

Episode 8: Out of the Ashes

VIII-1: Atlas: Europe, North: 1936

Central Europe's political contours had been established at Versailles at the end of World War I. Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany was dismantled, and new states established. Many ethnic Germans now lived in other nations, including Czechoslovakia, Austria, and the western areas of Poland. Hitler was determined to reunite the German people under his rule.

- Point out the major countries involved in World War II.
- Emphasize the location of Czechoslovakia, and the area labeled **Sudetenland** (right below Dresden).
- Discuss the heavy German population there.
- Also point out Austria, annexed to Germany in the Anschluss.
- Then, time-progress, using the time-slider at the left, to **1939**, and show the result of the Anschluss (March 1938) and the Munich Pact in September 1938 (i.e., no Austria, no Czechoslovakia).

VIII-2: Atlas: Europe, North: 1939

In late 1939, Hitler remade the map of Europe. Moving both eastward and westward, German armies conquered much of the continent. Within an astonishingly short period of time, only England and the USSR remained free of Nazi control; England, which was protected by its geography; and the USSR, because it had a non-aggression pact with Hitler that enabled Germany to swallow up part of eastern Poland and the Baltic states.

- Point out Nazi Germany.
- Then, using the thumbnail navigation tool in the lower left, move north-eastward (to the right and up) to show the USSR, Poland, and the Baltic States (Lithuania, etc.).
- Then, Zoom Out (below the thumbnail navigation tool) and move westward to show England and western Europe, including France and the Benelux nations, which fell to Hitler in mid-1940.