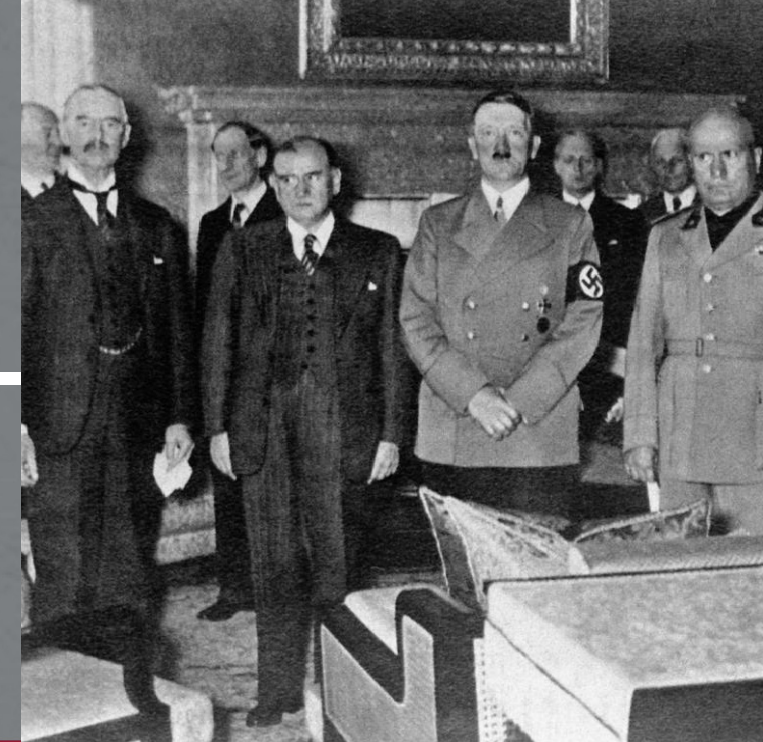




Czech refugees from the Sudetenland

- territories annexed by Poland in November 1938
- territories annexed after the Munich Agreement and the Vienna Award depicts phase at 15th March 1939
- territories annexed by the Third Reich
- Sudeten county



## TABLE

National structure of Czechoslovakia				according to 1921 census			
Czechoslovak	German	Hungarian	Russian/Ukrainian	Jewish	Polish	Other	Total
8 760 937	3 123 568	745 431	461 849	180 855	78 853	25 871	13 374 364
National structure of Czechoslovakia				according to 1930 census			
Czechoslovak	German	Hungarian	Russian/Ukrainian	Jewish	Polish	Other	Total
9 688 770	3 231 688	691 923	549 169	186 642	81 737	49 636	14 479 565

## CONSEQUENCES OF THE MUNICH AGREEMENT

The direct consequence of the Munich Dictate was the forced ceding of the Sudetenland and a Bratislava suburb to Germany. The CSR thus lost 30% of its territory along with almost 34% of its citizens. At the same time, the Nazi Germans gained huge industrial capacities and borderland fortifications without fighting. Other consequences of the Munich Agreement were the social disruption that ensued, abdication of President Beneš, declaration of autonomies in Slovakia and Sub-Carpathian Ruthenia, dismantling of the democratic establishment and the ceding of more areas to Poland and Hungary. The agony of the so called Second Republic was brought to an end on 14 March 1939 by the creation of the Slovak State and the following the German occupation of Czechia and Moravia.

## WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT THE MUNICH AGREEMENT

*“For us this is a catastrophe that we did not deserve. We submit and we will try to ensure a peaceful life for our nation. I don’t know whether your countries (Great Britain and France) will benefit from the decision made in Munich. However, I am sure we are not the last nation, others will be affected as well.”*

Edvard Beneš, Czechoslovak President

*“Great Britain and France were given the choice between war and dishonour. They chose dishonour and they will have war.”*

Winston Churchill, British politician

## MUNICH AGREEMENT IN NUMBERS

- During the fighting with Nazi terrorists, **105** members of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces were killed
- The CSR lost **28,680** km<sup>2</sup> and **3,635,392** citizens.
- **114,000** Czechs, **11,500** Anti-Nazi Germans, **7,000** Jews, and about **1,000** persons of other nationalities were evacuated into the truncated Czechoslovakia.

Sources of photographs: Militarity historical archive Prague, MartinMarek.eu

## THE MUNICH AGREEMENT SEPTEMBER 29–30, 1938

The Munich Agreement concerning the ceding of Czech border areas (so-called Sudetenland) and Petržalka to Germany represented the peak of the appeasement policy toward the aggressive regime of Nazi Germany by which the western democracies tried to avert a new world war. In reality, all they managed to do was allow the German dictator Adolf Hitler to strengthen his position both on the domestic and international political stages.



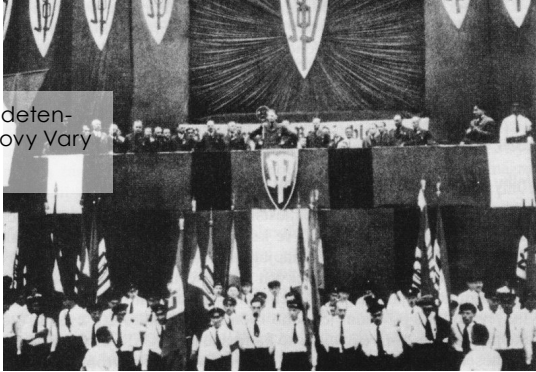
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Convention of the Sudeten-German Party in Karlovy Vary (24 April 1938)

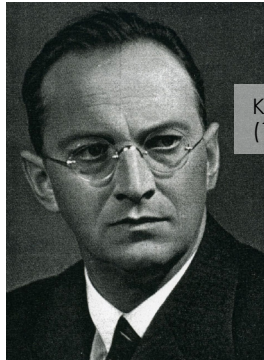


Jan Syrový (1888 - 1970)



Mobilization of the Czechoslovak Army

Konrad Henlein (1898 - 1945)



Sudeten German terrorists



The building where the Munich Agreement was signed (29-30 September 1938)



## SUDETEN QUESTION

Since 1933, Germany was governed by the Nazi regime which did not make a secret of its territorial demands against their neighbouring countries. Amongst Adolf Hitler's main goals was the destruction of the Czechoslovak Republic (CSR), where in 1935 the most votes in the general election went to the Nazi-leaning separatist Sudeten-German Party (SdP) under the leadership of Konrad Henlein.

After the German annexation (Anschluss) of Austria in March 1938, Hitler decided to destroy Czechoslovakia by means of a short and fast military campaign. At the same time, he ordered the leaders of the SdP to impose unacceptable demands on the government of Czechoslovakia. On 24 April 1938 Henlein announced an agenda in Karlovy Vary in which he demanded a total political and cultural autonomy for the Sudeten Germans.

Czechoslovakia could not successfully resist Hitler's threats without diplomatic and military support of its western allies. The British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and his French counterpart Édouard Daladier, however, wanted to avoid another conflict with Germany at any cost as the tragic consequences of First World War were still well remembered. Therefore, they asked

the Czechoslovak President Edvard Beneš and the Prime Minister Milan Hodža to come to an agreement with the Sudeten Germans even going as far as accepting the Karlovy Vary agenda.

## HITLER'S DEMANDS

On 5 September 1938, the Czechoslovak government agreed to the autonomy for the Sudeten Germans. However, Hitler was not prepared to accept a peaceful solution to the Sudeten question. Therefore, on his orders, Henlein broke off the talks with Hodža's government and on 13 September 1938 a Nazi uprising in the Sudetenland began yet was quickly suppressed by the Czechoslovak armed forces. On 16 September 1938, the SdP was banned and its leaders fled to Germany.

After the fiasco of the uprising in the Sudetenland, Hitler sent armed terrorist groups into the Czech border areas. At the same time, he was trying to make the Western countries believe that by ceding the Sudetenland to Germany all the territorial demands of the Nazi regime would be met. After strong pressure from London and Paris, on 21 September 1938 Hodža's cabinet agreed to the demand to give up the border areas where more than 50% of inhabitants were Germans. The Czech and partially even the Slovak public reacted with anger to this decision which culminated in a general strike on

22 September 1938. President Beneš then appointed a new government led by General Jan Syrový and on the evening of 23 September 1938 he ordered a general mobilisation.

## DICTATE OF THE POWERS

On 27 September 1938, Hitler threatened with a military intervention against the Czechoslovakia unless they gave up the Sudetenland by 2pm the following day. Shortly before the expiry of this ultimatum, Chamberlain informed the Nazi leader that "he can get all essentials without war, and without delay." At the same time, he asked the Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini to organize a conference of European Powers on the question of German territorial demands.

The talks on the Sudetenland crisis began in Munich on 29 September 1938 without the participation of representatives from Czechoslovakia. Shortly after midnight on 30 September 1938, Hitler, Chamberlain, Daladier and Mussolini signed an agreement concerning the ceding of the Sudetenland and Petržalka to Germany, with annexes that included guarantees on the new borders of the CSR and placed the Czechoslovak government under and the obligation to solve the status of the Polish and Hungarian minorities within three months. The cabinet of General Syrový accepted the Munich verdict on the same day.