

CENTRAL EUROPE DURING AND  
AFTER THE NAPOLEONIC WARS.  
THE RISE OF NATIONAL  
MOVEMENTS.  
REVOLUTIONS 1848/49.

Jana Skerlova, Ph.D.

# CENTRAL EUROPE DURING THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

- ◉ 1789 – the French Revolution broke out
- ◉ 1792–1815 – anti-French wars
- ◉ 1792–1802 – the wars against the French Revolution
- ◉ Several coalitions against France (Austria + Prussia + Great Britain + Russia + several smaller German states against France), several military campaigns
- ◉ 1803–1805 – Napoleon's Invasion of Great Britain - unsuccessfull
- ◉ 1804 – **Napoleon Bonaparte** crowned the **Emperor of France**
- ◉ **March 1805** – Napoleon proclaimed King of Italy
- ◉ Than he marched via Bavaria towards Austria
- ◉ The French army occupied Vienna – it was was a big shock for the Austrians



Napoleon by  
Jacques-Louis  
David

- ◉ Napoleon continued to South Moravia where the Russian troops supporting the Austrians were situated
- ◉ Napoleon occupied Brno
- ◉ December 2, 1805 – **the Battle of Three Emperors** near the Moravian town of **Slavkov (Austerlitz)** – a great victory of Napoleon – he defeated Austrian Emperor Francis I and Russian Tzar Alexander
- ◉ Napoleon had 73 000 men, austro-russian coalition had 85 000 men
- ◉ **Peace Treaty of Pressburg** between Napoleon and Francis II of Austria (Austrian withdrawal from the Third Coalition)
- ◉ Austria had lost territories in Italy, Istria and Dalmacia (Iliric Kingdom was formed) and some German territories – ceded to Napoleon's allies (Bavaria)
- ◉ The effective end of the Holy Roman Empire
- ◉ 1806 – Austrian Empire – **Francis I**
- ◉ **Rhineland Confederation** was formed in German territory

- <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/ivysilani/10099029347/>
- <http://www.austerlitz.org/>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdd1a90CFio>
- <http://www.zamek-slavkov.cz/en/>

# AUSTERLITZ



Chateau Austerlitz



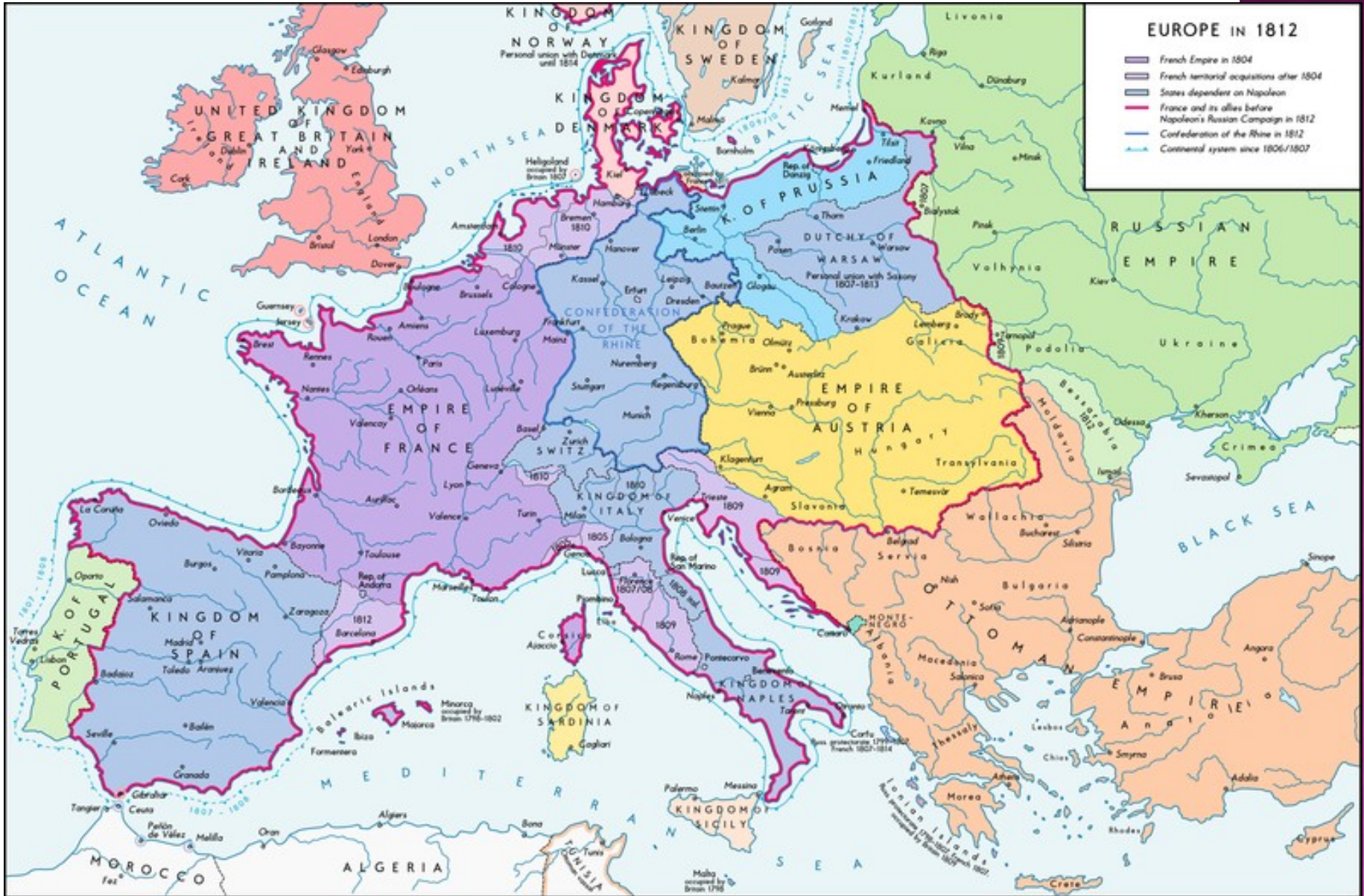
Cairn of Peace

# CENTRAL EUROPE DURING THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

- ◉ Napoleonic wars has brought many changes into the CE
- ◉ October 14, 1806 – **Napoleon defeated Prussia** at the battle of Jena and Auerstad
- ◉ 1806 – Berlin was occupied by Napoleon
- ◉ Napoleon invaded Polish territory – wars with Russians
- ◉ 1807 – the Treaty of Tilsit with Russians –
- ◉ **The Grand Duchy of Warsaw** was established in Poland (Duke – Napoleon’s ally – the King of Saxony) – big impact – legal code, abolition of serfdom, modernization
- ◉ 1809 – Austro-British Coalition against France – uncuccesfull
- ◉ 1809 – Napoleon entered Vienna again
- ◉ 1809 – Napoleon married Austrian Archduchess Marie Luisa - with the aim of ensuring a more stable alliance with Austria and of providing the Emperor with an heir
- ◉ 1812 – Napoleon controlled: the French Empire, the Swiss Confederation, the Confederation of the Rhine, the Duchy of Warsaw and the Kingdom of Italy

- ◉ Territories allied with the French included: Kingdom of Spain (Joseph Bonaparte – N. brother), Kingdom of Westphalia (Jerome Bonaparte – N. brother), Kingdom of Naples (Joachim Murat – N.sister's Caroline husband), Principality of Lucca (N.sister Elisa and her husband)
- ◉ 1812 – Napoleon launched an **invasion of Russia** – 650,000 men, but unsuccessful – Russians – the Patriotic War, Scorched Earth tactics, severe winter
- ◉ September 7, 1812 – **Battle of Borodino**
- ◉ Napoleon entered Moscow – was burnt by Russians before that
- ◉ November 1812 – Napoleon crossed the Berezina River, but his army weak (380,000 men dead or missing, 100,000 captured during the campaign)
- ◉ Napoleon had left his army and escaped to Paris
- ◉ 1813 – **the Battle of Leipzig** – the Battle of the Nations – Austria, Prussia, Russia, Sweden against France – Napoleon defeated and forced to abdicate
- ◉ 1814–1815 – **the Peace Congress in Vienna**
- ◉ interrupted by Napoleon – June 1815 – **the Battle of Waterloo** – Napoleon finally defeated
- ◉ The Napoleonic wars changed the map of Central Europe

# EUROPE IN 1812





# CENTRAL EUROPE DURING THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

## *Readings:*

- ⊙ Lefebvre, Georges (1971). *The French Revolution: From Its Origins to 1793*. Columbia University Press.
- ⊙ Furet, Francois (1995). *Revolutionary France, 1770–1880*. Blackwell Publishing.
- ⊙ Englund, Steven (2004): *Napoleon: A political Life*.

# HABSBURG MONARCHY

**Francis II (1792 – 1836)**, since 1804 ruled as the Austrian Emperor **Francis I**

- ⊙ the era of *absolutism*
- ⊙ the first minister – Prince **Klemens Wenzel von Metternich** – convinced conservative monarchist – The Metternich absolutism
- ⊙ 1811 – General Civil Code (ABGB)– compromis between old and new ideologies
- ⊙ 1811 – devastating collapse of the state finances in February (paper currency was devalued to one fifth of its original value)

## *What is absolutism?*

- ◉ a political system and theory of government
- ◉ the King (or Queen) is all-powerful and possesses a monopoly on the use of force and the administration of justice
- ◉ the ultimate authority to run a state was in the hands of a king who ruled by divine right (i. e. a King/ Queen was given his/her position by some higher power – by God)

### The prerequisites for absolutism:

1. The King (or Queen) has an orderly and efficient bureaucracy where all power and directives flow downward from the monarch.
2. The King (or Queen) has a large standing army with which to enforce his (or her) will.
3. The power of any other groups or traditional institutions is suppressed, especially the power of the nobility as a class.
4. Absolute government is costly and usually requires heavy taxation for support.
5. Absolute government depends heavily for its success on strong personality traits in the King (or Queen) as a personal symbol of the state/country.

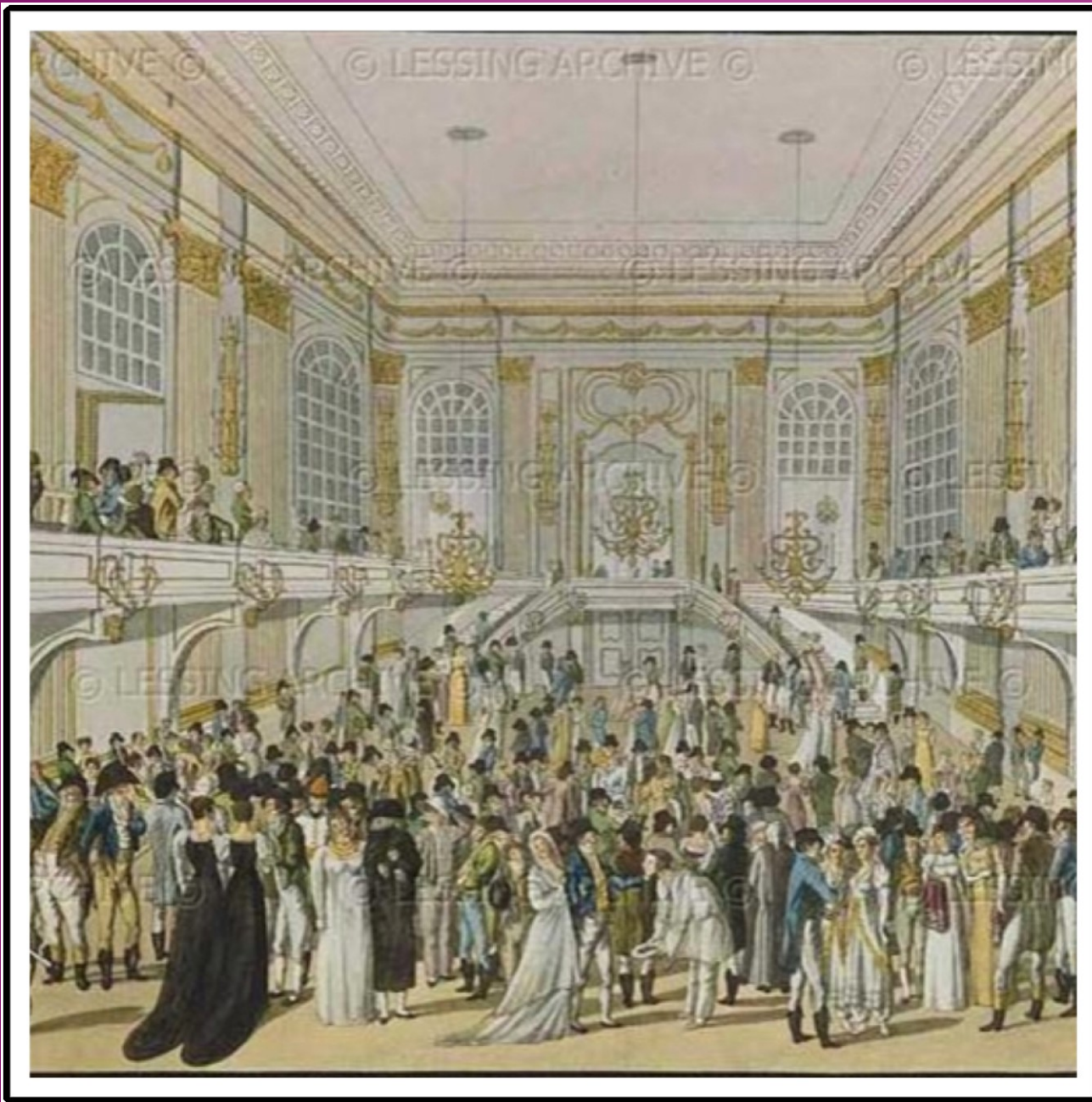


Emperor Francis and his Family, a portrait by Jozef Kreutzinger

# EUROPE AFTER THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA

## *Congress of Vienna*

- ◉ a conference of ambassadors of European states chaired by **Klemens Wenzel von Metternich**, and held in Vienna from September, 1814 to June, 1815
- ◉ **the aim** – finishing the wars with France and restoration of old principles – the situation before the revolution (no revolutions, no republicanism, lesser civil rights etc.)
- ◉ 4 Great Powers: Russia (Tzar Alexandr I, Foreign Minister Count Carl Robert Nesselrode), Prussia (King Frederick William III, Chancellor Karl August von Hardenberg), Austria (Emperor Francis I., the Foreign Minister Prince Metternich) and Great Britain (Foreign Secretary Viscount Castelreagh, later Duke of Wellington)
- ◉ surprisingly important role of defeated France – thanks to Ministre of Foreign Affairs Maurice de Talleyrand – a very good diplomat



The Congress of Vienna was not only a political congress but also a festive event with concerts, dances, hunting and coursing etc . Due to that it is sometimes called „A Dancing Congress“.

## *The Final Act* – June 1815:

- ⊙ ***Russia*** was given most of the Duchy of Warsaw (so called Congress Poland was formed) and was allowed to keep Finland (annexed from Sweden in 1809)
- ⊙ ***Prussia*** was given two fifths of Saxony, parts of the Duchy of Warsaw, Danzig, and the Rhineland/Westphalia.
- ⊙ A ***German Confederation*** of 38 states was created from the previous 360 of the Holy Roman Empire, under the presidency of the Austrian Emperor
- ⊙ ***the United Kingdom of the Netherlands*** was established
- ⊙ The neutrality of ***Switzerland*** was guaranteed.
- ⊙ The Bourbon Ferdinand IV, King of Sicily was restored to control of ***the Kingdom of Naples***
- ⊙ **The slave trade was condemned**



Clement Wenceslas  
Nepomuk Lothar von  
Metternich-Winneburg-  
Beilstein (1773 – 1859)



# EUROPE AFTER CONGRESS OF VIENNA



# THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS:

- ◉ so called **The Concert of Europe**, also known as the Congress System or Vienna System – it was the network of treaties, institutions and practices that should ensure the balance of power that existed in Europe from the end of the Napoleonic Wars (1815) to the outbreak of World War I (1914)
- ◉ 1815 – the **Quadruple Alliance** was established – the winners over Napoleon (United Kingdom, Austria, Prussia, Russia)
- ◉ 1815 – **the Holy Alliance** was signed by Russian Tzar, Austrian Emperor and Prussian King – the aim of this document was to implement the Christian values and principles into the political life, the moral principles were emphasized, the main goal was again the cooperation against revolutionary, liberal and democratic movements
- ◉ later it was signed by almost all European rulers, except those from Skandinavia, Osman Sultan and the Pope, the Great Britain left the system of the Holy Alliance in 1822
- ◉ 1818 – the occupation of France was finished – France acceded the Quadruple Alliance → the **Quintuple Alliance** was established
- ◉ the meetings of the Great Powers during this period: Aachen (1818), Carlsbad (1819), Verona (1822), London (1832), Berlin (1878)

# THE RISE OF NATIONAL MOVEMENTS

Rebirth of national spirits

⊙ *The first wave of the national movements – 1820s:*

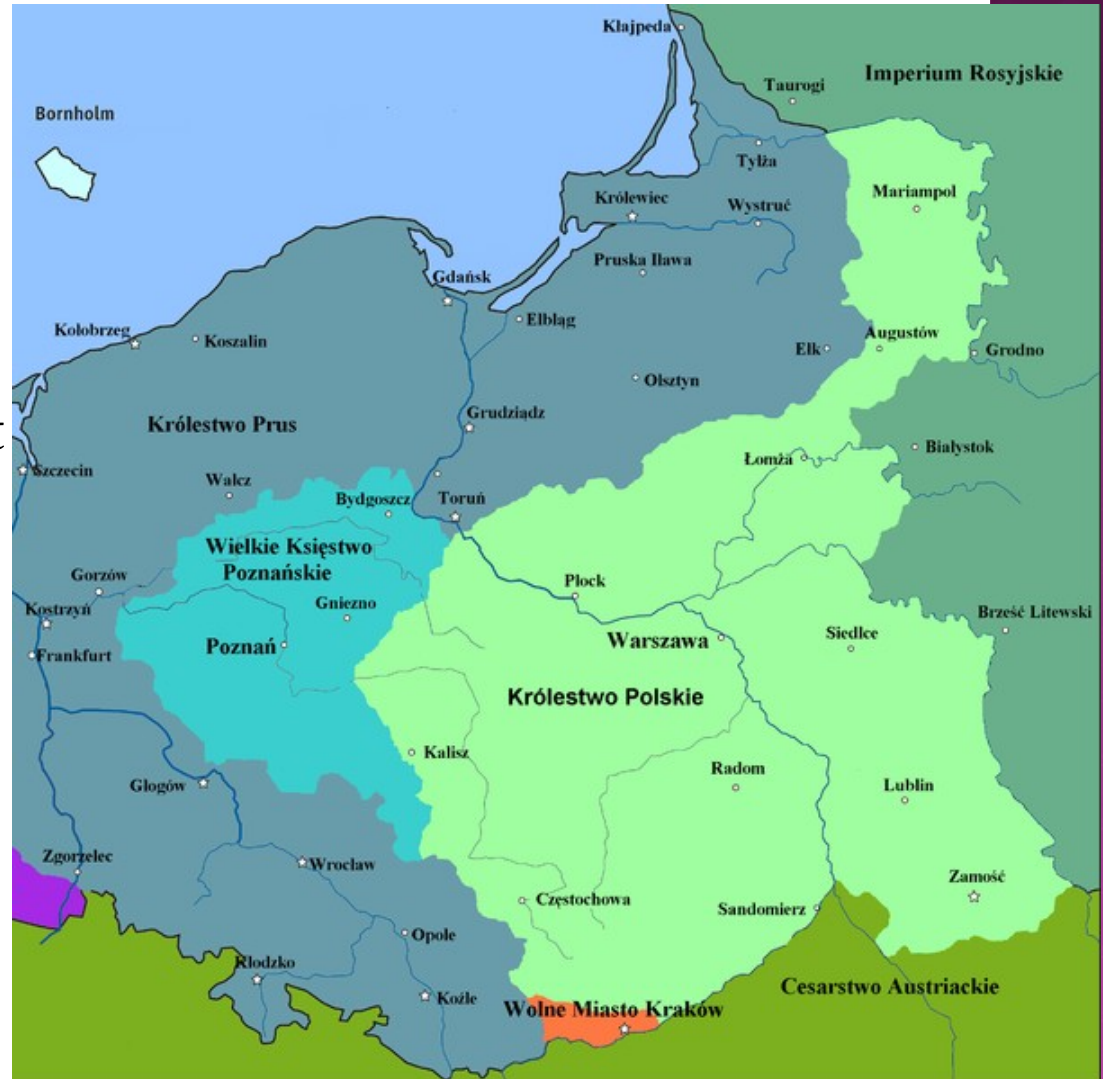
- German states
- Italian states

⊙ *The second wave of national movements in 1830s:*

- almost in the whole Europe
- started in France (against extremely conservative king Charles X) , then spread to Belgium, to Italy and to other states

# POLAND – NOVEMBER UPRISING 1830

- after Napoleonic wars and the Congress of Vienna there were three states in Poland:
- the semi-autonomous so-called *Congress Poland* controlled by Russia – it was united with Russia through a personal union
- the semi-autonomous *Grand Duchy of Poznań* controlled by Prussia
- the semi-autonomous *Kingdom of Galicia and Sandomer* controlled by Austria



- ⊙ the outbreak of the uprising – November 29, 1830 in Warsaw
- ⊙ On 25 January 1831, the Sejm passed the Act of Dethronization of Tsar Nicolas I and ended the personal union with Russia
- ⊙ **on 29 January 1831 Prince Adam Czartoryzski** became President of the new Polish National Government
- ⊙ the Russians formed very strong army and defeated Polish army at **the Battle of Ostrolenka** in May 1831
- ⊙ the Polish Uprising was suppressed
- ⊙ cruel persecution succeeded, the leaders of the uprising were sentenced to death so they emigrated
- ⊙ the consequence of the wave of national movements during the 1830s – the collapse of the Holy Alliance

## THE THIRD WAVE OF NATIONAL MOVEMENTS IN 1840s

- ⊙ general economic depression spread from England to the rest of Europe in mid-1840s
- ⊙ bad harvest, potato blight and drought in 1846 → famine
- ⊙ strong influence of industrial revolution on politics
- ⊙ bourgeoisie (owners of factories, businessmen) had money but only small political influence
- ⊙ bad living conditions of working classes
  
- ⊙ the revolution started in January 1848 in Italy (Sicily) – against the Bourbons
- ⊙ February 1848 – revolution in France – ended constitutional monarchy of **Louis Phillipe of Orleans**

# GERMAN STATES

- ⊙ the March Revolution – southern and western parts
- ⊙ it was led by well educated students and intellectuals, but there were also many mass demonstrations
- ⊙ there were 39 states – demand of German **national unity**
- ⊙ wanted *civil rights*
- ⊙ two conceptions:
  - "greater German solution" (including German-speaking areas of Austria)
  - "smaller German solution"
- ⊙ March 1849 - the new German constitution was proclaimed
- ⊙ they decided to proclaim constitutional monarchy – the crown was offered to Prussian king Frederick William IV – refused to accept the crown from the hands of revolutionary parliament
- ⊙ the new constitution was refused by most of the German rulers
- ⊙ the revolution was unsuccessful

# HABSBURG MONARCHY

## Ferdinand I (1836–1848)

- ⊙ weak ruler, mentally challenged, the real ruler of the monarchy was the conservative Chief Minister Klemens Wenzel von Metternich
- ⊙ so called pre-March period - restricted freedom of the press, of the speech, of association
- ⊙ limited many university activities, strong censorship, police control
- ⊙ the empire, ruled from Vienna, included Austrian Germans, Hungarians, Slovenes, Poles, Czechs, Croats, Slovaks, Ukrainians, Romanians, Serbs and Italians,
- ⊙ all of them wanted to either achieve autonomy, independence, or even hegemony over other nationalities
- ⊙ Rebirth of the national spirits among the nationalities of the Habsburg Monarchy

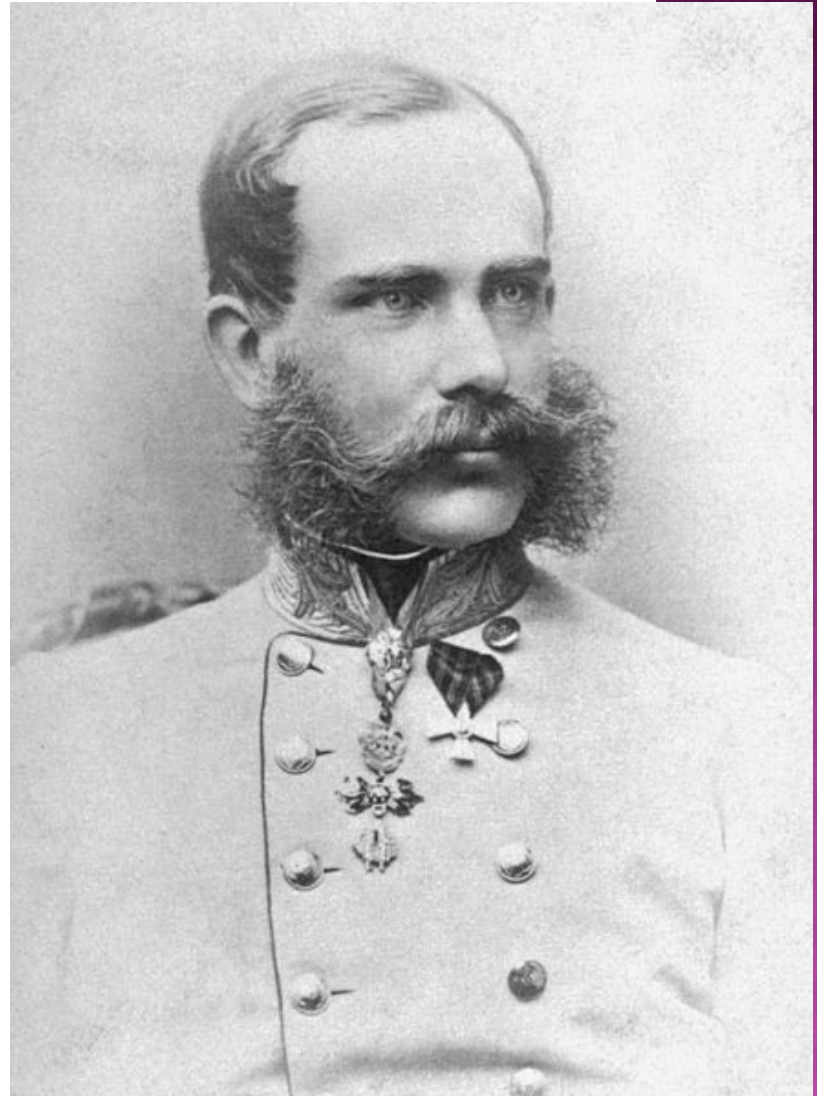


# 1848 IN HABSBURG MONARCHY

- ⊙ the first unrests in Prague in March 1848
- ⊙ the conception of *austroslavism*
- ⊙ June 1848 – **the Pan-Slav Congress** was held in Prague under the leadership of the historian **František Palacký**
- ⊙ Discussions whether the Slavs should support federated Austria or work to hasten its dissolution – but no decision
- ⊙ **uprising in June** – suppressed by an Austrian army led by Alfred I, Prince of Windisch-Grätz
- ⊙ March 1848 – revolution in Vienna
- ⊙ Metternich was removed from the office and escaped from Vienna
- ⊙ in September 1848 – the Emperor's decree – the serfdom was completely cancelled (citizens got civil rights but the suffrage was not general)
- ⊙ October – new uprising in Vienna - suppressed
- ⊙ December 1848 – Ferdinand I resigned, lived in Prague till 1875

## Franz Joseph I of Austria (1848–1916)

- ⦿ absolutism again
- ⦿ Constitutional experiments and autocratic measures
- ⦿ so called Stadion's constitution – was not accepted by an assembly



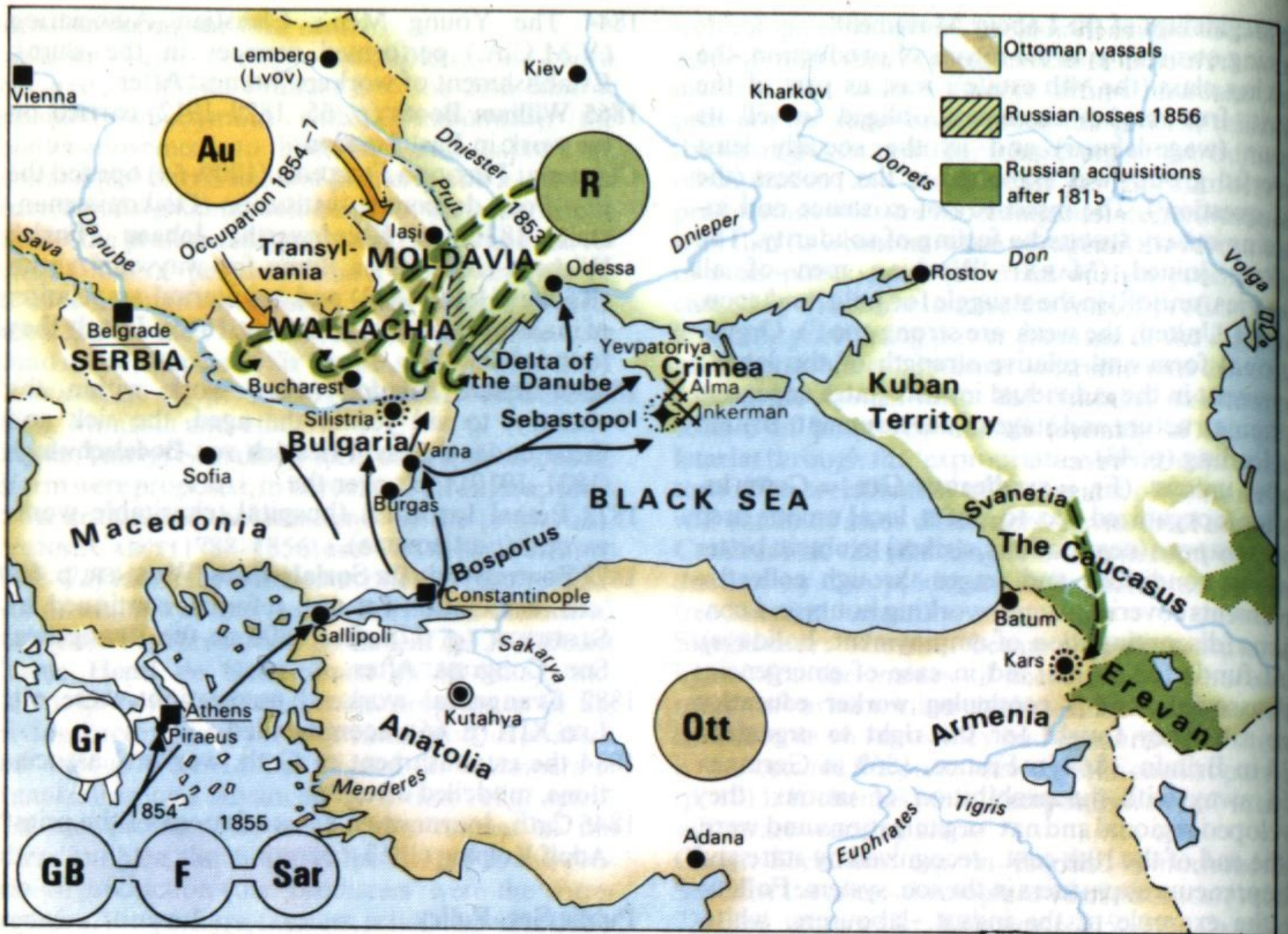
- ◉ March 1848 – **revolution** also in **Hungary**
- ◉ 12 Demands – among others: autonomy, control over its foreign policy, budget and army, general taxes
- ◉ Hungary was multinational (Slovaks, Croats, Rumanians, Ruthenians, Serbs, Germans etc.)
- ◉ 1848 – *Demands of the Slovak Nation* – *first Slovak political programme* demanding national and territorial autonomy within the framework of Hungary
- ◉ their demands were refused (no political nor national rights) so they (together with other non-Hungarian nations in Hungary) fought against Hungarians
- ◉ April 1849 – independent Hungarian state was proclaimed
- ◉ Franz Joseph asked Russian Tzar for a help against Hungarian revolt
- ◉ 13 August 1849 – **the Battle of Villágos** – Hungarians defeated
- ◉ Repressions

# HABSBURG MONARCHY IN THE SECOND HALF OF 19TH CENTURY

- ⊙ after the defeat of revolution movement in Habsburg monarchy conservative absolutism again
- ⊙ the ruler – Emperor
- ⊙ 1851 – the constitution was cancelled – *neoabsolutism* was introduced
- ⊙ the main personality – the Prime Minister **Alexander Bach** → *Bach's absolutism*
- ⊙ police regime, centralism, control of public life, strict censorship
- ⊙ political rights cancelled
- ⊙ kept – equality before the law, freedom of religion and cancellation of the serfdom
- ⊙ economic reforms

## Foreign policy – unsuccessful

- ◉ neutrality in *Crimean War 1853–1856*
- Originally a conflict between Ottoman Empire and Russia – the dispute for protection of the rights of Christians in the Holy Land (controlled by Ottoman Empire)
- Russia wanted to use the decline of the Ottoman Empire („sick man of Europe“) and take control over the straits Bosphorus and Dardanells
- November 1853 – Ottoman fleet destroyed by Russians at the Battle of Sinope
- Great Britain and France declared the war against Russia and supported the Ottoman Empire, later also the Kingdom of Sardinia
- Austrian Emperor agreed the intervention but did not support it, declared neutrality
- 1854 – the Russians advanced to the Danubian Principalities Wallachia and Moldavia, after their withdrawal their place in these Principalities was taken by the Austrians
- 1856 – Paris Peace Treaty – neutrality of the Black Sea and the straits
- After the end of the war Austria had to return The danubian Principalities to the Ottoman Empire, practically they became independent
- **International isolation** of Habsburg Monarchy during and after the Crimean War



The Crimean War, 1853-6

- ◎ 1859 – *the war with Italy* –
  - Habsburgs were defeated and lost Lombardy (the territory in Northern Italy)
- ◎ this war caused deep financial crisis in Habsburg Monarchy
- ◎ this crisis and dissatisfaction with absolutist policy led to its end
- ◎ its main representatives headed by Alexander Bach were withdrawn
- ◎ 1860 – **the October Diploma** – the new imperial code – was proclaimed
- ◎ 1861 – February – a new the constitution was introduced, it was the beginning of parliamentary monarchy in the Habsburg Empire

◎ 1866 – **Austrian-prussian war**

- Austria was defeated
- Austria lost its influence in Italy and in Germany
- internal weakness of Habsburg Monarchy was shown
- it was used by Hungarians – their representative count **Julius Andrassy** (1823–1890)
- they refused centralism but also federalism which proposed the Czech political representation

◎ so called „Ausgleich“ – a political **compromise** reached between Germans and Hungarians in Habsburg Monarchy in 1867

- the empire was divided into two parts: the border was the river Leithan between Austria and Hungary – the dual monarchy was established

❖ **Cisleithania** (Austrian lands, Bohemia, Moravia, Galicia and Bukovina, Adriatic lands – Dalmacia, Istria, Terst, Gorica) – domination of German nation

❖ **Translaithania** (Hungary, Upper Hungary – Slovakia, Transylvania, Croatia, Slavonia, Rijeka) – domination of Hungarian nation



# AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (1910)



- ◉ **Empire of Austria (Cisleithania):**

1. Bohemia,
2. Bukovina,
3. Carinthia,
4. Carniola,
5. Dalmatia,
6. Galicia,
7. Austrian Littoral,
8. Lower Austria,
9. Moravia,
10. Salzburg,
11. Silesia,
12. Styria,
13. Tyrol,
14. Upper Austria,
15. Vorarlberg;

- ◉ **Kingdom of Hungary (Transleithania):**

16. Hungary
17. Croatia-Slavonia;

- ◉ **Austrian Condominium:**

18. Bosnia and Herzegovina

# AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

- ◉ Austria-Hungary became an union of two states with different constitutions and political system
- ◉ they had common ruler – the Emperor **Franz Joseph I.**, common Ministry of War, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ◉ they were connected also economically – common currency, customs union
- ◉ common legislative organ for common issues
  
- ◉ Different political development:
  - ❖ **Austria** – 1867 – liberal constitution, parliament monarchy – the power of the ruler was limited by parliament, the ministrers were responsible to the parliament which was approving the legislation and the taxes
  - the ruler was not responsible to parliament (the rest of absolutism)
  - ❖ **Hungary** – no liberalization but centralisation, the only Hungarian nation, the only official language was hungarian, the other nations without any rights, high schools only in Hungarian language etc.

# AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

- ⊙ the Czech political representation was dissatisfied with the situation – the political rights of Hungarians were accepted but of Czechs were not
- ⊙ Hungary obtained equality with Austria but the Bohemian Lands did not
- ⊙ The Bohemian politicians tried to change this situations many times but their politics were unsuccessful
- ⊙ The Czech hopes for restoration of their political rights received a severe blow
- ⊙ they started so called *passive politics* – they were boycotting the parliament sitting and the council meetings till 1878
- ⊙ Then they adopted a new constructive political program
- ⊙ the new political leaders – **Karel Kramář** and **Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk**

# HABSBURG MONARCHY

## *Readings:*

- ◉ *Evans, R. J. W. (ed.) (2000): The Revolutions in Europe 1848–1849. From Reform to Reaction. Oxford.*
- ◉ *Okey, Robin (2001): The Habsburg Monarchy c. 1976–1918: From Enlightenment to Eclipse. London: Macmillan Press LTD.*