

**IREb2014**

# **CULTURE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

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**Session 10: Austrian Political History II**

# On the Agenda for Today



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## Austrian Political History

- The Holy Roman Empire
  - Ottoman – Habsburg Wars
  - Failed Habsburg domination over England
- 17<sup>th</sup> century Habsburgs
- 18<sup>th</sup> century Habsburgs
  - War of Austrian Succession
  - Maria Theresa
- 19<sup>th</sup> century Habsburgs
  - The Austrian Empire
  - Revolutions 1848-1859
- New Absolutism 1849-1860
- The Dual Monarchy: Austro-Hungarian Empire
  - National Multiculturalism
- The Black Hand
- The Fall of the Habsburgs
- Reflections on Austria's Past Glory





# Double Wedding

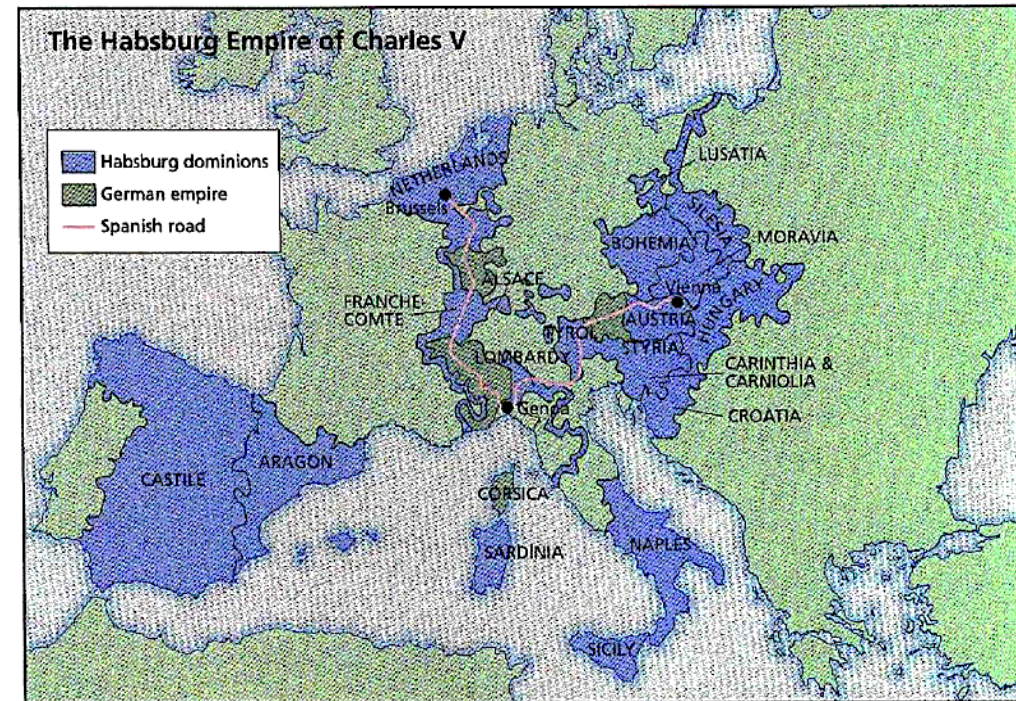
- **1477: Friedrich III arranged the marriage of his son, Maximilian, to Mary of Burgundy in order to acquire additional land for the Habsburg Empire**
  - ‘Let others wage wars, but you, happy Austria, shall marry’
- **1496: Double wedding**
  - **Maximilian’s children, Philip and Margaret of Austria, married the children of Ferdinand II & Isabella, Joan/Juana of Castile and Aragon + Don John/Juan, Prince of Asturias**
  - **Ensuring Habsburg interests in the regions held by Spain (also Italy, the Netherlands + N. America)**





# Charles V: Holy Roman Emperor

- Philip dies, Joan lost her mind- who will rule??
- Joan and Philip had six children
  - Sons **Charles** + **Ferdinand** became the founders of the two main lines of the dynasty
- Charles' way to the top-
  - **Duke of Burgundy** (1515), ruled over the Netherland
  - **King of Spain** (1516)
  - **King of Germany** + **Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire** (1519)
- Eleonora, Isabella, Mary, Catharine, **married off**







# Ottoman-Habsburg Wars

- **1520: Accession of Süleyman the Magnificent-** Turkish pressure on Europe increased
  - 1521-1791: Ottoman- Habsburg Wars
- Spring of 1521: **Martin Luther** called to the imperial Diet at Worm
  - Charles drew up the **Edict of Worms**, essentially declaring war on **Protestantism**
- Charles delegated control over Austria, Bohemia + Hungary to his brother, Ferdinand I, now **threatened** by the **Ottomans**





# Ottoman-Habsburg War



- **Charles was fighting multiple fronts:**
  - Emperor of Christendom, must fight off the **Turks**
  - Internal disputes + revolts by **protestants** (German princes)
  - Power struggles over **hegemony** in (western) Europe (French)
- 1532: a large army under Charles's personal command faced Süleyman's forces before the city of Vienna (**The Siege of Vienna**)
  - **No battle** took place
- 1542: The **French declared war** over Milan





# Bye Bye Charles V

- Charles's **finances** were in a **perpetually unsettled state** (financing war at home + expanding Spanish colonies in the 'New World')
- 1552: Charles ratified an agreement between brother Ferdinand & **protestant** German princes => **Protestant religion** granted **equal rights** with Roman **Catholicism**
- 1554: Charles **married** his son, **Phillip** to **Mary I of England** (aka 'Bloody Mary')
  - The marriage did **not** result in **Habsburg domination** over England or **military support** for the Holy Roman Empire
  - **No Habsburg heir** to the English throne



# Habsburgs: 17<sup>th</sup> Century



- 1555: **Charles abdicated**, 'gave' the Netherlands + Spain to Philip and the imperial crown to brother Ferdinand => **Leadership of the Empire** taken over by the **Austrian Habsburgs** (1558)
- Cooperation between **imperial & Spanish Habsburgs** in the 17th century **failed** to maintain the **hegemony** previously enjoyed

## *Imperial line:*

- Domestic conflict between Rudolf II (Holy Roman Emperor, 1576-1612) + rest of family: **Habsburg Brothers Conflict**
  - Ended when Rudolf's brother **Matthias** became **emperor** (1612)
- **Religious troubles** in Germany + central Europe => **Defenestration of Prague** => **The Thirty Years War** (1618-1648)



# Habsburgs: 17<sup>th</sup> Century



## *Spanish line:*

- 1621: **Renewed conflict** with the **Dutch** merged with the struggles of the Austrian line
- 1648: **The Peace of Westphalia** abolished Habsburg sovereignty over the northern Netherlands, restricted emperor's authority over German princes + transferred the Habsburg lands in Alsace to France
- 1659-1667: Short lived **peace with France**
- End of Habsburg European hegemony (Spanish line defeated by the French, Austrians preoccupied with Turks), rise of the **Bourbons**
- No male heirs to Charles II of Spain
- **War of Spanish Succession (1701-1714)**

# Habsburgs: 18<sup>th</sup> Century

- 1711: **Charles VI- Holy Roman Emperor + last male Habsburg**
- To **secure the indivisibility** of his **Habsburg inheritance**, Charles:
  - Issued the **Pragmatic Sanction** (1713): Daughter Maria Theresa can inherit the Empire)
  - **Married** Maria Theresa to Francis I of **Lorraine => Alliance meant to extend the Habsburg lineage**
- Until then, **no women** had ever **controlled Habsburg land** by herself
- Charles **convinced** many European families + rulers to recognize **Maria Theresa's right to the throne** after his death (1740)







# War of Austrian Succession

- **Prussian invasion of Silesia => War of the Austrian Succession (1740–1748)**
  - Maria Theresa **successfully retained control** over most of her father's lands
- Maria Theresa was **never crowned empress**, became empress when husband Francis Stephen of Lorraine was recognized **Holy Roman emperor ('Francis I', 1745)**
  - Francis I was the official ruler, but Maria Theresa governed the Habsburg monarchy **single-handedly**
- **House of Habsburg–Lorraine**, the dynastic **continuators** of the 'original' **Habsburgs**



# Maria Theresa



- Maria Theresa and husband, Francis I married in order to guarantee a **balance of power** within the spectrum of **European politics**
  - 10/16 children reached adulthood, among them two future **emperors**, an elector of Cologne and **Marie Antoinette**, future wife of King Louis XVI of France
- Maria Theresa carried out **comprehensive state reforms** (reformed the military, judiciary + education system, established a high court, standardized measurements and weights)
- **Vienna** got a facelift, the **stock exchange** + **Burgtheater** were built, **Schönbrunn Palace** transformed into a prestigious landmark







# Maria Theresa

- The **conservative Catholic** ruler applied a strict **zero tolerance policy**
  - **Protestants** were **persecuted** and **expelled**
  - **20,000 Jews** were **expelled** from Prague + other parts of Bohemia (1744)
- **1765: Joseph II** became the **Holy Roman Emperor** after the death of Francis, a co-regent of the House of Habsburg
  - **Difficult** mother/son **relations: Humanistic** principles of **Enlightenment** vs. **Hardcore Catholicism**
- **1780: Maria Theresa died**, yet unforgotten



# The Habsburgs: 19<sup>th</sup> Century

- **Late 18<sup>th</sup> early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries** => **Napoleon Bonaparte** came to power, the Habsburgs faced a **new enemy**
  - Tried to **appease Napoleon-** married him into the family, didn't stop his conquer spree
- **1806** => **Francis II**, hereditary **emperor of Austria** + Holy Roman Emperor **forced to relinquish titles** to Napoleon
  - **Francis I**, emperor of **Austria** after Napoleon's downfall
- The **Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)** returned lost territories to the Habsburgs after Napoleon's downfall
  - Wars triggered awakening of **nationalism** in the modern sense





# The Austrian Empire

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- **Monarchical conservatism, eroded** by the forces of **nationalism**

The Age of Metternich (1815-1848) =>

- Fighting to preserve the status quo in an ever-changing reality (social, economic, etc.)

## Resistance to Change

Austrian emperor + Foreign Minister **Metternich** tried to **maintain the power of the monarchy**



- **Prohibited** reforms that conflicted with absolute monarchy + **ensorship**
- Formed **alliances** with other European powers to **prevent nationalist revolutions**
- Created **secret police** to **spy** on students suspected of **revolutionary** activities



# Revolutions 1848-1859

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- Metternich **was able to sustain the Austrian Empire** for a few years. However, events in Europe eventually caught up with him (growing unrest in Europe)
- **Revolutions in the Habsburg monarchy: social, democratic-liberal, national**
  - Hungarians, Italians, Slavic people, Germans
- **March 1848: Vienna Uprising, clashes between demonstrators and the army in the streets of Vienna**
  - **Metternich fired**
  - Emperor promises to issues a **constitution** (only in Hungary, 'March Laws')



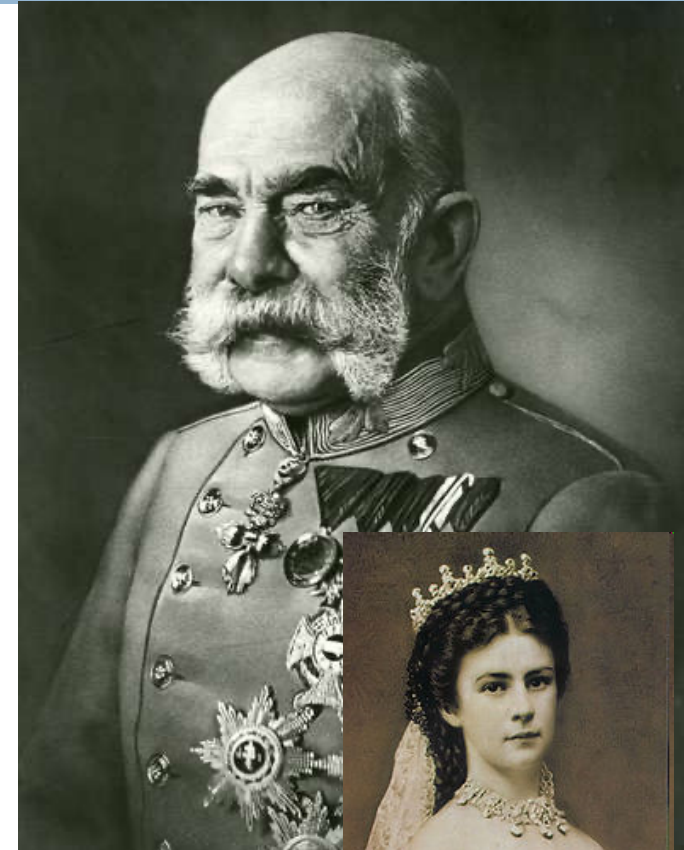
*Revue de la Commune de 1848, par Eugène Delacroix*



# Neo-Absolutism 1849-1860

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- **Ferdinand** abdicated the throne, was succeeded by his nephew **Francis/Franz Josef I** (1848-1916)
  - Heavily influenced by **Metternich** + wife the duchess Elizabeth of Bavaria (**Sissi**)
- With Alexander von **Bach** (minister of the interior) order was 'restored' (police state) => Further **rebellions**
  - Franz Josef **stopped liberal reforms**, but could not eradicate **nationalism**, ruled over an **unstable empire**
- A series of ill-fated **wars** shook Austria's **military reputation** + **financially drained** it
  - Austria **separated from Germany** following the war against Prussia (**Bismark**)



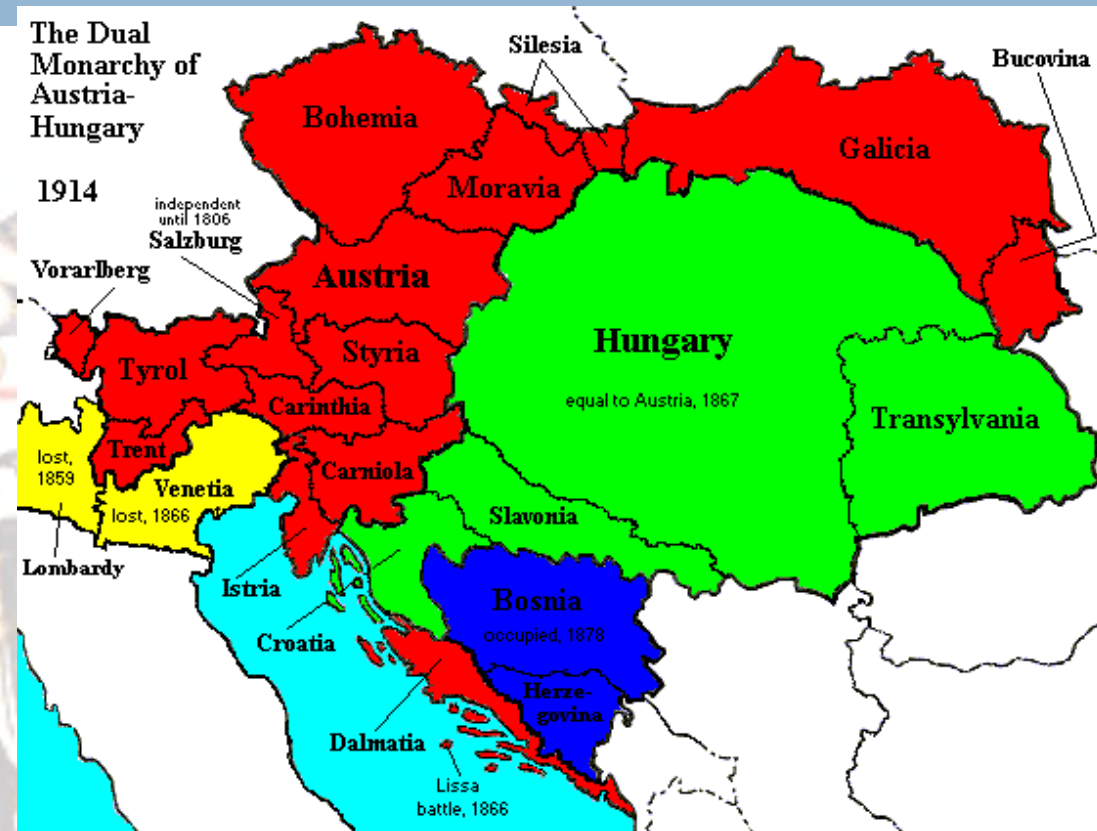


# The Dual Monarchy

Franz Josef could **not** stop the **Hungarian nationalist movement** => The **Ausgleich/** Hungarian **compromise**: Imperial & royal **Dual Monarchy (1867)**



- Austria and Hungary became two **separate, equal states under Franz Josef I** => Emperor of Austria, king of Hungary
- The Monarch's **common government** shared responsibility for the army, navy, foreign policy + the customs union



- **Leverage to extend Hungarian influence**
- **The Dual Monarchy lasted until 1918** (about 50 years)





# National Multiculturalism

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



# The Dual Monarchy

- 1867: Franz Joseph's brother Maximilian, emperor of Mexico executed
- 1889: Crown prince **Rudolf dies, Archduke Franz Ferdinand** (Franz Joseph's nephew) became the **presumptive heir** to the **Dual Monarchy**
- In 1878, Austro Hungary occupied **Bosnia & Herzegovina**, formally **annexed** in 1908
- 1914: Visiting Sarajevo, **archduke Franz Ferdinand killed** by a nationalist Serb, prompting the **World War I**





# The Black Hand

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- Ujedinjenje Ili Smrt (Serbo-Croatian: Union or Death)
- 1911: A **secret military society** formed by members of the **Serbian army** in the Kingdom of Serbia
  - Led by Dragutin Dimitrijević, aka **Apis**
  - Aimed to **unit territories** with significant **Serb populations**
- **1914** => Dimitrijević decided that Archduke **Franz Ferdinand** should be **killed**
  - ‘Successful’ second attempt
  - **Serbia** was **blamed** for the assassination



# The Fall of the Habsburgs

- **Gradual lost of territory + political power** in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Lost Italy (1859), Germany (1866) ...
  - Still controlled Austro-Hungary, but as a **Dual Monarchy**
- Faced problems of **self determination** during that time
- Heir to the throne, Franz Ferdinand, **assassinated** in Sarajevo in 1914 => **Charles (I) emperor of Austria** (1916-1918), the last ruler of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy
- **Dismemberment of the Habsburg Empire** (1918)
- Post WWI: The **Republic of Austria** was established
  - **Habsburg descendants** were able to retain their traditional titles, but not to rule



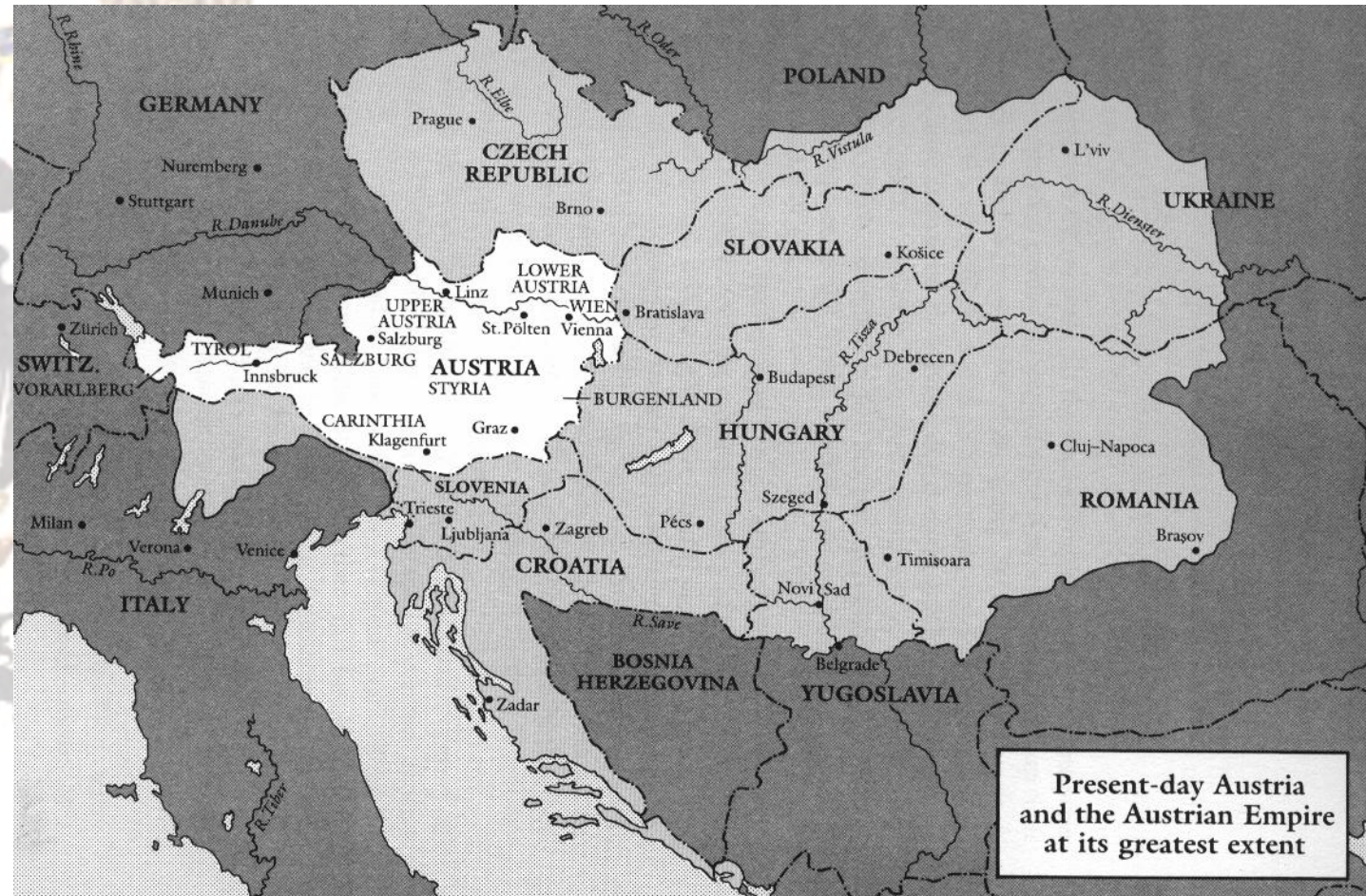


# Reflection on Austria's Past Glory

- Austria was often a **part of larger political units**

- Holy Roman Empire
- German Confederation
- Austrian Empire
- Austro-Hungarian Empire
- European Union

- **Independent since 1955**





# Next Session...



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- **Austria Quiz**





**Thank You For Your Attention!**

**Questions???**

