

The Munich Pact

On September 29th, 1938, the Munich Conference was held to try and solve the problem of the Sudetenland. Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy attended. Czechoslovakia and the USSR were not invited. On the 30th, all four nations signed the Munich Pact. Hitler was granted control of the Sudetenland in return for his promise to make this his final expansion of the German Reich (empire).

Neville Chamberlain, England's Prime Minister who attended the Munich Conference, returned to England and announced, "I believe it is peace in our time". Within a week, Winston Churchill began to openly criticize the Munich Pact as a "disaster" and "total...defeat". The next day, Benes resigned as President of Czechoslovakia.

Poland and Hungary took control of portions of Czechoslovakia over the next few months as agreed upon in the Munich Pact. On March 14th, 1939 Slovakia declared itself an independent nation and allied immediately with Germany. Hitler then warned the Czech President of an impending air attack on the city of Prague. President Hacha ordered the Czech army to not fight. On March 16th German troops occupied Czechoslovakia in direct violation of the Munich Pact. Czechoslovakia no longer existed.

Decision Point: How should your nation respond to Germany's action?

Relative Economic Strengths in Europe: 1930s

	Unemployment Rate (%)					Economic (% Change)			
	1932	1934	1936	1938		1929-32		1932-37	
						GDP	Indus. Prod.	GDP	Indus. Prod.
Britain	17	12	8	9	-5.8	-11.4	25.7	52.9	
France	15	14	15	10	-11.0	-25.6	7.9	20.0	
Czech.	13	18	14	9	-18.2	-26.5	20.3	51.5	
USSR	na*	na	na	na	6.9	66.7	146.7	59.3	
Germany	44	14	na	1	-15.7	-40.8	67.5	122.2	
USA	25	20	14	16	-28.0	-44.7	46.6	86.8	

na = No Statistics available. * Under the Soviet system, there was officially no unemployment

Relative Military Strengths in Europe: 1938-1939

	1938			1939			
	Army Divisions	Airplanes		Army Divisions	Airplanes	Battle ships	Subs
Britain	2	1,050		4	1,750	15	57
France	63	1,195		86	1,234	7	78
Czech.	34	600		None	None	None	None
USSR	125	3,050		125	3,361	3	20
Germany	81	1,820		130	4,210	5	65