

Source A: *Hitler's comment after sending troops into the Rhineland in 1936.*

"The 48 hours after the march into the Rhineland were the most nerve-racking of my life. If the French had opposed us then we would have had to withdraw. Our forces were not strong enough to even put up with moderate resistance."

Source C: *Advice given to the British Prime Minister, Chamberlain, by his Army generals in 1938.*

"From the military point of view, time is in our favour. If war with Germany has to come, it would be better to fight in six to twelve months time, instead of at this moment."

Source E: *From a speech given by Chamberlain in 1938.*

"When I think of those four terrible years [WWI], and I think of the 7 million young men who were killed, the 13 million who were wounded, I feel it was my duty to strain every nerve to avoid a repetition of the First World War."

Source B: *From a speech given by Hitler on 30 May 1938.*

"I shall only decide to take action against Czechoslovakia if I am convinced that France will not march and that Britain will not intervene in the situation."

Source D: *Results from public opinion polls in Canada in 1938.*

March 1938: Should Britain promise to help Czechoslovakia if Germany invades?
Yes: 33% No: 43% Undecided: 24%

October 1938: Hitler says that he has no more territorial ambitions in Europe. Do you believe him?
Yes: 7% No: 93%

Source F: *Comments given by Mackenzie King after a meeting with Hitler.*

"Hitler seemed to be a man of deep sincerity and a genuine patriot. Hitler was a simple sort of peasant, not very intelligent and no serious danger to anyone."

Source G: *From W. Robson, "Twentieth-Century History", 1973.*

There had been nothing weak or foolish about the attitude of the Western leaders. They tried to settle differences by discussion and conciliation, methods that had been highly successful in the 1920s. Their failure was due to the fact that Hitler took consolation for weakness and found that he could get his own way. He could have been stopped earlier but only at the risk of war. Discussion was the method of gentlemen, which explains why Chamberlain and the Western leaders favoured it and Hitler did not