

## **POST-WAR CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND SLOVAKIA**

- **September 1944**, Soviet forces crossed the Carpathians
- **6<sup>th</sup> October**, the first soldiers of the Czechoslovak Army Corps stepped on the Slovak soil.
- **4<sup>th</sup> April 1945** Bratislava liberated
- **30<sup>th</sup> April** Žilina liberated
- the country was devastated and paralysed

### **1. WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE END OF WW2 FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND SLOVAKIA?**

### **2. READ THE FOLLOWING SOURCE AND WRITE OUT THE PRINCIPLES THAT THE NEW STATE WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW?**

*THE SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL – 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 1945*

- **23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 1945**- talks between representatives of the London exiles and the communist leader Gottwald and the representatives of the Slovak National Council
  - wanted the state to be set up on the principles of **federation**
  - gained **recognition of the Slovak nation** and a promise that the position of the Slovaks would be based on **the principle of equal with equal**
  
- the London government in exile returned to the homeland via Moscow, where they agreed the programme of **the new Czechoslovak government with the communists**
  
- **Eduard Beneš proclaimed the Government of National Front in Košice 4<sup>th</sup> May 1945**
  
- the programme was declared on **5<sup>th</sup> May 1945** in Košice – **The Košice government programme**
  
- **Terms of the Košice government programme**

### ➤ **The Government of National Front**

Prime Minister:	Zdenek Fierlinger
Deputy Ministers:	Jozef David Klement Gottwald Štefan Ursíny
Minister of Foreign Affairs:	Ján Masaryk
Minister of Army :	Ludvik Svoboda
Minister of Finances:	Vavro Šrobár

### **3. HOW DID THE BORDERS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA CHANGE AFTER THE MUNICH AGREEMENT OF 1939?**

#### 4. DISPUTES OVER THE BOARDERS

- 29<sup>th</sup> June 1945 – the Czechoslovak government agreed that the Subcarpathian Ruthenia would be joined to Ukraine
- A dispute over Teschen lasted until March 1947 when we finally achieved that part of Teschen from the pre-Munich time would be a part of Czechoslovakia.

#### 5. MINORITIES

- the London government in exile with E. Beneš tried to persuade the Allies to agree with the exodus of the German minority from Czechoslovakia. The Allies agreed and it was issued in **the Postdam Agreement**
- organised exodus of Germans from Czechoslovakia – 2,5 millions Germans had to leave.
- wild exodus of Germans – 660 000 Germans were forced to leave.
- the Košice government programme put the Germans and Hungarians on the same platform
- **2<sup>nd</sup> August 1945** the Germans and Hungarians were **deprived of the citizenship**
- the Czechoslovak government failed when they wanted to implement into the Postdam Agreement the exodus of the Hungarian minority. The Allies did not agree.
- **in February 1946 the Agreement of the Exchange of population** was signed between Czechoslovakia and Hungary. This resulted in that 73 000 Slovaks moved from Hungary to Slovakia and 74 000 Hungarians moved from Slovakia to Hungary
- 44 000 Hungarians were placed in the Czech frontier regions to replace the German labour force.
- **Reslovakization of Hungarians** – 400 000 Hungarians were reslovakized In exchange for declaring themselves to be Slovaks, they received civil rights and the possibility of employment.
- **in October 1948** - the rights of citizenship, schools in their own language, a press and cultural societies were returned to the Hungarians and the re-Slovakized returned to the Hungarian nationality.
- **Beneš Decrees** – the validity is still questionable

## 6. POLITICAL SPECTRUM

- **in Bohemia – four parties:**

- the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia
- the National-Socialistic Party
- the People's Party
- the Social-Democratic Party

- **in Slovakia – four parties:**

- the Communist Party of Slovakia
- the Democratic Party
- the Labour Party
- the Freedom Party

- mostly in the Slovak National Council the Communist Party of Slovakia and the Democratic Party disputed over several questions.

	<b>Support among</b>	<b>Political views</b>	<b>Economic policy</b>
<b>the Communists</b>			
<b>the Democrats</b>			