

A successful democracy created by the Treaty of St Germain
in 1919
President Edward Benes.

Jim Birney and pupils of Waid Academy, Fife, Scotland

World's 6th largest industrial employer
World's 7th largest arms manufacturer

14 million people including 7m Czechs,
2m Slovaks, 3.5m Sudeten Germans
and many Magyars (Hungarians), Rumanians and Poles

Strong natural frontier – encircling mountain chain
Border fortified with many defensive structures
Army was well organised and efficient (34 divisions)
Large armaments industry – including the famous Skoda works
Airfields in Czechoslovakia could be used by France and Russia.

Doubts about the reliability of the French as allies
Russia might not act on her own
Russia couldn't get through Poland or Rumania to reach Czechoslovakia

Fact File

The Czechoslovakian Crisis 1938

Sudeten Germans

Hitler's Intention

To cause so much trouble in the Sudetenland that Hitler
would have to intervene to prevent a Civil War
To persuade everyone that he was concerned
about the Sudeten Germans and not the territory.

3.5 million German speaking people
Sudeten German Party led by Konrad Henlein
Secretly financed by the German Nazi Party
Against democracy – thought it a weak system
Thought of themselves as members of the 'great cultural community of Germans'.

Nuremberg Rally