In this program, we will mark the 80th anniversary of the Munich Agreement by hearing from three people whose lives were affected by its outcomes:

Peter Fleishmann, born near Prague in 1927, lived under Nazi occupation from 1938 to 1941 at which point his family was able to escape to the United States.

Susan Lederman, born in 1937 in Bratislava (now Slovakia), survived the Holocaust in hiding with Christian families and was reunited with her parents after the Russian liberation.

Eva Vogel, the child of two Auschwitz survivors, was also born in Slovakia right after the war; her story includes post-Holocaust life in Communist Czechoslovakia.

1938 was a critical year for the success of Nazi Germany’s eventual occupation of most of Western Europe and Poland. Desperate to avoid another war, the allies engaged in an act of appeasement (the Munich Agreement) and allowed Nazi Germany to annex parts of Western Czechoslovakia. Although Hitler pledged not to occupy the remainder of the country, six months later, he broke his word and occupied the area of Bohemia and Moravia; the Republic of Slovakia became a puppet state of Nazi Germany. As we now know, this act of appeasement failed and fueled Hitler's belief that he could conquer all of Europe.

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