

A History of Austria

Complete proposed outline: 12 parts, 48 chapters

Working title • Liana Marie Sive • Kunstdorf Verlag

The whole work

A proposed textbook, workbook and teaching programme for Austrian history. This outline presents a new editorial structure for curriculum and classroom review. It is not a verified contents list of a completed 48-chapter manuscript. English drafts of Chapter 1, its workbook chapter and teaching sessions have been prepared.

Why this structure?

Chronology supplies orientation. Recurring questions make comparison possible: who could own, work, learn, move, exercise authority and contest it? The chapters connect institutions with everyday experience and Austrian developments with histories beyond today's borders.

The Kunstdorf teaching approach

Knowledge, source investigation and historical judgment develop together. Students establish context, examine evidence, explain a claim, test an objection, revise and then apply the method independently. The author's interpretation remains open to challenge.

Teaching and development

Three connected materials

The textbook supplies narrative, concepts and investigations. The workbook develops source comparison, writing and revision. Teacher guidance provides session plans, short lectures, source context, alternative supported answers, differentiation and assessment criteria.

Austrian curriculum and development status

The target is an Austria-focused resource for Geschichte und Politische Bildung in the AHS upper school, with separately adapted investigations for the lower school. Unit-by-unit mapping to school years, semesters, content and competency goals is underway. The 48 chapters are selectable teaching units, not a prescription for 48 consecutive lessons.

Before publication

Complete the curriculum register and source packets; review Austrian German terminology and reading level; trial lesson sequences with Austrian teachers. Final volume structure, publication dates and prices remain open. Schoolbook approval and inclusion in the Schulbuchaktion have not been obtained.

Official curriculum reference / Amtliche Lehrplangrundlage

RIS: AHS, Anlage A

Part 01 / Finding Austria

01 What do we mean by Austria?

How do maps, names and sources change the story we tell about a country?

02 Settlement, resources and early societies

What can objects and landscapes tell us about work, exchange and unequal power before written records?

03 Rome: provinces, roads and frontiers

How did imperial rule connect the Alpine and Danube regions, and whose experience survives?

04 Late antiquity and the early Middle Ages

How did migration, Christianization and changing rule reshape communities without producing a modern nation?

Part 02 / Land, towns and medieval rule

05 Land, labour and lordship

How did landholding and obligations shape the choices of peasants, nobles and religious houses?

06 From Babenberg to Habsburg rule

How did inheritance, marriage and conflict assemble territories whose inhabitants had different loyalties?

07 Towns, trade and civic life

Who could trade, join a guild, claim civic rights or be excluded from them?

08 Estates, faith and unequal belonging

How do we reconstruct the lives of women, religious minorities and others poorly represented in official records?

Part 03 / Reformation and interconnected empires

09 A changing world of trade and conquest

How did European expansion and colonial exploitation connect Central Europe to people and resources elsewhere?

10 Reformation and Catholic reform

How did disputes over faith change education, political authority and everyday life?

11 Habsburg and Ottoman worlds

What changes when we study diplomacy, exchange and border communities alongside war?

12 War, taxation and Baroque reconstruction

Who paid for armies, courts and reconstruction, and who could challenge those demands?

Part 04 / Reform, revolution and political rights

13 Maria Theresa, Joseph II and the reforming state

When did administrative, religious and social reforms expand opportunities, and when did they strengthen control?

14 Enlightenment, schooling and the law

Who gained access to learning and legal protection, and which exclusions endured?

15 Revolution, Napoleon and the order of 1815

How did revolutionary rights, war and restoration reshape the Habsburg lands within Europe?

16 1848: emancipation and the limits of revolution

Why did constitutional demands, social conflict and national movements sometimes cooperate and sometimes collide?

Part 05 / An industrial and multinational monarchy

17 Factories, households and the price of work

How did industrialization redistribute work, income, health risks and unpaid care?

18 Railways, credit and access to markets

Why did a transport connection or a loan create opportunities for some people and new dependencies for others?

19 1867: constitutional government and Dual Monarchy

How did the constitutional settlement distribute authority, and which claims did it leave unresolved?

20 Citizenship, languages and belonging

How did schooling, language policy and Jewish emancipation change formal rights and lived experience?

Part 06 / Mass politics, cultural change and world war

21 Parties, organized labour and political exclusion

How did political participation expand while antisemitism, nationalism and restrictions on women shaped its boundaries?

22 Vienna and the many centres of modernity

What made new art and ideas possible, and what disappears when Vienna alone represents the monarchy?

23 The First World War at the front and at home

How did military decisions, shortages, forced movement and civilian work shape the war across different societies?

24 1918: collapse and competing futures

Why did imperial collapse produce new states, contested borders and unresolved questions of belonging?

Part 07 / Building and contesting the First Republic

25 A republic and its constitution, 1918-1920

What did republican citizenship promise, and how did institutions turn those promises into practice?

26 Burgenland and the making of a border

How do competing maps, plebiscites and local experiences complicate an account of national borders?

27 Housing, welfare and financial stabilization

How did public finance and conflicting social programmes shape housing, health and economic security?

28 Organized violence and Schattendorf, January 1927

How can court records, newspapers and testimony establish events without flattening their political setting?

Part 08 / Democracy dismantled

29 July 1927: justice, protest and the press

How do different accounts assign responsibility, and what evidence would change our judgment?

30 Economic crisis and the rupture of 1933-1934

Which decisions and institutional failures dismantled parliamentary democracy?

31 Dictatorship, 1934-1938

How did the authoritarian regime organize power, suppress opposition and describe its own legitimacy?

32 1938: annexation and National Socialist rule

How did coercion, participation, propaganda and opportunism interact in the Nazi takeover?

Part 09 / Persecution, war and responsibility

33 Dispossession, persecution and the Shoah

How did discrimination become organized destruction, and how can victims' lives remain visible in its history?

34 Institutions, perpetrators and participation

How should responsibility be assessed across state offices, businesses, professions and individual actions?

35 War, forced labour and everyday choices

How were people in Austria connected to occupation, exploitation and mass violence elsewhere in Europe?

36 Resistance, exile and liberation

What forms did resistance and survival take, and why did the end of Nazi rule mean different things to different people?

Part 10 / Reconstruction and the Second Republic

37 1945: occupation, displacement and restitution

How did survivors, displaced people and returning exiles encounter the restored state and claims to property?

38 Reconstruction in a divided world

How did the Cold War, international aid and domestic choices shape Austria's recovery?

39 1955: sovereignty, neutrality and minority rights

What distinguishes the State Treaty from the Neutrality Act, and how were their commitments implemented?

40 Growth, social partnership and the welfare state

Who shared in rising prosperity, who negotiated its distribution, and who remained disadvantaged?

Part 11 / A changing society in a connected world

41 Decolonization and global interdependence

How did people outside Europe reshape the international order, and how was Austria connected to those changes?

42 Education, gender and social movements

How did movements around and after 1968 challenge authority in schools, families and public life?

43 Labour migration, refuge and citizenship

How did recruitment, asylum and citizenship rules shape opportunities to work, settle and participate?

44 Environment, energy and Europe after 1989

How did environmental disputes and the end of the Cold War change political choices and regional relationships?

Part 12 / Austria today: judgment and participation

45 Austria in the European Union

Since accession in 1995, how have European institutions and Austrian institutions shared authority and responsibility?

46 Democratic institutions, public money and inequality

How can evidence about budgets, representation and social outcomes help us evaluate competing policy proposals?

47 Memory, media and claims about the past

How do memorials, journalism and digital media select evidence and shape public understandings of history?

48 An independent historical inquiry

How can students frame a question, test rival explanations and present a defensible argument to a public audience?