

**CZECHS AND GERMANS**  
**A STUDY OF THE**  
**STRUGGLE IN THE HISTORIC**  
**PROVINCES OF BOHEMIA**  
**AND MORAVIA**

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# CZECHS AND GERMANS

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STRUGGLE IN THE HISTORIC  
PROVINCES OF BOHEMIA  
AND MORAVIA

BY

ELIZABETH WISKEMANN

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## PREFACE

THIS book was undertaken at the invitation of the Royal Institute of International Affairs as the third in a series of studies initiated by the Institute on the practical results of the territorial provisions of the Peace Settlement in problematical areas. The previous volumes in the series were *The Peace Settlement in the German-Polish Borderlands*, by Ian F. D. Morrow, and *Hungary and Her Successors*, by C. A. Macartney. The present study has been precipitately overtaken by the rushing course of events; the German annexation of Austria in March 1938 transformed the Central European situation just as the book was going to press, and must, I fear, help to account for statements which may become suddenly obsolete. It is impossible for me to attempt to cover developments since March 1938. I can only hope that my work will help to provide some explanatory background to the eight Henleinist demands made at Carlsbad on April 24th and to any consequences which these demands may precede.

A word of explanation seems necessary as to my use of place-names. Here the need to hasten publication has prevented consistent revision. I intended always to use the language of the majority in any town or district at the period about which I was writing, with the alternative name in brackets. In the historical chapters, however, the German names alone have often been used, not as indicative of the majority in such and such a century, but rather on account of their naturally greater familiarity to an English public. No political implication whatever is intended. I have only had the opportunity to acquire a distant familiarity with Czech, and am only too well aware that this lays me open to criticism.

It would be difficult to find an adequate way to thank every one who has helped me to gather the material for this book. From officials and laymen, from Czechs and Germans throughout the Historic Provinces, I have encountered unwearying kindness. I want also to use this opportunity to thank every one concerned at Chatham House, and, in addition, one or two personal friends without whose sympathy it would have been very much more difficult to have written the book to its end.

It should perhaps be repeated that only I am responsible for the statements made and the opinions expressed.

April, 1938.

ELIZABETH WISKEMANN.

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It would be almost impossible to mention all the newspapers and pamphlets which it has been necessary to consult in writing this book; I am therefore not attempting to make a list of them. Direct references are given in the footnotes.

Of the vast quantities of propagandistic publications which have been sponsored by the Czechoslovak Government on the one side and Herr Henlein's Sudeten German Party (S.d.P.) on the other, it has not seemed worth while to mention more than the most important, since the attitude taken up is usually so far from objectivity. Monsieur Chmelár's *The German Problem in Czechoslovakia* and Monsieur Sobota's *Das tschechoslovakische Nationalitätenrecht* are, however, too valuable to omit, and Herr Henlein's speeches in *Konrad Henlein spricht* deserve to be studied. R. Jung's *Die Tschechen* should be read as symptomatic; I cannot recollect so virulent an attack by a Czech upon the Germans.

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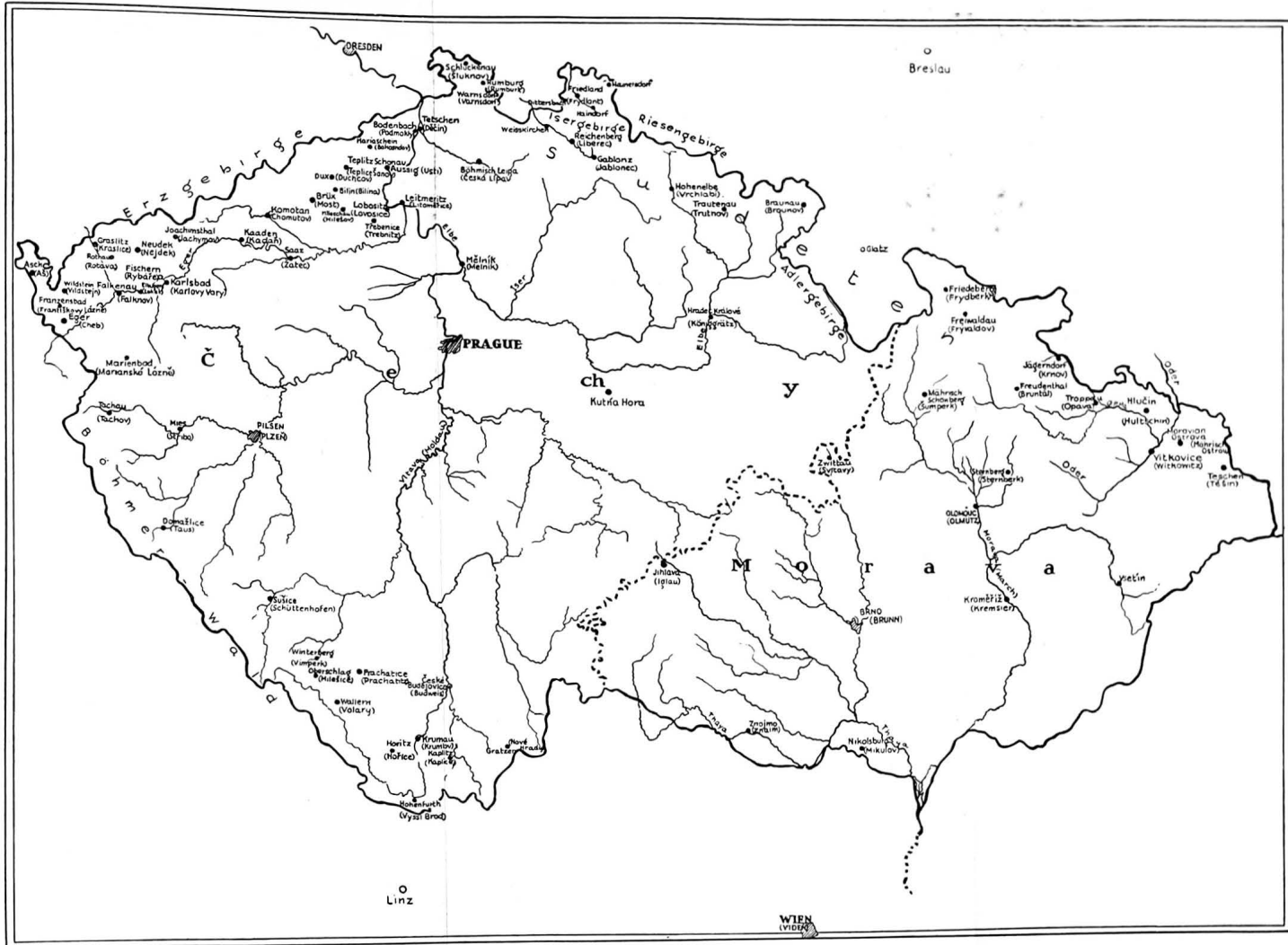
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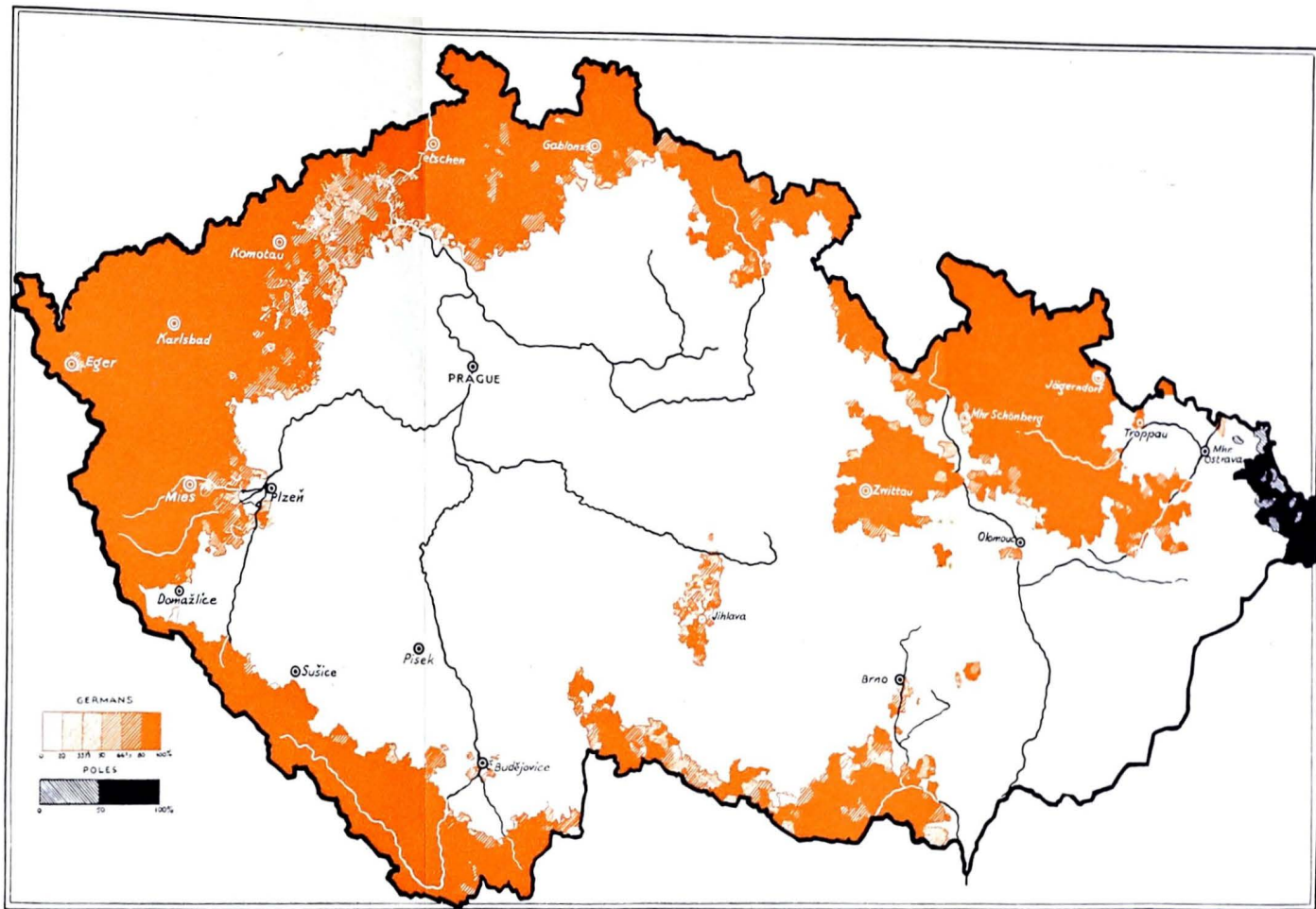
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BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA-SILESIA



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