

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,402
[MUSIC PLAYING]

2
00:00:03,402 --> 00:00:12,660

3
00:00:12,660 --> 00:00:15,810
March 12, 1938.

4
00:00:15,810 --> 00:00:17,840
The Anschluss.

5
00:00:17,840 --> 00:00:21,780
The Nazi invasion was timed to
prevent the Austrian elections,

6
00:00:21,780 --> 00:00:24,410
which would have registered the
determination of the majority

7
00:00:24,410 --> 00:00:26,840
of the people for independence.

8
00:00:26,840 --> 00:00:28,790
The Austrian
Republic was annexed

9
00:00:28,790 --> 00:00:31,040
to greater Germany
without a struggle

10
00:00:31,040 --> 00:00:33,830
according to the program
Hitler outlined years

11
00:00:33,830 --> 00:00:38,120
ago in his book, Mein Kampf.

12
00:00:38,120 --> 00:00:40,520
And Hitler declared
that this event did not

13
00:00:40,520 --> 00:00:43,340
endanger the Czechoslovak
Republic, against which

14
00:00:43,340 --> 00:00:45,360
he had no aggressive designs.

15
00:00:45,360 --> 00:00:47,840
General Field Marshal Hermann
Goering made this declaration

16
00:00:47,840 --> 00:00:49,430
in even stronger terms.

17
00:00:49,430 --> 00:00:52,400
Nevertheless, in Mein
Kampf years before Hitler

18
00:00:52,400 --> 00:00:55,610
had said that Czechoslovakia
must be destroyed.

19
00:00:55,610 --> 00:00:57,605
But behind its natural
mountain frontiers--

20
00:00:57,605 --> 00:01:01,010
[MUSIC PLAYING]

21
00:01:01,010 --> 00:01:04,510

22
00:01:04,510 --> 00:01:09,370
--Prague, the beautiful old
capital of Czechoslovakia,

23
00:01:09,370 --> 00:01:11,510
was a peaceful and
prosperous city

24
00:01:11,510 --> 00:01:13,580

with a population of
about a million people.

25
00:01:13,580 --> 00:01:20,550

26
00:01:20,550 --> 00:01:24,060
On the great Hradcany, the
Castle Hill above the town,

27
00:01:24,060 --> 00:01:26,490
were the cathedrals
palaces and Baroque

28
00:01:26,490 --> 00:01:29,955
monuments inherited from
Bohemia's long historic past.

29
00:01:29,955 --> 00:01:35,140

30
00:01:35,140 --> 00:01:38,860
The cathedral of St. Vitus,
a great national shrine

31
00:01:38,860 --> 00:01:41,590
which grew up through
five centuries,

32
00:01:41,590 --> 00:01:44,350
was the heart of this region
of palaces and churches.

33
00:01:44,350 --> 00:01:47,578
[MUSIC PLAYING]

34
00:01:47,578 --> 00:02:10,759

35
00:02:10,759 --> 00:02:13,340
The castle itself on
the Hradcany, once

36

00:02:13,340 --> 00:02:15,530
an imperial residence
for the Habsburgs

37

00:02:15,530 --> 00:02:18,590
and built by the empress
Maria Teresa was now

38

00:02:18,590 --> 00:02:20,450
the official home
of the President

39

00:02:20,450 --> 00:02:23,300
of the Czechoslovak
Republic, Dr. Edward Benes.

40

00:02:23,300 --> 00:02:31,590

41

00:02:31,590 --> 00:02:33,750
At the foot of
this historic hill,

42

00:02:33,750 --> 00:02:36,000
modern Czechoslovakia
was putting forth

43

00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:38,400
a characteristic effort.

44

00:02:38,400 --> 00:02:40,890
Modern structures for
dwellings and offices

45

00:02:40,890 --> 00:02:44,070
rose against the
background of the past

46

00:02:44,070 --> 00:02:46,380
these brawny workmen
of all the races

47

00:02:46,380 --> 00:02:48,060
and religions of the Republic--

48
00:02:48,060 --> 00:02:53,010
Czech, Slovak, Bohemian, German,
Catholics, Protestants, Jews--

49
00:02:53,010 --> 00:02:56,550
are examples of the
Czechoslovak democracy that we

50
00:02:56,550 --> 00:02:57,780
grew to know it this year.

51
00:02:57,780 --> 00:03:05,290

52
00:03:05,290 --> 00:03:07,510
Czechoslovakia's
constitution was

53
00:03:07,510 --> 00:03:10,180
modeled on that of the
United States of America.

54
00:03:10,180 --> 00:03:12,430
And her general
national policy was

55
00:03:12,430 --> 00:03:14,950
based on the ideals of
the League of Nations

56
00:03:14,950 --> 00:03:17,480
and collective security.

57
00:03:17,480 --> 00:03:20,420
After Austria had been
swallowed up by Germany,

58
00:03:20,420 --> 00:03:23,360
the world's attention
turned to Czechoslovakia.

59

00:03:23,360 --> 00:03:25,250

And the press of the
world was anxiously

60

00:03:25,250 --> 00:03:28,970

read by everybody in Prague.

61

00:03:28,970 --> 00:03:32,720

Here in the center of the
city, in the Wenceslas Square,

62

00:03:32,720 --> 00:03:35,720

the newsstands did a
rushing business in papers

63

00:03:35,720 --> 00:03:36,920

from all countries.

64

00:03:36,920 --> 00:03:40,392

[MUSIC PLAYING]

65

00:03:40,392 --> 00:03:50,830

66

00:03:50,830 --> 00:03:54,520

Gas masks and precautions
against air raids

67

00:03:54,520 --> 00:03:57,700

suddenly became a matter
of great popular concern

68

00:03:57,700 --> 00:04:02,410

after the Anschluss, in spite
of the reassuring declarations

69

00:04:02,410 --> 00:04:06,250

made by Hitler and General
Field Marshal Hermann Goering,

70

00:04:06,250 --> 00:04:09,160

in spite even of the
solemn guarantees made

71
00:04:09,160 --> 00:04:13,060
to Czechoslovakia by the great
powers who were her protectors

72
00:04:13,060 --> 00:04:15,010
and allies.

73
00:04:15,010 --> 00:04:17,260
There were too many copies
of Hitler's Mein Kampf

74
00:04:17,260 --> 00:04:20,810
available to make the present
German declarations quite

75
00:04:20,810 --> 00:04:21,310
convincing.

76
00:04:21,310 --> 00:04:24,646
[MUSIC PLAYING]

77
00:04:24,646 --> 00:04:46,250

78
00:04:46,250 --> 00:04:51,200
Instructions in the dangers and
results of air raids and then

79
00:04:51,200 --> 00:04:53,900
the consequences to be
expected from the use

80
00:04:53,900 --> 00:04:57,440
of deadly chemicals
and poison gas

81
00:04:57,440 --> 00:05:01,280
were given in the
factories and schools.

82

00:05:01,280 --> 00:05:04,760

Workers, women,
and children were

83

00:05:04,760 --> 00:05:08,340

taught what to expect from
the pirates of the air

84

00:05:08,340 --> 00:05:09,770

and how to guard against it.

85

00:05:09,770 --> 00:05:13,263

[MUSIC PLAYING]

86

00:05:13,263 --> 00:05:56,700

87

00:05:56,700 --> 00:05:59,520

A lively interest in
all European culture

88

00:05:59,520 --> 00:06:02,390

was mixed with this
anxiety for the future.

89

00:06:02,390 --> 00:06:10,090

90

00:06:10,090 --> 00:06:14,320

Valka means war,
and everyone knew

91

00:06:14,320 --> 00:06:15,600

where the threat came from.

92

00:06:15,600 --> 00:06:19,260

93

00:06:19,260 --> 00:06:21,430

Bookshops in the
center of the town

94

00:06:21,430 --> 00:06:24,490
displayed the works of
great progressive authors,

95

00:06:24,490 --> 00:06:28,410
most of them forbidden in
Nazi Germany and Austria.

96

00:06:28,410 --> 00:06:34,050

97

00:06:34,050 --> 00:06:38,730
There was no
censorship in Prague.

98

00:06:38,730 --> 00:06:41,640
New books dealing with the
present state of Europe,

99

00:06:41,640 --> 00:06:44,040
the dangers threatening
all democracies

100

00:06:44,040 --> 00:06:47,940
and the fate of Austria
were of special interest--

101

00:06:47,940 --> 00:06:50,420
and with good reason.

102

00:06:50,420 --> 00:06:55,000