

Czechoslovakia March 1939

Sudetenland Crisis Sept 1938

Soviet Reactions to the Sudetenland

Nazi-Soviet Pact

## Munich / Sudetenland Crisis

Sudetenland is the border land between Czechoslovakia and Germany. It contains lots of Germans, the Czech's border forts, Skoda Arms factory and 70% of their heavy industry. Hitler demanded it be his. Chamberlain flew 3 times to Germany, met at Munich and with France, Italy and Germany, told President Benes [Czech] to give up the Sudetenland. He did. [D]

Hitler felt confident, he'd got away with it again, so felt he could go for Czechoslovakia. GB began to build up its army and air force. [E]

GB began to rearm.

Hitler felt confident enough to move on to Czechoslovakia. [A]

## Czechoslovakia 1939

After the Sudetenland went to Germany other minorities demanded to leave. The Poles occupied Zaolzie. In March 1939, with riots at home, President Hacha was summoned to Berlin and told to invite the Germans in or faced being bombed. Hacha invited the Germans in and took over. [D]

This showed GB that Appeasement was over. [E]

GB promised to defend Poland if it was attacked—and this would lead to war in September.. [A]

## Nazi-Soviet Pact

Signed in August 1939, in public it was a non-aggression agreement—a bit of a shock as Hitler was an anti-Communist and Stalin anti-Nazi.

In private the Germany and USSR agreed to invade Poland. [D]

The Pact meant Germany avoided a war on two fronts when they invaded Poland. [E]

Free from a war on two fronts, Hitler invaded Poland on 1st September 1939. [A]

## Soviet Reactions to the Sudetenland

The USSR wasn't invite to the Munich Conference. Stalin was furious. He had tried to make allies with GB / France but had been rejected. He was convinced that GB and France were plotting to send Hitler against him. [D]

Stalin was angry at being excluded. He wanted time to rebuild the Soviet Army.[ E]

Stalin signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact, which lead to the invasion of Poland. [A]

Spanish Civil War

Appeasement

Reasons For

Appeasement  
Reasons Against

Appeasement  
Before Munich

## Reasons for Appeasement - doing deals with Hitler

Germany has reasonable demands—the Treaty of Versailles was unfair; Germans didn't get self determination—eg Germans living in the Polish Corridor—only Germany disarmed etc so it is reasonable to give Hitler what he demands.

Hitler is a reasonable politician, give him his just demands and tension will go away.

The British Armed forces aren't ready for war. We need time to develop planes, like the Spitfire and recruit extra soldiers.

## Spanish Civil War

In July 1936 the Spanish Army rose up against the Republican government. Italy and Germany backed General Franc. It brought them together—they signed the Rome-Berlin Axis soon after—which cleared the way for Hitler's move on Austria.

The war pushed Italy and Germany together. They worked together in the Sudetenland and Mussolini allowed Hitler to march on Austria.

## Appeasement before Munich

1935—allowing Germany to rearm—breaking the Treaty of Versailles.

1935—Anglo-German Naval Treaty—allowing Germany to rearm and break the Treaty of Versailles.

1936-Spanish Civil War—allowing Hitler to send troops and equipment into Spain, bomb Spanish cities and sink British merchant ships.

1936– ignore the Remilitarization of the Rhineland -allowing Germany to break the Treaty of Versailles.

1938– ignore Anschluss -allowing Germany to break the Treaty of Versailles.

## Reasons Against Appeasement:

Hitler will see Appeasement as weakness. Give into him and he will want more. He took the Sudetenland and that convinced Hitler he could take the rest of Czechoslovakia.

Appeasement overestimated the power of the Germans. The armed forces are still developing [and don't have the weapons they will later take from Czechoslovakia] and they have aircraft tied up in Spain.

Appeasement convinced Stalin that France and Britain were building up Germany as an enemy of the USSR. This made an alliance with Stalin less likely.

Sudetenland 1938

Reasons for Appeasement

Czechoslovakia 1939

Nazi-Soviet Pact

Reasons Against Appeasement

Spanish Civil War

Soviet Reactions to the Sudetenland

Appeasement before Munich.