

Predicting European Responses to WWII Events





The Czechoslovakia Crisis

- **1938** The Czech Crisis began in March when Hitler demanded the return of the Sudetenland claiming the German people there were being mistreated. The Czech government consulted the allies and self-determination was offered. Hitler decided this was not enough and annexed the Sudetenland.

Aggression in Europe and Africa September 1939



The Czechoslovakia Crisis

- A. Unconditionally supported Germany's demands
- B. Proclaimed neutrality (not supporting either side)
- C. Negotiated an agreement with Hitler that allowed Germany to take the Sudetenland if he promised to make no more demand on Czechoslovakia
- D. Opposed Germany's demands but did not threaten to declare war on Germany if it tried to take the Sudetenland
- E. Threatened to declare war on Germany if it tried to take the Sudetenland

The Czechoslovakia Crisis

- Britain: C negotiate—no more demands
- France: C negotiate—no more demands
- Soviet Union: D oppose government—not threaten war
- United States: B neutrality
- Poland: A support government
- Switzerland: B neutrality

The Czechoslovakia Crisis

- **1938** The Czech Crisis-The Czech Crisis began in March 1938, when Hitler promised protection for German minorities living outside the Reich. The Czech gov'n' t responded that they would defend themselves.

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain – Champion of Appeasement

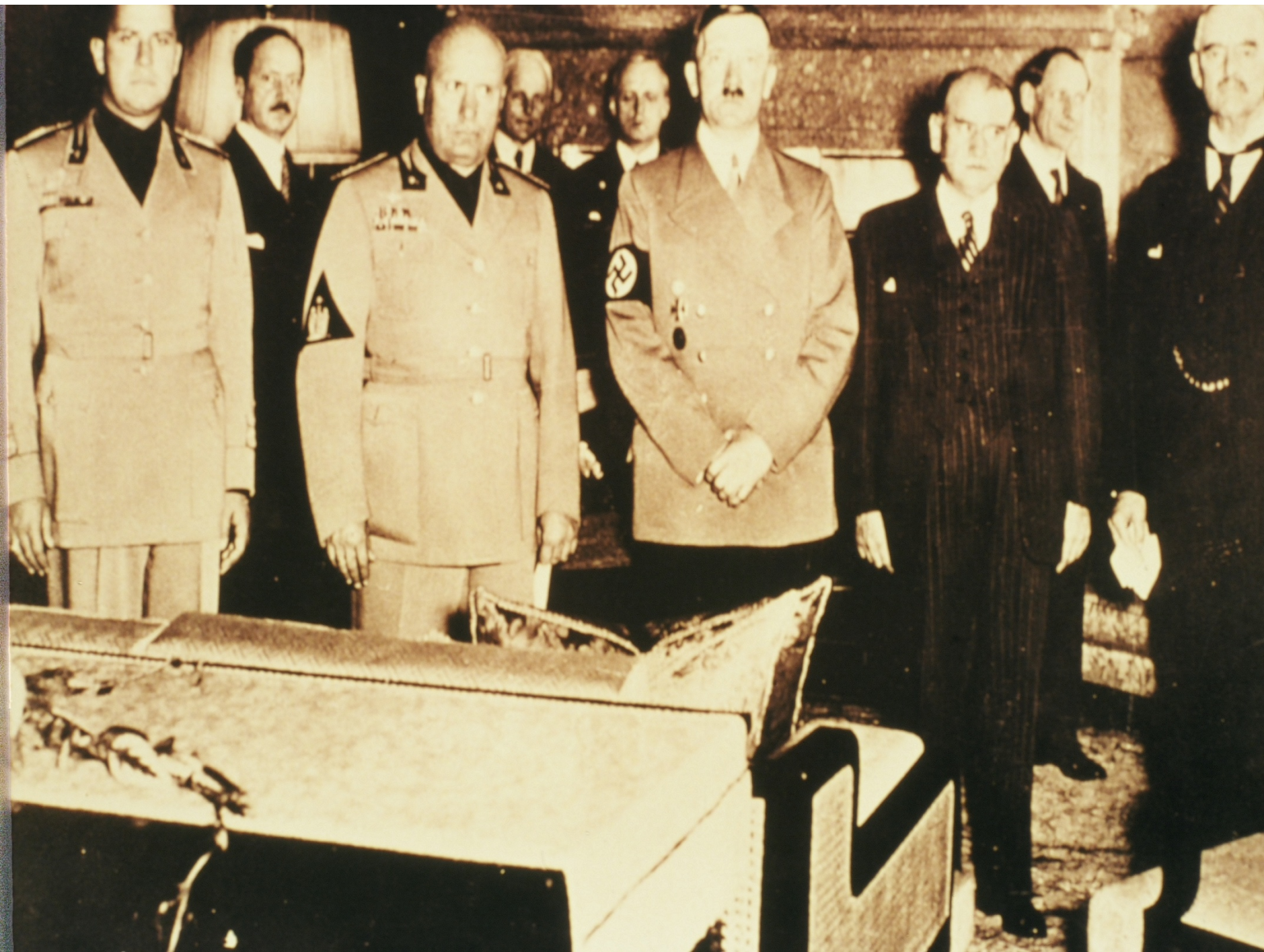


THE PILGRIM OF PEACE
BRAVO! MR. CHAMBERLAIN

The Violation of the Munich Pact

- **1938 Munich Agreement** -In a desperate attempt to avoid war, the leaders of Great Britain and France met with Hitler in Munich at the end of September. During the meeting, they gave in to Hitler's demands to cede the Sudetenland to Germany. In return, Hitler pledged that he would make no territorial claims on the rest of Czechoslovakia.

The Germans broke the Munich Pact and occupied Czechoslovakia.



Violation of the Munich Pact

- A. Supported Germany's annexation of Czechoslovakia
- B. Declared war on Germany for breaking the Munich Pact
- C. Continued to rely on appeasement, hoping that Germany had finished its territorial aggression
- D. Attempted to negotiate with Germany to pull out of Czechoslovakia
- E. Proclaimed neutrality
- F. Proclaimed neutrality, but prepared for a defensive war in case of invasion

Violation of the Munich Pact

- Britain: C. hope government will be satisfied
- France: C. hope government will be satisfied
- Soviet Union: A. support annexation
- United States: E. neutrality only
- Poland: C. hope government will be satisfied
- Switzerland: F. neutrality—defensive war

The Violation of the Munich Pact

- **1938 Munich Agreement** -In a desperate attempt to avoid war, the leaders of Great Britain and France met with Hitler in Munich at the end of September. During the meeting, they acceded to Hitler's demands to cede the Sudetenland to Germany, as well as to most of his additional demands . In return, Hitler pledged that he had no territorial claims on the rest of Czechoslovakia. War had been temporarily avoided at the cost of losing a major ally in the form of a 400,000-man Czech army.

The Germans occupied Czech territory





The Invasion of Poland

- **1939** Germany Invades Poland -(9/1/39) The German-Polish Crisis began in March, when the German government demanded the return of land given to Poland after WWI. The Poles refused, and the French and British pledged to aid the Poles if attacked. Hitler and Stalin signed a Non-Aggression Pact, pledging not to attack one another in the case of war.
- German invaded Poland.



WONDER HOW LONG THE HONEYMOON WILL LAST?

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- German invaded Poland.

The Invasion of Poland

- A. Proclaimed neutrality
- B. Proclaimed neutrality, but prepared for a defensive war in of invasion
- C. Provided financial aid to the Allies (all countries fighting against Germany and its allies, call the Axis powers)
- D. Joined Germany in its invasion of Poland
- E. Declared war on Germany, and hoped Germany would retreat from Poland, but did not actually fight
- F. Declared war on Germany and sent troops to fight the Germans

The Invasion of Poland

- Britain: E. war—hope government will retreat; not fight
- France: E. war—hope government will retreat; not fight
- Soviet Union: D. join in invasion
- United States: A. neutrality
- Poland: F. war—send troops
- Switzerland: B. neutrality—defend themselves

The Invasion of Poland

- **1939** Germany Invades Poland -(9/1/39) The German-Polish Crisis began in March, when the German government demanded that Danzig be turned over to Germany. In addition, the Germans demanded the right to construct an extra-territorial railroad across the corridor. The Poles refused, and the French and British pledged to aid the Poles. After the signing of the Non-Aggression Pact, all attempts at negotiations failed and the Germans and Poles mobilized for war. The British and the French did the same, reasserting that they would come to the defense of Poland.

Invasion of Poland – WWII Begins

September 1, 1939

- Blitzkrieg Tactics – integration of tanks, air power and motorized infantry combined with **SPEED**
 - 1. heavy air and artillery bombardment
 - 2. conventional infantry flank attack with smoke screen to conceal gathering of tanks
 - 3. Tanks attack with support from motorized divisions
 - 4. The Stuka – precision bombing and frightening whine

Invasion of
Poland





Blitzkrieg in action

The German Stuka



The Invasion of France

The “phony war” ended on MAY 10th 1940 when German Armies Invade Netherlands, Belgium & Luxembourg

In a flanking move that made the French Maginot Line irrelevant, the Germans turned their attention to capturing Paris. The French government moved south.

The Invasion of France

- A. Surrendered unconditionally to Germany
- B. Surrendered on the condition that your government retained limited independence and control of some of your territory
- C. Proclaimed neutrality
- D. Proclaimed neutrality, but prepared defenses in case the war spread to your country
- E. Fought Germany where possible
- F. Supported Germany's invasion of France

The Invasion of France

- Britain: E. fought government wherever possible
- Vichy France: B. & A. surrender and fought
- Soviet Union: F. support government
- United States: C. neutrality
- Poland: E. fought
- Switzerland: D. neutrality—defense

The Invasion of France

1. France surrendered on June 22, 1940. *Vichy France* became the puppet government and *Free France* continued to fight.
2. Britain removed its troops from France off the beaches of Dunkirk .
3. Poland attempted to fight Germans after being partitioned by Germany and the Soviet Union.
4. Soviet Union supported the invasion but did not participate in it.
5. Switzerland maintained neutrality.
6. U.S. maintained neutrality but sent supplies.



The Invasion of France

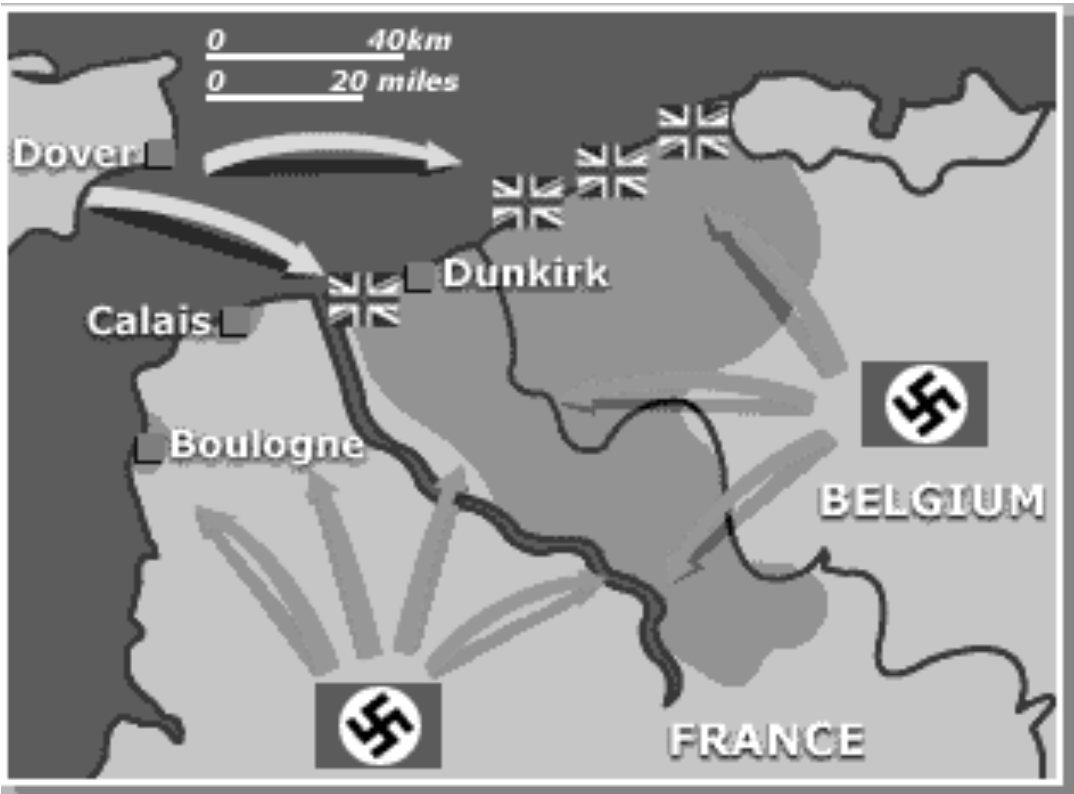
MAY 10th 1940 German Armies Invade Netherlands, Belgium & Luxembourg

In a flanking move that made the French Maginot Line irrelevant, the Germans attacked the low countries. The Netherlands surrendered in four days, after massive German attacks on Rotterdam.

Appeasement fails as WWII begins



Dunkirk



560,000 Belgian, Dutch, British, and French troops were evacuated to Great Britain



A makeshift fleet of fishing trawlers, tugboats, river barges, pleasure craft and almost anything else that would float ferried troops across the channel.







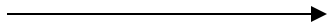
Charles de Gaulle leads exiled French government in Great Britain – called Free French Government

France Falls – Vichy France established & led by Marshal Pétain (supported the Nazis)



Hitler visits famous sites in Paris

The Eiffel Tower



The Battle of Britain

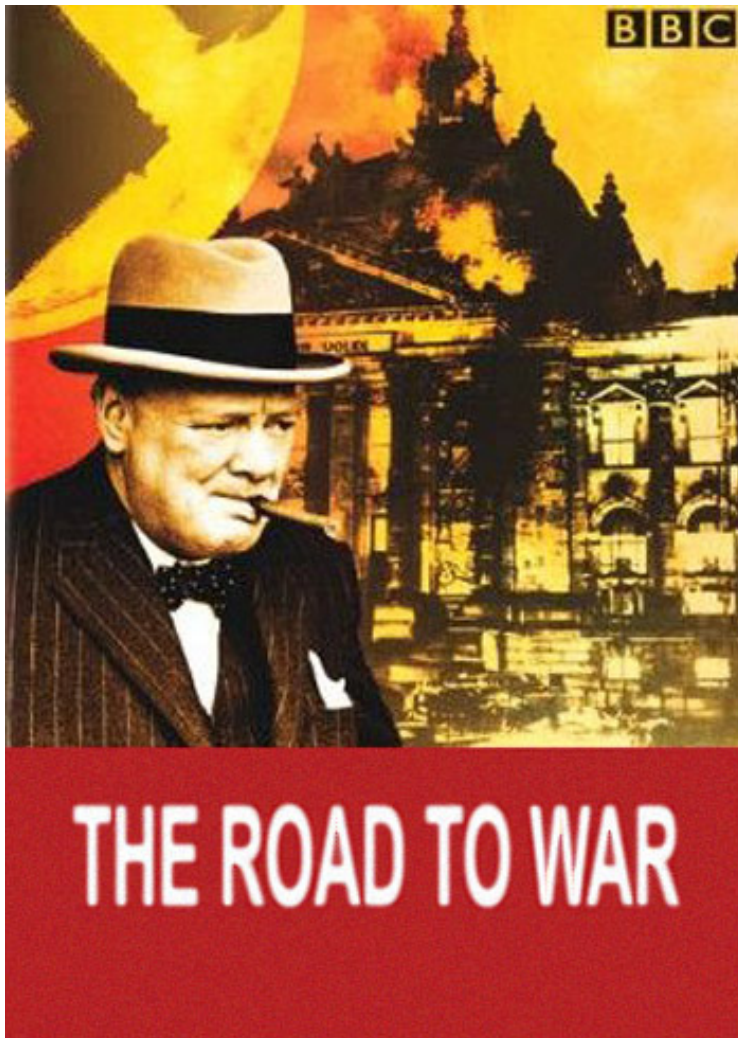
AUGUST 1940

The Germans attempted to subdue Great Britain by utilizing air attacks. Germany attacked all major cities and military installations with 1,500 planes a day.

The Battle of Britain



British Prime Minister – Winston Churchill



“We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. WE SHALL NEVER SURRENDER.”

Battle of Britain

- A. Surrendered to Germany
- B. Fought against Germany's attack on Britain
- C. Supported Germany's attack on Britain
- D. Proclaimed neutrality
- E. Proclaimed neutrality, but supported Britain with military supplies and money
- F. Proclaimed neutrality, but prepared defenses in case the war spread to your country

Battle of Britain

- Britain: B. fought
- Vichy France: C. support/fought
- Soviet Union: C. support/fought
- United States: E. neutrality with money support
- Poland: B. fought
- Switzerland: F. neutrality/defend

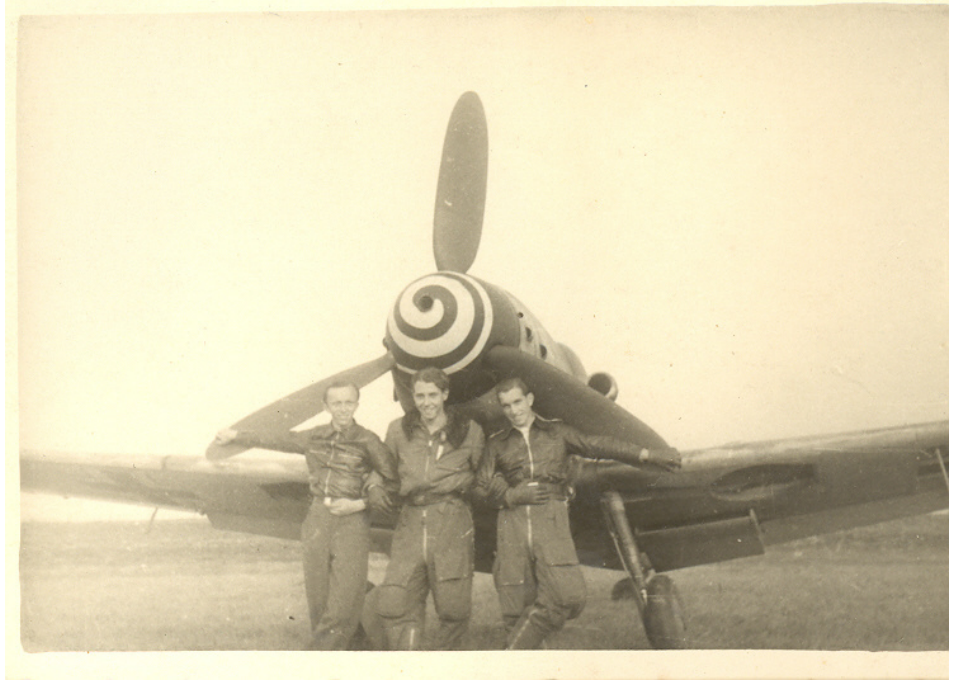
Battle of Britain

1. **France** partly supported Nazis in the battle but some contributed to the defense.
2. **Britain's** RAF fought brilliantly.
3. **United States** maintained neutrality offered support.
4. **Switzerland** maintained neutrality.
5. **Soviets** supported Germany but didn't participate.
6. **Polish** soldiers fought successfully.

The Bombing of London 1940



The German Luftwaffe



The key to RAF success - RADAR



RAF GROUP OPERATIONS ROOM - UXBRIDGE

The Royal Air Force Responds



RAF Spitfires



RAF pilots scramble for their planes



**"NEVER WAS SO MUCH
OWED BY SO MANY
TO SO FEW"** *THE PRIME MINISTER*

