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# Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia

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The **Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia** (*German*: *Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren*; *Czech*: *Protektorát Čechy a Morava*) was the majority ethnic-Czech protectorate which Nazi Germany established in the central parts of Bohemia, Moravia and Czech Silesia in what is today the Czech Republic. It was established on 15 March 1939 by a proclamation of Adolf Hitler from the Prague Castle, following the establishment of the independent Slovak Republic on 14 March 1939. Bohemia and Moravia were autonomous Nazi-administered territories which the German government considered part of the Greater German Reich.<sup>[1]</sup> The state's existence came to an end with the [surrender of Germany](#) to the Allies in 1945.

**Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia**  
*Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren*  
*Protektorát Čechy a Morava*

Protectorate and autonomous component of Nazi Germany<sup>[1]</sup>

1939–1945

Flag Coat of arms

Czechoslovakia 1939–1945. The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia is shown in light pink.

**Capital** Prague

**Languages** Czech, German

<b>Political structure</b>	Protectorate
<b>Reich Protector</b>	Konstantin von Neurath
- 1939–1943	
- 1941–1942	Reinhard Heydrich (acting)
- 1942–1943	Kurt Daluege (acting)
- 1943–1945	Wilhelm Frick
<b>State President</b>	Emil Hácha
- 1939–1945	
<b>Prime Minister</b>	Alois Eliáš
- 1939–1941	
- 1942–1945	Jaroslav Krejčí
- 1945	Richard Bienert

<b>Historical era</b>	World War II
- German occupation	15 March 1939
- Liberation of Prague	13 May 1945

<b>Area</b>	
- 1939	49,363 km <sup>2</sup> (19,059 sq mi)

<b>Population</b>	
- 1939 est.	7,380,000
Density	149.5 /km <sup>2</sup> (387.2 /sq mi)

**Currency** Koruna

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Languages

- العربية
- Беларуская
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- Brezhoneg
- Català
- Česky
- Deutsch
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- Українська

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## History [edit]

See also: *German occupation of Czechoslovakia*



Adolf Hitler on his visit to Prague Castle after the establishment of a German protectorate.



Jaroslav Krejčí giving a speech in Tábor.

The **Sudetenland**, located on the Czechoslovak border with Germany and Austria proper, with its majority of ethnic German inhabitants, had been incorporated directly into the Reich on 10 October 1938, when Czechoslovakia was forced to accept the terms of the [Munich Agreement](#). Five months later, when the Slovak Diet declared the independence of [Slovakia](#), Hitler summoned Czechoslovak President [Emil Hácha](#) to Berlin and intimidated him into accepting the German occupation of the Czech [rump state](#) and its reorganisation as a German protectorate.

Hácha remained as technical head of state with the title of State President, but was rendered all but powerless. Real power was vested in the [Reichsprotektor](#), who served as Hitler's personal representative. To appease outraged international opinion, Hitler appointed former foreign minister [Konstantin von Neurath](#) to the post. German officials manned departments analogous to cabinet ministries, while small German control offices were established locally. The [Gestapo](#) assumed police authority. Jews were dismissed from the civil service and placed outside of the legal system. Political parties and

trade unions were banned, and the press and radio were subjected to harsh censorship. Many [Communist Party](#) leaders fled to the [Soviet Union](#).

The population of the protectorate was mobilized for labor that would aid the German war effort, and special offices were organized to supervise the management of industries important to that effort. Czechs were drafted to work in coal mines, the iron and steel industry, and armaments production; some young people were sent to Germany. Consumer goods production, much diminished, was largely directed toward supplying the German armed forces. The protectorate's population was subjected to strict [rationing](#).

German rule was moderate—at least by Nazi standards—during the first months of the occupation. The Czech government and political system, reorganized by Hácha, continued in formal existence. Gestapo activities were directed mainly against Czech politicians and the [intelligentsia](#).

The eventual goal of the German state under Nazi leadership was to eradicate Czech nationality through assimilation and deportation, and the extermination of the Czech intelligentsia; the intellectual elites and middle class made up a considerable number of the 200,000 people who passed through concentration camps and the 250,000 who died during German occupation.<sup>[2]</sup> Under *Generalplan Ost*, it was assumed that around 50% of Czechs would be fit for *Germanization*. The Czech intellectual elites were to be removed not only from Czech territories but from Europe completely. The authors of *Generalplan Ost* believed it would be best if they emigrated overseas, as even in *Siberia* they were considered a threat to German rule. Just like Jews, Poles, Serbs, and several other nations, Czechs were considered to be *untermenschen* by the Nazi state<sup>[3]</sup>

The Czechs demonstrated against the occupation on 28 October 1939 the anniversary of Czechoslovak independence. The death on 15 November 1939 of a medical student, *Jan Opletal*, who had been wounded in the October violence, precipitated widespread student demonstrations, and the Reich retaliated. Politicians were arrested en masse, as were an estimated 1,800 students and teachers. On 17 November, all universities and colleges in the protectorate were closed, nine student leaders were executed, and 1,200 were sent to *concentration camp* in Sachsenhausen within Nazi Germany; further arrests and executions of Czech students and professors were made later during the occupation.<sup>[4]</sup> (See also *Czech resistance to Nazi occupation*)

During *World War II*, the Reich adopted a more radical policy in the protectorate. On 29 September 1941, Hitler appointed SS hardliner *Reinhard Heydrich* as Deputy Reichsprotektor of Bohemia and Moravia. At the same time, Neurath was relieved of his day-to-day duties, as Hitler felt the Czechs weren't being treated harshly enough. For all intents and purposes Heydrich replaced Neurath as Reichsprotektor. Under his authority Prime Minister *Alois Eliáš* was arrested (and later executed), the Czech government was reorganized, and all Czech cultural organizations were closed. The Gestapo indulged in arrests and executions. The deportation of Jews to concentration camps was organized, and the fortress town of *Terezín* was made into a ghetto way station for Jewish families. On 4 June 1942, Heydrich died after being wounded by an assassin in *Operation Anthropoid*. Following directives issued by *Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler*, Heydrich's successor, *SS-Obergruppenführer Kurt Daluge*, ordered mass arrests, executions and the obliteration of the villages of *Lidice* and *Ležáky*. In 1943 the German war effort was accelerated. Under the authority of *Karl Hermann Frank*, German minister of state for Bohemia and Moravia, some 400,000 Czechs were used as forced labor by the German Reich.<sup>[5]</sup> Within the protectorate, all non-war-related industry was prohibited. Most of the Czech population obeyed quietly up until the final months preceding the end of the war, when thousands were involved in the *resistance movement*.

For the Czechs of the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia, *German occupation* was a period of brutal oppression. Czech losses resulting from political persecution and deaths in concentration camps totalled between 36,000 and 55,000.<sup>[6]</sup> The Jewish population of Bohemia and Moravia (118,000 according to the 1930 census) was virtually annihilated, with over 75,000 murdered.<sup>[7]</sup> Of the 92,199 people classified as Jews by German authorities in the Protectorate as of 1939, 78,154 perished in Holocaust, or 84.8 percent<sup>[8]</sup>

Many Jews emigrated after 1939; 8,000 survived at Terezín concentration camp(which was used for propaganda purpose as showpiece).<sup>[7]</sup> Several thousand Jews managed to live in freedom or in hiding throughout the occupation. The extermination of the *Romani* population was so thorough that the *Bohemian Romani* language became totally extinct. Romani internees were sent to the *Lety and Hodonín concentration camps* before being transferred to *Auschwitz-Birkenau* for gassing.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> The vast majority of Romani in the Czech Republic today are actually descended from migrants from *Slovakia* who moved there during the post-war years in *Czechoslovakia*.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

## Politics [edit]



Czech state president of the Protectorate, dr. *Emil Hácha* (sitting), listening to a speech of *Reichsprotektor Kurt Daluge* next to SS and Police General *Karl Hermann Frank* in Prague, September 1942.

After the establishment of the Protectorate all political parties were outlawed, with the exception of the *National Union* (*Národní souručenství*). This local Czech Fascist party was led by a ruling *Presidium* until 1942, after which a *Führer* (*Vůdce*) for the party was appointed.

### German government [edit]

Ultimate authority within the Protectorate was held by the *Reich Protector* (*Reichsprotektor*), the area's senior Nazi administrator, whose task it was to represent the "interests" of the German state. The office and title were held by a variety of persons during the Protectorate's existence. In succession these were:

- 16 March 1939 – 20 August 1943:

*Konstantin von Neurath*, former Foreign Minister of Nazi Germany, Minister without Portfolio until 1943. He was removed from office after Hitler's dissatisfaction with his "soft policies" in 1941, although he still held the title until his official resignation in 1943.

- 27 September 1941 – 30 May 1942:

*Reinhard Heydrich*, chief of the *SS-Reichssicherheitshauptamt* (Reich Main Security Office) or RSHA. He was officially only a deputy to Neurath, but in reality was granted supreme authority over the entire state apparatus of the Protectorate.

- 31 May 1942 – 20 August 1943:

*Kurt Daluge*, Chief of the *Ordnungspolizei* (Order Police) or Orpo, in the Interior Ministry, who was also officially a deputy Reich Protector.

- 20 August 1943 – 5 May 1945:

*Wilhelm Frick*, former Minister of the Interior.

Next to the Reich Protector there was also a political office of State Secretary (from 1943 known as the State Minister to the Reich Protector) who handled most of the internal security. From 1939 to 1945 this person was *Karl Hermann Frank* the senior *SS and Police Leader* in the Protectorate. A "paper command" of the *Allgemeine-SS*, with no operational authority, was also established known as the *SS-Oberabschnitt Böhmen-Mähren*.

### Czech government [edit]

The Czech *State President* (*Státní Prezident*) under the period of German rule from 1939 to 1945 was *Emil Hácha* (1872–1945), who had been the President of the *Second Czechoslovak Republic* since



Standard of the Reich Protector.



Standard of the State President.

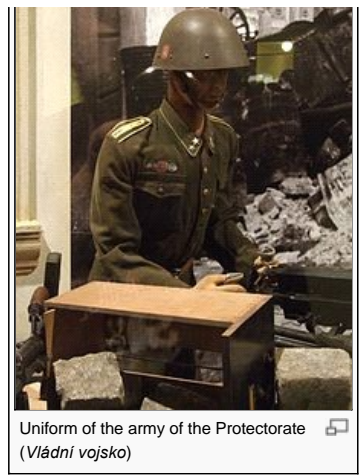


November 1938. **Rudolf Beran** (1887–1954) initially still held the office of **Minister President** (Předseda vlády) after the German take-over. He was soon replaced by **Alois Eliáš** on 27 April 1939, who was himself also sacked on 2 October 1941 not long after the appointment of **Reinhard Heydrich** as the new Reich Protector. Because of his contacts with the **Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile** Eliáš was sentenced to death, with the execution carried out on 19 June 1942 shortly after Heydrich's **own death**. From 19 January 1942 the government was led by **Jaroslav Krejčí**, and from January to May 1945 by **Richard Bienert**, the former police chief of **Prague**. When the official dissolution of the Protectorate was proclaimed after the **Liberation of Prague** a radio call was issued for Bienert's arrest. This resulted in his conviction to a three-year prison term in 1947, during which he died in 1949.

Aside from the Office of the Minister President, the local Czech government in the Protectorate consisted of the Ministries of Education, Finance, Justice, Trade, the Interior, Agriculture, and Public Labour. The area's foreign policy and military defence were under the exclusive control of the German government. The former foreign minister of Czechoslovakia **František Chvalkovský** became a **Minister without Portfolio** and permanent representative of the Czech administration in Berlin.

The most prominent Czech politicians in the Protectorate included:

- **Alois Eliáš** (1890–1942), a former Czechoslovak General who was executed for his secret contacts with the **Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile** in 1942; Prime Minister from 1939 to 1941.
- **Ladislav Karel Feierabend**, Minister of Agriculture from 1939 to 1940. Joined the London-based Czechoslovak government in 1940.
- **Jiří Havelka**, Minister of Traffic from 1939 to 1941.
- **Josef Ježek**, Interior Minister from 1939 to 1942.
- **Jan Kapras**, Minister of Education from 1939 to 1942.
- **Josef Kalfus** (1880–1956), Minister of Finance from 1939 to 1945.
- **Josef Nebeský**, party leader of the **National Union** from 1939 to 1941.
- **Josef Fousek** (1875–1942), party leader of the **National Union** from 1941 to 1942.
- **Jaroslav Krejčí** (1892–1956), Minister of Justice from 1939 to 1945, as well as Minister President from 1942 to 1945.
- **Jindřich Kamenický**, Minister of Traffic from 1941 to 1945.
- **Walter Bertsch**, Minister of Economics from 1942 to 1945.
- **Richard Bienert** (1881–1949), Interior Minister from 1942 to 1945, as well as the last Minister President in 1945.
- **Adolf Hrubý** (1893–1951), Minister of Agriculture from 1942 to 1945.
- **Tomáš Krejčí**, **Führer** (Vůdce) of the **National Union** from 1942 to 1945.
- **Emanuel Moravec**, Minister of Education from 1942 to 1945.



Uniform of the army of the Protectorate (Vládní vojsko)

## Population [edit]


The area of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia contained about 7,380,000 inhabitants in 1940. 225,000 (3.3%) of these were of German origin, while the rest were mainly ethnic **Czechs** as well as some **Slovaks**, particularly near the border with **Slovakia**.

The protectorate was projected to become ethnically totally German. Hitler had approved a plan designed by **Konstantin von Neurath** and **Karl Hermann Frank**, which projected the Germanization of the "racially valuable" half of the Czech population after the end of the war.<sup>[9]</sup> This consisted mainly of industrial workers and farmers.<sup>[9]</sup> The undesirable half contained also the intelligentsia, whom the Nazis viewed as ungermanizable and potential dangerous instigators of Czech nationalism. Some 9,000 **Volksdeutsche** from **Bukovina**, **Dobruja**, **South Tyrol**, **Bessarabia**, **Sudetenland** and the **Altreich** were settled in the protectorate during the war.<sup>[9]</sup> The goal was to create a German settlement belt from Prague to Sudetenland, and to turn the surroundings of **Olomouc** (Olmütz), **České Budějovice** (Budweis), **Brno** (Brünn) and the area near the Slovak border into German enclaves.<sup>[9]</sup>

Further integration of the protectorate into the Reich was carried out by the employment of German apprentices, by transferring German evacuee children into schools located in the protectorate, and by authorizing marriages between Germans and "assimilable" Czechs.<sup>[9]</sup> Germanizable Czechs were allowed to join the **Reich Labour Service** and to be admitted to German universities.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Administrative subdivisions [edit]

### Protectorate Districts [edit]

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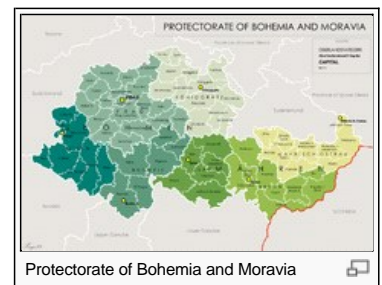
For administrative purposes the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was divided into two Lands; Böhmen (Bohemia) and Mähren (Moravia). Each of these was further subdivided into *Oberlandratsbezirke*, each comprising a number of *Bezirke*.

#### Böhmen

- Budweis** Budweis, Gumpolds, Ledetsch, Pilgrams, Tabor, Wittingau
- Königgrätz** Chrudim, Hohenmauth, Jitschin, Königgrätz, Königinhof, Leitomischl, Nachod, Neu-Bidschow, Neuenburg, Pardubitz, Reichenau, Semil
- Pilsen** Klattau, Kralowitz Pilsen-Land, Pilsen-Stadt, Pisek, Schüttenhofen, Strakonitz, Taus
- Prag** Beneschau, Beraun, Böhmisches-Brod, Brandeis, Jungbunzlau, Kladno, Kolin, Laun, Melnik, Pibrans, Prag-Land-Nord, Prag-Land-Süd, Prag-Stadt, Rakonitz, Raudnitz, Schlan, Seltshan, Tschaslau

#### Mähren

- Brünn** Boskowitz, Brünn-Land, Brünn-Stadt, Gaya, Göding, Ungarisch-Brod, Ungarisch-Hradisch, Wischau, Zline
- Iglau** Groß-Meseritsch, Iglau, Mährisch-Budwitz, Neustadt, Trebitsch



Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia



Mährisch-[Friedberg](#), [Kremsier](#), [Littau](#), [Mährisch-Ostrau](#), [Mährisch-Weißkirchen](#), [Olmütz-Land](#),  
Ostrau [Olmütz-Stadt](#), [Prerau](#), [Proßnitz](#), [Wallachisch-Meseritsch](#), [Wesetin](#)

## NSDAP Districts [edit]

For party administrative purposes the [Nazi Party](#) extended its [Gau](#)-system to Bohemia and Moravia when the Protectorate was established. This step divided the remaining parts of Bohemia and Moravia up between its four surrounding *Gaue*:

- [Sudetenland](#);
- [Bayreuth](#) (Bavarian Eastern March);
- [Lower Danube](#);
- [Upper Danube](#).

The resulting government overlap led to the usual authority conflicts typical of the Third Reich era. Seeking to extend their own powerbase and to facilitate the area's "[Aryanization](#)" the [Gauleiters](#) of the surrounding districts continually agitated for the liquidation of the Protectorate and its direct incorporation into the German Reich. [Hitler](#) stated as late as 1943 that the issue was still to be decisively settled.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Stamps, currency, officials and documents [edit]



A bill of 50 [Crowns](#) of the Protectorate.



1 [Crown](#) or [Koruna](#) of the Protectorate.



Stamp of the Protectorate.



[Alois Eliáš](#), first prime minister of the Protectorate, 1939–1941.



Personal identification card of the Protectorate.



Stamps of the Protectorate.

## See also [edit]

- [List of rulers of the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia](#)
- [German occupation of Czechoslovakia](#)
- [Resttschechei](#)
- [History of Slovakia](#)
- [Concentration camps Lety and Hodonín](#)
- [Out Distance](#)
- [Slovak Republic \(1939-1945\)](#)

## References [edit]

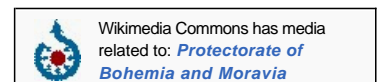
- ↑ <sup>***a b***</sup> Lemkin, Raphaël: *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*, page 343. Harold Bold Verlag, 1944.
- ↑ Universities in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (1800–1945)Walter Rüegg Cambridge University Press (28 October 2004) page 353
- ↑ **HITLER'S PLANS FOR EASTERN EUROPE** Selections from Janusz Gumkowski and Kazimierz Leszczynski **POLAND UNDER NAZI OCCUPATION**
- ↑ Universities under dictatorship, page 168, John Connelly,Michael Grüttne Penn State Press, 2005
- ↑ Historical dictionary of the Czech State, page 288 Rick Fawn,Jiří Hochman
- ↑ The Czechs and the lands of the Bohemian crown, page 215 Hugh LeCaine Agnew
- ↑ <sup>***a b***</sup> The Czechs and the lands of the Bohemian crown, page 215
- ↑ Historical dictionary of the Czech State, page 128 Rick Fawn,Jiří Hochman
- ↑ <sup>***a b c d e f***</sup> Kroener, Bernhard R.; Müller, Rolf-Dieter; Umbreit, Hans (2003). *Germany and the Second World War:Organization and mobilization of the German sphere of power. Wartime administration, economy, and manpower resources 1942-1944/5*. *Oxford University Press*. p. 255. ISBN 0-19-820873-1.
- ↑ Teigh, Mikulas: *Bohemia in History*, page 274. Cambridge University Press, 1998.

## Sources [edit]

- [WorldStatesmen – Czech Republic](#)
- Westermann, *Großer Atlas zur Weltgeschichte* (German)

## External links [edit]

- [Maps of the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia](#)
- [Amtliches Deutsches Ortsbuch für das Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren](#)



- [Map](#)
- [Hungarian language map](#), with land transfers by Germany, Hungary, and Poland in the late 1930s.
- [Maps of Europe](#) showing the breakup of Czechoslovakia and the creation of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia at [omniatlas.com](#)

Timeline of Czechoslovak statehood							
VTE	Pre-1918	1918–1938	1938–1945	1945–1948	1948–1989	1989–1992	1993–
<b>Bohemia Moravia Silesia</b>	Austrian Empire	First Republic <sup>a</sup>	Sudetenland <sup>b</sup>	Third Republic	Czechoslovak Republic <sup>e</sup> 1948–1960	Czechoslovak Socialist Republic <sup>f</sup> 1960–1990	Czech and Slovak Federal Republic 1990–1992
<b>Slovakia</b>	Kingdom of Hungary		Second Republic <sup>c</sup> 1938–1939				
<b>Carpathian Ruthenia</b>	Austria-Hungary	Czechoslovak government-in-exile	Southern Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine <sup>d</sup>	Zakarpattia Oblast <sup>g</sup> 1944 / 1946 – 1991		Zakarpattia Oblast <sup>h</sup> 1991–present	

- <sup>a</sup> ČSR; boundaries and government established by the 1920 constitution.
- <sup>b</sup> Annexed by Nazi Germany.
- <sup>c</sup> ČSR; included the *autonomous regions* of Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia.
- <sup>d</sup> Annexed by Hungary (1939–1945).
- <sup>e</sup> ČSR; declared a "people's democracy" (without formal name change) under the *Ninth-of-May Constitution* following the 1948 coup.
- <sup>f</sup> ČSSR; from 1969, after the *Prague Spring*, consisted of the *Czech Socialist Republic* (ČSR) and *Slovak Socialist Republic* (SSR).
- <sup>g</sup> Oblast of the Ukrainian SSR.
- <sup>h</sup> Oblast of Ukraine.

Czechoslovakia in World War II	
<b>Political representation</b>	Czechoslovak government-in-exile
<b>Military units and formations</b>	Czechoslovak legions RAF Squadrons: 310 311 312 313 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade Czechoslovak 11th Infantry Battalion First Czechoslovak Independent Field Battalion
<b>Resistance members</b>	Adolf Opálka Jan Kubiš Jozef Gabčík Josef Mašín Jan Opletal Alois Eliáš František Moravec Karel Pavlík Josef Balabán Václav Morávek Abrahám Pressburger Josef Matoušek Jaroslav Čihák Otakar Jaroš Ján Golian Rudolf Pernický Bedřich Reicin Richard Tesařk Rudolf Viest Ludvík Svoboda Marie Ljalková
<b>Resistance groups</b>	Out Distance Three Kings
<b>Resistance operations</b>	Operation Anthropoid
<b>Royal Air Force</b>	Josef František František Fajtl Karel Kuttelwascher Alois Vašátko František Peřina Otto Smik
<b>Battles</b>	Syria-Lebanon Campaign Siege of Tobruk Battle of Sokolovo Battle of Kiev Battle of the Dukla Pass Slovak National Uprising Siege of Dunkirk Prague Uprising Battle for Czech Radio Prague Offensive

Administrative divisions of Nazi Germany	
<b>Gaue</b>	Gau Baden Gau Bayreuth Gau Berlin Gau Düsseldorf Gau Essen Gau Franken Gau Halle-Merseburg Gau Hamburg Gau Hessen-Nassau Gau Köln-Aachen Gau Kurhessen Gau Magdeburg-Anhalt Gau Mainfranken Gau Mark Brandenburg Gau Mecklenburg Gau Moselland Gau München-Oberbayern Gau Niederschlesien Gau Oberschlesien Gau Ost-Hannover Gau Ostpreußen Gau Pommern Gau Sachsen Gau Schleswig-Holstein Gau Schwaben Gau Südhannover-Braunschweig Gau Thüringen Gau Weser-Ems Gau Westfalen-Nord Gau Westfalen-Süd Gau Westmark Gau Württemberg-Hohenzollern
<b>Reichsgaue</b>	Reichsgau Danzig - Westpreußen Reichsgau Flandern Reichsgau Kärnten Reichsgau Niederdonau Reichsgau Oberdonau Reichsgau Salzburg Reichsgau Steiermark Reichsgau Sudetenland Reichsgau Tirol-Vorarlberg Reichsgau Wallonien Reichsgau Wartheland Reichsgau Wien
<b>Operational zones</b>	Adriatisches Küstenland Alpenvorland
<b>Autonomous regions</b>	Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia General Government (Distrikt Galizien)
<b>Other districts</b>	Bezirk Białystok District of Brussels
<b>Related topics</b> <a href="#">Gauleiter</a> <a href="#">List of Gauleiters</a>	

Categories: [Former countries in Europe](#) | [Former protectorates](#) | [States and territories established in 1939](#) | [States and territories disestablished in 1945](#) | [Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia](#)

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