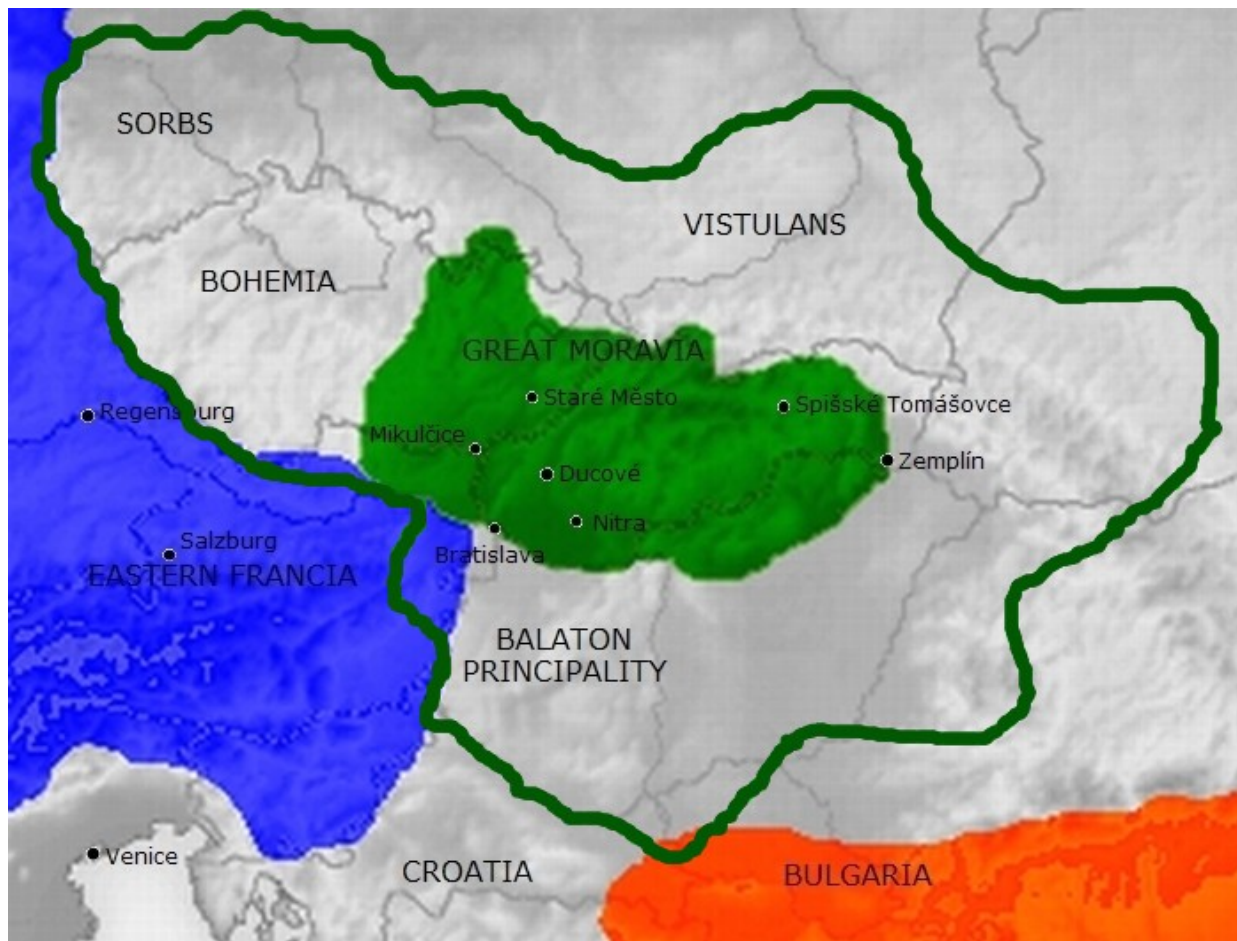


THE BRIEF
OUTLINE OF THE
HISTORY OF THE
CZECH LANDS IN
THE MIDDLE
AGES

Jana Skerlova

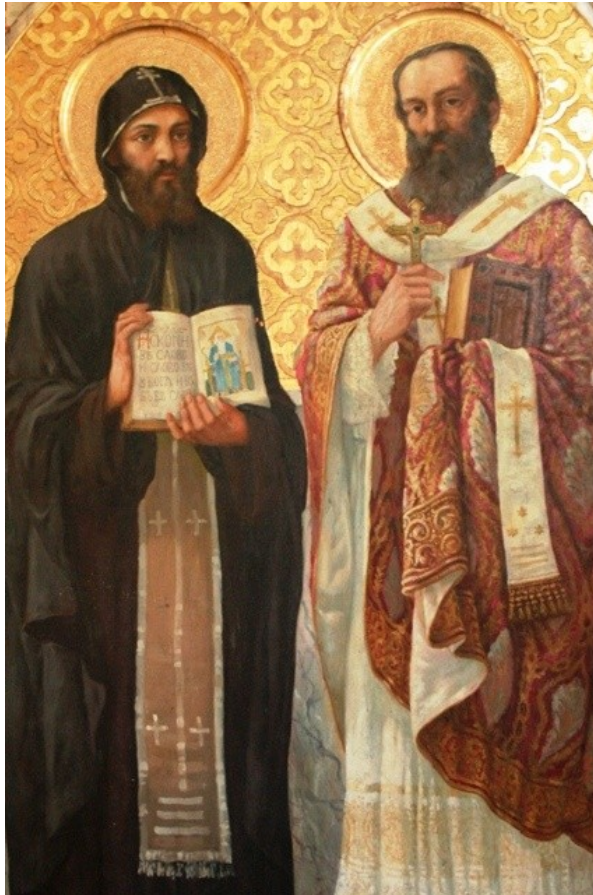
THE GREAT MORAVIA IN THE 9TH CENTURY



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

The movie (document) about Cyril and Methodius

THE GREAT MORAVIA IN THE 9TH CENTURY



- ❑ 6th century – the Slavic tribes came to this area and settled on the left bank of Danube River
- ❑ the very first Slavic state in the 9th century – situated mostly around the Moravia River – **The Great Moravia**
- ❑ cultural development resulted from the mission of **Saints Cyril (Constantine) and Methodius** – 863
- ❑ translation of the Bible into the slavic language, preaching in slavic language → the Christianity widespread faster
- ❑ They created the new slavonic alphabet (*Glagolitsa*)
- ❑ 885 – Methodius died → their disciples were expelled from G.M. – went to Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia etc., invented cyrilic script

THE HOUSE OF PŘEMYSLIDS – FROM 9TH CENTURY TILL 1306

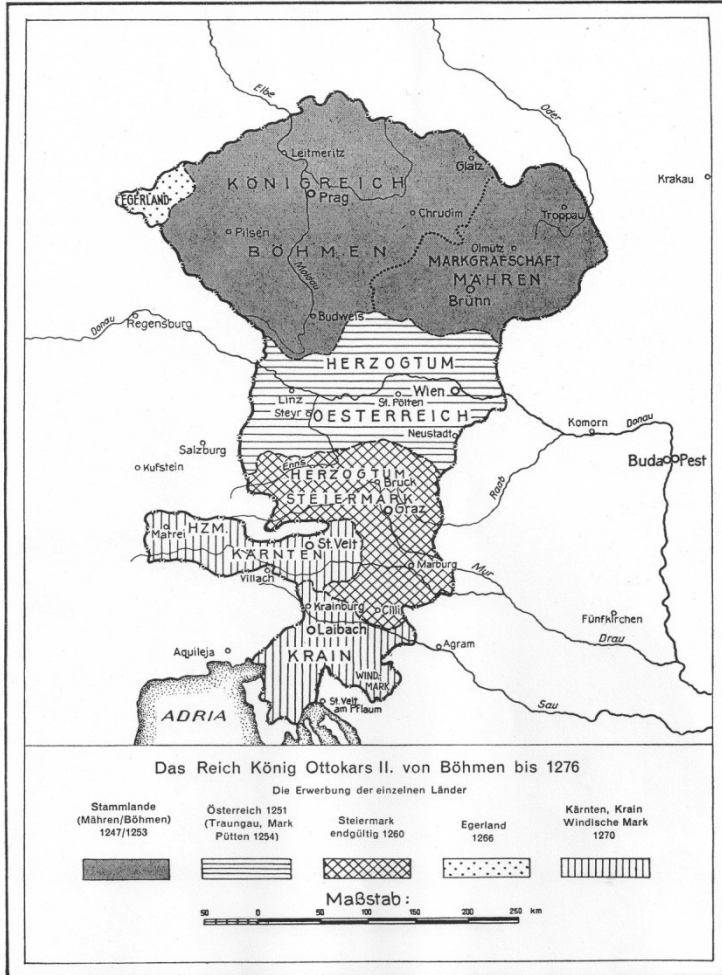
- ◉ Beginning of 10th century – The Great Moravia was destroyed because of internal political struggles and the attack by Hungarian tribes
- ◉ The territory inhabited by Slovaks became a part of newly created Kingdom of Hungary
- ◉ the centre of the Bohemian state moved to Bohemia – **The duchy of Bohemia** was established, dependent on German Empire
- ◉ Prague became the capital city
- ◉ 10th century – duke **Wenceslaus** → assassinated by his brother → Saint Wenceslaus – the saint patron of the Czech lands



THE KINGDOM OF BOHEMIA

- ◉ 973 – the Prague Bishopric was established (bishop Adalbert – St. Vojtech - apostolic mission to Poland)
- ◉ the *Kingdom of Bohemia* since the end of 12th century
- ◉ strong and large - emancipation from the German Empire
- ◉ **Ottokar II**(1253–1278, Přemysl Otakar II) – The Iron and Golden King , the height of the power of Bohemia
- ◉ very rich and powerful – his kingdom from the Křkonoše mountains to the Adriatic sea
- ◉ 1278 – killed at the unsuccessful war against the Habsburgs
- ◉ **Wenceslaus II of Bohemia** (1278–1305) – King of Bohemia, King of Poland
- ◉ **Wenceslaus III (1305–1306)** – King of Bohemia, Poland and Hungary, assassinated without heirs – the Premyslid dynasty died out in the male tail

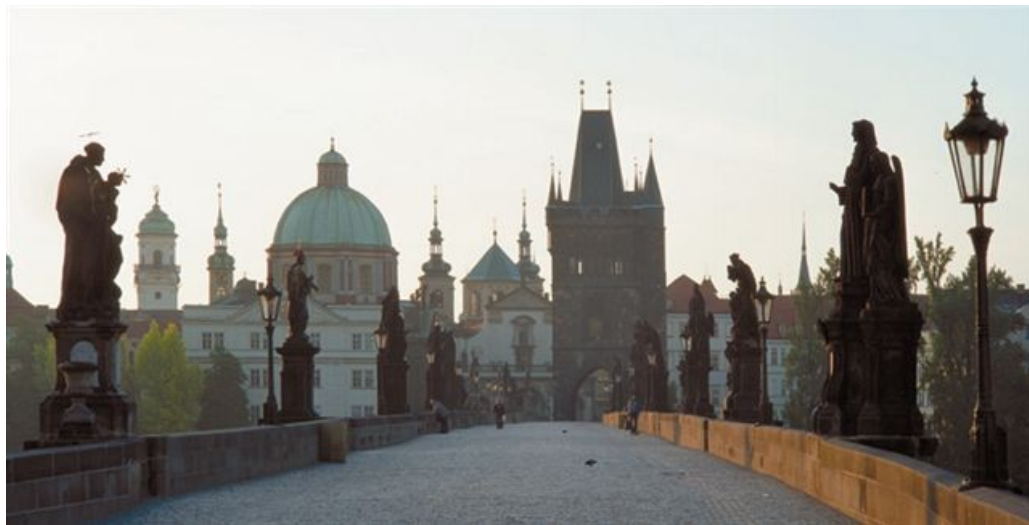
THE HOUSE OF PŘEMYSLIDS



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) → a new dynasty on the Bohemian throne – the Luxembourgs
- ◉ **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 – till nowadays regarded as Pater Patriae (Father of the Country), his reign is considered as the golden age of Bohemia
- ◉ 1356 - **The Golden Bull** – the basic law of the Holy Roman Empire, for a period of more than four hundred years fixed important aspects of the constitutional structure of the Holy Roman Empire

THE HOUSE OF LUXEMBOURGS



John of Luxembourg at the battle
of Crecy



Charles IV

CHARLES IV

- ◉ **Prague** became the capital of the Holy Roman Empire, most important city in the Central Europe
- ◉ Charles IV rebuilt the city on the model of Paris, in Gothic style
- ◉ established **the New Town of Prague** (Nové Město), **Charles Bridge, Charles Square, St. Vitus Cathedral, rebuilt the Prague Castle ...**
- ◉ 1348 – he founded **the University of Prague**, later named after him, the very first university in Central Europe – important for development of education, science and culture in the CE, Prague became intellectual centre of the CE
- ◉ **The Karlstejn Castle** – a place for safekeeping the Imperial Regalia and Bohemian Crown Jewels



Kingdom of Bohemia during the reign of Charles IV



Bohemian Crown Jewels



The Karstejn Castle (near Prague)

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE



Bitov Castle (Southern Moravia)



St. Jakob's Church (Brno)

THE HUSSITE REVOLUTION (1419 - 1436)

- ◉ **Wenceslaus IV** (1378–1419) – weak ruler, King of Bohemia
- ◉ **Sigismund of Luxembourg**(1410–1437) – Wenceslaus’ brother, a king of the Holy Roman Empire
- ◉ religious wars erupted in Bohemian lands
- ◉ **Master Jan Hus** – became one of the forerunners of the Protestant Reformation
- ◉ scholar.clergyman, preacher and Professor of Prague University
- ◉ wanted to reform certain practices of the Roman 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, not in latine

OPRÁSKI SČESKÍ HISTORIE

JAK NAPÁLILI A VIPEKLI HUZA



MASTER JAN HUS

- Master Jan Hus was condemned by the Council at Constance as a heretic and was sentenced to death. He was burnt to death in 1415.

THE HUSSITES

- ⊙ the Bohemian people blamed Emperor Sigismund for Hus' death so they did not want him to become the king of Bohemia after Wenceslaus'
- ⊙ Hus' followers launched powerful religious movement, they called themselves *the Hussites*; (or the Men of the Chalice - the symbol of Hussites movement)
- ⊙ Sigismund organized five crusade campaigns against Hussites but all the campaigns were unsuccessful (due to the outstanding military leader of Hussites – Jan Žižka)
- ⊙ almost 15 years of religious struggles and civil wars – the country was destroyed and plundered
- ⊙ The Hussite movement split into two fractions: the moderate and the radical
- ⊙ 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 in 1437

THE HUSSITES

- ◉ After two weak kings from the house of Habrburgs 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 Otoman Turks who were threatening Central Europe
- ◉ After his death a new dynasty from Poland (originally from Lithuania) came to the Kingdom of Bohemia – **Jaggiellonians** – Vladislav II (1471–1516) and Louis (1516–1926)
- ◉ A personal union between Bohemia, Poland and Hungary
- ◉ Louis II died in 1526 at the **battle of Mohács** - his troops were defeated by the Ottoman Turks – Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent
- ◉ The Ottoman victory led to the partition of Hungary for several centuries between the Ottoman Empire, the Habsburg Monarchy, and the Principality of Transylvania.

READINGS

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- *Kejř, Jiří (1964). The universal peace organization of king George of Bohemia a fifteenth century plan for world peace 1462/1464 ; Václav Vaněček ; edition of the document Jiří Kejř ; english translation Ivo Dvořák. Prague: Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.*