



INFLUENCE OF WWII ON SLOVAK REPUBLIC

MICHAL ONDREJ, ADAM LESKOVJANSKÝ

THE W.W.II.

World War II was a war between the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, Japan) and the Allied Powers (Britain, United States, Soviet Union, France). Most of the countries in the world were involved in some way. It was the deadliest war in all of human history



BEFORE WAR

After the W.W. I. Germany was responsible for all damage they caused. Germany due to the Versailles treaty had to pay 33 Billion dollars compensation, they lost parts of their territory as well as parts of the military. Germany had to accept the whole blame. Facism started to grow and Hitler was getting closer to the leadership

BEGINNING

Hitler became a german chancellor on 30 January 1933.

His visions about jews and power became slowly real. In September 1939, Hitler wanted to help germany and he wanted to get his state out of the bad situation. He invaded Poland and broke the Munich agreement. Right after that move France and Britain declared war on Germany.

GERMANY AND SLOVAKIA

The Nazi leader Adolf Hitler had plans with Slovakia from the beginning. He wanted to prevent the alliance between Russia and Slovakia and he wanted to make a satellite from our country. After the Žilina agreement, which made Slovakia independent from the Czechs. Hitler offered protection to Slovakia for being a satellite for Germany and gave us a type of independence. On 13th March 1939 Hitler invited Jozef Tiso (Slovak prezident) to Berlin, where he offered him cooporation or invasion.



DURING THE WWII



IMPACT ON SLOVAK CITIZENS

During the war, our citizens were affected by many different types of situations. Since we agreed to German cooperation, Hitler started to convince Slovak political leaders and supported them to gain more control over Slovakia. Also one of the conditions of cooperation were the deportations of Jews to Germany. This completely reduced our Jewish minority, which still didn't recover. Furthermore, it had a negative impact on Slovaks, when they saw how much violence is going on, which led them to live in uncertainty and fear. Another point worth mentioning is, that many houses were destroyed and a lot of people were killed, which affected overall families, relations and lifestyle.

Wars within war

Slovakia as a state was involved in several wars during W.W.2.

- One of them was the Malá vojna, where 36 people lost their lives. This war was against Hungary in March 1939. Hungary forced us to give them our land and for this reason, Slovakia lost a huge amount of land with 70 000 citizens.
- The war against Poland took part in September when German troops attacked through Slovakia with our help. After Poland was defeated, Hitler offered us the city Zakopané, but Tiso declined because no minorities were living there.
- 16th Jun 1944 USA attacked Bratislava with 158 bombers and killed around 300 people. Their purpose was to destroy the oil refinery in Bratislava

Slovak National Uprising

It was an armed insurrection organized by the Slovak resistance movement during World War II. This resistance movement was represented mainly by the members of the Democratic Party, but also by social democrats and Communists. It was launched on 29 August 1944 from Banská Bystrica in an attempt to resist German troops that had occupied Slovak territory and to overthrow the collaborationist government of Jozef Tiso. Although the resistance was largely defeated by German forces, guerrilla operations continued until the Red Army, Czechoslovak Army and Romanian Army liberated Fascist Slovakia in 1945



THE END OF THE WAR

After the Uprising

After the anti-Nazi Slovak National Uprising in August 1944 remaining German troops were gradually pushed out by the Red Army, by Romanian and by Czechoslovak troops. The liberated territories became de facto part of Czechoslovakia again. The First Slovak Republic ceased to exist on 4th April 1945 when the Red Army captured Bratislava and occupied all of Slovakia. Several prominent Slovak politicians escaped to neutral countries. Jozef Tiso authorized the former foreign minister Ferdinand Ďurčanský as his successor. Karol Murín and cousin Fraňo Tiso were appointed by ex-president Tiso as the representatives of the Slovak nation, however, they failed to create a government-in-exile as no country recognized them.



Post-war Czechoslovakia

The Czechs and Slovaks held elections in 1946. In Slovakia, the Democratic Party won the elections, but the Czechoslovak Communist Party won in the Czech part of the republic, thus winning 38% of the total vote in Czechoslovakia, and eventually seized power in February 1948, making the country effectively a satellite state of the Soviet Union. Strict Communist control characterized the next four decades, interrupted only briefly in the so-called Prague Spring of 1968 after Alexander Dubček became First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. Dubček proposed political, social, and economic reforms in his effort to make "socialism with a human face" a reality. Unfortunately, Dubček had gone too far and this led to an invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia on 21 August 1968. Another Slovak, Gustáv Husák, replaced Dubček as Communist Party leader in April 1969.

THE CONSEQUENCES

WWII claimed over 380 000 lives of Czech and Slovak nations, over 93 000 destroyed and damaged houses and buildings, thousands of destroyed bridges from German retreat. All meanings of transport were affected as railway stations, automotive factories, oil refineries were destroyed. Prague, Bratislava and Nové Zámky were almost completely destroyed by bombardments. The whole economy of the republic suffered great damage and the number 1 priority after the war was to recover and return to normal life. A big role played an international organisation UNRRA that provided the country with over 270mil. dollars worth of supplies to help and recover after the WWII.