

CENTRAL
EUROPE AND THE
CZECH LANDS IN
THE MIDDLE
AGES

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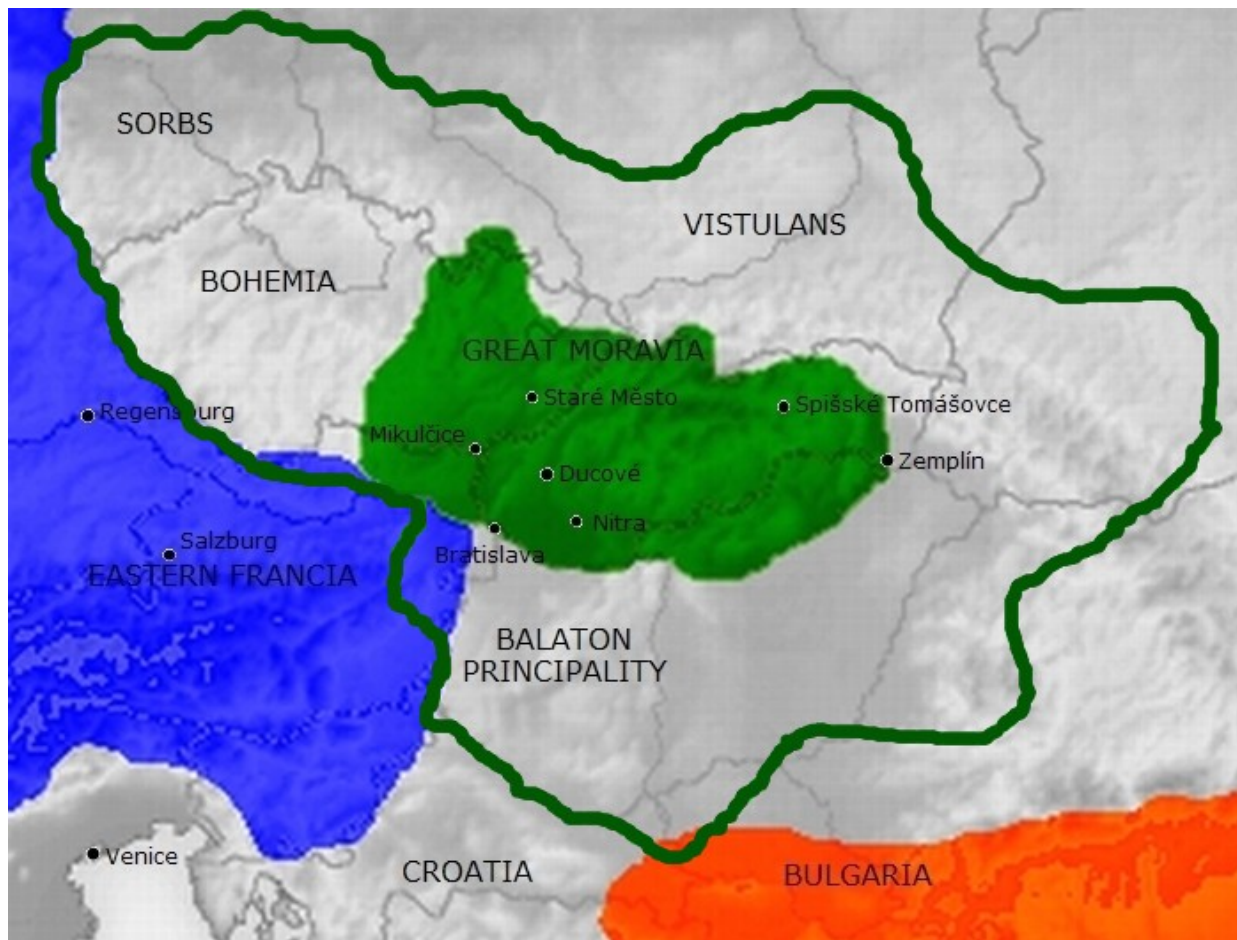
Czech Academy of Sciences

THE GREAT MORAVIA IN THE 9TH CENTURY



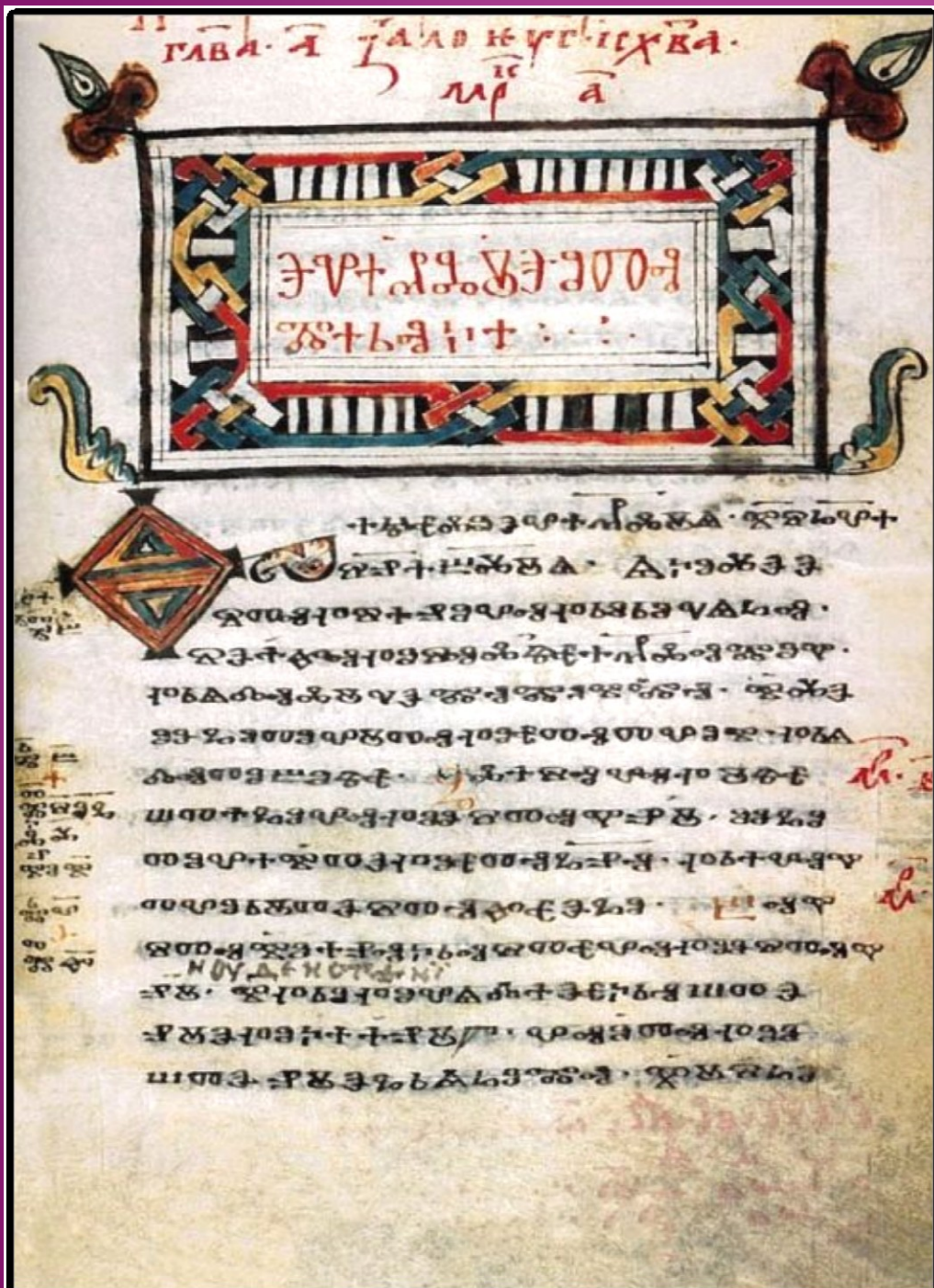
- ❑ 5th and 6th century – the Slavic tribes came to this area and settled on the left bank of Danube River and along the Morava River
- ❑ the very first Slavic state in the 9th century – situated mostly around the Morava River – **The Great Moravia**
- ❑ cultural development resulted from the mission of **Saints Cyril (Constantine) and Methodius** – 863
- ❑ The missionaries were invited by Prince **Rastislav**
- ❑ translation of the Bible into the slavic language, preaching in slavic language → the Christianity widespread faster
- ❑ They created the new Slavonic script (*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



Glagolitsa

the Slavonic script
composed by
**St. Constantine the
Philosopher.**

Glagolitsa was an original
graphic system consisting
of 38 signs and it
expressed the whole
distinctiveness of the Old
Slavic language.

Phonologically it exceeded
the Greek and Latin
languages.



The Church of St. Margareth in Kopčany, Slovakia, is the only remaining Great Moravian building.



Great Moravian jewelery – the golden earrings from 9th century, found in Valy u Mikulčic, South Moravia

PLACES TO VISIT

- ◉ **Moravian Museum – Zelný trh 8, Brno**

<http://www.mzm.cz/en/great-moravia/>

Great Moravia – this exhibition introduces you to the plentiful treasures documenting the remarkable phenomenon of Great Moravia, the very first Slavonic state. Coming here you shall be astonished by the incredible beauty of Moravian jewellery, pottery, technological skills and handicraft of Moravian craftsmen.

- ◉ **Slavic fortified settlement in Mikulčice, The National Cultural Relic, Mikulčice – Valy, South Moravia**

<http://www.masaryk.info/english/#mikulcice>

The place of historical importance, set in a beautiful countryside, remarkable as a historical site of Great Moravia (8-10th century AD). Two archeological exhibitions with priceless excavations. The original seat of Great Moravia kings and a place of cultural and religious mission of St. Cyril and Methodius.

- ◉ **Modrá u Velehradu – Archeoskanzen**

Archeoskanzen Modrá - Fortified settlement in the Central Moravia is located near Uherske Hradiste.

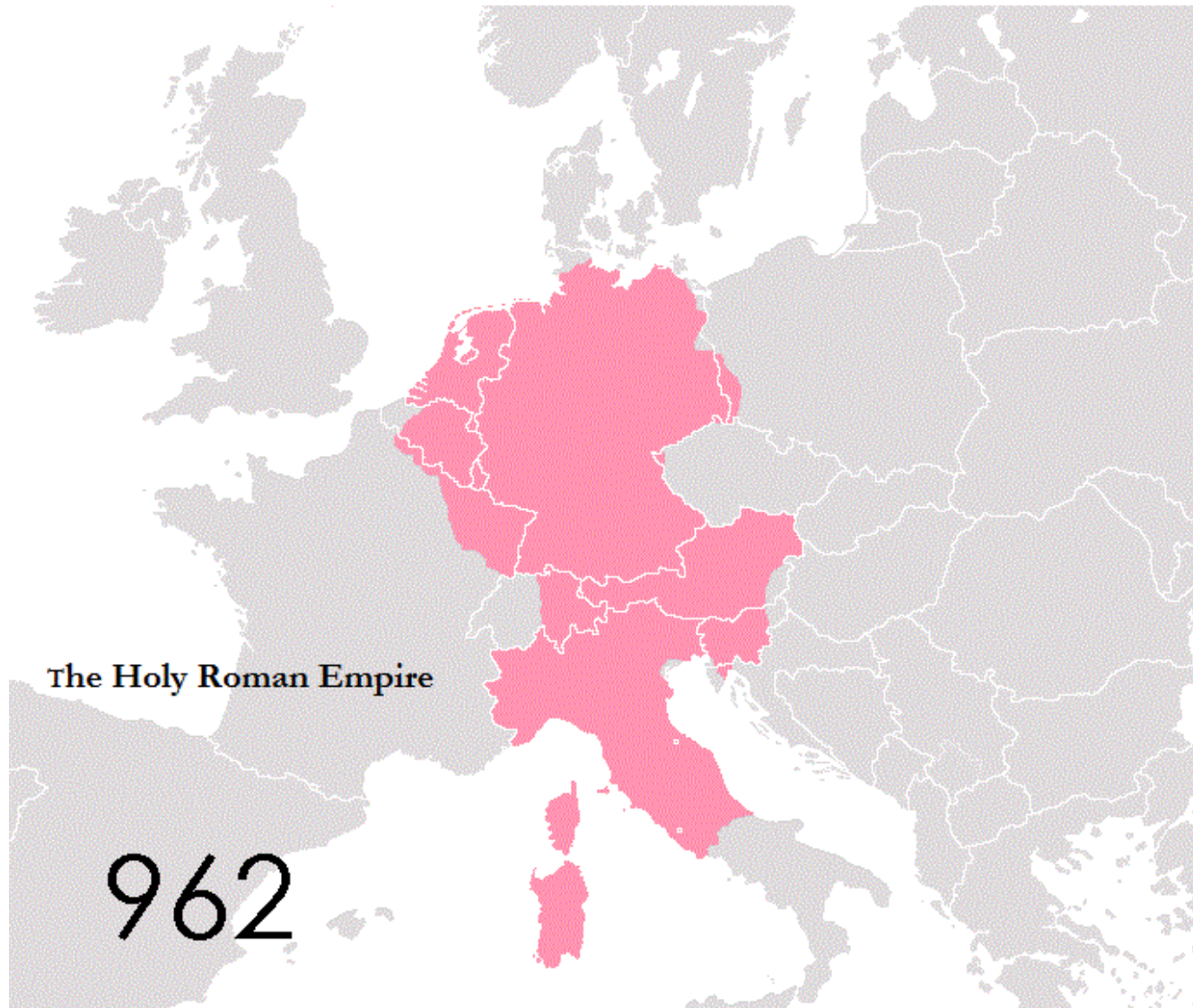
It is an important subject showing one of the most important periods of our national history. Skanzen live everyday life, with educational performances, programs, experimental melting of metals, manufacture of ceramics, agricultural production and the constantly carried out archaeological research.

WESTERN EUROPE IN 9TH AND 10TH CENTURY – FRANKISH EMPIRE

◉ Charlemagne (Charles the Great)

- ◉ 764 King of the Franks, 774 King of Italy
- ◉ **800** – crowned by the Pope – Emperor of the Romans - the ceremony formally acknowledged the Frankish Empire as the successor of the (Western) Roman one
- ◉ after 840 – the empire split into three parts:
 - West Frankish Kingdom – **Charles the Bald** – the foundation for the later France under the House of Kapet
 - Middle Frankia – **Lothar I** (Lotharingia, Burgundy, northern Italy – Lombardy)
 - East Frankish Kingdom – **Louis (Ludwig) the German** → the area of modern Austria, Switzerland and Germany, later the Holy Roman Empire

THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN 10TH CENTURY



THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

- ◉ *The Holy Roman Empire* – an empire existing in Europe since 962 till 1806
- ◉ ruled by Roman Emperor
- ◉ Included 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
- ◉ **Otto I the Great** (936–973)
- ◉ 962 crowned the Emperor
- ◉ 955 – defeated the Magyars and ended their invasion to Western Europe – reputation of a savior of Christendom
- ◉ centralized his control over Germany, also through the investiture of bishops and abbots, making the clergy-class his personal vassals
- ◉ Cultural development - Ottonian Renaissance
- ◉ **Friedrich I. Barbarossa** (1152–1190)
- ◉ dynasty of Hohenstaufen, 1155 – crowned Emperor
- ◉ 1190 – died during the Third Crusade

CENTRAL EUROPE IN 10TH AND 11TH CENTURY

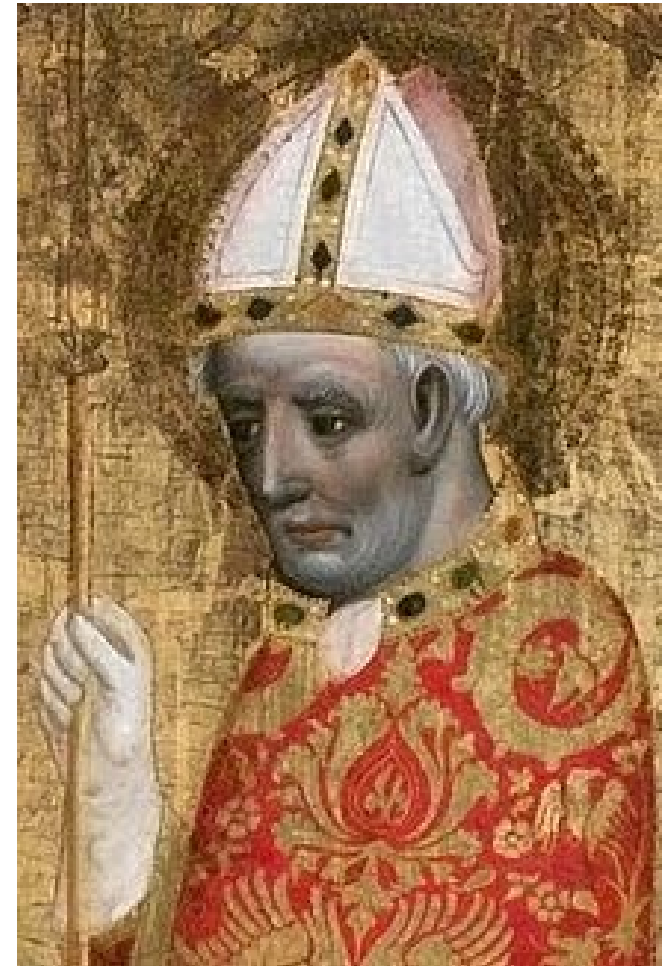
- ◉ Beginning of 10th century – The Great Moravia was destroyed because of internal political struggles and the raids of Hungarian tribes
- ◉ The territory inhabited by Slovaks became a part of newly created **Kingdom of Hungary** – the **House of Arpád**
- ◉ 1000 – **Stephen I of Hungary** (1000–1038) was crowned a king, christianization – saint patron of Hungary
- ◉ **Ladislaus I of Hungary** (107–1095) – expansion – 1091 – King of Croatia
- ◉ **Poland** – the Piast dynasty – **Duke Mieszko** (960–992) – 966 – conversion to christianity → 1000 – Poland recognized by Pope and by the Holy Roman Empire as a state
- ◉ 1025 – Duke **Boleslaus I the Brave** was crowned a King – strong ruler – expansion – 1002–1003 – Duke of Bohemia (his mother was Přemyslid princess Doubravka)
- ◉ After his death – the decline of Polish empire – renewed and unified by the King **Ladislaus I the Elbow-High** (1320–1333)

BOHEMIA FROM 9TH CENTURY TILL 1306

- ◉ the centre of the Bohemian state moved to Bohemia – **The Duchy of Bohemia** was established, dependent on Roman (German) Empire
- ◉ Prague became the capital city
- ◉ **The Přemyslid dynasty** – the mythic founder of the dynasty – **Přemysl the Ploughman**
- ◉ 883 – Duke **Bořivoj** and his wife **Ludmila** were baptised by Methodius – the bishop of Great Moravia
- ◉ 10th century – duke **Wenceslaus** – vassal of the German Empire
- ◉ Wenceslaus was assassinated by his brother → Saint Wenceslaus – the saint patron of the Czech lands
- ◉ 973 – the Prague Bishopric was established (2nd bishop **Adalbert – St. Vojtech** - apostolic mission to Poland)
- ◉ Přemyslids eliminated other strong noble families who were competing with them (massacring of two noble clans in 10/11th century)
- ◉ Duchy of Bohemia was a part of Holy Roman Empire



**St. Wenceslaus
Monument – Wenceslaus
Square in Prague**

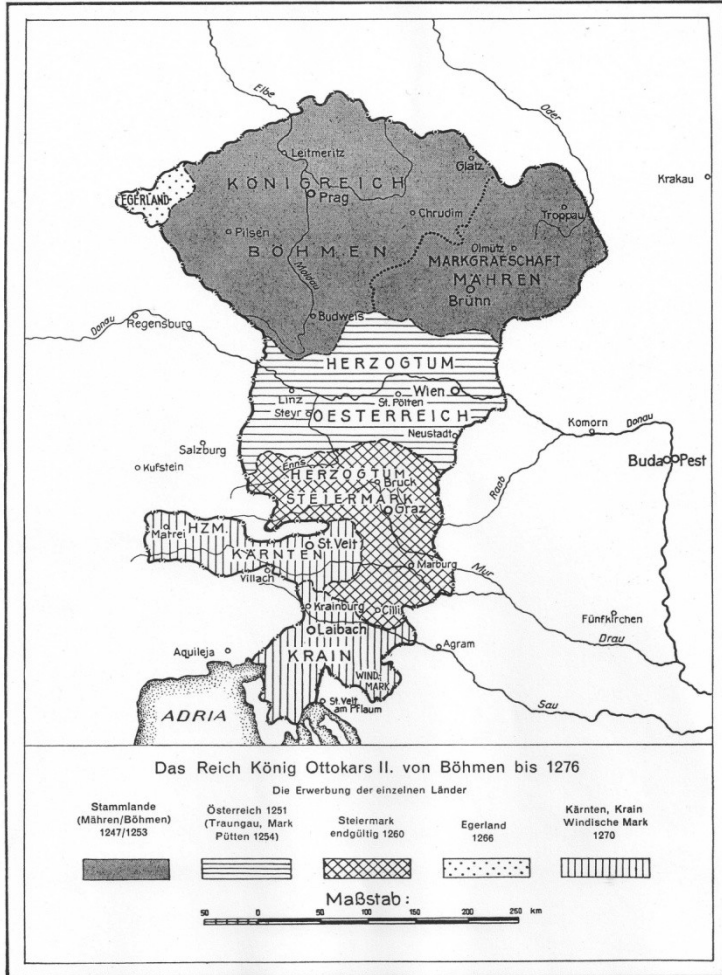


**St. Vojtěch
(Adalbert) – the
Bishop of Prague**

THE KINGDOM OF BOHEMIA

- ◉ strong and large - emancipation from the German Empire
- ◉ Bohemian kings were members of College of Electors of the German Empire
- ◉ **Ottokar I** (1198–1230)
- ◉ 1212 – Golden Bull of Sicily – a decree issued by the Holy Roman Emperor Frederik II in basel that confirmed the royal hereditary title for Ottokar
- ◉ **Wenceslaus I** (1230–1253)
- ◉ **Ottokar II** (1253–1278, Přemysl Otakar II) – The Iron and Golden King , the rise of the power of Bohemia
- ◉ very rich and powerful – his kingdom from the Krkonoše mountains to the Adriatic sea
- ◉ 1255 - a crusade to Prussia – founded the city of Königsberg (Kaliningrad today)
- ◉ 1278 – died in a war with his rival, the Roman king **Rudolph Habsburg**
- ◉ **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
- ◉ after four years of struggles for the throne – the new dynasty came to Bohemia and the Polish throne returned to the **dynasty of Piasts**

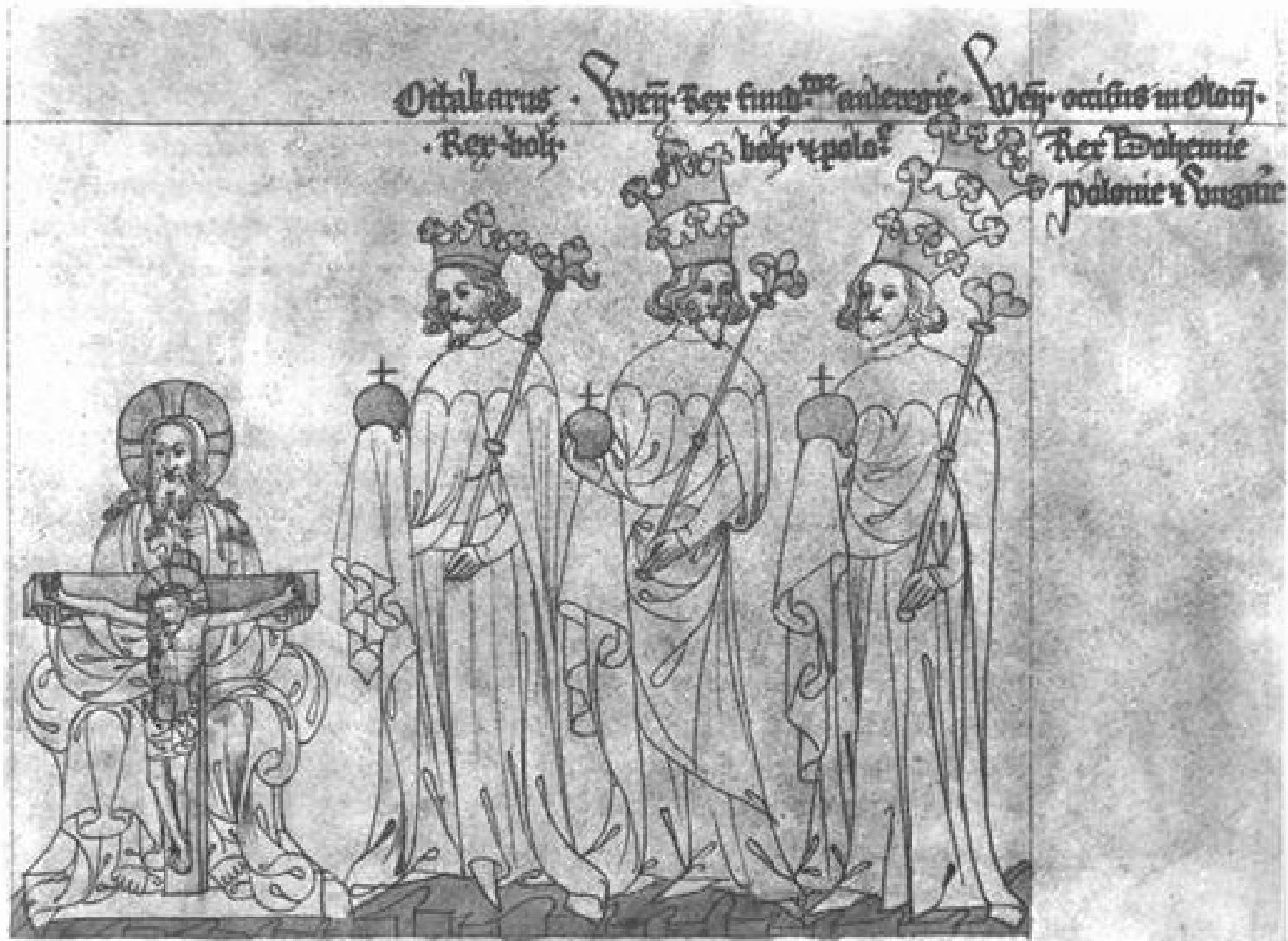
THE HOUSE OF PŘEMYSLIDS



The kingdom of Ottokar II around 1270



The kingdom of Wenceslaus II around 1301



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The Bohemian Kings – Otokar II, Wenceslaus II, Wenceslaus III
Chronicle of Zbraslav

THE HOUSE OF LUXEMBOURGS



John of Luxembourg at the battle
of Crecy



Charles IV

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 House of Luxembourgs**
- ◉ Succesfull European diplomat and warrior, but in Bohemia was unpopular – needed lots of money for his campains, was very often abroad so the country was without a ruler → the power of nobility strenghten
- ◉ He is well known for having died while fighting in *the Battle of Crécy* (1346 – during the Hundred Years War between England and France) at age 50, after having been blind for a decade

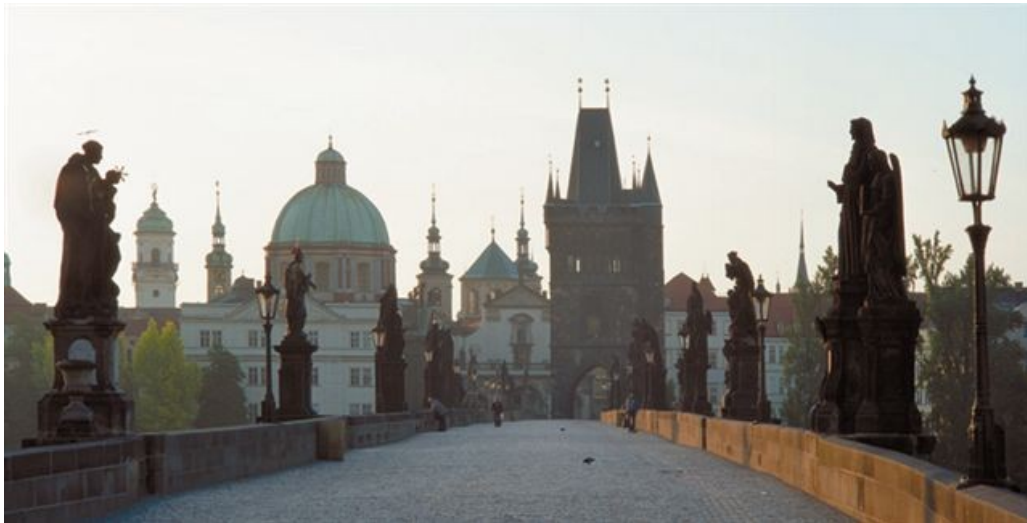
- ◉ **Charles IV (lived 1316–1378)**
- ◉ Born Wenceslaus – name Charles after French King who was his godfather
- ◉ the king of Bohemia (1346–1378) and Holy Roman Empire King (1346–1355), Holy Roman Emperor (1355–1378)
- ◉ had 4 wives and many children but was waiting for male descendant for very long so his oldest son Wencelaus (1361–1419) was very spoiled and was very bad ruler

CHARLES IV

- ◉ 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
- ◉ **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 ...**
- ◉ 1346 – the elevation of the Prague bishopric to an archbishopric
- ◉ 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 with the so called Crown of St. Wenceslaus



The Karlstejn Castle (near Prague)

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE



Bitov Castle (Southern Moravia)



St. Jakob's Church (Brno)

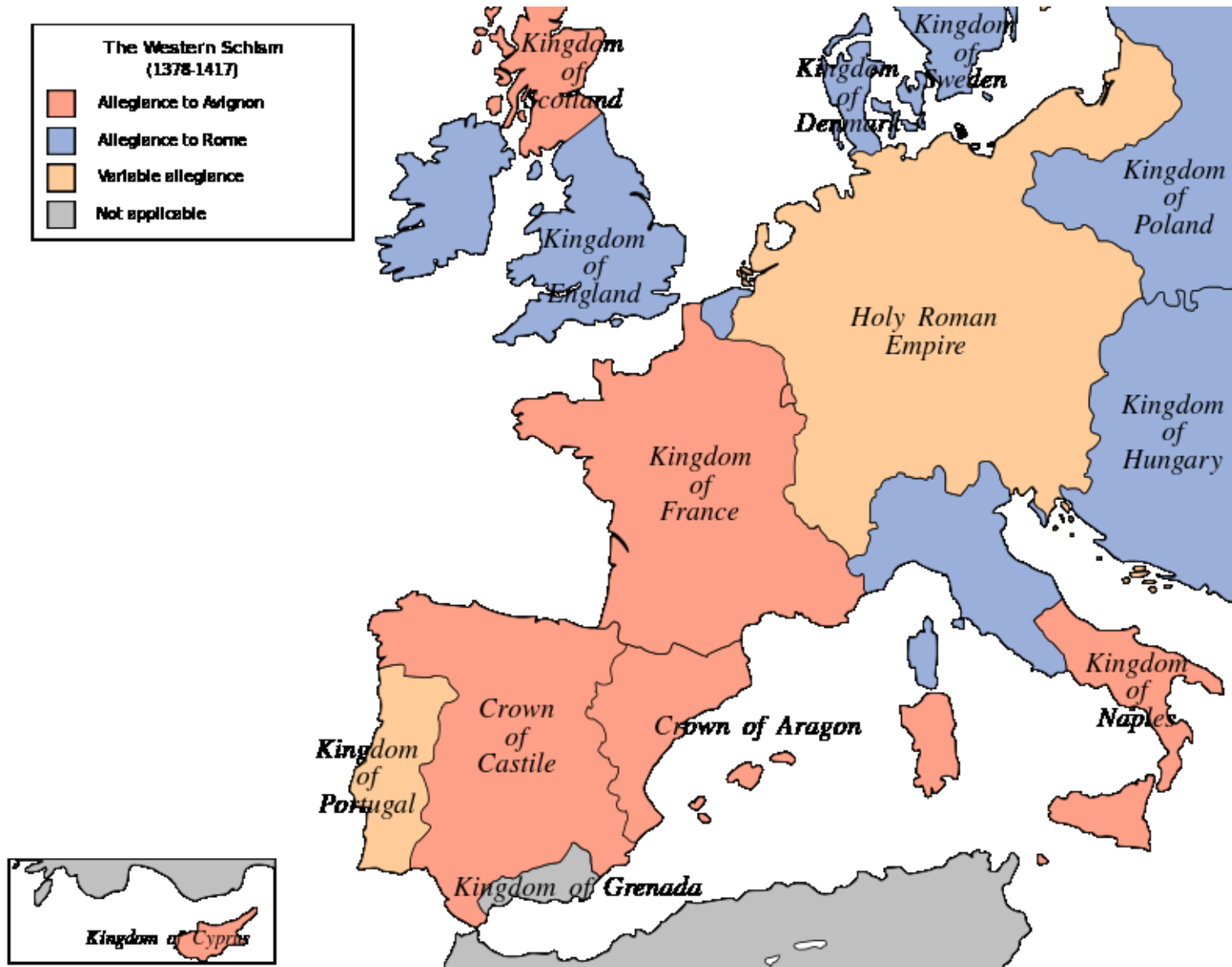
THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE DURING 14TH AND 15TH CENTURY

- ◉ 1273 – **Rudolf the Habsburg** elected the king of the Roman Empire – unimportant dynasty from Austria, elected because the dukes didn't want powerful Bohemian king Otakar II on the Roman throne
- ◉ 14th century – the house of Luxembourgs – **Henry VII** (1308–1311), after his unexpected death the struggle for the throne began – **Louis IV of Wittlesbach** (1314–1346) from Bavaria won
- ◉ **Charles IV** (1346–1378) of Luxembourg
- ◉ 1346 – Holy Roman King, 1355 – crowned the Holy Roman Emperor
- ◉ 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
- ◉ **Wenceslaus IV** (1378–1419) – a son of Charles IV, King of HRE (1378–1411) – weak ruler
- ◉ **Sigismund of Luxembourg** (1410–1437) – Wenceslaus' brother,
- ◉ 1378 – King of Hungary and Croatia (married Mary of Hungary), 1411 – King of HRE, 1419 – King of Bohemia, 1431 - King of Italy, 1433 – Holy Roman Emperor

THE CHURCH IN 14TH AND 15TH CENTURY

- ⊙ The crisis of Papacy
- ⊙ 14th century - Great Papal Schism – two Popes – in Rome (Italy) and in Avignon (France)
- ⊙ 1409 – the council of Pisa elected a new pope → three popes
- ⊙ 1410 – indulgences were authorized by one of the Popes (John XXIII) who wanted to get money for the crusade against his rival Pope Gregory XII and his protector king Ladislaus of Naples
- ⊙ 1414 – the Council of Constance (Germany) was called – the main purpose was to finish the papal schism
- ⊙ 1417 – a new pope – **Martin V** was elected (1417–1437) – he was recognized by the entire Europe - the schism was ended

The schism caused also diplomatic crisis in Europe – each secular ruler had to choose which Pope he would recognize:



THE HUSSITE REVOLUTION (1419 - 1436)

- ◉ **Master Jan Hus** – became one of the forerunners of the Protestant Reformation, was inspired and influenced by British thinker John Wyclif (†1384)
- ◉ Scholar, clergyman, preacher at the Bethlehem Chapel in Prague and Professor of Prague University, 1402 – Rector 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)
- ◉ declared that the clergy should live according to the Bible, in poverty, without property and without a secular power
- ◉ the mortal sins should be prohibited and punished
- ◉ proclaimed that the believers should understand the Holy Writ so it should be proclaimed in the national languages, not in latine
- ◉ 1410 – Hus was excommunicated from the church by Pope Alexander V

MASTER JAN HUS



Jan Hus at the stake.

Codex of Jena.

- ◉ Hus was invited to the Council of Constance to defend himself and explain his theories
- ◉ The King of Holy Roman Empire **Sigismund** guaranteed to Hus a safe passage through the HRE but he didn't have any jurisdiction at the Council of Constance → Hus was imprisoned in Constance for 8 months
- ◉ Master Jan Hus was condemned by the Council at Constance as a heretic and was sentenced to death.
- ◉ 6th July 1415 – he was burnt to death at the stake.

Recommended:

John Hus and the Papal Schism:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aF1sqe7Bmto>

=aF1sqe7Bmto

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' death in 1419
- ◉ Hus' followers launched powerful religious movement, they called themselves *the Hussites*; (or the Men of the Chalice - the symbol of Hussites movement)

Their Programme:

- ◉ Freedom to preach the Word of God
- ◉ Celebration of the Lord's Supper in both kinds (bread and wine to priests and laity alike)
- ◉ No secular power for the clergy.
- ◉ Punishment for the mortal sins.

- ◉ 1420 - after his coronation in 1420 the Hussite uprising in Bohemia → the so called Hussite wars started
- ◉ Catholics against Hussites
- ◉ Sigismund organized five crusade campaigns against Hussites but all the campaigns were unsuccessful (due to the outstanding military leader of Hussites – **Jan Žižka** who became a hero in the Czech tradition)

- ◉ almost 15 years of religious struggles and civil wars – the country was destroyed and plundered
- ◉ the economical consequences of the wars – starvation, stagnation of the trade, destroyed buildings (esp. churches and monasteries)
- ◉ After many years of wars 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 confessions – the Catholic and the Hussite became legal in Bohemia and two churches were established
- ◉ 1436 – Sigismund was accepted as the King of Bohemia, but he died in 1437
- ◉ Sigismund had to fight not only against the Hussites but also against the **Osman Turks** who spread into Europe from Asia Minor at the end of the 14th century – firstly they attacked the Balkan Peninsula and later – in 15th century – they started to threaten Hungary



Jan Žižka of Trocnov leading the
Hussite army.
The Codex of Jena



King George of Poděbrady

THE HUSSITES

- ◉ After two weak kings from the house of Habsburgs 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
- ◉ 1464 the new Pope Paul II asked George to leave hussite church and join the Catholic Church, but George refused → the Pope proclaimed George a heretic and excommunicated him
- ◉ He had also enemies among Bohemian catholic noblemen – they allied with **Matthias Corvinus of Hungary** (1458–1490)
- ◉ Matthias conquered a large part of Moravia, and in 1469 was crowned King of Bohemia by the papal party in the Moravian ecclesiastical metropolis Olomouc
- ◉ 1470 – an agreement – Mathias was rulling over Moravia and George over Bohemia

THE HOUSE OF JAGGIELLONIANS

- ◉ After George's death a new dynasty from Poland (originally from Lithuania) came to the Kingdom of Bohemia – **Jaggiellonians**
- ◉ **Vladislaus II** (1471–1516)
- ◉ A conflict between Bohemian and Hungarian King succeeded – 1471 – the Peace of Olomouc, which allowed both Vladislaus and Matthias Corvinus to use the title "King of Bohemia,,
- ◉ Vladislaus would reign in Bohemia, while Matthias gained Moravia, Silesia, and the two Lusatias
- ◉ 1491 – Mathias died → a personal union between Bohemia, Poland and Hungary – Vladislaus moved his capital to Buda (Hungary)
- ◉ Vladislaus was weak ruler and didn' like conflicts
- ◉ 1500 – Czech Council adopted a new municipal constitution that limited royal power and Vladislaus signed it in 1502 (hence it is known as *Vladislav municipal constitution*)
- ◉ 1515 – his daughter Anna married the future HRE Emperor Ferdinand of Austria from the House of Habsburgs

THE HOUSE OF JAGGIELLONIANS

- ⊙ during their reign Hungary was under consistent border pressure from the Ottoman Empire
- ⊙ **Louis (Ludwig) II** (1516–1526)
- ⊙ only 10 years old when his Father died
- ⊙ 1526 – died 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
- ⊙ because Louis II died without having any children, his successor became his sister's husband **Ferdinand of Austria**

KINGDOM OF BOHEMIA
DURING THE MIDDLE AGES.
A MAP.

◎ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SK7YmwuVak>

READINGS

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