

The War in Europe

1933 - 1941

1938: Austrian *Anschluss*

- Hitler wanted to make all ethnic Germans a part of Germany
- Hitler convinced the Austrian chancellor, Kurt von Schuschnigg, to unite Austria with Germany
 - March 1938: German troops marched into Austria unopposed
 - Austria was absorbed into Germany
- Because it was peaceful, other countries did nothing



"Austria Comes Home," a painting commemorating the Austrian *Anschluss*

Annexing the Sudetenland

- Hitler accused Czechoslovakian government of abusing Germans living in the Sudetenland
- German troops built up at the border
- France and Britain promised to protect Czechoslovakia
- War seemed eminent



The Sudetenland: a mountainous region controlled by Czechoslovakia inhabited by many ethnic Germans

Appeasement

- 1938: Munich Conference
 - Hitler met with Edouard Daladier (France) and Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain (Britain)
 - They allowed Hitler to take the Sudetenland if it was his last territorial demand
- The Sudetenland was annexed by Germany
- Appeasement: giving up one's morals to prevent trouble with an aggressor
 - Do you think this policy was good or bad?



Neville Chamberlain promised that his negotiations with Hitler would guarantee "peace in our time"