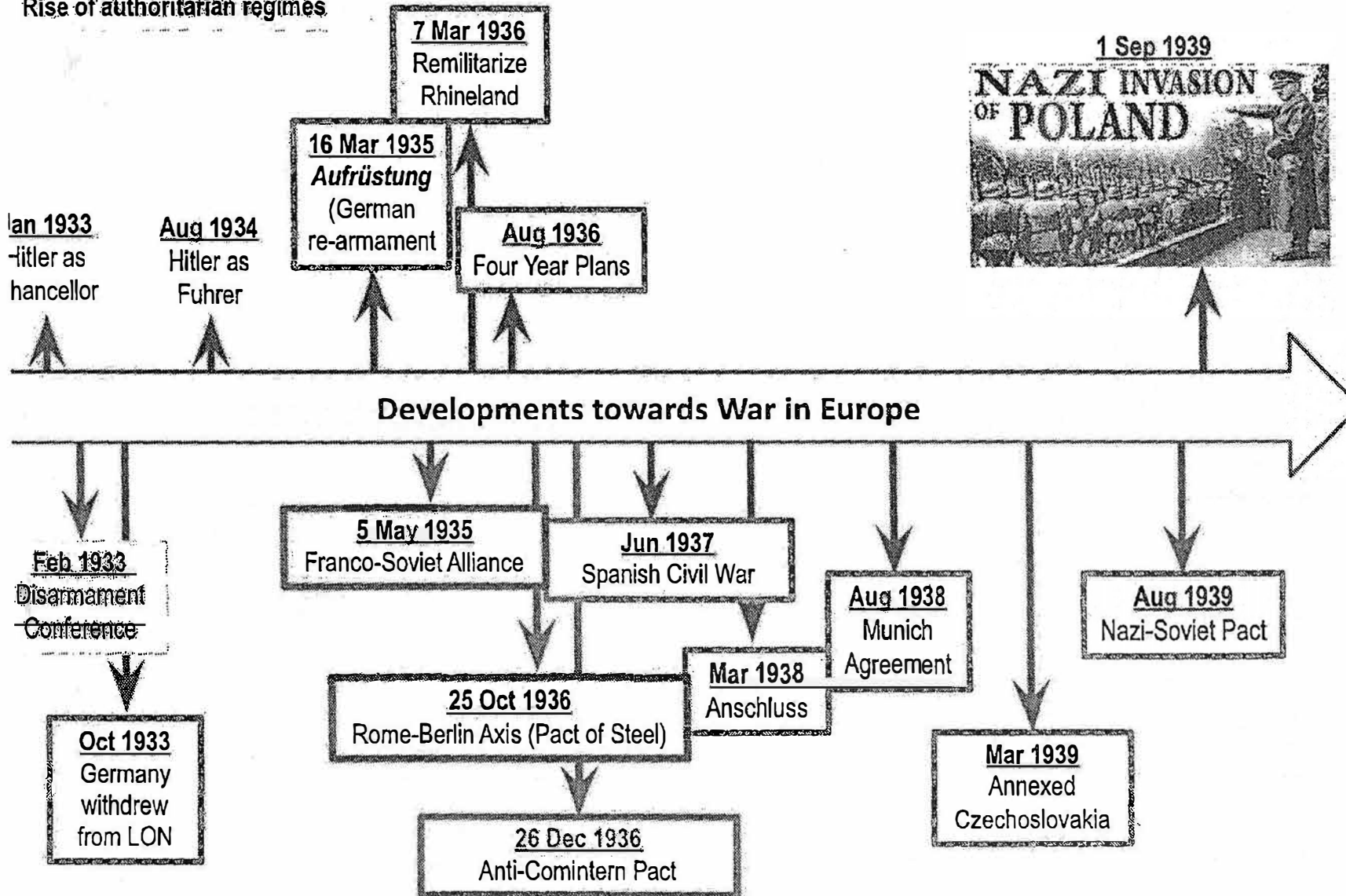


Chap 4:
Outbreak of
War in Europe

Timeline to War in Europe (Sep 1939)

Collapse of international order
Rise of authoritarian regimes



Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

Study the background information and all the sources carefully and then answer all the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.

What can you learn from this source about Hitler's aggressive foreign policy? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

Why did Hitler make this speech at this time? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Sources C and D.

How far are sources C and D similar? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Source E.

How far does Source E prove that Hitler only wanted to unite the German people? Explain your answer. [8]

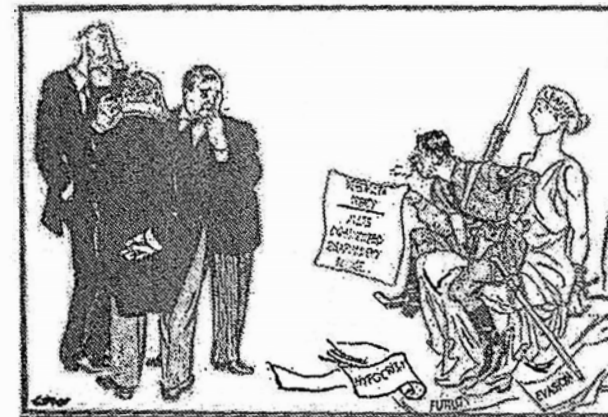
Why did Hitler adopt an aggressive foreign policy?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

Hitler's aggressive actions including the Anschluss with Austria on 12 March 1938 and his claims for Sudetenland leading to the Munich Agreement on 30 September 1938 dragged Europe to the brink of war. However, the motivations behind his actions have been disputed by historians. Some historians are of the view that Hitler was primarily motivated by his urge to reverse the Treaty of Versailles and got bolder as actions such as the remilitarisation of the Rhineland in March 1936 succeeded. Hitler had a long-term plan to conquer Eastern Europe and enlarge the German empire and to establish Aryan racial superiority in their conquered territories. So why did Hitler adopt his aggressive foreign policy?

Source A: A cartoon published in a British newspaper on 2 October 1933 during the time of the World Disarmament Conference. The men on the left represent leaders of major powers.



Source B: An extract from a speech by Hitler to the German people on 25 March 1938.

Certain foreign newspapers have said that we fell on Austria with brutal methods. I can only say; they will never stop lying. I have in the course of my political struggle won much love from my people, but when I crossed the former frontier (into Austria) there met me such a stream of love as I have never experienced. We have come as liberators, not as tyrants.

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Source C: *Adapted from records of a secret meeting between Hitler and his military commanders in November 1937.*

The Fuehrer's aim is to preserve the German racial community. This community comprises 85 million people packed within the limits of habitable space in Europe. They have the right to a greater living space than other peoples. Germany's future was therefore wholly conditional upon the solving of the need for space.

It is estimated that by 1943, Germany's new military equipment from rearmament would begin to be outdated and other countries would be more prepared to fight Germany. This left no choice but to act, at the latest by 1943.

Source D: *A prominent British historian writing about Hitler.*

Hitler wrote that Jews had caused the First World War. And the Jews were for him an all-powerful force wrecking Germany. Another war had to destroy that power. It had to be a war against the Jews.

For Hitler, the Second World War was revenge for the First. The genocide against the Jews was, for Hitler, not something separate from the war. It was central to the war itself. For Hitler the war was no conventional conflict. It was an apocalyptic struggle for revenge and salvation. It's the way Hitler saw his own place in history.

Source E: *Extracts from the conversation between British Prime Minister Chamberlain and Hitler when they first met on 15 September 1938.*

He said that he had from his youth been obsessed with the racial theory and he felt that the Germans were one. He recognised that it was impossible to bring Germans from everywhere into the Reich. But he felt that Germans on the border should come into the Reich.

So I said, "Hold on a minute; you say that the Sudeten Germans must be included in the Reich; would you be satisfied with that and is there nothing more that you want? I ask because there are many people who think that you wish to conquer Czechoslovakia."

He then launched into a long speech; he was out for racial unity and he did not want a lot of Czechs, all he wanted was Sudeten Germans.

-End of paper-

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source A: https://www.bbc.com/news/uk/2019/07/190716_hitler_meeting_military Extracted on 16th July 2023.

Source B: https://www.bbc.com/news/uk/2019/07/190716_hitler_meeting_military Extracted on 16th July 2023.

Source C: https://www.bbc.com/news/uk/2019/07/190716_hitler_meeting_military Extracted on 12th July 2023.

Source D: https://www.bbc.com/news/uk/2019/07/190716_hitler_meeting_military Extracted on 17th July 2023.

Source E: https://www.bbc.com/news/uk/2019/07/190716_hitler_meeting_military Extracted on 12th July 2023.

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Section A: Source-Based Case Study

Question 1 is for all candidates.

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer all the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.

Why did Hitler make this speech? Explain your answer, using details of the source. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

What is the cartoonist's attitude towards Britain's response to Hitler's foreign policy? Explain your answer, using details of the source. [5]

(c) Study Sources C and D.

In what ways are Sources C and D different? Explain your answer, using details of the source. [6]

(d) Study Source E.

How useful is Source E in telling you about whether Britain should be blamed for the outbreak of war? Explain your answer using details of the source and your own knowledge. [7]

(e) Study Source F.

How reliable is Source F as evidence of Hitler's foreign policy? Explain your answer using details of the source and your own knowledge. [7]

Was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of World War Two in Europe?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you answer some of the questions.

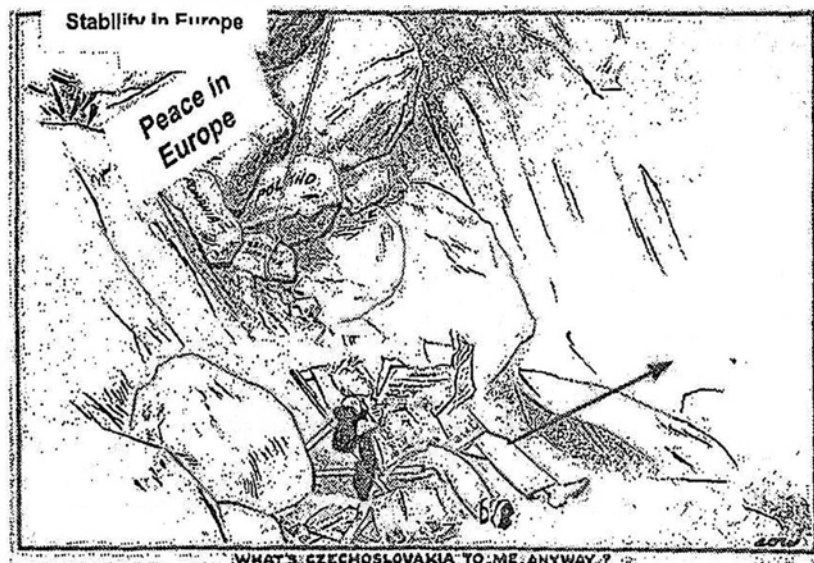
When Hitler rose to power in 1933, he promised to make Germany into a great power again. He attempted to do so through his foreign policy as outlined in his autobiography *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle). His aims included abolishing the Treaty of Versailles, creating *Lebensraum* (living space) for Germans, and fighting communism. This policy was marked by a series of aggressive and expansionist actions that set the stage for the outbreak of World War Two in Europe. However, some believed that the League of Nations, including its leaders, Britain and France, could have done more before the situation could deteriorate into war.

Was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of World War Two in Europe?

Source A: From Hitler's speech at the Reichstag (the German Parliament) on 30 January 1938 after Hitler announced his intentions of a union with Austria. His speech was also followed closely by international political observers tracing the developments of his plans for Austria.

The German Reich as well as the entire German nation have nothing else in view other than living side by side in friendship and unity with Austria. This friendship has been strengthened especially in the past year, and I wish to say here and now that we desire nothing else other than peace and the building up of our nation. I can assure you that the German Reich will never promise anything it cannot fulfil, or enter into any agreement which it cannot keep. We have therefore no intention whatsoever of making any demands on Austria which might in any way infringe upon the sovereignty of that nation.

Source B: A British cartoon published in July 1938, showing Czechoslovakia hanging on by a thin rope after the annexation of Austria.



Source C: From a book written by a British historian in 1961.

From 1938 to 1939, Germany's spending on armaments was only about 15 per cent of her economy. The British proportion was almost exactly the same. Rather Hitler planned to solve Germany's living space problem in piecemeal* fashion by a series of smaller invasions. Though I suspect that Hitler hoped to get by without war at all.

*piecemeal – done or made in a gradual way in a series of separate steps

Source D: From a report by Sir Neville Henderson, British Ambassador to Germany, to the British government in 1938. Sir Henderson was a supporter of Neville Chamberlain.

The rearmament of Germany has been continued from previous years with full force. There is clear evidence that a considerable increase is being prepared. The air force continues to expand at an alarming rate with its power further increased by the intensive development of air defence, which has reached a degree of efficiency unknown in any other country. Even the navy is training personnel considerably above the requirements of our standard. Finally, the mobilisation of the civilian population and industry for war, by means of education, propaganda, training and administrative measures have made further inroads. It is not just the army but the whole German nation that was geared up.

Source E: From the memoir of the former British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs who was part of the Chamberlain's government who pursued appeasement throughout the late 1930s. The memoir was published in 1957.

The criticism faced due to the Munich Agreement was not surprising. I should have been a critic of the Agreement myself if I was not in a position of responsibility. However, rather than blaming the Agreement, critics ought to focus on the German occupation of the Rhineland in 1936 which was in defiance of treaty provisions. I have little doubt that if we had told Hitler to retreat, his power for future and larger mischief would have been stopped. But other than the French, the British public would not directly oppose to such action in 1936. To go to war with Germany for walking into their own backyard, which was how the British public saw it, was not the sort of things they could understand. So that moment which offered the last effective chance of securing peace without war, went by.

Source F: From an autobiography by Hitler's military aide who recalls a briefing given to German diplomats and generals in 1938. The book was published in 1964.

I remember that Hitler summoned a meeting of leading figures on 28 May 1938 and made the following statement, 'I am utterly determined that Czechoslovakia should disappear from the map'. Hitler then revealed the outlines of his plan of attack on Czechoslovakia. 'Then I give you three or four years and we shall sort things out in the West.' By this he meant war with Britain and France. I was very shocked.

Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

Study the background information and all the sources carefully and then answer all the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.

What can you learn from Source A about appeasement? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

Why did the cartoonist publish this cartoon? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Sources C and D.

How far does Source C agree with Source D? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Source E.

How far does Source E prove that there was a need for Britain to appease Germany? Explain your answer. [6]

Was the Policy of Appeasement a wise policy?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

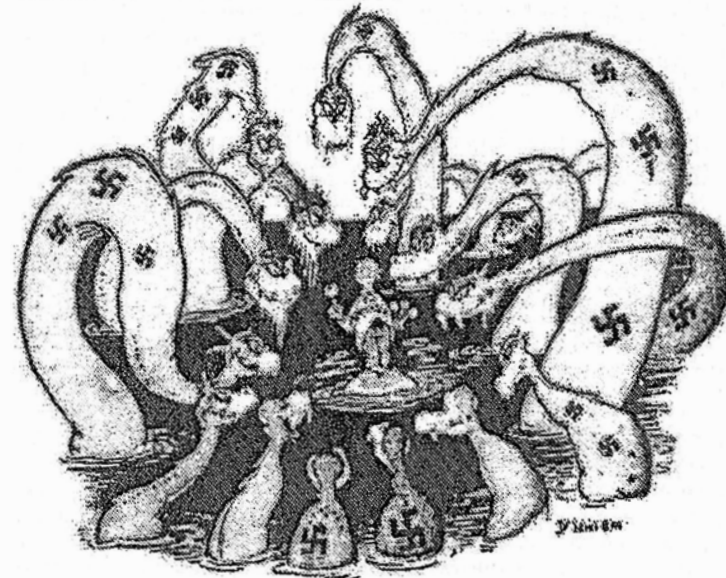
Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

Once Hitler became leader of Germany in 1933, he began to pursue a more aggressive foreign policy, beginning with the rearmament of Germany military. He subsequently went ahead with the remilitarization of Rhineland in March 1936 and Anschluss with Austria in March 1938. Britain and France tried to preserve peace with the policy of appeasement. The most famous act of appeasement occurred at the Munich Conference when the agreement was signed on 30 September 1938 between Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy, that permitted Hitler to take over the Sudetenland, part of Czechoslovakia. Many thought that appeasing Hitler was a mistake as it made him greedier and bolder in his demands. Eventually, war in Europe broke out in 1939 after Hitler invaded Poland.

Was the Policy of Appeasement to be blamed for the outbreak of WWII in Europe?

Source A: American cartoon published on 13 August 1941 on the policy of appeasement. In the middle of the cartoon stands a man labeled "Appeaser".

'Remember . . . One More Lollipop, and Then You All Go Home!'



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Source B: British cartoon published on 18 February 1938 in a British newspaper. The cartoonist shows Germany on the right crushing Austria. Next in line is Czechoslovakia and other countries, with Britain speaking to France behind.



Source C: British citizens' (Mr and Mrs Horton) letter to their Member of Parliament, Winston Churchill, on 20 September 1938, before the signing of the Munich agreement.

Dear Sir, I am writing to express my protest towards the government's policy. It encourages Nazi aggression and I am disgusted by the British policy of appeasement. The newsreels praise Chamberlain but they are deceiving the British people. You have shown that you understand the threat of Hitler. If the present government carries on, Britain will be left to face Nazi Germany alone, without any allies.

It is possible to protect peace. Hitler would not dare fight against Britain, France and the USSR combined, especially if they were supported by the USA. Britain holds the key here to resist Nazi's aggression.

Source D: British citizen's (Mr Scott Bayliss) letter to their Member of Parliament, Winston Churchill, on 27 September 1938, before the signing of the Munich agreement.

Dear Sir, I do not agree that any attempt by Germany to dominate the world can be stopped by war. The present problem we have has proven this because it's a result of the last war we fought. I therefore appeal to you to make concessions when you meet with Hitler rather than plunge us into war. Any war will fail to achieve its aim.

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Section A: Source-Based Case Study

Question 1 is for all candidates.

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer all the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.

What can you infer from the source about the Munich Agreement?
Explain your answer. [4]

(b) Study Sources B and C.

How similar are the two sources regarding the Munich Agreement?
Explain your answer. [6]

(c) Study Source D.

Why did Neville Chamberlain make this speech? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Source E.

How useful is this source as evidence of the Munich Agreement?
Explain your answer. [6]

(e) Study all the sources.

'The Munich Agreement was a mistake.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

Was the Munich Agreement a mistake?

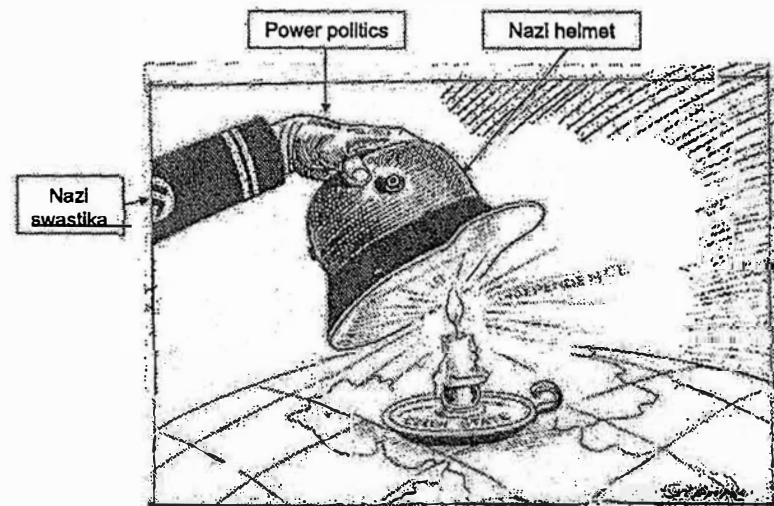
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you answer some of the questions.

In May 1938, Hitler claimed to protect the Sudeten Germans and threatened to invade if Czechoslovakia did not hand over Sudetenland. Neville Chamberlain, Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party member, made one last effort to avoid war in Czechoslovakia. The leaders of Britain, France, Italy and Germany met in Munich for a four-power summit on 29 September 1938. They decided to give in to Hitler's demands without consulting Czechoslovakia or the USSR. They agreed that the whole of the Sudetenland would be given to Germany in exchange for a pledge of peace from Hitler. This was known as the Munich Agreement. The next morning, Chamberlain and Hitler published a joint declaration in which Chamberlain claimed that the Agreement would bring "peace for our time".

Was the Munich Agreement a mistake?

Source A: A political cartoon published by a British cartoonist on 16 March 1939.



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Source B: *A speech by Duff Cooper, a member of the Conservative Party, in the UK Parliament on 3rd October 1938. He made the speech before resigning from the Cabinet.*

That is the deep difference between the Prime Minister and myself throughout these days. The Prime Minister has believed in addressing Herr Hitler through the language of sweet reasonableness. I have believed that he was more open to the language of the fist... The Prime Minister went to Berchtesgaden in Germany with many excellent and reasonable proposals and alternatives to put before the Fuhrer, prepared to argue and negotiate... He was met by an ultimatum... Once the Prime Minister found himself in the atmosphere of Berchtesgaden in Germany and face to face with the personality of Hitler he knew perfectly well... that it would be a waste of time to put forward any alternative suggestion. So he returned to us with those proposals, wrapped up in a cloak called "Self-determination," and laid them before the Cabinet. They meant the partition of a country, the giving up of territory...

Source C: *A speech by Winston Churchill in the UK Parliament on 5th October 1938 regarding the Munich Agreement.*

We in this country, as in other liberal and democratic countries, have a perfect right to exalt the principle of self-determination, but it comes ill out of the mouths of those in totalitarian states who deny even the smallest element of toleration to every section and creed within their bounds. But, however you put it, this particular block of land, this mass of human beings to be handed over, has never expressed the desire to go into the Nazi rule...

What is the remaining position of Czechoslovakia? Not only are they politically mutilated, but, economically and financially, they are in complete confusion. Their banking, their railway arrangements, are severed and broken, their industries are curtailed... There must always be the most profound regret and a sense of vexation in British hearts at the treatment and the misfortune which have overcome the Czechoslovakian Republic.

Source D: *A speech by Neville Chamberlain at Birmingham on 17th March 1939 after Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia.*

When I decided to go to Germany I never expected that I was going to escape criticism. Indeed, I did not go there to get popularity. I went there first and foremost because, in what appeared to be an almost desperate situation, that seemed to me to offer the only chance of averting a European war. And I might remind you that, when it was first announced that I was going, not a voice was raised in criticism. Everyone applauded that effort... After all, the first and the most immediate object of my visit was achieved. The peace of Europe was saved; and, if it had not been for those visits, hundreds of thousands of families would to-day have been in mourning for the flower of Europe's best manhood.

Source E: *Comments on the Munich Agreement published in a British newspaper "The Daily Express", 30 September 1938.*

Give thanks to your God. The wings of peace settle about us and the peoples of Europe. The prayers of the troubled hearts are answered. It was the war that nobody wanted. Nobody in Germany. Nobody in France. Nobody above all, in Britain, which had no concern whatever with the issues at stake... People of Britain, your children are safe. Your husbands will not march to war. Peace is a victory for all mankind. If we have a victor, let us choose Chamberlain, for the Prime Minister's conquests are mighty and enduring – millions of happy homes and hearts relieved of their burden... Now let us get back to our own affairs.