

OSW in Warsaw

Central Europe as a Shifting Zone:

Its Geographical Significance from a Historical Point of View

September 2, 2011

Hiroshi FUKUDA

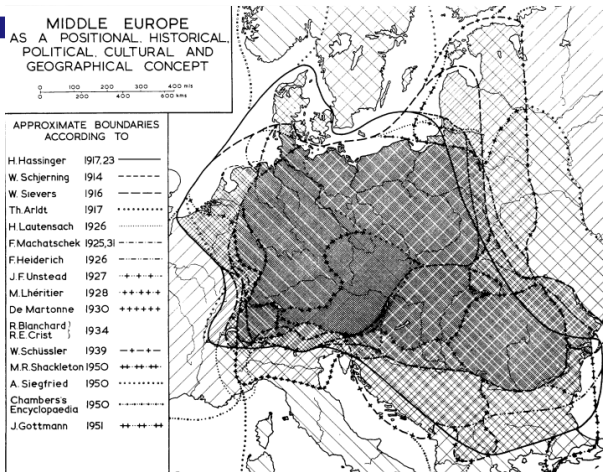
SRC, Hokkaido Univ., Japan

hfukuda@slav.hokudai.ac.jp

Introduction

- Central Europe on maps
 - Ghost of “Mitteleuropa” (German type)
- Central Europe & “V4 +1” (Japan) (2003)
 - Visegrád accord in 1991
 - Czech Republic (CZ), Slovakia (SK), Poland (PL), Hungary (HU)
- Today’s topic (Historical Approach)
 - Centralness & Europeanness

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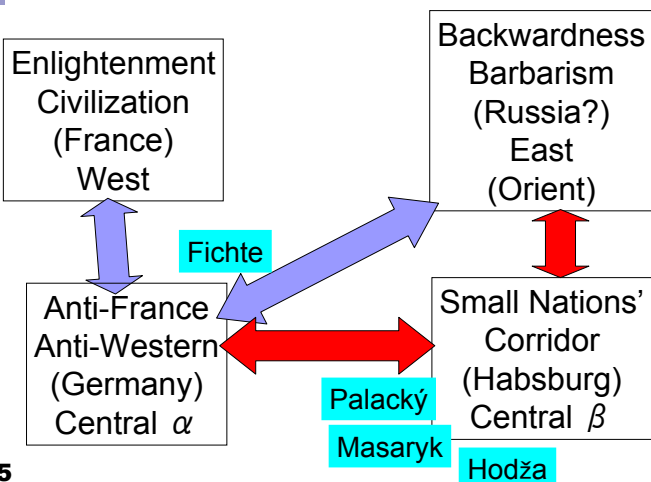
Source: Karl A. Sinnhuber, “Central Europe – Mitteleuropa – Europe Centrale: An Analysis of a Geographical Term,” *Transactions and Papers (Institute of British Geographers)* 20 (1954), p.19.

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1a. Centralness (German type)

- F. Naumann’s *Mitteleuropa* (1915)
- Discovery of the “East”
 - The Enlightenment and “Orientalism”
- Impact of the French Revolution
 - Fichte’s turnover: Universalism to Nationalism
- Anti-Napoleon & anti-Western
 - But, not Eastern (not backward)
 - Discovery of the “Central”

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1b. Centralness (non-German)

- F. Palacký’s refusal against Frankfurt (1848)
 - (German) National Assembly
 - German Integration & Parliamentary Democracy
 - Refusal as a Czech citizen, not a German
- Austria (Habsburg) as an umbrella
 - A “corridor” between Germany & Russia
 - Tomáš G. Masaryk (First President of CZ)
 - Milan Hodža (Prime Minister of CZ, in 1935-38)

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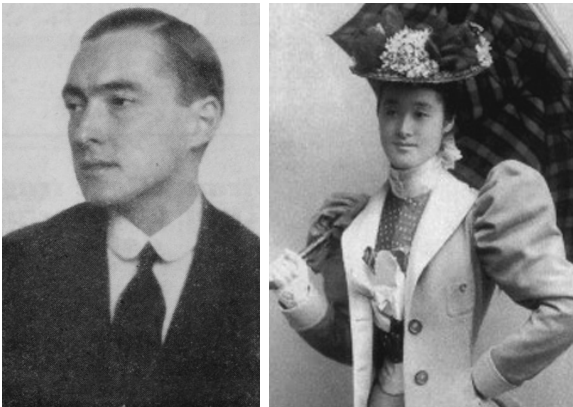
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2. Europeanness

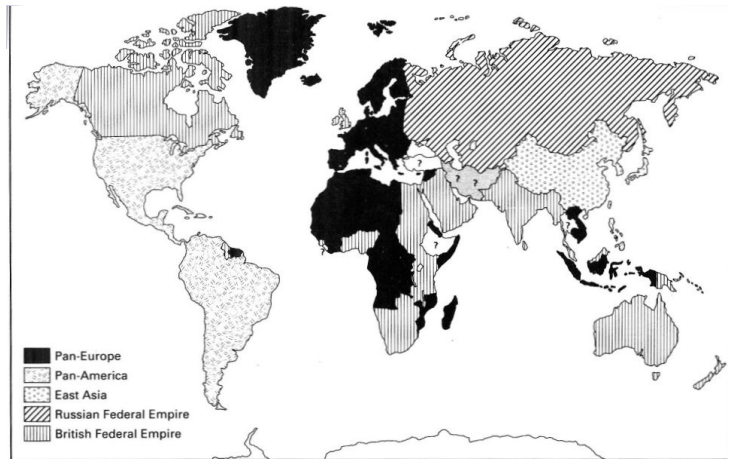
- “All of Europe is watching us!” in 1848
 - Civilization & Barricade
- Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi as a Savior?
 - His famous (?) mother, Mitsuko
 - *Pan Europa* (1923), Pan European Congress
- O. Schpengler’s “Decline of the West” (1918-22)
 - The Great War as a Trench Warfare
- Richard’s Dangerous Game?
 - Sympathy with Dollfuss (Austria) & Mussolini...

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Richard and Mitsuko



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The future world order according to R.N. Coudenhove-Kalergi's *Pan-Europa* (1923)

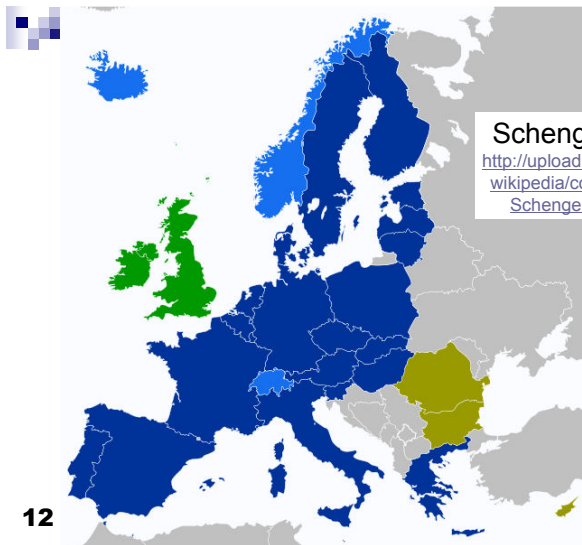
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Source: Peter M. R. Stirk, *A History of European Integration since 1914* (London: Continuum, 2001), p. ix.

Conclusion

- Central Europe: Gone with Crises?
 - Jacques Le Rider, *La Mitteleuropa* (1994).
(German & Japanese versions are available)
- Central Europe: Frontier of EU?
 - Fatigue with Enlargement, Financial Crisis...
 - Schengen & Historical Ties on Eastern Borders
 - Central Europe’s Old and New Mission?

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