

MEMO

To: Alfred Jodl, German Military Advisor
From Adolf Hitler
Re: Czechoslovakia

Herr Jodl,

Now that we have successfully met our goals in the Rhineland and Austria, we must now turn our attention to Czechoslovakia. As you know, there are three million German people living in the western region of Sudetenland in that country. The dreadful Versailles Treaty gave the land in question to the Czechs, and they have done nothing but abuse our German brothers and sisters since. We have been funneling money to the Nazi party and supporters there for months now, but the Czechs still refuse to allow them any representation in the government. The time has come to take further action.

I had a meeting with British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in Berchtesgaden on the 15th and as I expected, he did not disagree that we should be able to annex the Sudeten region as long as we do not use force. This is not acceptable, as I want to CRUSH the Czechs with the fury of our mighty military and then move on to Hungary and Poland. When I told him this, he ran back to London with his tail between his legs. A few days later, I agreed to meet with him again in Munich to further discuss my plans.

At our Munich meeting, I threatened to go to war if that was what it took to get my way. Chamberlain and his equally weak friends agreed to give me what I wanted after that. You would have enjoyed the scene there, Alfred! Chamberlain thinks of himself as a great statesman, but in truth he is just a weak shell of a man who I would very much like to push down a flight of stairs. So now, my friend, we can march freely and unopposed into Czechoslovakia to rescue our German friends and gain an excellent position from which to expand our empire to the east. It is only a matter of time until my goals for our great empire are fulfilled.

Your Fuhrer,

Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler

What Were They Thinking?!



DIRECTIONS: In your own words, explain each person's position and how it may have contributed to the Munich Agreement that allowed Hitler to invade and annex Czechoslovakia in 1939.

"War wins nothing, cures nothing, ends nothing. When I think of the 7 million young men who were cut off in their prime and the 13 million who were maimed or mutilated, the misery and suffering of the mothers and the fathers ... in war there are winners, but all are losers." - Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Great Britain 1937-1940

"We shun political commitments which might entangle us in foreign wars."
- Franklin Roosevelt, U.S. President 1933-1945

"From the military point of view time is in our favor. If war has to come, it would be better to fight her in say 6-12 months than to accept the present challenge."
- General Hastings Ismay, Military advisor to Chamberlain

"I know what the Czech government is like. I know what tyrants they can be. Is it right that France – the land of liberty – should allow Frenchmen to be killed so that the Czech government should continue to torment the Sudeten Germans?"

- Jean-Paul Sartre, French writer and intellectual

"If we could sit down at a table with the Germans and run through all their complaints and claims. That would greatly reduce tension."

- Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Great Britain 1937-1940
