

HITLER FROM VIENNA TO PRAGUE

Morgan Cook

SPRINGTIME FOR HITLER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IiryTUCtLNA>

CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR

- Staunch difference
- No longer Versailles
- ”Bolder Course”
- prepared to move against Austria and Czechoslovakia as early as 1938

OPPOSITION

- Army heads worried about France
- Lack of fortification on western front
- Czech defenses
- Blomberg, Fritsch, Neurath (Foreign Minister)
- All removed from positions within 3 months

SCHACHT

- Hjalmar Schacht able to finance the rearmament
- Thought Hitler was wasting money and resources
- Hitler too consumed with arms
- Schacht continued to warn
- Allowed to stay for his mastery of the market

GÖRING AND 4 YEAR PLAN

- Göring appointed as Commisioner for Raw Materials and Foregn Exchange by Hjamar
- Plenipotentiary for 4 year plan
- Plan to make Germany self sufficient
- Shacht resigns 8 December 1937

ARMY

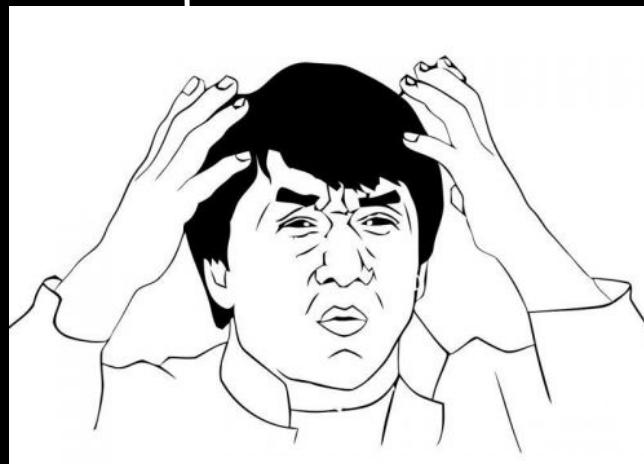
- Hitler begins to raise the strength of the army from 21 to 36 divisions
- Surprise to most within the Army
- 1936, talks about Rhineland again
- Generals felt disconnected from Hitler and his ideology
- Warry of Franco-Russian Pact

HITLER AND ARMY

- Saw army as a specialized narrow minded group of men that had limited use
- Blomberg and Fritsch both opposed Hitler, unprepared for the gear-up
- Hitler ignores them
- Blomberg marries the wrong woman and gets fired
- Fritsch to take place, wild accusations

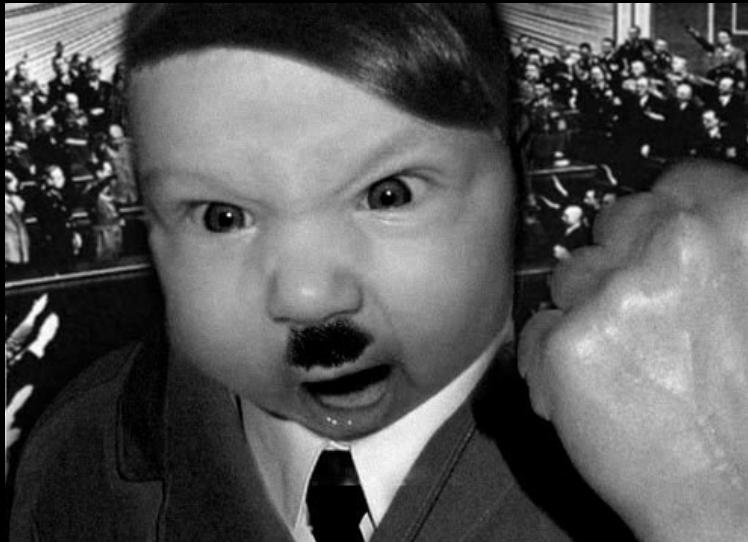
WHY NOT HITLER?

- Fritsch “resigns” leaving Commander in Chief open
- Hitler announces his plan
- No more War Ministry, its duties flow to the OKW
(a high command of armed forces)
- Hitler now takes the position of Commander in Chief



AFTERMATH

- OKW becomes Hitler's personal staff
- Neurath as Foreign Minister replaced by a loyal Ribbentrop
- Hitler now assumes power in everything



VIENNA

- Papen as ambassador to Vienna called back on February 4th
- Wanted to use leverage of the Agreement of July 1936 to undermine Austrian independence
- Still a party cooking in Austria, Hitler decides to wait on using them

MEETING OF MINDS

- Schuschnigg freaking out
- Papen can get back in business, proposes meeting in Germany, Hitler enticed and accepts
- Tea time on February 11th
- Things look like they will go well when all of a sudden...

HITLER ANGRY!!! HITLER SMASH!!!



CRITICISMS

- Criticized fortifying defenses on the German-Austrian border, this can be mirrored
- Austria is alone, no one will come
- Agree to my demands or there will be force
- Lunch with generals (not awkward)

DEMANDS

- Austrians to lift ban on Nazi Party, National socialism could be compatible with loyalty to Austria
- Seyss-In-quart to be Minister of the Interior
- Amnesty for all imprisoned Nazis, reinstatement
- Exchange of officers
- Economics to be intertwined

PLEBICITES AND INVASIONS

- Schuschnigg calls for plebiscite to be held on March 13
- Hitler angered that Schuschnigg would try to oppose him, invades at 2am on the 11th
- Hitler calls for resignation of Schuschnigg, resigns
- President Miklas refuses to make Seyss-Inquart Chancellor
- Acts like it anyways

HITLER CRIES

- Sends telegram to ask for German troops
- Citizens prevented from leaving
- Large seizure by force
- Hitler waiting for Mussolini's approval
- SI on the 13th issues law to Hitler about Austria becoming German province
- He cried, arrested 26,000 people

“PROUDEST HOUR OF MY LIFE”

-German approval rating 99.08%

-Austrian approval rating 99.75%



I'M A GAMBLIN' MAN

- Britain and France begin to worry
- France supports Czechs again
- Britain refuses to
- Mussolini reaffirms strength of the Axis
- Really pressing on Czechs now
- Army grows to 55 divisions

I KNOW GUAC IS EXTRA!
(ARMY COSTS A LOT)



CZECHS IN CHECK

- Czechs know what's up...
- Sudeten Germans being headed by Henlein
- Rumors of imminent invasion were correct
- Britain and France desperate
- Czechs mobilize near border
- France and Russia deter Hitler for now

- 23 May Hitler sends a note to the ambassador saying there are no intentions of invading
- France and Britain kinda mad at Benes
- Everyone wants a piece of Czechoslovakia
- Czechs try to appease Sudetens
- In response they issue ultimatum
- Hitler moves X-day to Sept 30, makes a speech

BUILDING TOWARDS END

- Leads to uprising
- Some shot in Sudetenland
- declaration of Martial law in Czechoslovakia
- Hitler talks with Chamberlain, Chamberlain giving him the benefit of the doubt
- Hitler delightedly says he doesn't care if there is war or not
- Hitler continually makes preparations, sure Britain and France won't attack

HITLER'S DISMISSAL AND CONTINUATION

- Chamberlain brings plan to Hitler on the 22 of September
- Hitler shuts him down completely
- Doesn't really want Sudetenland, wants to destroy Czech
- Last land demand, October 1st last deadline
- Czechs panic and start killing Germans inside Sudetenland

IT BEGINS... MUNICH

- France agrees to most German demands, Czechs would be forced to accept
 - Munich conference occurs with the prime ministers and the dictators
 - Ends with Hitler making nearly no concessions, invasion occurs 1 October
 - Czechs defeated
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-axJTzj0VU>

HITLER A HERO, THE WORLD IS SCARED

- Hitler returns home to amaze and wonderment
- Some in Europe begin to recognize the gravity of the situation
- Hitler did not get the violent victory he wanted
- Killing of more Jews
- Strengthens relationship with Italy

REST OF EUROPE

- Plans for Ukraine shut down by Poland and Russia
- Move for Danzing
- Czechs firmly under German hands
- Exploitation of Slovakia
- Hitler is now realized

SOCRATIC SEMINAR

When was the latest Hitler could have been stopped?

- A. Never
- B. Before the Anchluss
- C. Before Sudetenland
- D. Before the very end