

Document D: Henry Channon (Modified)

Henry Channon was born in America but became a member of Parliament in Britain in 1935. Throughout his life, he kept a detailed diary. The entry below is from the day that Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia, March 15, 1939.

Hitler has entered Prague, apparently, and Czechoslovakia has ceased to exist. No balder, bolder departure from the written bond has ever been committed in history. The manner of it surpassed comprehension, and his callous desertion of the Prime Minister is stupefying...The PM must be discouraged and horrified...I thought he looked miserable. His whole policy of appeasement is in ruins. Munich is a torn-up episode. Yet never has he been proved more abundantly right for he gave us six months of peace in which we re-armed, and he was right to try appeasement.

Source: *Henry Channon, diary entry, March 15, 1939.*

Document E: Lord Halifax (Modified)

Lord Halifax was the British Foreign Secretary from 1938 –1940 and was a key figure in supporting the policy of appeasement. In 1957 he wrote his memoirs, which included long sections devoted to defending the policy of appeasement. The following excerpt comes from his memoirs, Fulness of Days, and attempts to give one reason why appeasement was a good policy.

When all has been said, one fact remains dominant and unchallengeable. When war did come a year later [in 1939] it found a country and Commonwealth (the United Kingdom) wholly united within itself, convinced to the foundations of soul and conscience that every conceivable effort had been made to find the way of sparing Europe the ordeal of war, and that no alternative remained. And that was the best thing that Chamberlain did.

Source: *The Earl of Halifax, The Fulness of Days, 1957.*