

Chapter 1 : HISTORY OF EUROPE

A History of Eastern Europe is a marvelous overview of the story of an essential and often overlooked area of the globe, and will fill in many critical gaps in the social and political history of the world.

As such, the Austrian region of Poland and what was later to become Ukraine was known as the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria to underline the Hungarian claims to the country. However, a large portion of ethnically Polish lands to the west was also added to the province, which changed the geographical reference of the term, Galicia. In addition to the Polish aristocracy and gentry who inhabited almost all parts of Galicia, and the Ruthenians in the east, there existed a large Jewish population, also more heavily concentrated in the eastern parts of the province. The newly arrived Austrians were shocked by the relationships between nobles and peasants in the former Polish territory. The new Habsburg rulers and their supporters thus portrayed themselves as civilizing those whom they described as the savage Polish nobility. The aristocracy was guaranteed its rights, but these rights were considerably circumscribed. Their labour obligations were defined and limited, and they could bypass the lords and appeal to the imperial courts for justice. The Eastern Rite "Uniate" Church, which primarily served the Ruthenians, was renamed the Greek Catholic Church to bring it onto a par with the Roman Catholic Church ; it was given seminaries, and eventually, a Metropolitan. At the same time, however, Austria extracted from Galicia considerable wealth and conscripted large numbers of the peasant population into its armed services. In , as a result of decisions of the Congress of Vienna , the Lublin area and surrounding regions were ceded by Austria to the Congress Kingdom of Poland which was ruled by the Tsar , and the Ternopil Region, including the historical region of Southern Podolia Podillya , was returned to Austria from Russia, which had held it since The s and s were a period of absolutist rule from Vienna, the local Galician bureaucracy still being filled by Germans and Germanized Czechs, although some of their children were already becoming Polonized. After the failure of the November insurrection in Russian Poland in 1831, in which a few thousand Galician volunteers participated, many Polish refugees arrived in Galicia. The latter s were rife with Polish conspiratorial organizations, whose work culminated in the unsuccessful Galician insurrection of , easily put down by the Austrians with the help of the Galician peasantry, which remained loyal to the emperor. This insurrection only occurred in the western, Polish-populated, part of Galicia, and the conflict was between patriotic, noble, rebels, and unsympathetic Polish peasants. In the s, in the eastern part of Galicia, the beginnings of a national awakening occurred among the Ruthenians. A circle of activists, primarily Greek Catholic seminarians, affected by the romantic movement in Europe and the example of fellow Slavs elsewhere, especially in eastern Ukraine under the Russians, began to turn their attention to the common folk and their language. Alarmed by such democratism, the Austrian authorities and the Greek Catholic Metropolitan banned the book. In the " Galician slaughter " more than 2, Polish landowners and members of their families were killed. In some districts, for example in Tarnow, almost 90 percent of the estates were looted and burned. In his work *Ukraine: It was the first document to express the idea of unity between the population of Habsburg monarchy and Ruthenia, a part of the Russian Empire. He began to Polonize the local administration and managed to have Ruthenian ideas of partitioning the province shelved. He was unsuccessful, however, in forcing the Greek Catholic Church to shift to the use of the western or Gregorian calendar , or among Ruthenians generally, to replace Cyrillic script with the Latin alphabet. Constitutional experiments[edit] In , following Austrian military defeat in Italy , the Empire entered a period of constitutional experiments. In , the Vienna Government, influenced by Agenor Goluchowski , issued its October Diploma, which envisioned a conservative federalization of the empire, but a negative reaction in the German-speaking lands led to changes in government and the issuing of the February Patent which watered down this de-centralization. Although at first pro-Habsburg Ruthenian and Polish peasant representation was considerable in this body about half the assembly , and the pressing social and Ruthenian questions were discussed, administrative pressures limited the effectiveness of both peasant and Ruthenian representatives and the Diet became dominated by the Polish aristocracy and gentry, who favoured further autonomy. This same year, disturbances broke out in Russian Poland and to some extent spilled over into Galicia. The Diet ceased to*

sit. By , open revolt broke out in Russian Poland and, from to , the Austrian government declared a State of Siege in Galicia, temporarily suspending civil liberties. Meanwhile, the Ruthenians felt more and more abandoned by Vienna and among the "Old Ruthenians" grouped around the Greek Catholic Cathedral of Saint George, there occurred a turn towards Russia. The more extreme supporters of this orientation came to be known as "Russophiles". Supporters of this orientation came to be known as "Populists", and later, simply as "Ukrainians". Almost all Ruthenians, however, still hoped for national equality and for an administrative division of Galicia along ethnic lines. Galician Sejm parliament in Lviv. In , following the Battle of Sadova and the Austrian defeat in the Austro-Prussian War , the Austrian empire began to experience increased internal problems. In an effort to shore up support for the monarchy, Emperor Franz Joseph began negotiations for a compromise with the Hungarian nobility to ensure their support. Some members of the government, such as Austrian prime minister Count Belcredi , advised the Emperor to make a more comprehensive constitutional deal with all of the nationalities that would have created a federal structure. Belcredi worried that an accommodation with the Hungarian interests would alienate the other nationalities. Finally, after the so-called Ausgleich of February , the Austrian Empire was reformed into a dualist Austria-Hungary. Although the Polish and Czech plans for their parts of the monarchy to be included in the federal structure failed, a slow yet steady process of liberalisation of Austrian rule in Galicia started. Representatives of the Polish aristocracy and intelligentsia addressed the Emperor asking for greater autonomy for Galicia. Their demands were not accepted outright, but over the course of the next several years a number of significant concessions were made toward the establishment of Galician autonomy. Galicia in From , Galicia was de facto an autonomous province of Austria-Hungary with Polish and, to a much lesser degree, Ukrainian or Ruthenian , as official languages. The Germanisation had been halted and the censorship lifted as well. Galicia was subject to the Austrian part of the Dual Monarchy, but the Galicia Diet and provincial administration had extensive privileges and prerogatives, especially in education, culture, and local affairs. These changes were supported by many Polish intellectuals. Together with the eastern Galician conservative Polish landowners and aristocracy called the "Podolians", they gained a political ascendancy in Galicia which lasted to This shift in power from Vienna to the Polish landowning class was not welcomed by the Ruthenians, who became more sharply divided into Russophiles , who looked to Russia for salvation, and Ukrainians who stressed their connections to the common people. Both Vienna and the Poles saw treason among the Russophiles and a series of political trials eventually discredited them. Meanwhile, by , an agreement was worked out between the Poles and the "Populist" Ruthenians or Ukrainians which saw the partial Ukrainianization of the school system in eastern Galicia and other concessions to Ukrainian culture. Thereafter, the Ukrainian national movement spread rapidly among the Ruthenian peasantry and, despite repeated setbacks, by the early years of the 20th century this movement had almost completely replaced other Ruthenian groups as the main rival for power with the Poles. Throughout this period, the Ukrainians never gave up the traditional Ruthenian demands for national equality and for partition of the province into a western, Polish half and an eastern, Ukrainian half.

Chapter 2 : History Of Eastern Europe

Eastern Europe is the eastern part of the European continent. There is no consensus on the precise area it covers, partly because the term has a wide range of geopolitical, geographical, cultural, and socioeconomic connotations.

The western area of the region is largely glaciated plains. The west central section is dominated by mountains and highlands associated with the Alpine system, with river valleys and structural basins between the highlands. A large, relatively flat, stable, geologic plateau covers the eastern section. The northeastern area of the region is filled with lakes and glacial ridges. Concerns Eastern Europe in the 1990s was deemed the most polluted region in the world. In the 1990s, many of the countries in the region lacked effective pollution control systems, while some cities lacked wastewater treatment systems, allowing raw sewage to flow into the rivers. In some areas fruits and vegetables grown in the polluted soils were feared to be toxic to humans. Rivers in some of the countries no longer supported aquatic life. Many considered pollution in their nations to be a larger problem than poverty, housing shortages or poor medical services. The result has been that environmental rehabilitation has been made a priority throughout the region. Economy Kasli Iron Works, Ural Mountains, between 1917 and 1929; over three thousand highly skilled artisans were employed here Manufacturing industries throughout Eastern Europe are an important factor in regional economics. The Czech Republic is the leading industrial nation in the western section, while Ukraine, the Ural Mountains, and the land along the Volga River are the major urban-industrial regions in the east. However, many of the former Soviet controlled nations are dealing with excessive pollution and significant environmental problems due to lax industrial controls during the Soviet era. The region has excellent commercial forests and agricultural areas, though the growing season in the north is short. The Danube valley countries produce corn and wheat. Rye, potatoes, and livestock are important commodities. The Ukraine, known for years as the "Breadbasket of the Soviet Union," is one of the most important wheat producers in Europe. Poverty and unemployment rates are generally high throughout the region, leading many to work abroad. Many of the former Soviet bloc nations are still working to transition from a socialist to a capitalist economy. When Mikhail Gorbachev instituted a number of socialist reforms, included was glasnost, which allowed for a limited amount of freedom of expression. Soon to follow was an open criticism of the regime and cries for increased political and economic freedom. In government after government collapsed in Eastern Europe and political transformation began. This loose confederation attempted to assume some control and create stability during the period of transition. It has been recommended that there are six core concepts that must be understood by citizens in a democratic society in order for them to function most effectively in their respective societies. These concepts include representative democracy, constitutionalism rule of law, rights within the parameters of liberalism, citizenship, civil society based on a free and open social system, and the market economy of a free and open economic system. Collaborative efforts conducted with western democracies have assisted both Poland and the Czech Republic to establish successful programs for democratic citizenship education. Retrieved February 20, Retrieved September 19, References Hamot, Gregory E. Mason Crest Publishers, Hamot, and Robert S. International perspectives on education for democracy in the preparation of teachers. Civic learning in teacher education, v.

History Of Eastern Europe Europe can be divided into East and West Europe because of their cultural influences and diversity. The western territories of Europe widely accepted Latin languages and the Eastern territories were too far apart.

As they settled throughout eastern and central Europe from the sixth through the ninth centuries, they absorbed most of the original inhabitants of the region. This mixing of peoples produced the resulting blend of nations that make up present-day Central and Eastern Europe and the western portion of the Soviet Union. The climatic extremes range from Arctic cold to Mediterranean mildness. The soil varies from the rich topsoil of the Ukraine and the Danubian plain to the rocky dryness of the Dinaric Alps. Waterways include both the scenic though commercially useless rivulets of Greece and the broad and powerful Vistula and Danube rivers. Some of the nations were landlocked. Others, such as Greece, were blessed with fine harbors. The particular combinations of climate, soil, and water access dictated the economic possibilities of each nation. The Slavs hunted, traded usually forest products such as nuts, honey, and wax, or farmed. The usual farming practice was the "slash and burn" method of cutting down the forests, tilling the land until it was exhausted, and then moving on. With the exception of the Bulgarians, the Slavs formed themselves into male-dominated peasant tribal units, based on blood relations. The clan elders elected a leader from their ranks who would meet with other clan leaders to elect a person to coordinate activities throughout the district. From the ranks would come local officials and priests, as well as taxes and military payments. Each of the outsiders imposed a distinctive set of cultural, economic, political, and social traits. Religion was the key means through which these distinctive traits were imposed. The Bulgarians, Serbs, Montenegrins, Romanians, and Russians heard the liturgy in their native language, worshipped under a decentralized religious structure, and remained culturally isolated from western Europe. In addition, these Orthodox Christians, living on the eastern edge of Europe, endured the domination of the Mongols and the Turks, two despotic Asiatic powers that permitted the exercise of the Orthodox religion but controlled political authority. The combination of Byzantine autocracy and oriental despotism facilitated the growth of authoritarian states. The Bulgarians, originally a Finno-Ugric group, came into the Balkans in the late seventh century. In the ninth and tenth centuries, they were ruled by inspired leaders such as Krum and Boris and Tsar Symeon, who brought the first Bulgarian empire to its peak, claimed the mantle of Roman emperor, and challenged Constantinople. Not until Basil the Bulgar-Slayer conquered his ancient foe at the battle of Balathista in did the first Bulgarian empire come to an end. The Byzantine emperor captured 14, Bulgarians and divided them into groups of 99. He then blinded 99 of each group, sparing one eye of the hundredth man so that he could guide his sightless colleagues home. The shock of the ghastly sight of his blinded warriors killed Tsar Samuel and the first Bulgarian empire crumbled, though an independent Bulgarian orthodox church remained. After this drastic defeat, the Bulgarians did not pose a military threat for more than a century. After the Fourth Crusade in put an end, temporarily, to the Byzantine state, John Asen II brought the second Bulgarian empire to its height, extending its power from Thrace through Macedonia and northern Albania into the area of present-day Yugoslavia. The Mongol invasion in the 13th century struck a decisive blow that removed the Bulgarians as a power in the Balkans, though the shell of the kingdom remained until the 15th century when the Ottoman Turks defeated them. In the thirteenth century, the Serbs replaced the Bulgarians as the dominant Balkan power. Groups of Serbs converted to Orthodox Christianity in the ninth century and until the twelfth century remained under Bulgarian or Byzantine control. Stephen Nemanja founded the Nemanjid dynasty and established the Serbian state. Although the Serbs fought the Byzantines, they remained their cultural and religious students, even after the fall of Constantinople. When the Serbs reached their peak during the reign of Stephen Dusan, they set up an imitation of the Byzantine court, revised their laws on the basis of the Code of Justinian, and rivaled the Byzantines with their intricate court ritual. They made significant contributions to Orthodox theology. From his capital at Skopje, Stephen fought off the Hungarians and Italians and proclaimed himself emperor of the Serbs, Greeks, Bulgars, and Albanians. The Turks incorporated Serbia into their holdings, where it remained for the next five centuries. The other

Orthodox Slavs - Bosnians and Montenegrins - each for a brief time stood strong and independent in the Balkans. The Bosnians enjoyed their greatest prosperity in the s after the decline of the Serbs, Bulgarians, and Byzantines, before the arrival of the Turks. A century later the Turks made the area an Ottoman province. From its mountainous fortress Montenegro tenaciously held on to its independence for five centuries, the only area in the Balkans to maintain its freedom from Ottoman control. The Greeks had lost their political independence to outsiders beginning in the third century B. They emerged from two centuries of Slavic invasions with their civilization intact; they survived the period of Latin occupation after the crusades; and they endured Turkish control after the fifteenth century. They did not experience any substantial degree of self-government until the nineteenth century. One area of the old Roman Empire retained its Latin legacy, the area of present-day Romania. In fact, Romanians refer to themselves as "an island of Latins in a sea of Slavs. Not until the end of that millennium could elements of a definably Romanian civilization and government be perceived. Thereafter, the efforts of fifteenth-century warriors such as Vlad Tepes, the model for Dracula, held the Turks off, but the Romanians paid tribute to the Ottomans for the next three centuries. Artheme Fayard, , pp. Predominantly German monks and priests carried the Roman faith to this area, and they were followed and sustained by a Germanic population movement - the so-called drang nach osten drive to the east. The region experienced a golden age of cultural and economic achievement in the fourteenth century. Universities were established in Prague , Cracow , and Pecs , and scholars in those schools were active in the humanist movement of the fifteenth century see ch. This region experienced the great formative developments of Western civilization - the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Scientific Revolution, the rise of capitalism, the Enlightenment, and the French and Industrial Revolutions. The people of this area of Europe also participated directly in the development of the western European system of feudalism, the rise of the modern state system, and the growth of pluralistic society. Unlike other nomadic peoples, however, the Hungarians remained and effectively split the Slavic peoples in two parts. They crossed the Carpathians in and destroyed the remnants of the Great Moravian empire ten years later. Until their defeat by Otto the Great at Augsburg in , they terrorized Europe, ranging from the Baltic to the Pyrenees and into Italy. By the time their advance was halted, they had established a more or less permanent state along the middle Danube, under the Arpad dynasty. Stephen actively defended the faith against heretics and pagans, and the crown of St. Stephen, who was canonized made a saint by the Roman Church in , remains the symbol of the Hungarian nation. The tenth-century structure erected by Geza and Stephen, modified somewhat to accommodate an elective monarchy, withstood these tests and by the reign of Bela III Hungary stood as one of the most powerful countries in Europe, extending its influence deep into the Balkans. Domestically, the nobles gained enough strength to force the monarchy to agree to a limitation of its power in a Magna Carta-like document, the Golden Bull of The Mongols ravaged the country so thoroughly in that two generations passed before the area recovered. However, the invaders did not remain to exploit their victory, and the Hungarians were able to rebuild their system by the s. During the period of recovery, the more powerful nobles, the magnates, gained greatly in authority. Charles Robert of Anjou and his son Louis the Great oversaw a period of rapid growth through the fourteenth century, as Hungary expanded its trade and political ties to the west. The two kings attempted to limit the powers of the provincial magnates by building support among the cities. Louis fought the Turks successfully in at Widin, while extending his power southward toward Serbia, Wallachia, and Moldavia and northward toward Poland. Leadership of the country passed to those nobles living along the frontier. One of these nobles, John Hunyadi, in the fifteenth century ruled the country as regent for the infant king Ladislas V. Effectively running the state, Matthias excelled as a soldier, statesman, and scholar. He brought some of the great thinkers from Florence and Ferrara to his court at Buda, where he accumulated a library of over 10, manuscripts. He encouraged the development of Hungarian literature and brought a printing press to Hungary, two years before the first press was installed in France. He also founded the university at Buda. When Corvinus died in , Hungary was the most powerful state in central Europe; its influence extended from the Turkish frontier to Austria to Poland. The Czechs After the Magyars put an end to the Great Moravian empire in , the Bohemian state centered at Prague became an important element in European history. For a thousand years before the Czechs - the common name for Bohemians and Moravians - had shown a deft balance in

working with the Germans to maintain the maximum amount of leeway for their own policies and desires. They cooperated with Otto I to drive back the Hungarians and thereafter established their church hierarchy under the archbishopric of Mainz. From the eleventh through the thirteenth centuries, Bohemia benefited from the influx of German settlers and money. There was considerable cultural and economic interchange. German and Czech families intermarried and both German and Czech merchants profited from trade. By the fourteenth century, Bohemia-Moravia had a strong Czech-dominated urban life, a balanced social structure with the only Slavic middle class that would develop in eastern Europe, and the beginnings of a broad-based spirit of nationalism. The indigenous dynasty, the Premyslid, encouraged both the urban and the rural economy and gained a diversified and rich base of political and economic support. In contrast to Hungary and Poland where the nobles held the upper hand, in Bohemia the king maintained greater autonomy. In addition, the Premyslid monarchs followed the western European custom of primogeniture, by which the throne passed to the eldest son, instead of the system of seniority in which rule passed from one brother to the next in a given generation before the next generation was given its chance. After the Premyslid dynasty ended in the first decade of the fourteenth century, John of Luxembourg came to the throne. He wasted much of the local Bohemian fortune to wage battles against all available heretics. When he was killed at the battle of Crecy - a conflict he entered even though he was blind - his peers praised him for his bravery and his subjects breathed a sigh of relief. Charles was a cosmopolitan statesman: He brought the best of Europe to Prague. He made the Bohemian city the capital of the Holy Roman Empire and turned it into an ecclesiastical center, separate from the dominance of the German city of Mainz. In he established the University of Prague, the first university north of the Alps and east of the Rhine, and brought to it the finest scholars in Europe. Charles set in motion developments that his successors could not control. While he was a student at the University of Prague in the s, John Hus ? Two years after receiving his M. His sermons, preached in Czech, repeated the desires for a simpler church, centered on the Bible, in which the believer was capable of judging right from wrong on the basis of reading the scriptures. The church in Mainz attempted to silence Hus, and in he was summoned to the reform Council of Clermont. The authorities promised his safe passage, but when he would not recant his views, they condemned him and burned him at the stake on July 6, The king of Hungary, who was also the king of Bohemia, met his death while fighting the Turks in Terrified at the prospects of Muslim rule, both the Czechs and the Hungarians elected the same man to their vacant thrones - Ferdinand, the Habsburg archduke of neighboring Austria. The Turks, however, occupied most of Hungary which they would hold until the end of the seventeenth century , leaving Ferdinand only a narrow strip along the western border.

Chapter 4 : A History of Eastern Europe | The Great Courses Plus

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Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. The Crimean Tatars acknowledged his suzerainty, as did the corsair powers of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli. His armies conquered Hungary in and threatened Vienna in . With the expansion of his authority along the North African coast and the Adriatic littoral, it seemed for a time as if the Mediterranean, like the Black Sea and the Aegean, might become an Ottoman lake. Though it observed the forms of an Islamic legal code , Turkish rule was an unlimited despotism, suffering from none of the financial and constitutional weaknesses of Western states. With its disciplined standing army and its tributary populations, the Ottoman Empire feared no internal threat except during the periods of disputed succession, which continued to occur despite a law empowering the reigning sultan to put to death collateral heirs. It was not unusual for the sultan to content himself with the overlordship of frontier provinces. The Knights of St. John were driven from Rhodes and Tripoli and barely succeeded in retaining Malta. Even after Spain, the papacy, Venice, and Genoa had crushed the Turkish armament in in the Battle of Lepanto , the Ottomans took Cyprus and recovered Tunis from the garrison installed by the allied commander, Don John of Austria. North Africa remained an outpost of Islam and its corsairs continued to harry Christian shipping, but the Ottoman Empire did not again threaten Europe by land and sea until late in the 17th century. Poland , Lithuania , Bohemia , and Hungary were all loosely associated at the close of the 15th century under rulers of the Jagiellon dynasty. In , three years before the death of the last Jagiellon king of Lithuania-Poland, these two countries merged their separate institutions by the Union of Lublin. Thereafter the Polish nobility and the Roman Catholic faith dominated the Orthodox lands of Lithuania and held the frontiers against Muscovy, the Cossacks, and the Tatars. Bohemia and the vestiges of independent Hungary were regained by the Habsburgs as a result of dynastic marriages, which the emperor Maximilian I planned as successfully in the east as he did in the west. In the 16th century, eastern Europe displayed the opposite tendency to the advance of princely absolutism in the West. West of the Carpathians and in the lands drained by the Vistula and the Dnestr, the landowning class achieved a political independence that weakened the power of monarchy. The towns entered a period of decline, and the propertied class, though divided by rivalry between the magnates and the lesser gentry, everywhere reduced their peasantry to servitude. In Poland and Bohemia the peasants were reduced to serfdom in and , respectively, and in free Hungary the last peasant rights were suppressed after the rising of . The gentry, or szlachta, controlled Polish policy in the Sejm parliament , and, when the first Vasa king, Sigismund III, tried to reassert the authority of the crown after his election in , the opportunity had passed. Yet, despite the anarchic quality of Polish politics, the aristocracy maintained and even extended the boundaries of the state. In they compelled the submission of the secularized Teutonic Order in East Prussia , resisted the pressure of Muscovy, and pressed to the southeast, where communications with the Black Sea had been closed by the Ottomans and their tributaries. Farther to the east the grand principality of Moscow emerged as a new and powerful despotism. His capture of Novgorod and repudiation of Tatar overlordship began a movement of Muscovite expansion, which was continued by the seizure of Smolensk by his son Vasily Basil III and by the campaigns of his grandson Ivan IV the Terrible . The latter destroyed the khanates of Kazan and Astrakhan and reached the Baltic by his conquest of Livonia from Poland and the Knights of the Sword. He was the first to use the title of tsar, and his arbitrary exercise of power was more ruthless and less predictable than that of the Ottoman sultan. After his death Muscovy was engulfed in the Time of Troubles , when Polish, Swedish, and Cossack armies devastated the land. The accession of the Romanov dynasty in heralded a period of gradual recovery. Except for occasional embassies, the importation of a few Western artisans, and the reception of Tudor trading missions, Muscovy remained isolated from the West. Despite its relationship with Greek civilization, it knew nothing of the Renaissance. Though it experienced a schism within its own Orthodox faith, it was equally untouched by Reformation and Counter-Reformation, the consequences of which convulsed western Europe in the late 16th century.

Chapter 5 : Best Eastern European History Books (books)

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Based on several sources; see references Jewish massive settlement in Middle and Eastern Europe has been recorded since the end of the 11th century. The first arriving Jews were merchants dealing between east and the west who were referred to as Radhanites. One of them was Ibrahim Ibn Yacub, who authored the first known extensive article about Poland, took a journey from his hometown - Toledo - in Moslem Spain to the Holy Christian Roman Empire in or and then he went to the Slavonic countries. The map below illustrates the migration waves of Jews into central Europe. At the end of feudal disintegration in Central and Eastern Europe occurred in the 13th and 14th centuries the rulers encouraged Jewish immigration. In the 14th and 15th centuries the Jews were mainly middlemen in trade between Poland, Hungary, Turkey and the Italian colonies on the Black Sea. Jewish immigrants headed east to Poland during the reign of Casimir the Great, who encouraged Jewish settlement by extending royal protection to them. One of the first mentions about Jewish settlements was in Lwow about Other places are also mentioned in the second half of the 14th century. A painting by Mevlut Akyildiz. More than , "Sephardic" Jews spread out throughout the Mediterranean world, welcomed by the Ottoman Empire in Spain had been one of the centers of Jewish life at that time, a place where Jews had flourished for a thousand years the first seven centuries under Moslem rule. The most fortunate of the expelled Jews succeeded in escaping to Turkey. In Jews were ordered out of the center of Krakow and allowed to settle in the "Jewish town" of Kazimierz. In the same year, Alexander Jagiellon, following the example of Spanish rulers, banished the Jews from Lithuania. For several years they took shelter in Poland until they were allowed back to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in At that time Jews lived in about 85 towns in Poland. Their total number was around 18, in Poland and 6, in Lithuania, only 0. In the 16th and the first half of the 17th Jewish population grew considerably, up to , Jews in Poland, about five per cent of the total population of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. New arrivals were due to "Sephardic" Jews, who had been driven away from Spain and Portugal. Still we are not sure when exactly they arrived to the Eastern and Central Europe. In the 16th and 17th centuries the Jews were required to defend the towns they lived in either by service or by monetary contributions. Sometimes Jews fought on both sides, leading to family tragedies. There are war stories about relevant places such as Buczacz , Trembowla see also here and Lwow see also here. In the Cossack uprising under Chmielnicki broke up. There was a breakthrough in the history of both the "Commonwealth" and Polish Jewry. The country was plunged into economic crisis due to the wars against the Ukraine, Russia, Sweden, Turkey and the Tartars , which Poland fought almost uninterruptedly between and Some Jews were murdered, some emigrated to central Poland and the rest left for Western Europe. The sharp drop of the Jewish population is estimated as to be ,, out of , Following there was a rapid growth in the number of the Jewish population, up to about , Jews in ref. The population census conducted in Poland in shows a further increase in the number of Jewish inhabitants, about , The partition of Poland took place in , among Russia, Prussia and Austria. At that time there were about , Jews 6. In the authorities granted tax exemptions to those individuals who settled on uncultivated land. The same law forbade rabbis to wed those who had no permanent earnings. Consequently many poor Jews moved away from Galicia, mostly to the east. The Pale of Settlement fingers point to places Turkel's settled on the skirt of pale It is important to elaborate that there were different regulations in the Prussian and Austrian partition zones. In the Prussian zone, according to the decree issued by Frederick II, the Jewish population was to be subordinated to the Prussian Jewish ordinance General Judenreglement of 17 April The right to permanent residence in towns was granted only to rich Jews and those engaged in trade. The poor Jews, the Bettel Juden, were ordered by Frederick II to be expelled from the country, and the Jewish self-government organizations were exclusively limited to religious affairs. In the Austrian partition zone the attitude towards the Jewish question went through two stages. During the initial period, the reign of Maria Theresa and the first years of rule of Joseph II, the separateness of the Jewish population from the rest of Galician society was retained and

Jewish self-government was preserved, although the poorest Jews were expelled from the country. Those who remained were limited in their right to get married, removed from many sources of income and forced to pay high taxes. This might explain lack of records about the Turkels also intermarriage within the family. In the years , the Jews in Austria were obliged to assume permanent family names. In the second half of the reign of Joseph II the Jews were recruited into the army and then, on the strength of the grand Jewish ordinance of certain restrictions in relation to the Jewish population were lifted and attempts were made to make them equal with the burghers. The Imperial Russian Empire also embraced Jews. In , the Russian Empress, Catherine the Great, established the Pale of Settlement and decreed that all Jewish inhabitants of her realm with minor exceptions must live within its borders and this restriction remained in force until During the Kosciuszko Insurrection and wars against Tsarist Russia in Jews supported the uprising either in auxiliary services or in arms. In the Russian Government ordered all Jews to adopt fixed, inheritable family names so that they might be more easily identified for taxation and conscription. In , Czar Nicholas 1 decreed that Jews, who had heretofore been exempt from military service were now liable for up to 25 years of army service as common soldiers. Obviously many Jews refused to join the Tsarist Army, and this may conform with the 18th century legend about the origin of the surname Turkel. Jews employed many methods to avoid induction including the use of false documents. Many young men simply ran away from their communities when their draft date approached. Jews were required to register all births, marriages etc. After the records were kept by Crown Rabbis who were usually not the spiritual leaders of the respective communities. The Emancipation of European Jewry As late as the middle of the 19th century, Russian Government officials complained about the frequent change of family names among Russian Jews who lived in different communities under different surnames. Basic changes in the situation of Galician Jewry took place after Some Jews were quite active in the revolutionary movement of the period, which resulted in a Polish-Jewish reconciliation and Jewish emancipation. In the years following the Austrian authorities began to gradually repeal legal restrictions. In all citizens, Jews included, were finally made equal in the eyes of the law. Return to Bad Times Map of pogroms and antisemitic acts of violence in Russia and the Pale from The difficult economic situation in Galicia caused violent actions pogroms against Jews, who due to the situation chose to emigrate elsewhere. Generally, Jews from Galicia sought work in other countries of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, sometimes in Vienna, and also in Hungary and the Balkan countries. Between and about , left elsewhere, and between and about , Jews from Galicia left for the United States of America. The Jews expected to have right for autonomy but the Polish government never yielded. Moreover the situation of the Jews was dramatically deteriorated. Their rights were quite limited compared to other nationals. Following the immigration to the USA was stalled. Jews looked for alternative ways to get out of Poland, in particular to Palestine, but the British Mandate denied entry of many. We pursuit genealogy, including legends and stories of these East European Jews. References for further reading:

The history of Europe started with the early inhabitants of the continent. The first settlers in Europe came in the time frame of and BC. One of the first civilizations to be documented was the Greco Roman civilization in BC.

Enjoy the Famous Daily The mountain ranges of Europe and Asia When the great land masses of Africa and India collide with Europe and Asia , about million years ago, they cause the crust of the earth to crumple upwards in a long almost continuous ridge of high ground - from the Alps, through Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan to the Himalayas. This barrier will have a profound influence on human history. To the south and east of the mountain range are various fertile regions, watered by great rivers flowing from the mountains. By contrast, north of the mountain range is a continuous strip of less fertile grasslands - the steppes, on which a horseman can ride almost without interruption from Mongolia to Moscow. This unbroken stretch of land north of the mountains, reaching from the Pacific in the east to the Atlantic in the west, means that the boundary between Asia and Europe is a somewhat vague concept. Indeed Europe is really the western peninsula of the much larger mass of Asia. In the south there is a natural barrier, long accepted as a dividing line - formed by the waters of the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus and the Black Sea. North from here the boundary is notional. In recent times it has been accepted as passing east from the Black Sea to the Caspian and then stretching north from the Caspian along the eastern slopes of the Ural mountains. Fossil remains from this time are known as far west as England. From about , years ago the human inhabitants of Europe, descendants of Homo erectus , are sufficiently different in brain size and physique to be classed as an early form of Homo sapiens. Known as Neanderthal man , this species prospers for many thousands of years. But the Neanderthals leave little trace of themselves other than their stone tools, their bones and the bones of their animal prey though a recently discovered Neanderthal flute suggests some cultural life. They are extinct by about 35, years ago. Modern man - anatomically similar to humans today - arrives relatively late in Europe. But the continent does provide the most extensive evidence of the early culture of our own species of Homo sapiens. The Venus of Willendorf about 25, years ago and the cave paintings of Altamira and Lascaux some 15, years ago are merely the most famous examples of a vigorous palaeolithic art found in many parts of Europe. Similarly the exposed plains of eastern Europe contain traces of the earliest known free-standing dwellings - circular huts, semi-sunken, with stones or tusks supporting some form of superstructure. From villages to towns in Europe: It will take about years to spread to the Atlantic coast and Britain, pushing back the way of life of the hunter-gatherers at an average rate of slightly more than a mile a year. This slow rate of progress may partly reflect a reluctance of the hunter-gatherers to settle down to the hard labour of agriculture. But it is due also to the fact that here the labour is indeed hard. Europe, unlike the Middle East, is heavily forested. Clearing the ground for crops, with stone tools, is a massive undertaking. In most of Europe neolithic communities live in villages of timber houses, often with a communal longhouse as the central feature one, discovered at Bochum in Germany, is some 65 metres in length. But along the entire Atlantic coast, from Spain to Britain and Denmark, the focus of village life is a communal tomb, around which simple huts are clustered. The tomb chambers of these regions introduce the tradition of stonework which includes passage graves and megaliths , also the very solid domestic architecture of Skara Brae. By the time the whole of Europe has entered the neolithic age, the eastern Mediterranean - where Africa joins Asia - is literate and civilized. Like farming, civilization spreads by contagion from Asia to Europe. Minoan civilization , after several centuries, yields to an incoming group which eventually provides nearly all the peoples of Europe - the Indo-Europeans. Over the coming centuries they steadily infiltrate the more appealing regions to the south and west - occasionally in something akin to open warfare, and invariably no doubt with violence. But the process is much more gradual than our modern notions of an invading force. They move south into Greece and the Aegean from the 18th century BC. Gradually other tribes speaking Indo-European languages spread throughout Europe. From an early date Germans are established in Denmark and southern Sweden. Balts settle along the southern and eastern coast of the Baltic Sea. Tribes using an Italic group of languages descend into Italy. Another wave of migrating Indo-European peoples follows on behind, pressing westwards from Asia.

The Scythians establish themselves in the area to the north of the Black Sea. Any map will oversimplify patterns of tribal migration, for it must attempt to separate groups which in reality intermingle and overlap. If there is not too much pressure on the available territory, different tribes often coexist within a region. Even so, in broad terms, the tribes mentioned here form the great majority of Europeans at the time when Greece and Rome dominate the Mediterranean region.

Chapter 7 : A History of Eastern Europe by Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius

Eastern Europe Author: Robert Bailkey Date: Following in the wake of the Germanic tribes' westward march, the Slavs spread from the Pripet marshes west to the Elbe, east to the Urals, north to.

These kingdoms were either from the start, or later on incorporated into various Iranian empires, including the Achaemenid Persian, Parthian, and Sassanid Persian Empires. As the Roman domain expanded, a cultural and linguistic division appeared between the mainly Greek-speaking eastern provinces which had formed the highly urbanized Hellenistic civilization. In contrast, the western territories largely adopted the Latin language. This cultural and linguistic division was eventually reinforced by the later political east-west division of the Roman Empire. The division between these two spheres was enhanced during Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages by a number of events. By contrast, the Eastern Roman Empire, mostly known as the Byzantine Empire, managed to survive and even to thrive for another 1,000 years. The rise of the Frankish Empire in the west, and in particular the Great Schism that formally divided Eastern and Western Christianity, enhanced the cultural and religious distinctiveness between Eastern and Western Europe. Much of Eastern Europe was invaded and occupied by the Mongols. Eastern Orthodox concept in Europe. Armour points out that the Cyrillic alphabet use is not a strict determinant for Eastern Europe, where from Croatia to Poland and everywhere in between, the Latin alphabet is used. This period is also called the east-central European golden age of around 1000-1500. International relations and Interwar era A major result of the First World War was the breakup of the Russian, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman empires, as well as partial losses to the German Empire. A surge of ethnic nationalism created a series of new states in Eastern Europe, validated by the Versailles Treaty of 1919. Poland was reconstituted after the partitions of the 18th century had divided it between Germany, Austria, and Russia. Austria and Hungary had much-reduced boundaries. Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania likewise were independent. Many of the countries were still largely rural, with little industry and only a few urban centers. Nationalism was the dominant force but most of the countries had ethnic or religious minorities who felt threatened by majority elements. Nearly all became democratic in the 1920s, but all of them except Czechoslovakia and Finland gave up democracy during the depression years of the 1930s, in favor of autocratic or strong-man or single-party states. The new states were unable to form stable military alliances, and one by one were too weak to stand up against Nazi Germany or the Soviet Union, which took them over between 1939 and 1945. The region was the main battlefield in the Second World War, with German and Soviet armies sweeping back and forth, with millions of Jews killed by the Nazis, and millions of others killed by disease, starvation, and military action, or executed after being deemed as politically dangerous. It did not reach Yugoslavia and Albania however. Finland was free but forced to be neutral in the upcoming Cold War. The region fell to Soviet control and Communist governments were imposed. Yugoslavia and Albania had their own Communist regimes. The Eastern Bloc with the onset of the Cold War in 1945 was mostly behind the Western European countries in economic rebuilding and progress. Winston Churchill, in his famous "Sinews of Peace" address of March 5, 1946, at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, stressed the geopolitical impact of the "iron curtain": "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Eastern Bloc during the Cold War to [edit] Further information: Eastern Bloc Eastern Europe after usually meant all the European countries liberated and then occupied by the Soviet army. All the countries in Eastern Europe adopted communist modes of control. These countries were officially independent from the Soviet Union, but the practical extent of this independence was limited except in Yugoslavia, Albania, and to some extent Romania was quite limited. The Soviet secret police, the NKVD, working in collaboration with local communists, created secret police forces using leadership trained in Moscow. As soon as the Red Army had expelled the Germans, this new secret police arrived to arrest political enemies according to prepared lists. The national Communists then took power in a normally gradualist manner, backed by the Soviets in many, but not all, cases. They took control of the Interior Ministries, which controlled the local police. They confiscated and redistributed farmland. Next the Soviets and their agents took control of the mass media, especially radio, as well as the

education system. Third the communists seized control of or replaced the organizations of civil society, such as church groups, sports, youth groups, trade unions, farmers organizations, and civic organizations. Finally they engaged in large scale ethnic cleansing, moving ethnic minorities far away, often with high loss of life. After a year or two, the communists took control of private businesses and monitored the media and churches. For a while, cooperative non-Communist parties were tolerated. The communists had a natural reservoir of popularity in that they had destroyed Hitler and the Nazi invaders. Their goal was to guarantee long-term working-class solidarity. The movement was demonstratively independent from both the Soviet Union and the Western bloc for most of the Cold War period, allowing Yugoslavia and its other members to act as a business and political mediator between the blocs. Albania formally left the Warsaw pact in September after the suppression of the Prague spring. When China established diplomatic relations with the United States in , Albania also broke away from China. Albania and especially Yugoslavia were not unanimously appended to the Eastern Bloc, as they were neutral for a large part of the Cold War period.

Chapter 8 : Eastern Europe - Wikipedia

In , the territories of the White and Red Croats came under the control of Great Moravia, a Slavic www.nxgvision.com region of what later became known as Galicia appears to have been incorporated, in large part, into the Empire of Great Moravia.

The foundations of modern public administration in Europe were laid in Prussia in the late 17th and 18th centuries. The electors of Brandenburg who from were the kings of Prussia considered a rigidly centralized government a means of ensuring stability and furthering dynastic. Besides Silesia, Frederick also acquired East Frisia on the North Sea coast, and later, at the First Partition of Poland in , he obtained West Prussia, that is, Polish Royal Prussia, thus forming a territorial link between East Ducal Prussia and the rest of his domains to the west. The freedom of conscience that Frederick instituted was the product not merely of his own skeptical indifference to religious questions but also of a deliberate intention to bring the various churches together for the benefit of the state and to allow more scope to the large Roman Catholic minority of his subjects in relation both to the Protestant majority and to the Evangelical establishment. Although he purchased the margravates of Ansbach and Bayreuth in southern Germany and obtained a far larger territory in the east through the Second and Third Partitions of Poland , he had no success against the armies of Revolutionary France. His son, Frederick William III reigned , pursued at first a foreign policy of caution and neutrality with respect to France and Napoleon I , and, when at last he went to war in , it was too late to avert catastrophe. His basic idea was to evoke a positive consciousness of solidarity with the state by allowing the citizens to take a more active part in public affairs. This idea underlay the emancipation of the serfs begun in , the measures for local self-government, and the reshaping of the central government. Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. Preussischer Kulturbesitz Among educated groups, meanwhile, the Napoleonic domination of Europe was provoking an upsurge of national sentiment , which was felt in Prussia no less strongly than in the other German states and was eventually to manifest itself in the War of Liberation . The reform of the Prussian army was begun by Gerhard von Scharnhorst , who thus prepared it for the part that it was to play. Courtesy of the Niedersächsisches Landesmuseum, Hannover, Ger. At the same time, the Romantic movement in the intellectual and artistic fields further stimulated patriotism and the cult of liberty, to the service of which it even brought its interpretation of history. James Steakley The Congress of Vienna 15 did not restore Ostfriesland , Lingen, Hildesheim, Ansbach, or Bayreuth to Prussia, and the latter recovered nothing of its gains under the Third Partition of Poland and regained only Danzig and a few other towns under the Second. But the rest of what Prussia had possessed in was restored practically entirely by the Congress, with considerable additions of new territory. Thus, after Prussia stretched uninterrupted from the Neman River in the east to the Elbe River in the west, and west of the Elbe it possessed large if discontinuous territories in western Germany. With its major territorial axis shifted from eastern Europe to western and central Germany, Prussia was henceforth the only great power with a predominantly German-speaking population. The kingdom from to The reforming impulse flagged after Frederick William III promised in May to introduce a constitution but failed to carry out his promise, and the army lost much of its new spirit. By contrast, the Prussian educational system remained the best in Europe, the University of Berlin in particular enjoying an unrivaled reputation. This often produced a fierce conflict between church and state. The Prussian bureaucracy established a high standard of efficiency and honesty that was at this time unique in Europe. In a simplified tariff, with moderate customs dues, was introduced for the entire kingdom; and this tariff became the basis for the Zollverein Customs Union established in , which by included all the German states except Austria and Hamburg. Frederick William IV reigned 61 , a romantic , aspired to revive in Prussia his imaginary conception of the Middle Ages. He ended the conflict with the Roman Catholic church, and in he actually attended the celebrations that marked the completion, after many centuries, of the Cologne Cathedral. the first king of Prussia to enter a Roman Catholic building. Although opposed to modern constitutionalism, he aspired to create Estates of the Realm on a medieval pattern. He sponsored a national Diet and then abandoned it. Although the Prussian army might have been able to repress the insurrection, the king withdrew the army

from Berlin on March 19 and put himself at the head of the revolution. A liberal government was established, and a Constituent Assembly was summoned, but the liberal moves were abortive. The army reoccupied Berlin, and in December the Assembly was dissolved. The king finally imposed a constitution by decree in February, a constitution which was to survive unchanged until Prussia received a parliament with two chambers. The First, or Upper, Chamber, officially named the Herrenhaus House of Lords in , was composed of representatives of the great landed proprietors and of the large towns, and of members nominated by the king, some for life and some with hereditary right. The Second, or Lower, Chamber was elected by all taxpayers, divided into three classes according to the taxes paid. The king appointed the ministers, but it was difficult for them to govern against the express wish of the chambers. The constitution appeared inadequate by contemporary liberal standards, but its retention in the years of reaction after gave Prussia a higher standing than Austria in liberal eyes. During the Revolution of Frederick William IV aspired to lead the movement for German unification and had even been tempted to accept the German imperial crown, which was offered to him by a delegation from the Frankfurt Assembly on April 3, He was dissuaded with difficulty by his conservative advisers, but he did thereafter try to establish the so-called Erfurt Union, a union of the German states without Austria. William I appointed a liberal ministry under Karl Anton, prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, a Roman Catholic, and for nearly four years Prussia experienced the so-called New Era, during which it was hoped that Prussia would win the leadership of Germany by the force of moral example. But dispute soon arose between the king and the chambers over budgets and taxes for the army. Otto von Bismarck, who was appointed minister-president in September, devised an ingenious theory. The constitution provided that the budget should be agreed between the two chambers and the king. The government got its money. Bismarck apologized for the illegal expenditure of money, and in September the two chambers passed an Act of Indemnity. William I, c. William I of Prussia became German emperor on January 18, Subsequently, the Prussian army absorbed the other German armed forces, except the Bavarian army, which remained autonomous in peacetime. Library of Congress, Washington, D. Prussiaâ€™ which lost part of Silesia, Posen, West Prussia, Danzig, Memel, northern Schleswig, some small areas on the Belgian frontier, and the Saar district as a result of the Treaty of Versailles or the ensuing plebiscitesâ€™ became a Land under the Weimar Republic, with more-restricted powers than before and with little influence on the government of the Reich. After the rise to power of Adolf Hitler in, the Prussian constitution was set aside and the legislature abolished, though Prussia remained a unit for administrative purposes. Northern East Prussia was annexed by the Soviet Union; the rest of the Land east of the Oder-Neisse Line was transferred to Poland; and the remainder was divided between the Soviet, British, and French zones of occupation. One of the few acts of the Allied Control Council was the formal abolition of Prussia on February 25, Learn More in these related Britannica articles:

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