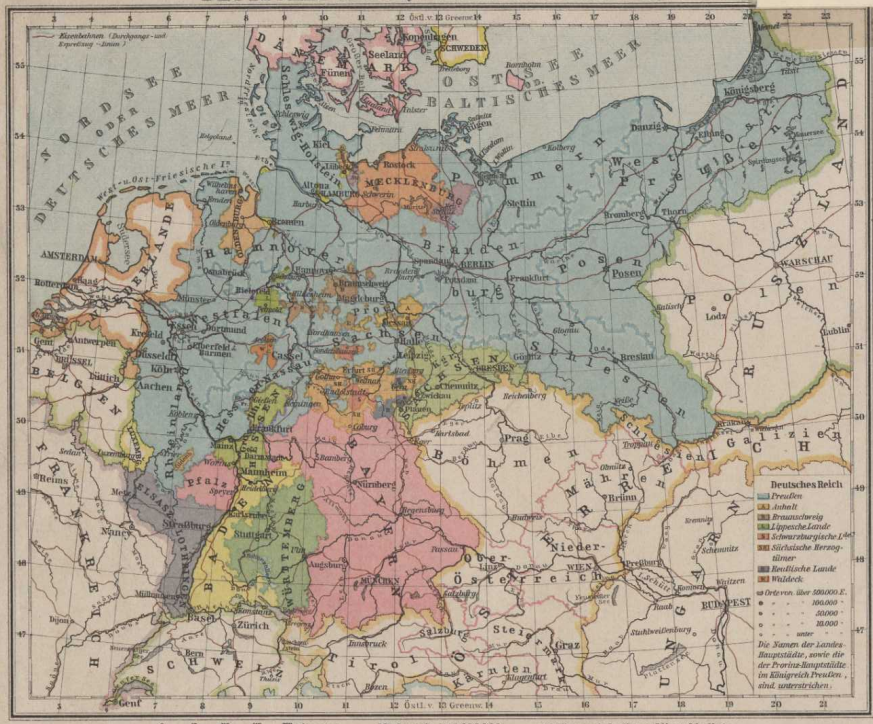DEUTSCHES REICH, POLITISCHE ÜBERSICHT