




Austria: the Habsburg heartland

Culture & Society of Central and South Eastern Europe, 1600-1800



R.J.W. Evans, *The Making of the Habsburg Monarchy 1550-1700. An Interpretation*, (Clarendon Press: Oxford, 1979).

- ▶ Different definitions of Austria:
 - ▶ The Habsburg monarchy
 - ▶ The Habsburg dynasty
 - ▶ Including the Spain and the Netherlands branch
 - ▶ The Empire

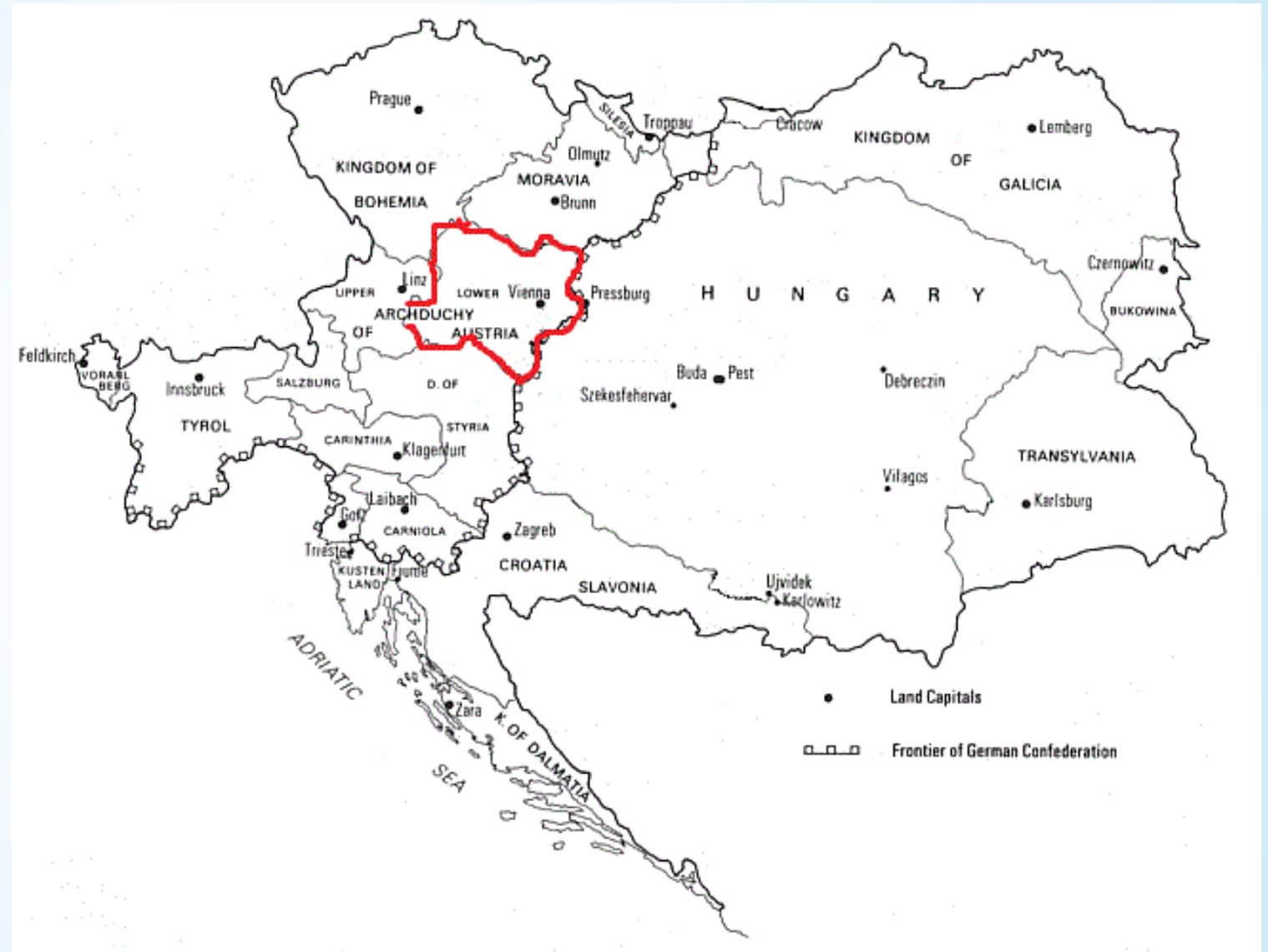
The duchy of Austria

- ▶ Was founded in 1156, by the *Privilegium Minus*
- ▶ Situated between the Alpines chains
- ▶ Along the Danube



Lower Austria

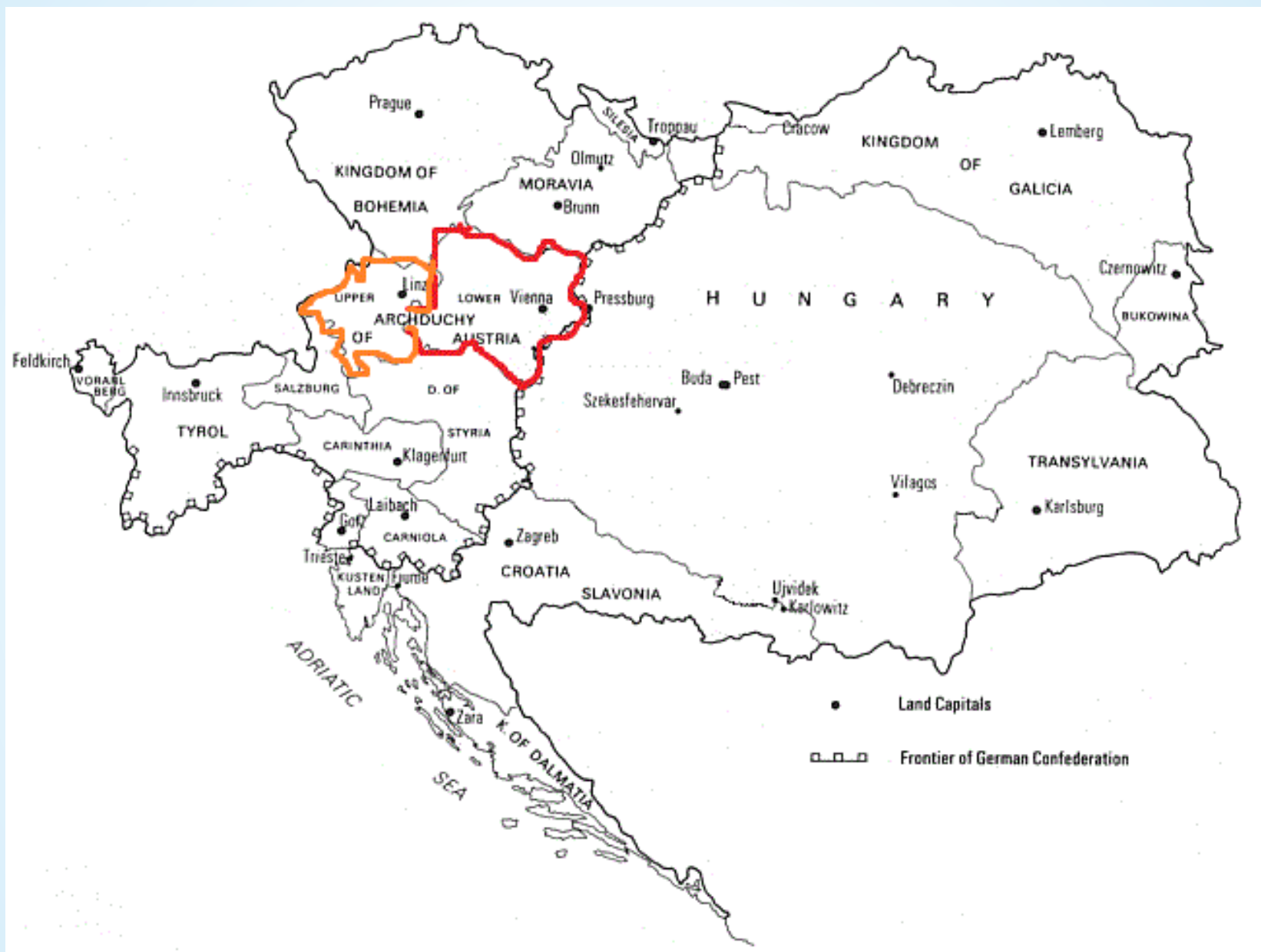
- Ruled by Vienna
- Divided in four districts
- Prosperous



Upper Austria

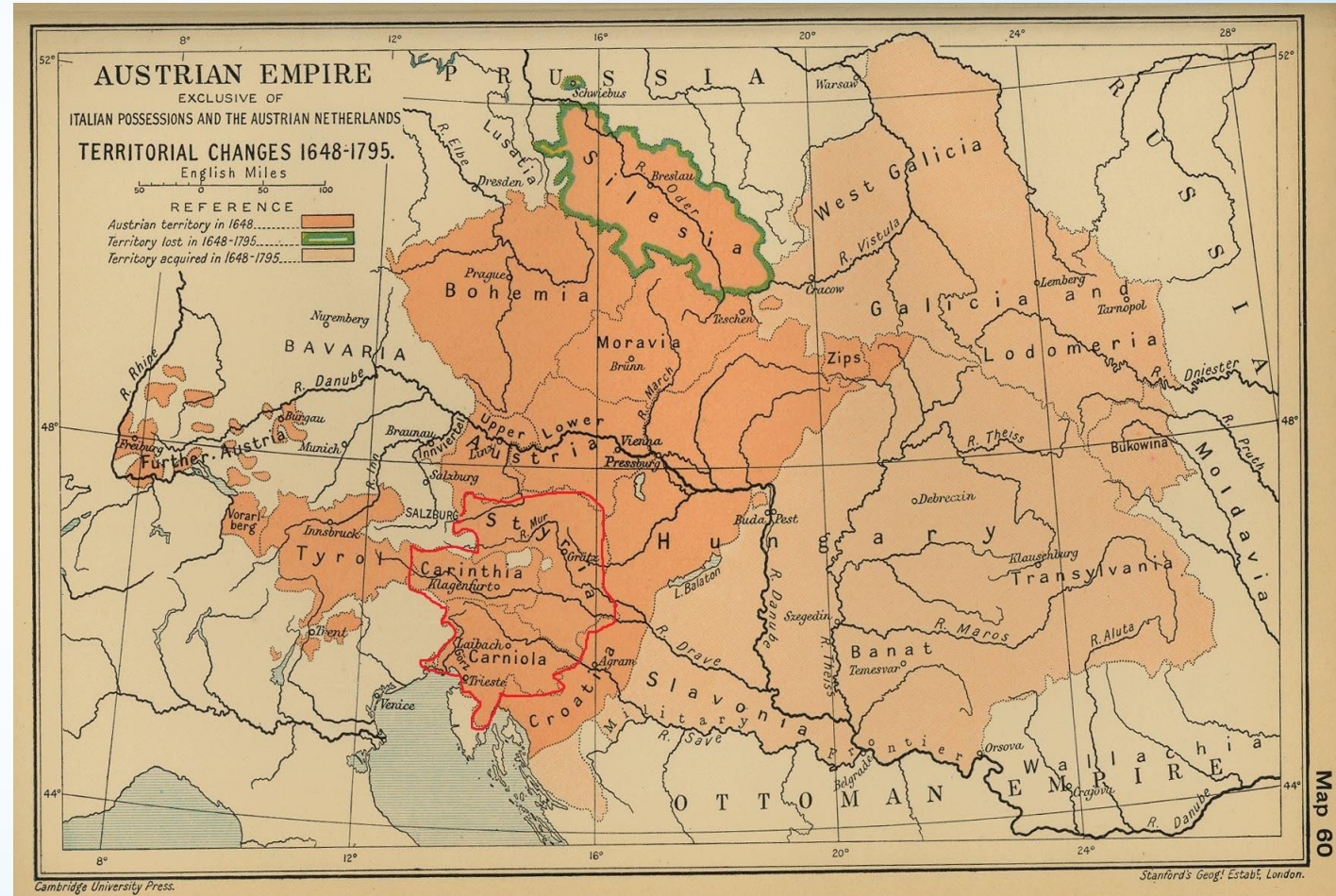
- Above the Enns
- Linz is the capital
- Weaker and also divided in different quarters





Inner Austria: Styria, Carinthia and Carniola

- Centre : Graz
- 1282: Styria
- 1355: Carinthia and Carniola



In the South: Istria

- 1374: acquired the country of Istria
- Next to Carniola
- Trieste annexed in 1382



Österreichisches Küstenland
1897 Rand McNally World Atlas

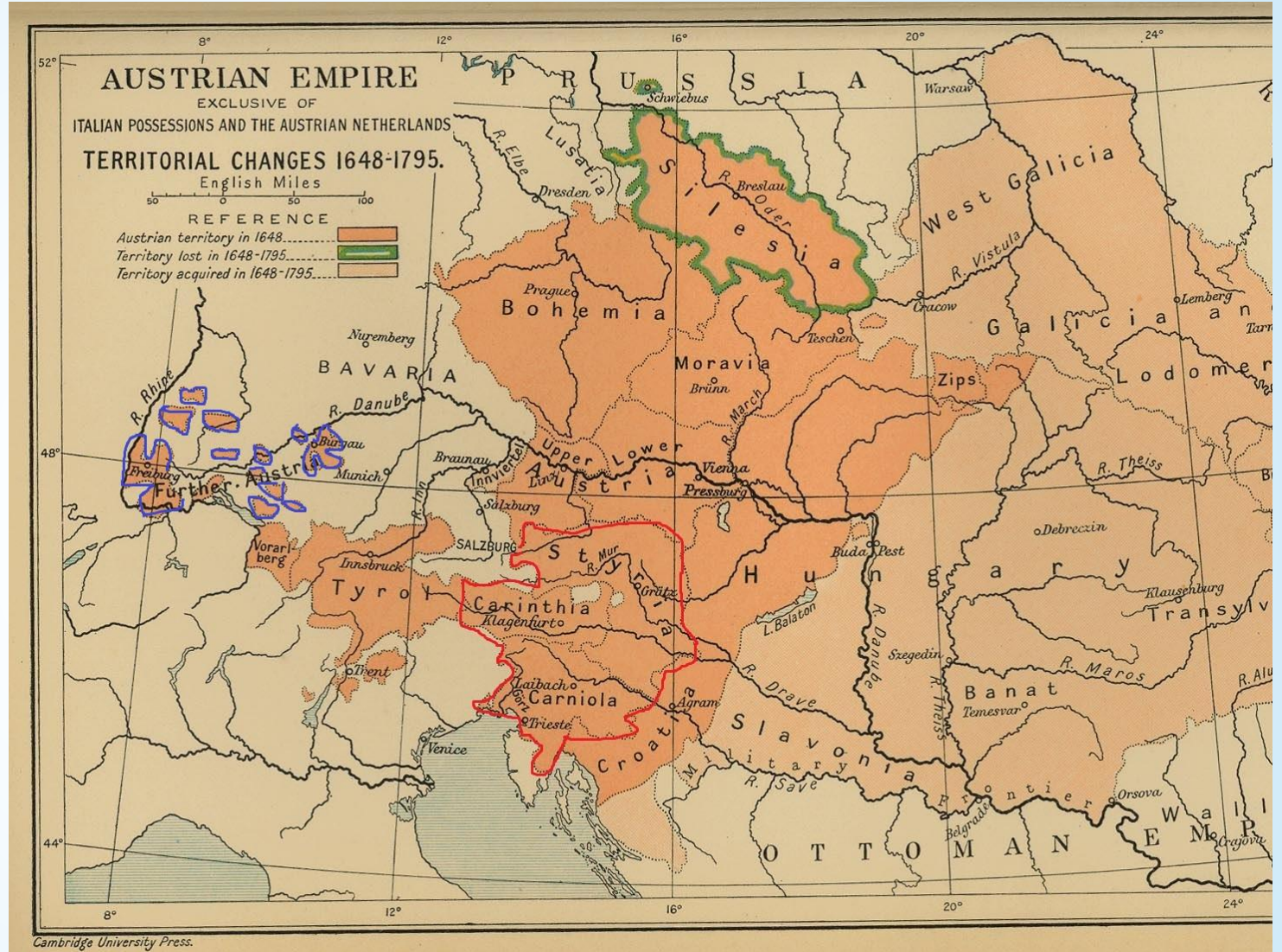
In the West: Tyrol

- 1363: conquered the Tyrol
- Capital was Innsbruck
- Important route across the Alps: commercial interest



Further Austria

- North of Switzerland, containing the duchy of Swabia
- Maze of different sovereignties
- Multiple cities and morcelled territories: Sundgau (until 1648), Freiburg, Bregenz, Constance, Triberg, Nellenburg, etc.





Fluctuation of the frontiers

- ▶ Changed all the time due the different wars, losses and annexions.
- ▶ Some enclaves inside the territory existed: lords who only answered to the Emperor :
 - ▶ Schaubenberg (Upper Austria)
 - ▶ Harberg (Lower Austria)
 - ▶ Seefeld (Lower Austria)
 - ▶ Biscoflack (Carniola)
 - ▶ Griffen (Carinthia)



Many differences

- ▶ Racial and linguistic variations
- ▶ Different dialects and customs:
 - German majority
 - French in Alsace
 - Ladin in South Tyrol
 - Slovene by a minority
 - Romansch
 - Italian

