

IRE214: CULTURE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

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Fall 2019

Session 8: Austrian History

Austrian History

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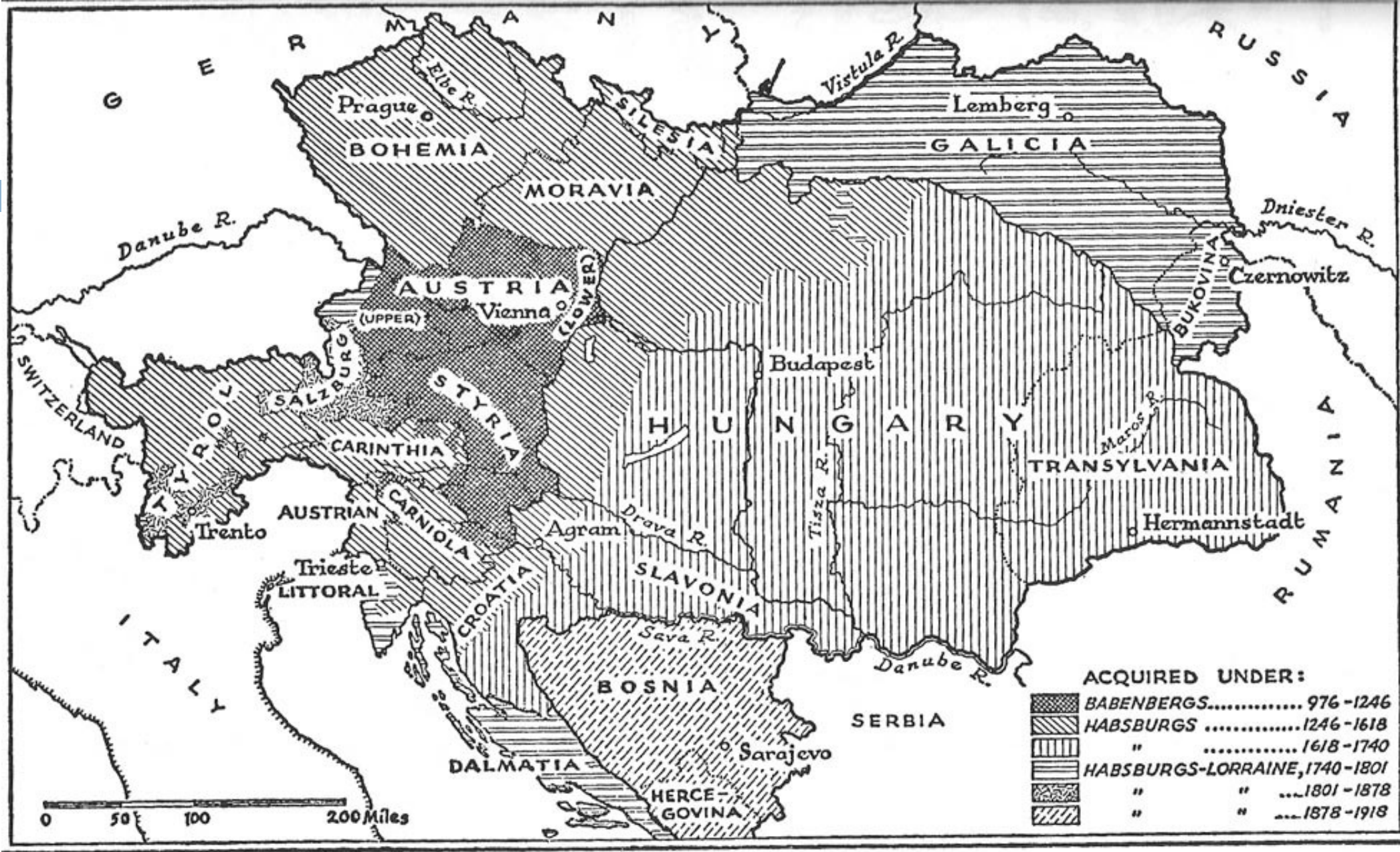
- **Keeping up with the Habsburgs**
- **The Austrian Empire**
- **The Austro-Hungarian Empire**
 - **Nationalism**
 - **Army**
 - **Economy**





The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'

- One of the most **important royal houses of Europe**
- Best known for being the **origin of all Holy Roman Emperors (1438-1740) + all rulers of the Austrian Empire, Spanish Empire** and several other countries
- The Habsburgs **controlled** many regions in **Europe** starting from the **10th Century**
 - Owned territories in Alsace, Switzerland up until the early 20th century



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Only changes within the boundaries from 1878-1918, including the occupied and in 1908 annexed territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina, are shown on this map.

The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'

- The House takes its name from the **Habsburg Castle**, a fortress built around 1020–1030 in present day Switzerland by Count Radbot of Klettgau
- His grandson, **Otto II**, was the first to take the fortress name as his own, adding "von Habsburg" to his title



The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'



- The **origins** of the castle's **name** are **uncertain**
- Assumed to be derived from the German '**Habichtsburg**' (Hawk Castle) or from the Middle High German "**hab/hap**"- **ford** (brod/river crossing), as there is one nearby
- The **Habsburg Castle** was the **family seat** in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries



The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'



- The House of Habsburg gathered **dynastic momentum** in the **11th, 12th and 13th centuries**
- In **1276**, Count Radbot's seventh generation descendant, **Rudolph of Habsburg**, moved the **family's power base** from Habsburg Castle to the Archduchy of **Austria**.
- **1273** => Rudolph became **King of Germany/Holy Roman Emperor**
- **1276** => **Rudolph** became the **sovereign ruler of Austria** (ruled by the Habsburgs for the next 600 years)

The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'



- A **powerful family**, they often made **land alliances** through **marriage**
 - Vast expansion of its domains (Burgundy, Spain, Bohemia, Hungary etc.)
- Resulted in much **in-breeding** => descendants typically shared unique facial features (e.g a protruding lower lip and chin)





The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'

- **1453** => Habsburg descendent, **Friedrich III** was crowned **Holy Roman Emperor**
- With the title and influence, he began to **raise cultural pride in Austria**, claiming that Austria was a **superior nation**
- Friedrich III **waged war against** King Matthias Corvinus of **Hungary**, **won** the war & conquered **Vienna**



The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'



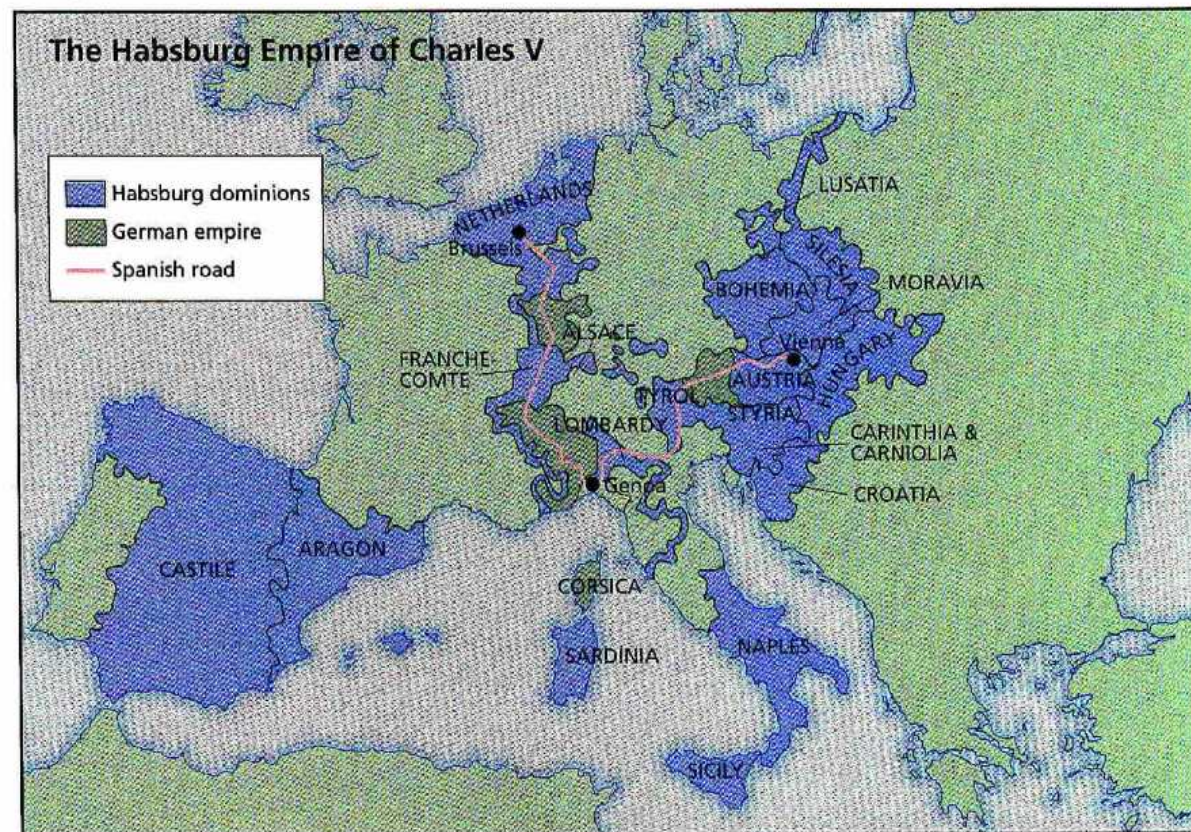
- **1477 => Friedrich III arranged the marriage of his son, Maximilian, to Maria of Burgundy in order to acquire additional land for the Habsburg Empire**
- **Friedrich III was influential in establishing the marriage of his other son, Philip, to Joanna, daughter of King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile, thus ensuring his families interests in the regions held by Spain (but also Italy, the Netherlands + North America)**





The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'

- Philip and Joanna had two sons (+4 daughters) => Charles I and Ferdinand I
- **1516** => Charles I became ruler of **Spain**
- **1519** => Charles I was crowned **Charles V, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire**





The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'

- As **Charles** controlled a vast amount of land, he delegated control over Austria, Bohemia, and Hungary to his **brother, Ferdinand I**
- **Wars** began to occur between the (Christian) **Habsburgs** and the (Muslim) **Ottoman Empire** (Turks)
- **1532** => Turks wanted to take control of **Vienna** => Economically viable + strategically located: **The Siege of Vienna**
- **Ferdinand I** (living in Vienna) defeated the Ottoman Sultal **Suleiman** => withdrew from the city + end of Turkish expansion into Europe

The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'



- Unity between **Charles** and **Ferdinand I** lasted until Charles abdicated his position as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire
 - **Gave control of Spain, Italy + the Netherlands to his son, Philip II**
- Charles' brother, **Ferdinand I** was given reign over **Central European territories**
 - Caused a **split within the family** => **Ferdinand I**, not Philip II, was **designated** by Charles to become the new **Holy Roman Emperor**

The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'



- During the remaining 1500's and into the 1600's => **Habsburgs** were involved in **internal political intrigues, external wars** + further hardships (black death in Vienna in the 1680s- Great Plague of Vienna, est. 76k deaths)
- 1600's => The family separated into the **senior Habsburg Spain & junior Habsburg** Monarchy branches
- 1600's => The **Thirty Year's War** between Catholics and Protestants
 - **Fenestration of Prague** => Protestant states (Sweden, the Netherlands) sent troops were sent to fight the Catholics



The Thirty Years' War

- **Religion/politics mix => Catholic and Protestant rulers shifted sides according to politics**
 - Catholic France joined Lutheran Sweden against the Catholic Hapsburgs
 - Hapsburgs controlled Spain as well as Austria
- Murder and torture were followed by famine and disease => **depopulation** in much of central Europe
- **1648** => the **Treaty of Westphalia** ended the war
 - France gained land on both the Spanish and German fronts
- **Early 1700s'** => The **Hapsburg empire included Germans, Slavs etc.**
 - Allowed each ethnicity to practice and live as they did before

The Habsburgs aka 'House of Austria'



- (16th century => The family **separated** into two branches + 200 years of wars and internal disputes)
- Only in the **1700's**, **Charles VI** (current) Austrian emperor, tried to **unify Habsburg control** in order to guarantee the empire's continuance
- Charles had **no male heirs**, arranged for his daughter, **Maria Theresa** to marry Francis I of Lorraine => **Alliance meant to extend the Habsburg lineage into France**

Charles VI => Maria Theresa



- Until then **no women had ever controlled Hapsburg land** by herself
- Charles **convinced** many **European families** to **recognize** Maria Theresa's **right to the throne**
 - Soem **ignored** their promise after his death





Rise of Prussia

- **Austria** => Strong **Catholic** State
- **Prussia** => Equally strong **Protestant** State
- Under the leadership of the **Hohenzollern family**, Prussia:
 - Built a large, strong army
 - Set up a system of bureaucracy to reduce the power of local nobles
- By **1740** Prussia was strong enough to challenge Austria



Austrian Succession



- 1740–1748 => **A conglomeration of related wars**, two of which developed directly from the **death of Charles VI, Holy Roman emperor and head of the Austrian branch** of the house of Habsburg, on Oct. 20, **1740**
- Many European nations challenged **Maria Theresa's** rule, but she was **successful in retaining control** over her lands
- 1740-1780 => During **Maria Theresa's** reign, a "**Golden Age**" in Austria + the Habsburg Empire: Cultural developments encouraged



The Habsburgs' Civic Policies

- + **New civil policies** were instituted => formal system of **public education**
- As Maria Theresa aged, her son, **Joseph II**, became her successor
- **Agreed** with his mother's policies and tried to issue further reforms (admin, economic, legal etc) with limited success
 - **No religious tolerance**





Balance of Power

- As **Austria** and **Prussia** became more **powerful**, wars broke out **across Europe**
- Largest => **The 7 Years' War (1756-1763)**
 - Fought on **4 different continents**
 - Prussia, Austria, Russia, France and Britain fought in Europe
 - Britain + France fought in India, Africa and North America
 - **Treaty of Paris** ends the war



The Habsburgs

- **18th century** => House of Habsburg became **extinct in the male line**
 - **1700** => **Spanish branch ended** upon the **death of Charles II**, replaced by the Anjou branch of the **House of Bourbon**
 - **1740** => The **Austrian branch** went extinct in the **male line** with the death of **Charles VI** and in the **female line** in **1780** with the death of his daughter **Maria Theresa** => Succeeded by the Vaudemont branch of the **House of Lorraine**
 - New successor house: **House of Habsburg-Lorraine** (German: Habsburg-Lothringen), though was often referred to as **House of Habsburg**

The Habsburgs

- **Late 18th early 19th centuries => Napoleon**
Bonaparte came to power in France, the Habsburgs faced a **new enemy**
- **1806 => Franz II**, grandson of Maria Theresa, king of Germany and Austria, Holy Roman Emperor, was **forced to relinquish his titles** to Napoleon
- **Habsburgs tried to appease Napoleon** (via arranged marriage of Franz II's daughter, Marie Louise)
- **1815=> Napoleon was defeated** in the battle of Waterloo





The Hapsburg Empire

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- Beginning of the **1800s'** => The **Hapsburg family controlled much of the region for nearly four centuries**

- **Hard times ahead => Revolution winds** within the empire



The Austrian Empire

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Resistance to Change

- Austrian emperor, Foreign Minister **Metternich** tried to **maintain the power of the monarchy**
- Accused universities of creating **revolutionaries**

Carlsbad Decrees

- **Prohibited** any reforms that conflicted with absolute monarchy

Other Prohibitions

- **Censorship** of newspapers
- Created **secret police** to spy on students suspected of revolutionary activities



The Austrian Empire

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Metternich not only created **restrictive laws** for the empire but also formed **alliances** with other **European powers** in order to **prevent nationalist revolutions**

- **1820 => Congress of Troppau**
 - Called by **Metternich**, leaders of other powers
 - Aimed at **uniting European powers** in an attempt to **prevent nationalist revolutions**
 - Leaders agreed to provide **military intervention** to support governments **against internal revolutions**

Revolution



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- Metternich **was able to sustain the Austrian Empire** for a few years
- However, events in Europe eventually caught up:
 - **Revolutions** in France and Italy
 - German states set off revolts in the Austrian Empire; **people belonging to different nationalities wanted independence**
- **Clashes between demonstrators and the army** in the streets of **Vienna**
- **Frightened emperor Ferdinand** ordered **Metternich to resign**
- **Metternich fled Austria**



Franz Josef I

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1848 => **Ferdinand** abdicated the throne, was succeeded by his nephew **Franz Josef I**

Franz/Francis Joseph (1848-1916)

- **Centralized** administration, dominated by **German-speaking Austrians**
- **Internal tariffs** were **abolished**
- **Hungary** was **divided** into military districts
- The **Catholic Church** controlled **education**



Franz and Sissi



- **1853** => Franz Josef survived an assassination attempt
- As **worries about succession** increased, Franz Joseph looked for a **wife**
 - Fell for his 16 year old cousin, **Elisabeth** (Sissi) of Bavaria
 - Was often away from court (traveled Europe extensively, fashion icon)
 - Encouraged her husband to support the **Hungarian cause**
 - **1898** => **Stabbed** to death by an anarchist in Geneva





Habsburgs vs. Nationalism

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1848 => **Hungarian** Magyars **rebelled** against the Austrian rule (almost successful)

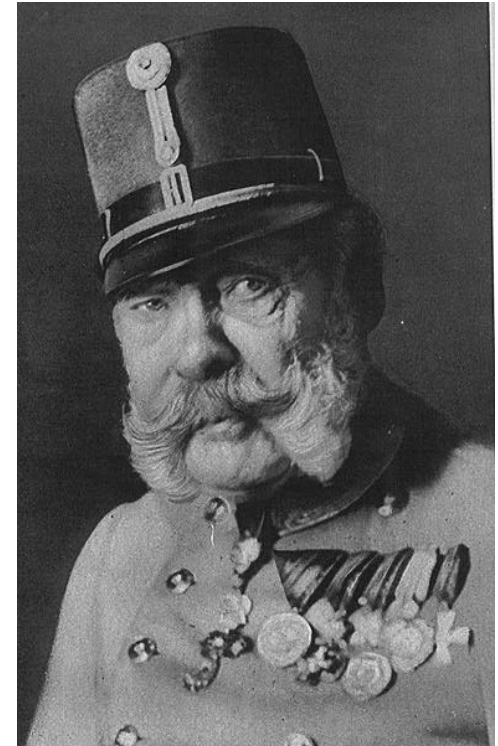
- Czar Nicholas I of **Russia** sent troops to **help Austria** crush revolt
- Franz Josef I **stopped the liberal reforms of 1848** but could not eradicate **nationalism** => Ruled over an **unstable empire**

Habsburgs vs. Nationalism



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- Post 1848 =>
 - **Germanic centralization of language:** was condemned by non-German nationalities, especially the Magyars
 - **Bureaucratic efficiency and modernization**
 - Maintained the **abolition of serfdom** (from 1848)



Serfdom is the status of many peasants under feudalism, specifically relating to manorialism (the organization of the economy in the Middle Ages). The economy relied mainly on agriculture.



The Dual Monarchy

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- Nationalist movement continued in Europe
 - **1859** => **Austria lost** Lombardy to Italy
 - **1860** => **Austrian federation** with local diets + a single imperial government (rejected by the Magyars)
 - **1867** => **Agreement** between **Franz Josef I** and **Hungarian nationalist movement** leaders to form 2 separate countries with a common ruler





The Dual Monarchy

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Franz Josef I could not stop the nationalist movement => Change came in the form of the '**Ausgleich**'



Compromise of 1867

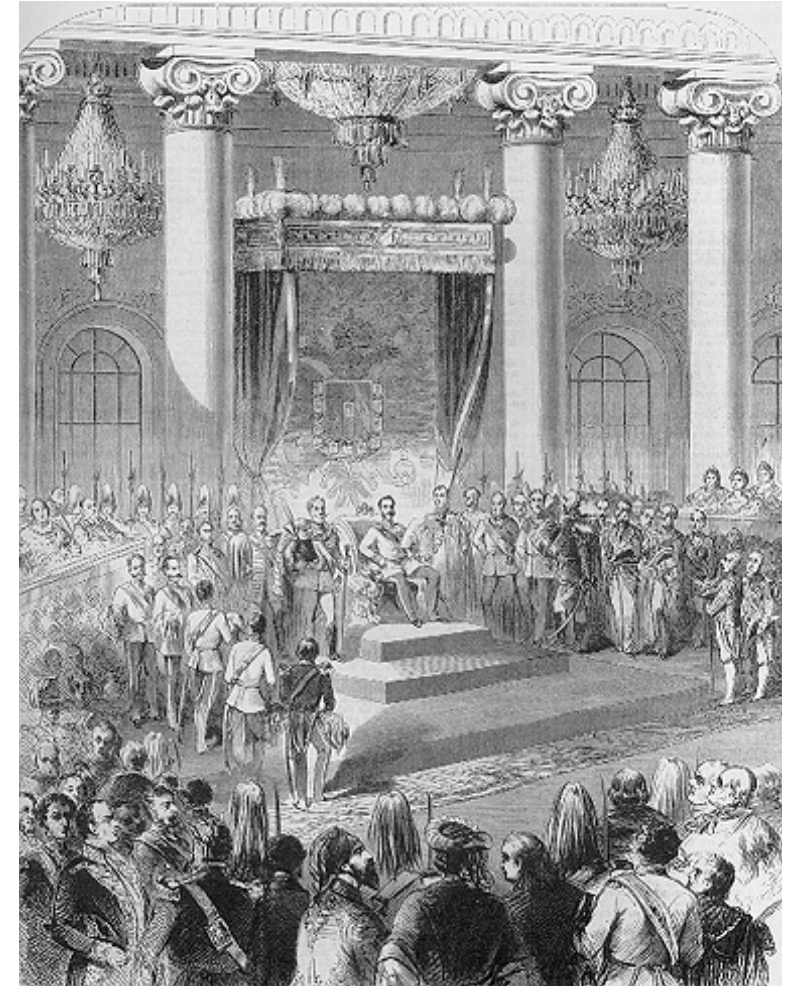
- **Dual monarchy**
- Austria and Hungary became two **separate, equal states under Franz Josef I** => emperor of Austria, king of Hungary
- Each state had its **own constitution and parliament**
- Monarch's **common government** shared responsibility for the army, navy, foreign policy and the customs union



The Dual Monarchy

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- All laws, even identical ones, had to pass in both parliaments (Vienna and Budapest)
- Linking/**co-ordinating** the two countries fell on the **monarch**, wielding great power in theory but limited in practice
- The Austro-Hungarian government became a **cosmopolitan bureaucracy** => multicultural organization of non-elected officials

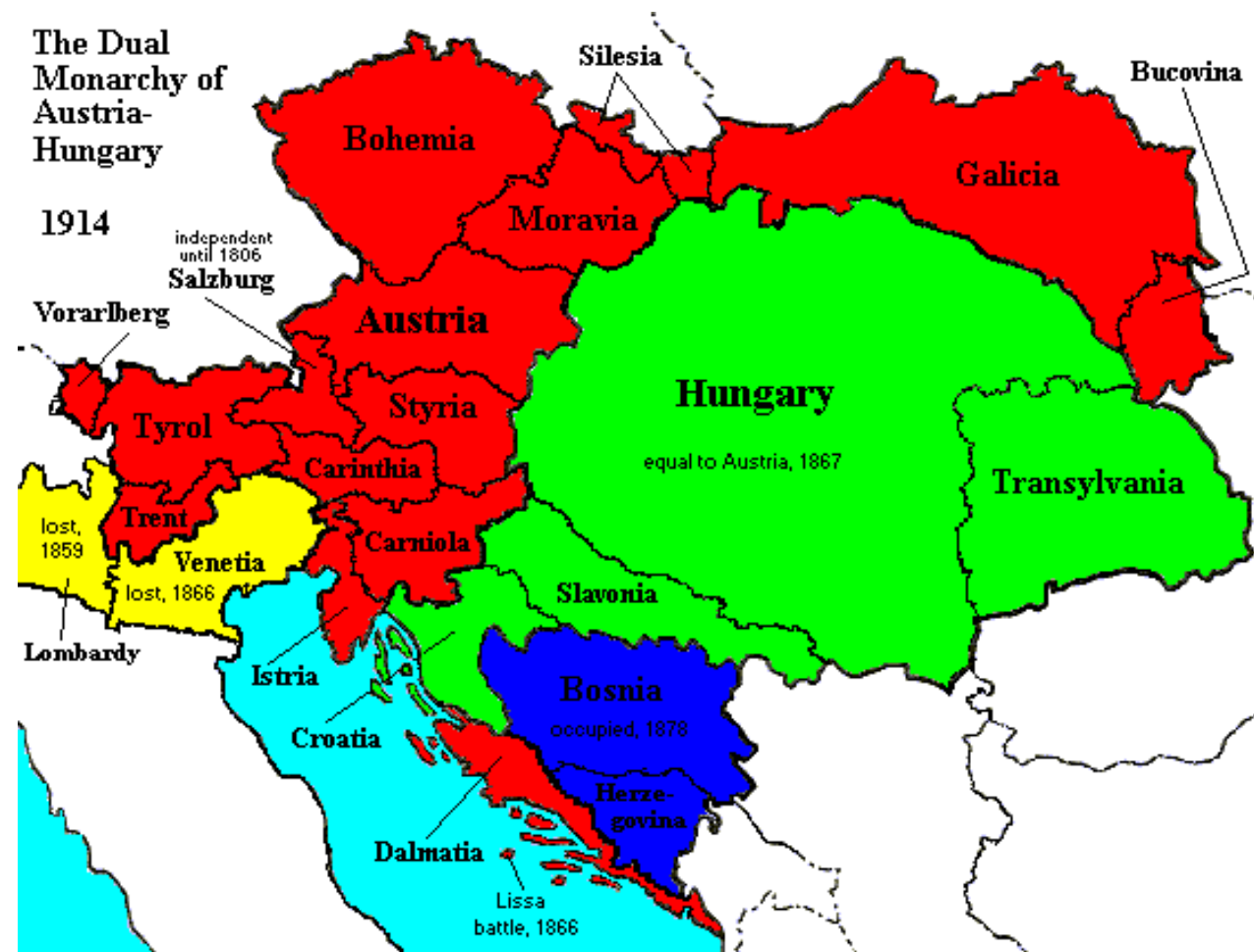




The Dual Monarchy

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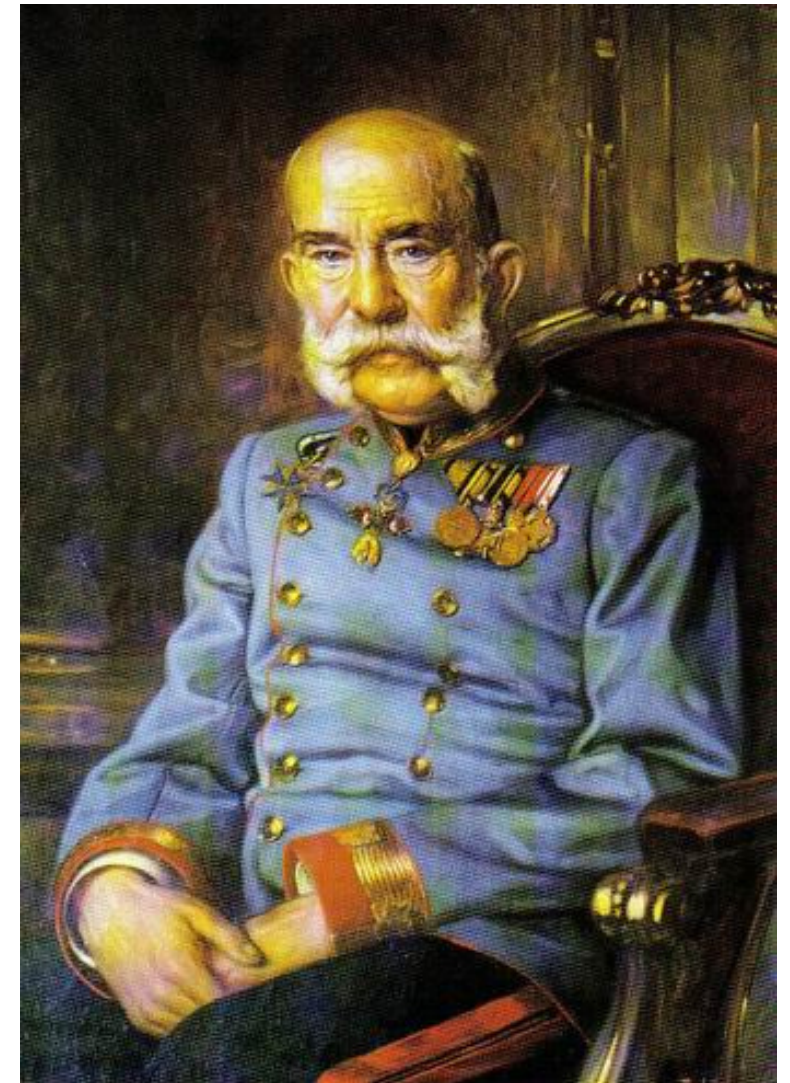
- **Dual Monarchy lasted until 1918 (about 50 years)**
- Eased pressure of **nationalism** had **economic** advantages:
 - Rural, agricultural Hungary provided raw materials, food
 - Industrialized Austria provided industrial products





The Dual Monarchy

- **Political difficulties** in Austria **mounted** continuously through the **late 1800s** and into the **20th century**
- **Franz Joseph** remained immensely **respected**
- His **patriarchal authority** held the Empire together while the politicians squabbled





The Dual Monarchy

- After **Rudolf** (son of Franz Joseph and Sissi), heir to the throne, **died in 1889, Archduke Franz Ferdinand** (Franz Joseph's nephew) **became the monarch**
- **Simmering nationalism** among ethnic groups under Austrian domination caused disruption in the Reichsrat and resulted in rule by imperial decree in the late 1890's
- **Continued tensions in the Balkans** would eventually result in the chaos of World War I



1914



National & Social Multiculturalism

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- The "Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867" created **semi-independent states linked by personal union**
- **Neither** nation-state was **democratic**
- **Nationalism** was a major challenge the empire faced due to plurality of ethnicities within in
- Ongoing **push** for **political** and **cultural equality**



THE ETHNIC GROUPS OF AUSTRIA-HUNGARY IN 1910



National and Social Multiculturalism

- Neither Germans nor Hungarians constituted a majority
- Language was one of the most contentious issues in Austro-Hungarian politics => Both governments faced **difficulties** in deciding on the languages of government + instruction



German	24%
Hungarian	20%
Czech	13%
Polish	10%
Ruthenian	8%
Romanian	6%
Croat	5%
Slovak	4%
Serb	4%
Slovene	3%
Italian	3%



Foreign Policy

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- **1873** => Germany (Chancellor Otto von Bismarck) forged the 'Three Emperors' League' with **Austria-Hungary** and **Russia**
- The three empires pledged:
 - To **consult** one another on mutual interests in Europe
 - To **remain neutral** when a member state take military action against a non-member state, particularly against **France or the Balkan nations**





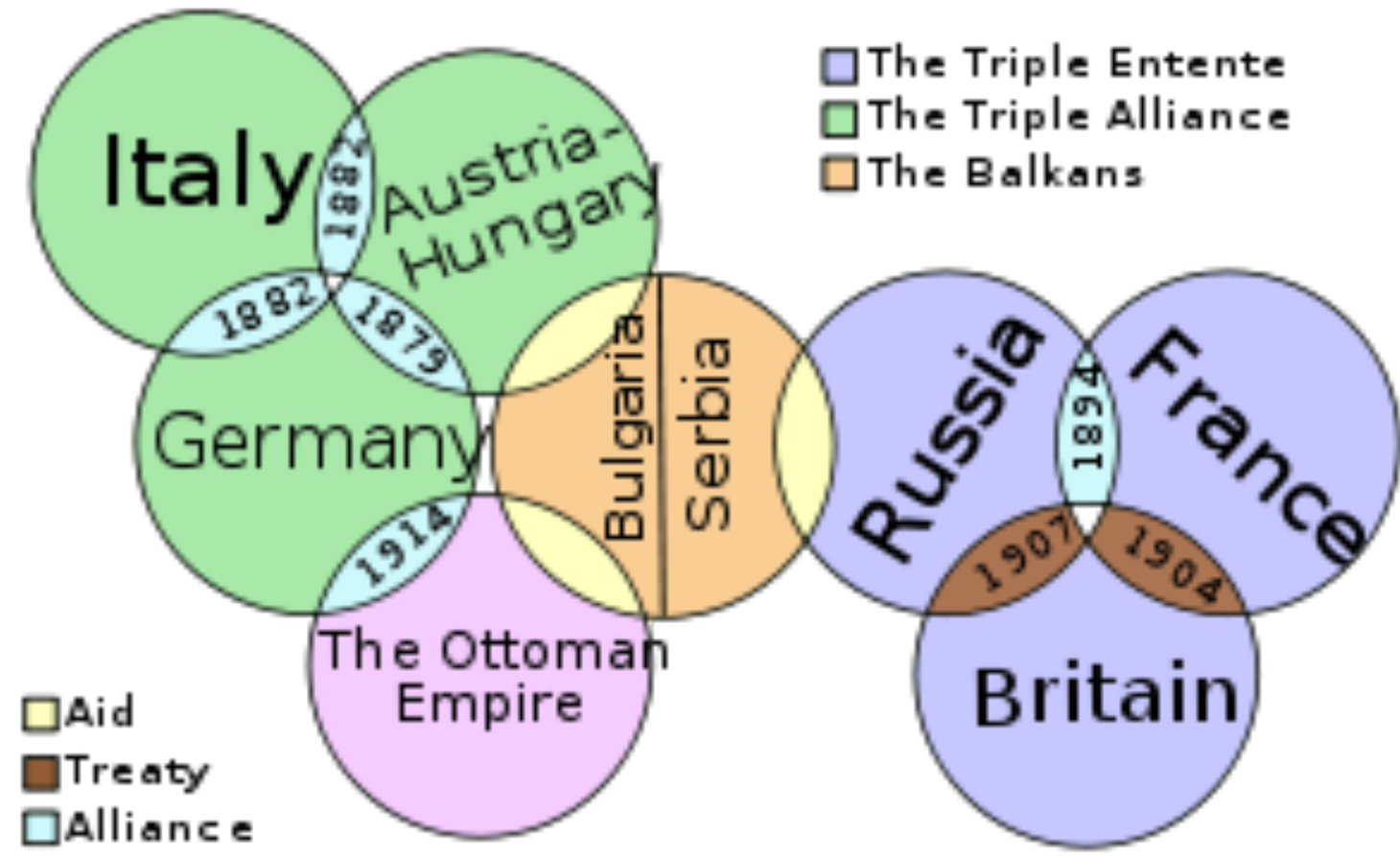
Foreign Policy

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- The Austro-Hungarian government **feared attack from Russia**
- 1879 => Austro-Hungary and Germany agreed to form a **Dual Alliance**, expanded to include Italy in 1882
 - Agreed to support each other if attacked by either **France or Russia**
- The Triple Alliance was renewed at five-yearly intervals, also due to the-
- 1907 => The **Triple Entente** between Britain, France, and Russia



Alliances Summary





Austro-Hungarian Economy

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- During the Empire's existence, the **capitalist mode of production** spread and replaced medieval institutions
- **1879-1900** => Over **25k km of railways** were built
 - **Reduced transportation costs** throughout the Empire +
 - Extended **markets** for products from Austro-Hungarian lands





Austro-Hungarian Economy

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- **1873** => Old capital **Buda** and **Obuda** merged with **Pest**, creating the metropolis of **Budapest**
 - Grew into Austro-Hungary's administrative, political, economic, trade and cultural hub
- Budapest became the **empire's center of agriculture and food industry**
- Large proportion of export to the rest of Europe





Austro-Hungarian Economy

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- Wide disparities of economic development existed within the Empire:
 - **Western areas became more developed than eastern areas**
- **Economic growth** centered on **Vienna** + **Budapest**, the **Austrian lands** (areas of modern Austria), the **Alpine region** and the **Bohemian lands**
- Late 19th century => Rapid economic growth spread to the **central Hungarian plain** and to the **Carpathian lands**





Austro-Hungarian Economy

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- End of 19th century => Economic differences gradually **evened out**
- Early 20th century => Division of labour between east and west + existing economic and monetary union, led to an even more **rapid economic growth** throughout Austria-Hungary





The Imperial Army

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- The Austro-Hungarian Imperial Army was officially under the control of the Commander-in-Chief, **Emperor Franz Josef**
- By 1914, Josef was 84 years old and the chief of staff, **Count Franz Conrad**, had more power over the armed forces
- Conrad favoured an **aggressive foreign policy** and advocated the use of military action to solve Austro-Hungary's territorial disputes with **Italy** and **Serbia**





The Black Hand

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- A **secret military society** formed by members of the **Serbian army** in the Kingdom of Serbia
- Founded on September 6, **1901**
- Aimed to **unit all territories** containing significant **Serb populations** annexed by Austria-Hungary
- **1914** => Dragutin Dimitrijević (aka **Apis**) decided that Archduke **Franz Ferdinand**, heir of Austria, should be **assassinated**
 - 3 young Bosnian-Serbs were recruited for this purpose





The Black Hand

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- Those involved **probably realized** that their plot would invite war between Austria and Serbia
 - Knew that Russia would side with Serbia
 - However, it is unlikely that they anticipated a world war
- After a first unsuccessful attempt, the Archduke was assassinated
- Serbia was largely blamed for the assassination
 - Tensions involved other European powers and escalated into a world war



The Dual Monarchy: recap

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The major factors that sustained the Empire were:

- **Loyalty to the Emperor** => Very popular and multi-lingual (spoke nearly all languages of the Empire)
- **The Catholic religion** => Shared by 90% Austrians and 60% Hungarians within the empire

1800s => The Fall of the Habsburgs

- **1859** => Habsburg control no longer existed in Italy, 1866 in Germany
- Habsburgs still controlled Austria and Hungary as a **Dual Monarchy** (Austria-Hungary)
 - Faced problems of **self determination** during that time + heir to the Austrian throne, Franz Ferdinand, was **assassinated** in Sarajevo in 1914 => the Habsburgs declared war on Serbia that led to **World War I**



The Fall of the Habsburgs



- **1918=>** The **Habsburg Empire** was finally **dismantled** with the **defeat of Austria** and **Hungary** in **WWI**
- The **Republic of Austria** was established after the war
- **Habsburg descendants** were able to retain their traditional titles, but not to rule



Next Session...



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- **Austria Quiz**





Thank You For Your Attention!

Questions???