

SLOVAKIA PHILATELY

The Germans initially entered Czechoslovakia with the cession of the Sudetenland to Germany by France and Great Britain. A number of local stamp issues were printed showing swastikas and reading "Wir Sind Frei" or "We are free." German forces invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia 16 March 1939 and divided it into the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, and Slovakia.

The (First) Slovak Republic (Slovak: [prvá] Slovenská republika), otherwise known as the Slovak State (Slovak: Slovenský štát), was a client state of Nazi Germany and existed between 14 March 1939 and 4 April 1945

The majority of the Allies of World War II never recognized the existence of the Slovak Republic. The only exception was the Soviet Union, which nullified its recognition after Slovakia joined the invasion of the USSR in 1941. The country was liberated by Soviet and Allied forces in September 1944.

From 1918 to 1939 stamps of the Czechoslovak Republic were in use on Slovakia, marked either Česko-Slovensko or Československo. Before then stamps of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were in use. Between 1939 and 1945 stamps of the Slovak Republic were issued inscribed Slovensko.

The Coat of arms of the Slovak Republic incorporates the Croix de Lorraine, a variation of the Jerusalem or Patriarchal Cross and a symbol for the "crusade" against tuberculosis (Gilbert Sersiron : 1902) and later Free France (Emile Muselier : July 1940) .