



# **Why don't Czech go to the church Faith, tradition, and liberal thinking in Czech society.**

5HD280 From Kafka to Havel

Lecture 6



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

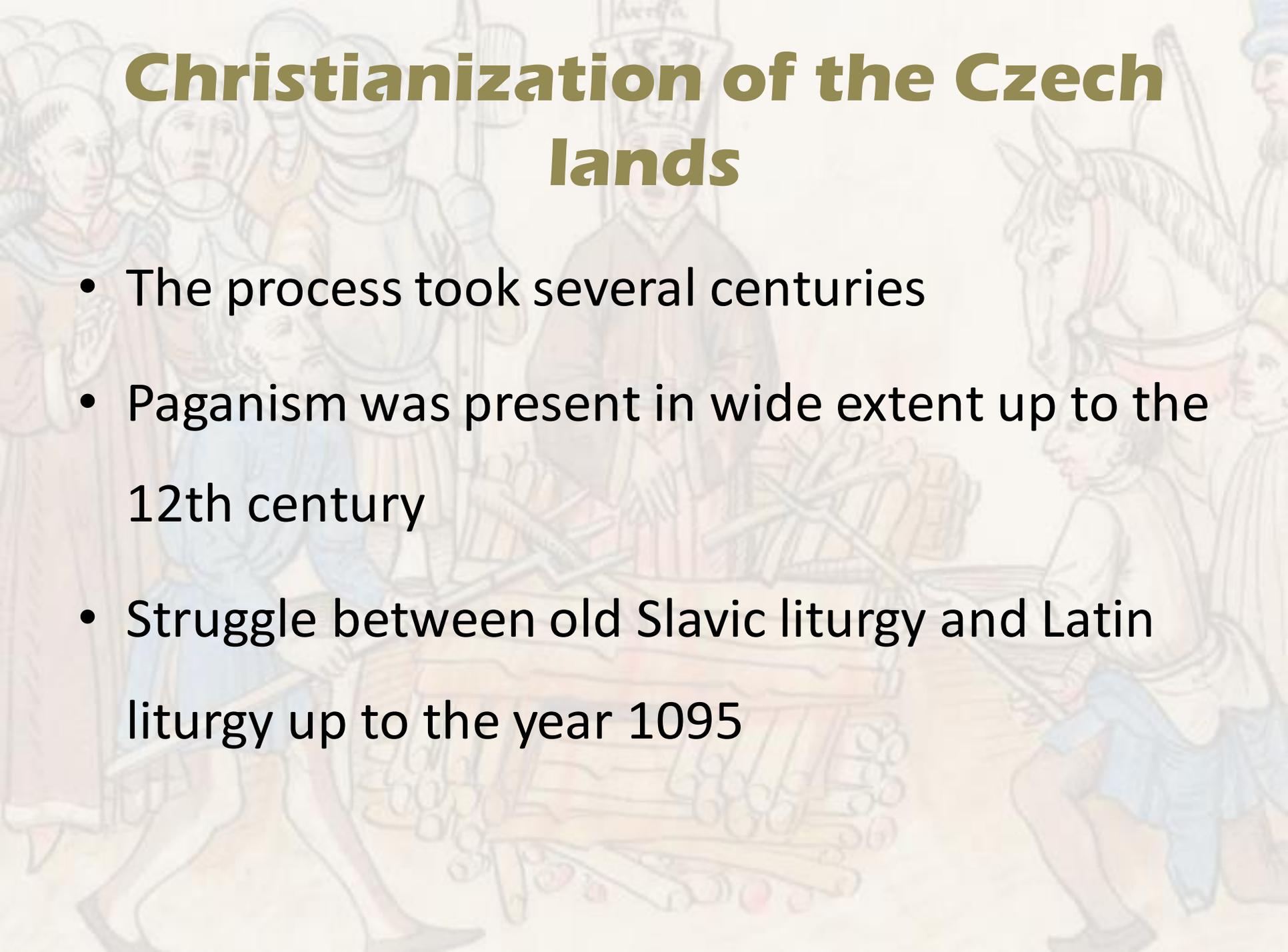


MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

# **First contacts with Christianity**

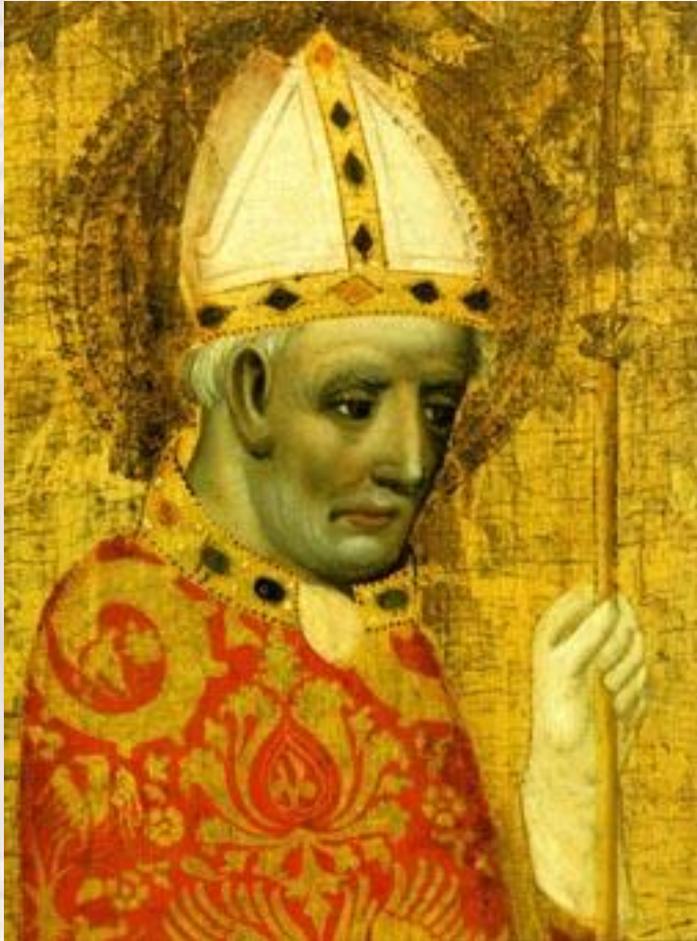
- January 845 Christening of 14 Czech magnates
- 863 Mission of Constantine and Methodius in Great Moravian Empire
- Cca 883 Christening of Prince Bořivoj I. by Methodius

# **Christianization of the Czech lands**



- The process took several centuries
- Paganism was present in wide extent up to the 12th century
- Struggle between old Slavic liturgy and Latin liturgy up to the year 1095

# St. Wenceslas and St. Adalbert



St. Adalbert



St. Wenceslas

# ***The peak of Catholicism***

- Rule of the Charles IV.
- Catholic Church was a pillar of ruler's power
- Intertwining between secular and ecclesiastical world within Catholic church
- 1360s First criticisms
  - Konrad Waldhauser
  - Jan Milíč of Kroměříž

# Roots of the Hussite movement



## 1390s:

- Problems of Catholic Church
- International
  - Struggle for power in Catholic Church
    - Papal schism: Two and later three popes
- Domestic
  - Disputes with king Wenceslas the IV.

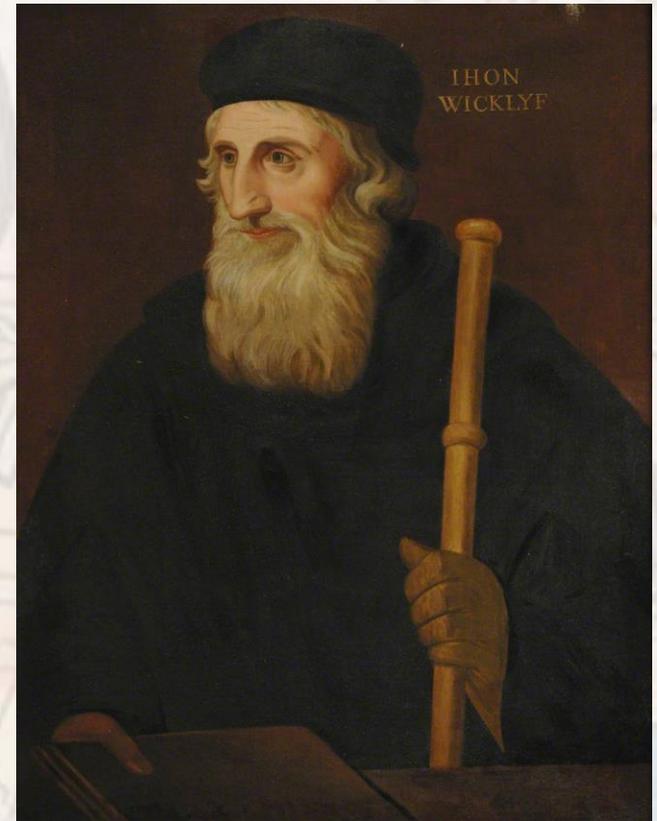
# Roots of the Hussite movement

A faint, stylized illustration in the background depicts a group of people in medieval attire. In the center, a man in a dark robe and a tall, pointed hat (possibly a Hussite leader) is walking. To his right, a man in a light-colored tunic and blue shorts is pushing a wooden cart or table. Other figures in various medieval clothing are visible in the background, some holding staffs or weapons.

- Expansion of Wycliffe's doctrine among Czech intellectuals and university professors (Jan Hus, Hieronymus of Prague)
- At the beginning they were in minority
- 1409 Decree of Kutná Hora
- Changed the relations at the University

# Wycliffe's doctrine

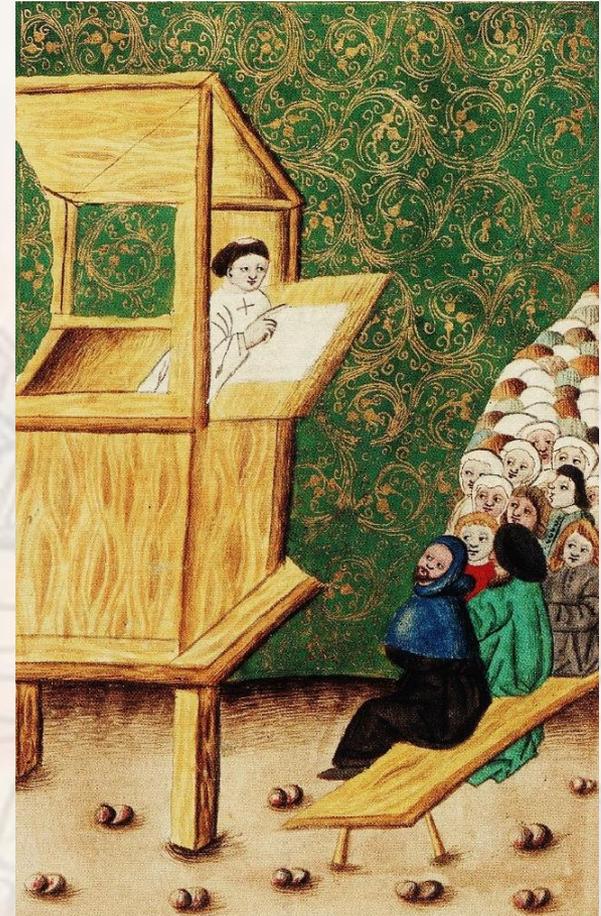
- The Holy bible is the only authority
- Man of the Church are authorities only if they live according to the Bible
- The Church should not interfere to the secular affairs



John Wycliffe

# John Hus

- 1370–1415
- Popular for his sermons in Bethlehem Chapel in Old Town since 1402
- After criticism of the trade with indulgences in 1412 he lost support of his colleagues and the king

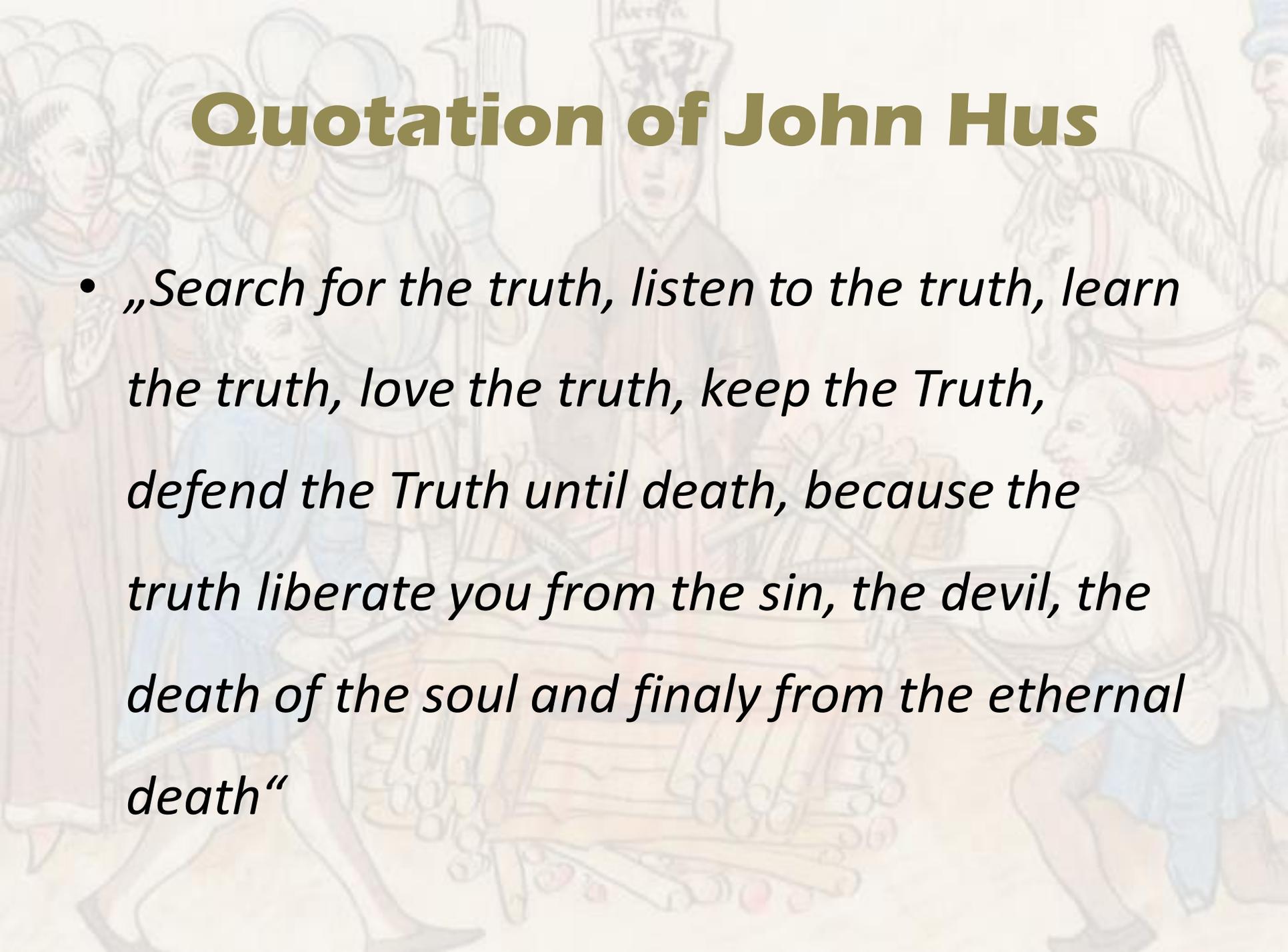


# John Hus

- After publishing his work *De Ecclesia* (On Church) he had to left Prague
- 1414 was invited to the Council of Constance to vindicate his doctrines
- 1415 after arrival to Constance he was arrested and the defense of his doctrines had a form of trial
- On July 6th he was burned



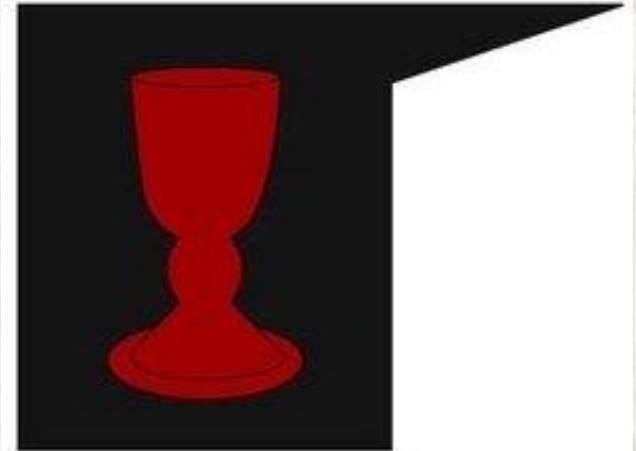
# Quotation of John Hus

A faint, light-colored illustration in the background depicts a historical scene. In the center, a man (John Hus) stands on a wooden structure, possibly a stake, with his hands raised. He is surrounded by a crowd of people in medieval attire. Some individuals are holding long wooden poles or spears. The scene is set outdoors with a light sky.

- *„Search for the truth, listen to the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, keep the Truth, defend the Truth until death, because the truth liberate you from the sin, the devil, the death of the soul and finaly from the eternal death“*

# Rise of Hussite movement

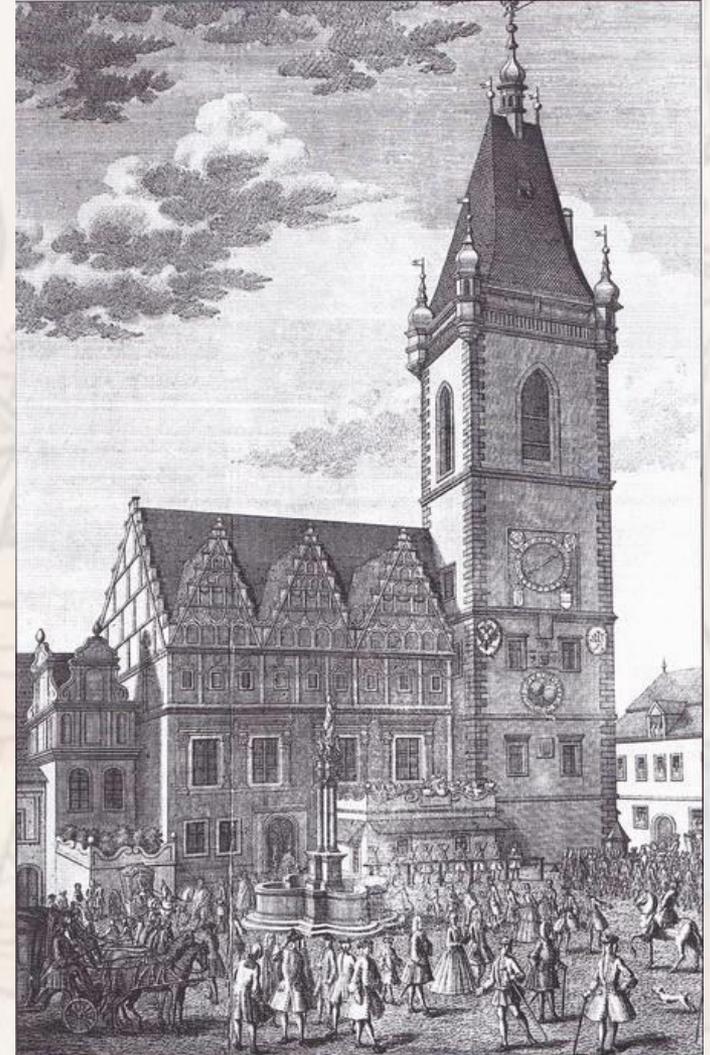
- The death of John Hus upset big part of Czech society accross social stratification
- But the Catholics had still strong position →
  - Split in society in Czech lands
- Hussites had support mostly in royal cities



Calix, symbol of Hussites

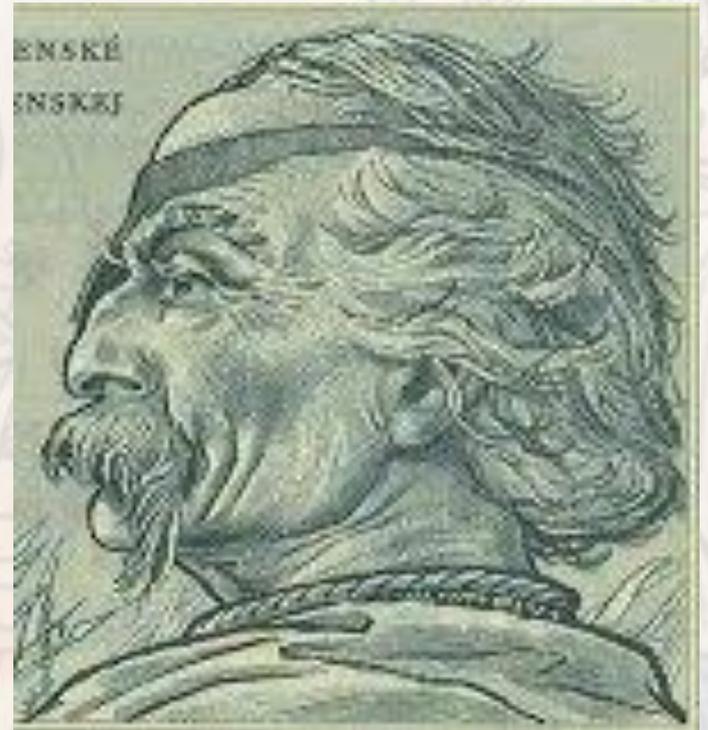
# 1st Prague defenestration

- July 30th 1419 Prague citizens threw city representatives from the Town hall of New Town out of the windows
- August 1419 king Wencelas IV. died



# Hussite wars

- Compromise between king Sigismund and Hussites was not reached
- Several crusades between 1420 and 1431
- All of them were unsuccessful



John Žižka (1360–1424)

# **Political program of Hussites**

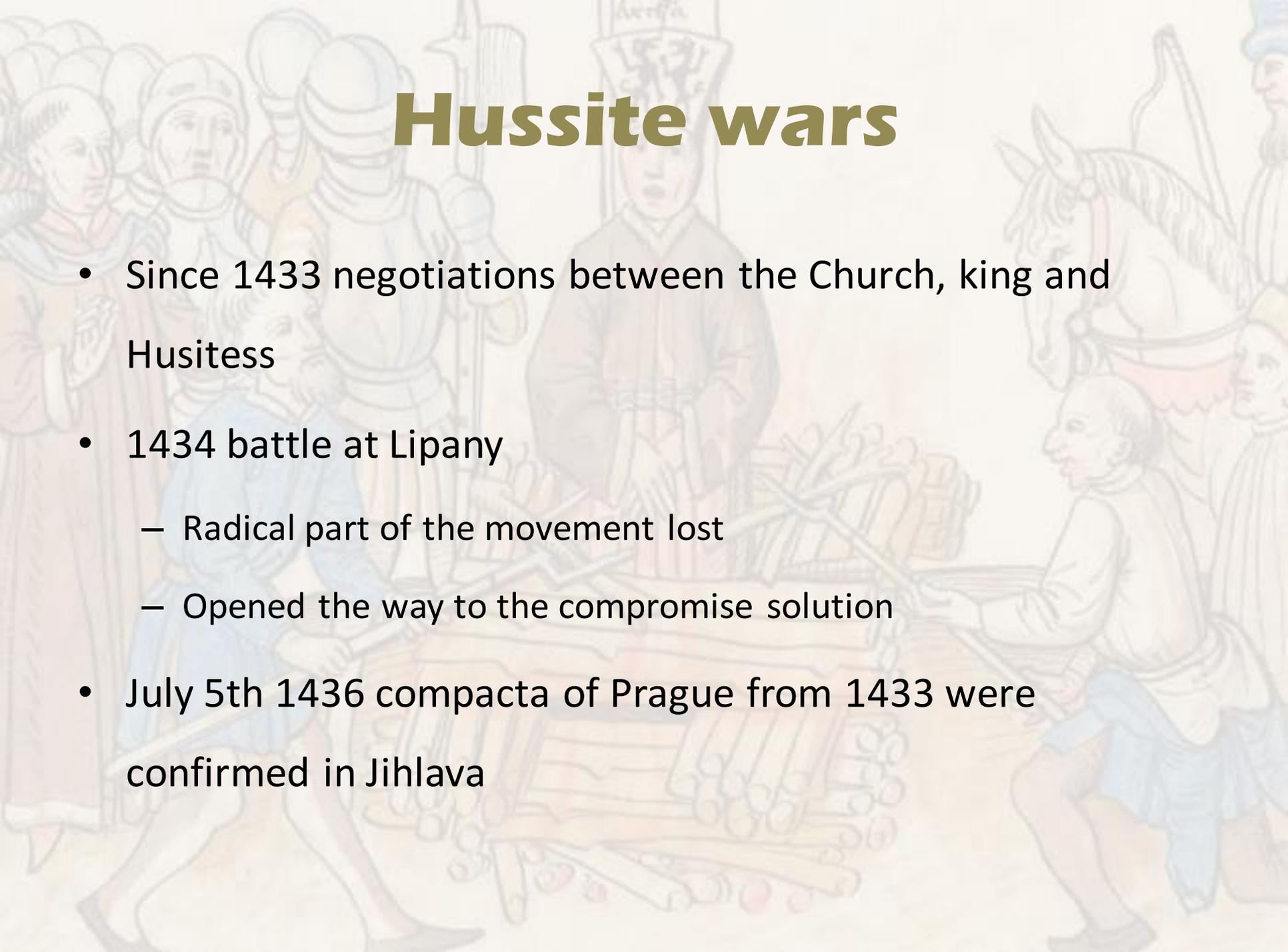
## **Four Articles of Prague (1420):**

- Freedom to preach the word of God
- Celebration of the communion under both kinds
- Poverty of the clergy and expropriation of church property
- Punishment for mortal sins regardless of social position of the sinners

# God's Warriors



# Hussite wars

A faint, stylized illustration in the background depicts a medieval scene. On the left, a group of men in period clothing, some wearing hennin hats, are shown. In the center, a man in a dark robe stands near a cart filled with bundles of wood or supplies. On the right, a horse is harnessed to a cart, with a man in a blue tunic and a woman in a blue dress walking alongside it. The overall style is that of a historical manuscript or a woodcut.

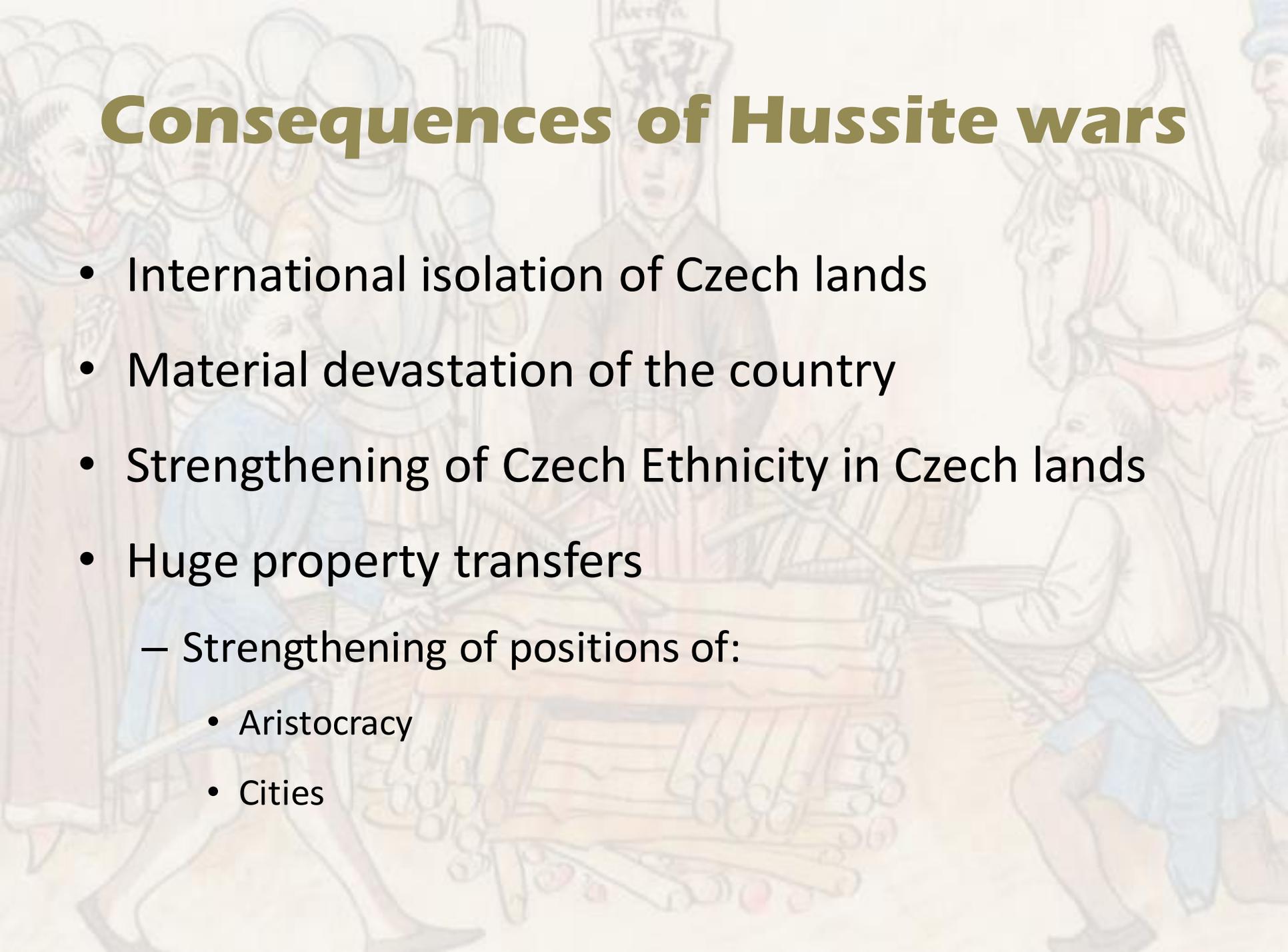
- Since 1433 negotiations between the Church, king and Husites
- 1434 battle at Lipany
  - Radical part of the movement lost
  - Opened the way to the compromise solution
- July 5th 1436 compacta of Prague from 1433 were confirmed in Jihlava

# Battle at Lipany



Luděk Marold, Battle at Lipany Panorama, 1898

# Consequences of Hussite wars

The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored illustration of a medieval battle scene. It depicts several soldiers in period armor, some on horseback and others on foot. A horse is pulling a wooden cart or wagon, and there are various weapons and equipment visible. The overall style is that of a historical manuscript or woodcut.

- International isolation of Czech lands
- Material devastation of the country
- Strengthening of Czech Ethnicity in Czech lands
- Huge property transfers
  - Strengthening of positions of:
    - Aristocracy
    - Cities

# George from Poděbrady

- Hussite king (1458–1471)
- His rule was enabled by the weakness of the power of previous kings and the strength of aristocracy in Czech lands
- Tried to lead Czech lands out of international isolations
- He was quite successful but the pope in Rome



King George of Poděbrady

# George of Poděbrady and Matthias Corvinus



Mikoláš Aleš, Meeting of George of Poděbrady and Matthias Corvinus, 1878

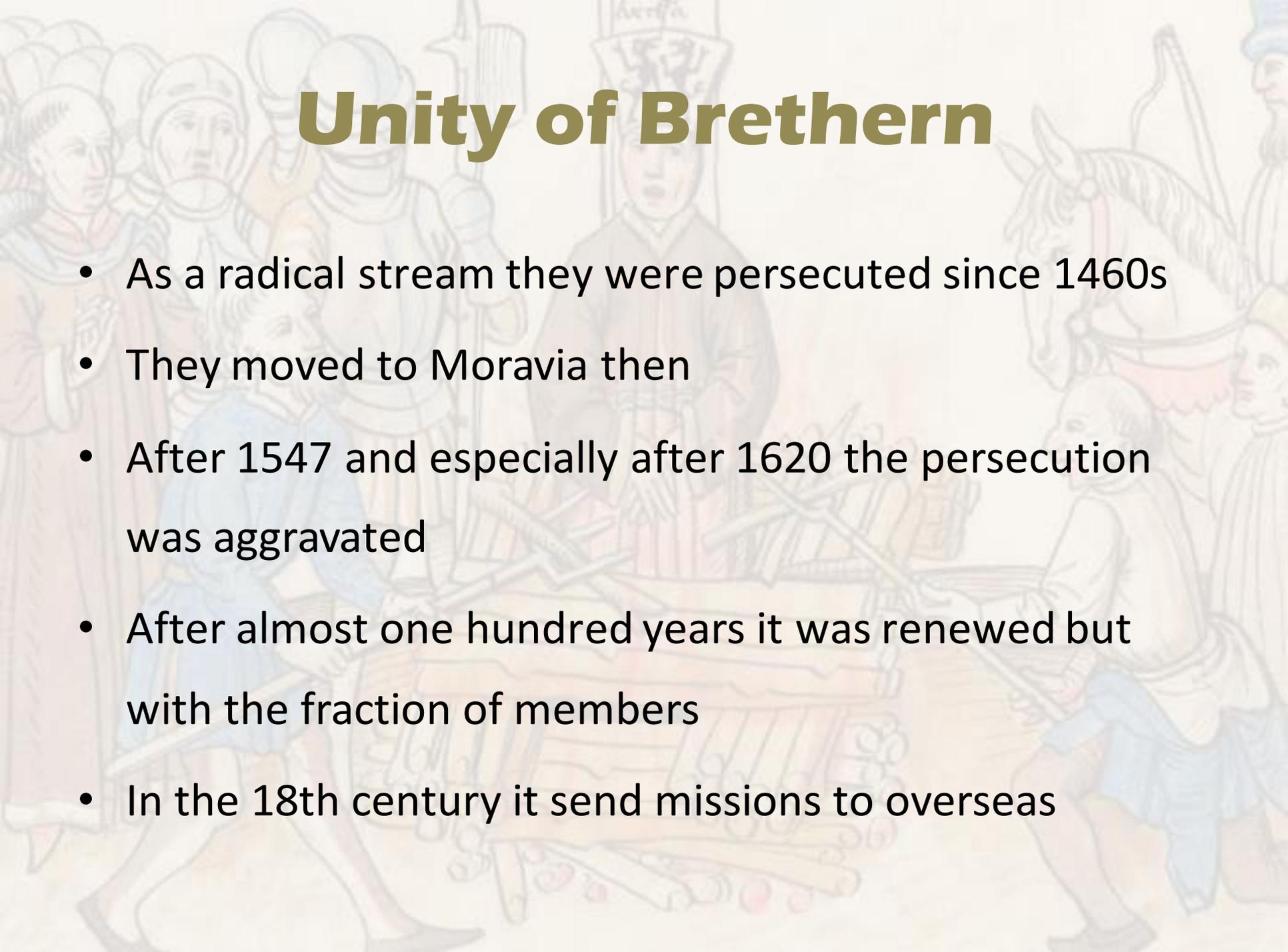
# Unity of Brethren

- established in 1457
- Ideological sources
  - Doctrine of Peter Chelcicky
    - Against violence
    - Idea of „back to the roots“
    - Critique of social inequality
  - They highlighted practical life



Peter Chelcicky (1390–1460)

# Unity of Brethren



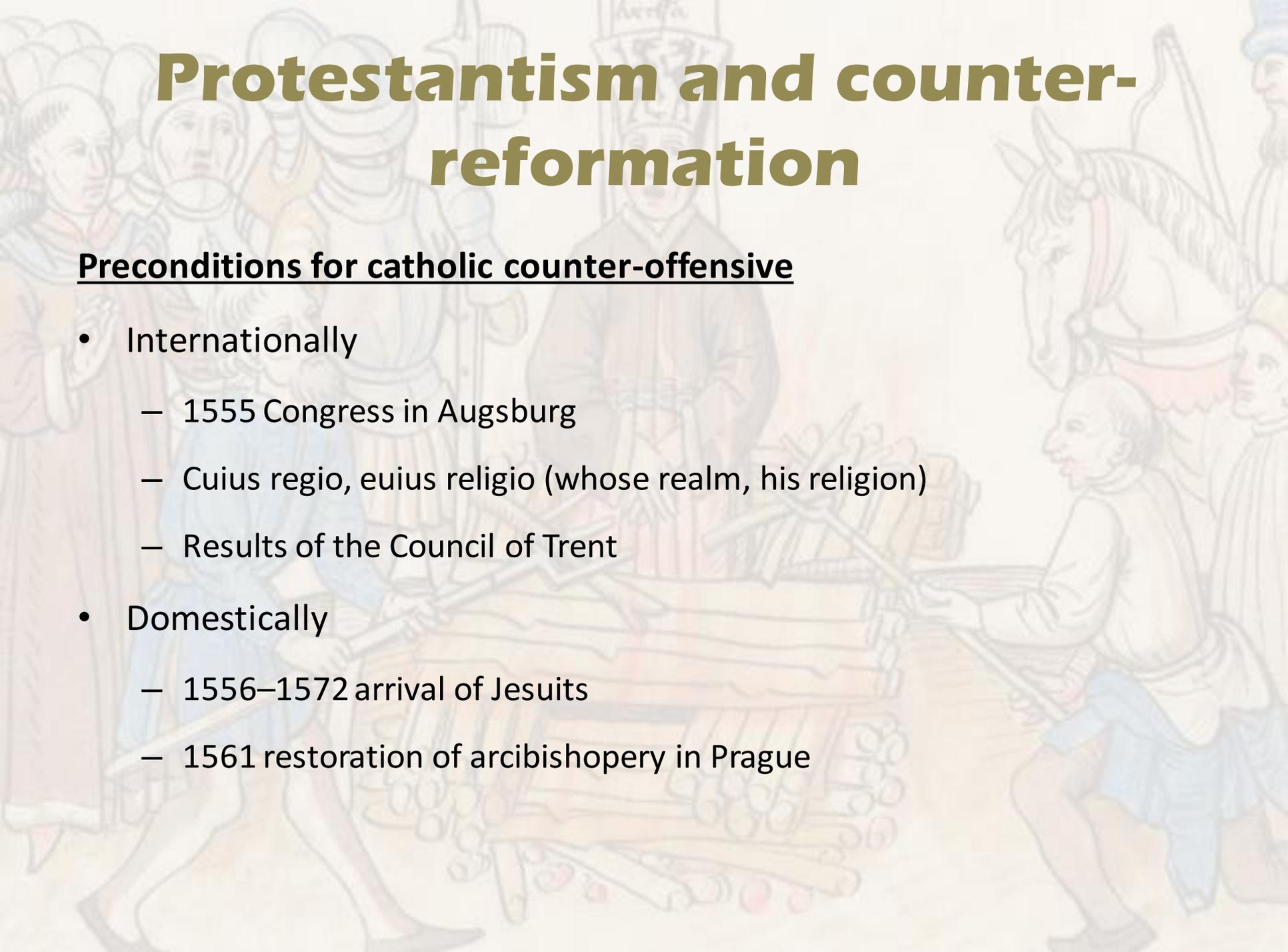
- As a radical stream they were persecuted since 1460s
- They moved to Moravia then
- After 1547 and especially after 1620 the persecution was aggravated
- After almost one hundred years it was renewed but with the fraction of members
- In the 18th century it send missions to overseas

# **Protestantism and counter-reformation**

A faint, stylized illustration in the background depicts a 16th-century scene. On the left, a group of people, including a woman in a blue dress and a man in a brown robe, are shown. In the center, a man in a brown robe stands behind a wooden cart or table. On the right, a man in a white shirt and blue shorts is pushing a cart pulled by a horse. The scene is set against a light, textured background.

- During 16th century expansion of Lutheranism across the central Europe
- In Czech lands two decisive streams
  - Calixtines
  - Lutherans
- Catholics were in minor position

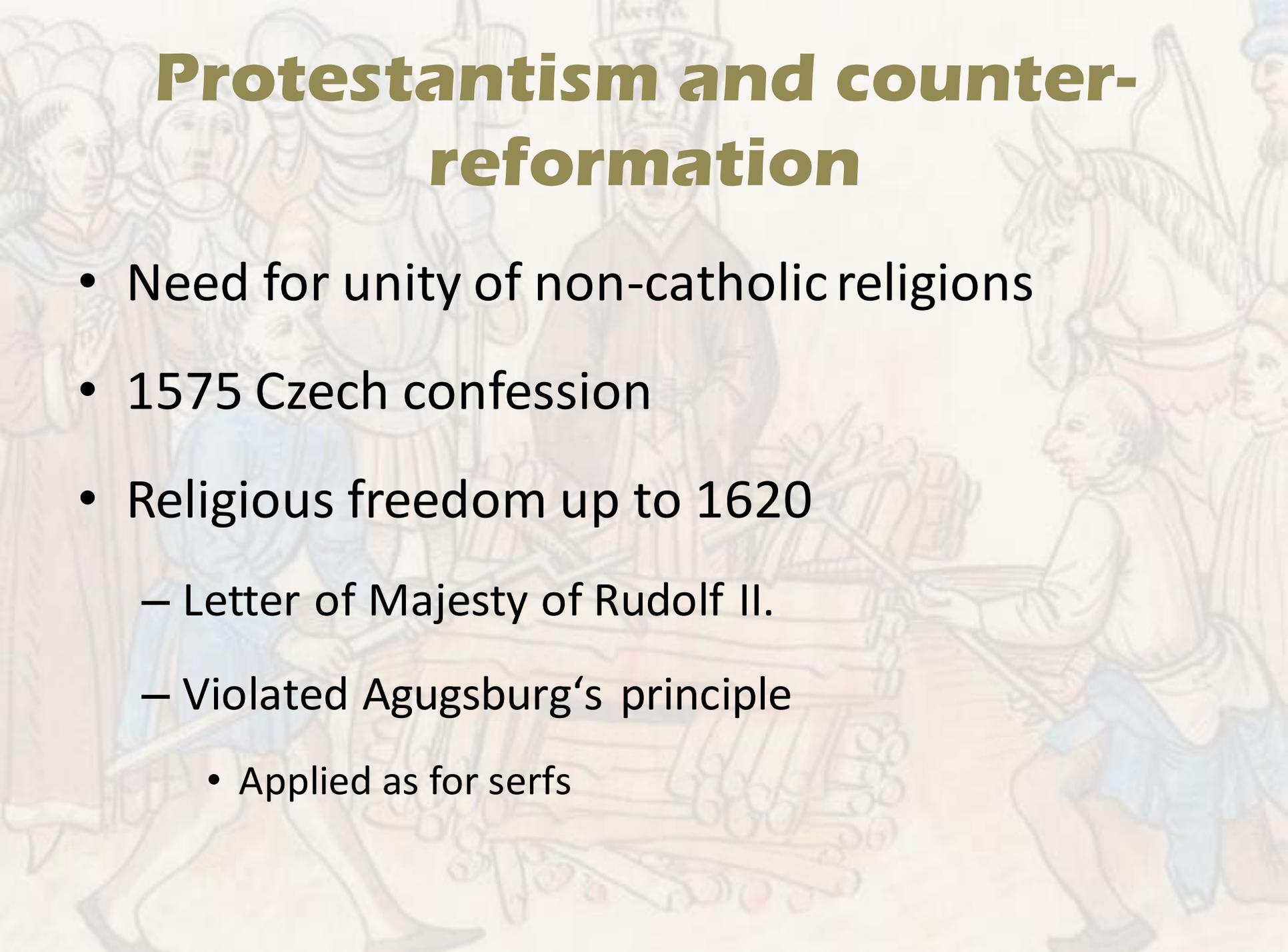
# Protestantism and counter-reformation

A faint, stylized illustration in the background depicts a religious procession. On the right, a man in a blue tunic and brown boots leads a horse. The horse is carrying a large, rectangular object, possibly a coffin or a reliquary, on its back. To the left, a group of people in various religious or historical attire are walking. One person in the center wears a tall, ornate hat. The overall style is that of a historical woodcut or engraving.

## Preconditions for catholic counter-offensive

- Internationally
  - 1555 Congress in Augsburg
  - Cuius regio, eius religio (whose realm, his religion)
  - Results of the Council of Trent
- Domestically
  - 1556–1572 arrival of Jesuits
  - 1561 restoration of archbishopery in Prague

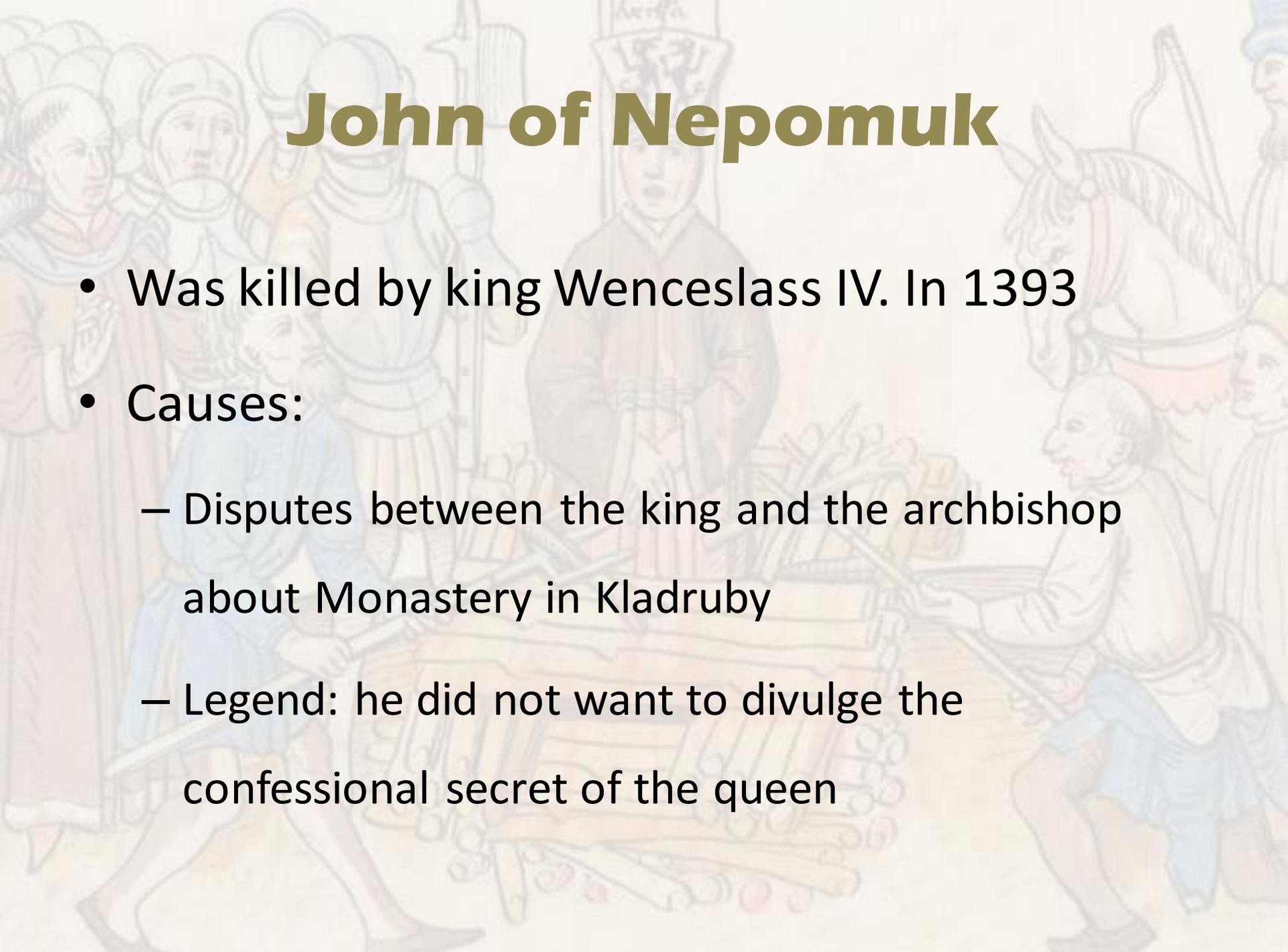
# Protestantism and counter-reformation

A faint, stylized illustration in the background depicts a religious procession. In the center, a figure in a dark, ornate robe and a tall, pointed hat stands prominently. To the right, a white horse is harnessed to a wooden cart or platform. Several people in period clothing are walking alongside the horse, some appearing to be carrying or tending to the cart. The overall style is reminiscent of a woodcut or a historical manuscript illustration.

- Need for unity of non-catholic religions
- 1575 Czech confession
- Religious freedom up to 1620
  - Letter of Majesty of Rudolf II.
  - Violated Augsburg's principle
    - Applied as for serfs



# John of Nepomuk

A faint, stylized illustration in the background depicts a medieval scene. On the left, a group of men in period clothing, including a king in a crown, are shown. In the center, a man is seated on a wooden cart or stretcher, which is being pushed or pulled by another man on the right. The scene is set against a light, textured background.

- Was killed by king Wenceslass IV. In 1393
- Causes:
  - Disputes between the king and the archbishop about Monastery in Kladruby
  - Legend: he did not want to divulge the confessional secret of the queen

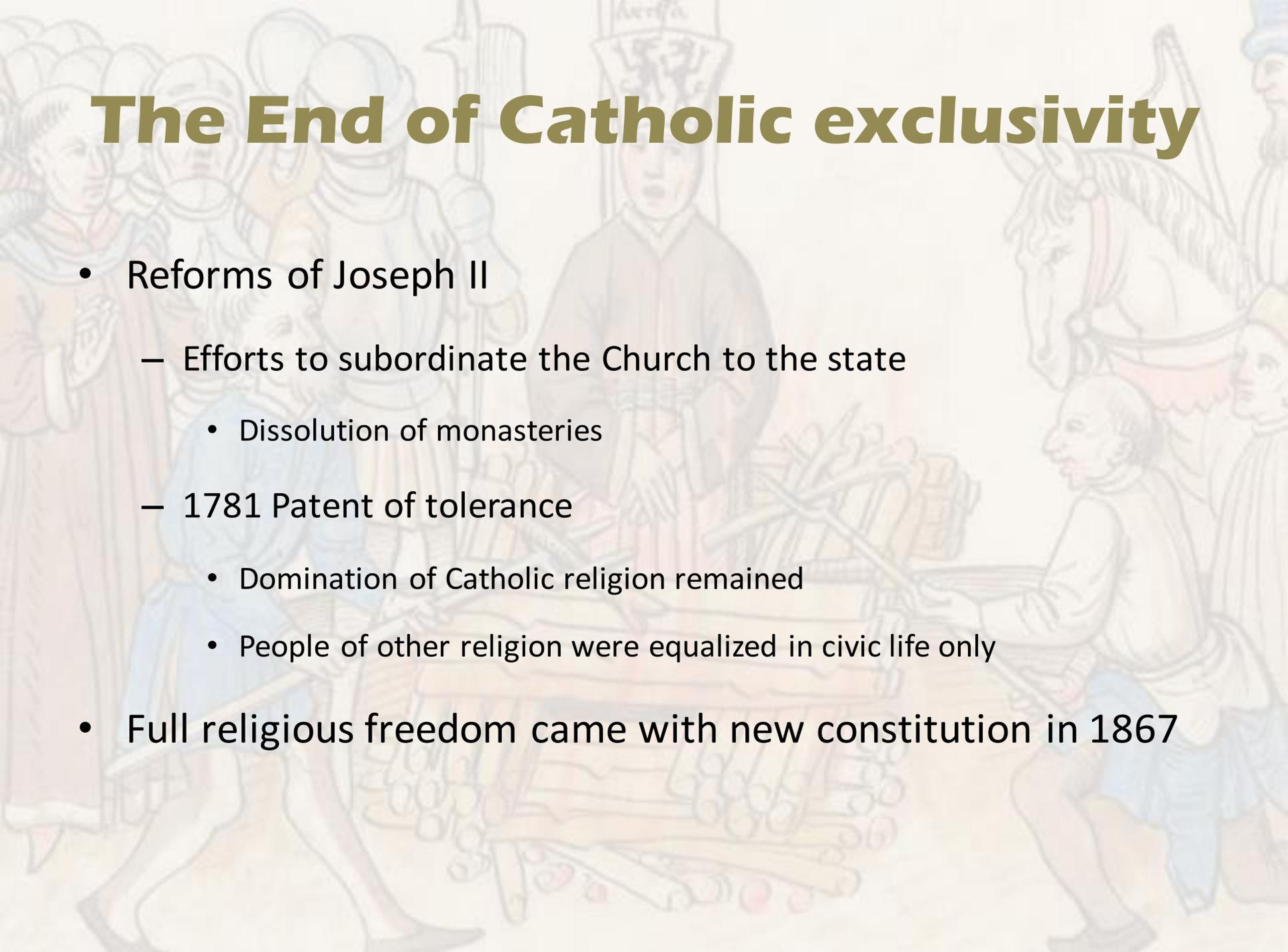
# John of Nepomuk

- He was canonized in 1721
- 19th century hypothesis
  - John of Nepomuk was used by Jesuits to fight against the cult of John Hus



Embossment of John of Nepomuk at the Charles Bridge

# **The End of Catholic exclusivity**



- Reforms of Joseph II
  - Efforts to subordinate the Church to the state
    - Dissolution of monasteries
  - 1781 Patent of tolerance
    - Domination of Catholic religion remained
    - People of other religion were equalized in civic life only
- Full religious freedom came with new constitution in 1867

# ***The End of Catholic exclusivity***

## **Modernization, national revival and Catholic**

### **church:**

- Secular trend went together with industrialization and modernization
  - The role of religion in the life of people weakened
  - New ideologies: liberalism

# ***The End of Catholic exclusivity***

- **Modernization, national revival and Catholic church:**
- Catholicism became connected with conservative political streams
- After Napoleonic war up to 1848 pro-reform clergy was persecuted
- In the revolution of 1848 the Church tried to liberate itself from the state subordination, but no internal reforms →
  - 1855 new treaty with Vatican

# ***The End of Catholic exclusivity***

## **Modernization, national revival and Catholic church**

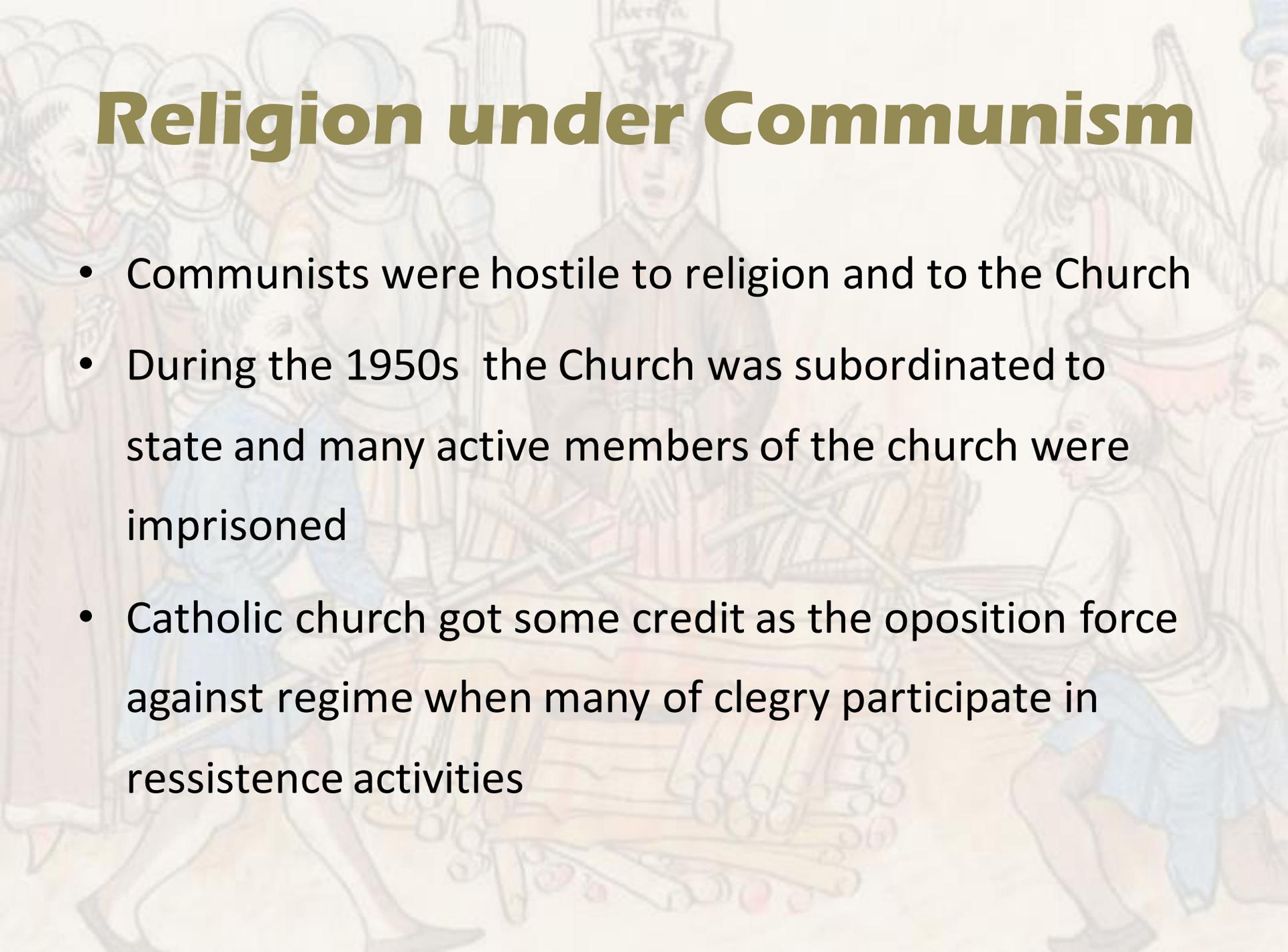
- National revival weakened catholic position in Czech Lands
  - Reason: Church supported the Emperor and central government ad was connected more with the German environment

# Religion in the First Republic



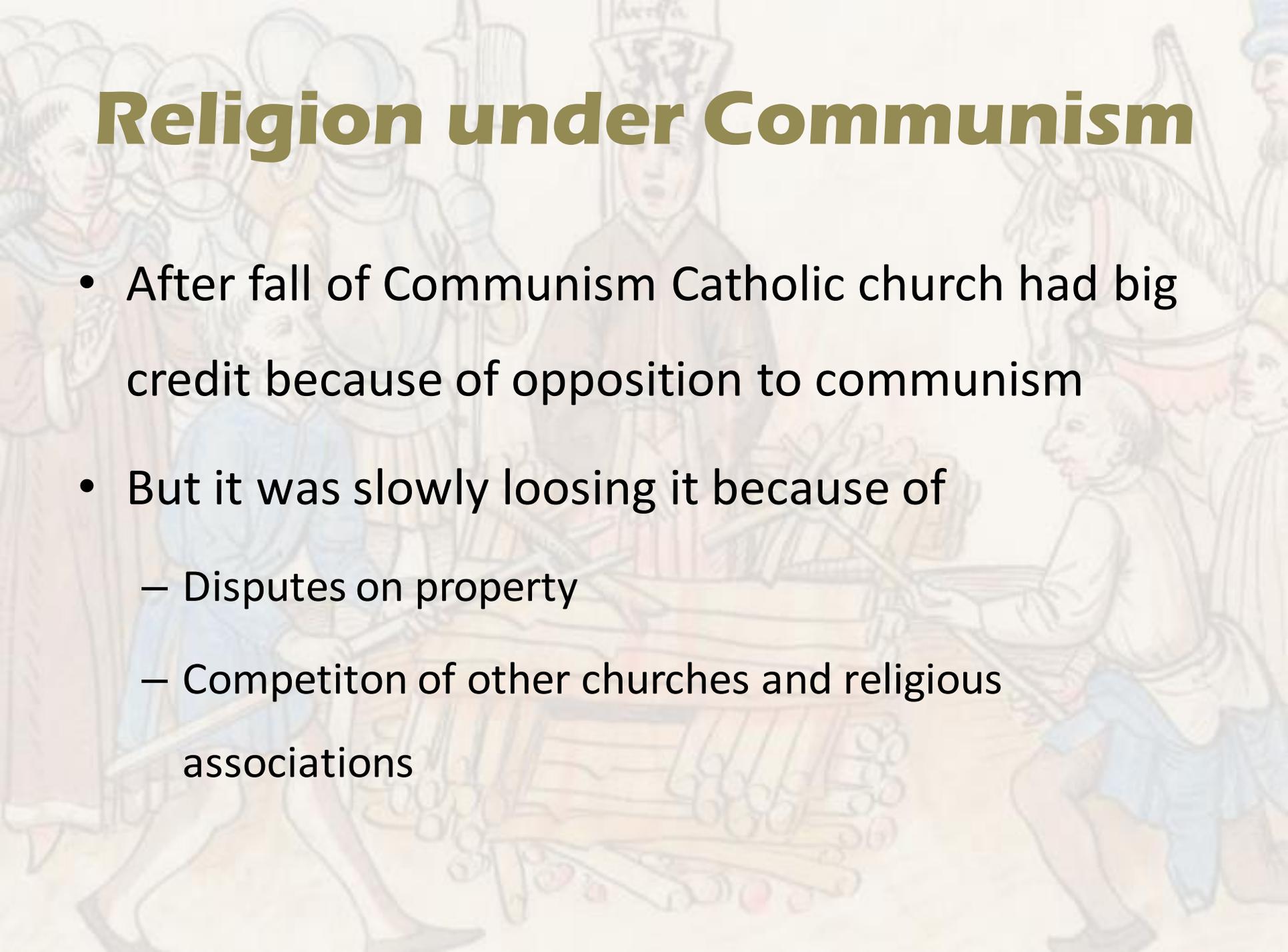
- After establishing of Czechoslovakia trends from previous period continued
- But important difference
- Czechoslovak politics, especially on Czech side was anticatholic and it led to conflict with Vatican in the 1920s

# Religion under Communism



- Communists were hostile to religion and to the Church
- During the 1950s the Church was subordinated to state and many active members of the church were imprisoned
- Catholic church got some credit as the opposition force against regime when many of clergy participate in resistance activities

# Religion under Communism



- After fall of Communism Catholic church had big credit because of opposition to communism
- But it was slowly losing it because of
  - Disputes on property
  - Competition of other churches and religious associations



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Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



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