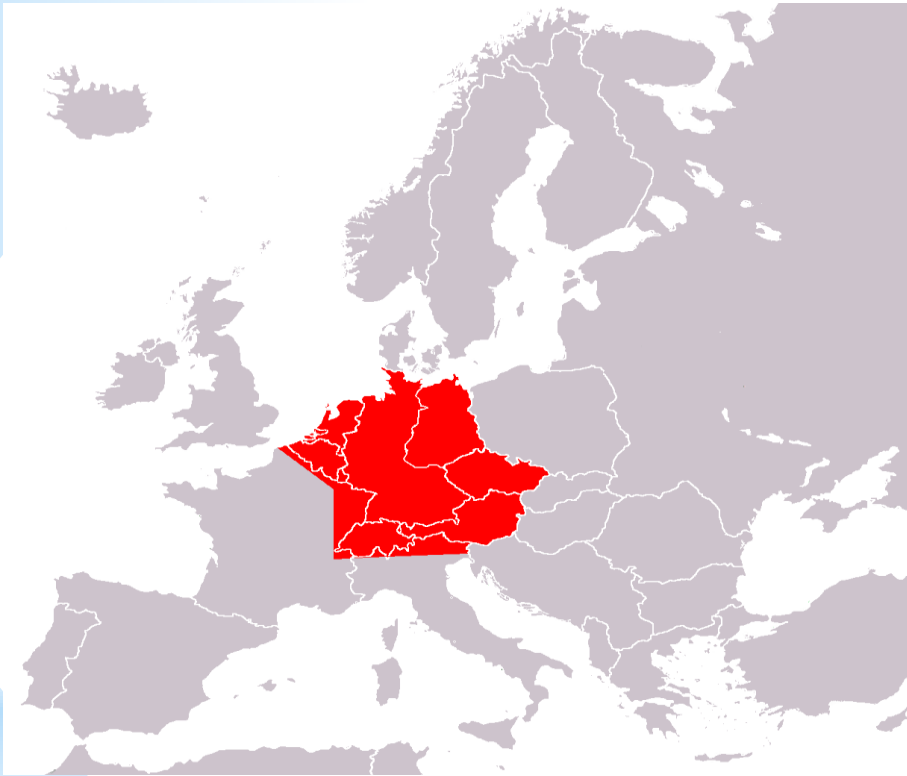
# \*CE after WWII

- As a part of the Eastern Bloc – East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary
- E. Schenk (1950)



# \* CE: after WWII

- A. F. A. Mutton (1961)



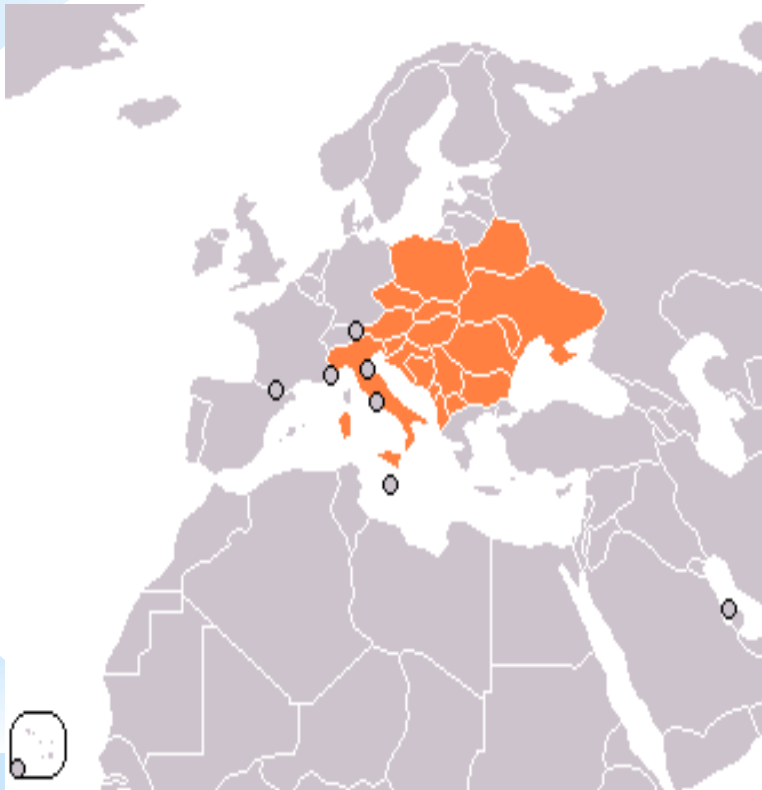
# \* CE: after WWII

- Meyers Encyclopedia (1980)



# \* CE 1989

- **Central European Initiative** - forum of regional cooperation Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine; founders were Italy, Austria, Hungary and the former Yugoslavia





# \* CE after 1989

\* Visegrád Group: <http://www.visegradgroup.eu/about>



# \* CE after 1989

- CEFTA
- Former parties are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Their CEFTA membership ended when they joined the EU. Croatia is set to join the EU in 2013
- of 1 May 2007, the parties of the CEFTA agreement are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and UNMIK (The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo) on behalf of Kosovo

# \* ERDF (CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAM)

- Operational Program “Central Europe“  
Program under the European territorial co-funded by  
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Poland,  
Slovenia, Slovakia

# \*CE

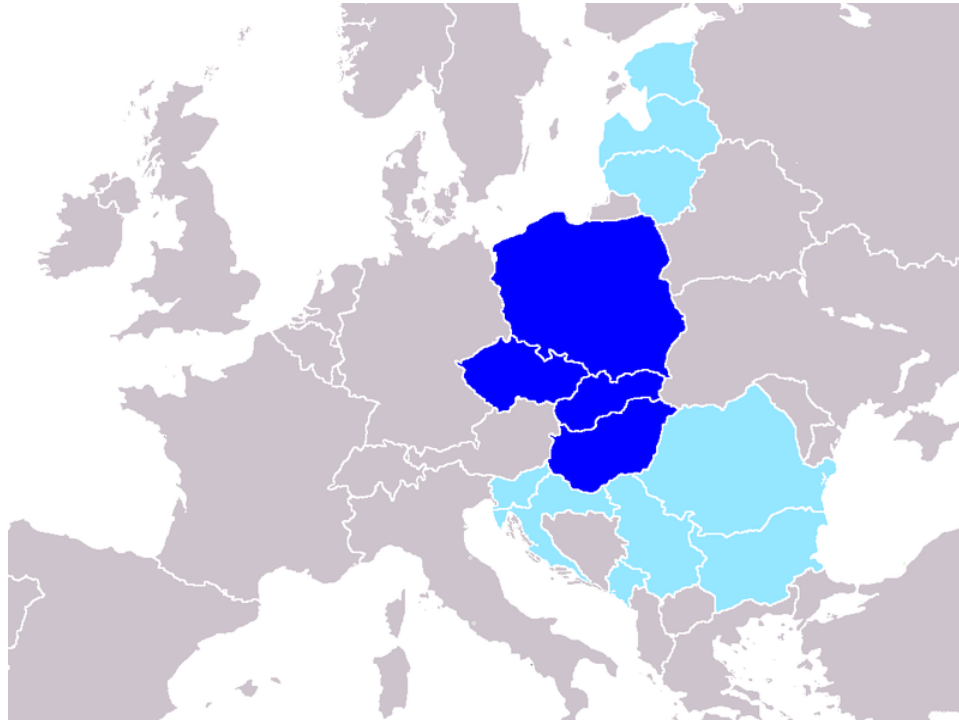
- CE – Visegrad group, in a broad sense - Austria, Slovenia, Lithuania and sometimes Estonia + Latvia, + Germany
- Hugh Seton-Watson, Ivan Bérénd a György Ránki – CE: Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Balkans – Eastern Europe
- Oskar Halecki – 2 macro regions (west and east), region of 2 CEs – important transition zone between West and East x Friedrich Naumann's Mitteleuropa – alliance between German Empire and Austria – Hungary

\* **CE: Lonnie R. Johnson**

- “...religious frontiers between the Roman Catholic West and the Orthodox East...”

\* **CE: Peter J. Katzenstein**

*“...V4 and cuncontestable way to decide whether they are parts of Central Europe or not...”*



\* CE: Ronald Tiersky

“...V4...”



# \*References

- *Johnson, Lonnie (1996): Where is Central Europe. In.: Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends. Oxford University Press, pp. 3 – 12.*
- *Tiersky, Ronald (2004). Europe today. Rowman & Littlefield.*



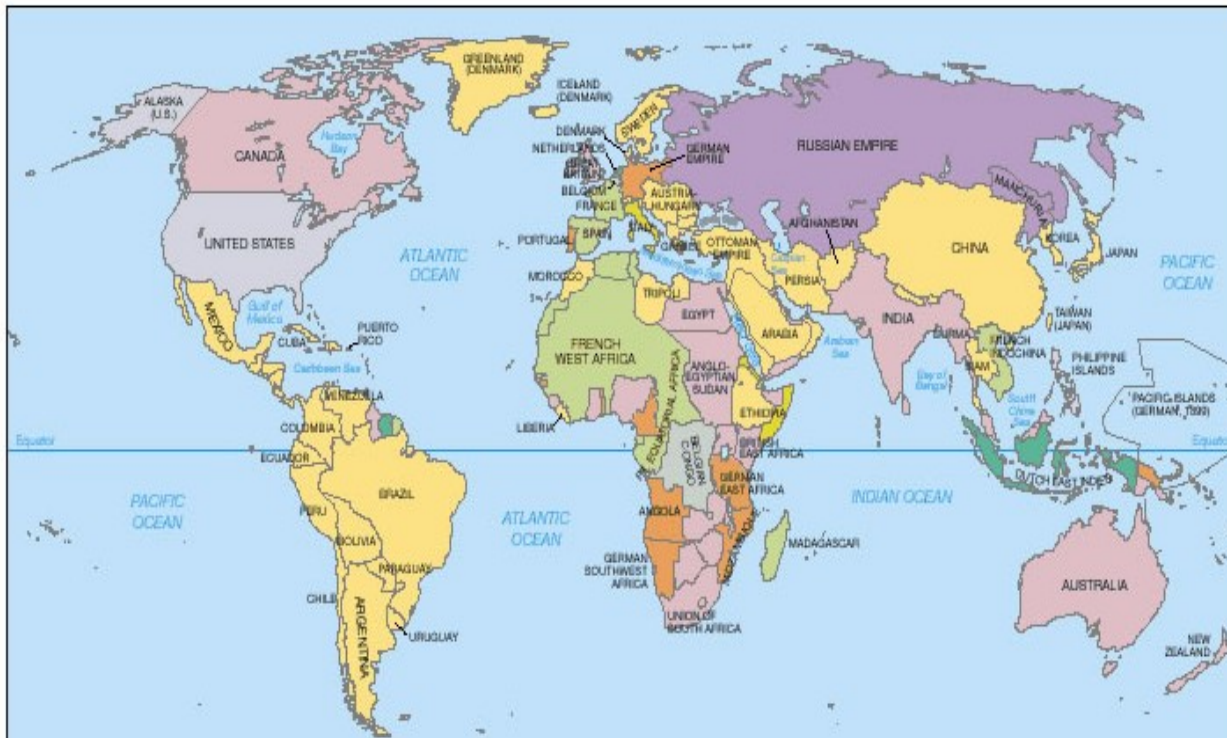
- **Central Europe  
before and during  
WWI**

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# \* International Relationships before WWI

## Great powers in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century:

- **USA** - the strongest
- **Germany** (2<sup>nd</sup> world industrial area), the most powerful state in Europe, strong army, developed economy and culture
- **France** – the bank of the world, 2<sup>nd</sup> strongest European state, succesful colonial politicis – colonies in Africa and in Asia
- **Great Britain** – the greatest colonial power – its domain included the greatest colony – India,...
- **Austria-Hungary** –cooperation with Germany, its foreign politics focused on the Balkan Peninsula
- **Russia** – economicaly and politicaly the weakest state among the great powers, military-political system, absolute power of the Tsar, no political rights for citizens, social movement, expansion to Asia – conflicts with Japan and Great Britain
- **Japan** – constitutional monarchy, development of industry, expansive politics



**MAJOR WORLD STATES AND COLONIAL POSSESSIONS, 1900**

	Belgium		German Empire		Italy		Portugal		United States
	France		Great Britain		The Netherlands		Spain		Other Independent states

## \* Formation of two enemy blocks in Europe at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century

- 1879 – the secret agreement was concluded between *Germany* and *Austria-Hungary* – against France and Russia; 1882 – *Italy* joined this pact → **Tripple Alliance (later the Central Powers)**
- 1893 – *Russia* and *France* made an agreement – they both were isolated and were affraid of strong and aggresive Germany
- 1904 – so called **Entente Cordial** concluded between *France* and *Great Britain* (affraid of strong Germany); 1907 – *Russia* + *Great Britain* → **Tripple Entente**

## • **Balkan Wars**

- The first conflict in Europe after 40 years
- The Balkan nations were fighting against Ottoman Empire - occupying them
- **1912–1913 - 1<sup>st</sup> Balkan War** – so called **Balkan League** (Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro) x Ottoman Empire – was defeated and its European areas were liberated
- But then the former allies started to fight with each other because of dividing of the liberated areas; **Bulgaria** had greatest war casualties and invested the most but the liberated areas (Macedonia, Thracia) got especially **Greece** and **Serbia** → **Bulgaria** was dissatisfied - military conflict - Greece and Serbia → **2<sup>nd</sup> Balkan War – 1913**
- Ottoman Empire and Romania joined Greece and Serbia and they were fighting against Bulgaria which was defeated and lost also the areas which obtained after the 1<sup>st</sup> Balkan War
- But also Serbia was dissatisfied with the results of the wars (Serbia was expecting enlargement of its territory and wanted to raise Adriatic coast but instead of that Albania was formed)
- Serbia started to prepare for the new war – wanted to unify all the southern Slavs – who were living in Austria-Hungary



- **Balkan Wars**



**1st Balkan War**



**2nd Balkan War**

## • **Central Europe before WWI**

- Since **Crimean War** (1853–1856) there was a period without a great war in Europe (only local conflicts)
- The tensions persisted on the Balkan Peninsula (1908 – the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary, 1912–1913 the Balkan Wars etc.)
- Pacifist movement - peace conferences in Hague (1898 and 1907) - unsuccessful
- 2 blocks of powers at the beginning of the war:
  - **Entente (Allied Powers):** Great Britain + France + Russia
  - **Central Powers:** Germany + Austria-Hungary + (later) Bulgaria + Turkey
- Italy – firstly neutral, in May 1915 joined the Entente (London Treaty - April 1915 - promised territorial gains to Italy)
- **Neutral countries:** Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Albania; USA – neutral at the beginning of the war, **entered the war in April 1917**



- Europe's "Great Powers" and European alliances on the eve of WWI



• Eu



• European Powers

- **Central Europe and WW I**



- The pretext for starting the war was **the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria** in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914
- July 28, 1918 – **Austria-Hungary declared the war on Serbia**

## • The targets

- **Germany** – the most aggressive, wanted new colonies and wanted to expand to the Middle East (Berlin-Baghdad railroad), also wanted to rule in the Central, Eastern and South-East Europe (with the help of Austria-Hungary), Germany also wanted some areas in France and Belgium
- **Austria-Hungary** – wanted to expand into the Balkan Peninsula and defeat the Kingdom of Serbia, which was independent, Serbia was the enemy for A-H also because of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **France** – wanted to get back Alsace and Lorraine from Germany + keep its colonial domains
- **Russia** – wanted Galicia (which was Austro-Hungarian province in those times), Silesia, and some parts of Balkan Peninsula, especially around the straits between Asia and Europe - Bosphorus and Dardanelles
- **Serbia** – wanted to keep its independence and to form the Balkan federation – with Croats, Slovenes and Serbs living in Austria and Hungary
- **Great Britain** – wanted to keep its colonies and exclude Germany from world trade, stop its expansion to the Middle East
- **USA** – wanted to defend democracy in the world and the principle of self-determination of the nations (**Woodrow Wilson**)

- **Four phases of the WWI**

- August – December 1914 – offensive operations
- 1915–1916 – trench warfare
- 1917–1918 – the era of total exhaustion
- March 1918 – November 1918 – supremacy of Allied Powers  
(USA entered the war in April 1917)

- **Four main fronts**

- Balkan front (Balkan Peninsula, firstly in Serbia, then in Greece)
- Western front (against France)
- Eastern front (against Russia)
- Italian front
  
- Also **naval war** (Pacific Ocean: Japan + Great Britain against Germany, in the Northern Sea – Great Britain against Germany)
- Warfare in the colonies

- **Balkan Front**

- A-H army was not successful in Serbia
- September 1915 – **Bulgaria** entered the war
- During October and November 1915: German+ A-H and Bulgarian troops occupied Serbia
- Spring 1915 – Allied Powers **prepared the operation in Gallipoli** against Ottoman Empire, British troops under the command of **Winston Churchill**, but the operation was not successful
- Then in 1916 the Macedonian Front in Greece was opened
- **Bulgarians were defeated in September 1918**

## • **Western Front**

- The Germans attacked France according to the so called **Schlieffen Plan** - designed to attack France quickly through neutral Belgium
- Great Britain declared war on Germany because of breaking Belgic neutrality
- The German troops were stopped at the first: **Battle of Marne** in September 1914 – the *offensive war* changed into the *trench warfare*
- March 1915 – **Battle of Ypres** – the Germans used *chlorine gas* – 15 thousands of men were poisoned
- From February till September 1916 – bloody **battle of Verdun** – 600 thousands of casualties
- From July till November 1916 the great **battle of the Somme** - totally 1 million casualties during the whole battle, the new British invention was used – *the tanks*



- **Western Front**



**The Second Battle of  
Ypres**



**The Battle of the  
Somme**

## • **Eastern Front**

- In the east, Russia attacked East Prussia but was defeated by German army at the series of battles collectively known as **the Battle of Tannenberg** in August 1914
- Already in 1914 – the Czech Company in Russian Army – Legions (originally – the Czechs living in Russia, prisoners of war, volunteers)
- Summer 1916 – so called **Brusilov offensive**
- 1917 – the Czechoslovak Corps in Russia – from 38,000 to 70,000
- Russians were more successful against Austria-Hungary in Galicia (today – western Ukraine)
- Russia occupied parts of Galicia and Bukovina
- July 1917 – so called **Kerensky offensive – Battle of Zborov** (Galicia) – Czechoslovak Legions won over the Austria-Hungary, the offensive was unsuccessful for Russians
- After the Russian Revolutions the Czechoslovak Legions were fighting against bolsheviks

## • Italian Front

- Italy entered the war in April 1915 – Allied Powers promised to Italy Istria with Trieste, Dalmacia and Trentino (Austro-Hungarian provinces), so Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary and later also on Germany
- But the Italians were not very succesful, their offensives along **the Isonzo River** were repelled by the Austro-Hungarians
- 1917 – Battle of Caporetto – Italian troops were defeated by Austro-Hungarian army and the front line was broken through, usage of poison gas
- During 1916 the front stabilized at Piave River till 1918 – June 1918 – **Battle of Piave River** – participation of Czechoslovak Legions
- The Austro-Hungarians were defeated in October – **the Battle of Vittorio Veneto** – participation of Czechoslovak Legions again

## • The Final Period of WWI

- After the Russian revolutions in 1917 Russia concluded separate peace with Germany in **Brest Litevski** in March 1918
- General exhaustion – of sources, armies, people in real (lack of labour power – participation of women)
- April 1917 – USA declared war on Germany – originally USA pursued the politics of non-interventions, but German submarines several times attacked merchant ships and civil ships with American passengers
- USA - never formally a member of the Allies but became a self-styled "Associated Power"
- American troops came to Europe and after the great offensive of Allied Powers in summer 1918 the Central Powers collapsed very quickly
- **3rd November 1918** Austria–Hungary sent a flag of truce to ask for an Armistice and the armistice with A-H was signed in Vila Giusti near Padua
- **11th November 1918** – armistice with Germany signed in railroad carriage near **Compiègne**
- **At 11 a.m. on 11th November 1918 a ceasefire came into effect**

"All the News That's Fit to Print."

# The New York Times.

THE WEATHER  
Fair today and Sunday. Breeze  
light and variable. Temperature  
in the 40's and 50's.

VOL. LXXVII, NO. 21,826. NEW YORK, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, THE TWENTY-FIRST YEAR. TWO CENTS.

## ARMISTICE SIGNED, END OF THE WAR! BERLIN SEIZED BY REVOLUTIONARIES; NEW CHANCELLOR BEGS FOR ORDER; OUSTED KAISER FLEES TO HOLLAND

### SON FLEES WITH EX-KAISER

Hindenburg Also Believed to Be Among Those in His Party.

### ALL ARE HEAVILY ARMED

Autonomous Units with Rifles an English Article at Dutch Frontier.

### ON THEIR WAY TO DE STREEK

Belgium Not to Thaw, "An Eye for the Eye Way to Paris?"

### Belgium Not to Thaw, "An Eye for the Eye Way to Paris?"

LONDON, Nov. 11.—(By The Associated Press.)—The Kaiser fled from his palace at Spa, Belgium, and is believed to be among those who have fled to Holland. It is reported that he is accompanied by his son, Prince Wilhelm, and other members of the imperial family. The Kaiser's flight is believed to have taken place in the early hours of the morning. It is also reported that the Kaiser's private secretary, General von Helldorf, has also fled to Holland. The Kaiser's flight is believed to have taken place in the early hours of the morning. It is also reported that the Kaiser's private secretary, General von Helldorf, has also fled to Holland.

### Keiser Fought Hindenburg's Call for Abdication; Failed to Get Army's Support in Keeping Throne

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### BERLIN TROOPS JOIN REVOLT

### Reichswehr Building in Which Officers Vainly Resist

### THINGS BEING REVOLUC

Revolutionary Flag on Reich Palace—Germ. Press's Paper the Same.

### GENERAL STRIKE IS BEGUN

Representative and Police Halted—War Office Now Under Bolshevik Control.

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### Socialist Chancellor Appeals to All Germans To Help Him Save Fullfilled from Anarchy

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### WAR ENDS AT 6 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING

### The State Department in Washington Made the Announcement at 2:45 O'Clock.

### ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED IN FRANCE AT MIDNIGHT

### Terms include Withdrawal from Alsace-Lorraine, Dismantling and Demobilization of Army and Navy, and Occupation of Strategic Naval and Military Points.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Nov. 11, 2:48 A. M.—The armistice between Germany, on the one hand, and the allied Governments and the United States, on the other, has been signed. The State Department announced at 2:45 o'clock this morning that Germany had signed.

The department's announcement simply said: "The armistice has been signed." The world war will end this morning at 6 o'clock, Washington time, 11 o'clock Paris time.

The armistice was signed by the German representatives at midnight. This announcement was made by the State Department at 2:50 o'clock this morning.

The announcement was made verbally by an official of the State Department in this form: "The armistice has been signed. It was signed at 5 o'clock A. M., Paris time, [midnight, New York time], and hostilities will cease at 11 o'clock this morning, Paris time, [6 o'clock, New York time]."

The terms of the armistice, it was announced, will not be made public until later. Military men here, however, regard it as certain that they include:

Immediate retirement of the German military forces from France, Belgium, and Alsace-Lorraine.

Dismantling and demobilization of the German armaments.

Occupation by the allied and American forces of such strategic points in Germany as will make impossible a renewal of hostilities.

Delivery of part of the German High Seas Fleet and a certain number of submarines to the allied and American naval forces.

Dismantling of all other German warships.

### GERMAN DYNS STRES MORE WARSHIPS BEING WIPED OUT JOIN THE REDS

### King of Westphalia Officially Surrendered to Allies

### PRINCES MAY BE EXILED GUARDIANS ALSO GO OVER

### Swabians Are Demanding That Every Kingdom in the Empire Should Be Restored

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### Four Drumsights in Kiel Sea—Surrender of Revolutionary Guard

### Representative and Police Halted—War Office Now Under Bolshevik Control

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# • The Results of the WWI

## ○ Casualties:

- 10 million of soldiers died
- 7 million of civilians died

## • The map of Europe has changed:

- **dissolution of four monarchies** (Russia, Austria-Hungary, German Empire and Ottoman Empire)
- after dissolution of Austria-Hungary: **constitution of 5 new states** (Austrian Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes)
- **Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia** was established, independent and unified **Poland** was renewed
- <http://www.the-map-as-history.com/demos/tome03/index.php>

## • Economic changes:

- Development of industry (iron and steel, textiles, etc.) and technologies (armament industry, automobiles, aircrafts ...)
- Firstly the in many countries the war prosperity, later economic depression

## • Social changes:

- Social radicalism – rise of totalitarianism, revaschism etc.
- Social status of women has changed (suffrage)
- Many veterans – problems with reintegration

• Res





## • Paris Peace Conference

- The meeting of the Allied victors following the end of World War I – the aim was to set the peace terms for the defeated Central Powers following the armistices of 1918
- It took place in Paris in 1919 and involved diplomats from more than 32 countries and nationalities. They met, discussed various options and developed a series of treaties ("Paris Peace Treaties") for the post-war world
- **The winning powers – France, Great Britain, USA, Italy, Japan**
- **Other fighting states** – Belgium, British dominions, Poland, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Greece, Portugal and other non-european states
- **Defeated states** – Germany, Austria - Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria
- Russia was not invited to the Paris Peace Conference (bolshevik revolution and civil war in Russia)

- **Paris Peace Conference**



- *The Big Four* –  
David Lloyd Geroge  
(GB),  
Vittorio Orlando (It),  
George Clemenceau (Fr),  
Woodrow Wilson (US) –  
from left to right

## • Peace Treaties

*The following treaties were prepared at the Paris Peace Conference:*

- **The Treaty of Versailles**, 1919, 28 June 1919, (with the German Empire in Weimar Republic form)
- **The Treaty of Saint-Germain**, 10 September 1919, (with Austria)
- **The Treaty of Neuilly**, 27 November 1919, (with Bulgaria)
- **The Treaty of Trianon**, 4 June 1920, (with Hungary)
- **The Treaty of Sèvres**, 10 August 1920; subsequently revised by the Treaty of Lausanne, 24 June 1923, (with Ottoman Empire)
- After the Treaty of Versailles, treaties with Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire were signed. The negotiation of the latter treaty with the Ottoman Empire was followed by strife, and a final peace treaty between the Allied Powers and the country that would shortly become the Republic of Turkey was not signed until 24 July 1923, at Lausanne. Legally, the formal peace treaties were not complete until the last, the Treaty of Lausanne, was signed. Under its terms, the Allied forces left Constantinople on 23 August 1923.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74-HkCRozls>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1IFePaNENQ>



- Signature of the Treaty of Sèvres

- **League of the Nations**

- **Paris Peace Conference** imposed a series of peace treaties on the Central Powers officially ending the war. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles dealt with Germany and, building on Wilson's 14th point, brought into being the League of Nations on 28 June 1919.



# • The Fourteen Points

• <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbdhxLVlrhl>



## Program for the Peace of the World

By PRESIDENT WILSON, January 8, 1918

**I.** Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind, but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.

**II.** Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.

**III.** The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.

**IV.** Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will reduce to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.

**V.** Free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the population concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.

**VI.** The evacuation of all Russian territory and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy, and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing; and, more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire. The treatment accorded Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be the acid test of their goodwill, of their comprehension of her needs as distinguished from their own interests, and of their intelligence and unselfish sympathy.

**VII.** Belgium, the whole world will agree, must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations. No other single act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the law which they have themselves set and determined for the government of their relations with one

another. Without this healing act the whole structure and validity of international law is forever impaired.

**VIII.** All French territory should be freed and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.

**IX.** A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.

**X.** The people of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of autonomous development.

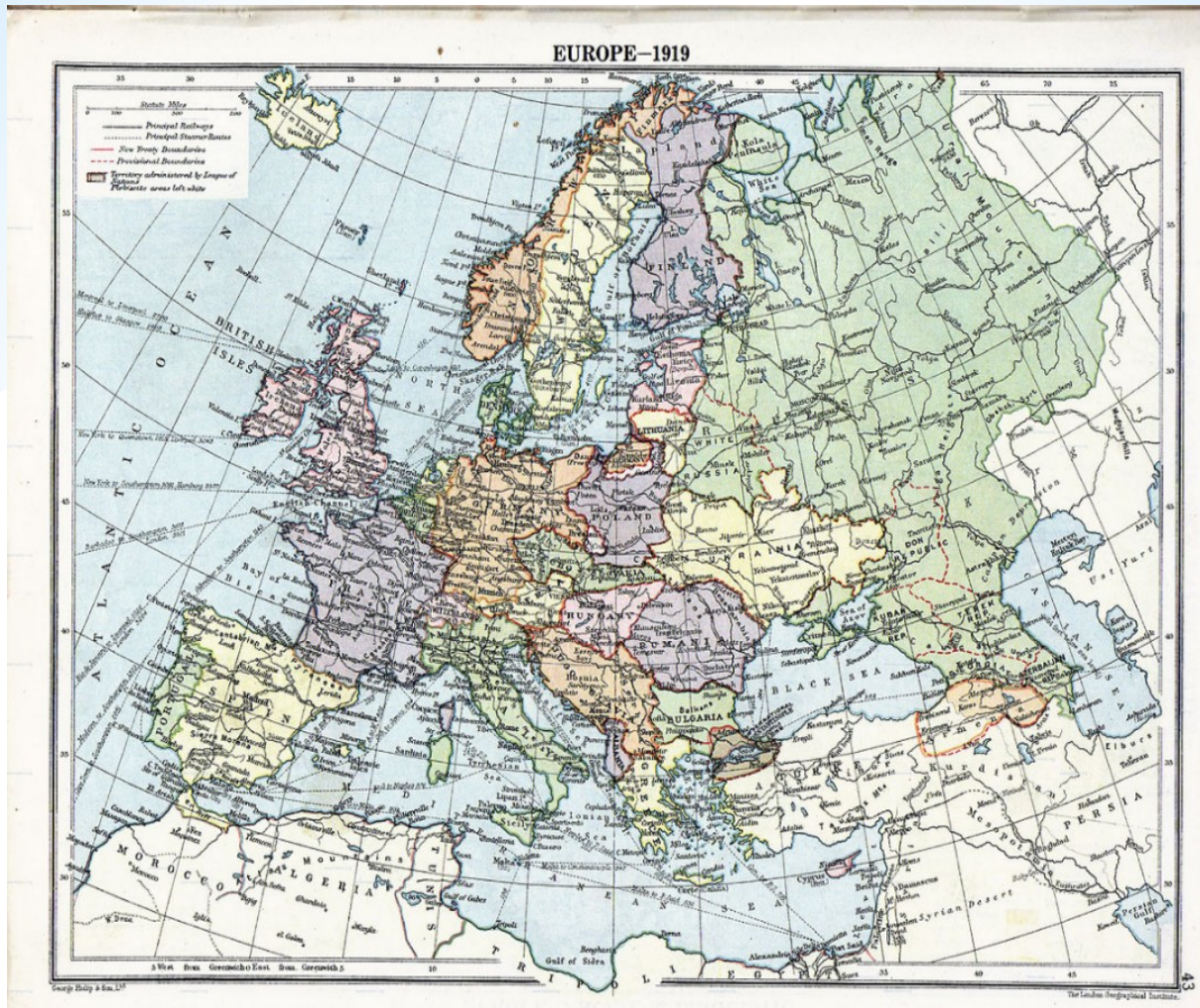
**XI.** Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro should be evacuated; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea; and the relations of the several Balkan States to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality; and international guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan States should be entered into.

**XII.** The Turkish portions of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees.

**XIII.** An independent Polish State should be erected, which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.

**XIV.** A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small States alike.





● Europe 1919



- **Central Europe during WWI and in the Interwar Period**

## • Czech Lands during WW I

- The Czech Lands were constituent part of Habsburg monarchy – no effort to destroy the monarchy till 1917/1918
- Only a small conspiracy group – *The Maffia* – cooperation with South Slavs
- Emigrants – **Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, Edvard Beneš** and **Milan Rastislav Štefánik** – 1915 – founded **The Czechoslovak National Council** in Paris
- Army in abroad – Legions (France, Italy, Russia) – during 1918 de facto recognized as the allied army
- T. G. Masaryk travelled around Europe (Geneve, Paris, London), to Russia (summer 1917) and to the USA – looking for the support for the idea of independent Czechoslovak state
- January 1918 – *The Fourteen Points* of the US President **Woodrow Wilson** – the self-determination of the nations
- 10th Point: The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development.
- [http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President\\_Wilson%27s\\_Fourteen\\_Points](http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson%27s_Fourteen_Points)
- January 1918 – Czech politicians in A-H – demand of independence
- July 1918 – **The Czechoslovak National Comitee** in Prague – **Karel Kramář**
- October 1918 – the Emperor Charles I (1916–1918) offered the federalisation of Habsburg Monarchy but its nations refused it

- Czechoslovakia

**Tomaš Garrigue  
Masaryk**



**Edvard Beneš**



\* Czech and Slovak volunteers formed the Czechoslovak Legions in Russia, France and Italy, where they fought against the Central Powers and later in Russia

\* **Army in abroad**

- \* Culmination of a struggle for ethnic identity and self-determination that had simmered within the multi-national empire
- \* Bohemia was the most industrialized part of Austria and Slovakia was the most industrialized part of Hungary – however at very different levels of development
- \* Beginning of 20th century – idea "Czecho-Slovak" entity began to be advocated by some Czech and Slovak leaders
- \* T.G. Masaryk created the Czechoslovak National Council together with Edvard Beneš and Milan Štefánik
- \* When secret talks between the Allies and Austrian emperor Charles I. collapsed, the Allies recognized the Czechoslovak National Council would be the kernel of the future Czechoslovak government

## \* **Foundation of Czechoslovakia**

- \* Was drafted in Washington, D.C. and published by Czechoslovakia's Paris-based Provisional Government on 18 October 1918
- \* The creation of the document, officially the Declaration of Independence of the Czechoslovak Nation by Its Provisional Government
- \* In the autumn 1918 – Austria – Hungary was collapsing
- \* One of W. Wilson's Fourteen Points demanded that the nationalities of the empire have the "freest opportunity to autonomous development"
- \* 14 October 1918 - Foreign Minister Baron István Burián von Rajecz asked for an armistice based on the Fourteen Points - in an apparent attempt to demonstrate good faith - Emperor Charles I issued a proclamation two days later

## \* **The Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence or the Washington Declaration**

\* The Imperial Austria was to be transformed into a federal union composed of four parts—German, Czech, South Slav and Ukrainian (Galicia would be allowed to secede)

\* **Proclamation of Charles I**



- \* Czecho-Slovak provisional government joined the Allies
- \* Provisional government had begun drafting a Declaration of Independence on 13 October and completed its task on 16 October
- \* The document was drafted by Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and American sculptor Gutzon Borglum
- \* On 17 October T.G. Masaryk presented it to the U.S. government and the president W. Wilson
- \* It was published in Paris 18 October 1918 with authorship attributed to T. G. Masaryk

## \* **The Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence or the Washington Declaration**

- \* With defeat in the war imminent after the Italian offensive in the Battle of Vittorio Veneto on 24 October, Czech politicians peacefully took over command in Prague on 28 October 1918
- \* On 30 October - Slovaks followed with the Martin Declaration and the Austria - Hungary was dissolved the next day
- \* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSXBPUd\\_qyk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSXBPUd_qyk)

\* **The Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence or the Washington Declaration**

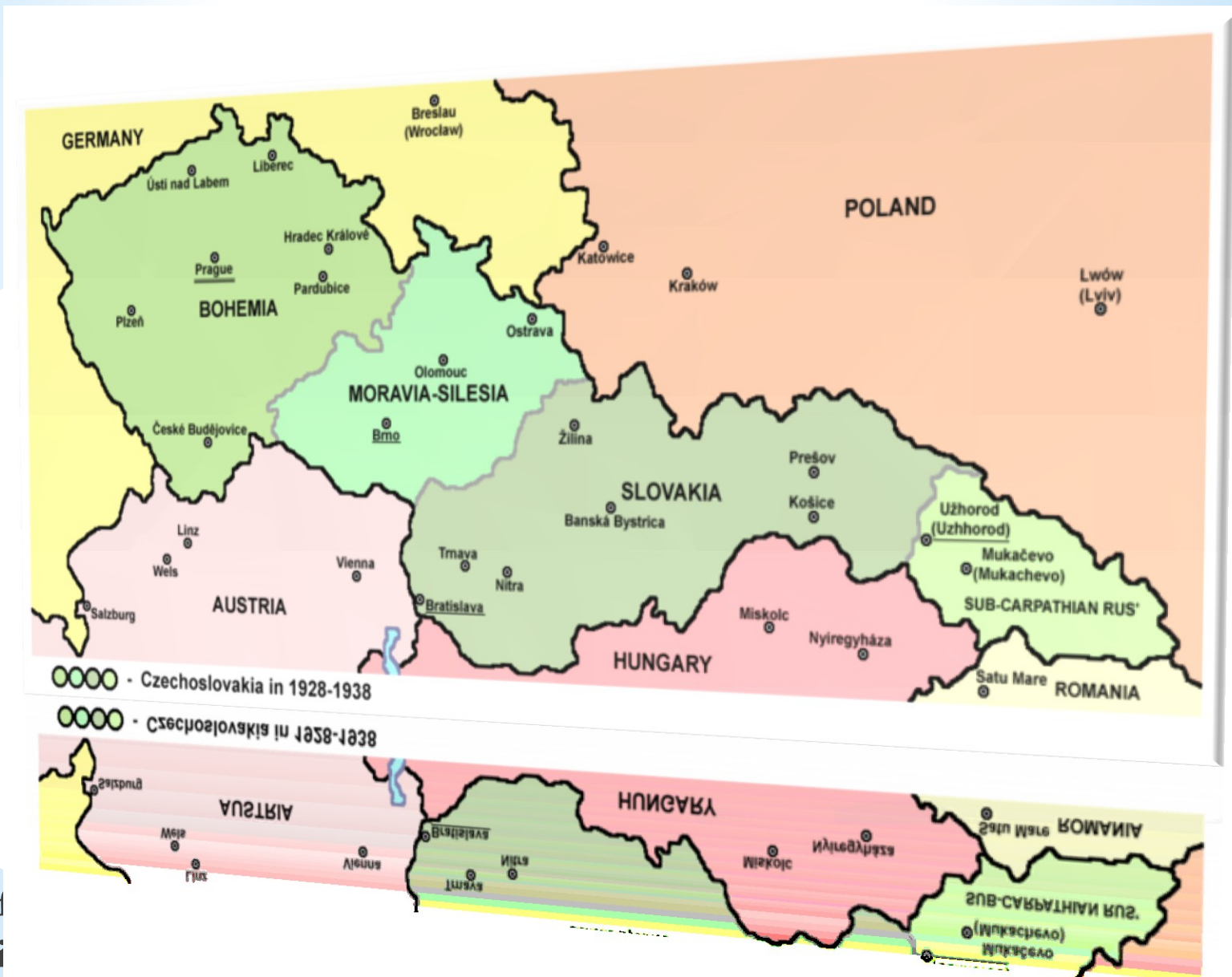
- \* Document declares a Czechoslovak Republic with freedom of religion, speech, the press and the right of assembly and petition, separation of church from the state, universal suffrage, and equal rights for women
- \* Declaration calls for a parliamentary political system with respect for rights of national minorities shall use equal rights
- \* Social, economic, and land reform is announced along with the cancellation of aristocratic privileges
- \* Declaration uses the term "Czechoslovak nation“, which deviates from formulations - Cleveland and Pittsburgh Agreements, which defined two separate Czech and Slovak nations

## \* **The Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence or the Washington Declaration**

## \* Czechoslovakia

- First Czechoslovak republic was proclaimed on 28th October 28 1918 in Prague
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISpuM0I5Uao>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OogLgyNMJuY>
- Consisted of: Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia
- The first Prime Minister – **Karel Kramář**
- 1920 – constitution - plural parliament democracy
- 1920 – **Tomas Garrigue Masaryk (1850–1937)** was elected the first President (reelected in 1925 and 1929, served till 1935), he was a philosopher and politician, very influential personality, his wife was American – Charlotte Garrigue, their son **Jan Masaryk** served later as Czechoslovak Foreign Minister
- Most important and most influential political party - Republican Party of Agricultural and Smallholder People - Peasant party, they usually had a Prime Minister – **Antonín Švehla** in 1920s, **Jan Malypetr** and **Milan Hodža** in 1930s

- Czechoslovakia



- The 1938-1939 Silesia

- \* The constitutional status of Subcarpathia was formulated at the Paris Peace Conference - Saint-Germain Treaty of 10 September 1919
- \* However, the region was, for most of this period controlled by the newly formed independent Hungarian Democratic Republic, with a short period of West Ukrainian control
- \* 8 November 1918 first National Council was held in western Ruthenia, first of many councils, it simply stated the desire of its members to separate from the newly formed Hungarian state but did not specify a particular alternative — only that it must involve the right to self-determination
- \* Rusyn immigrants in United States had convened and called for complete independence

## \* Carpathian Ruthenia

- \* Failing that, they would try to unite with Galicia and Bukovyna; and failing that, they would demand autonomy, though they did not specify under which state
- \* American government - only viable option was unification with Czechoslovakia
- \* Gregory Zatkovich signed "Philadelphia Agreement" T. G. Masaryk, guaranteeing Rusyn autonomy upon unification with Czechoslovakia – 10/1918
- \* Referendum was held among American Rusyn parishes on November 1918 – majority for

## \* **Carpathian Ruthenia**



- \* 4/1919 Czechoslovak control was established
- \* In a series of battles local militias were defeated by the newly formed Hungarian Soviet Republic, whose proclaimed aim was to "unite the Hungarian, Rusyn and Jewish toilers against the exploiters of the same nationalities"
- \* Communist sympathizers accused the Czechoslovaks and Romanians of atrocities
- \* 5/1919 Central National Council convened in US (Zatkovich) and voted unanimously to accept the admission of Carpathian Ruthenia to Czechoslovakia

\* **Carpathien Ruthenia**

- \* Ruthenia – 5/1919 - general meeting of representatives from all the previous councils was held, declared - Central Russian National Council
- \* Central Russian National Council completely endorse the decision of the American Uhro-Rusin Council to unite with the Czech-Slovak nation on the basis of full national autonomy
- \* Czechoslovakia pledged to "set up an autonomous unit in the Ruthenians south of the Carpathians and to endow it with the highest degree of autonomy compatible with the unity of the Czechoslovak state,,
- \* It was supposed to be a local parliament with legislative power on issues of language, teaching, religion and local government. In the future, all matters of Subcarpathia had to be resolved by the Czechoslovak state

## \* Carpathien Ruthenia

## • Czechoslovakia

- Foreign policy – headed by Minister **Edvard Beneš** from 1918 to 1935 – one of the most important European diplomats during the interwar period, in 1936 he was elected second President of Czechoslovakia
- 1921 – **Little Entente** was formed – an alliance of Czechoslovakia, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and Romania – against Hungary and its revanchism and against restoration of Habsburgs, Little Entente was supported by France (1924 – Czechoslovak-French Agreement); Little Entente was an idea of Czechoslovak Foreign Minister **Edvard Beneš**
- Since 1925 – economic growth, cultural development x great depression since 1930
- Since 1933 – Czechoslovakia was threatened by Nazi Germany → Border fortification

• Title Page



- Czechoslovakia + Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes + Romania

- **Czechoslovakia**



**Czechoslovak border fortification –  
Hanička**

<http://www.hanicka.cz/>



**Czechoslovak border fortification –  
Bouda**

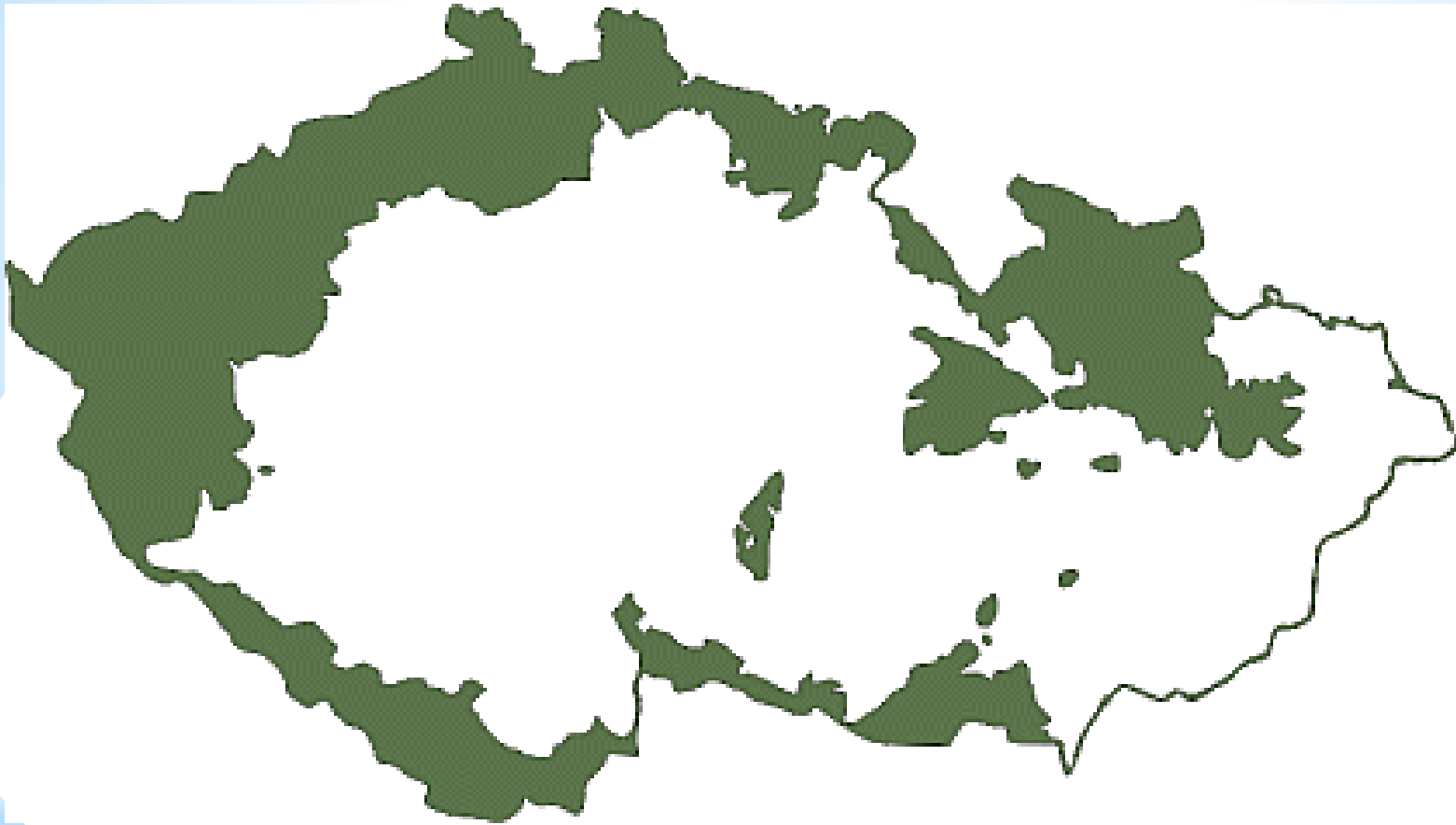
<http://www.boudamuseum.com/>

## • Czechoslovakia

- *National minorities* – more than 3 million of ethnic Germans were living in Czech lands, they were called Sudeten Germans
- German minority living in Sudetenland demanded autonomy from the Czech government, claiming they were suppressed and repressed by the Czech government <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cS5GglsNKyo>
- In 1935 Parliamentary elections, the newly founded Sudeten German Party under leadership of **Konrad Henlein**, financed with Nazi money, won an upset victory, securing over 2/3 of the Sudeten German vote, which worsened the diplomatic relations between the Germans and the Czechs
- Since 1937 – isolation of Czechoslovakia in international politics
- **Policy of appeasement** – Great Powers did not want to risk world peace for Czechoslovakia, → 1938 - this policy resulted in **Munich Agreement**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SetNFqcayeA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fpkiuevxbQ>



- Czechoslovakia



Sudetenland – areas inhabited by Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia



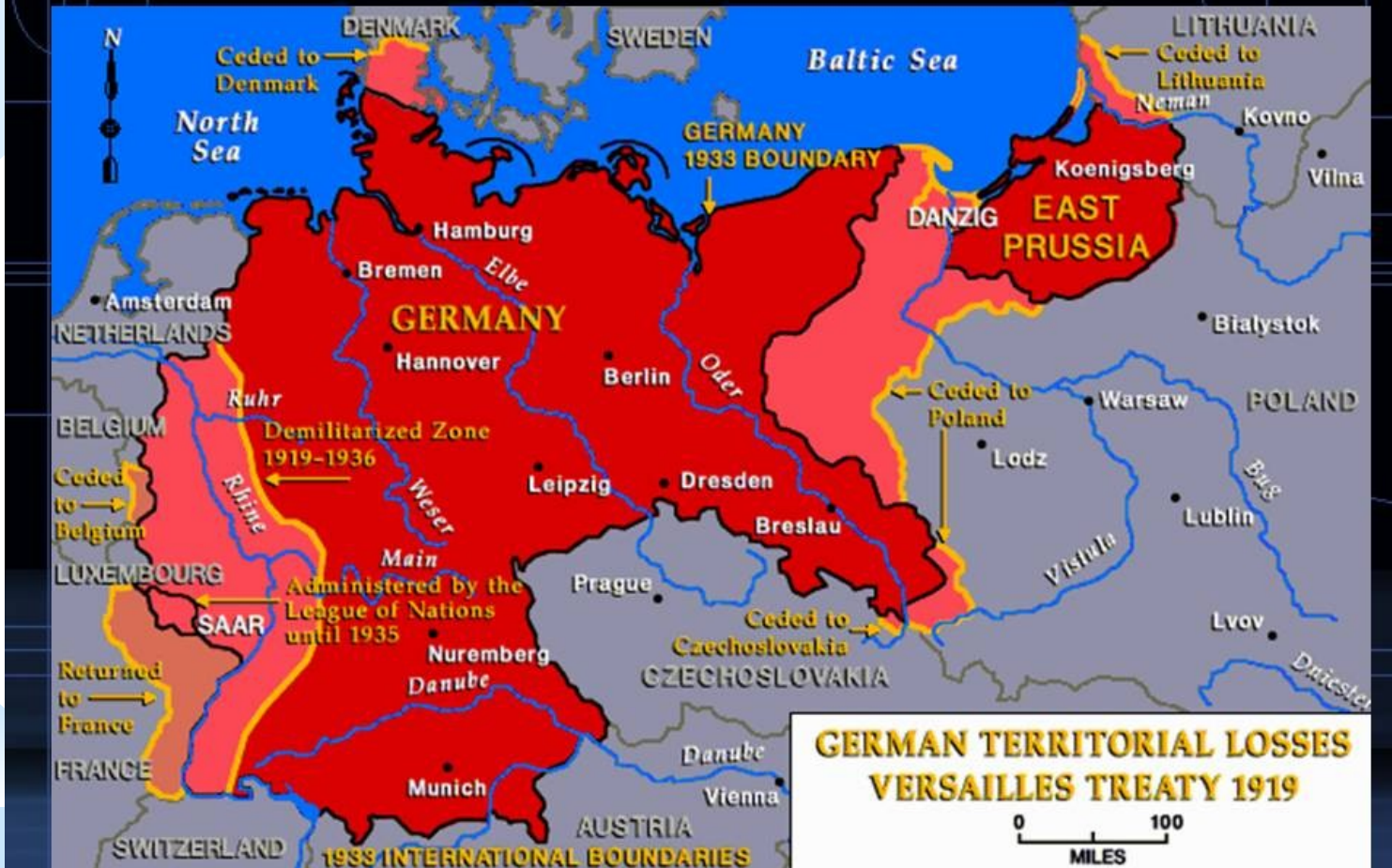
## • Czechoslovakia

- *Readings:*
- TUMA, Oldrich – JINDRA, Jiri (eds.): *Czechoslovakia and Romania in the Versailles System*. Prague 2006.
- LUKES, Igor: *Czechoslovakia Between Stalin and Hitler: The Diplomacy of Edvard Beneš in the 1930s*. New York 1996.
- LUKES, Igor – GOLSTEIN, Erich (eds.): *The Munich Crisis, 1938: Prelude to WWII*. London 1999.

## • Germany

- Strong revolutionary wave
- Bavaria – Bavarian Soviet Republic was proclaimed in October, defeated in April 1919
- 1919 – first elections (winner Social Democratic Party)
- **1919 – 1933 – Weimar Republic**, parliamentary republic, federation of 16 states
- First President – **Friedrich Ebert** (Social Democratic Party)
- Serious problems – economical crisis, reparations, restrictions of the area, lost of the colonies, restrictions of army, navy and air force
- March 1920 – right wing monarchistic **Kapp Putsch**
- 1923 – the new government – Prime Minister (Chancellor) **Gustav Stresemann** – stabilization of Golden mark, succesful foreign policy
- 1923 – suppression of **Hitler-Ludendorff Putsch** in Munich, Adolf Hitler was arrested and wrote his programme book *Mein Kampf*, his political party NSDAP was banned
- 1925 – second President became **Paul von Hindenburg**

# Weimar Republic



## • Germany

- Since 1929 – Great Depression – in Germany very serious effects (1932 – unemployment was 44,5 %), the growth of extreme nationalism and revanchism
- 1932 – NSDAP won the elections, 1933 – **Adolf Hitler** became a Chancellor
- 1934 – **Adolf Hitler** became a Führer – the head of the state
- 1935 – **Nüremberg laws** – anti-Semitism, the Jews excluded from political, economical and public life, had to wear a yellow star
- 1935 – Germany introduced general military service
- 1936 – Germany occupied de-militarized zone in Rheinland  
→ Both were breaching of Versailles Peace Treaty and of Rhineland Pact but only formal protest of great powers
- 1936 – pact with Italy – **Berlin - Rome Axis**
- 1936 – Anti-Comintern Pact – with Japan
- November 9–10, 1938: **Crystal Night** – pogrom against Jews



- Germany

**Paul von Hindenburg**



**Adolf Hitler**

# • Germany

- *Readings:*
- KAES, Anton – JAY, Martin – DIMENDBERG, Edward, (eds.): *The Weimar Republic sourcebook*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994.
- [http://books.google.cz/books?id=J4A1gt4-VCsC&printsec=frontcover&hl=cs&source=gbs\\_ViewAPI&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.cz/books?id=J4A1gt4-VCsC&printsec=frontcover&hl=cs&source=gbs_ViewAPI&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)



## • Austria

- 1919–1934: Republic of Austria, first **Chancellor Ignaz Seipel**, Austria's government was dominated by the Christian Social Party
- Country was unstable, economical consequences of the war
- Many paramilitary forces had been formed during the early 1920s - the clash between right-wing and left-wing paramilitary forces is known as **July Revolt of 1927**
- 1932 – authoritarian regime of Chancellor **Engelbert Dollfuss**, austrofascism, E. Dollfuss was assassinated by Nazi agent who attempted coup d'état in 1934 – July Putsch
- New Chancellor – **Kurt Schuschnigg** – effort to keep Austria's independence
- 1938 – **Anschluss**: 11th March – German troops crossed Austrian frontiers and Austria was occupied by Germany

- \* Kingdom of Hungary was the most politically stable part of the Habsburg Monarchy
- \* Impacted Habsburg Monarchy's war plans
- \* Main concerns of the government in Budapest were - territorial integrity of Hungary

# • Hungary

- The official proclamation of Democratic Republic on November 16 1918, **Mihály Károlyi** was named as the republic's Prime Minister
- Area of Hungary was of only one third of pre-war Hungary – dissatisfaction, attempts to restore the **Great Hungary**
- Rapid rise of power of Hungarian Communist Party: **Hungarian Soviet Republic** was proclaimed on 21st March 1919 – attempt to restore the Great Hungary, the head of this republic was **Béla Kun**, Hungarian communists wanted to connect with Soviet Russia
- Czechoslovakia and Romania were threatened by Hungarian demands → their armies attacked Hungary and the Hungarian Soviet Republic was defeated
- New Government – fascist party of **Admiral Miklós Horthy**
- 1920 – monarchy was restored in Hungary – Miklós Horthy regent
- 1921–1931 – Prime Minister was **István Bethlen** (till 1931)

# • Hungary

- Former Emperor of A-H, Charles IV, unsuccessfully attempted to retake Hungary's throne in March 1921
- Hungary's signing of the **Treaty of Trianon** on 4th June 1920, ratified the country's dismemberment, limited the size of its armed forces, and required reparations payments
- 1920s – the white terror - led to the imprisonment, torture, and execution without trial of communists, socialists, Jews, leftist intellectuals, sympathizers with the Károlyi and Kun regimes, and others who threatened the traditional Hungarian political order that the officers sought to reestablish
- 1932–1936: Prime Minister was **Guyla Gömbös** - the radical right's ascendancy in Hungarian politics
- 1939 – Arrow Cross Party (Hungarian Equivalent of Nazi Party) won the elections
- 1940 – Hungary joined **Tripartite Pact** (Germany, Italy and Japan)



# • Hungary



- \* Kingdom of Poland 1916 - 1918
- \* 1916 attempting to increase Polish support for the Central Powers - German and Austrian emperors declared new state - Kingdom of Poland
- \* Kingdom of Poland - client state under military, economical and political control (Germany)
- \* Heavy fighting - Eastern Front took place on the territory of the former Polish state
- \* 1917 important events changed the character of WWI – result possible rebirth of Poland
- \* Woodrow Wilson - thirteenth of his Fourteen Points adopted the resurrection of Poland as one of the main aims of World War I

## \* Kingdom of Poland



- \* Allies broke the resistance of the Central Powers by autumn 1918 (Habsburg monarchy was disintegrated and German imperial government collapsed)
- \* November 1918 Jozef Piłsudski was released from internment in Germany by the revolutionaries and returned to Warsaw
- \* Regency Council of the Kingdom of Poland ceded all responsibilities to him and Jozef Piłsudski took control over the newly created state as its provisional Chief of State
- \* All local governments - pledged allegiance to the central government in Warsaw
- \* Independent Poland, which had been absent from the map of Europe for 123 years, was reborn

## \* **Kingdom of Poland**

## • Poland

- Republic of Poland reestablished in 1918
- Several regional conflicts: 1918 – 1919 – **Polish – Ukrainian War** and border conflicts with Czechoslovakia - January 1919 – **Seven day war** broke out → new demarcation line – the western part of the disputed territory was given to Czechoslovakia while Poland received the eastern part
- 1919 – 1921: **Polish-Soviet War** – Poland attacked Russia – they wanted to use Russian civil war to ensure their eastern borders, but later Soviet counteroffensive – they wanted to establish Soviet Republic in Poland; August 1920 – the battle of Warsaw - the Soviet troops were defeated → **Peace Treaty of Riga** – Poland got parts of Belarus and Ukraine
- 1922 – annexation of Vilnius Region from Lithuania

# Treaty of Warsaw 1920



# Treaty of Riga 1921



 **Poland**



## • Poland

- May 1926 – Coup d'État – **Marshall Jozef Piłsudski**, he became most influential politician in Poland and became its de facto a dictator till his death in 1935
- 1932 – **Non-aggression** pact with Soviet Union
- October 1938: annexation of Zaolzie, Górna Orawa, Jaworzyna from Czechoslovakia
- 31st March 1939: military guarantees from United Kingdom and France
- 23rd August 1939: non-aggression pact between Soviet Union and Germany: **Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact** with a secret military alliance protocol targeting Poland
- **1st September – 6th October 1939: Invasion of Poland**

# The Polish nation in 1912, the territorial changes, and the boundaries of Poland since 1920

created by Carter O'Riens



- - - - - Polish claims during Referendum of 1920
- - - - - Boundary of Poland 1923-39
- - - - - Boundary of Poland since 1947
- Polish Catholic minority (20-50%) in 1912
- Polish majority (>50%) incl. Kashubian, Silesian, Mazurian, Goralian, in 1912
- % Referendum for Poland or Germany in 1921 and the results for Poland

Source of statistical data of the Polish nation:  
 Mapa Etnograficzno-Statystyczna - S. Orgelbranda Encyklopedia Powszechna z ilustracjami i mapami 1912