

Chronology

Ninth century. Great Moravian empire. The 1992 Slovak constitution cites this as the foundation and predecessor to modern statehood for Slovaks.

1792. First signs of Slovak national “revival” as Bernolák attempts codification of Slovak language.

1846. Codification of Slovak language by Ludovít Štúr.

June 1861. Memorandum of the Slovak nation submitted to Budapest Diet.

1863. Matica Slovenská (Slovak Cultural Foundation) founded.

1875–1918. Repression of the incipient Slovak nation-building efforts under the “Magyarization” policies of the Hapsburg empire.

October 1918. Founding of Czechoslovakia as independent, democratic state uniting the Czech lands, previously under Austrian rule, and Slovakia, previously under Hungarian rule.

August 1938. Jozef Tiso succeeds Andrej Hlinka as leader of the Slovak People’s Party, the major force pushing for Slovak autonomy during the period of the First Czechoslovak Republic. The party is renamed the Hlinka Slovak People’s Party (HSLs). Andrej Hlinka had founded and led the party from 1918 until his death in August 1938.

September 29, 1938. Munich agreement between Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and Italy acquiescing to the ceding of the Sudetenland to Germany.

October 6, 1938. Žilina agreement whereby, under leadership of Jozef Tiso and the HSLs, Slovaks took full control of Slovak governmental and executive power. This new administration took the first measures against political opponents and Jews.

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- November 2, 1938. Vienna “arbitration” in which parties to the Munich agreement granted Hungarian demands that portions of southern Slovakia be ceded to Hungary.
- March 14, 1939. Declaration of “independent” Slovak state under leadership of Jozef Tiso in exchange for collaboration with Hitler; on March 15 Czech lands were occupied and became a Nazi protectorate.
- September 9, 1941. Passage of Jewish “codex” codifying anti-Jewish legislation put forward in first years of the regime; paralleled the German “Nuremberg laws.” This included a racial definition of Jew and the “Aryanization” policies that turned over Jewish property to Slovaks.
- March 1942–October 1942. Two-thirds of Jewish population of Slovakia (57,628) deported to Poland ostensibly for resettlement. Only several hundred of these survived. After deportations about 24,000 remained in Slovakia. They lived and worked on the basis of various economic, presidential, or religious exceptions or were placed in Jewish work camps and centers.
- August 29, 1944. Slovak communists, army officers, and democrats start the Slovak National Uprising against the Tiso state and the Nazis.
- October 1944. Slovak National Uprising defeated and Nazis occupy Slovakia; approximately 13,500 more Jews were deported, of whom 10,000 died.
- May 1945. Germans are defeated and Czechoslovakia reconstituted; Slovak communists and democrats who led the Uprising push for federal state but eventually compromise on these demands.
- December 1946–April 1947. Trial of Jozef Tiso culminating in his execution.
- February 1948. Communists take power and begin to repress all noncommunist political, cultural, and religious groups.
1950. Arrest and imprisonment of Slovak “bourgeois nationalists,” including the important Slovak communists and partisans Gustáv Husák and Ladislav Novomeský.
1963. Amnesty and rehabilitation of “bourgeois nationalists” and beginning of the reform movement that culminates in Bratislava and Prague Spring.
- January 1968. Alexander Dubček becomes Communist Party chief and presides over the Bratislava/Prague Spring.
- August 20, 1968. Warsaw Pact troops invade.
- January 1, 1969. Czechoslovakia becomes a federal state, though many aspects of Slovak autonomy are not implemented.
- April 1969. Gustáv Husák becomes Communist Party chief and begins

- the process of repressing the reform movement and restoring neo-Stalinist control. This process came to be called “normalization.”
1985. Mikhail Gorbachev comes to power in the Soviet Union; signals begin in 1987 that Eastern European countries can go their own way.
- November 17, 1989. Beginning of “velvet revolution” which leads to collapse of communist regime ten days later.
- December 29, 1989. Václav Havel becomes president of a newly democratic Czechoslovakia.
- June 1990. First free parliamentary elections; Vladimír Mečiar becomes prime minister of Slovakia.
- March 1991. Split of Public Against Violence movement and formation of Movement for a Democratic Slovakia under leadership of Vladimír Mečiar.
- April 1991: Vladimír Mečiar removed from post of prime minister; Ján Čarnogurský appointed in his stead.
- June 1992. Second parliamentary elections; Mečiar’s party is the victor and Mečiar again becomes prime minister; Václav Klaus becomes prime minister in the Czech Republic. Their election leads to the August 1992 decision to split Czechoslovakia.
- January 1, 1993. The end of Czechoslovakia and formation of the Slovak Republic.