

---

# INTRODUCTION

---

All definitions of 'the twentieth century' or of 'Eastern Europe' are subjective and transitory. The area covered in this volume is the same as that dealt with in R.J. Crampton's *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century* (Routledge 1994). In that book the twentieth century is characterised as that period in recent history in which mass ideologies, operating through a powerful political party, have sought, frequently successfully, to seize power in the state and then to establish one-party or totalitarian rule. A convenient starting point for the twentieth century is 1918 when mass ideologies, either of the open or the closed variety, were coming to power; its end may be set with the collapse of Communist Party rule in Eastern Europe in the period 1989–91.

The area covered varies with time. From the First World War to the Second World War it is essentially made up of the lands between Germany and Russia/the Soviet Union. After 1945 the Baltic states are excluded because of their incorporation into the USSR, but East Germany is included because it was so obviously a part of the Soviet sphere of influence. Greece, Finland and Austria are not included. Greece is obviously a Balkan country but it is much less obviously an East European one than Romania, Bulgaria or Albania. Its long coast line, its large and widely spread diaspora and, later, its political links with the states of Western Europe make it more a part of the West than of the East European world. Finland has long historic ties with Russia but its immunity to authoritarian rule and its neutrality after the Second World War divorce it from Eastern Europe. Austria did not enjoy such immunity from totalitarianism before 1939 but, after 1955, it has been a neutral state with a social

and economic system of the West rather than of the East European variety.

The present Atlas is divided into seven parts. The first deals with what is, by our definition, the pre-twentieth century. In addition to providing basic background information on the physical structure of the region it also shows the ethnic and religious groups and the political extent of the three dominant empires. After 1900 the Balkan peninsula became increasingly an area of instability and eventually war. Maps showing the issues at stake in these disputes are included in this section. The Balkan crisis of 1914 spilled over into the rest of Europe and eventually affected all of civilisation.

Most West Europeans and Americans think of the First World War in terms of the conflict in the trenches of Flanders and France, but there were also mighty battles in Eastern Europe. These, together with the peace settlement which followed the war, constitute Part 2 of the Atlas.

Part 3 deals with the inter-war years. There are a number of maps on general themes such as international alignments and disputes, these maps being followed by a study of each of the constituent states of inter-war Eastern Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Yugoslavia. To some degree the nature of each state and its society determines what the maps and diagrams for that state illustrate; thus, for example, only Albania has a map showing tribal divisions. Wherever possible, however, graphs showing budget expenditure in two defined years, population by economic sector, ethnic and/or religious composition, and the distribution of landholdings are included. So too are

diagrams on the distribution of trade. In drawing up these diagrams the total value of exports and imports was calculated and the top ten trading partners included in the graph. In the diagrams on land distribution the bar graph illustrates the proportion of the total number of holdings in a series of defined categories, whilst the line graph shows the percentage of the total farmed land which holdings in those same categories comprised. In the case of Hungary a series of such diagrams is included because of the importance in the inter-war history of that country of land-holding and of the attempts at land redistribution. Full coverage is also given of the parliamentary history of each country, though naturally in some instances there is less of such history to record than in others; no diagrams, for instance, are given for Albania whose elected assemblies were either too short-lived or too unrepresentative to be included. In other cases, the absence or unreliability of data has led to the exclusion of diagrams.

The relatively short Part 4 covers the years of the Second World War, starting with the territorial changes brought about in 1938. The maps deal with the attempted extermination of the Jews and with population shifts, as well as with the movement of armies and the shifting of frontiers.

In the middle of the Atlas the four maps show the way in which East European boundaries differed in 1900, 1923, 1945 and 1994.

The years of Communist Party rule form Part 5. This section serves three functions. First, it shows the growth of communist rule and with it the imposition of Soviet practices such as the collectivisation of agriculture and forced growth in the heavy industrial sector. Second, it points to the mechanisms by which Soviet domination was maintained, including both the integration of most of Eastern Europe into the military structures of the Warsaw Pact, and the economic ties imposed through trading patterns and energy supplies. Third, it illustrates the attempts to dilute or even to shed Soviet and communist domination.

The communists boasted that they would bring modernisation and improved social well-being to the countries they ruled. This claim is

examined in Part 6 which also begins with a very serious questioning of one legacy of communist power: pollution. Each country is then treated individually with maps showing population density at the end of the 1980s, the spread of industry and the use made of the land. Diagrams are given, wherever possible, showing birth rates, infant mortality rates and population growth, followed by others which deal with the number of university students and the percentage of women amongst them, the number of inhabitants per medical practitioner, average annual economic growth in five year periods from 1951 to 1980, indebtedness, and net material product by economic sector. In most cases the only figures available are those provided by the communists themselves, and at times these do not always provide as much detail as one might require; how precisely a university student or a medical practitioner is defined can clearly have a major impact on the figures. In some instances convenient statistics were not available, as, for example, for the number of university students in the German Democratic Republic; the small number of diagrams for contemporary Macedonia is due to the fact that very little reliable data on that country was to hand when the text of the Atlas was finished.

The final section, Part 7, deals with the period after the fall of the communists. The results of whatever parliamentary or presidential elections have taken place are given. In addition to information showing the number of seats won, graphs are provided, where possible, showing the percentage of the seats and of the votes gained by competing parties; in most cases there is a commendable correlation between the distribution of votes and the final distribution of seats. There are also economic diagrams which do not, in the main, give such an encouraging picture. The figures for inflation and the changes in gross domestic or net material product show clearly the impact of the attempted switch from the planned to the market economy. In the tables of data for each country the figures are taken, where possible, from *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *Book of the Year 1994*, *Events of the Year 1993*; when listing major cities the first four are recorded but only if their population is over 75,000.

The glossary of names, without making any claims to completeness, attempts to give the various names of the main towns, cities and rivers of the area. For ease of reference each name is given its own entry, and thus Breslau/Wrocław can be found under both 'B' and 'W'. Some cities changed their names for a short period in the Stalinist years of the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Bulgarian city of Varna, for example, being named Stalin. These short-lived names have not been included but longer-term changes, for example Chemnitz/Karl-Marx-Stadt and Zlin/Gottwaldow, have been.

A number of works have proved invaluable in the preparation of this Atlas. Included in them are: the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, cited above; *Atlas of Eastern Europe*, published by the US Central Intelligence Agency in August 1990; Martin Gilbert, *The Dent Atlas of Russian History*, first edition, London 1972 (a second edition appeared in 1993); Nicolas Spulber, *The Economics of Communist Eastern Europe*, New York and London 1957; the relevant country reports published by The Economist Intelligence Unit, London; Michael Kaser (ed.), *The Economic History of Eastern Europe, 1919-75*, vols 1-3, Oxford 1985-6; and the numerous statistical volumes produced by the countries of Eastern Europe. For a biblio-

graphy of works on East European history during the twentieth century, see R.J. Crampton, *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century*, cited above.

People as well as books have made an enormous contribution to our work and our welfare. They are too numerous to mention individually but it would be invidious to omit a number of them. Jayne Lewin not only drew the maps with great skill but has also exhibited endless patience and tolerance towards us. So too did the staff of Routledge, especially Claire L'Enfant, Heather McCallum and Patrick Proctor. Mike Bufford of St Briavals in the Forest of Dean provided invaluable help through the loan of his 1942 school atlas. Alan Fidler, Stevan K. Pavlowitch, and Professor Gale Stokes read the typescript with wondrously sharp eyes. All three made hugely helpful observations and for this we are greatly indebted to them. Above all, however, there is our unpayable debt to the one who has played her role as wife and mother respectively with boundless dedication, patience and good humour.

Ascott-under-Wychwood  
Oxfordshire  
October 1994