

THE BRIEF OUTLINE
OF THE HISTORY OF
THE CZECH LANDS
IN THE MIDDLE
AGES

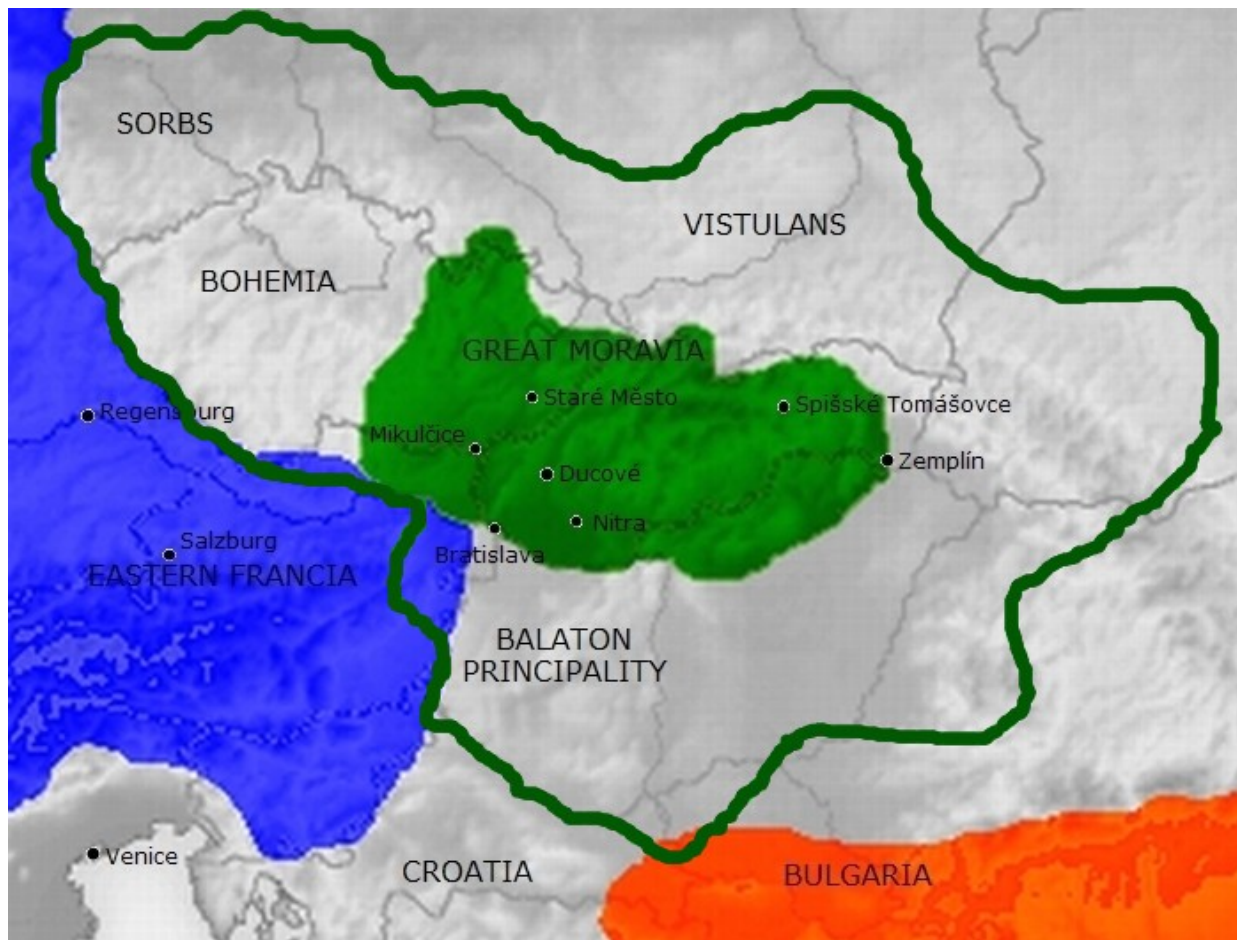
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THE GREAT MORAVIA IN THE 9TH CENTURY



- ❑ 6th century - the Slavic tribes came
- ❑ the Slavic state in the 9th century situated mostly in Moravia
- ❑ cultural development resulted from the mission of Saints Cyril and Methodius - 863
- ❑ translation of the Bible into the slavic language, preaching in slavic language → the Christianity widespread faster
- ❑ They invented the glagolitic alphabet (glagolitsa)
- ❑ 885 - Methodius died → their disciples were expelled from G.M. - went to Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia etc., invented cyrilic script

THE GREAT MORAVIA IN THE 9TH CENTURY



<http://www.filmcyrilametodej.cz/en/about-film/>

The movie (document) about Cyril and Methodius

THE HOUSE OF PŘEMYSLIDS - FROM 9TH CENTURY TILL 1306

- ◉ the centre of the duchy in Bohemia
- ◉ Prague the capital city
- ◉ 10th century - duke **Wenceslaus** → assassinated by his brother → saint Wenceslaus - the saint patron of the Czech lands



THE HOUSE OF PŘEMYSLIDS

- ◉ the *Kingdom of Bohemia* since the end of 12th century
- ◉ **Ottokar II (1253-1278, Přemysl Otakar II)** - The Iron and Golden King
- ◉ very rich and powerful - his kingdom from the Krkonoše mountains to the Adriatic sea
- ◉ 1278 - killed at the battle of Dürnkrut (with Habsburgs)
- ◉ **Wenceslaus II of Bohemia (1278-1305)** - king of Bohemia, King of Poland
- ◉ **Wenceslaus III (1305-1306)** - assassinated without heirs

THE HOUSE OF PŘEMYSLIDS



The kingdom of Ottokar II
Around 1270



The Kingdom of Wenceslaus II
around 1301

THE HOUSE OF LUXEMBOURGS (1310-1437)

- ◉ **John of Bohemia (1310-1346, John the Blind)** married Wenceslaus's sister Elizabeth (Eliška)
- ◉ **Charles IV**
- ◉ **the king of Bohemia (1346-1378) and Holy Roman Emperor (1355-1378)**
 - *The Holy Roman Empire (962-1806)* - an empire existing in Europe since 962 till 1806, ruled by Roman Emperor (present -day territories of Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Slovenia, parts of eastern France, northern Italy and western Poland)
- ◉ **the most important and the best known Bohemian king**
- ◉ **1356 - The Golden Bull - the basic law of the Holy Roman Empire**
- ◉ **Prague became his capital, and he rebuilt the city on the model of Paris, establishing the New Town of Prague (Nové Město), Charles Bridge, and Charles Square, Karlštejn Castle etc.**
- ◉ **1348 - he founded the University of Prague, later named after him, the first university in Central Europe**

THE HOUSE OF LUXEMBOURGS



Charles IV



The Karlstejn Castle

CHARLES IV



◉ Readings:

Charles IV (autobiography), edited by Balázs Nagy, Frank Schaer (2001): *Autobiography of Emperor Charles IV; And, His Legend of St. Wenceslas: Karoli IV Imperatoris Romanorum Vita Ab Eo Ipso Conscripta; Et, Hystoria Nova de Sancto Wenceslao Martyre*, Published by Central European University Press.

THE HUSSITE REVOLUTION (1419 - 1436)

- ◉ **Wenceslaus IV (1378-1419)** - weak ruler, King of Bohemia
- ◉ **Sigismund of Luxembourg(1410-1437)** - king of the Romans
- ◉ religious struggles in Bohemian lands
- ◉ **Master Jan Hus** - became one of the forerunners of the Protestant Reformation
- ◉ clergyman, preacher and Professor of Prague University
- ◉ wanted to reform the Catholic Church
- ◉ he was protesting against clerical abuses, especially the sale of indulgences (paying for forgiveness of the sins during the confession)
- ◉ he also declared that the clergy should live according to the Bible, in poverty, without property and a secular power
- ◉ the mortal sins should be prohibited and punished
- ◉ he also proclaimed that the believers should understand the Holy Writ so it should be proclaimed in the national languages



MASTER JAN HUS

Master Jan Hus was sentenced to death and burnt to death in 1415 at the Council of Constance

THE HUSSITES

- ◉ the Bohemian people blamed Emperor Sigismund for Hus' death so they did not want him to become the king of Bohemia although he was Charles IV's son
- ◉ Hus' followers were called *the Hussites*; (Men of the Chalice - the symbol of Hussites movement)
- ◉ Sigismund organized five crusade campaigns against Hussites but all the campaigns were unsuccessful
- ◉ almost 15 years of religious struggles and wars - the country was destroyed and plundered
- ◉ the moderate Hussites wanted to finish the warfare so they united with Catholics and destroyed the radical Hussites at the **battle of Lipany in May 1434**
- ◉ after that both the religions - the Catholic and the Hussite became legal in Bohemia and two churches were formed
- ◉ 1436 - Sigismund was accepted as the King of Bohemia, but he died only one year after that

THE HUSSITES

- ◉ after Sigismund's death, a Bohemian nobleman and the leader of the Hussites **George of Kunštát and Poděbrady** (1458-1471) was elected a king
- ◉ he suggested something what could be considered as a proposal of latter European Union
- ◉ he tried to prevent isolation of hussite Bohemia in catholic Europe, so he proposed a treaty among all Christian powers, the member states should pledge to settle all differences by exclusively peaceful means and fight altogether against Osman Turks who were threatening Central Europe
- ◉ *Readings:*
Doležalová, Eva - Pánek, Jaroslav (2011): Confession and nation in the era of reformations: Central Europe in comparative Perspective). Prague.