

CONTENTS

	Preface	ix
	Introduction: Where Is Central Europe?	3
1	Central Europe and the Roman Christian West, 400–1000	13
	<i>Romans and Barbarians: Christians and Pagans</i>	
	<i>Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Islamic Empires:</i> <i>Charlemagne, Byzantium, and the Rise of the Ottomans</i>	
2	Feudal Foundations, 1000–1350	27
	<i>The Disunited German Empire</i>	
	<i>Austrian, Bohemian, Hungarian, and Polish Dynasties</i>	
	<i>Bohemia's Imperial Bid: King Otakar's Thirteenth-Century Empire</i>	
	<i>The German "Drive to the East," 1200–1350</i>	
	<i>Stemming the German Tide? The Battle of Grunwald</i>	
3	The Great Late Medieval Kingdoms: Poland and Hungary, 1350–1500	45
	<i>The Wedding of Poland and Lithuania, 1386</i>	
	<i>The Greatest Hungarian King: The Reign of Matthias I, 1458–1490</i>	
	<i>Empire Building at the Altar: Habsburg Marital Diplomacy, 1477–1515</i>	
4	The Bulwarks of Christendom: Religion and Warfare, 1400–1550	64
	<i>The Crack in the Foundation: Jan Hus and the Bohemian Precedent</i>	
	<i>Western Christianity Divided: The Reformation</i>	
	<i>Western Christianity Threatened: The Rise of the Ottomans'</i> <i>European Empire</i>	
5	The Counter-Reformation: The Roman Catholic Church and the Habsburg Dynasty Triumphant, 1550–1700	85
	<i>Breaking Bohemia's Back: The Battle of White Mountain, 1620</i>	
	<i>Winners and Losers: The Peace of Westphalia, 1648</i>	

- Defeating the Infidel, or Poland Saves the West: Lifting the Turkish Siege of Vienna, 1683*
The Consolidation of the Habsburg Empire
- 6 Absolutism as Enlightenment, 1700–1790 103
Triangular Conflict in the East: Poland-Lithuania, Sweden, and Russia
The Polish Paradox: Freedom Without “Enlightenment”
Frederick the Great and Prussian Pathology
Russia’s Westward Turn: Peter the Great and Catherine the Great
Habsburg Enlightenment: Maria Theresa and Joseph II
- 7 Nations Without States, States Without Nations, 1790–1848 124
The Partitions of Poland, 1772–1795
Central European Soul: Volksgeist
From Nations to Nationalisms
The Politics of Language
The “Jewish Question”
- 8 The Demise of Imperial Austria and the Rise of Imperial Germany, 1848–1890 149
The “Springtime of Nations”: The Revolutions of 1848
The Prussian Unification of Germany, 1866–1871
Imperial German Geography: Mitteleuropa
- 9 World War I and National Self-Determination, 1914–1922 171
Austria-Hungary: The “Prison of Nations,” 1914–1918
The Resurrection of Poland, 1918–1922
Dictating Peace and Drawing Borders: The Treaties of Versailles, St. Germain, and Trianon, 1919–1920
- 10 Spheres of Influence I: Germany and the Soviet Union 197
German–Soviet Cooperation: The Spirit of Rapallo, 1922–1933
Hitler’s Foreign Policy: From the Revision of Versailles to the Nonaggression Pact with Stalin, 1933–1939
Space, Race, and Nazi Germany’s New European Order, 1939–1945
- 11 Spheres of Influence II: East and West, or “Yalta Europe” 223
The Polish Problem, 1939–1945
Yalta: Bungling or Betrayal?

The Making of Eastern Europe, 1945–1948

Dividing Germany, 1949

Starting the Cold War

PREFACE

12 The Failure of Eastern Europe, 1956–1989 249

Revolutions and Reforms: 1956, 1968, and 1980–1981

The Idea of Central Europe

The Gorbachev Factor

Epilogue: Postrevolutionary Paradoxes:

Central Europe Since 1989 275

Notes 309

Index 327

Unlike a considerable amount of the previous literature on the region, this book does not cover the eastern part of Central Europe—Poland, the former Czechoslovak Republic, and Hungary—as one region belonging distinctly to “the East” and the western part of Central Europe—Germany and Austria—as another that is part of “the West,” nor does it venture out onto the Balkan Peninsula or into Russia, as many surveys of the post-1945 Communist version of “Eastern Europe” have done in the past. The religious, cultural, economic, and political criteria used to define Central Europe as one region instead of two, on the one hand, and to distinguish it from Eastern and Southeastern Europe, on the other, are outlined in the Introduction.

As a survey, this book covers literally a lot of ground, from the fall of the Roman Empire in the fifth century to the fall of the Soviet empire at the end of the twentieth century. It is designed to introduce readers to the histories of Central Europe’s kaleidoscope of peoples. One of the guiding ideas behind this book is to look at historical patterns of conflict, cohabitation, and cooperation in Central Europe—hence its subtitle: *Enemies, Neighbors, Friends*. In particular, it tries to acquaint readers with the central events in the histories of the smaller peoples in the region.

Each chapter is thematically organized around a few key issues or events important to understanding the period addressed. The complexity of Central Europe that stems from its delightful, astonishing, and sometimes puzzling diversity is something all students of the region discover, and the brevity of a survey conceived for nonspecialized readers demands a relatively high level of generalization and also some omissions. It has not been my intention to make the region appear less complex than it really is but to reduce the difficulty to a point of comprehensibility.