

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
IN THE CENTRAL EUROPE  
AFTER WW I  
CENTRAL EUROPE DURING  
THE INTERWAR PERIOD,  
PART I

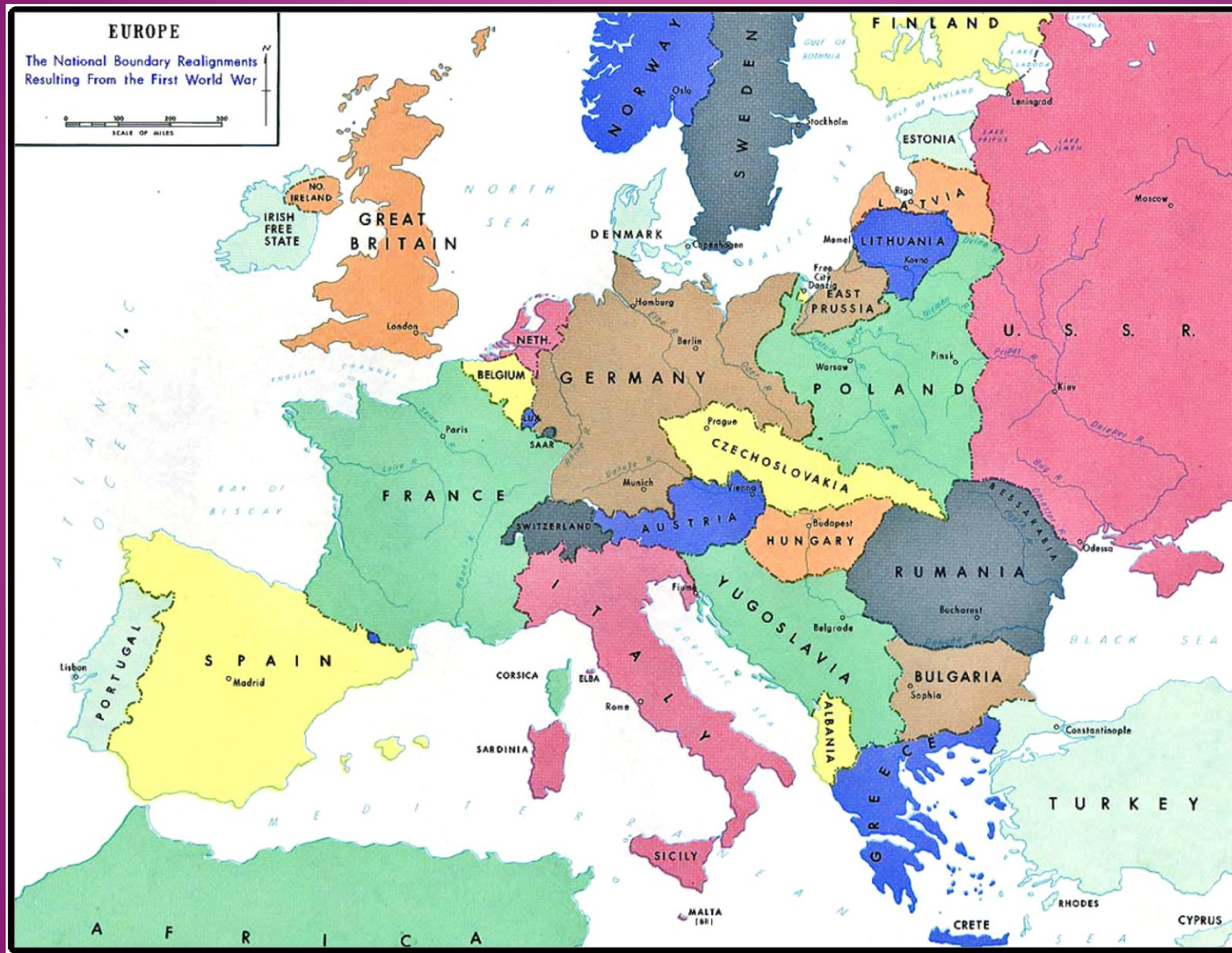
Jana Skerlova

**Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points** were first outlined in a speech Wilson gave to the American Congress in January 1918.

Wilson's Fourteen Points became the basis for a peace programme and it was on the back of the Fourteen Points that Germany and her allies agreed to an armistice in November 1918.

1. No more secret agreements ("Open covenants openly arrived at").
2. Free navigation of all seas.
3. An end to all economic barriers between countries.
4. Countries to reduce weapon numbers.
5. All decisions regarding the colonies should be impartial
6. The German Army is to be removed from Russia. Russia should be left to develop her own political set-up.
7. Belgium should be independent like before the war.
8. France should be fully liberated and allowed to recover Alsace-Lorraine
9. All Italians are to be allowed to live in Italy. Italy's borders are to be "along clearly recognisable lines of nationality."
10. Self-determination should be allowed for all those living in Austria-Hungary.
11. Self-determination and guarantees of independence should be allowed for the Balkan states.
12. The Turkish people should be governed by the Turkish government. Non-Turks in the old Turkish Empire should govern themselves.
13. An independent Poland should be created which should have access to the sea.
14. A League of the Nation should be set up to guarantee the political and territorial independence of all states.

# RESULTS OF THE WAR

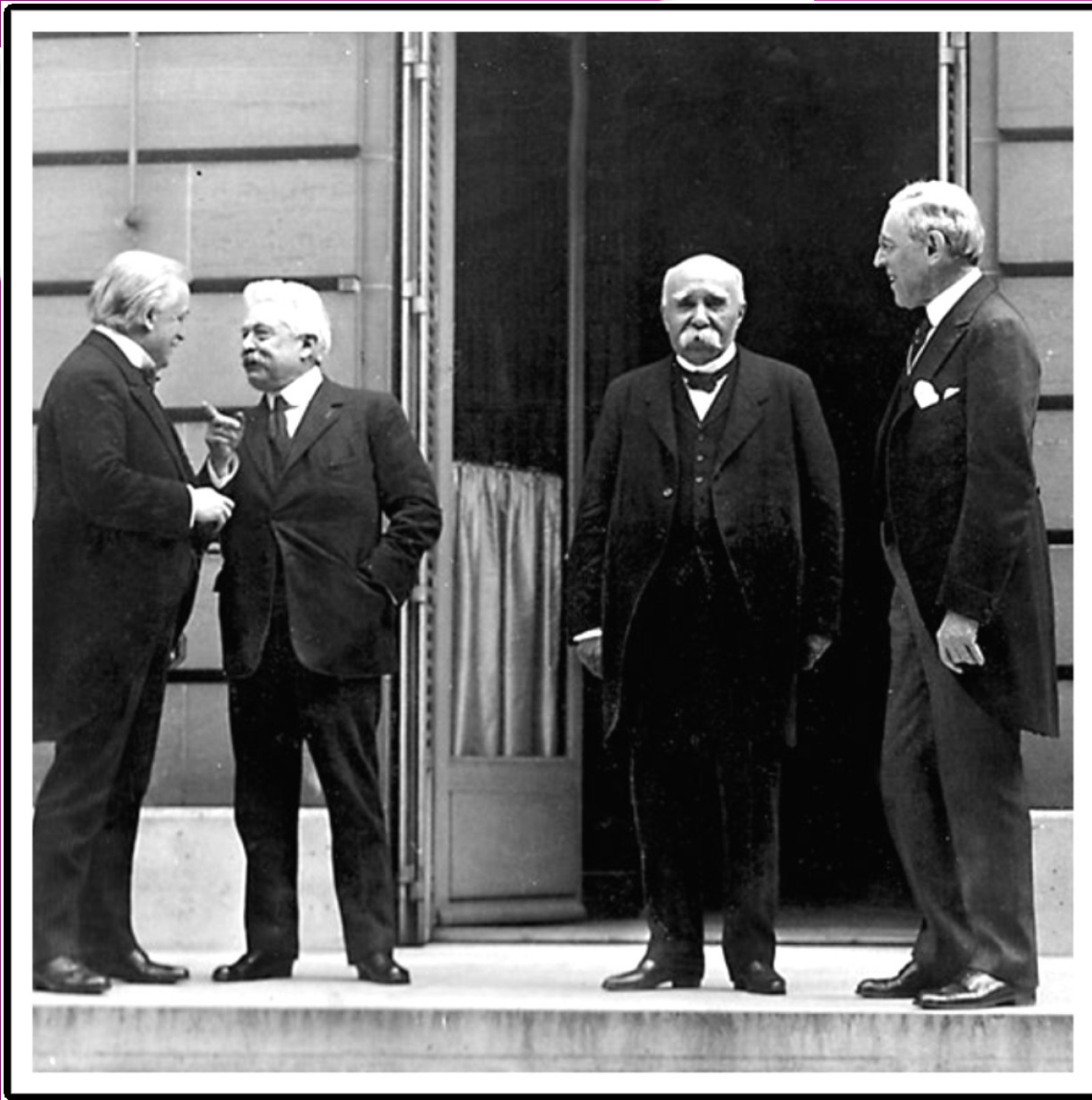


Europe after WW I

# PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE

- ◉ It was the meeting of the Allied victors following the end of World War I – the aim was to set the peace terms for the defeated Central Powers following the armistices of 1918.
- ◉ It took place in Paris in 1919 and involved diplomats from more than 32 countries and nationalities. They met, discussed various options and developed a series of treaties ("Paris Peace Treaties") for the post-war world.
- ◉ **the winning powers** – France, Great Britain, USA, Italy, Japan
- ◉ **other fighting states** – Belgium, British dominions, Poland, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Yugoslavia), Czechoslovakia, Romania, Greece, Portugal and other non-european states
- ◉ **defeated states** – Germany, Austria, Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria
- ◉ Russia was not invited to the Paris Peace Conference (bolshevik revolution and civil war in Russia)

# PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE



**The Big Four –**  
David Lloyd Geroge (GB),  
Vittorio Orlando (It),  
George Clemenceau (Fr),  
Woodrow Wilson (US) –  
from left to right

# PEACE TREATIES

*The following treaties were prepared at the Paris Peace Conference:*

- ⦿ **the Treaty of Versailles**, 1919, 28 June 1919, (with the German Empire in Weimar Republic form)
- ⦿ **the Treaty of Saint-Germain**, 10 September 1919, (with Austria)
- ⦿ **the Treaty of Neuilly**, 27 November 1919, (with Bulgaria)
- ⦿ **the Treaty of Trianon**, 4 June 1920, (with Hungary)
- ⦿ **the Treaty of Sèvres**, 10 August 1920; subsequently revised by the Treaty of Lausanne, 24 June 1923, (with Turkey)
- ⦿ <http://www.the-map-as-history.com/demos/tome03/index.php>

# VERSAILLES SYSTEM

- ⊙ The so-called "Paris Peace Treaties", together with the accords of the Washington Naval Conference of 1921-1922, laid the foundations for the so-called Versailles-Washington system of international relations
- ⊙ the United States never ratified the Treaty of Versailles, never joined the League of Nations, and signed separate peace treaties with the three countries it had declared war against
- ⊙ 1920 – the **League of the Nations** was established
  - the all over the world organization which goal was to save peace in the World
  - USA did not join this organization
  - In fact –useless – did not have any instruments how to enforce its decisions (only resolutions without the real effect)

# CENTRAL EUROPE AFTER WWI

## *Economy*

- ⊙ 1921–1922 – economic depression as a consequence of the war
- ⊙ 1924–1929 – economic boom, liberal economic reforms, technical development, intensification and growth of production
- ⊙ 1929, October 24 – the Black Tuesday, New York Stock Market Crash (Wall Street) → The Great Depression – the longest, most widespread, and deepest depression of the 20th century, drop of industrial production, high unemployment, social unrests, crisis of democracy
- ⊙ since 1933 – economic development again, but slow



# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE CENTRAL EUROPE AFTER WWI

- ◉ unstable peace, effort to avoid conflicts, era of democratism and a pacifism
- ❖ April – May 1922 – **Conference in Genova, Italy**
- ◉ Russia and Germany were invited to this conference as well
- ◉ The conference should discuss German reparations - Germany was not able to pay it but France insisted on it → no agreement
- ◉ The result of the conference: meeting of German and Soviet diplomats – they concluded an **Agreement in Rapallo** – Germany was the first state which recognized the Soviet Union de iure
- ◉ 1924 – **the Dawes Plan** – the plan of stabilization of German economy and economical recovery (stabilization of German mark, budget, sequential paying of reparations)
- ◉ The Dawes Plan relied on money given to Germany by the US – high loans

## ❖ **Locarno Conference, Switzerland – October 1925**

- ⊙ 4 great powers (Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany) – an attempt to overcome the differences between the winners and losers
- ⊙ The principal treaty concluded at Locarno was the "**Rhineland Pact**" between Germany, France, Belgium, the United Kingdom, and Italy. The first three signatories undertook not to attack each other, with the latter two acting as guarantors
- ⊙ the western borders of Germany were guaranteed but the eastern were not – there could come up to some changes – central European countries felt endangered by German imperialism and revanchism
- ⊙ Germany's admission to the League of Nations
- ⊙ the subsequent withdrawal (completed in June 1930) of Allied troops from Germany's western Rhineland

- ❖ **Briand-Kellog Pact** - also called the **General Treaty for the Renunciation of War** or the **World Peace Act**) was signed on August 27, 1928 57 states
- ⊙ prohibited the use of war as "an instrument of national policy" and as an instrument of settlement of disputes between states
- ⊙ the problem was that there were not defined any sanctions in case of breaching the Pact
- ⊙ no program of disarmament
- ❖ **The Young Plan** was a program for settlement of German reparations debts after World War I written in 1929 and formally adopted in 1930
- ⊙ Germany was not able to pay the huge annual payments, so the amount of the reparation payments was reduced again – to 112 billion Gold Marks, Germany should pay them in next 59 years, 2 billion marks every year

# READINGS

- ❑ WWI:

<http://www.firstworldwar.com>

<http://www.the-map-as-history.com/demos/tome03/index.php>

- ❑ 14 point of Woodrow Wilson:

[http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc\\_large\\_image.php?doc=62](http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc_large_image.php?doc=62)

- ❑ MacMILLAN, Margareth: *Peacemakers Six Months That Changed the World: The Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and Its Attempt to End War.*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8uWgbRd8So>

- ❑ HENIG, Ruth B. (1995). *Versailles and after, 1919-1933*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.

- ❑ Treaty of Locarno

<http://treaties.un.org/Pages/showDetails.aspx?objid=08000002801683d0>

# 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
  - lack of food
  - Many war veterans (lots of them disabled) – problems with their re-integration
- ⊙ 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 – the Communist Party of Germany was founded (headed by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht) – rejected the parliamentary democracy

# Weimar Republic



# GERMANY DURING 1920s

- ◉ **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
- ◉ 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

# GERMANY



Paul von Hindenburg



Adolf Hitler



# GERMANY DURING 1930s

- ◉ 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)
- ◉ 1933 – **Adolf Hitler** was appointed as Chancellor (Prime Minister)
- ◉ 1933 – Germany left the League of Nations
- ◉ The Nazi regime restored economic prosperity and ended mass unemployment using heavy spending on the military, while suppressing labor unions and strikes → enormous popularity
- ◉ Secret police – Gestapo (**Heinrich Himmler**)
- ◉ February 1933 – the Reichstag Fire – an arson attack on the building of German parliament (Reichstag) – used by Nazi regime – the communists were accused to burn the Reichstag – the Reichstag trial
- ◉ persecuting of political opposition – it was destroyed
- ◉ Concentration camps (1933 – the first c.c. was found in Dachau – for the political prisoners and opponents of the Nazi regime – communists, social democrats, later also for Jews, Gypsies, Slavic peoples etc.)
- ◉ Propaganda – minister **Joseph Goebbles**
- ◉ 1934 – Hitler became a Führer – the head of the state (after President's death)
- ◉ 1934 – *The Night of the Long Knives* – the top leaders of SA were killed – internal opposition in Nazi party was destroyed



Heinrich Himmler visiting the concentration camp in Dachau (1936).

- ◉ 1935 – **Nüremberg laws** – anti-Semitism, the Jews excluded from political, economical and public life, had to wear a yellow star
- ◉ 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 (Soviet Union) – 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

## *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](http://books.google.cz/books?id=J4A1gt4-VCsC&printsec=frontcover&hl=cs&source=gbs_ViewAPI&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)



**The dissolution of Habsburg Monarchy in 1918.  
The newly established states and their territorial gains from Austria-Hungary.**

# AUSTRIA

- ◉ 1919–1934 – the Republic of Austria
- ◉ Very bad economic situation as a consequence of the war and of the dissolution of Habsburg monarchy (they lost industrial territories in Bohemia) and establishing of the new states and frontiers (new customs taxes, new currencies in new states etc. That complicated international trade)
- ◉ The first Chancellor became **Ignaz Seipel**.
- ◉ Austria's government was dominated by the Christian Social Party
- ◉ The second strongest party was Social democratic party
- ◉ Both the parties had paramilitary forces (Heimwehr – right wing and Schutzbund – left wing) established in 1923
- ◉ the country was unstable, severe economic consequences of the war (economic depression, lack of food etc.)
- ◉ In 1927, left-wing supporters engaged in a massive protest over the acquittal of right-wing paramilitaries who were found guilty of killing a man and a child
- ◉ The huge protest and the clash between right-wing and left-wing paramilitary forces is known as **July Revolt of 1927**
- ◉ It was suppressed by violence by police – many protestors were killed
- ◉ 1932 – **authoritarian regime** of Chancellor **Engelbert Dollfuss**
- ◉ Strong centralization, dictatorship, one-party state was created since May 1934 – Fatherland Front
- ◉ **Austrofascism** – gravitated to Italy (Austria felt threatened by German demands on Austria – Anschluss), Italy competed with Germany for the political influence in Austria



Engelbert Dollfuss



Kurt Schuschnigg

- ◉ Dollfuss' government was in competition with growing Nazi party which wanted Austria to join Germany
- ◉ The state began to crack down on pro-Nazi and pro-German-unification sympathizers
- ◉ The Austrian Nazis responded by the revolt
- ◉ During this revolt Dollfuss was assassinated by Nazi agents who in 1934 – **July Putsch**
- ◉ The putsch was finally suppressed (with the help of Mussolini's Italy) and the Austrian Nazis were mostly arrested or emigrated
- ◉ The remaining Austrian Nazis started to make use of terrorist attacks against Austrian governmental institutions, causing a death of more than 800 between 1934 and 1938
- ◉ A new Chancellor – **Kurt Schuschnigg** – similar political course as Dollfuss
- ◉ 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 took place in Austria
- ◉ The Austrian Republic was dissolved and became a part of Germany
- ◉ Schuschnigg was arrested by German Nazis and during the WW 2 was interned in the concentration camp.
- ◉ The new head of the government became Austrian Nazi leader **Arthur Seyss Inquart**





Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1985-083-10  
Foto: o. Ang. | März 1938

Jubilant crowds greet Hitler's motorcade entering Vienna on 15 March 1938.

# HUNGARY

- ◉ The successful Aster revolution in Budapest led to **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 felt threatened by Hungarian territorial demands → their armies attacked Hungary and the Romanians took the Hungarian capital city Budapest
- ◉ **the Hungarian Soviet Republic was defeated**
- ◉ the new Government – fascist party of former Austro-Hungarian **Admiral Miklós Horthy**
- ◉ **1920 – the monarchy was restored** in Hungary but no king
- ◉ Horthy ruled over it as a regent between 1921 and 1944
- ◉ the Prime Minister was **István Bethlen** (till 1931)

# HUNGARY 1920-1938



# HUNGARY

- ◎ Hungary's signing of **the Treaty of Trianon** on June 4, **1920**
  - ratified the country's dismemberment and establishing of the new borders of Hungary
  - the loss of territories (71 %) and population (66 %)
  - limited the size of its armed forces
  - required reparations payments
  - 3.4 million of ethnic Hungarians lived outside the Hungarian state (minorities in neighboring states)
  - In Hungary it was seen as a „national disaster“ → revanchism
- ◎ 1920s – „**the white terror**“ - led to the imprisonment, torture, and execution without a 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 and October 1921
- ◎ No democracy – the suffrage – only 29 % of population, public vote



Miklos Horthy, the Regent  
of Hungary 1921–1944

The Jewish victims of Arrow Cross Party  
men in the Dohányi Street Synagogue in  
Budapest during WW 2



- The interwar Hungary was semifascist, authoritarian and anti-Semitic (numerus clausu for the Jews at the universities etc.)
- 1932–1936 – the Prime Minister was **Guyla Gömbös** –
- the radical right's ascendancy in Hungarian politics
- 1938 – territorial gains – from Czechoslovakia – so called First Vienna Award
- 1939 – Hungary occupied Carpathian Ruthenia and parts of eastern Slovakia (earlier those were the parts of Czechoslovakia)
- Later also territorial gains from Rumania – Second Vienna Award in 1940
- 1941 – Hungary occupied parts of Yugoslavia
- Hungarian nazism
- 1939 – **Arrow Cross Party** (Hungarian Equivalent of Nazi Party) won the elections
- 1940 – Hungary joined the Tripartite Pact (Germany, Italy and Japan)
- 1941 – Hungary participated on the invasions of Yugoslavia and of the Soviet Union
- Hungary lost its territorial gains after the WW 2

# 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)

