



## Holocaust History Timeline: Czechoslovakia

**1918:** Czechoslovakia established.

**1933:** Germany demands the return of the ethnic German population of Czechoslovakia and the land on which it lived to the German Reich.

**September 29-30, 1938:** Leaders of Britain, France, Italy and Germany agree on the Munich Pact, allowing for the German annexation of the Sudetenland (border area of Czechoslovakia) in exchange for a pledge of peace from Hitler.

**October 5, 1938:** Czech President, Edvard Beneš, is forced to resign.

**November 2, 1938:** Germany gives large parts of Czechoslovakia to Hungary and Italy called the “Vienna Award.”

**March 15, 1939:** German Wehrmacht takes control of the provinces Bohemia and Moravia, a violation of the Munich Pact. Slovakia becomes independent under the control of Catholic priest, Jozef Tiso, whose followers establish a fascist, authoritarian, one-party dictatorship.

**March 23-April 4, 1939:** “Little War” between Slovakia and Hungary over border. Germany refuses to aid Slovakia.

**May 1939:** Hungary annexes Subcarpathian Rus. Czechoslovakia ceases to exist as an independent country.

**September 1, 1939:** Germany invades Poland starting WWII.

**November 3, 1939:** Jozef Tiso meets with Jozef Faláth, head of the Central Office for the Jewish Question. The following day, Tiso orders the deportation of Jews without property and later, those without citizenship, to Subcarpathian Rus.

**November 1940:** Slovakia joins the Axis.

**August 1-10, 1941:** Hungary expels 18,000 Jews from Subcarpathian Rus into German-occupied Ukraine.

**November 24, 1941:** Reinhard Heydrich orders the establishment of a camp-ghetto at Theresienstadt (Terezin).

**March 1942:** Slovakia is the first Axis partner to consent to deportations of Jews. Almost all those deported are killed in Auschwitz, Majdanek or Sobibor.

**May 27, 1942:** Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubis, British-trained Czech partisans, mortally wound Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the Reich Security Police and SD.

**June 4, 1942:** Reinhard Heydrich dies of his injuries.

**June 10, 1942:** Village of Lidice is destroyed as a reprisal for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich. Germans murder all men and deport women and children to camps. The village’s buildings are set on fire then completely leveled by explosives.

**March 19, 1944:** Germany occupies Hungary and overthrows the government of Miklós Kállay. Replaced by Döme Sztójay.

**April 7, 1944:** Rudolf Vrba (from Slovakia) and Alfred Wetzler escape Birkenau extermination camp. The two men would write the “Vrba-Wetzler” report which detailed the extermination process occurring. This report would later halt deportations of Jews from Hungary.

**May 9, 1945:** Theresienstadt is liberated by the Soviets. There were 16,832 Jewish prisoners at the time of liberation.