

THE CONCEPT OF CENTRAL EUROPE

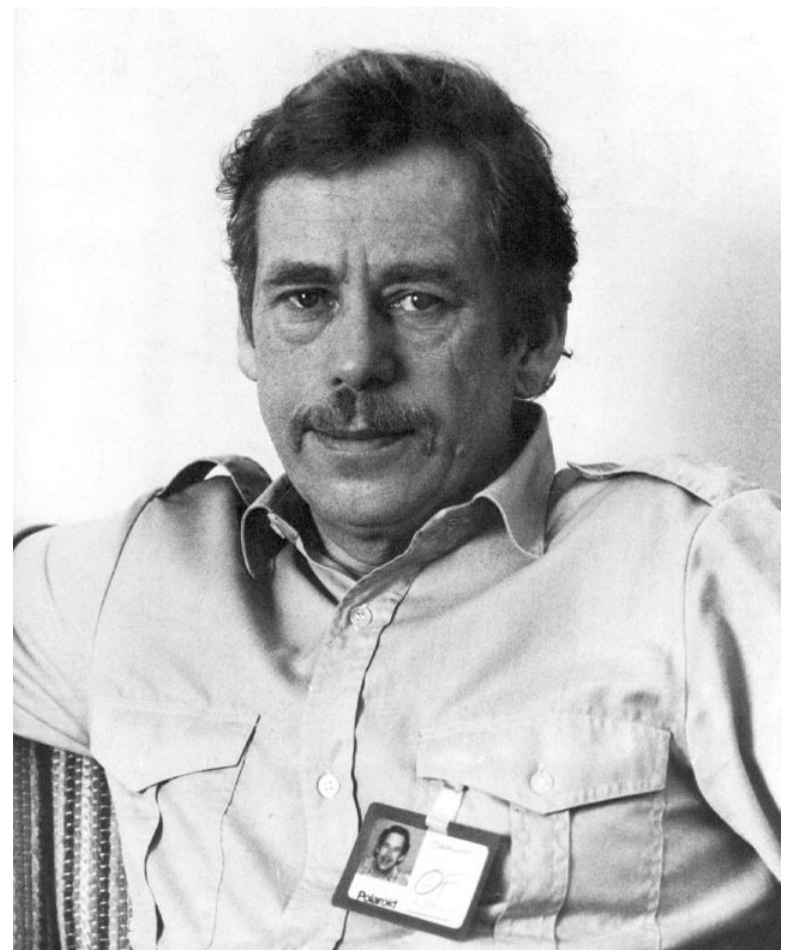
**Transformation of Central and Eastern
Europe**

Norman Davies, Catherine Lee, Robert Bideleux

- Difficulties to set a clear concept of Europe
- East-West divide matters but unclear as well
- Risk of Euro-centrism and risk of identification of Europe with West only
- Post-Cold-War Europe, East, West and reemergence of Central Europe
- History and shifting / fluid borders

Rebirth of Central Europe – the 1980s

- Milan Kundera (CZ/F)
 - Václav Havel (CZ)
- György Konrád (HU)
 - Adam Michnik (PL)
- Czesław Miłosz (PL)



Habsburg Central Europe



“Eastern Europe”

- 1) Slavic settlement
- 2) Eastern Europe is backward in the economical sense
- 3) presence of **great multinational Empires** as political forms of this region: Habsburg Empire, Romanov Russia and Ottoman Empire.
- 4) modernization hand in hand with nationalism

Central Europe



Oskar Halecki (1891-1973) famous Polish historian



“East-Central Europe”

Oskar Halecki:

- Western Europe
- Eastern Europe
- West-Central Europe (with German influence)
- East-Central Europe (without German influence)



“East-Central Europe”

Polish-American historian Piotr S. Wandycz and his concept of East-Central European Heartland:

- Czech Republic
- Slovakia
- Poland
- Hungary



Biskupski's mentor, Dr. Piotr S. Wandycz, lecturing on campus in December.

“Mitteleuropa”

- German word for Central Europe
- Habsburg conception of *Mitteleuropa*
- German concept of *Mitteleuropa* during the WW1
- Nazi notion of *Mitteleuropa* during WW2



(East-)Central Europe

- Core: Czech lands, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary
 - Disputable members: Germany / Bavaria, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Lithuania
- Common political history from the period of the Habsburg Empire (including early democratization)

Common Features of the (East-) Central Europe

- Relatively small nations, no great powers
- Cultural background of Ancient Roman and Western Christian tradition
- Urbanization belated in comparison to Western Europe
- Processes of modern nation building were belated and very often connected with violent upheavals

Geopolitics of Contemporary Central Europe

- Geopolitical nearness of two powers: Germany and Russia
- Role of the NATO and the EU
- Internal versus external borders of the EU
- North-southern dimension
- Visegrad cooperation versus internal divergences



Central Europe in European Population

2004

country	Millions	Per cent
EU 28	493,1	100,0
CZ	10,2	2,1
HU	10,1	2,1
PL	38,2	7,7
SK	5,4	1,1
V4 together	63,9	13,0
CEE EU members together	106,5	21,6

2017

country	Millions	Per cent
EU 28	511,5	100,0
CZ	10,6	2,1
HU	9,8	1,9
PL	38,0	7,4
SK	5,4	1,1
V4 together	64,2	12,6
CEE EU members together	102,8	20,0

Economic performance of CEE countries

2003

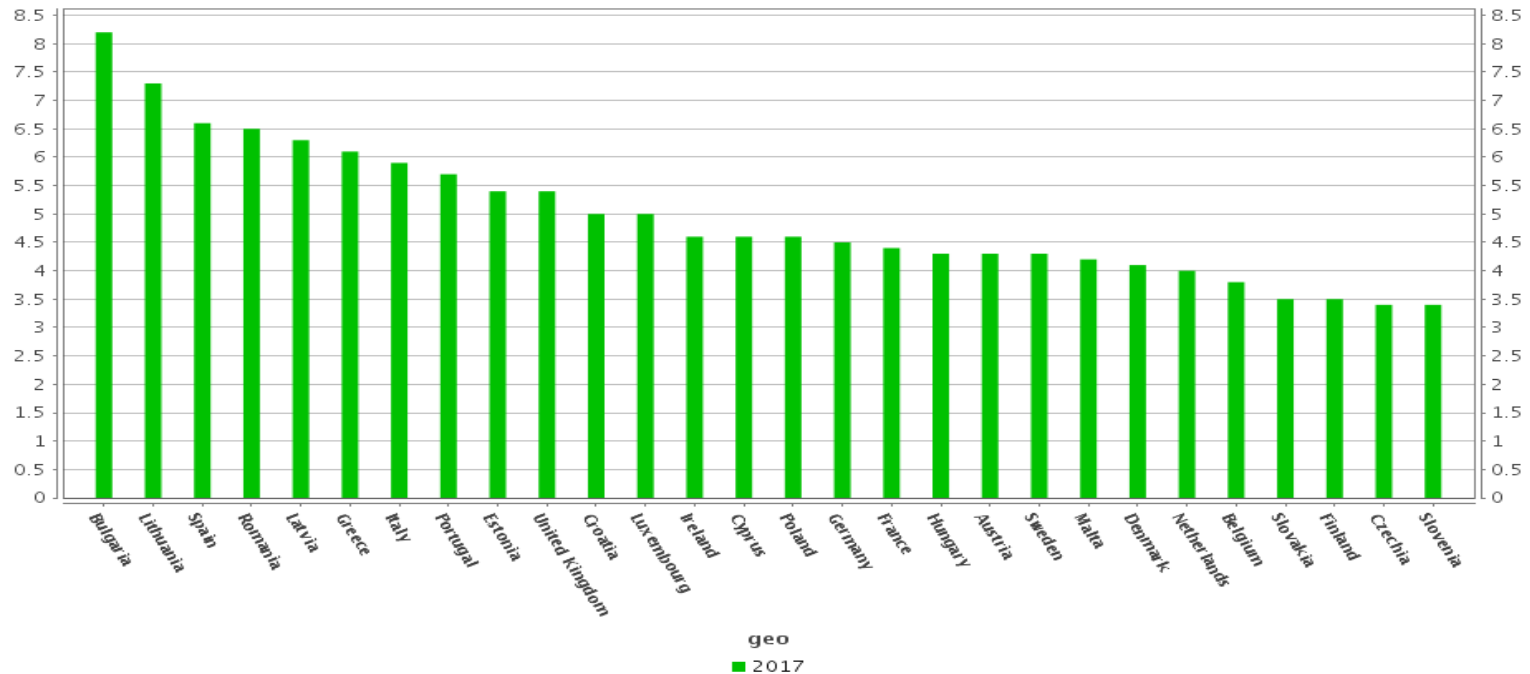
	GDP per cap. PPS	Inflation rate (annual)	HDP growth rate (annual)
<i>EU28</i>	100	2,1	1,5
SI	87	5,7	2,9
CZ	78	-0,1	3,8
HU	63	4,7	3,9
EE	58	1,4	7,8
SK	57	8,4	4,8
HR	56	2,4	5,4
LI	52	-1,1	10,3
PL	51	0,7	3,9
LA	47	2,9	7,7
BG	35	2,3	5,5
RO	34	15,3	5,2

2017

	GDP per cap. PPS	Inflation rate (annual)	HDP growth rate (annual)	Unemployment
<i>EU28</i>	100	1,7	2,4	7,6
CZ	89	2,4	4,4	2,9
SI	85	1,6	4,9	6,6
EE	79	3,7	4,9	5,8
LI	78	3,7	4,1	7,1
SK	76	1,4	3,2	8,1
PL	70	1,6	4,8	4,9
HU	68	2,4	4,1	4,2
LA	67	2,9	4,6	8,7
RO	63	1,1	7,0P	4,9
HR	62	1,3	2,9	11,0
BG	49	1,2	3,8	6,2

Inequality of income distribution (income quintile share ratio, 2017)

Inequality of income distribution
Income quintile share ratio



Source of Data: Eurostat

Last update: 15.02.2019

Date of extraction: 18 Feb 2019 10:34:01 CET

Hyperlink to the graph: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/eurostat/tgm/drawGraph.do?init=1&plugin=1&language=en&prcode=tespm151&toolbox=legend>

Disclaimer: This graph has been created automatically by Eurostat software according to external user specifications for which Eurostat is not responsible. Graphic included

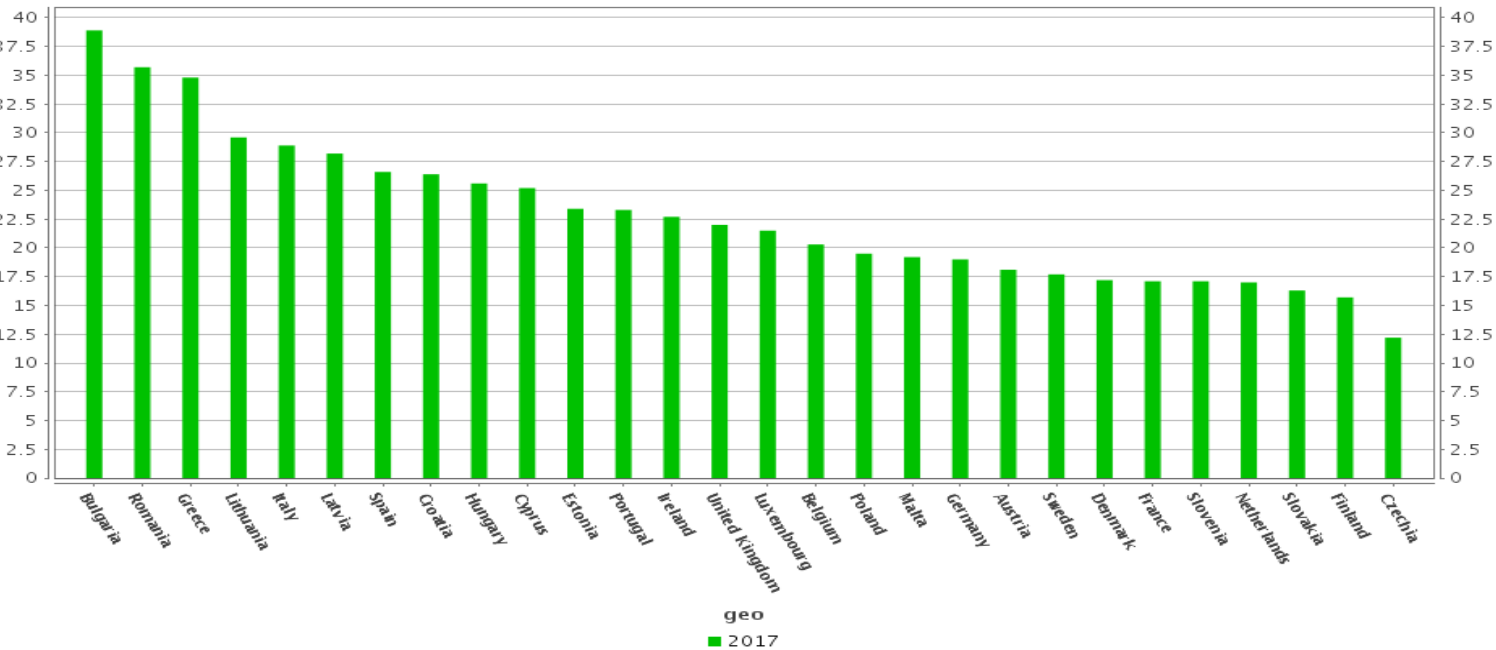
General Disclaimer of the EC website: https://ec.europa.eu/info/legal-notice_en

Short Description: The ratio of total income received by the 20 % of the population with the highest income (top quintile) to that received by the 20 % of the population with the lowest income (lowest quintile). Income must be understood as equalised disposable income.

Code: tespm151

Proportion of population at risk of poverty

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion
Percentage



Source of Data: Eurostat

Last update: 15.02.2019

Date of extraction: 18 Feb 2019 10:36:28 CET

Hyperlink to the graph: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/eurostat/tgm/drawGraph.do?init=1&plugin=1&language=en&prade=t2020_50&table=legend

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Short Description: The Europe 2020 strategy promotes social inclusion, in particular through the reduction of poverty, by aiming to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion. This indicator corresponds to the sum of persons who are: at risk of poverty or severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. Persons are only counted once even if they are present in several sub-indicators. At risk-of-poverty are persons with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers). Material deprivation covers indicators relating to economic strain and durables. Severely materially deprived persons have living conditions severely constrained by a lack of resources, they experience at least 4 out of 9 following deprivations items: cannot afford to pay rent or utility bills, to keep home adequately warm, to face unexpected expenses, to eat meat, fish or a protein equivalent every second day, to take a holiday away from home, to own a car, to own a washing machine, to own a colour TV, or to own a telephone. People living in households with very low work intensity are those aged 0-59 living in households where the adults (aged 18-59) work 20% or less of their total work potential during the past year.

Code: t2020_50

Internal differences are not that new in CEE...

Share of urban dwellers	Year	Urban dwellers (per cent)
Bulgaria	1910	19
Czechoslovakia (Bohemia and Moravia)	1910	65
Czechoslovakia (Slovakia and Ruthenia)	1910	37
Estonia	1922	34
Hungary (Trianon borders)	1920	42
Latvia	1920	35
Lithuania	1923	21
Poland	1921	25
Romania (territory before WW1)	1910	17
Yugoslavia (Croatia and Slavonia)	1910	21
Yugoslavia (Slovenia)	1920	37

Roszkowski, Wojciech (1996): Land Reforms in East Central Europe after World War One. Warszawa: Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN, p. 57.

country	Industrial production per capita 1938 in dollars	People working in agriculture (per cent, 1930)
UK	140	7
Germany	132	29
Sweden	122	36
Holland	77	21
Austria	59	32
CZ	57	28
Hungary	26	51
Poland	21	65
Romania	12	78

Berend, Iván T. – Ránki, György (1974): Economic Development in East-Central Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries. New York – London: Columbia University Press.

...to be continued the next week

