

3. History of Central Europe

Lecturer: Pavel Pšejda

Objective: To offer historical framework for current political developments and to explain dependence of current politics on history.

Lecture: Although the major focus will be on the 20th century, histories of Central European nations ask for being traced back through many centuries. In this session, drawing upon the fact contemporary Central European politics can only be in many cases understood if seen through lenses of both ancient and recent historical experience, the most important events and processes in the modern Central European will be discussed, thus setting the ground for more deeply rooted knowledge of Central European states and peoples. Moreover, we will pay some attention to the ends of communist regimes in Central Europe, with a special emphasis on divergences of the regimes in respective countries.

Assigned reading:

- Johnson, Lonnie R. (2002), pp. 223-274.
- Rothschild, Joseph, Wingfield, Nancy M. (2000), pp. 227-245
- Wandycz, Piotr S. (2001), pp. 201-235.

These texts were unavailable during the making of this reader, but will be delivered to the students in time.

Additional reading:

- Johnson, Lonnie R. (2002): *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbours, Friends*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Rothschild, Joseph, Wingfield, Nancy M. (2000): *Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe since World War II*, 3rd edition, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Wandycz, Piotr S. (2001): *The Price of Freedom: A history of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the present*, 2nd edition, Routledge, London.

Issues for discussion:

Explain interrelationships of Central European nations.

Characterize differences in major features of communist regimes in Central Europe.