

Czech History & Culture

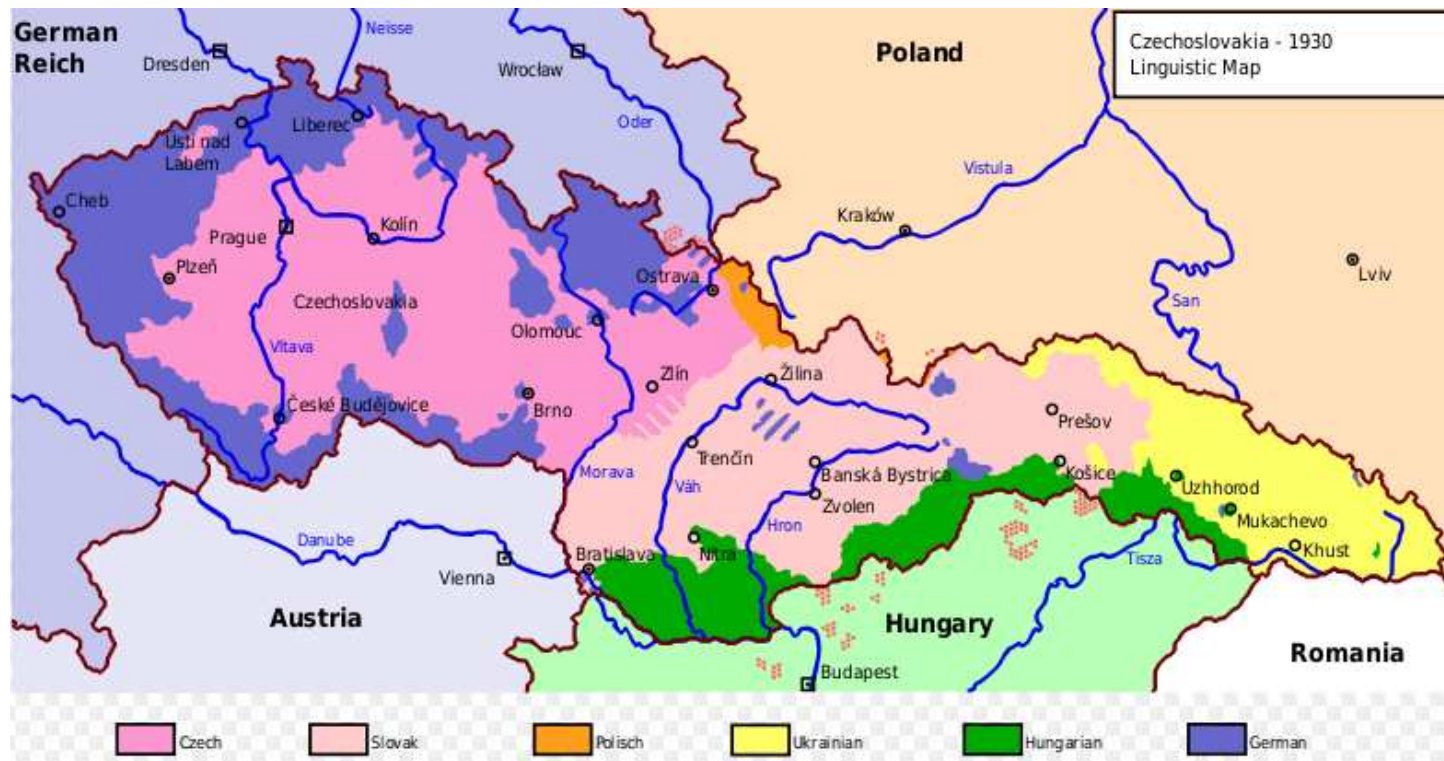
Lecture nr. H2:
The formation of Czech state – part II.
(1918 – 1945)
Ing. Petr David, VŠFS

...from the last lecture...

- First state on Czech territory
 - ➔ Empire of Samo
- Patron of our country from dynasty Premyslids
 - ➔ St. Wenceslas
- Father of our country, Holy Roman Emperor, founder of University in Prague
 - ➔ Charles IV
- The dynasty with the longest reign in Bohemia (1526 – 1918)
 - ➔ Habsburg
- Multinational empire in Central Europe (1867 – 1918)
 - ➔ Austro-Hungarian Empire
- First Czechoslovak president
 - ➔ Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (or T.G. Masaryk)
- Independence of Czechoslovakia
 - ➔ 28 October 1918

First Czechoslovak Republic

- Austro Hungarian Empire collapsed at the end of World War I
 ➔ Creation of Czechoslovakia (28 October 1918)
- Only 65 % of Czechoslovak population in Czechoslovakia



First Czechoslovak Republic

- Population: 13.5 million
- Official languages: Czech and Slovak
- 70 - 80 % of industry of Austro-Hungarian Empire
 - Employment (% of population)
 - Czech: Agriculture 30 %, Industry 40 %, Services 30 %)
 - Slovak: Agriculture 60 %, Industry 17 %, Services 23 %)
- Why Czechs and Slovaks formed one country?
 - A lot of similarities
 - Cooperation in fight against German and Hungarian influence
 - United Czech and Slovak legions in Russia and France (WWI)

Munich Agreement (29.9.1938)

- Agreement permitting Nazi Germany annexing Sudetenland
- Sudetenland (Sudety)
 - areas mainly inhabited by Germans
 - Strategically important areas
- Munich „Betrayal“
 - Military alliance: Czechoslovakia, France, Great Britain
 - Signed by: Nazi Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy
 - Czechoslovakia not invited to the conference (about us without us)
 - In case of German attack F and GB would refuse to help



Nazi occupation

- After the „Munich“ – Capitulation, President resigned
- Order to Czechoslovak army to surrender
 - 1,2 Million soldiers and fortification not used
- Independent Slovak Republic, takeovers by Hungary and Poland



Czechoslovakia during WW II

- The country disappeared (1939)
- Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia – Controlled by Nazi
- Czechoslovak government in exile in London
- Resistance outside of Czechoslovakia
 - 4 squadrons in Royal Air Force (app 1500 flyers)
 - Land and air forces in Soviet Union, France and Great Britain
- Resistance inside Czechoslovakia
 - Assassination of Reichsprotektor Heydrich (27.5. 1942)
 - Prague uprising (5-8.5.1945)

End of World War II

- Jewish question
 - 120.000 Jews in Czechoslovakia before WW II
 - Theresienstadt concentration camp (Terezín – 60 km from Prague)
- Liberation of Czechoslovakia (1945)
 - Western part (Pilsen) liberated by US Army
 - The rest of Czechoslovakia (Prague incl) liberated by Red Army
- Consequences
 - Czechoslovakia lost Subcarpathian Rus (Ruthenia)
 - Czechoslovakia became a part of the „Eastern Bloc“

The résumé

- First Czechoslovak Republic
 - ➔ 1918 - 1938
- Agreement permitting Nazi Germany annexing Sudetenland (1938)
 - ➔ Munich agreement
- Who was not invited to the Munich conference to decide about the future of Czechoslovakia?
 - ➔ Czechoslovakia (about us without us)
- The concentration camp in Czechoslovakia
 - ➔ Theresienstadt (Terezín)
- Prague was liberated by
 - ➔ Red Army (Soviet Union)