

CENTRAL EUROPE
BEFORE, DURING AND
AFTER
THIRTY YEARS' WAR

Jana Skerlova, Ph.D.

THE HOUSE OF HABSBURGS

- ◉ Habsburgs originally came from Switzerland
- ◉ During 13th century – the domains in Austria
- ◉ Since 14th century – the growth of their power

- ◉ 1526 – 1918 ruled over Bohemian lands
- ◉ The Habsburg rule brought the re-introduction of the Roman Catholic faith, centralization and the construction of a multi-national empire
- ◉ The Habsburgs included the Crownlands of Bohemia into their monarchy, the Habsburg domination over Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia lasted till 1918

FERDINAND I

- ◉ **Ferdinand I** (1526–1564)
- ◉ He became the Holy Roman Emperor in 1558 (after his brother Charles V had died)
- ◉ king of Bohemia and Hungary since 1526 (elected by Bohemian and Hungarian Diet – i.e. nobles, clergy and representatives of the royal towns – because he was a husband of Anne Jagiellonica – sister of Bohemian and Hungarian king Luis II who had died at the battle of Mohács in 1526)
- ◉ king of Croatia, Dalmatia, Slavonia, and formally king of Serbia, Galicia (in Eastern Europe) and Lodomeria, etc. → large and powerful empire

THE HOUSE OF HABSBURGS



Ferdinand I



Anne of Hungary and Bohemia

FERDINAND I

◉ The key events during his reign were:

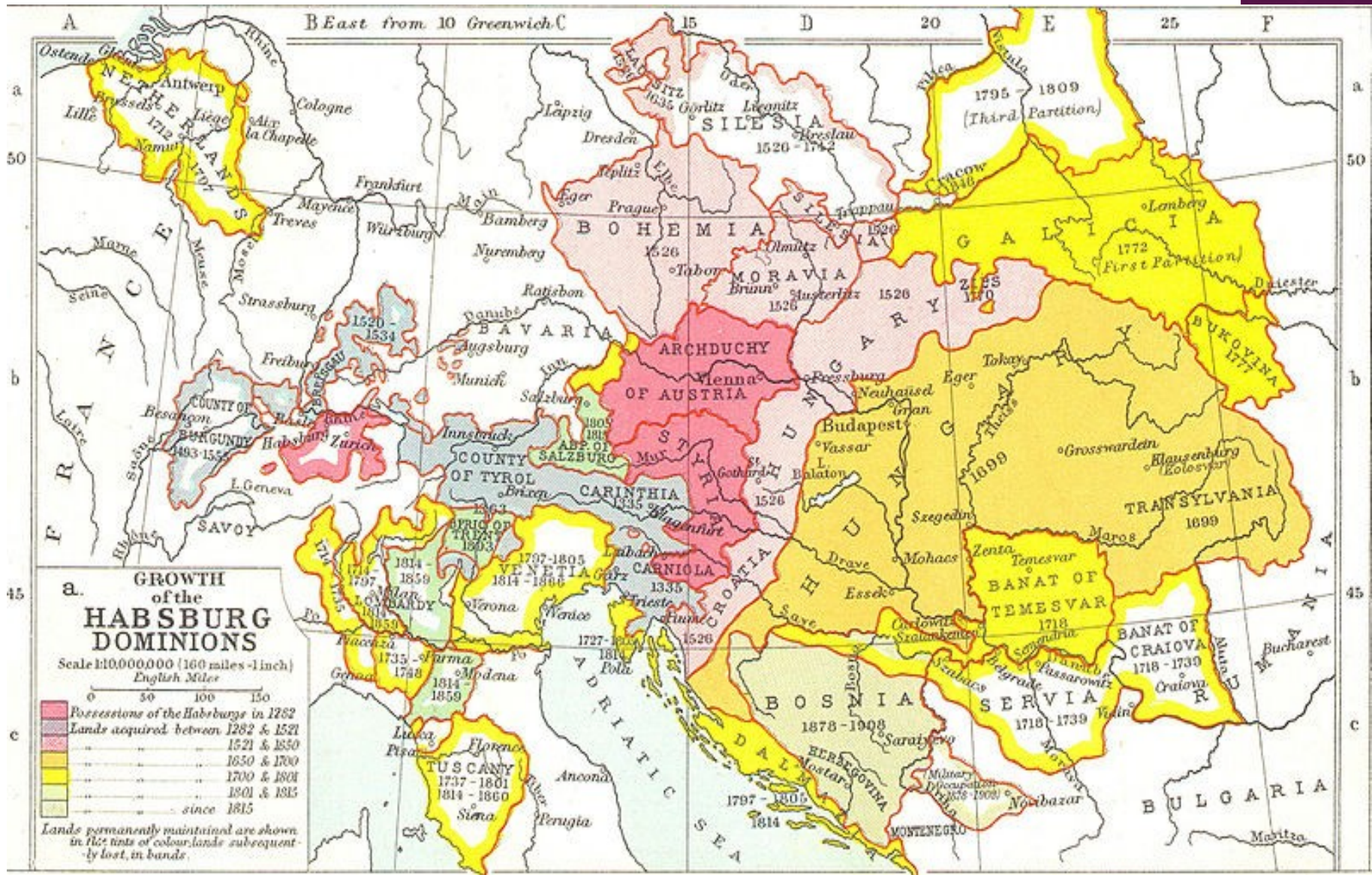
❖ *the contest with the Ottoman Empire*

- Their great advance into Central Europe began in the 1520s
- 1529 – they unsuccessfully assaulted Vienna, the capital of Habsburg Monarchy
- The **Siege of Vienna** took 150 days
- the aim of the campaign was securing control over all of Hungary and weakening of the Habsburgs' power
- unusually bad weather conditions saved Vienna, the heavy rain and snowfall made the Turks to leave
- they returned in 1533, but their army wasn't so strong
- 1533 – a peace treaty with the Ottoman Empire was concluded – split Hungary into a Habsburg sector in the west and a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire in the east

❖ *the contest with the protestant Reformation, which resulted in several wars of religion*

- 1519 – The ninety-five thesis of Wittenberg - was written by **Martin Luther** in 1517 and is widely regarded as the primary catalyst for the **Protestant Reformation**
- The disputation protests against clerical abuses, especially the sale of indulgences
- 1546–1547 – **the Smalkaldic war** – the Smalkaldic Union of protestant towns and princes united against ruling catholic Habsburg dynasty
- Ferdinand and his brother Charles V, the Emperor, formed a strong army
- they also asked the Bohemian estates (nobility, clergy and towns)) to form an army and send it to fight against Smalkaldic Union
- the Bohemians refused to do it because they didn't want to fight against protestants and also because the Bohemian national army could be called only to defend the country not to conquer foreign lands or to fight abroad
- so the Bohemian estates were protesting and they **rose up against Habsburgs**
- but the rebellion was easily suppressed and the repressions followed
- the repressions against nobility weren't so strict (usually the noblemen lost their property) but the towns, which were also participating on the uprising, were excluded from the political life and the town government was put under the control of the royal clerks
- also the hussite church was persecuted in Bohemian Lands

THE HABSBURG MONARCHY



MAXMILIAN II (1562–1576)

- ◉ He faced the rising power of new Protestant movements in Bohemia – so called Bohemian Brethern and Lutherans
- ◉ he ratified the religious programe of Bohemian non-catholic estates - so called **The Bohemian Confession**
- ◉ but he ratified it only orally so it didn't bring the religious liberty as the Bohemian estates wished

RUDOLPH II (1576-1611)

- ⊙ Eccentric person
- ⊙ Incompetent and weak ruler, not very interested in politics
- ⊙ left Vienna for Prague, Bohemian capital grew into an important center of European culture
- ⊙ 1593–1606 – „The Long War“ – with Osman Turks
- ⊙ 1609 – The Czech Estates forced Rudolph II to issue a decree - so called "Maiestatus" or **the Letter of Majesty** - Rudolph was compelled to grant far-reaching concessions to the nobility and to proclaim freedom of religious confession in Bohemian Lands
- ⊙ 1604 –1606 – uprising in Hungary
- ⊙ since 1608 – he ruled only over Bohemia, Silesia and Lusitania, his brother Mathiass became a ruler in Moravia, Austria and Hungary

- ◉ Rudolph supported culture, arts, sciences etc.
- ◉ due to the presence of many artist and scientist and the development of culture and natural sciences his capital city was called „*the Golden Prague*“
- ◉ Rudolph also supported natural philosophers such as the astronomers *Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler*, also *Giordano Bruno* spent some time in Prague when he was on the run from the inquisition
- ◉ Rudolph kept a menagerie of exotic animals, botanical gardens, and Europe's most extensive "cabinet of curiosities" (Kunstkammer)
- ◉ Rudolph also patronized *occult sciences*, many alchemists stayed in Prague during his reign such as Edward Kelley and John Dee
- ◉ he had his private alchemy laboratory where he arranged his own experiments
- ◉ His lifelong wish was to find the Philosopher's Stone and become immortal
- ◉ apart from the Philosopher's Stone the alchemists also wanted to construct an artificial human being – homunkulus



RUDOLPH II

Rudolph loved collecting paintings and was also a patron of many contemporary artists – e. g. *Giuseppe Arcimboldo*, *Bartolomeus Spranger*, *Hans von Aachen*, *Adrian de Vries* and many others

Interesting web site:

[http:// english.habsburger.net/](http://english.habsburger.net/)

THE RENAISSANCE STYLE

- ◉ dominating artificial style in 16th and 17th century in Bohemia and in the Central Europe
- ◉ The obvious distinguishing features of Classical Roman architecture were adopted by Renaissance architects
- ◉ **the Prague Castle** was rebuilt in this style
- ◉ A villa for Queen Anna – **Belveder** near the Prague Castle
- ◉ many Italian architects came to Bohemia
- ◉ Old castles are rebuilt into the modern chateaus – e. g. **Chateau Litomyšl** (UNESCO), **Castle Český Krumlov** – UNESCO
- ◉ Prosperity of the towns – town halls, squares, houses
- ◉ palaces of the nobility built in the towns
- ◉ **Town of Telč** – houses with picturesque facades and arcades - UNESCO
- ◉ **Town of Slavonice**
- ◉ near to the Brno – **Bučovice castle** – unique - newly built castle

THE RENAISSANCE STYLE



The Town of Telč



Chateau of Litomyšl

THE RENAISSANCE STYLE



Belveder – The Royal Summer
Palace (Prague)

Český Krumlov

THE RENAISSANCE STYLE



The house at the Old Town Square in Prague



The Town Hall in Pilsen

THE RENAISSANCE STYLE



Chateau of Opočno



Chateau of Bučovice

THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR (1618–1648)

- ◉ **Matthias** (1611–1619) – disregarded the Letter of Majesty in an issue involving Protestant churches
- ◉ The Bohemian noblemen revolted
- ◉ 1618 – The so-called **Defenestration of Prague** – the unpopular king's representatives in Bohemia (the governors, high officials) were thrown out of a window of the Prague Castle
- ◉ The provisional government of 30 directors was established
- ◉ the Bohemian nobility declared that Matthias' son **Ferdinand II** was deposed, in his place **Frederick V** (1619–1620) was elected – called „Winter King“



- ⊙ The decisive clash between the two opposing camps took place in 1620 in **Battle of the White Mountain**
- ⊙ Frederick, Bohemian Estates and their army were defeated and **the Kingdom of Bohemia lost its independence for the following almost 300 years**
- ⊙ the Catholic faith was declared to be the only permitted creed in the country
- ⊙ the Bohemian revolt was an episode of the religious Thirty Years' War that swept over Europe between 1618 and 1648
- ⊙ the period of the Thirty Years' War brought political disorder and economic devastation to Bohemia and to the Central Europe in general which had far-reaching consequences on the future development of the country

- ◉ in 1621 a great trial with politicians who had been active in rebellion took place in Prague, their properties were confiscated and divided among the Catholic nobility from Bohemia, Austria and Hungary
- ◉ **on June 21 1621** – twenty-seven Estates oppositions leaders were executed in the old Town Square in Prague
- ◉ The throne of Bohemia became hereditary in the Habsburg dynasty and the most important offices were transferred permanently to Vienna
- ◉ The property of the Protestant leaders were confiscated
- ◉ German soon became the first language of the country



THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR (1618–1648)



Unsuccessful siege of
Brno by Swedish army
in 1645

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIRTY YEARS' WAR IN HABSBURG MONARCHY AND THE CZECH LANDS:

❖ *Political:*

- ⊙ the defeat of Czech Estates and the liquidation of the Czech Lands confederation enabled the Habsburgs to introduce a model based on a powerful's monarch's rule, traditionally called **royal (Baroque) absolutism**
- ⊙ the Habsburg decided to eliminate the Estates opposition completely, to establish a strong ruling position and to incorporate the Lands of the Bohemian Crown into the Habsburg monarchy much more firmly than ever before
- ⊙ 1627 – Ferdinand II formally declared Bohemia a Habsburg crown land
- ⊙ The Bohemian Diet lost its legislative autonomy and was reduced to a consultative

❖ *Economical and social:*

- ⊙ the country was destroyed, many people died in the consequence of diseases, famine, black death epidemics etc.
- ⊙ not enough labour power – that caused tightening of serfdom
- ⊙ About 36 000 Czech families had been compelled to emigrate from Bohemia – replaced by foreigners
- ⊙ among the emigrés were many outstanding scholars and intellectuals, such as **Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius)** a prominent thinker, teacher and scholar of European renown

Economical and social:

- ⊙ after the Battle of White Mountain unprecedented property and financial speculations
- ⊙ devaluation, literally cutting the coins
- ⊙ the peasants were not allowed to marry, move house, study or learn a trade without their landlord's consent
- ⊙ They had to work on landlord's fields several days in a week
- ⊙ Ruthless taxation of Bohemian people – the peasants also had to pay heavy governmental taxation
- ⊙ Large number of German colonists
- ⊙ Germanization, national humiliation
- ⊙ Economic misery

❖ *Religious consequences:*

- ⊙ after two hundred years, the Catholic clergy was elevated to become the first and the most important Estate in the Czech lands
- ⊙ the dominance of the Roman Catholic Church was secured – the **re-Catholicization** started
- ⊙ **Ferdinand II** issued an edict, which ordered all non-Catholic noblemen to convert or to emigrate – so the large wave of emigration succeeded
- ⊙ Protestant preachers were expelled
- ⊙ The jesuits assumed a dominant role as close counselors of the ruler, school administrators and censors of the books

Religious consequences:

- ⊙ **the Catholic faith the only permitted creed in the country**
- ⊙ the hussite or protestant inhabitants were often violently forced to convert
- ⊙ forced conversion along with the tightening of serfdom and aggravating the social situation, resulted in unrest in the rural parts of the country and led to several peasant rebellions

THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR (1618–1648) - SUMMARY

- ⊙ one of the most destructive conflicts in European history
- ⊙ the war was fought largely as **a religious conflict between Protestants and Catholics in the Holy Roman Empire**
- ⊙ later the war became more a continuation of the Bourbon (French)–Habsburg (Austrian and German) rivalry for European political pre-eminence, and in turn led to further warfare between France and the Habsburg powers
- ⊙ all European states participated on the Thirty Years' War – directly or indirectly
- ⊙ **the Peace of Westphalia** finished The Thirty Years' War – series of peace treaties signed between May and October of 1648

THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR (1618–1648) - SUMMARY

❖ The main tenets of the Peace of Westphalia (1648):

- ⊙ All parties would recognize the Peace of Augsburg of 1555 (each Prince **in Holy Roman Empire** could choose the religion of his own state – or Catholicism, or Lutheranism or Calvinism) – *cuius regio, eius religio*
- ⊙ Christians living in principalities where their denomination was not the established church were guaranteed the right to practice their faith in public during allotted hours and in private at their will
- ⊙ General recognition of the exclusive sovereignty of each party over its lands, people, and agents abroad.

Readings:

- Grafton, Anthony(2001): *Thirty Years War*. *New York Review of Books*.
- Duchhardt, Heinz : *Münster/Osnabrück as a Short-Lived Peace System*. In: Goudeover, Albert P. van (ed.) (1993): *Great Peace Congresses in History 1648–1990*. Utrecht. Pp 13–19.

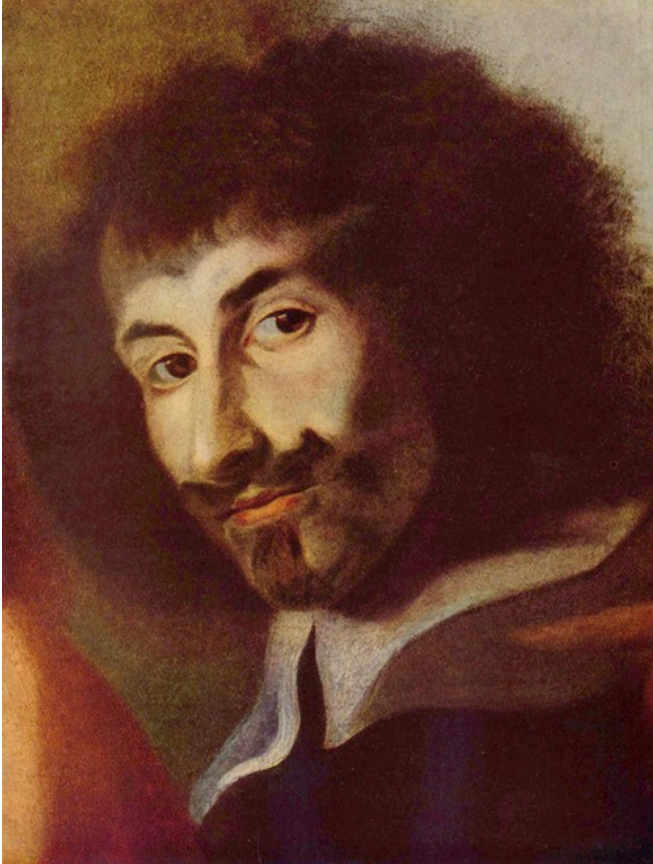
HABSBURG MONARCHY AFTER 30 YEARS' WAR

- ◉ The wars with Ottoman Empire – OE was ruling over the whole Balkan Peninsula and a part of Hungary
- ◉ 1683 – Vienna besieged by the Ottomans
- ◉ Polish king **Jan (John) III Sobieski** (1674–1696) helped Vienna and the Ottomans were defeated
- ◉ 1697 – The Ottomans were defeated at the Battle of Zenta
- ◉ 1699 - **Peace Treaty of Karlowitz** (Sremski Karlovci) – Hungary, Croatia and Slavonia incorporated into the Habsburg Monarchy again
- ◉ 1701–1714 – the Wars of Spanish Succession – Habsburgs x Bourbons (French ruling dynasty)
- ◉ Bourbons won and got Spanish throne
- ◉ Habsburgs got territories in Italy (Naples, Sardinia, Milan) and Spanish Netherlands as compensation
- ◉ **Habsburg Monarchy became a great power at the beginning of 18th century and a leading power in Central Europe**

CENTRAL EUROPEAN BAROQUE

- Around 1600 in Italy, in the Central Europe during 17th and 18th century
- The last universal artificial style in Europe
- Encouraged and supported by the Catholic Church – in response to the Protestant Movement – should support the influence of Catholic church
- the arts should communicate religious themes in direct and emotional involvement
- Paintings – Karel Škréta, Václav Vavřinec Reiner
- Sculptures – Matyas Bernard Braun (Charles Bridge – sculptures, Kuks), Ferdinand Maximilian Brokoff (Charles Bridge)
- Music – Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Friedrich Händel
- Czech composers: Adam Václav Michna z Otradovic, Jan Dismas Zelenka
- Literature
- Architecture

BAROQUE



Karel Škréta – Self Portrait



Karel Škréta - Paris and Helen

BAROQUE IN CZECH LANDS



Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk on
Zelena hora Hill

-Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel

<http://www.santini.cz/index-en.aspx>



Prague – St. Nicholas Church –
Christof and Kilian Ignac
Dienzenhofer

BAROQUE IN CZECH LANDS



**Kuks (western Bohemia) –
Matyas Bernard Braun**



**Charles Bridge (Prague) – St. Adalbert –
F. M. Brokoff**

BAROQUE IN BRNO SURROUNDINGS



Chateau Vranov nad Dyjí
(southern Moravia) – Jan Bernard
Fischer von Erlach

<http://www.zamek-vranov.cz/en/>



Chateau Milotice (southeastern
Moravia) - Josef Emanuel
Fischer von Erlach

<http://www.zamekmilotice.cz/virtualni-prohlidka-2/>

BAROQUE MONUMENTS IN THE CITY OF BRNO



**Green Market - The Parnas
Fountain - Johann Bernhard
Fischer von Erlach**



**St. Johns' Church, Minoritská
street, Brno**

BAROQUE MONUMENTS IN THE CITY OF BRNO



St. Thomas' Church – Moravské
Square



The Plague Column
Square Svobody