

The impact of the Second World War on the population of Slovakia



“I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat“

-Winston Churchill

In this brochure you can find out about:

- Main characteristics
- Deaths during WWII
- Impact on kids
- Consequences of the war
- Population movement
- New jobs
- New buildings





World War II is still the largest and most extensive armed conflict in human history, costing the lives of about 45 to 60 million people. The fighting took place in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Pacific, and involved both men and women from both other inhabited continents: America and Australia. During the six years of its existence, tens of millions of civilians, millions of members of the armed forces have died, entire cities have been destroyed and incalculable damage has been done to human property and cultural heritage.

- **Date:** 1 September 1939 – 2 September 1945
- **Location:** Europe, Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean, South-East Asia, China, Japan, Middle East, Mediterranean, North Africa, Horn of Africa, Central Africa, Australia, briefly North and South America
- **Result:** Allied victory
- Fall of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Imperial Japan
- Allied military occupations of Germany, Japan, Austria and foundation of the Italian Republic in place of the Kingdom of Italy
- Beginning of the Nuclear Age
- Dissolution of the League of Nations and creation of the United Nations
- Emergence of the United States and the Soviet Union as rival superpowers and beginning of the Cold War

Their immediate causes were tensions caused by the ill-conceived Treaty of Versailles, the Great Depression at the turn of the 1920s and 1930s, which critically weakened all states and their governments, and the weakness of the League of Nations and Powers to maintain world peace and oversee the Versailles system, which enabled the rise of the Nazi regime in Germany under the leadership of Adolf Hitler and his supporters.

Population in 1939 (Czechoslovakia)	Victims in total	Victims / % of population
15 300 000	365 000	2,39%



Many children had to grow up quickly during wartime. They had to look after themselves and younger scouts and girls guides. Younger children helped salvage war materials, raised money for munitions or knitted comforts for troops. Most schools in the towns were closed. A lot of children lost their parents during war and families were poor, they siblings while their mother worked. Nearly two million children were evacuated from homes to escape the bombing. Children of all ages could get involved in the war effort. Older boys and girls joined the boy had only a certain amount of food for the day. During the war, many children between the ages of 14 and 17 were in full-time employment and this caused school dropouts increased significantly. Separations from fathers or sons left devastating effects, and in a sense, many felt robbed of their childhood.

Evacuation

Who was evacuated?

- *Schoolchildren and their teachers*
- *Mothers with children under five*
- *Pregnant women*
- *Some disabled people*
...were evacuated to safer countryside locations in just two days.



WWII required about 380 000 victims from the ranks of Czech-Slovak citizens. The economy of Slovakia suffered much greater damage than in the WWI. Many factories were damaged.

Prague, Bratislava, Nové Zámky were bombarded and almost completely destroyed. 93 000 homes were damaged and destroyed. During the regression, Germans destroyed bridges, railways, took away wagons and cars-1945 whole traffic was paralyzed.



The most important task was to restore normal life. The restoration of life was helped in the first months by the supply of raw materials from the USSR, later by the help of the international organization UNRRA, which supplied the Czechoslovak Republic with raw materials for 270 mil. dollars. 1946-47 the government accepted a two-year economic recovery plan for years 1947-48.

- The war drove out many people from their homes, deprived people of their homes and many ran away to villages. German soldiers violently evacuated men. After the war, prisoners from concentration camps were returning home.
- After 1938- Hungarian occupation offices are returning refugees back to Slovakia and the representatives of power who were assigned here by the government from Budapest are returning to Hungary.
- 1945- after conference in Postupime the victorious powers decided to evict members of the german minority from Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary.
- End of the 1947- from Czechoslovakia 2 996 000 people with german nationality left voluntarily or violently.

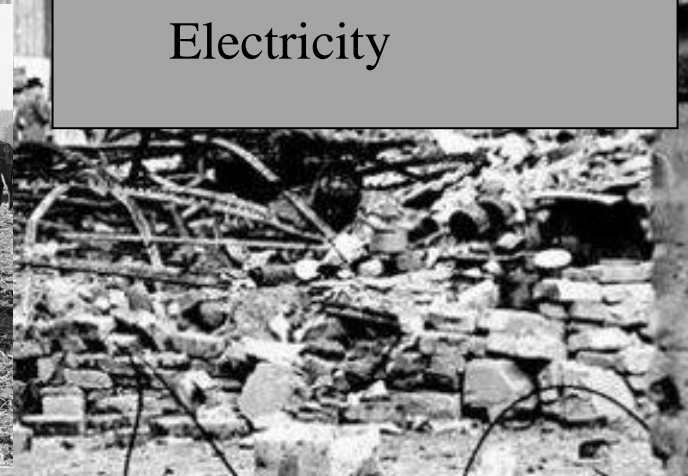
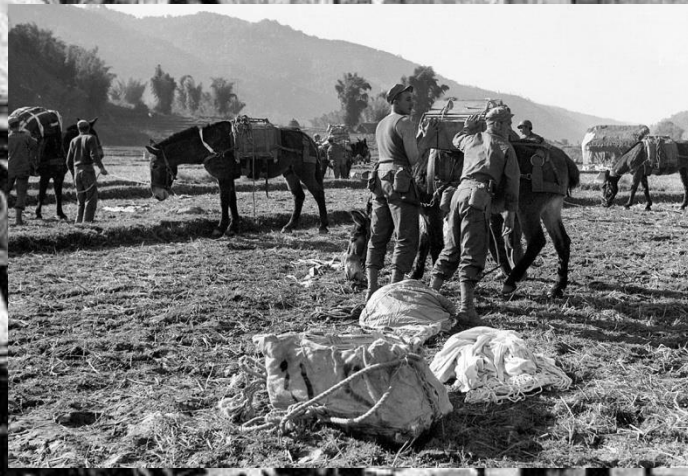


In the following years, there was an Exchange of population with Hungary (74 000 Hungarians left and 73 000 Slovaks came). Almost 400 000 Slovaks moved to the border areas in the Czech regions from where the Germans left. Slovaks also settled the German villages in Slovakia. In the east, after the annexation of Zakarpatska Ukraine to the Soviet Union, there was also a population change. Losses in the war, the migration, the evacuation of the Germans, the annexation of Zakarpatska to the USSR led to a change in the composition of the Czechoslovakia's population. Slovakia's rate of the state's population has increased.

The war brought full employment and fairer distribution of income. Some men were not fit enough or were too old to join the army, so they volunteered as firefighters. Most women labored in the clerical and service sectors where women had worked for decades, but the wartime economy created job opportunities for women in heavy industry and wartime production plants that had traditionally belonged to men. The ones who were old, sick or unable to go to war held positions in jobs where were working soldiers. Although children or boys were taught to work in factories or on the farms.

During WWII were created new jobs such as:

- Doctors
- Miners
- Farmers
- Scientists
- Merchant
- Seamen
- School teachers
- Railway and dock workers
- Utility workers-
Water, Gas,
Electricity

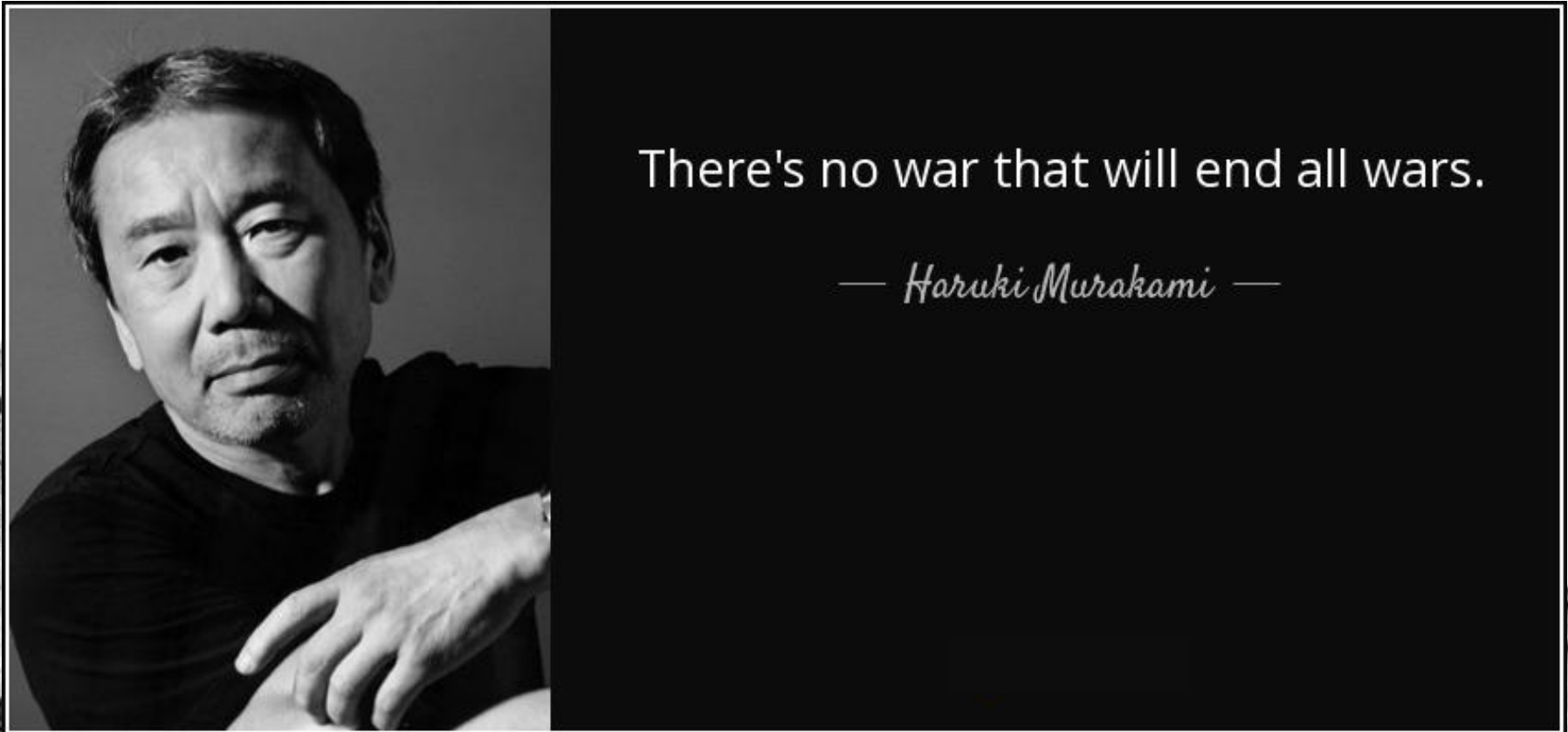


There was a restitution of property such as buildings, land, and agricultural property expropriated between the beginning of the Nazi occupation (1939) and the Velvet Revolution (1989): Both laws offered the possibility of compensation and restitution for expropriated property. The equipment from the 1900s still served the theatre well after WWII, until the massive reconstruction held between 1969 and 1972.



The concept of the new reconstruction, which included a construction of The Historical Building of the Slovak National Theatre came from the then director of the technical department of the SND, Vladimir Hazucha. The project author was the architect Rajmund Hirth. The designer general was the company Stavoprojekt Bratislava, the foundations plan was designed by Hydroconsult Bratislava, and stage equipment by the Mining Projects Bratislava and Theatre Services from Újezd by Brno. The general supplier was the Bratislava Construction Company. Whilst the entire construction required a total of 200 suppliers.





There's no war that will end all wars.

— *Haruki Murakami* —

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