

## Order and Conquest: Modern Central Europe

In the 19th century, the lands of Central Europe existed as the meeting place of three empires: the German, Austro-Hungarian, and Russian. Today, no fewer than 16 independent nation-states occupy the same European territories once controlled by these empires. The political transformation of Central (and Eastern) Europe since 1848 included six major revolutionary periods and experiments with almost every modern political ideology, most notably liberalism, nationalism, communism, and fascism. This course is predominantly concerned with how the map of Central Europe changed so radically in the post-1848 period, and what these changes meant to the inhabitants of the region. The focus will be on Germany, Austria, and the lands most impacted by German rule: Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and to a lesser extent the former Yugoslavia.

With border shifts and regime changes, men and women were forced to make stark, life-altering decisions that often pitted their citizenship, national persuasions, religious beliefs, family commitments, ideological affinities, or economic interests against one another. They were subject to increasing violence from aggressive states to achieve radical ideological goals, reaching a nadir in the murder and genocide of World War II – a cataclysm which destroyed centuries of Jewish life and remade the ethno-political fabric of an entire region. This course thus explores both the political forces and leaders who remade Central Europe, as well as the (often counter-intuitive) choices made by everyday citizens forced to navigate this turbulent history.

The requirements of the course are as follows:

- Attendance and participation – including group presentation (15%)
- Two map quizzes (10%)
- Three response papers and one research paper précis, *2-pages double-spaced* (20%)
- One research paper, *10-12 pages* (25%)
- Final exam (30%)

Attendance and participation are mandatory and unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade. The response papers are intended to gauge your comfort level with historical analysis, and address any issues in your writing *before* the final paper. Response papers may address a pre-distributed discussion question *for any week you choose*; however, all three response papers must be written **by Week 9**. These papers are due at the beginning of section. A group presentation during discussion sections, 8-10 minutes in length, will cover a city in Central Europe. You should trace the city's political history, ethnic and social makeup, and relevance to the course. You are encouraged to make use of multimedia aids (maps, YouTube clips, etc.) as warranted.

A research paper, due Dec. 7, may be on any topic germane to the course. You must pre-approve your topic with a 2-page précis due Nov. 10. You are expected to consult outside sources for your work. *Plagiarism is a serious offense and will result in referral to the Harvard Administrative Board.* All written work must be your own and submitted originally for this course (i.e. no double submissions.) A handout on citation guidelines will be distributed in class. The final exam will cover the entire course and will consist mainly of analytic essay prompts. There will also be three mandatory evening film screenings during the semester.

## Books for purchase and on reserve at Lamont:

Marx & Engels, *Communist Manifesto*

M. Fulbrook, *Divided Nation* (any edition)

C. Miłosz, *Native Realm* (any edition)

Rothschild & Wingfield, *Return to Diversity* (any edition) Also available online:

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/ebooks-public/pdfs/0195119924.pdf>

A. Spiegelman, *Maus Vol. 1*

H. Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star*

Items marked with a (\*) are available as PDF downloads on iSites, and items with a (‡) can be found through the online links.

Weeks 1 & 2 – Locating Central Europe

9/1: Defining Central Europe

9/8: Pre-national Central Europe

‡ T. Garton Ash, “The Puzzle of Central Europe” *NY Review of Books*, 18 Mar 1999

<http://www.nybooks.com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/articles/archives/1999/mar/18/the-puzzle-of-central-europe/>

‡ L. Wolff, “Introduction” in *Inventing Eastern Europe*, 1-16

<http://hdl.handle.net.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/2027/heb.05073>

\* M. Fulbrook, *A Concise History of Germany*, 104-115

‡ P. Wandycz, *Lands of Partioned Poland*, Ch. 1

<http://hdl.handle.net.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/2027/heb.05069>

Week 3 – Revolutions and Counter-Revolutions

9/13: 1848 in Central Europe

9/15: A Failure to Turn?

\* D. Blackbourn, “The Revolutions of 1848-49” in *Long 19th Century*, 138-174

‡ L. Namier, “1848: Seed-Plot of History?” in *Vanished Supremacies*, 21-30

<http://www.archive.org/details/vanishedsupremac002641mbp>

\* R. Nemes, “The Revolution in Symbols...” in *Constructing Nationalities in East Central Europe*, 37-46

‡ F. Palacky, *Letter to Frankfurt Parliament*, [www.jstor.org/stable/4203947](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4203947)

- Marx & Engels, *Communist Manifesto*

Week 4 – Unifications and Responses

9/20: Unifications and the Liberal Era

9/22: Anti-Semitism and Jewish Life

\* D. Blackbourn, *Long 19th Century*, 243-269

‡ 1867 Austrian Constitution, <http://www.h-net.org/~habsweb/sourcetexts/auscon.htm>

\* T. Hamerow, *Age of Bismarck*, Selected Documents on German Unification

\* R. Wistrich, “The New Austrian Anti-Semitism” in *The Jews of Vienna in the Age of Franz Joseph*, 205-237

‡ G. Cohen, “Jews in German Society: Prague 1860-1914” CEH, March 1977

<http://www.jstor.org.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/stable/pdfplus/4545787.pdf>

Week 5 – Between Empires: Nations and Classes

9/27: Nationalism and National Indifference

9/29: The Social Question and Class Movements

\* B. Pauley, *The Habsburg Legacy*, 1-31- C. Miłosz, “Introduction,” “Place of Birth” and “Ancestry” in *Native Realm*\* J. King, “The Nationalization of East Central Europe,” in *Staging the Past*, 112-152\* “Wenzel Holek,” in Kelly, *The German Worker*, 97-120Week 6 – The First World War & Revolutions

10/4: Imperial Aims and ‘Mitteleuropa’

10/6: Home Front &amp; Collapse; National and Social Revolutions

**Map Quiz #1**‡ V. Liulevicius, “Introduction” and “The Mindscape of the East” in: *War Land on the Eastern Front*, 1-11, 151-75, [http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.ebook:NLIB\\_77508](http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.ebook:NLIB_77508)\* R. Dmowski, *Problems of Central & Eastern Europe*, 76-89\* B. Davis, “Homefront: Food Politics, and Women’s Everyday Life During the First World War” in *Home/Front*, 115-137\* I. Berend, “Class Revolutions and Counter-Revolutions,” “Belated National Revolutions” in *Decades of Crisis*, 119-130, 145-73Week 7 – The 1920s: Between Experimentation and Revision

10/13: Nation-states, Minorities, Democracies

- M. Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, Ch. 2- C. Miłosz, “Nationalities” and “Marxism,” in *Native Realm*\* I. Berend, “Economic Nationalism...” in *Decades of Crisis*, 224-245\* J. Roth, *What I Saw: Reports from Berlin 1920-1933*, Excerpts

Film Screening: M, 1931

Week 8 – Fascism and New International Order

10/18: Nazism and the Decline of International Order

10/20: Toward a Partitioned Europe

- M. Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, Chs. 3 & 4\* I. Berend, “Political Impact: The Dirty Torrent of Dictatorships” in *Decades of Crisis*, 300-18, 340-45

‡ “Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact,” 22 Aug. 1939

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1939pact.html>- C. Miłosz, “The Publican” and “The Peace Boundary” in *Native Realm*Week 9 – The Holocaust and the Remaking of Nation-States

10/25: Nazi Genocide Between Planning and Chaos

10/27: The Violent Remaking of Central Europe

- M. Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, Ch. 5
- A. Spiegelman, *Maus*, Vol. 1
- ‡ Chad Bryant, “Either German or Czech: Fixing Nationality in Bohemia and Moravia, 1939-1946” *Slavic Review*, 61.4, 2002, 683-706  
<http://www.jstor.org.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/stable/3090386>
- C. Miłosz, “The G.G.” and “Intermezzo” in *Native Realm*
- \* N. Naimark, “The Expulsion of Germans from Poland and Czechoslovakia” in *Fires of Hatred*, 108-138

Film Screening: Shop on Main Street, 1965

### Week 10 – The Cold Peace

11/1: Germany: The Fulcrum of Europe

11/3: Stalinism in Central Europe

#### **Map Quiz #2**

- M. Fulbrook, *The Divided Nation*, Ch. 6 (Only read “Economic revival and transformation” and “The Cold War and the division of Germany”)
- Rothschild and Wingfield, “Communists Come to Power” (Sections 1-5 only) in *Return to Diversity*
- H. Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague*, 67-153

### Week 11 – Economies, Societies, Protests

11/8: Diverging Economies and Societies

11/10: Protest Eastern and Western Style

#### **Final Paper Précis Due**

- Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, Chs. 9 & 10
- Rothschild and Wingfield, *Return to Diversity*, Ch. 5 (Sections 1-3, 5 only)
- \* S. Drakulić, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*, 21-32, 55-65
- \* M. Djilas, “Dogmatism in the Economy” in *The New Class*, 103-23
- ‡ Documents from Prague Spring and invasion, May and Aug 1968:  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/C001155/documents/doc17.htm>  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/C001155/documents/doc44.htm>  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/C001155/documents/doc50.htm>

### Week 12 – Bridging the Iron Divide?

11/15: *Ostpolitik* and Converging Economic Crises

11/17: State & Society in East and West

- Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, Ch. 11
- \* T. Garton Ash, “Ostpolitik” in idem, *In Europe’s Name*, 28-47
- Rothschild and Wingfield, *Return to Diversity*, Ch. 6
- ‡ Charter 77 Manifesto  
[http://libpro.cts.cuni.cz/charta/docs/declaration\\_of\\_charter\\_77.pdf](http://libpro.cts.cuni.cz/charta/docs/declaration_of_charter_77.pdf)
- \* V. Havel, *The Power of the Powerless*, Chs. 1-4, 10-14

‡ Kundera “Tragedy of Central Europe” *New York Review of Books*, 26 Apr 1984, 33-38.  
[http://www.euroculture.upol.cz/dokumenty/sylaby/Kundera\\_Tragedy\\_%2818%29.pdf](http://www.euroculture.upol.cz/dokumenty/sylaby/Kundera_Tragedy_%2818%29.pdf)

Film Screening: *The Lives of Others*, 2006

Week 13 – The Collapse of Communist Europe

11/22: Solidarity and New Civil Society

11/24: From Gorbachev to Germany Reunited

- Rothschild and Wingfield, *Return to Diversity*, Ch. 7 (Sections 1-5)

- Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, Ch. 13

‡ P. Kenney, “As If in Europe...” in *Carnival of Revolution*, 91-120

<http://hdl.handle.net.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/2027/heb.05015>

\* Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, 11-46

‡ V. Havel “New Year’s Address to the Nation” 1 Jan 1990

[http://old.hrad.cz/president/Havel/speeches/1990/0101\\_uk.html](http://old.hrad.cz/president/Havel/speeches/1990/0101_uk.html)

Week 14 – Central Europe’s New Place

11/29: Democracy, Nationalism, and Violence

12/1: Towards a Single Europe?

\* T. Judt, “The Reckoning” (Parts on Yugoslavia) in *Postwar*, 665-685

\* J. Heinen, “Clashes and Ordeals of Women’s Citizenship” in *Women and Citizenship in Central and Eastern Europe*, 81-100

‡ C. Ingrao, “Ten Untaught Lessons about Central Europe,” H-Net, 1996

<http://www.h-net.org/~habsweb/occasionalpapers/untaughtlessons.html>

‡ Garton Ash, “The Puzzle of Central Europe” 1999 (re-read from Week 1)

**Papers Due by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7**