

# **Where and when They appeared here: the beginnings of Czech state and its rise**

5HD280 From Havel to Kafka

Lecture 1



EVROPSKÁ UNIE  
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy  
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání

**MSMT**  
MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

# Arrival of the Czechs – a Legend

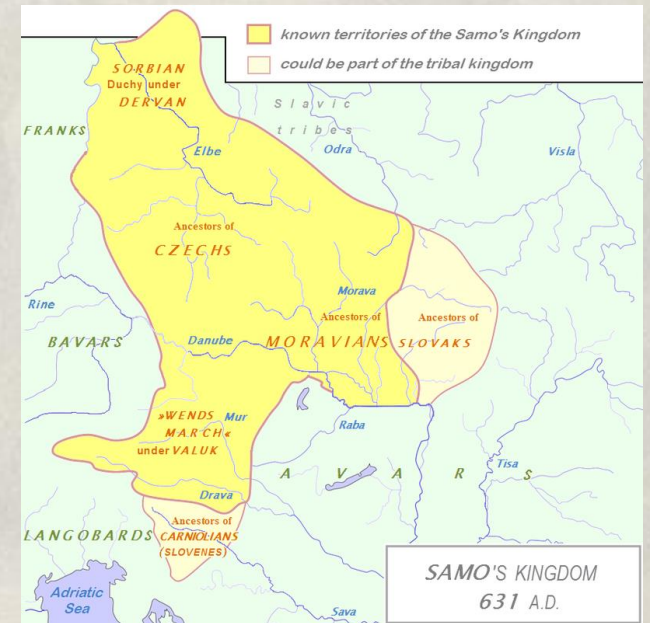


Říp Mountain by Luděk Marold

# Migration of Nations and arrival of the Slavs

## Empire of Samo

- 626–658/661
- Union of Slavic Tribes
- Samo was a Frank tradesman
- Battle at Wogastisburg in 631
  - Samo defeated Franks King Dagobert I.





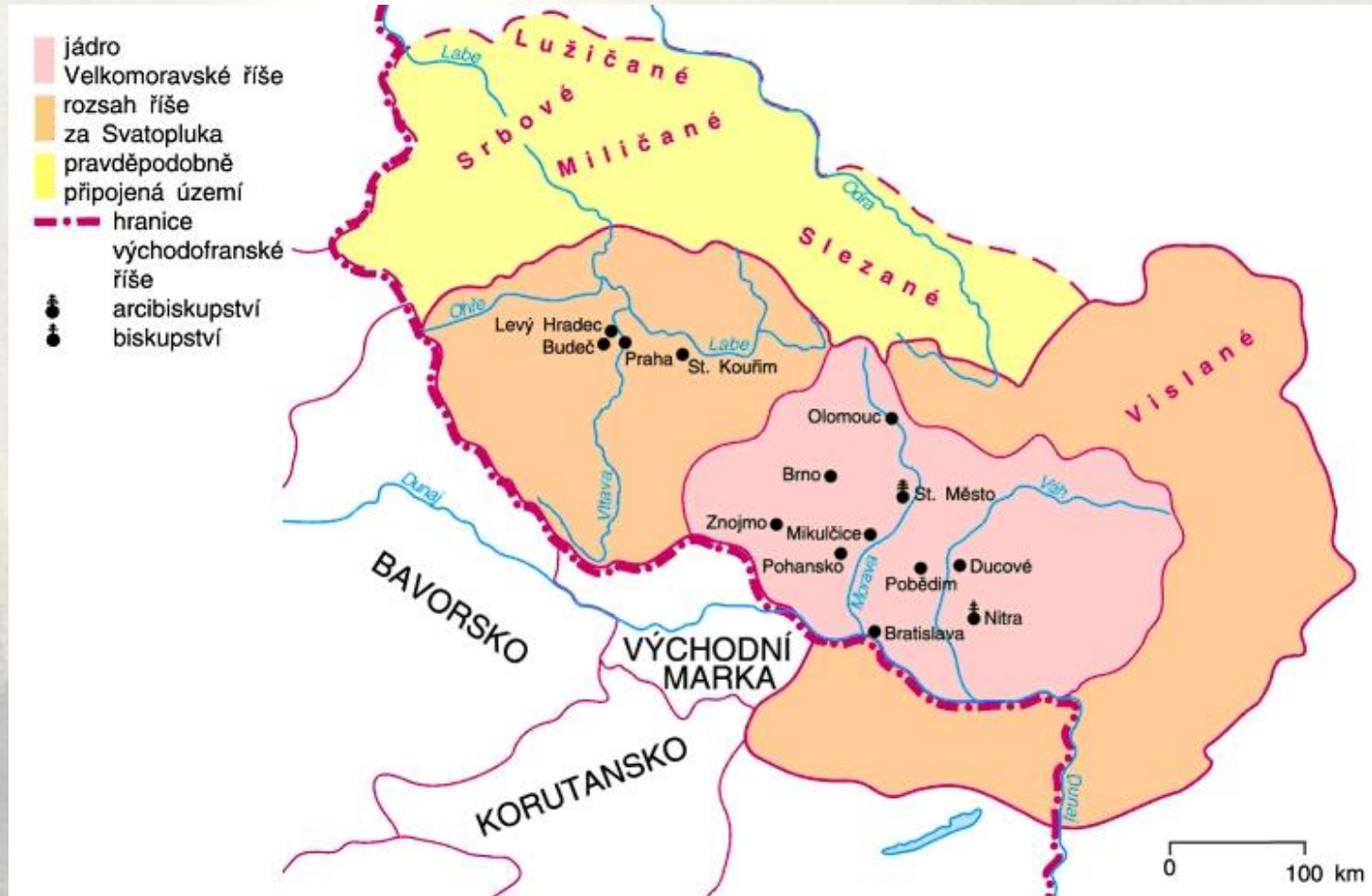
# Picturez form Czech Histori



# Great Moravian Empire

- Existed from 830 to 906
- Established by forced joining of Nitravian principality to Moravian principality
- The heyday of the Empire took place during the rule of prince Svatopluk from 870s to early 890s
- After his death Step piecemeal loss of the territory
- In 905–906 Hungarians probably attacked the Empire
  - Death of the prince Mojmir II.

# Great Moravian Empire





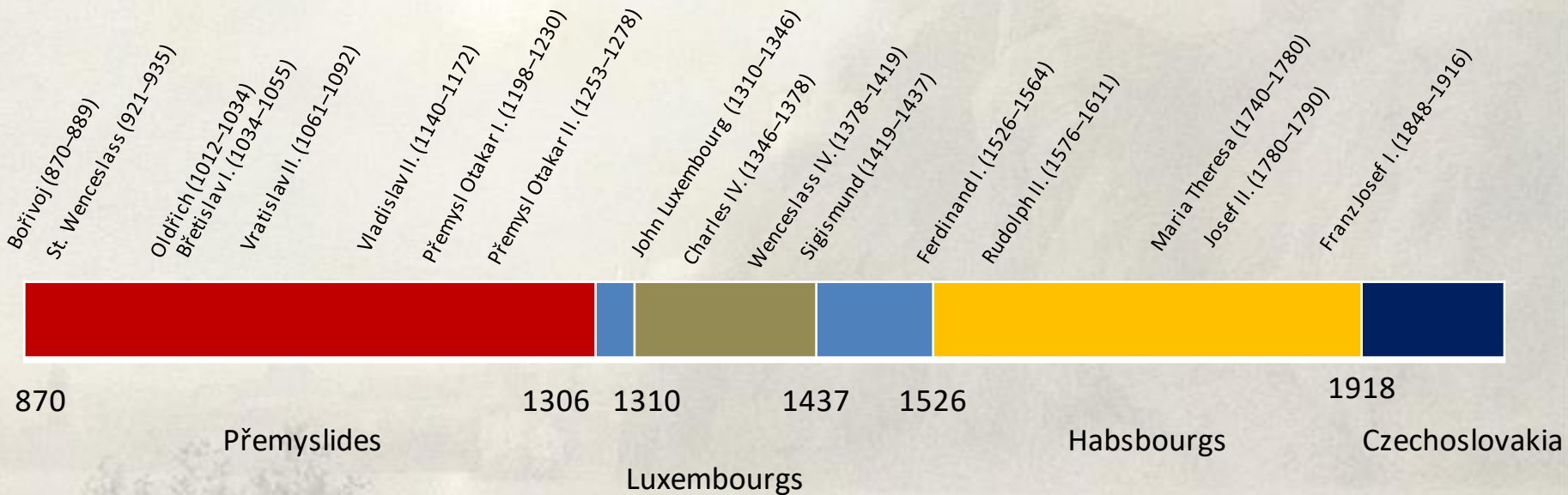
# Great Moravian Empire

- 831: Moravian nobility was baptized

## Mission of Constantine and Methodius

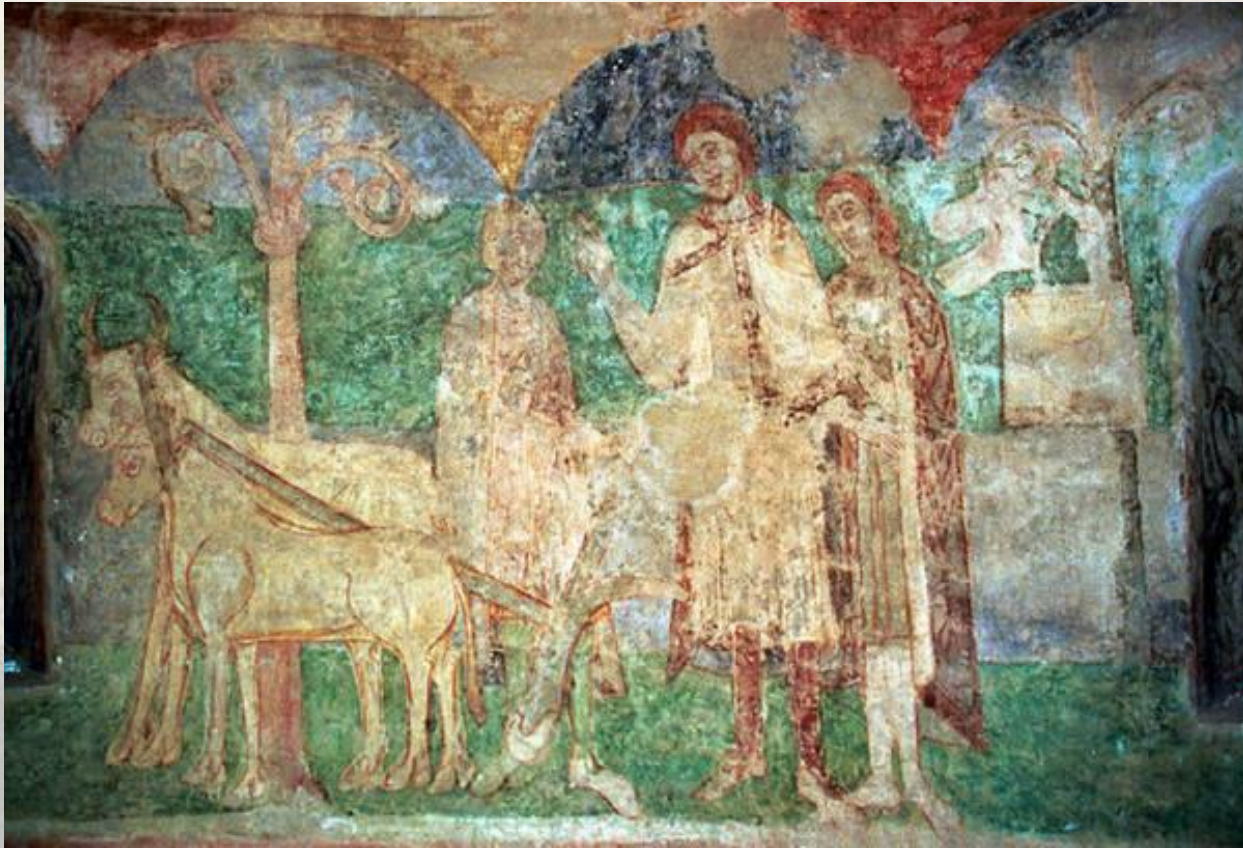
- A request to pope Nicolas I. was unsuccessful
- Prince Rastislav asked Byzantine emperor Michael III
- 863 brothers Constantine and Methodius came to Moravia
  - They were evangelizing country in Old Church Slavonic language
  - They devised Glagolitic alphabet

# Time axis and dynasties and rulers over Czech lands





# The Beginning



# A legend

- Plowman Přemysl
- Three daughters of mythic principal Krok
- Princess Libuše
  - oracular capabilities
- Men felt to be ashamed by female ruler



# Libuše





# ***The first documented ruler***

- Prince Bořivoj (870–889)
- Moved from Levý Hradec to Prague
- Reason: disputes with other Czech formen
- Baptized by Methodius
  - Subordinated to Great Moravian Empire

# Prince Wenceslas

- St. Wenceslas (922/5–929/35)
- Well educated
- Very religious
- Murdered by his brother  
Boleslav I.  
– 28.9.929/939





# Prince Wenceslas





# Unification of Czech territory

- 28.9.995
- Soldiers of the Prince Boleslav II. Killed almost all the members of the Slavník's clan in Libice



# Oldrich and Bretislav

- Oldřich (975–1034)
- Coup against the brother Jaromír
- Břetislav (1003–1055)
  - Illegitimate son
  - Seniority rule
  - Judith from Schweinfurt





# Vratislav II.

- First Czech king
- Helped emperor Henry VI. Against the Pope Gregory
- 15.6.1086 Coronation in Prague
- Old Czech legends (Cosmas)

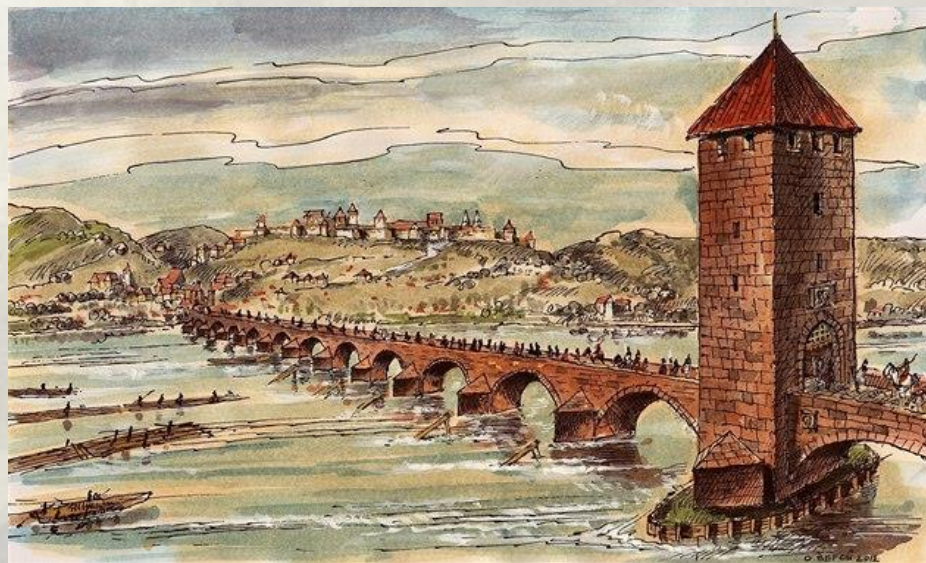




# Vladislav II.

- Contemporary of Emperor Friedrich I. Barbarossa
- Vladislav became his ally when he fought with Italian cities
- Coronation in Regensburg 11.1.1158
- Ordered to build Judith bridge in Prague, predecessor of Charles Bridge

# Vladislav II.





# Premysl Otakar I.

- New relations to the Holy Roman Empire
- 1212 Golden Bull of Sicilly by Emperor Friedrich II.
  - Hereditary royal title was confirmed
- Czech kingdom became important power in central Europe





# The Iron and Golden King

## Přemysl Otakar II. (1233–1278)

- Extended the territory of Czech kingdom
- Wanted to be Holy Roman Emperor
- Did not accept the election of Rudolph I. Habsburg as a holy roman emperor →
  - Battle on Moravian field (now in Austria near the Czech Border)



# The Iron and Golden King



# ***The Iron and Golden King***

- Founder of many cities and towns
- Abroad For example Königsberg (Kaliningrad today)
- Home for example České Budějovice or New town of Prague under Prague castle (Lesser Town today)



# The end of Premyslid dynasty

- Václav III was killed in Olomouc during the campaign to Poland in 1306
- He had no male descendants



# The Luxembourgs

- Czech nobility and dignitaires decided to choose the son of Holy Roman emperor Henry VII – John the Luxembourg as new Czech king



# John the Luxembourg

- King the foreigner (John Blind)
- Involved in the politics in western Europe, mostly in Italy
- His activities were very costly
- He extended the Territory of Czech kingdom
- Disputes with Czech aristocracy





# John the Luxembourg

- Battle at Crécy 26.8.1346
- A part of hundred years war between England and France
- *„Far be it that the King of Bohemia should run away. Instead, take me to the place where the noise of the battle is the loudest. The Lord will be with us. Nothing to fear. Just take good care of my son.“*

# John the Luxembourg



# Charles IV.

- Born 1316 – died 1378
- The greatest Czech (TV questionnaire, 2005)
- Father of the Country
- Tried to make Czech lands a centre of the Holy Roman Empire – a base of his dynastic policy
- Founder of many new institutions



# Charles IV.

- Originally was named Václav
- Imprisoned in Loket castle and then Křivoklát Castle by his father
- In 1323–1330 educated in Paris
- After 1330 disputes with his father when returned to Bohemia

# Charles IV.



# Charles IV.



- First Czech ruler that became Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire
- 1346 King of Romans
- 1355 Emperor
  - Had to get support in Germany first
  - Coronated in Rome on January 5th



# Four wives of Charles IV.



Blanche of Valois



Anna of Pfalz



Anna von Schweidnitz



Elizabeth of Pomerania

# Charles IV.

As a founder and promoter

- 1348 University in Prague
- 1348 New City of Prague
- 1357 Charles Bridge
- Castles:
  - Karlštejn (1348)
  - Kašperk (1356)
  - Lauf an der Pergnitz (1356)





# Charles Bridge





# Charles IV.

- Contacts with Italian humanists and writers
- Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch)
  - They changed several letters
- Cola di Rienzo
  - Imprisoned in Bohemia and sent back to Rome

# Crown Jewels



# Successors of Charles IV.



Sigismund, the Holy Roman Emperor



Wenceslaus IV.





EVROPSKÁ UNIE  
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy  
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



Toto dílo podléhá licenci Creative Commons  
*Uveďte původ – Zachovejte licenci 4.0 Mezinárodní.*

