

SUDETENLAND CRISIS & MUNICH AGREEMENT 1938

C → B → A → A* JUDGE



DESCRIBE GRADE C

- Hitler wanted to expand into the area of **Czechoslovakia** known as the Sudetenland.
- **3 million German-speaking people** inhabited (lived in) the Sudetenland.
- The Sudetenland had strong, well fortified defences.
- Hitler ordered **Henlein**, the leader of the Sudeten Germans to stir up **trouble** in the Sudetenland and demand self-government and union with Germany.
- Hitler **threatened to invade Czechoslovakia** unless these demands were met.
- The British Prime Minister, **Neville Chamberlain**, believed a peaceful solution could be worked out.
- Chamberlain **persuaded** the Czech President Benes to agree to self-government for the Sudetenland.
- Hitler demanded more. Chamberlain returned to London & prepared for war.



EXPLAIN GRADE B

- **Munich Agreement:** On 29-30 September 1938, Hitler met Chamberlain, Mussolini and the French Prime Minister, Daladier at Munich.
- Czechoslovakia and USSR were **not invited** to the meeting.
- In this meeting Hitler **promised** that he did not want the rest of Czechoslovakia.
- Czechoslovakia was **forced to hand over** the Sudetenland to Germany.
- Hitler & Chamberlain agreed to a declaration that Britain and Germany would never go to war again.

ASSESS RESULTS GRADE A

- Chamberlain returned to Britain a hero. **Peace** had been maintained. He had **prevented war**, saying the agreement was '**Peace for our time**'.
- The results of Munich however were **serious** for Czechoslovakia & Europe as a whole.
- Czechoslovakia had been **betrayed & weakened**. Only a matter of time before Hitler took over the rest.
- Hitler had gained the Sudetenland without fighting.
- The Czech government was completely **humiliated**.
- Czechoslovakia was now **defenceless**: the Sudetenland contained its defences against Germany.
- Germany had gained armaments (Skoda tanks) and mineral resources (coal)
- Britain and France had again shown their **weakness** by giving way to Germany.
- Hitler decided that Britain and France were **afraid of him** and would not stop him whatever he did.
- Britain speeded up rearmament to prepare for war (they had gained a year but so did Hitler).
- USSR felt left out & betrayed → **Nazi-Soviet Pact**.

CAN YOU SPELL?

Sudetenland Czechoslovakia
Munich Agreement