

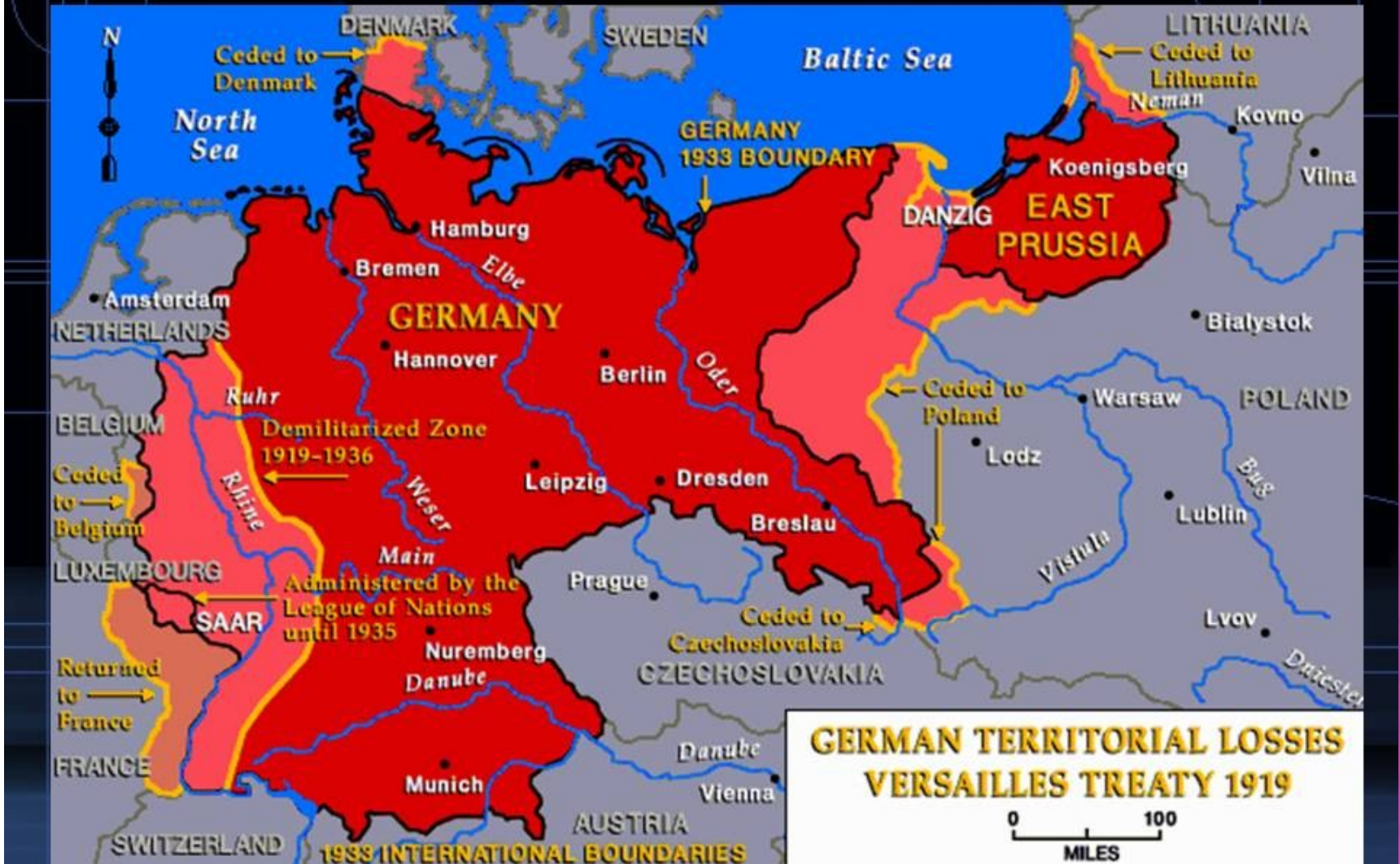
CENTRAL EUROPE DURING THE INTERWAR PERIOD

Jana Hrabcova

GERMANY

- ◉ serious problems as the consequences of the war:
 - Economic depression, high reparation payments
 - restrictions of the area, lost of the colonies,
 - restrictions of army, navy and air force
- ◉ 1919 - 1933 - Weimar Republic, parliamentary republic, federation of 16 states
- ◉ the first President - **Friedrich Ebert** (Social Democratic Party)
- ◉ 1919 - the first elections
- ◉ general dissatisfaction
- ◉ 1918 - Communist Party of Germany was founded (headed by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht) - rejected the parliamentary democracy
- ◉ strong revolutionary wave (strikes, rebellions etc.)
 - in Bavaria - Bavarian Soviet Republic was proclaimed in October, defeated in April 1919
 - March 1920 - right-wing monarchistic **Kapp Putsch** - former volunteers (Freikorps)
 - 1923 - suppression of **Hitler-Ludendorff Putsch** in Munich, Hitler was arrested and wrote his programme book *Mein Kampf*, his political party NSDAP was banned

Weimar Republic



GERMANY DURING 1920s

- ◉ 1923 - Industrial territory around the River Ruhr was occupied by France (Germany was delayed with paying of reparation payments)
- ◉ 1923 - the new government - Prime Minister (Chancellor) **Gustav Stresemann** - stabilization of Golden mark, succesful foreign policy
- ◉ 1925 - the second President became **Paul von Hindenburg**
- ◉ **weak democracy - governments changes very often**
- ◉ since 1929 - Great Depression - in Germany very serious effects (1932 - unemployment was 44,5 %),
- ◉ the growth of extreme nationalism and revanchism
- ◉ a political crisis: the political parties represented in the *Reichstag* were unable to build a governing majority in the face of escalating extremism from the far right (the Nazis, NSDAP) and the far left (the Communists, KPD)
- ◉ 1932 - NSDAP won the elections (over 30 %, the communists were third)

GERMANY DURING 1930s

- ◉ 1933 - **Adolf Hitler** was appointed as Chancellor
- ◉ 1933 - Germany left the League of Nations
- ◉ 1934 - Hitler became a Führer - the head of the state
- ◉ The Nazi regime restored economic prosperity and ended mass unemployment using heavy spending on the military, while suppressing labor unions and strikes → enormous popularity
- ◉ Political opposition was destroyed
- ◉ Secret police - Gestapo (Heinrich Himmler)
- ◉ Concentration camps
- ◉ Propaganda - Joseph Goebbles
- ◉ 1934 - The Night of the Long Knives - the top leaders of SA were killed - internal opposition in Nazi party was destroyed
- ◉ 1935 - Nüremberg laws - anti-Semitism, the Jews excluded from political, economical and public life, had to wear a yellow star

GERMANY DURING 1930s

- ◉ 1935 - Germany introduced general military service and began to re-arm
- ◉ 1935 - Germany won the Saar (was under the protection of the League of Nations)
- ◉ 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 succeeded
- ◉ 1936 - pact with fascist Italy headed by Benito Mussolini - Berlin-Rome Axis
- ◉ 1936 - Anti-Comintern Pact against the communism - with Japan
- ◉ March 1938 - Anschluss of Austria
- ◉ September 1938 - the Munich Agreement - the occupation of Sudetenland (borderland of Czechoslovakia)
- ◉ 1938, November 9-10 - Crystal Night - great pogrom against Jews
- ◉ September 1, 1939 - attack on Poland - WW II started

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

AUSTRIA

- ◉ 1919-1934 - the Republic of Austria, first Chancellor Ignaz Seipel
- ◉ Austria's government was dominated by the Christian Social Party
- ◉ the country was unstable, severe economic consequences of the war
- ◉ many paramilitary forces had been formed during the early 1920s - Schutzbund (social democratic) X Heimwehr (rightist)
- ◉ 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, gravitated to Italy (Austria felt threatened by German demands on Austria - Anschluss)
- ◉ Dollfuss was assassinated by Nazi agents who attempted coup d'état in 1934 - July Putsch - unsuccessful
- ◉ The remaining Austrian Nazis started to make use of terrorist attacks against Austrian governmental institutions, causing a death toll of more than 800 between 1934 and 1938

AUSTRIA

- ◉ new Chancellor - **Kurt Schuschnigg** - similar political course
- ◉ But still also an effort to keep Austria's independence - focused on the history of Austria and opposed the absorption of Austria into the Third Reich, according to his philosophy the Austrians were „better Germans“
- ◉ eventually Schuschnigg gave up his anti-Nazi program and in July 1936 he signed the Austro-German Agreement, which, among other concessions, allowed the release of Nazis imprisoned in Austria and the inclusion of National Socialists in his Cabinet
- ◉ Strengthening of pro-German Nazis in Austria
- ◉ 1938 - Anschluss - March 11 - German troops crossed Austrian frontiers and Austria was occupied by Germany
- ◉ after Anschluss in March 1938 (Fall Otto) Austria became a part of German territory
- ◉ in April a plebiscite that confirmed annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany

HUNGARY

- ◉ The official proclamation of democratic republic on November 16, 1918, **Mihály Károlyi** was named as the republic's Prime Minister
- ◉ the area of Hungary was of only one third of pre-war Hungary - dissatisfaction, attempts to restore the Great Hungary
- ◉ the rapid rise of power of Hungarian Communist Party, the Hungarian Soviet Republic was proclaimed on March 21, 1919 - an attempt to restore the Great Hungary, the head of this republic was **Béla Kun**, Hungarian communists wanted to connect with Soviet Russia
- ◉ Czechoslovakia and Rumania were threatened by Hungarian demands → their armies attacked Hungary and the Hungarian Soviet Republic was defeated
- ◉ the new Government - fascist party of **Admiral Miklós Horthy**
- ◉ 1920 - the monarchy was restored in Hungary but no king
- ◉ Horthy ruled over it as a regent 1921-1931 - the Prime Minister was **István Bethlen** (till 1931)

HUNGARY

- ◉ Hungary's signing of the Treaty of Trianon on June 4, 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
- ◉ the former Austrian Emperor, Charles I, unsuccessfully attempted to retake Hungary's throne in March 1921
- ◉ No democracy - the suffrage - only 29 % of population, public vote

HUNGARY

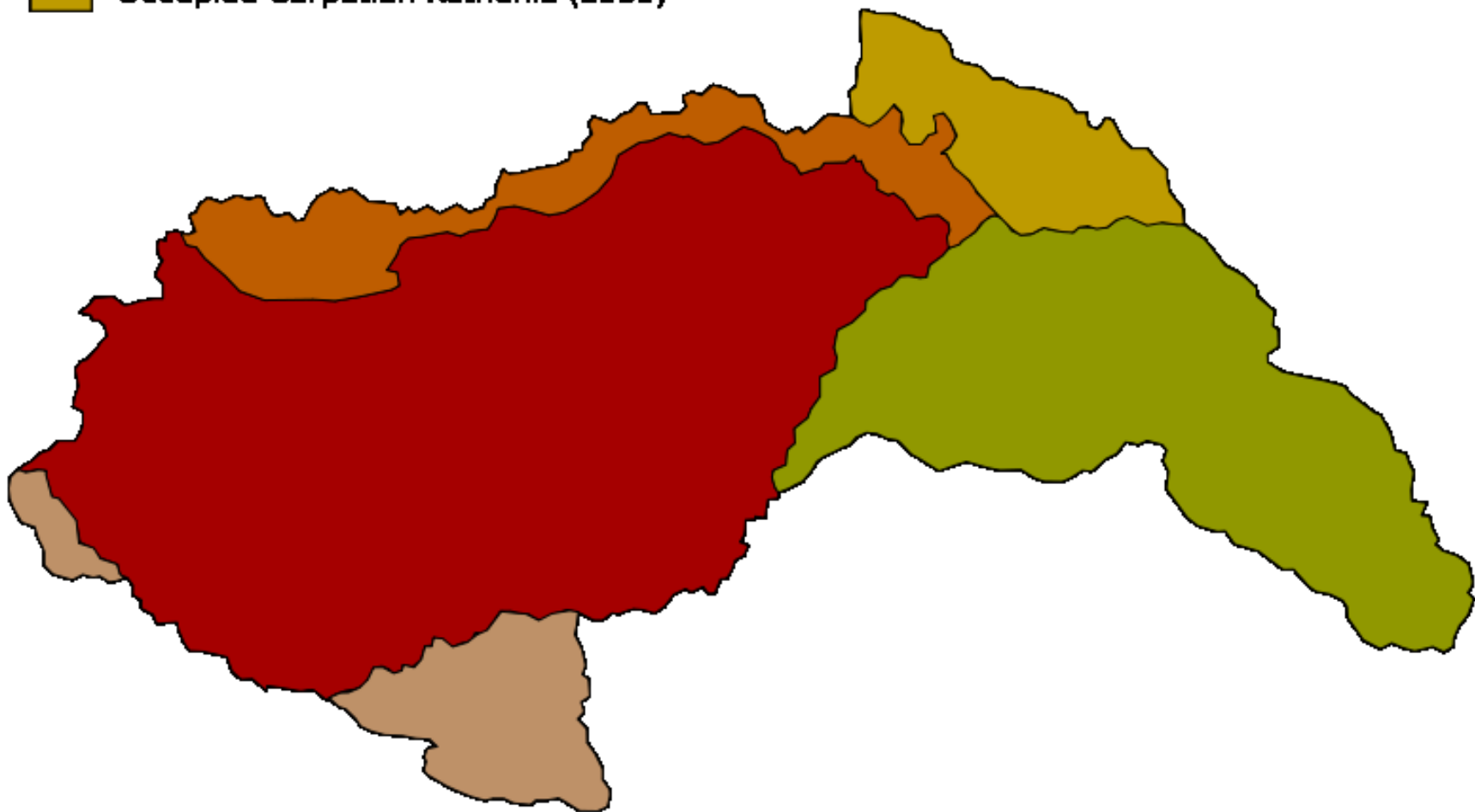
- ◉ 1932-1936 - the Prime Minister was **Guyla Gömbös**
- the radical right's ascendancy in Hungarian politics
- ◉ 1938 - territorial gains - from Czechoslovakia,
- ◉ Later also from Rumania and Yugoslavia (1941)
- ◉ hungarian nazism
- ◉ 1939 - Arrow Cross Party (Hungarian Equivalent of Nazi Party) won the elections
- ◉ 1940 - Hungary joined the Tripartite Pact (Germany, Italy and Japan)
- ◉ 1940 - joined Axis Berlin - Rome - Tokyo
- ◉ 1941 - Hungary participated on the invasions of Yugoslavia and of the Soviet Union

HUNGARY 1920-1938



Hungarian Territorial Gains between 1938-1941

-  Hungary (Treaty of Trianon, 1920)
-  First Vienna Award (1938)
-  Occupied Carpatian Ruthenia (1939)
-  Second Vienna Award (1940)
-  Annexed Yugoslav Territories (1941)



POLAND

- ◉ the Republic of Poland was reestablished in 1918
- ◉ several regional conflicts:
- ◉ 1918 - 1919 - **Polish - Ukrainian War** -
- ◉ border conflicts with Czechoslovakia - January 1919 - **Seven day war** broke out
- ◉ a 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** - Poles 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
- ◉ the Peace Treaty of Riga - Poland got parts of Belarus and Ukraine
- ◉ 1922 - annexation of Vilnius Region from Lithuania

POLAND

- ◉ 1926 - the May Coup d'État - leftist politician and a popular **Marshall Jozef Piłsudski**,
- ◉ he became most influential politician in Poland and became its de facto a dictator till his death in 1935 though he was not a president but only a Minister of defence
- ◉ 1932 - non-aggression pact with Soviet Union
- ◉ October 1938: annexation of Zaolzie, Górna Orawa, Jaworzyna from Czechoslovakia
- ◉ March 31, 1939: military guarantees from United Kingdom and France
- ◉ August 23, 1939: non-aggression pact between Soviet Union and Germany: **Ribbentrop-Molotow Pact** with a secret military alliance protocol targeting Poland
- ◉ **September 1 - October 6, 1939: Invasion of Poland**

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

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- ◉ in Czechoslovakia numerous German minority, Sudeten German Party with the leader *Konrad Henlein*
- ◉ April 1938 - **Karlsbader Decrees** demanding the autonomy for Sudeten Germans and the freedom to profess Nazi ideology, Sudeten Germans expected that President Beneš will refuse their exaggerated requirements
- ◉ Czechoslovak government was forced to conclude an agreement with Henlein but he refused all their suggestions according to Hitler's instructions
- ◉ several negotiations on Czechoslovakia between Hitler and British Prime Minister **Neville Chamberlain** during September 1938
- 15th September - Berchtesgaden - Great powers were putting pressure on Czechoslovak government to accept Hitler's requirements - he wanted Sudeten, firstly Czechoslovak government refused British and French pressure but on 21st September was forced to accept Hitler's requirements
- 22nd September - Bad Godesberg - new Hitler's requirements - he wanted to occupy Czechoslovak fortification and some border areas for Poland and Hungary

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- ◉ Hitler announced that he will attack Czechoslovakia on 28th September (according to the Fall Grün prepared already in April 1938)
- ◉ change of the government in Czechoslovakia - Prime Minister **General Syrový**
- ◉ 23rd September - general mobilization in Czechoslovakia
- ◉ 29th to 30th September - negotiations of four Great powers in Munich (Germany - Hitler, Italy - Mussolini, Great Britain - Chamberlain, France - Daladier) - about Czechoslovak frontiers and German requirements but without Czechoslovakia - France and Great Britain were Czechoslovak allies but they signed the agreement with the enemy:
- ◉ **the Munich Agreement**, Czechoslovakia (Czechoslovak troops) had to evacuate Sudeten and cede it to Germany,
- ◉ the USSR did not reply for the Czechoslovak application for the help
- ◉ from 1st to 10th October Czechoslovak borderland was occupied by German troops and annexed to Germany, Poland got the area around Těšín and Spiš, Hungary got Carpathian Ruthenia and southern parts of Slovakia

DISSOLUTION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1938



- Czechoslovakia lost 1/3 of its area, 1/3 of light industry, in southern Slovakia fertile soil important for agriculture was lost
- the First Czechoslovak republic was dissolved,
- so called **Second Czecho-Slovak Republic** was proclaimed - till March 1939 - President **Emil Hácha**, no parliamentary democracy anymore
- 7th October - autonomy of Slovakia was proclaimed - **Czecho-Slovakia**

PROTECTORATE BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA, SLOVAK STATE

- ◉ 13th March 1939 - Slovak Prime Minister Jozef Tiso was invited into Berlin - he was made to enforce the separation of Slovakia
- ◉ 14th March 1939 - **Slovak State** separated from Czecho-Slovakia, formally independent but really the satellite of Nazi Germany
- ◉ 14th March 1939 - President Hácha and Foreign Minister Chvalkovský invited to Berlin - Hitler threatened with bombing of Prague - they were forced to sign the document asking Germany for protection what was in fact forced capitulations
- ◉ 15th March 1939 - German army occupied Bohemia and Moravia - dissolution of Second Czechoslovak Republic
- ◉ 16th March 1939 - the occupants proclaimed **Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia** -
- ◉ it was part of German Reich, formally autonomous state with so called State President Emil Hácha and Prime Minister Rudolf Beran
- ◉ but the real power was in hands of Reichsprotektor **Konstantin von Neurath** and later **Reinhard Heydrich**