

Introduction

This atlas is part of the multivolume *History of East Central Europe* published by the University of Washington Press, and for that reason it follows the basic guidelines of that series. The first of those guidelines concerns the geographical extent of what is called here East Central Europe. The series editors have defined East Central Europe as the lands between the linguistic frontier of the German- and Italian-speaking peoples on the west and the political boundaries of the former Soviet Union on the east. The north-south parameters are the Baltic and Mediterranean seas. Whereas the geographic parameters have not changed, the political structure of the area defined by the series as East Central Europe has been altered substantially since work on the atlas began in 1987. At present, this area comprises the countries of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, and Greece. However, this atlas, like some of the other volumes in the series, has expanded the geographic scope to include, toward the west, the eastern part of Germany (historic Mecklenburg, Brandenburg, Prussia, Saxony, and Lusatia), Bavaria, Austria, and northeastern Italy (historic Venetia), and toward the east, the lands of historic Poland-Lithuania (present-day Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine up to the Dnieper River), Moldova, and western Anatolia in Turkey.

In strict geographic terms, this "expanded" version of East Central Europe encompasses roughly territory between 10°E and 35°E longitude. Since Europe is traditionally considered to lie within the longitudinal boundaries of 10°W (the western coasts of Ireland and Portugal) and 60°E (Ural Mountains), the territory covered in this atlas (10°E–35°E) is literally the central third of the European continent. Thus, while it would be more precise to call this territory Central Europe, the political divisions for most of the twentieth century have encouraged the popular rise of the term Eastern Europe, or the slightly more correct East Central Europe. The second of the series guidelines, concerning chronology, is easier to define. Coverage in this atlas, as well as the series in general, is roughly from about 400 C.E. (common era) to the present.

The contents of the *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe* reflect both the geographical and chronological guidelines discussed above and the practical restraints imposed by the enormous cost of producing full-color maps. With those factors in mind, I was allowed to conceptualize the historical development of East Central Europe as one consisting of fifty problems or aspects. Those fifty problems developed into chapters, each having one full-page map or two half-page maps, as well as in some cases inset maps and/or facing-page maps. Each chapter also includes an explanatory text related primarily if not exclusively to the map(s) in the given chapter. The result is a total of eighty-nine maps:

thirty-five full-page, twenty-eight half-page, nine inset, and seventeen facing-page maps.

The order of maps is basically chronological. One goal is to show in a systematic fashion the political and administrative changes that have occurred in East Central Europe since 400 C.E. Hence there are several full-page maps showing the changing boundaries at certain key historical dates (Maps 5, 6, 10, 14, 18, 21, 24, 36, 38, 44, 50) interspersed with half- or full-page maps that focus on similar changes within individual countries or specific areas (Maps 7, 8, 9, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43). There are, of course, aspects other than political-administrative ones that warrant attention. These are addressed by thematic maps that deal with issues such as the economy (Maps 11, 12, 28, 49); ecclesiastical structures (Maps 13, 15, 16, 34, 35); education and culture (Maps 4a, 17, 31); demography and ethnicity (Maps 20d, 27a, 29a, 29b, 30, 32, 33, 48); and military affairs (Maps 6a, 23, 37, 45, 46).

In virtually every serious study of the countries that encompass East Central Europe there is an explanatory disclaimer regarding place names. More often than not, each town, city, and region has had more than one name in the course of its history. The variations may simply be a function of language or they may reflect a decision by ruling powers to have an entirely new name. An example of the first category is Warszawa (Polish), Warschau (German), Varshava (Russian), and Warsaw (English); an example of the second category is the city called Königsberg until 1945 and Kaliningrad since then. The problem is to avoid confusion by choosing a form that will respond to historical criteria as well as to the need for consistency.

It should be stressed that the choice about names used in this atlas in no way reflects any sympathy for a particular political or national orientation, even though I am well aware that the decision to use a particular form might be viewed by certain readers as reflecting some kind of bias. It should also be stressed that early in the preparatory stages of this atlas I became painfully aware that it was impossible to make a choice about names that would fulfill both historical criteria and consistency. Given this unenviable choice, I chose consistency.

This means that the main entry for the name of a town or city is the same on every map in this atlas, regardless of the historical period covered. As for the question of which form to use consistently, the criterion of present-day political boundaries is the determining factor. Thus the official language used within the boundaries of a present-day East Central European country is what determines the main entry of a town or city: Polish names within Poland, Slovak names within Slovakia, Romanian names within Romania, and so forth. This, moreover, is the principle adopted by the standard reference work, *Webster's New Geographical*

Dictionary (Springfield, Mass., 1980), which serves as the guide for place names used in this atlas.

Wherever *Webster's* provides an either/or choice (and there are several of these for East Central European place names), the first name indicated is the main entry used here. The only divergence from *Webster's* guidelines are the following. On Maps 2 through 6, the names of towns and cities located within territory of the Roman and Byzantine empires are given in their classical Latin or Greek forms. Also, throughout the atlas, names of towns and cities within the boundaries of the former Soviet Union are given in the language of the successor states, whether it is Lithuanian, Belorussian, Ukrainian, or Romanian (for Moldova). (*Webster's*, in contrast, uses Russian names for all places in what was then the Soviet Union.)

Since the *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe* is intended primarily for the English-language reader, the few English-language forms that exist for places in East Central Europe are the ones used here. Some are well known: Prague instead of Praha (Czech); Cracow instead of Kraków (Polish). Others are less evident: Herzegovina for Hercegovina (Serbo-Croatian); Cerigo for the Greek form, Kithira (known, perhaps, even better in its Latin form, Cythera). Again, *Webster's* is the guide followed in determining whether or not there is an English form (or more precisely a "Websterian English" standard, which may often be based on German, Latin, or the language of a country that formerly ruled a given area).

Admittedly, I found it difficult to use as the main entry Kaliningrad for Königsberg, or Gdańsk for Danzig prior to 1945, and certainly there will be users who will bristle at seeing Wrocław for Breslau, Bratislava for Pressburg or Pozsony, and Cluj for Kolozsvár—to mention only a few of the numerous possible examples. In order to avoid confusion, however, it seemed preferable to use one name for the same town or city (and this applies to bodies of water as well) throughout the atlas and the text. On the other hand, on most maps I have provided, in parentheses below the main entry, as many alternate historic names as space would allow. Finally, the extensive index includes linguistic variants (with appropriate cross-references) in twenty-six languages.

A guide such as *Webster's* is particularly helpful regarding bodies of water. Rivers may flow through several countries and therefore have several different "official" names, not to mention local names designated by ethnolinguistic groups whose languages are different from the state language. Thus, to resolve the problem of choice between, let us say, the Elbe (German) or Labe (Czech), or between Tisza (Hungarian), Tisa (Serbo-Croatian), and Theiss (German), the first entry given in *Webster's* is what is used in this atlas.

In one category, however, the historical principle has been used instead of names in the official languages of present-day countries. This pertains to administrative subdivisions with clearly defined boundaries (in contrast to undefined historic regions, such as Slovakia or Thrace), whose names are given in the language of the country that created those subdivisions. Thus palatinate names in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth are in Polish; counties in the Hungarian Kingdom in Magyar; provinces

in the Russian Empire in Russian; vilayets in the Ottoman Empire in Turkish. But here, too, English usage (following *Webster's*) has priority wherever possible; for example, Mazovia instead of Mazowsze (Polish), or Bohemia instead of Böhmen (German) or Čechy (Czech).

The principle of using historic names for clearly defined administrative subdivisions on the one hand, and names of towns and cities according to the official language used in present-day countries on the other, may seem strange on some maps because, in effect, two linguistic forms of the same name might be juxtaposed, such as Poznań (in Polish) for the city and Posen (in German) for the province of historic Prussia in which the city was located; Vilnius (in Lithuania) for the city and Vilna (in Russian) for the surrounding province of imperial Russia; or Ioannina (in Greek) for the city and Yanya (in Turkish) for the surrounding Ottoman vilayet. Despite appearances, this is not inconsistency, although it does reveal the problem of trying to reconcile historical and present-day criteria for place names.

The extensive chronological and geographic scope of the *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe* imposed a wide range of conceptual, factual, and technical concerns that would have been difficult if not impossible to resolve alone. In this regard, I was very fortunate to have as active consultants and reviewers a distinguished group of historians, geographers, and cartographers. Among the earliest of these who helped in both the conceptual stage and factual review was Ivo Banac (Yale University). Also, Henry Abramson (University of Toronto), Ľubica Babotová (Šafárik University, Prešov), Bohdan Budurowycz (University of Toronto), Charles Jelavich (Indiana University), Ljubomir Medješi (Novi Sad), Dean S. Rugg (University of Nebraska), Aurel Sasu (University of Cluj), Piotr Wandycz (Yale University), and Andrzej Zięba were unfailingly sympathetic in their critical reviews of the entire text and maps. A few specific chapters benefited from the review and emendations of Jerzy Kłoczowski and his staff at the Institute for the Historical Geography of the Church in Poland (Catholic University of Lublin) and of Michael K. Silber (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), while Zachary M. Baker (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research) was an indispensable source for Yiddish names that appear in the text and index. No less was the input from the editors of the series, Donald W. Treadgold (University of Washington) and most especially Peter F. Sugar (University of Washington), who encouraged this project from beginning to end with invaluable factual and editorial advice.

The actual creation of the atlas began with large-scale color drawings that I created for each map. These draft maps were given to the Office of Cartography at the University of Toronto where Chris Grounds made publication-size compilation maps from which, after editing, the final scribing was done by him and his fellow cartographers Brigid McQuaid, Jane R. Ejima, and Ada Cheung. Throughout this process the work was overseen by Geoffrey J. Matthews, whose cartographic design determined the beauty of the final maps.

A word of special thanks to Joan Winearls and her staff members, Patricia Bellamy and Sherry Smugler, at the Map Collection of the University of Toronto's John P. Robarts

Library. They not only provided me with a home away from home for nearly two years, they also protected the project's working space and nurtured its contents by bringing to my attention otherwise little-known maps and atlases from their rich collection. Finally, the painstaking task of transforming handwritten text into readable typescript and setting all the type for eighty-nine maps was done with consistent accuracy by the exceptionally resourceful Sally Leilani Jones (University of Toronto), who also forced a grudging technophobe to appreciate the advantages of the world of microcomputers and word processors.

As important as is human support, projects such as the *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe* would have been impossible without significant financial commitments. The project was initially made possible through two grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and smaller grants from the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Toronto and the Stephen B. Roman Foundation in Toronto. The support from these institutions provided for professional leave and for the preparation of the manuscript and draft maps. The penultimate stage of the project, which required expensive

cartographic scribing and preparation of camera-ready plates, was made possible by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency in Washington, D.C. When we were ready for publication, the final stage of the project was made possible by the professionalism of the directorate and staff at the University of Washington Press. I am especially grateful to the copyeditor, Leila Charbonneau.

I am greatly indebted to all of the above individuals and institutions, whose wise counsel has contributed to making this work better than it otherwise would have been. Nonetheless, whatever shortcomings remain are my sole responsibility. This project has, since the beginning, been both demanding and exciting. Hopefully, the result in the form of this *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe* will be a useful tool to help students and the public at large understand better this still relatively unknown but important area of the world.

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