

IREb2014

CULTURE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

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Session 8: Introduction to Austria

Introduction to Austria

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■ German Reunification

■ Facts and Figures

- Name, borders, size
- Federalism
- Languages
- Population
- Religion
- Neutrality, Army, Foreign affairs





German Reunification

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- November 9, 1989: **Berlin wall falls** => The **Berlin border opens**
- March 1990: GDR's first **free election**, **communist party** suffered a crushing **defeat**
- Summer 1990: Negotiations for a **treaty of unification**
 - Monetary union
 - Gorbachev agreed to a unified Germany in NATO



German Reunification



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- October 1990 => **Unification** under the title 'Federal Republic' Germany ('*Bundersrepublik Deutschland*')
 - Thought to be impossible (politically, economically ...)
- **Political union** achieved (relatively) **peacefully** & smoothly, creating a **functional federal republic**
 - Capital - Berlin
 - 5 East German Länder added to West-Germany
 - West-German Basic Law applied nationwide



German Reunification

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- **National reunification** was soon shadowed by a series of **difficulties**
 - Structural problems in the European economy
 - **Costs** (unexpected) + **consequences of unification** (increasing costs of its social welfare system, unemployment, etc.)
- **East German economy**- far worse than anyone had realized => **Collapsed**
 - Became **heavily dependent** on federal subsidies
 - **Unemployment, social dislocation, disappointment of easterners**





In Conclusion

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- Germany's **fractured** & fragmented **history** is the key to understanding its development in the 20th century
- In 1848, German revolutionaries tried, but **failed** to **unify** Germany through **democratic** means (the Frankfurt Assembly, etc.)
- **Germany** was **unified** only in **1871**, as a result of three bloody **wars** launched by Prussia under **Bismarck**
- Germany's attempt at **democracy failed** due to various political & social reasons => **Rise of the neo-Nazi party - radical nationalism**



In Conclusion

- German Industrialization => 'Reset' following WWII
- Germany's **economic problems** in the early 1990s stemmed from the vast **differences** between the **economies of West** and **East Germany**
- Remarkable **achievement** in:
 - Postwar **economic** development
 - Postwar **democratic** consolidation
- Became **embedded** in **Europe** & 'the West'
 - Following the 'Marshall Plan' + the economic miracle



In Conclusion

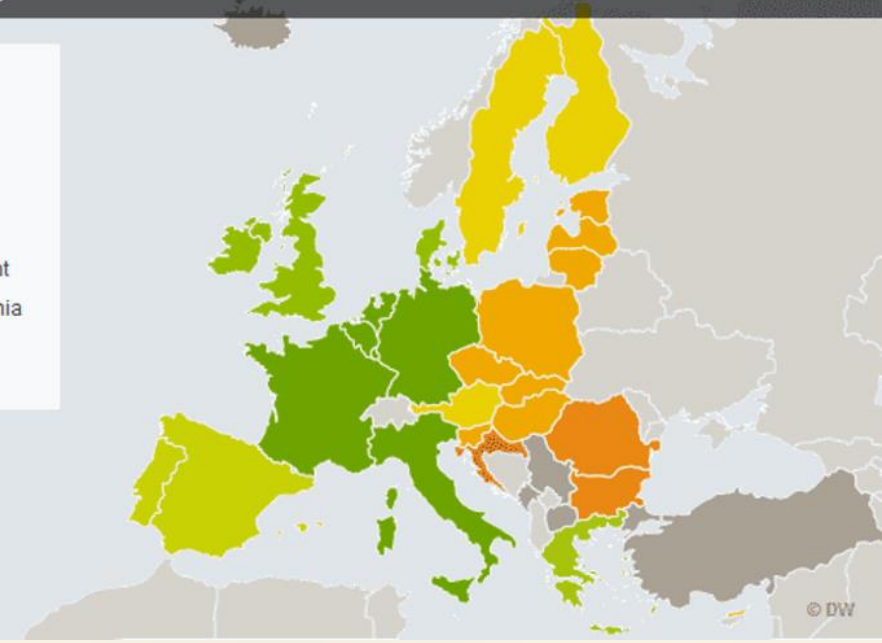


Important!

- **German Reunification as a precursor to EU enlargement => Symbolic of European unification**
 - German reunification paved the way for the Central and Eastern **European expansion** in the 2000s'

Enlargement of the EU

- 1957: Founding of the EU
- 1973: First enlargement
- 1981: Greece
- 1986: Portugal and Spain
- 1995: Nordic enlargement
- 2004: Eastern enlargement
- 2007: Bulgaria and Romania
- 2013: Croatia
- Candidate countries



Introduction to Austria



Facts and Figures



- **The Republic of Austria/ Österreich**
 - *Ostarrîchi /Austriaca* => **Eastern Borderland/kingdom**
 - **Not Australia**
- **Landlocked country in Central Europe**
- **Bordered** by the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein
- **Population:** 8.93 Million (2021), 17% foreign citizens
- **83.87 km²**



Austrian Federalism



- **Parliamentary Representative Democracy**
 - **Federal state** comprised of 9 provinces, each has its own capital
- Most populated- **Vienna**
- **Urban centers:** Graz, Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck

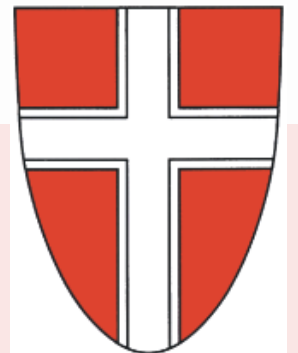
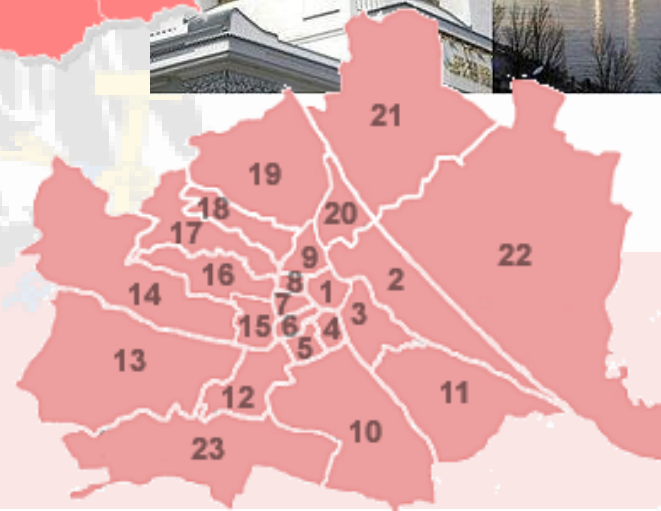
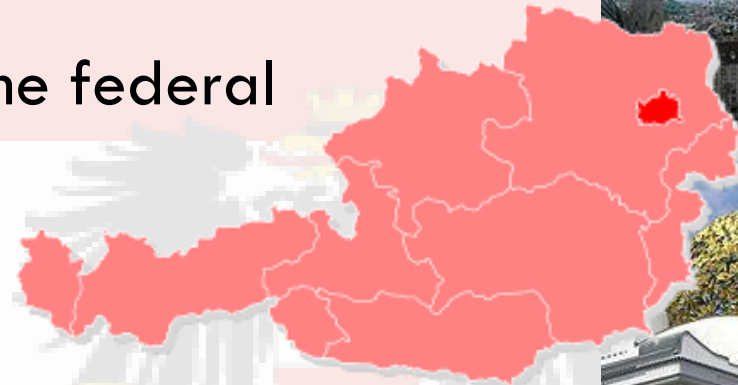


Province	Population	Provincial Capital	Population
Burgenland	296,040	Eisenstadt	14,892
Carinthia	562,230	Klagenfurt	101,779
Lower Austria	1,691,040	St. Pölten	55,878
Upper Austria	1,495,756	Linz	206,552
Salzburg	560,643	Salzburg	155,424
Styria	1,247,159	Graz	291,130
Tyrol	760,161	Innsbruck	131,042
Vorarlberg	399,164	Bregenz	29,524
Vienna	1,921,153	-	-

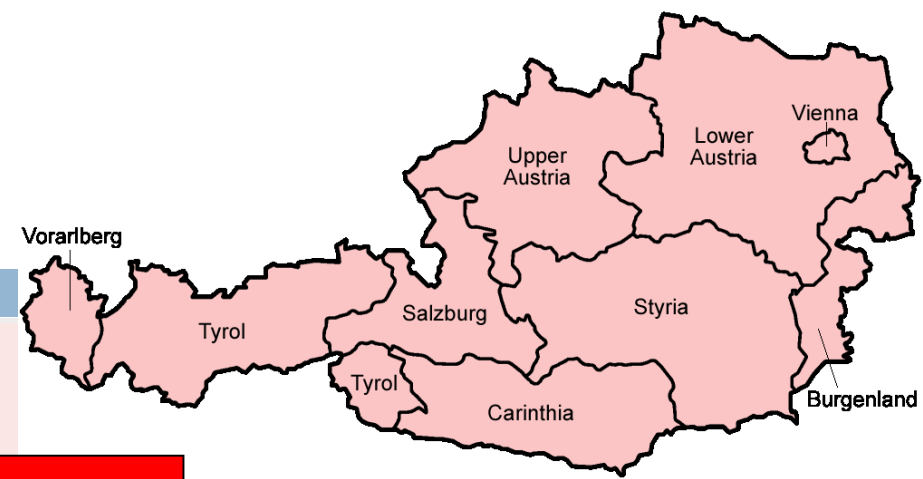


Vienna

- **Capital** of Austria and a **federal state**
- Located in the **north-east** of Austria
- **Cultural** center, seat of the federal **government**
- Known for its **architecture, International institutions, parks, museums ...**
- Divided into 23 districts



Austrian Federalism



Burgenland =>

- Eastern federal state, 3,966 km²
- Capital: **Eisenstadt**
- 7 districts, 3,966 km² , 292k residents
- Important wine growing area
- Home of Haydn

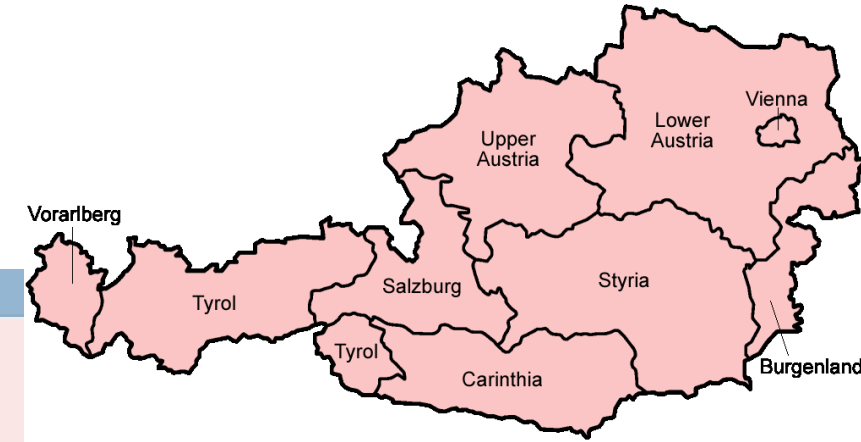


Tyrol =>

- 12,647 km², 754k residents
- Capital: **Innsbruck**
- Known for its ski resorts, dialect



Austrian Federalism



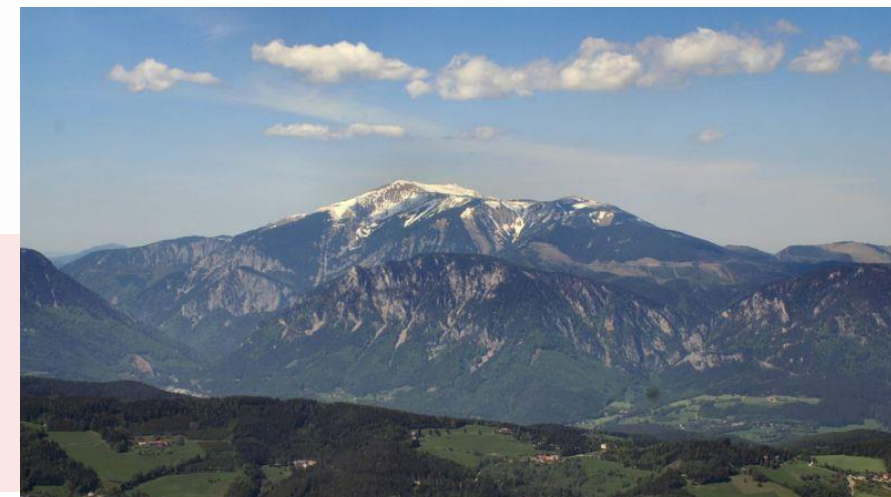
Lower Austria =>

- Located in the north-east of Austria
- Austria's **largest federal state, 2nd most populated**
- Capital: **St. Pölten**
- **Schneeberg, Most (cyder/perry)**

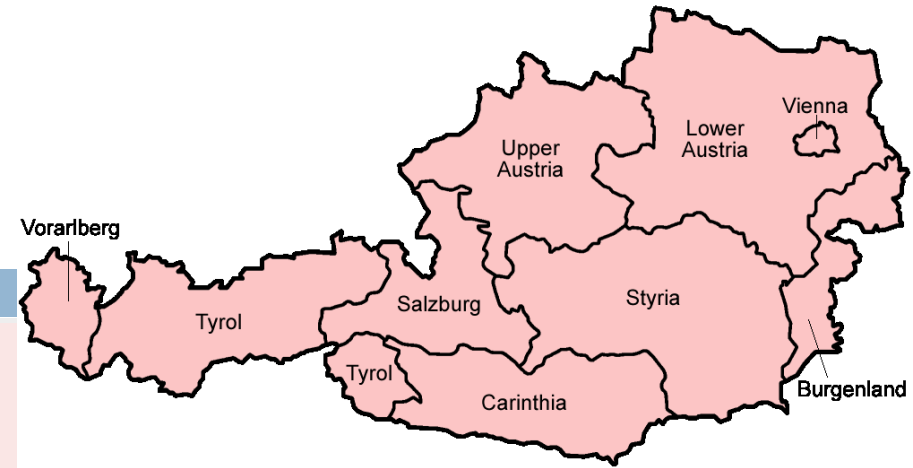


Upper Austria =>

- Fourth-largest federal state (area), third (population-wise)
- Divided into four districts
- Capital: **Linz, Linzer Torte**



Austrian Federalism



Styria =>

- Second largest federal state
- Capital: **Graz** (second largest city in Austria)
- *“The green heart of Austria”*
- Home of Arnold Schwarzenegger

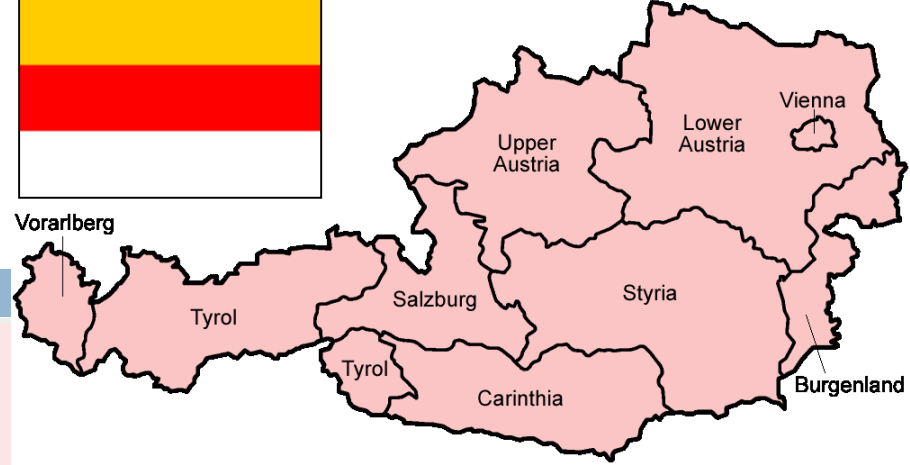


Salzburg =>

- World famous
- A federal state (Salzburgerland), capital is **Salzburg**
- known for its various music festivals + home of Wolfgang Amadeus **Mozart**



Austrian Federalism



Carinthia =>

- Most **southern** Austrian federal state
- Capital => **Klagenfurt**
- Known for its chemical, mechanical engineering & electrical industries
- Shares **Großglockner** (highest mountain) with **Tyrol**



Voralberg=>

- Most Western, second smallest state (394k residents)
- Capital: Bregenz
- **Lake Constance** (Bodensee)



Facts and Figures



- Spoken **language: German** Austrian style!
 - Distinct **differences** exist between **regional dialects** (Bavarian + Alemannic)
 - **Slovene** is an official language in **Carinthia**
 - **Minority** languages: Croatian, Hungarian, Slovak

Population =>

- Low fertility rate, well below the “replacement level”
- Population growth mainly due to positive net migration
- **Trends** include: aging population, continuing growth of Austrian with migrant background, Foreign born population increase, population increase



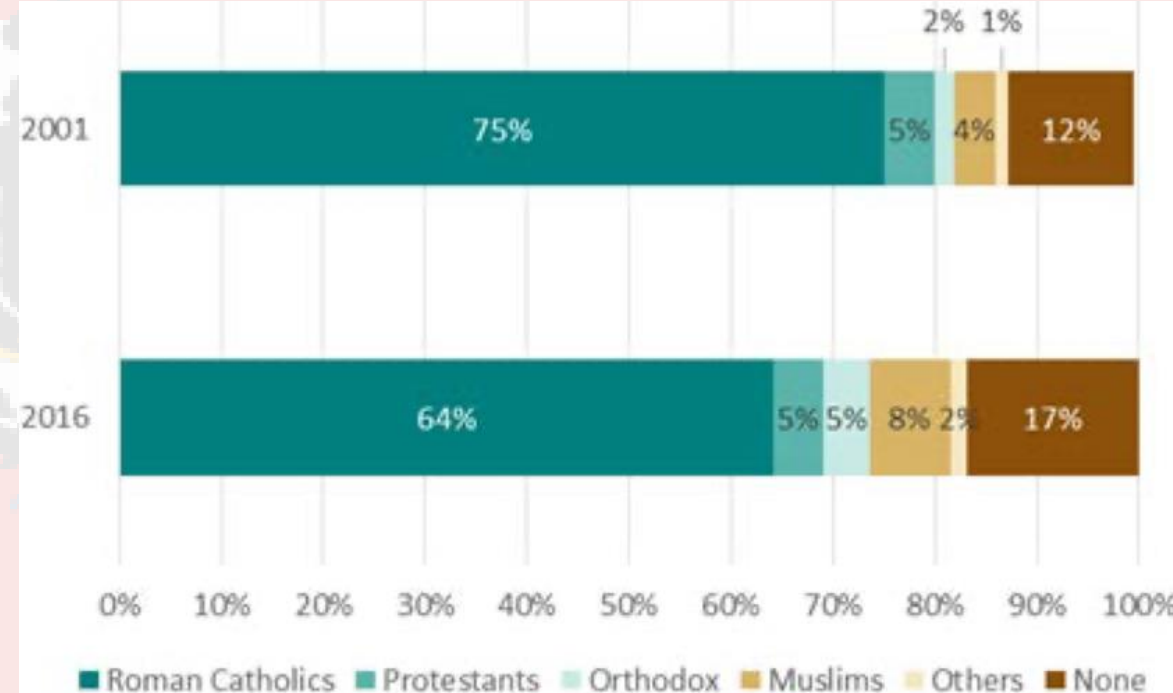
Facts and Figures



Religion =>

- **Freedom of religion:** a statutorily guaranteed right
- **Separation of State and church**
- End of the 20th century => Most Austrians were **Catholic**
 - Gradual **declined** over the past decades
- **Jewish life in Vienna**, greatly declined due to World War II
 - Contemporary Jews- post-war immigrants

Year	Roman-Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)	Muslim (%)	Other Religion (%)	Without Religion (%)	Unknown (%)	Total (absolute)
1900	91.6	2.7	0.0	5.4	0.2	0.2	6003780
1971	87.4	6.0	0.3	1.5	4.3	0.6	7491526
1981	84.3	5.6	1.0	2.0	6.0	1.0	7555338
1991	78.0	5.0	2.0	2.9	8.6	3.5	7795786
2001	73.6	4.7	4.2	3.5	12.0	2.0	8032926



Facts and Figures



- There is **no 'Austrian people'** in an **ethnic** sense
 - The Austrian population consists of **various ethnic groups** which form one nation

Diversity =>

- The Austrian Federal **Constitution** calls for the respect & promotion of ethnic groups residing in Austria
 - The **'Ethnic Group Act'** (1976) grants special rights to Croatians, Slovenians, Hungarians, Czech, Slovaks and Roma
 - **State Treaty of Vienna** (1955)

Facts and Figures



Neutrality, Army, Foreign Affairs =>

- **Neutrality as part of Austria's cultural identity**
 - State treaty (1955)
- **Memberships**
 - **UN** (active) + **OSCE**
 - Not NATO but NATO's partnership for peace
 - **EU** (1995) + **Euro** (1999)
- **Mandatory draft (conscription) for Austrian men**



BUNDESGESETZBLATT FÜR DIE REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH

1151

Jahrgang 1955 Ausgegeben am 4. November 1955 57. Stück

- 211. Bundesverfassungsgesetz: Neutralität Österreichs.
- 212. Verordnung: Errichtung von Ergänzungskommandos zur Durchführung der Erfassung und Einberufung der Wehrpflichtigen.
- 213. Verordnung: Änderung der Sprengel der Gerichtsbezirke Neulengbach und Purkersdorf.
- 214. Kundmachung: Änderung der Kundmachung, betreffend die Anrechnung von Vordienstzeiten für die Vorrückung in höhere Bezüge bei den Beamten der Österreichischen Bundesbahnen.
- 215. Notenwechsel über die Aufhebung der Sichtvermerkplicht zwischen Österreich und Monaco.

211. Bundesverfassungsgesetz vom 26. Oktober 1955 über die Neutralität Österreichs.
Der Nationalrat hat beschlossen:

Artikel I.

(1) Zum Zwecke der dauernden Behauptung seiner Unabhängigkeit nach außen und zum Zwecke der Unverletzlichkeit seines Gebietes erklärt Österreich aus freien Stücken seine immerwährende Neutralität. Österreich wird diese mit allen ihm zu Gebote stehenden Mitteln aufrecht erhalten und verteidigen.

(2) Österreich wird zur Sicherung dieser Zwecke in aller Zukunft keinen militärischen Bündnissen beitreten und die Errichtung militärischer Stützpunkte fremder Staaten auf seinem Gebiete nicht zulassen.

Artikel II.

Mit der Vollziehung dieses Bundesverfassungsgesetzes ist die Bundesregierung betraut.

Körner			
Raab	Schärf	Helmer	Kapfer
Drimmel	Maisel	Kamitz	Thoma
Illig	Waldbrunner		Figl

Salzburg in Salzburg,
Steiermark in Graz,
Tirol in Innsbruck,
Vorarlberg in Bregenz,
Wien in Wien.

Raab

213. Verordnung der Bundesregierung vom 25. Oktober 1955, womit die Sprengel der Gerichtsbezirke Neulengbach und Purkersdorf geändert werden.

Auf Grund des § 8 Abs. 5 lit. d des Übergangsgesetzes vom 1. Oktober 1920 in der Fassung des Bundesgesetzes Nr. 368 vom Jahre 1925 wird mit Zustimmung der niederösterreichischen Landesregierung verordnet:

§ 1. Die Gemeinden Gablitz, Mauerbach, Preßbaum, Tullnerbach und Wolfsgraben werden aus dem Sprengel des Bezirksgerichtes Neulengbach ausgeschieden und dem Sprengel des Bezirksgerichtes Purkersdorf zugewiesen.

§ 2. Diese Verordnung tritt am 1. Jänner 1956 in Kraft.

Raab	Schärf	Helmer	Kapfer
Drimmel	Maisel	Kamitz	Thoma

Next Session...

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- **Facts & Figures**

- Economy
- Culture

- **Austrian Politics**

- Government
- Political Leaders
- Contemporary Trends

- **Austrian Political History**





Thank You For Your Attention!

Questions???

