

Der Ausgleich - 1867



Table of Contents

Letter from the Crisis Director.....	3
Sensitivity Statement.....	4
Background.....	5
Linguistic Map of the Empire.....	10
Austrians.....	11
Hungarians.....	12
Czechs.....	13
Poles and Ruthenes.....	14
Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.....	16
Romanians.....	17
Characters.....	19

Letter from the Crisis Director

Delegates,

Hello, Grüß Gott, and Üdvözlöm Önöket! Welcome to *Der Ausgleich - 1867*, and thank you very much for participating in this Crisis Committee. My name is Daniel Keane, and I am your Crisis Director and a senior in my final year here at Emory University. I am from Illinois, about 10 miles outside Chicago. I am a history major, and when I'm not studying, I'm usually building in the theater workshop, hanging out with friends, and sometimes painting miniatures.

I've been involved with Model UN for the better part of four years now. I spent a bit of time on the travel team for the Oxford campus' Model UN team (OIRA!) as well as a lot of backroom work for various MUNE and ENMUNC committees. About a year and a half ago, I directed my first conference, *Napoleon's Fall: Big Man, Little Problems*, where delegates dealt with the catastrophic unraveling of French hegemony. I've come to realize I quite enjoy putting delegates in charge of doomed causes, as your task will be to set the ailing Austrian Empire back on course and see if it can even survive the rest of the nineteenth century. I should warn you: The last time this was attempted, the solution didn't satisfy anyone and resulted in the shooting of a certain archduke in 1914.

Whether Habsburg rule is preserved or not doesn't really matter to me in the end. I hope you all enjoy your time on this committee and have fun with your crisis arcs. I know historical crisis scenarios can be daunting, but I am confident you will all do great regardless. As long as you read the background guide and check out your character's bio (extra credit for skimming their Wikipedia page), I'm certain you'll do great. Thanks again for participating!

- Daniel Keane

daniel.keane@emory.edu

Sensitivity Statement

At MUNE, it is our responsibility to ensure that everybody feels safe and respected in the committee. As such, we request that delegates treat each other with the highest level of respect and kindness. MUNE maintains a strict zero-tolerance policy for bullying or discrimination in any form. If you ever experience a problem, please raise it with your CD, ACD, and/or Chairs, and we will do everything in our power to help you.

This conference takes place in Victorian-era Central Europe and has much to do with nationalism. Though much of the conference may have to do with these nationalist concerns, it is important to remember that the extremely nationalist rhetoric that emerged in this region had shockingly violent and tragic consequences from the beginning of the First World War to the end of the Yugoslav wars. To avoid making light of such topics, refrain from utilizing violent nationalism in rhetoric in the front room or actions in the backroom. You are not forbidden from any violent acts in backroom notes, but exercise good taste. Keep in mind that in this specific period of the Habsburg Empire, much of the national agitation was carried out in political forums and universities, and through programs of passive resistance.

Lastly, understand that though the characters you play may have held bigoted attitudes or believed in ideas rooted in hate, this is no excuse for you to violate our zero-tolerance policy of bullying and discrimination. Any personal attacks on other delegates are completely unacceptable. This will ensure a better committee for everyone involved.

Background

The fat volunteer rolled onto the other straw mattress and went on: "It's obvious that one day it will all collapse. It can't last forever. Try to pump glory into a pig and it will burst in the end."

- Jaroslav Hašek, *The Good Soldier Švejk*

The House of Habsburg has been in power for nearly 600 years. Since 1283, Habsburg lords have sat on the thrones of countless kingdoms, duchies, and lordships from their seat of power in Vienna. Their reach spread so far that they once ruled the Netherlands, all of Iberia, parts of Italy, a vast colonial empire, as well as the throne of the Holy Roman Empire. Yet Austria has fallen far. The wars of the Spanish Succession severed the Habsburgs from their overseas possessions. The geriatric Holy Roman Empire was smashed by Napoleon at Austerlitz, never to return. In 1804, the Habsburg emperor Francis I reconstituted what remained as the Empire of Austria. When Napoleon was defeated and exiled in 1815, the empire consisted only of its traditional heartland - Austria, Bohemia, Hungary, Croatia, and more - that dominated the Danubian basin, as well as the consolation annexation of Lombardy and Venetia in northern Italy.



Even with the Corsican scourge of Europe exiled to St. Helena, the Austrian Empire remained in existential danger. While the French Revolution may have been defeated at Waterloo, the Pandora's box of both liberalism and nationalism could not be re-sealed. The various peoples of Europe gradually began to understand themselves as members of distinct nations, tied together by shared language, history, culture, or more. The revolutionaries in Paris no longer considered themselves "subjects of the Bourbon monarchy" but rather Frenchmen. The French Republic would derive its authority from the French nation it served.

For the polyglot Habsburg empire, these ideological currents could be absolutely poisonous. The very idea of a nation-state is completely incompatible. It was all well and good for the French to organize their government around a nation. But in the Austrian Empire, German speakers accounted for barely a quarter of the total population. What if the Czechs now wanted a Bohemian state, the Poles a Polish state, or Hungarians a Hungarian state?

The arch-conservative Prince Klemens von Metternich, the shrewd diplomat who ensured peace between the great powers of Europe after Waterloo, had fostered a system of diplomatic cooperation at the Congress of Vienna. The "Metternich System" was designed to uphold the European status quo by suppressing liberal revolutions such as in Spain or Italy. This system had already collapsed by the 1830s. Metternich's policies of harsh censorship and university controls could not stop the spread of liberalism among the rapidly growing student populations, and these draconian efforts alienated Austria from the much more liberal-minded British and French. In 1835, the new Emperor Ferdinand I took the imperial throne. He possessed a quick wit and could have stabilized the empire if he had not had a severe case of epilepsy. Suffering from around twenty seizures daily, Ferdinand could not effectively rule, and a secret regency council took over government matters.

The year 1848 would shake the Habsburg Empire to its core. Years of instability had been building up to this single moment. Potato blight had ravaged Europe, and the cost of living for the common people rose. Austrian-occupied Italy had been placed under martial law in response to increased disturbances. The Hungarian diets, previously used by Hungarian aristocrats to complain about the loss of their noble privileges, had become a hotbed of Hungarian nationalism and liberalism. When the Parisians overthrew their King in February 1848, uprisings erupted all across Europe. As liberals and radicals revolted in Vienna, Metternich resigned and fled into exile. What followed was a complete collapse of Austrian authority. Liberal governments in Vienna established themselves, collapsed, and were followed by the next liberal government for a year straight. As this happened, the empire's crownlands revolted. The Hungarian Diet issued a list of demands, the April Laws, that would turn Hungary into a parliamentary republic and abolish serfdom. In its weakened state, Vienna had no choice but to comply. At the same time, Austrian Italy was completely lost to Italian nationalist rebels, and brutal suppressions were carried out in Prague to keep Bohemia in line.

By December of 1848, Austrian radicals took the fateful step of revolting and forcing the Habsburg court to flee Vienna. Hiding out in the town of Olmütz, the forces of reaction consolidated their power and armies around a new figure. Ferdinand I abdicated the throne in favor of his nephew Franz Joseph I. The nineteen-year-old emperor, not feeling bound by the oaths and treaties of his uncle, arbitrarily revoked the April Laws. The next year was spent crushing the forces of liberalism and nationalism across the empire in violent military actions. Field Marshal Radetzky put down the nascent Italian independent movement, and Vienna was retaken. Franz Joseph required a Russian military intervention to finally defeat the Hungarian rebels, but by October of 1849 the Austrian Empire was somehow still whole.

What followed was a period of “neo-absolutism”, during which the young Franz Joseph attempted to rule as European monarchs had before the French Revolution. This experiment centralized the empire through the sweeping removal of regional privileges and rights enjoyed by certain crownlands, and the disempowerment of local municipalities. The media was strictly censored, and subjects no longer enjoyed the right to public court proceedings. Some progress was retained, as serfdom was finally stamped out, and citizens enjoyed what little rights they had equally, regardless of nationality.

It soon became evident that liberal reforms would be needed if the empire was ever to survive. Austria increasingly found itself isolated on the world stage. Diplomatic relations with Russia were irreparably damaged after Austria refused to return the favor for defeating Hungary when Russia needed it during the Crimean War. The Italian Kingdom of Sardinia rallied France to war with Vienna, and took some of Austria’s valuable Italian holdings in 1859. The rising Kingdom of Prussia had been asserting and challenging Austrian hegemony in German affairs. A series of weak constitutions was adopted by Franz Joseph to meet this demand for reform, but none proved to be any real balm.

In 1866, the Habsburgs would face yet another existential crisis. In June, the Kingdom of Prussia would declare war on Austria. Prussia aimed to exclude Vienna from German politics entirely, and allied with the young Kingdom of Italy to do so. The Italian army fared poorly against Austria in Venezia, but the Prussians, with superior military and technological advantages, smashed aside Austrian forces in Bohemia, ending the war in little over a month. This forced Austria to both concede German hegemony to the Prussians and to cede Venezia to Italy. Otto von Bismarck, chancellor of Prussia, did not pursue any serious concessions from

Austria beyond their retreat from German affairs, hoping to foster an ally in Vienna. But the defeat had severely shaken the empire.

Reeling from the shocking loss on the battlefield and the loss of the considerable wealth generated from Venice, Austria finds itself in a constitutional crisis. The half-hearted liberal reforms of the past will no longer suffice. Many demand considerable restructuring from the Habsburgs if they wish to avoid a repeat of 1848. Even more pressing are the demands of the empire's non-German communities. The Hungarian national movement has grown to such a size that to refuse any negotiation on the matter of Hungarian autonomy could result in violent consequences. Furthermore, any negotiations with the Hungarians will likely need to be accompanied by some measure to placate the empire's other nationalities. The influential Polish nobility and the loyal Ruthenian peasantry have long requested that Vienna grant their conflicting claims to local autonomy. Bohemia has become the empire's industrial powerhouse, and the Czech bourgeoisie expect concessions recognizing their value. The rise of Italian and Slavic nationalism outside and within Austrian borders continues to pose a threat to stability.

To address all these issues, Franz Joseph I, spurred on by the insistence of Empress Elisabeth, has summoned leading figures of the empire's communities to address the future of the empire. These delegates will meet in Vienna to draft a compromise that will have to stand the test of time. These negotiations will be crucially important to determine what future Austria and her peoples will share, if Austria is to have a future at all.

Linguistic Map of the Empire



Please note: this committee takes place in 1866, and this map is from 1910. Though the placement of linguistic groups is likely still accurate, Bosnia and Herzegovina were not a part of the Austrian Empire in 1866,

Austrians

The Austrian Empire, though its heartland and capital lie within German-speaking lands, could never really have been called a “German Empire”. The German speakers don’t even account for a quarter of the population. This is not to say there were never any attempts at Germanisation - the Czechs suffered this the most - but rather that these were rarely ever done with any real desire to create a majority German state. When the bureaucracy was instructed to write government documents in German across the empire, the goal of Vienna was not to really destroy local cultures, but more to modernize the archaic bureaucratic system that spoke Latin. But the language one speaks has always been important to people, and more so as it becomes clear that people are beginning to define themselves not as subjects of dynasties, but citizens of nations. The Germans, though they faced much of the violence of the French Revolutionary wars head-on, were likewise swept up in the nationalist fervor of 1848.

Napoleon destroyed the Holy Roman Empire and restructured the remaining German states, leaving 39 fully independent states, united in 1815 under the German Confederation, a union of common defence and some economic integration. In 1848, nationalist liberal movements sprang up across the Confederation, calling for German unity, constitutional reforms, and even republican governance. In Frankfurt, a national assembly of primarily university professors attempted to form a unified German state. It was decided that a unified Germany could not include Austria’s non-German lands, and so an imperial crown was offered to Prussia, excluding Austria as long as it continued to hold non-German territory. King Frederick William of Prussia, bafflingly, still believed in the divine right of kings, and rejected the imperial crown. With this, the Frankfurt Assembly fizzled, and the prospect of German unification with it. But the nationalist desire has not faded.

Austria's defeat at the hands of Prussia has soundly excluded it from German affairs, and has left German unification unimpeded by its biggest roadblock. Austrian Germans are now somewhat directionless. The German national movement will likely continue without them, with Prussia leading a federal state in the burgeoning North German Confederation, and only the still independent South German states remaining independent. German politics in Austria will likely continue on its current course. The liberals have long demanded constitutional reform as Franz Joseph's neo-absolutist reign blundered Austria into various losing wars. The wider German populace continues to agitate for expanded suffrage. But German nationalists in Austria can only glimpse an uncertain future for themselves, and one unlikely to truly satisfy them.

Hungarians

The Hungarians, or the *Magyars* as they call themselves, once had an independent state of their own. The Magyar tribes which conquered the Carpathian basin in the 9th and 10th centuries were not indigenous to Europe, but are known to have traveled from the great Eurasian Steppe, perhaps originally the Urals, Central Asia, or even Siberia. Hungarian ethnographers have taken pride in their unique heritage that sets them apart from their neighbours. They are the only people in Europe to use the "eastern naming order," putting their family name before their given names. Their language shares almost no similarities to any other European tongue. It is perhaps their uniqueness that pushes the Hungarian nationalists even harder to revive the Hungarian nation, their *Magyarország*.

The independent Kingdom of Hungary was killed on the fields of Mohács in 1526, destroyed by the greatest of Ottoman sultans, Suleiman the Magnificent. What followed was years of foreign occupation, as the kingdom was split between Austria in the west, direct Turkish

rule in the center, and an Ottoman tributary state in Transylvania. When all the former Hungarian-ruled lands were united under the Austrian crown near the start of the 18th century, the Hungarian noble elite enjoyed regional autonomy and privileges. Yet they were alienated near the end of the century as Emperor Joseph II's radical reforms attempted to make German the bureaucratic language of the empire in place of Latin (genuinely only done in the interest of governance), and the radical step of abolishing serfdom. Nobles across the empire, especially the Hungarian minor nobility, threatened to tear the empire apart until the crown returned their serfs to them. This incident drove a permanent wedge between the crown and Hungary.

The French Revolution contributed to the growth of nationalism and liberalism within Hungary. By 1848, a well-established liberal movement - led by the charismatic Lajos Kossuth - had formed in the Hungarian Diet, which demanded near-independence from Vienna and implemented its own liberal constitution, the April Laws. Yet this new democratic republic would last only four months. The new Hungarian state would not grant its minorities equal rights, and thus Slovaks, Serbs, Croats, and Romanians fell in with Vienna to protect their cultural customs from Budapest. The revolution was defeated, and its leaders hanged, but the Hungarian national movement persisted in a campaign of passive resistance led by Francis Deák, and has now finally brought the emperor to the negotiation table.

Czechs

The Czechs too had a great medieval past. By the 1400s, the Kingdom of Bohemia was ruled in a personal union by Hungarian kings. When the Hungarian King was killed at the Battle of Mohács, Bohemia was without a monarch. The Czech nobles gathered the Bohemian diet and elected the archduke of neighbouring Austria as their new king, pulling Bohemia into the

Habsburg realm. Less than 100 years later, the wars of the Reformation threatened to break this new tie, as the largely protestant Czechs revolted against Austrian catholic rule. In the face of the Emperor's increasingly repressive Counter-Reformation, Bohemian nobles threw catholic officials out of a window in the 1618 Defenestration of Prague. The resulting war saw the Czech rebels crushed at the Battle of white mountain, and the start of a Germanisation process.

With the Czech nobility largely depowered, the ground was cleared for absolute Habsburg rule. Czech protestantism was all but wiped out in a massive re-Catholicization campaign. German migration was encouraged into Bohemia, and soon, German replaced Czech as the language of administration, then business, and then urban life. Entire cities, such as Brno, became majority German-speaking. This led to a perception of Czech as a language of rural peasants. At the beginning of the 19th century, a collection of Czech nationalists attempted to reverse this process.

Czech scholars traveled to the countryside to document authentic Czech language. They then returned to the cities and created Czech-language publications and journals. This gradually brought the Czech language back to urban Czechs and precipitated a massive Czech cultural revival, a growing interest in the history of the Czech people, and agitation for the instruction of Czech language in public schools. With a newly invigorated nationalist movement, Czech politicians have recently also been armed with the industrial growth within Bohemia that has made it the empire's industrial heartland.

Poles and Ruthenes

The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was a permanent fixture of Eastern Europe until its neighbours cannibalized it. In collusion with each other and without pretext, Russia, Prussia,

and Austria conquered the entire vast state (which at that point controlled parts of modern-day Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, and Latvia). The land Austria secured for herself was reconsecrated as the crownland of Galicia-Lodomeria. When they arrived, the Habsburg bureaucrats found deep tensions between the Polish and Ukrainian population of the crownland. The Commonwealth had practiced harsh feudalism, and in the predominantly Ukrainian-populated eastern half of the crownland, Polish nobles worked Ukrainian peasants to the bone and suppressed the Galician Ukrainian's Greek Catholic faith. To win over the Ukrainians, whom the Poles and, subsequently, the Austrians called *Ruthenes*, the Habsburgs protected and subsidized the Greek Catholic clergy. Ruthenes began to see Vienna as their liberators from years of Polish oppression. In 1848, when the Poles strove to reclaim Polish independence, the Ruthene intelligentsia, clergy, and peasantry remained loyal to Vienna. The nascent Ukrainian national movement has been allowed to grow in Austrian lands, where it would otherwise be strangled within Russia. Vienna has often found it to be a useful cudgel against seditious Poles.

Galicia is the empire's poorest region. Vast, largely rural, and lacking in infrastructure, droves of Poles and Ruthenes emigrate to America and Canada yearly. Those who remain are, more often than not, illiterate farmers. Western Galicia is predominantly Polish, and Eastern Galicia is primarily Ruthenian save for the few urban centers, such as Lemberg, where Poles make up the majority. Ruthene desires mainly pertain to the preservation of Ukrainian culture. They ask for a partition of the Crownland, so that they may be fully free of Polish domination. The Polish nobility and intelligentsia balk at such an idea, viewing such a partition as a mutilation of Polish patrimony. To many Polish thinkers, there is no problem with Ruthenes living in Galicia so long as they remain on the farms and out of ballot booths. Other debates

concern the right of Ruthenes to learn the Ukrainian language in public schools, or whether Cyrillic should be discouraged from use.

Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes

The empire's southern flank is populated by various Slavic peoples. Slovenes live just south of the empire's Austrian heartland. Then come the lands of Croatia, Dalmatia, and the Vojvodina, all of which are populated by Serbs and Croats. These lands have long been contested by Austria and the Ottoman Empire, and have long been part of the "military frontier". To prosecute their many wars with the Turks, the lands bordering the Ottoman Empire were placed under the jurisdiction of the Austrian military. It is only now, as it becomes clear that Istanbul no longer poses any threat to Austria, that the process of transferring these borderlands to civil authorities has begun.

Like everyone else in the empire, the South Slavic peoples experienced a national resurgence in 1848, each wishing for more autonomy from Vienna, and none receiving any. However, many of them actually sided with Austrian forces when it came time to crush the Hungarian revolution. This is because Serbs and Croats, in a reestablished Hungarian kingdom, would find themselves part of a state unwilling to allow them their cultural autonomy and local privileges. The Slovenes tend to support Vienna out of genuine patriotism and loyalty to the empire, but Croats and Serbs have credible fears about what a regime centered in Budapest would mean for them. With the current negotiations potentially heading towards an autonomous Hungary, South Slavic thinkers must quickly ascertain how they must adapt to that future, or perhaps how they can prevent it. Already the Croatian *Sabor* (diet) has voted against any union with Hungary, though this verdict carries no legal weight should Vienna disregard it.

Perhaps surprisingly, there is a glimmer of hope for even the wildest-eyed nationalists in the Balkans. The Ottoman Empire, in its steady decline, has begun to release its subject peoples in autonomous states, including a newly unified Romanian state and a small Serbian principality. This independent Serbia, though in name a vassal state of Istanbul, is in the process of negotiating the removal of Turkish troops from its borders and becoming functionally (though not officially) independent. Serbs living within Austria can look just over the Danube and see Belgrade as a beacon of sovereignty. Some more ardent nationalists now desire for their lands to be united with Belgrade, and even wilder nationalists believe it is the destiny of Serbs to create a common state between all the South Slavic peoples. Such an ideology, given enough support, could poison the empire's very foundations.

Romanians

Romanians within Austria reside primarily in Transylvania. Transylvania had been a part of the historical Kingdom of Hungary, but its destruction at the hands of the Ottomans left Transylvania as its own political entity. Since then, it has been ruled by Hungarian nobles, though primarily populated by Romanians. It is not without a significant Hungarian minority, who, though overrepresented within the ruling class, still make up a share of the peasant and working classes. Successive wars with the Ottomans eventually made Transylvania a crownland of Austria, and Vienna continued to allow the Hungarian nobles their lands and serfs. But in 1848, the nationalist mood swing changed the relationship between the Hungarian nobility and Romanian peasantry. In fact, many Romanian villages declared their loyalty to Vienna upon hearing that Budapest would subject them to Magyarization policies.

With the prospect of Hungarian independence once again on the table, the Romanians of Transylvania will likely drag their feet if pulled into any union with Hungary. The reluctance to

join Budapest is compounded by the fact that Transylvania has, since 1862, bordered the Romanian state. The young Principality of Romania, though technically a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire, has expressed a desire to unite with Romanian lands within Austria. Considering that this principality has the tacit support of the Russian Empire, the Habsburgs could face a very serious threat from the east, whether political or military.

Characters

Ida Ferenczy

- Hungarian noblewoman and Lady-in-waiting to Empress Elisabeth of Austria. Elisabeth is the most ardent Austrian advocate for Hungarian autonomy, and arguably the reason Emperor Franz Joseph actually began to negotiate with the Hungarians. Ferenczy has served as a bridge between Elisabeth and various Hungarian leaders. Ferenczy serves in this conference as a representative of the Empress.

Count Richard von Belcredi

- Minister-President of Austria. Supports a comprehensive constitutional deal with all of the nationalities that would have created a federal structure. Belcredi worries that a negotiation with solely Hungarian interests in mind would alienate the other nationalities of the empire and lead to even greater unrest.

Friedrich Ferdinand von Beust

- Saxon politician. Exiled from Saxony after the state was defeated and subsumed by Prussia in 1866, but was invited to become the Foreign Minister of Austria. Von Beust supports a compromise with the only Hungarian nobility, with the hopes of reasserting Austrian power against Prussia. Beust is largely alone in these more anti-Prussian attitudes, as most of Vienna's leadership has resigned themselves to playing second fiddle to Prussia.

Baron Alexander von Bach

- Franz Joseph's infamous former Interior Minister from 1849-1859, who turned to reaction following the revolutions of 1848. Von Bach spearheaded the neo-absolutist program, attempting to centralize the empire under a reactionary and authoritarian government. Bach resigned in disgrace following the Austrian defeat in the Second Italian War of Independence, and has since been the ambassador to the Vatican, though he still advocates for conservative, centralized, authoritarian governance.

Karl von Urban

- The recently retired Field Marshal von Urban distinguished himself for his resistance to the Hungarian Revolution. Stationed in Transylvania when the revolution broke out, he pledged his loyalty to Vienna and to the defense of minority rights. When it became clear that the Hungarians would not grant equal rights to Romanians, von Urban led Romanian volunteers in a daring campaign against Hungarian forces. He also led forces in Italy, winning the only Austrian victories during the Second Italian War of Independence, and earned the moniker *the Austrian Garibaldi*.

Ferenc Deák de Kehida

- "The Wise Man of the Nation" is a well-respected liberal leader in Hungarian politics. Renowned for his ability to find compromise between radically opposed Hungarian political factions, Kehida believes in the pursuit of Hungarian autonomy, not independence. He believes the April Laws were valid, but that Austria and Hungary

should remain united in some way for common defence and economic purposes. This earns him the ire of more radical Hungarian patriots.

Kálmán Tisza

- Hungarian politician, a leader of the liberal coalition. The liberals are not as popular as Hungarian nationalist parties in local diet elections, but they are overwhelmingly supported by minority voters within Hungarian lands. Tisza believes a compromise with Vienna is necessary, as Hungary could not survive outside of the wider empire's protection.

Ferenc Kossuth

- Son of Hungarian revolutionary Lajos Kossuth. Kossuth is a fervent nationalist, with the ultimate goal of a completely independent Hungary. Much like the revolutionaries of 1848, Kossuth supports a policy of Magyarization within Hungary, making him unpopular with Slovaks, Croats, Romanians, and more.

Gyula Andrassy

- A military leader from the Hungarian Revolution, Andrassy was forced into exile to escape execution. 10 years after he was hanged in effigy, Andrassy returned to Hungarian politics, though he never accepted the official amnesty offered by Vienna for his revolutionary past. Since then he has become a key leader in the Hungarian Diet. Politically, he is a follower of Ferenc Deák, a conservative, and believes in delegation of powers between Austria and Hungary.

František Palacký

- Leading figure in the Czech national movement. Proposed a federal state between Southern German states and Central European Slavic states in 1848, though that program (Austro-Slavism) failed. Still supports a new kingdom of Bohemia under a Federal Austrian state. His pro-Czech leanings have pulled him into a parliamentary alliance with conservative Czech nobles and Catholics.

Emil von Škoda

- Czech engineer and industrialist. Currently in the process of expanding the nascent Škoda Works, a large foundry and machine works, already shaping up to be one of, if not the leading, industrial conglomerate in Central Europe. Škoda represents the industrial interests of Bohemia, where German and Czech capitalists have made Prague the capital of industry within the Empire.

Karel Sladkovský

- For his rebellious actions as a student leader during the Revolutions of 1848, Sladkovský was sentenced to death. This sentence was later reduced, and then commuted, but Sladkovský remained committed to his pursuit of liberalism. As a member of the Bohemian Diet, he has also shown his commitment to the Czech national revival.

Count Stanisław Tarnowski

- Polish noble and co-author of satirical magazine *Teka Stańczyka* (named after the famous jester Stańczyk). Tarnowski is a leader within the Polish conservative intelligentsia known as the Stancyks or Kraków Conservatives. After years of Polish uprisings in Russia being brutally repressed, the Stancyks believe cooperation with Vienna and economic development is a more fruitful endeavor than independence. They aim for Polish autonomy in Galicia, and Polish privileges and authority over eastern Galicia's Ukrainian population. The Stancyks are allied to the eastern Galician conservative Polish landowners and aristocracy.

Yakiv Holovatsky (Ruthenian)

- Ukrainian historian and linguist who has worked toward Ukrainian national development. Galician Ukrainians, including Holovatsky, have typically united under the leadership of the Greek Catholic clergy and have viewed the Habsburg emperors as protectors from the Galician Ukrainians' historical oppressors, the Polish nobility. The growing power of the Polish landowners has weakened this tie, and Holovatsky and his allies fear that the Ukrainians may be sidelined in favor of the Poles.

Josip Šokčević

- Ban (chief government official) of Croatia. Like his predecessors, Šokčević is a Croatian military man who has been elevated to govern over his countrymen in Vienna's name. Šokčević's career advancement was sparked by his crushing of the revolutionary Italians in 1848. Since then, he has been implementing new electoral reforms within Croatia, as

well as building railroads in the largely agricultural crownland. Šokčević and many of his constituents have hoped for a federalized monarchy, in which a united Croatia would be one of multiple equal federal entities. The worst fear for these Croatians would be the restoration of medieval Hungarian borders, as that would make the Croatians subjects of the Hungarian nationalists.

Andrei Șaguna

- Metropolitan bishop of the Orthodox Church in Transylvania. Șaguna was a key leader of the Transylvanian Romanian community during the revolutions of 1848. Since then, he has dedicated his efforts to securing Romanians' liberties and education. Bitterly opposed to a union between Transylvania and Hungary.

Samuilo Maširević

- The Patriarch of Karlovci, and the spiritual leader of Habsburg Serbs and a successor to Josif Rajačić. Rajačić was a supporter of the Serbian national movement, although somewhat conservative with pro-Austrian leanings. Rajačić was promised Serb autonomy in Vojvodina for siding with Vienna during 1848, but Vienna did not honor its side of the deal.

Jozef Miloslav Hurban

- When the Hungarian revolution threatened to tear apart the Empire, it was the leaders of Slavic volunteers who helped save the Habsburgs. One such movement was the Slovak uprising against the Hungarians. Slovaks who did not wish to lose their regional

privileges and cultural rights sided with Vienna. Jozef Miloslav Hurban was a key leader of that uprising.

Josip Juraj Strossmayer

- Croatian Catholic prelate and the Bishop of Đakovo and Syrmia. Strossmayer is a public advocate of Yugoslavism and South Slavic unity within a federalized empire. He is also an advocate of liberal reform and is opposed to increased Hungarian autonomy. It is rumored that Strossmayer has discussed the possibility of the Serbian state annexing Slavic lands from Austria with the Serbian foreign minister. Strossmayer, of course, vehemently denies these accusations of treason.

Giovanni Battista a Prato

- Italian journalist and politician. After the successive wars with Italy, many of Austria's Italian subjects now reside within Italy itself. What remains are the regions of Trentino and Trieste, making Italians one of the smallest national communities within the larger empire. A Trentino native, Battista supports the preservation of Trentino's specific Italian heritage and greater autonomy for Italians within the empire.