SUMMARIES

GERMAN EXPANSIONISM, THE EUROPEAN STATE
SYSTEM AND THE MUNICH CONFERENCE OF 1938

Peter Krüger

It appears profitable to view the Munich Agreement of 29 September 1938 as the result of the ruin of the European state system. In this way, the settlement of the Sudeten German areas in Czechoslovakia can be placed in a larger historical context. The rise of Hitler, the instability of international relations after the worldwide economic crisis, the increase in violent actions, and the key position of Czechoslovakia in Central and Eastern Europe considerably accelerated the ruin of this system. They also led to the fall of Czechoslovakia to the expansionist aims of Hitler. The shifting of power, which was sealed with the Munich Agreement, and which was the visible expression of Hitler’s desired destruction of the international order, created a decisive precondition for the Hitler-Stalin Pact.

POLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION DURING THE
MUNICH CRISIS (MARCH–OCTOBER 1938)

Jürgen Pagel

During a time of openly anti-Czechoslovak politics on the part of Poland which — adumbrating an awaited German action — amounted to a Polish share in the destruction of the First Republic and would remove the Soviet Union’s only ally in Central Europe, Poland and the Soviet Union co-existed more or less without connection. Even the Soviet threat of 23 September 1938 to terminate the Polish-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact in the event of Polish aggression against the First Republic was only half-hearted and came only after Czechoslovak pressure. Soviet policy was concerned with not dramatizing unnecessarily Polish-Soviet relations. After the Munich Agreement, they shared interests, for example, the Carpatho-Ukrainian question. Moreover, on the Soviet side there were endeavors to win Poland for a joint Polish-Soviet policy in East Central Europe. Poland, however, was solely interested in establishing a formally correct relationship.