

Lecture: 6.3.4. Naziism

Hitler in power popular because of rapid recovery from the Great Depression

- The Great Depression in Germany had been the deepest in the world save for the United States
- Recovery was fastest save for Japan, and Scandinavia
- Hitler in power during peacetime appears to have been focused on boosting employment and building weapons
- Not adding to industrial capacity and increasing national wealth
- Political effectiveness and military capacity were the priorities.
- Political effectiveness we understand: The Nazi movement was still a minority movement. Even at its high point it could command a majority in the Reichstag only with the socialist and communist deputies excluded from the room.
- Even then the rump Reichstag was only willing to vote Hitler emergency and dictatorial powers in the panic that followed the “mysterious” burning of the Reichstag.
- But weapons? Armies? Hadn’t World War I taught the Germans, and even the Nazis, and even Hitler, not to do that again?
- No

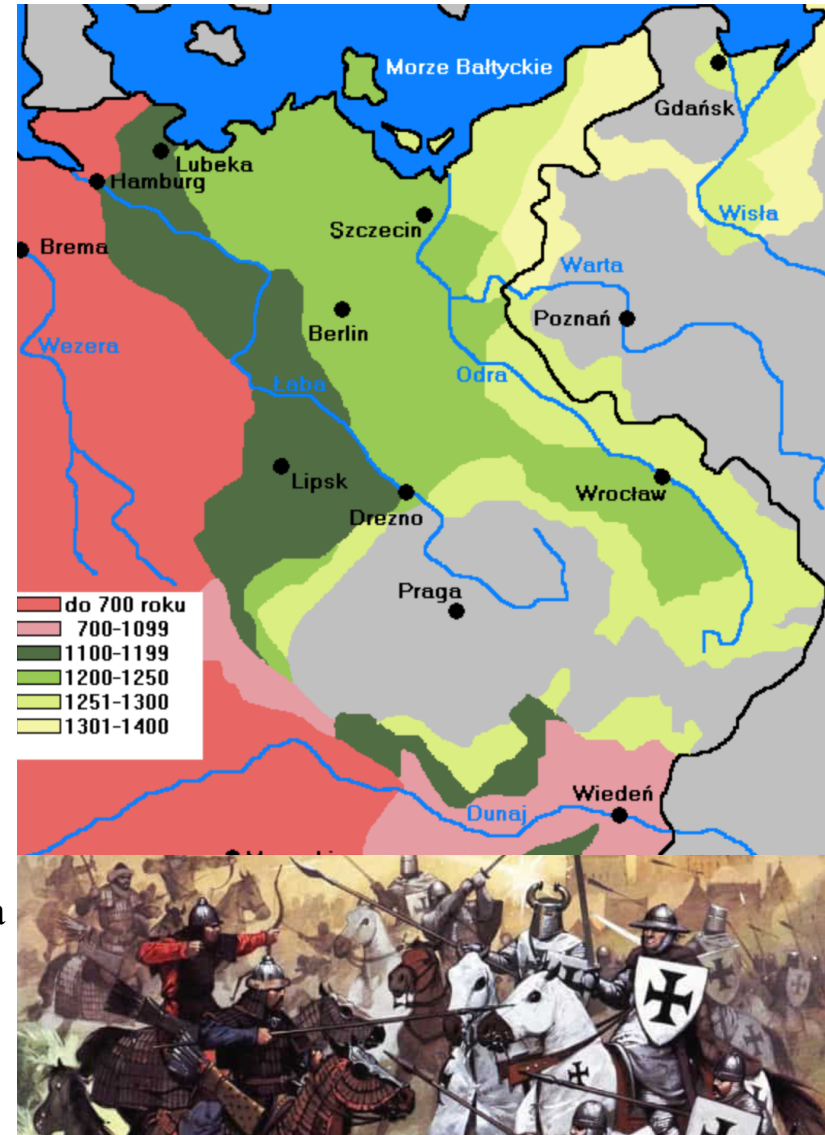


2:30 of audio in this slide; 9:00 in this slide group

Drang Nach Osten

Hitler took his Malthusianism very seriously indeed

- Four ways to support the German population:
 1. Birth control—a non-starter for social darwinist reasons
 2. Mechanize farming—but only a limited and partial cure at best because of diminishing returns
 3. Trade manufactured exports for food—but Britain will never allow that
 4. Take land from Russia
- Thus that is the only way to support a German population large enough for Germany to have its rightful place in the world
- Do to the Russians what the Americans did to the Amerindians: take their land, divide it up into large, productive farms for migratory settlers, and herd the indigenous population onto reservations
- History has taken a hand, and handed domination over Russia over to the Jewish Bolsheviks
- “Just kick in the door and the whole rotten structure will collapse...”



4:00 of audio in this slide

Naziism as Fascism to the Max

A three-part core doctrine:

1. Antisemitism plus paranoia
 2. Heroic expansionist destiny of the “Aryan” German nation
 3. War as the ultimate test of national worth—social darwinism to the max as well
- Plus:
 - Leadership principle
 - Terror
 - National coordination: “Why bother to socialize factories? We socialize human beings!”
 - Hitler took his Malthusian economics-based Aryan-racial-domination ideology seriously on March 15, 1939, when German tanks rolled (unopposed) into Prague and Germany annexed Czechoslovakia...
 - 50 million people were killed—including six million Jews, 60% of the European Jewish population—by Hitler directly and indirectly in World War II and its surrounding events
 - Had Hitler won his World War II, that number would have been at least tripled in its aftermath



2:30 of audio in this slide