

German expansion leading up to the Second World War



Between 1933 and 1939, Greater Germany expanded significantly as a result of the Third Reich's annexations and conquests in eastern Europe. CREDIT: Facing History and Ourselves

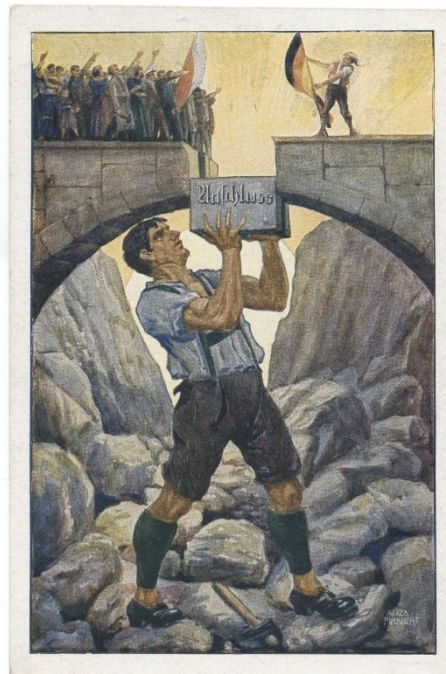
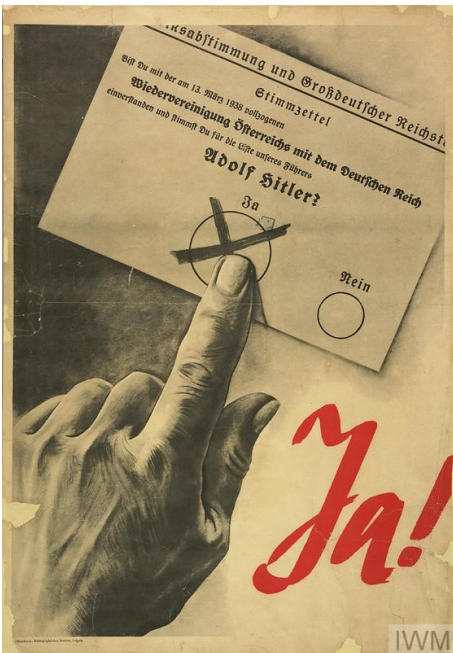
- Throughout the 1930s the Nazi Government's policy of united German-speaking peoples under one state and expanding eastward ("Lebensraum") went largely uncontested by European nations.

Why do you think this was allowed to happen?



Timeline of German Expansion:¹

March 16, 1935	In violation of the Treaty of Versailles, the Nazi Government announces the expansion of the German Army to 500,000.
March 7, 1936	German armed forces (Wehrmacht) are ordered into the demilitarized Rhineland.
March 11–13, 1938	Germany incorporates Austria in the <i>Anschluss</i> .
September 29, 1938	Germany, Italy, Great Britain, and France sign the Munich agreement which forces the Czechoslovak Republic to cede the Sudetenland, including key Czechoslovak military defense positions, to Nazi Germany.
March 14–15, 1939	Under German pressure, the Slovaks declare their independence and form a Slovak Republic. The Germans occupy the dismantled Czech lands in violation of the Munich agreement and form the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.
August 23, 1939	Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union sign a non-aggression agreement and a secret protocol dividing eastern Europe into spheres of influence.
September 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland.



¹ Uses information from United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (2021, November 15). World War II Timeline. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Retrieved November 10, 2022, from <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/world-war-ii-key-dates>