

*HISTORICAL - The Munich Conference*



*Negotiating the  
Sudetenland Crisis and  
Ensuring Peace and  
Stability in Central Europe*

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## *I. INTRODUCTION*

Although this committee is not officially affiliated with the Model United Nations, the Historical Committee has evolved over time due to an increasing interest in diverse historical events that have shaped global history. The objective is to revisit historical events and explore potential alternative solutions that could have been implemented within the current context (Model United Nations of the University of Chicago, 2021). The Committee differs mainly regarding the time and space of the event being discussed, while also possessing the ability to evaluate historical events following the predetermined rules of respect towards the historical occurrence and debating the protocol to follow, therein established by the United Nations (UNDG | United Nations Special Procedures, 2024).

The Historical Committee has undertaken prominent actions, as evidenced by the Yalta Conference, which recognized the necessity for stability and reconstruction in Europe after the Second World War. The delegates discussing the Yalta conference agreed to establish a system of collective security in Europe, which led to the creation of the United Nations (UN) to prevent future conflicts (Sadurní, 2021). Furthermore, the division of Germany into occupation zones controlled by the Allied powers was agreed upon, laying the foundations for the establishment of international institutions that have endured to this day (Sadurní, 2021). This is one example of the possible outcomes that may occur among different Historical Committees.

For this year's PASMUN the committee will be examining the Munich Conference of 1938. The Munich Conference was a meeting that took place in 1938 in the city that conforms to its name. The conference was primarily organized with the objective of reaching an agreement between the Italian Republic, the French Republic, Great Britain, and the Federal Republic of Germany, which was previously known as the German Empire (Enciclopedia Del Holocausto, 2022). The agreement was primarily concerned with the territories the German Empire was interested in acquiring. Otherwise, the leader of the Nazi party, Adolf Hitler, was aiming for a belic conflict to achieve his main goal of territorial expansion (Schwochow, 2021). The disputed territory was Czechoslovakian. The resolution of the conference: handing over the borders

known as the Sudetenland, which was requested by the German Empire, would, in theory, avoid a more significant conflict involving Europe as a whole in the future (Blackmore, 2019).

Several important political figures of the time attended this conference, such as the British Prime Minister (Neville Chamberlain), the French Prime Minister (Charles Gaulle), the Italian dictator (Benito Mussolini), and the German Führer himself, Adolf Hitler (Enciclopedia Del Holocausto, 2019). Munich was the chosen city due to the idea that it was considered the birthplace of the propaganda that shaped the political Nazi party led by Adolf Hitler (Achterhold, 2019). The importance of the Munich Conference remains valuable in today's world as stability is sought in international affairs; as seen in this conference, it could be the line between peace among the nations or a threat of armed conflict within a continent. This topic will be discussed in order to consider different alternatives and agreements that could have occurred to ensure peace in Europe and protect the citizens of the affected nations by guiding them toward a safe, secure, and bright future.

## ***II. HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM***

The causes of the First World War were complex and intertwined. Among the factors that contributed to the outbreak of war were imperialist rivalries, military alliances, rising nationalism, and political and territorial disputes across Europe. One of the specific causes of this confrontation between European nations was the growing tension between the German and British Empires over colonial rule, naval dominance, and the desire for economic and industrial supremacy. Yet another factor was the competition between the Ottoman Empire and the British Empire for control of the Middle East and Asian trade routes (BBC NEWS, 2018).

Nevertheless, the main trigger for this armed conflict was the provoked death of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary in 1914 (BBC NEWS, 2018). The combination of these events triggered a series of declarations of armed conflict due to inter European powers' military alliances. The conflict resulted in the deaths of millions of people across the countries involved. There were also significant economic and territorial losses for the defeated countries, including the German Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This led

to a new world order characterized by the weakening of colonial empires and the emergence of new states and regions. Furthermore, the conflict left unresolved issues and great resentment between nations, which have the potential to lead to future conflicts (Sadurní, 2019).

#### *a. 1918 CHECOSLOVAQUIA AND THE SUDETENLAND*

Czechoslovakia was officially established on 28 October 1918 following the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of the First World War. The population of this region was highly divided along ethnic lines, as about "50% of the population was Czech, while about 22.3% was German, 4.78% was Magyar (Hungarian), 3.79% of the population was Ukrainian, 1.29% was Hebrew and Yiddish, and the rest of the population was Polish" (Encyclopedia of the Holocaust, 2024). Despite internal conflict along ethnic lines, Czechoslovakia remained stable and strong thanks to parliamentary democracy and economic activity in the area.

The Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia itself was known as the border area or the region that surrounded the territory of the Czech Republic. These were direct borders with various European powers and territories of the time, such as the direct border with Poland, Hungary, and Germany. These regions facilitated trade and flow between different nations (Alvarez, 2020).

#### *b. 1919 TREATY OF VERSAILLES*

On 28 June 1919, a treaty known worldwide as the Treaty of Versailles was signed in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles. The treaty was signed by more than 50 nations with the intent of providing peace between European nations and formally bringing an end to the First World War by penalizing the nation guilty of this armed conflict (National Geographic, 2019). The German Empire was held responsible by the European nations for the events that transpired during the armed conflict. Many countries, including Great Britain, Spain, Belgium, and France, claimed both economic and agricultural territorial loss as a consequence of the conflict. The treaty primarily sought to punish the German Empire for its actions, requiring it to concede to different territorial divisions and a significant set of political restrictions established by the countries that drafted the treaty (Cabrera, 2019). The negotiations of this treaty saw the participation of several prominent political figures from the era, including Woodrow Wilson of

the United States of America, David Lloyd of Great Britain, Georges Clemenceau, Prime Minister of France, and Vittorio Orlando of Italy, among others.

The French Prime Minister was greatly concerned that Germany would rapidly recover and consequently, in the post-war treaty system, the French sought to hinder German efforts to regain their economic superiority and rearm. The Treaty of Versailles was perceived by the Germans as an unjust treaty that sought to impose peace by force, due to the aforementioned obstacles. This was because the treaty compelled Germany to relinquish to Belgium and other European nations several territories of significant economic and geopolitical importance. Belgium received the territory of the East Cantons, Czechoslovakia received the Hultschin district, and Poland received Poznan, West Prussia, and Upper Silesia (Enciclopedia del Holocausto, 2024). Additionally, the treaty compelled Germany to settle an extensive foreign debt to various countries affected by the war. This debt, known as the reconstruction debt, was incurred following the conclusion of the Great War. Furthermore, the treaty limited the German army to a maximum of 100,000 men and prohibited conscription. The treaty imposed restrictions on the German Navy, limiting it to vessels of less than 100,000 tons and prohibiting the acquisition or ownership of a fleet of submarines. Furthermore, the Treaty of Versailles prohibited the formation of an air force in Germany (Enciclopedia del Holocausto, 2024).

### *c. 1932 LAUSANA CONFERENCE*

In Lausanne, Switzerland from June 16 to July 9 a meeting was held with representatives from France, Great Britain, Italy, and Belgium. The concealed agreement was that, due to the economic crisis, the reparation payments created to give aid to the defiled nations during WWI by Germany were unable to be completed, leading to the decision to dismiss the remaining payments by creating the Lausanne Protocol. This agreement consisted of a temporal solution waiting to be ratified until all nations involved were satisfied with the individual resolutions brought by the United States concerning their conflict-caused debt. Overall, this protocol ended up not being ratified as it was regarded as necessary to demand reparations from Germany (Britannica, n.d.).

### *d. GERMANY 1933 - 1934*

Following the German economic devastation from the First World War, the Versailles Treaty, and the Great Depression, many people began to suffer from the scarcity of resources and high levels of unemployment in Germany. Germany faced severe inflation and economic devaluation (Enciclopedia del Holocausto, 2022). Citizens developed an unpatriotic sense of nation, with a large proportion of the German population believing that democracy was not good for the country because of past failures. As a result of social conflict, the German famine, economic collapse, and political disagreements in the German parliament, many social and political parties began to emerge to represent the needs of the people (Zamora, 2017). These parties could be extremely liberal or conservative, and all had the aim of improving the quality of life in Germany. This led to the rise in popularity of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, better known as the 'Nazi' party, led by the bourgeois politician Adolf Hitler. This party was mainly committed to an anti-democratic, anti-Semitic, and anti-communist political system (Enciclopedia del Holocausto, 2022).

On January 30, 1933, President Paul von Hindenburg officially appointed the leader of the Nazi party, Adolf Hitler, as Chancellor of Germany. On the eve of the 1933 elections, the electoral lists of the candidates for power in Germany were announced. Amongst numerous choices, many German citizens began to vote, showing their interest in the Nazi Party, as it was one of the few political parties that gave citizens a sense of unity and nationalism among the German population, hoping for change to create a strong nation (BBC NEWS, 2020). With these promises, the Nazi Party eventually won the elections with a large majority of votes, indicating that this party would be the future of Germany. After the death of President Paul von Hindenburg in 1934, Adolf Hitler came to power. With his new office and power, Adolf Hitler abolished the office of President and declared himself Führer of the Reich and the German people, in addition to his position as Chancellor (BBC NEWS, 2020). In his capacity as Führer, Hitler's decisions were not limited by the laws of the state. Therefore, Adolf Hitler became the absolute dictator of Germany and there were no longer any German legal or constitutional limits to his authority (Enciclopedia del Holocausto, 2022).

*e. FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, AND ITALY 1932 - 1935*



France, during the course of two years, being in charge of the last president of the third republic, Albert Lebrun, saw massive developments. (Élysée, 2022). The Chamber was lost to the radicals and socialists as the leader Édouard Herriot returned to its premiership which continued for the next two years, in which solutions were sought for the series of events experienced by the nation such as the mild Great Depression, political and social instability caused by the rise of fascist and authoritarian movements partially due to the rising of the Nazi power as Hitler's accession took place in 1933 (Britannica, n.d.). The epitome of this social instability took place in 1934 when a protest-turned-riot surrounding the Chamber of Deputies during an active session occurred, concealing the social power that the legally formed government yielded when facing a possible coup d'etat (Benson, 2019).

Meanwhile, Great Britain experienced an economic crisis as a consequence of the First World War since their trade fell by half and millions were unemployed alongside the Economic War. This last conflict took place from 1932 to 1938 between Great Britain and Ireland; based around Éamon de Valera disrupting the previous agreements in regard to the annuities, repayments of loans, and pensions among these nations. The solution to this was the import duties, which imposed quotas consisting of a 20 percent import duty on the livestock and all goods from the Free State of Great Britain (Bitesize, n.d.). Similar to France, fascist groups gained strength as they started to be troublesome to the government with their protests in London (Dixon, 2022).

Finally, Italy also experienced an economic crisis as an outcome of WWI and aimed to gain stability. Italy was a nation that found itself under the hands of a militarized dictatorship since 1922, the government was fascist, and the political party of the elected president self-proclaimed itself as such through its name: the National Fascist Party (PNF) (Britannica, 2024).

#### *f. 1935 - GERMAN DISRUPTION TOWARDS THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES*

On March 16, 1935, the city of Berlin witnessed one of the most decisive events in the history of the last century. Adolf Hitler declared the unfulfillment of the Treaty of Versailles by creating the German armed forces known as Wehrmacht. The treaty implied that the central

powers recognized their responsibility of causing belic conflicts by remaining unarmed as a consequence of their acts. Alongside this declaration, a brutal series of executions of politicians better known as the Hummingbird Operation (or the Night of the Long Knives) occurred as Hitler used this protocol to avoid obstacles in following his plan and eliminating those critics that were against his regime. Thousands of people were murdered and arrested during this night (Crespo, 2019).

Following the creation of the German Wehrmacht, Germany began to militarize every corner of its nation. In contrast, Nazi idealism became increasingly pronounced, with citizens being guided more by religious and racial categories imposed by the ideology of the political system. A vital factor in these categories were the Reich Citizenship Law and the Nuremberg Race laws imposed against the Jews. As a result of these actions, the German population began to rise in fear, seeking refuge in the farthest reaches of civilization. The German army was aware of all situations within the country, and labor camps were increasing in numbers, and a large part of the German population was arrested for even the most minor offenses. The dominance of the Nazi regime in Germany was also beginning to resonate as a threat to the outside world (Reichstag, 2014). Countries such as France, Britain, Belgium, and others were extremely concerned about the rise of German power and the threat of a possible belic conflict based on land and debts caused by the past war.

### ***III. REAL LIFE OUTCOME***

As a response to the imminent threat of armed conflict from Germany, representatives of European nations such as Britain, France, Italy, and Germany met in Munich to negotiate terms aimed at averting war and achieving a peaceful settlement. The resulting treaty encompassed a series of stipulations and agreements, with outcomes that engendered both beneficial and adverse implications, thus shaping diverse perspectives on the future of Europe.

#### ***a. DEVELOPMENT***

The development of the Munich Conference was based on four crucial events occurring between 1937 and 1938. As a basis for this agreement, we have the first event which was the



international context and the desire for expansion on behalf of Germany following the ending of the treaties established by the First World War (BBC Bitesize, 2018). Seeing this, Adolf Hitler began creating strategies to expand his territory, as seen with the crisis in the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia. Given that a large part of the population within the Sudetenland was partly German, Adolf Hitler demanded the territory given that its inhabitants were German. This was the second event leading up to the Munich Conference. The third event was based on the "Preparatory Negotiations" (Holocaust Encyclopedia, n.d.). With the risk of a European conflict, diplomatic negotiations began between the leaders of Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Italy to solve the crisis.

The Munich Conference took place on 29-30 September 1938 in Munich, Germany. It was convened as the main attempt to resolve the Sudeten crisis to prevent an armed conflict between more nations (as allies to Czechoslovakia would be forced to join the conflict). At the conference, the Munich Agreement was reached, allowing Germany the power to annex the Sudetenland in exchange for a guarantee that Adolf Hitler would no longer seek to expand his territory (BBC Bitesize, 2018). In this agreement, Czechoslovakia was forced to cede the Sudetenland without its consent.

#### ***b. POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE OUTCOMES OF THE CONFERENCE***

In the Munich Conference, the settled agreement in exchange for a pledge of peace from the German Führer Hitler established the annexation of the Sudetenland to Germany. The seeking for peace and the availability of the nations to find a solution to avoid a bigger conflict in Europe as threatened by Hitler can be considered a positive outcome since the greater good (preventing conflict escalation) was prioritized.

The foreseen circumstances had as a consequence a conflictous communication with Checoslovaquia when facing the foreseen circumstances regarding the agreement of the division of its territory, therefore, it was determined that its presence was not required as part of the negotiation (Holocaust Encyclopedia, n.d.). The reason why this territory was demanded was that Hitler openly supported the demands of the German speakers in the Sudetenland region. Nevertheless, he was not able to fulfill them at that moment due to his lack of power in the

nation, whose territory did not fall under his sovereignty. After the successful annexation of Austria, Hitler pursued the occupation of the Sudetenlands (History.com Editors, 2020). The previously mentioned points could be considered as negative outcomes since all involved nations (including Czechoslovakia) were not considered. Additionally, even though the demands were from German speakers, they did not fall under Hitler's jurisdiction.

### *c. FOUNDATION OF PERSPECTIVES*

- Germany
  - The Munich Agreement was perceived by the Germans as an outstanding diplomatic victory and as a show of support towards Adolf Hitler's foreign policy. The accord, which was seen as a triumph for German diplomacy under Hitler's direction, made it easier to annex the Sudetenland, a part of Czechoslovakia that was home to German-speaking people. This move was justified as making up for the injustices caused by the Treaty of Versailles. On the home front, it promoted pride in the country and unity by presenting Hitler as a formidable leader who could restore Germany's proper position in Europe without using force. Given that Britain, France, and Italy were involved in the negotiations, it gave Germany's expansionist goals some international credibility. From a strategic perspective, the Munich Agreement gave Germany time to stabilize its position and be ready for more expansion, which resulted in the dismissal of the Munich Agreement and the invasion of Poland: resulting in the start of World War II (Business Bliss FZE, 2023).
- Great Britain
  - The Munich Agreement seemed to give Great Britain the time to improve its military as it was weak compared to nations such as Germany. It was simply not ready to face a belic conflict. Their participation in this peace treaty was driven by their awareness of their weaknesses; the pursuit of peace was instituted in the hopes of avoiding an armed conflict that Great Britain assumed they could not overcome at that moment (Baumann, 2013).
  - Due to the desire of the German leader to continue Germany's expansion, the British Prime Minister Chamberlain decided to make the signing of the

agreement public, considering that if a greater conflict were to spark, Hitler would be going against his word in front of the world (Imperial War Museums, n.d.).

#### *d. GUIDELINES*

The Munich Agreement addressed a wide range of demands put forward by the countries participating in the conference. Ultimately, an agreement was reached that set out the following key points for promoting peace all around Europe;

1. Upon the request of the German leader Adolf Hitler, Czechoslovakia was forced to cede the territory of the Sudetenland directly to Germany.
2. In addition, the Czechoslovak government was to evacuate the territory of the Sudetenland within a specified period of one month so that the German armed forces could occupy the destined territory.
3. Great Britain and France were responsible for signing the treaty and offered a series of peaceful, civil, and economic guarantees for the new borders that resulted from the territorial exchanges.
4. In spite of the territorial loss, Germany assured Czechoslovakia that it would maintain its existence and territorial integrity outside the Sudetenland, thus giving it autonomy and nationality.
5. At the request of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on behalf of Great Britain, Adolf Hitler, on representing Germany, had to ensure that this territorial acquisition would mark the end of his territorial claims across Europe, promoting an appeasement policy (although not legally binding).

6. The major European governments formally recognized Germany's annexation of the Sudetenland through the Munich Agreement.

The Munich Agreement was first seen as a diplomatic victory that prevented hostilities. Ultimately, though, it was discovered that this accord did nothing more than postpone the start of World War II (The Munich Agreement, 2020).

#### *IV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS*

Before and during 1938, major nations worldwide were forced to take action to prevent and secure peace, culminating in the Munich Agreement. These actions were prompted by events that each country was facing concomitant Germany's territorial disputes. As an effort to secure peace both domestically and internationally, various measures were taken to mitigate the effects of catastrophic events and to promote cooperation through multilateral, bilateral, and national diplomacy. These efforts sought to resolve crises affecting several nations in an interconnected manner through the creation of agreements and alliances.

##### *A. BEFORE 1938*

###### *1929 - 1939 The Great Depression:*

Following the downfall of the U.S. stock market, an international economic crisis sparked and continued to spread across nations. The unemployment crisis and the lack of insurance for those vulnerable groups who could not get a job were the pillars that led to the creation of the Social Security Act in the United States (History Editors, 2023). Fascism and militarization were proven to have a significant presence as they were part of the government even in democratic countries such as Japan. The critical times occurring internationally demanded a change, particularly a social one, as reflected through the governmental regimes that ruled nations such as Italy and Germany (Gale Cengage Learning, n.d.).

###### *1931 Japan and China:*

The Great Depression not only caused an internal crisis among the involved nations but also sparked the need to seek materials that were not available within the regions leading to invasions. Such was the case for the Mukden incident, a northeast portion of China dominated by Japanese troops. The occupation took place without the official approval of the Japanese Government. After three months of expansion due to the seeking of raw materials to support the growing industries, an investigation was conducted to determine the official cause of the extensive residence of the military troops. The League of Nations was in charge of determining the outcome of this event as it yearned for peace; it was demanded through the Lytton Commission that Japan withdraw from this region of China and was labeled as an aggressor, nevertheless, the occupation in Manchuria did not terminate until 1945 (Swift, 2023).

### *1933 London Economic Conference:*

After the Lausanne Conference in 1932, where international debts were acknowledged and settlement agreements between the British and French governments were held, it was decided to host a conference among nations to stabilize international currency rates. The lack of participation of the United States while being attributed to the spark of The Great Depression contributed to deepening the crisis. The elected US President Roosevelt decided that his attendance would be an invitation for possible interference in the already settled plan to recover America's economy. This decision led to the downfall of this conference as Great Britain was not recognized as a world economic leader since the attempt to try and set an example through holding the United States accountable for the crisis, leading to a unifying effect among nations was unfulfilled, a temporary stabilization agreement came to be achieved through the known “bombshell message” which is premised in the US Reciprocal Tariff Agreement Act (Clavin, 2013).

### *1935 Italy and Ethiopia:*

The effectiveness of the League of Nations was put into question when Ethiopia fell under Italian subjection in a belic conflict that lasted approximately a year; later seen as one of the episodes that prepared the way for World War II as Italy’s decisions to take action were not supported by the great powers. Abyssinia was one of the independent states in European-dominated Africa, a border incident between Ethiopia and Italian Somaliland was the

reason for the intervention, and the Italian invasion started when the Italian military pushed back the inexperienced Ethiopian forces. International tensions were raised after the Italian imperialist claims. The invasion was condemned by the League of Nations and an economic sanction was demanded on the proclaimed aggressor, nevertheless, the sanctions remained ineffective as there was a conflict of interest with Great Britain as they found themselves accommodated in East Africa resulting in the lack of interest from the other major powers to intervene. The missing stability served as a rallying point since nationalist movements started to rise in Africa (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 2024).

## **B. DURING 1938**

### **Multilateral Actions:**

The League of Nations was founded in 1920 to establish a peace and assistance agreement between the 26 signatory countries around the world (Nations, 2020). In 1938, the League organized a series of conferences and debates on the Sudetenland crisis and other tensions in Europe to inform and assess the world crises that were occurring at that same time. The League also sought to coordinate an international response to the escalation of conflicts in Europe and Asia. Diplomatic efforts were also made through conferences, treaties, and multilateral negotiations to defuse the growing tensions in Europe, although the results of these actions were limited in the face of German aggression (*Las Potencias Del Eje En La Segunda Guerra Mundial*, 2022).

### **Bilateral Actions:**

During this period there were numerous ongoing bilateral negotiations between Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Italy to resolve the Sudetenland crisis. These negotiations included proposals for territory and security guarantees to try to prevent armed conflict. These direct negotiations resulted in various pacts and agreements, such as the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact (Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact) of August 1939, which was preceded by bilateral negotiations that influenced international politics prior to the Munich Conference (Nations, 2020).



### National:

Several Western countries adopted national policies of appeasement towards Germany, seeking to accommodate its demands in order to avoid future conflicts over territory or political attitudes. The policies adopted reflected the national choices that influenced diplomatic and military strategies prior to the conference. On the other hand, at the national level, many European countries made military and diplomatic preparations in response to Germany's actions. Preparations included mobilizing troops, fortifying borders, and forming strategic alliances to counter growing Nazi influence (BBC Bitesize, 2017). These actions could be said to reflect the complexity of international efforts before and during the Munich Conference in 1938, where the powers sought to manage the Sudeten crisis and the tensions that eventually led to the Second World War.

### ***V. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS***

As per the state of world affairs and international tension at the time of the Munich Conference, with the intent of preserving peace and prioritizing the avoidance of any armed conflicts, the following solutions are proposed:

1. Encouraging the use of multilateral forums and conferences to discuss alternative approaches:
  - a. Throughout the 1930s, conferences were implemented to discuss alternative approaches concerning possible ways to address the needs of nations involved in events such as The Great Depression with the London Conference (Pells and Romer, 2024). However, the participation of the concerned nations was not encouraged since, in 1933, countries with great importance such as the United States did not attend. Hence, when hosting conferences to discuss the possible plans of action, impartiality is required to seek for the greater good of those involved, particularly the stability of the political, academic and business sectors, therefore, the creation of an independent organization is encouraged. (President John J. DeGioia, 2018).

2. Establishing regulations for the use of propaganda:
  - a. The spread of unsupervised and revised propaganda is a source of misinformation, mainly when it is the primary source of the population's information. Germany is a demonstration of how effective propaganda is in spreading the ideals of a particular political party; after Hitler created the Ministry of Propaganda and Public Enlightenment, there was no institution assigned to prevent the information from being biased, to the extent that its effectiveness resulted in the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as the actions executed by the nation were unable to be processed by a national court (Holocaust Encyclopedia, 2022).
3. Strengthening diplomatic engagement in political negotiations around Central Europe:
  - a. Encouraging peaceful solutions towards territorial, economic, and political disputes is one of the most effective ways to prevent conflicts. For the issue at hand, hastening stability through diplomatic engagement and political negotiations in Central Europe is essential.
  - b. Fostering regional and international participation in common general and internal disputes such as security challenges, ethical differences or territorial demands to strengthen diplomatic ties that'd then lower political and cultural tensions. At the same time, open dialogue and understanding across nations should be encouraged.
4. Enhance exchanges in the cultural and educational sectors to promote understanding and cooperation regarding the possible economic, civil, and political crises in Central Europe:
  - a. Enhancing cultural and educational exchanges within Central Europe in 1938 could foster mutual understanding and cooperation both politically and socially in the midst of potential economic, civil, and political crises. Cultural exchanges, such as the ethnic exhibitions in Czechoslovakia and Poland, came to promote empathy and reduce ethnic tensions among Germans living in those regions (ONU, 2024).
  - b. Educational exchanges would build informed academic leaders, fostering collaborative problem-solving and tolerance of different issues. These would

generate initiatives aiming to prevent economic crises and armed conflicts as they have in the past. This would see the promotion of trade agreements, strengthening stability and resilience across Europe (ONU, 2024).

5. Ensuring civilians human rights during militarized occupations:

- a. Enhance aid offered to the victims of cease fire, cover their basic needs including provisional housing and healthcare required due to the possible injuries. Strengthening alliances with neighborhood nations in order to avoid conflict spillage and a refugee crisis, through intergovernmental organizations such as the League of Nations whose priority is international cooperation, peacekeeping and international security (Naciones Unidas Oficinas de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra, n.d.).

## ***VI. COUNTRIES INVOLVED***

### **1. Federal Republic of Germany:**

Germany was a primary reason for the Munich Conference, as the desire of the German Führer Adolf Hitler for territorial expansion threatened peace in Central Europe, both socially and politically speaking. By the annexation of the territory of the Sudetes (as agreed to in the real-life Munich Conference), Germany agreed to stop its threats and desires for territorial expansion, thereby ensuring peace among European nations which was the primary point of contention that led to the creation of the conference. German Führer Adolf Hitler's political position arose following the Munich Conference, as he solidified his political hold on power by winning over more citizens of his nation. This strengthened Germany's standing in Central Europe and boosted its influence over neighboring states. By demonstrating that the Western nations were willing to yield to Germany's expansionist objectives to prevent an immediate armed clash, the Conference set a hazardous precedent. This just served to reinforce Germany's territorial expansionist policies, in violation of the original pact. The Munich Conference, however, first viewed as a diplomatic triumph in averting war, really set the stage for Germany's

1939 invasion of Czechoslovakia and the eventual start of World War II (Enciclopedia del Holocausto, 2024).

## **2. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

The United Kingdom's participation in the Munich Conference was vital in maintaining order. Prime Minister Chamberlain publicly signed the agreement alongside the German Führer Hitler, creating a statement that if it were to be disrupted and a belic conflict was to be unraveled, it would contradict Hitler's position and peace and stability across Europe would be endangered. Its inexperienced military was one of the reasons why this agreement was sought to be executed for the UK; it was a matter of sourcing alternatives that would proportionate time to prepare to face Germany if it were to continue expanding, as it later did in the Polish Invasion in 1939. Germany, by strengthening its alliance with countries such as Italy and the rising popularity of fascism, presumptively left Western countries with no choice but to yield (Imperial War Museums, 2024). Britain's negotiations resulted in the rise of awareness throughout Europe, forcing Germany to publicly expose its position regarding militarized occupations through the agreement, although later broke the covenant in the Polish Invasion.

## **3. Republic of France:**

Alongside the United Kingdom, France was another Western nation that played a critical role in the agreement since Germany counted on a geographically close ally, Italy. France balanced the conference as it was the United Kingdom's ally, present throughout history ever since WW1. An active search for peace was sought, revealing its population desire to prevent the conflict from escalating and agreeing to yield to Germany's demands over the Sudetenland region. France's transparency for the mere pursuit of peace through its open alliance with the United Kingdom led to the annexation of the Sudetenland territory by Germany to be nothing more than an act in pursuit of avoiding the hazards that came with the undeniable possibility of an armed conflict (Caquet, 2019).

## **4. Republic of Italy:**

At the Munich Conference, Italy's participation was crucial for achieving the treaty's signature. Within the framework of the Rome-Berlin Axis, Italy, led by the fascist government of Benito Mussolini, had already formed an alliance with the German government and its leader, Adolf Hitler. Italy's stance at the Munich Conference was impacted by this strategic partnership since Italy backed Germany's territorial claims over the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia. In order to stop the outbreak of hostilities, Italy and Germany at the conference applied diplomatic pressure on France and the United Kingdom, two Western powers, to recognize Hitler's territorial claims and prevent a future armed conflict. On the other hand, Italy's attendance at the Conference strengthened the Rome-Berlin axis' stance and solidified Germany and Italy's partnership by increasing the trust and relationship between its leaders (DeA, 2022).

5. Czechoslovakia
6. United States of America
7. Republic of Polonia
8. Republic of Austria
9. Hungary
10. Russian Federation
11. Canada
12. Japan
13. People's Republic of China
14. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
15. Republic of Armenia
16. Moldova
17. Kazakhstan
18. Republic of Latvia

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