



WWII BEGINS

Terms to know:

- Anschluss – union of Austria with Germany
- Sudetenland – German speaking area of Czechoslovakia
- Appeasement – to pacify or give into demands

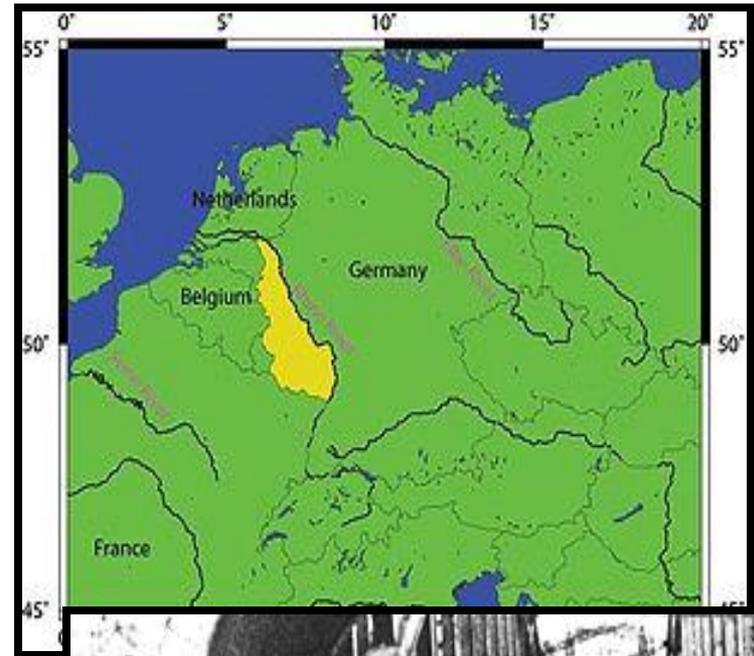
Appeasement

- Government policy of other European countries (England and France) in the 1930s was appeasement.
- “Peace at any price”



March 1936

- Hitler ordered his troops to enter the demilitarized Rhineland.
- Neither Britain or France responded to his act of aggression.
- Germany formed two important alliances:
 1. Rome-Berlin Axis Pact (Oct. 1936)
(Germany and Italy)
 2. Anti-Comintern Pact (Nov. 1936)
(Germany and Japan)



March 1938



- Hitler's next step was to begin taking back the land that had been taken away from Germany.
- In March 1938, German troops marched into Austria. The Austrian leader was forced to hold a vote asking the people whether they wanted to be part of Germany.
- The results of the vote were fixed and showed that 99% of Austrian people wanted **Anschluss** (**union with Germany**). The Austrian leader asked Britain, France and Italy for aid.
- Hitler promised that Anschluss was the end of his expansionist aims and not wanting to risk war, the other countries did nothing.

6 months later... September 1938

- Hitler demanded that the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia be handed over to Germany to fulfill its demand for Lebensraum.



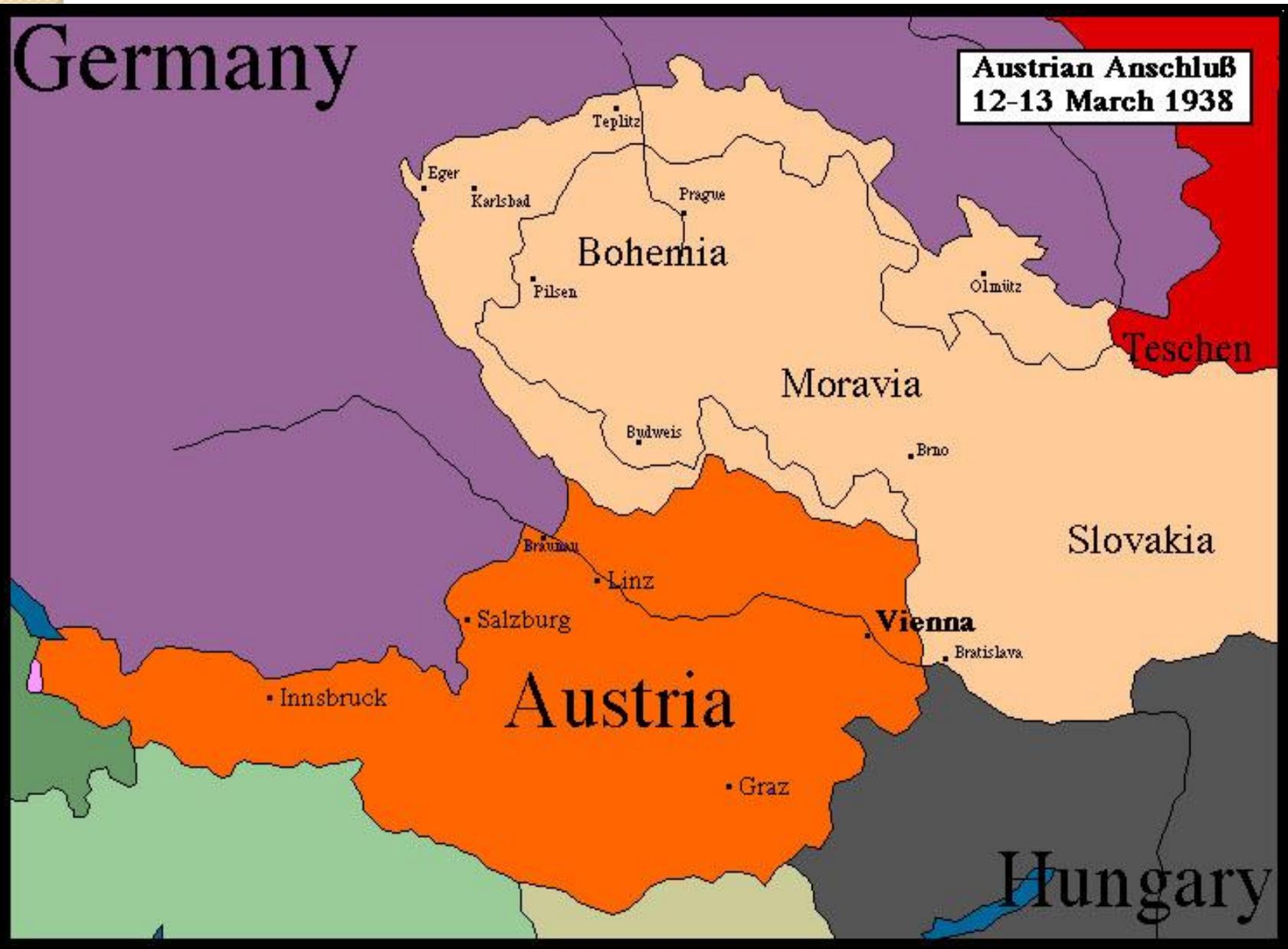
September 1938

- PM Neville Chamberlain (Great Britain) met with Hitler 3 times in Sept. 1938 to reach an agreement and prevent war.
- Munich Agreement – stated that Hitler could have the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia provided that he promised not to invade the rest of Czechoslovakia.



Germany

**Austrian Anschluß
12-13 March 1938**

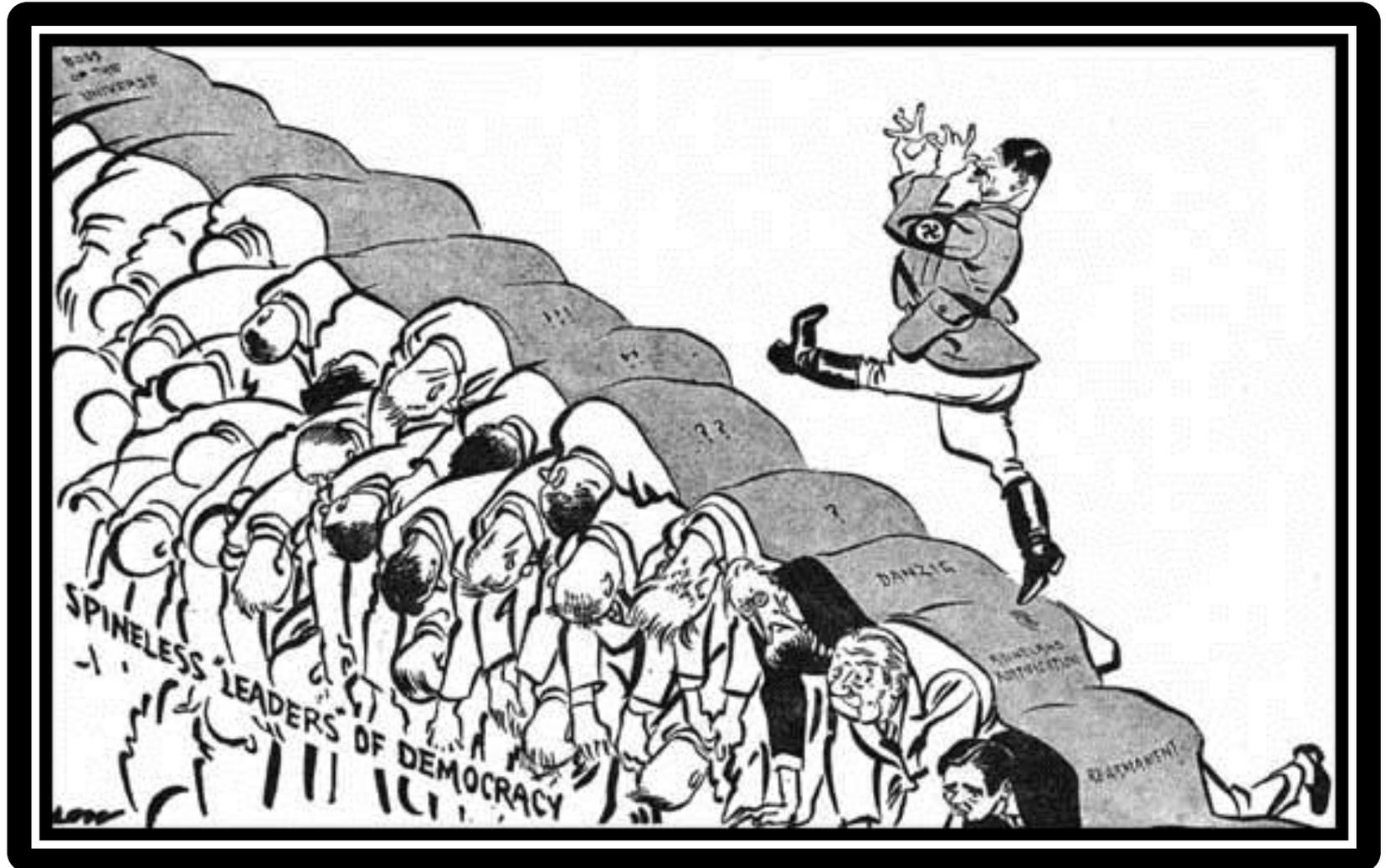


March 1939

- However, in March 1939, Hitler ordered his troops to take over the remainder of Czechoslovakia.
- This was the first aggressive step that suggested that a war in Europe would soon begin.



Appeasement Fails





Rhineland (demilitarised zone)



Austria



Sudetenland



German territory



August 1939



- Hitler and Stalin signed a **'non-aggression pact'** (The Nazi-Soviet Pact)
- They promised that neither country would attack the other in the event of war.
- As part of the deal, Hitler promised Stalin part of Poland, which he planned to invade soon.



The non-aggression pact was surprising. Hitler and Stalin were seen as natural enemies.

When Hitler talked of taking over new land for Germany, many thought that he meant Russia.

September 1, 1939

- Germany invaded Poland...without fear that the Russians would attack them.



- Great Britain and France declared war on Germany.

September 3, 1939



- As part of their agreement, the USSR also invaded Poland in mid-September.

