

CENTRAL EUROPE  
BEFORE, DURING AND  
AFTER  
THIRTY YEARS' WAR

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# THE HOUSE OF HABSBURGS

- ◉ Habrburgs orriginaly came from Switzerland
- ◉ During 13th century - the domains in Austria
- ◉ Since 14th century - the growth of their power
  
- ◉ 1526 - 1918 ruled over Bohamian lands
- ◉ 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 in their monarchy, and they remained a part of the Habsburg Empire until 1918

# FERDINAND I

- ◉ **Ferdinand I (1526-1564)**
- ◉ Holy Roman Emperor since 1558 (after his brother Charles V died)
- ◉ king of Bohemia and Hungary since 1526 (elected by Bohemian and Hungarian Diet because he was a husband of Anne Jagiellonica - sister of Bohemian and Hungarian king Luis II who died at the battle of Mohács in 1526)
- ◉ king of Croatia, Dalmatia, Slavonia, and formally king of Serbia, Galicia (in Eastern Europe) and Lodomeria, etc.

# THE HOUSE OF HABSBURGS



Ferdinand I



Anne of Hungary and Bohemia

# FERDINAND I

- The key events during his reign were:
- ❖ the contest with the Ottoman Empire
  - Their great advance into Central Europe began in the 1520s
  - they unsuccessfully assaulted Vienna, the capital of Habsburg Monarchy, in 1529
  - The **Siege of Vienna** took 150 days
  - the aim of the campaign was securing control over all of Hungary and weakening of the power of Habsburgs
  - unusually bad weather conditions saved Vienna, the heavy rain and snowfall made the Turks to leave
  - they returned in 1533, but their army wasn't so strong
  - 1533 - a peace treaty with the Ottoman Empire splitting Hungary into a Habsburg sector in the west and a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire in the east

# FERDINAND I

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

- 1519 - The ninety-five thesis Wittneberg - 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 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

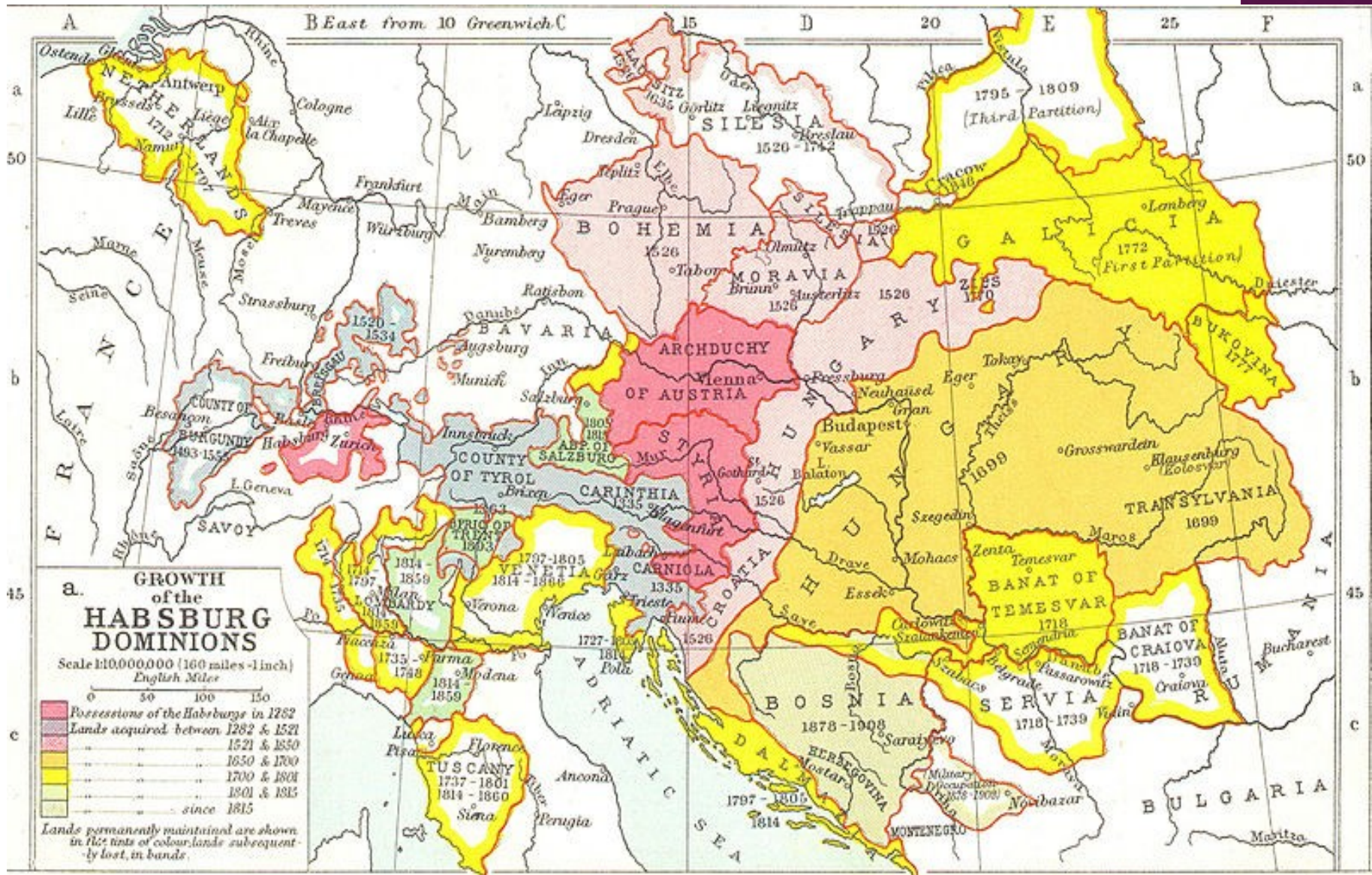
# FERDINAND I

- so the Bohemian estates were protesting and they rose up against Habsburgs
- but the rebellion was easily suppressed and 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 Bohemian Lands

## Maximilian II (1562-1576)

- ⦿ he ratified the religious programme 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

# THE HABSBURG MONARCHY





## RUDOLPH II (1576-1611)

- ◉ left Vienna for Prague, Bohemian capital grew into an important center of European culture
- ◉ 1593-1606 - „The Long War“ - with Osman Turks
- ◉ The Czech Estates forced Rudolph II to issue a decree - so called "Maiestatus" or the Letter of Majesty - proclaiming freedom of religious confession in Bohemian Lands
- ◉ 1604 -1606 - uprising in Hungary
- ◉ Rudolph was a weak ruler, not very interested in politics - since 1608 - he ruled only over Bohemia, Silesia and Lusitania, his brother Mathiass became a ruler in Moravia, Austria and Hungary

# RUDOLPH II

- ◉ Rudolph supported culture, arts, sciences etc.
- ◉ due to 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
- ◉ Rudolf kept a menagerie of exotic animals, botanical gardens, and Europe's most extensive "cabinet of curiosities" (Kunstkammer)

# RUDOLPH II

- ◉ Rudolph also patronated *occult sciences*, many alchemists stayed in Prague during his reign
- ◉ His lifelong wish was to find the Philosopher's Stone and become immortal
- ◉ Rudolf invited Europe's best alchemists to court, such as Edward Kelley and John Dee
- ◉ he had his private alchemy laboratory where he arranged his own experiments
- ◉ apart from the Philosopher's Stone the alchemists also wanted to construct an artificial human being - homunkulus
- *Interesting web site: <http://english.habsburger.net/>*



## RUDOLPH II

Rudolph loved collecting paintings and was also a patron of many contemporary artists - e.g. *Giuseppe Arcimboldo*, *Bartolomeus Spranger*, *Hans von Aachen*, *Adrian de Vries* and many others

# THE RENAISSANCE STYLE

- ◉ dominating artificial style in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century in Bohemia and in the Central Europe
- ◉ the Prague Castle was rebuilt in this style
- ◉ A villa for Queen Anna - Belveder near the Prague Castle
- ◉ many Italian architects came to Bohemia
- ◉ Old castles are rebuilt into the modern chateaus - e. g. Chateau Litomyšl (UNESCO), Castle Český Krumlov - UNESCO
- ◉ Prosperity of the towns - town halls, squares, houses
- ◉ palaces of the nobility built in the towns
- ◉ Town of Telč - houses with picturesque facades and arcades - UNESCO
- ◉ near to the Brno - Bučovice castle - unique - newly built castle

# THE RENAISSANCE STYLE



The Town of Telč



Chateau of Litomyšl

# THE RENAISSANCE STYLE



Belveder



Český Krumlov

# THE RENAISSANCE STYLE



The house at the Old Town Square in Prague



The Town Hall in Pilsen



# THE RENAISSANCE STYLE



Chateau of Opočno



Chateau of Bučovice

# THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR (1618-1648)

- The Emperor **Ferdinand II** tried to limit the freedom of religious confession and his efforts sparked a civil war between the Estates and the Catholic Emperor which later spread into Europe under the name of the **Thirty Years' War**
- 1618 - The so-called **Defenestration of Prague** - the unpopular king's representatives in Bohemia (the governors) were thrown out of a window of the **Prague Castle**



# THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR (1618-1648)

- ◉ The Bohemians elected an independent king Frederick V
- ◉ The Bohemian Estates and their army were defeated in 1620 at the Battle of the White Mountain and the Kingdom of Bohemia lost its independence for the following almost 300 years
- ◉ the Catholic faith was declared to be the only permitted creed in the country
- ◉ The period of the Thirty Years' War brought political disorder and economic devastation to Bohemia which had far-reaching consequences on the future development of the country.

# THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR (1618-1648)

- ◉ The throne of Bohemia became hereditary in the Habsburg dynasty and the most important offices were transferred permanently to Vienna
- ◉ Ferdinand II issued an edict, which ordered all non-Catholic noblemen to convert or to emigrate - so the large wave of emigration succeeded
- ◉ the hussite or protestant inhabitants were often violently forced to convert
- ◉ tightening of serfdom
- ◉ German soon became the first language of the country

# THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR (1618-1648)



Unsuccessful siege of  
Brno by Swedish  
army in 1645

# THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIRTY YEARS' WAR IN HABSBURG MONARCHY AND 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**
- ⦿ in 1621 a great trial with politicians who had been active in rebellion took place in Prague, their properties were confiscated and divided among the Catholic nobility from Bohemia, Austria and Hungary
- ⦿ **on June 21 1621** - twenty-seven Estates oppositions leaders were executed in the old Town Square in Prague
- ⦿ the Habsburg were planning to establish a completely new order in the Kingdom of Bohemia and to implement radical changes in the Bohemian Lands' status
- ⦿ they 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

# THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIRTY YEARS' WAR:

## ❖ *Political:*

- ⦿ Ferdinand II entrusted the administration of the Kingdom of Bohemia to the Catholic politician **Karl I, Prince of Lichtenstein** who became a royal vice-regent
- ⦿ in Moravia, the king was represented by a proconsul and governor - the Bishop of Olomouc, **Cardinal Franz of Dietrichstein**
- ⦿ the new relationship between king and estates was codified in ***the Renewed Land Ordinances***, which were issued for Bohemian Kingdom in 1627 and for the Margraviate of Moravia in 1628
- ⦿ those were in fact new constitutions, the problem was, that they were issued without the Estates' cooperation, the powers of the Estates were strictly limited
- ⦿ The Renewed Ordinance considerably augmented the ruler's power in the Czech Lands



# THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIRTY YEARS' WAR IN THE CZECH LANDS AND HABSBURG MONARCHY

## ❖ Economical and social:

- ⦿ the country was destroyed, many people died in the consequence of diseases, famine ...
- ⦿ not enough labour power - that caused tightening of serfdom
- ⦿ 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
- ⦿ the peasants also had to pay heavy governmental taxation
- ⦿ after the Battle of White Mountain unprecedented property and financial speculations
- ⦿ devaluation, literally cutting the coins
- ⦿ black death epidemics



## ❖ Economical and social:

- ⦿ the fastest to recover was trade with distant countries, followed by local trade and handicraft
- ⦿ 1666 - a commercial board (Commerzkollegium), an office for monitoring and support of economic life in Czech and Austrian lands was established - based on thoughts of leading German mercantilist Johann Joachim Becher
- ⦿ the first decades of 18<sup>th</sup> century - the beginning of major manufacturing development in the Czech Lands
- ⦿ the foreign experts were coming to the Habsburg Monarchy
- ⦿ in the Czech Lands, the manufacturing was oriented mainly towards linen production

## ❖ Religious:

- after two hundred 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,
- the Catholic faith the only permitted creed in the country
- Ferdinand II also issued an edict, which ordered all non-Catholic noblemen to convert or to emigrate - so the large wave of emigration succeeded
- among the emigrés were many outstanding scholars and intellectuals, such as **Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius)** a prominent thinker, teacher and scholar of European renown
- 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-Habsburg 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 tenets of the Peace of Westphalia:
- ⦿ All parties would recognize the Peace of Augsburg of 1555 (each Prince in HRE 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: Goudoever, Albert P. van (ed.) (1993): *Great Peace Congresses in History 1648-1990*. Utrecht. Pp 13-19.