

Hegemony

Word of the Week 1

Hegemony

- is the domination of one group or state over others
- with or without direct force
- tries to explain how and why dominant groups are able to keep their power

Antonio Gramsci

(1891 - 1937)

- The Prison Notebooks
- **Cultural hegemony:**
The idea of dominating society and culture such that power relations are effectively disguised, but well maintained.



Hegemony in Postwar Europe



- Fear of German hegemony (Markovits & Reich)
- Cold War: Hegemony of West vs. East
- Ambivalences about U.S. hegemony



EUROPE TODAY

EURO 301



Postwar European Divisions in the German mirror

Divisions in:

- Dealing with the Fascist legacy
- Building state and society
- Economy
- Making citizens
- Imagining Europe

The Fascist Legacy



- 33 million death
- 6 million European Jews killed
- 13 million Soviets, 6 million Poles, 1.4 million Yugoslavs, 500 000 British, 300 000 Americans.

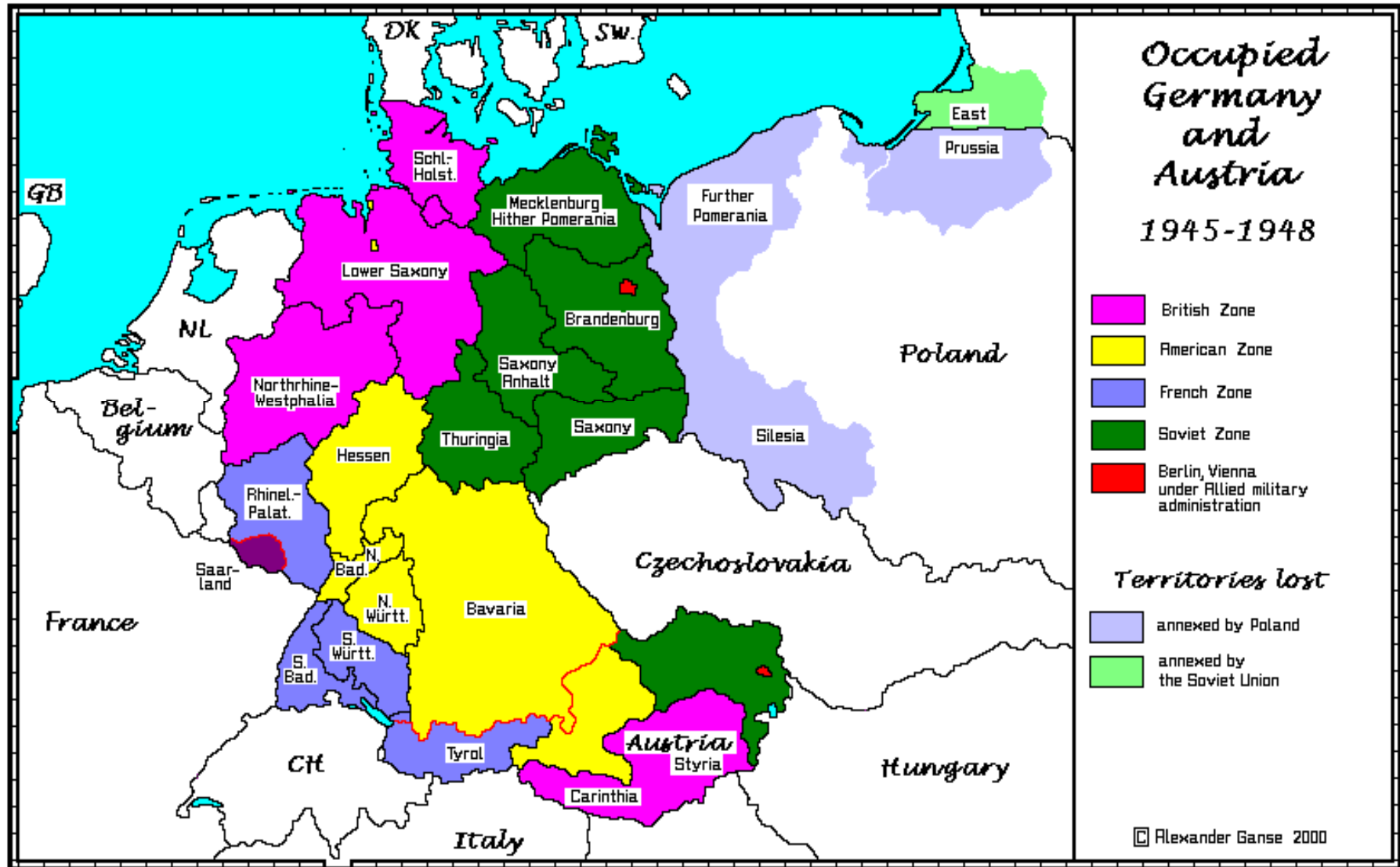
In Germany:

50 % of large cities destroyed

90 % of train tracks

Military defeat - psychological defeat

Allied Occupation



Denazification



- May 8, 1945: 8 Mio. Members of NSDAP in Germany.
- Western Allies: Focus on individual and collective guilt => retribution
- Soviet Union: Focus on capitalism as the source of nazism => securing communist power

General Lucius Clay

American Military Commander 1945



“our major administrative problem was to find reasonably competent Germans who had not been affiliated or associated in some way with the Nazi regime ... All too often, it seems that the only men with the qualifications...are the career civil servants...a great proportion of whom were more than nominal participants (by our definition) in the activities of the Nazi Party”.

Building state and society



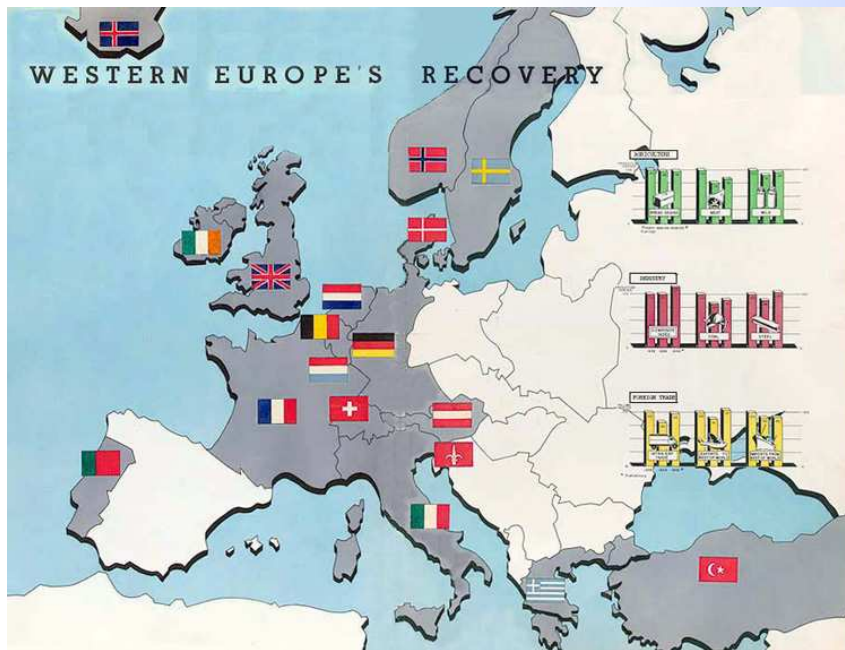
West

- Establishing parties
- Free elections
- Strengthening federalism
- Licensing media

East

- Unifying parties under communist rule
- Manipulated elections
- Abolishing federalism
- Censoring media

Marshall Plan



- Truman doctrine
- European Recovery Program: 13.8 billion \$
- Germany gets 10 %
- Jump starts the economy

Planning the economy

Believe in enhanced role of the state



East

- Severe Soviet reparations
- Collectivizing agriculture, industry, health care
- Establishing workers brigades
- Five year plans
- Strong welfare

- Yet also: **Economic miracle**
East

West

- Light Western allied reparations
- Decartellization
- Public ownership of water, electricity, transportation and communication infrastructure
- Welfare states

- **Wirtschaftswunder** West

Making New Citizens



Formalizing the division



- 1948 Currency Reform & Berlin Airlift
- 1949 FRG and GDR founded
- 1952 Stalin note rejected
- 1953 East German rebellion crushed
- 1955 Remilitarization
- 1961 The Wall



The Idea of Europeanization



- Avoid future wars
- Taming Germany (and France)

For some also:

- Disillusion with nation state
- Bridging communism and capitalism
- => Treaty of Rome 1957



