“Steel City” Diplomacy: Tomas Masaryk, The Pittsburgh Agreement, and the Establishment of Czechoslovakian Independence

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I chose “‘Steel City’ Diplomacy: Tomas Masaryk, The Pittsburgh Agreement, and the Establishment of Czechoslovakian Independence” as my topic because of my Czechoslovakian heritage and the desire to learn more about the homeland of my ancestors. My family has possession of letters and correspondence between relatives who immigrated to Western Pennsylvania in the early 20th century and those who remained in Europe. Many of these letters revealed the tumultuous circumstances they faced under the rule of the Habsburg Dynasty as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, as well as the build up to the First World War. My original desire was to focus on a topic related to local history. My discovery of the Pittsburgh Agreement allowed me to intertwine my love for local history along with the legacy of my family.

I began my research by browsing reliable sites such as the Library of Congress and the website of the Heinz Regional History Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which retains an original copy of the Pittsburgh Agreement in its archives. While no books written specifically about the Pittsburgh Agreement exist, I did find several written about Tomas Masaryk, the founding father of Czechoslovakia, the causes of the First World War, and President Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points. Along with newspapers that I found through Chronicling America, I felt I had enough resources to begin my outline. As my outline and paper developed, I did add more resources as well as interviews with Dr. Renata Kamenarova, professor of Slavic
I began the process of writing my paper by creating an outline based on the events in Central Europe in the 20th century by creating a timeline of key events. I wanted my paper to flow chronologically, and this greatly helped with my organizational process. Once my outline was completed, I found an appropriate quote on the birth of Czechoslovakia to begin my paper. This helped establish the theme and a tone for what my paper would analyze. I then produced a rough draft which was edited several times to fit the rules of the competition. From there, I added several sources and appendices along with my process paper and annotated bibliography. After completing several more edits to ensure I eliminated grammatical and spelling errors, I was at last satisfied with my paper.

Tomas Masaryk’s stroke of diplomatic genius fits very well into this year’s National History Day theme. By taking advantage of the climate of war and revolution that dominated the first two decades of the 20th century, he was able to secure Czechoslovakian independence while forging strong diplomatic ties with the United States and numerous European powers. I was also very impressed with his ability to unite the Czech and Slovak populations in the United States, including members of my own family who established their roots in Western Pennsylvania, to buy into his dream of securing a new homeland for the Czechs and Slovaks in Europe.
“In a sense the United States is Czechoslovakia’s foster parent. It is upon President Wilson’s immortal charter of freedom, as embodied in his famous Fourteen Points, that the foundations of our land are laid. We have tried to pattern our young republic after our great sponsor. Our constitution and our laws, our mode of government, and even our business methods follow closely those of the United States.”¹

-Tomas G. Masaryk, First President of Czechoslovakia

As World War I raged in Europe, many ethnic groups on the war-torn continent demanded sovereignty, one of the basic tenants of President Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points. In 1918, a diplomatic accord known as the Pittsburgh Agreement led to the creation of the nation of Czechoslovakia becoming the embodiment of the ethnic unity in Europe that Wilson hoped to achieve following the conflict. Spearheaded by Tomas Masaryk (see Appendix A) and his dream of Czech and Slovak sovereignty, the Pittsburgh Agreement forged a new political order on the European continent.

In 1914, the situation in Europe was volatile. Secret alliances, internal politics, militarism, and a desire to grow empires had destroyed diplomatic bonds and bred distrust between traditional European powers. With the slightest international event, the whole of Europe could be pulled into war. These factors, combined with many ethnic groups desiring

autonomy from the rule of powerful empires, caused tremendous tension in the early 20th century.²

For instance, the Austro-Hungarian Empire (see Appendix B), long ruled by the Habsburg Dynasty, dominated ethnic minorities such as the Czechs, Slovaks, Serbs, and Ruthenians in Central Europe. Living under the empire’s heavy hand, many fled to seek refuge and freedom in the United States.³ They moved to cities like Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where industrial jobs in steel mills and coal mines were readily available (see Appendix C). By 1910, nearly 1.5 million Czechs and Slovaks were living in the United States.⁴⁵ In Europe, however, tensions reached a crescendo as many nationalist groups sought retribution.

On June 28, 1914, while on a diplomatic mission to ease the strain between his empire and the ethnic minorities it subjugated, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist. Believing this was a conspiracy, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Within a month, the entangling alliances on the continent would pull every major European power into the conflict.⁶

By the time of the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, the idea of Czechosolvakism, the

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concept of a united nation of Czechs and Slovaks free from Hapsburg rule, was also beginning to take root. The origins of Czechoslovakian sovereignty took a true form in 1915 when Tomas Masaryk, an exiled college professor, headed a group of fellow political outcasts to establish the National Council of Czech Lands hoping to gain support of the members of the Triple Entente (France, Great Britain, and Russia) who were now at war with Austria-Hungary.

“In 1914, when the First World War broke out, Masaryk was already a marked man in the eyes of the Austro-Hungarian government.” Dr. Renata Kamenarova noted. “During his work as a college professor at the University of Prague and as a newspaper editor, he promoted the ideals of Czech culture at a time when the Habsburg Dynasty was attempting to erase it. His beliefs and ideals would force him into exile. While in exile, he would begin to use his diplomatic skills to establish contacts and build alliances that would help him achieve his ultimate goal of Czechoslovakian sovereignty,” Kamenarova concluded.

With millions of Czech and Slovak expatriates living in the United States, Masaryk also tied his hopes for an independent Czechoslovakia to America as well. In 1915, supporters of Czechosolvakism in the United States founded the Bohemian National Alliance and the Czechoslovak Union of America.

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Slovak Press Bureau to promote Czech and Slovak liberation. Building on the sentiments of newly arriving immigrants from Eastern Europe, traditional American sympathies toward oppressed peoples and the need to build strong diplomatic ties, the priority of these organizations were to inform Americans about the plight of those suffering under the heavy hand of the Habsburgs and sway public opinion concerning their desire for independence.

Events accelerated in April 1917 when the United States declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary. President Wilson had no immediate plans in place for settling the territorial debates that would surely arise in Central Europe at the war’s conclusion. He did, however, establish a special research group to make recommendations to the State Department regarding post-war settlement. These reports helped President Wilson formulate his Fourteen Points. For

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Masaryk, this was the best possible news from the United States at this juncture in the conflict. A second important event occurred that also played into Masaryk’s favor was the Russian Revolution. Following the overthrow of Czar Nicholas II in February 1917, a provisional government was established in Russia.\textsuperscript{15} Masaryk would use his diplomatic savvy to broker an agreement with this temporary government as a way to organize a Czechoslovakian army of volunteers to fight against the Central Powers. Masaryk’s legions formed and were ready to move against the forces of Germany and Austria-Hungary on the Eastern Front, but plans abruptly changed following the October Revolution.\textsuperscript{16,17}

With the rise to power of Vladimir Lenin in the October Revolution, Russia immediately withdrew from the war and signed a separate peace with Germany in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.\textsuperscript{18} Masaryk’s hopes of using his legion of Czechoslovakian forces on the Eastern Front were dashed away. However, in a bold and daring plan, Masaryk had his forces move east across the whole of Russia, cross the Pacific, then move through the United States where they shipped off for France to do battle on the Western Front.\textsuperscript{19}

These troops would fight until victory over Germany and Austria-Hungary was achieved, thus becoming Masaryk’s primary tool in changing international attitudes toward the Czechoslovakian Movement and in the debates over national autonomy following the war.  

Sensing an opportunity to further solidify diplomatic standing for the creation of an independent Czechoslovakia, Masaryk left Europe for the United States.  

At this same juncture, President Wilson outlined his Fourteen Points in a speech to a joint session of Congress in January 1918. These points would become the basis for what he hoped would be a lasting peace in Europe by addressing the causes of World War I and taking appropriate measures to see that they were never repeated. Wilson also reinforced the position of the United States that his nation had no plans for territorial annexation of its own following the conclusion of the war and desired a “peace without victory.”

Wilson’s Fourteen Points were based on the idea of a new diplomatic order in Europe. Wilson was adamant that if American troops were going to fight and die on the Western Front, he wanted very specific goals to be achieved. These included an end to secret alliances, free

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trade, smaller armies, the creation of a League of Nations, and self-determination in Austria-Hungary. The United States was now an influencer of global diplomacy, breaking at last from its long-standing tradition of neutrality.\(^{24}\)

Also included in Wilson’s plan was a provision that “the peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to safeguard and assure, should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development.”\(^{25}\) Tomas Masaryk would tie his dream to these words as a valuable diplomatic instrument to achieve his goal.\(^{26}\) However, it was never Wilson’s intention to destroy the Austro-Hungarian Empire sensing the need for political stability in the region, especially in light of the Russian Revolutions and the rise of Bolshevism.\(^{27}\)

Wilson’s primary goal was to get Austria-Hungary out of the war and force them into a separate peace. When these diplomatic efforts failed, resulting from Austria-Hungary’s insistence of not breaking its alliance with Germany, the need to destabilize the Austro-Hungarian Empire became evident.\(^{28}\) This destabilization would play perfectly into the hands of Masaryk who now saw diplomatic channels open to his goal of redrawing the political map of

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Europe.

In the spring of 1918, Masaryk arrived in the United States to finalize plans for Czechoslovakian independence (see Appendix D). Masaryk, ever the diplomat, made a calculated decision to do this in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The “Steel City” was home to a large concentration of Czech and Slovak expatriates who fled Austria-Hungary for political freedom and economic opportunity in the heavy industries of coal and steel.29

With the ideals of self-determination in mind, Czech and Slovak leaders met with Masaryk in Pittsburgh on May 30, 1918, to hammer out an accord that would establish a sovereign Czechoslovakia. After much debate concerning the rights of not only Czechs and Slovaks but all ethnic minorities, Masaryk’s vision of a government styled after the United States Constitution, including a representative democracy and strong political foundations to transcend the cultural and language barriers that would surely arise, became a reality.30

Further debate and contention during this Czecho-Slovak convention in Pittsburgh included the establishment of an official language, the creation of a unified lawmaking body and functioning judicial and education systems. Most pressing to President Wilson, however, was the protection of the rights of other ethnic minorities within the new nation’s borders. When an agreement was at last finalized, it represented a very delicate balance that could become easily

fractured without strong leadership and mutual cooperation.

The Pittsburgh Agreement (see Appendix E) established the creation of a union of the Czechs and Slovaks in independence. Slovaks were granted their own administration and court system, and the Slovak language was made the official language in schools and in public life since they represented a majority in the new nation. The Czecho-Slovak state was established as a democratic republic to further ensure that all minorities had some voice in the new government.31

Masaryk would remain in the United States for several months following the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement. In a symbolic gesture of freedom, Masaryk stood on the steps of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, (see Appendix F) and declared Czechoslovakian independence from Austria-Hungary’s rule. His diplomatic efforts that began in the first full year of war had at last come to fruition.32 33

As the war drew to a close, Tomas Masaryk found himself in a position of enormous diplomatic leverage. His legions of Czechoslovakian troops that helped drive the Germans from

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their trenches on the Western Front and his declaration of independence established in the Pittsburgh Agreement were impossible to ignore. The redrawing of the political map of Europe, complete with a sovereign Czechoslovakia, was all but assured.\textsuperscript{34}

Even before the war had officially ended, officials at the Paris Peace Conference had already carved up the Empire of Austria-Hungary to give autonomy and independence to ethnic groups who were previously dominated by the Habsburg Dynasty. In total, nine new nations were created as a result of the Treaty of Versailles, including Czechoslovakia.\textsuperscript{35}

Masaryk himself presented Czechoslovakian territorial demands at the Paris Peace Conference proposing to draw her new borders based on historical, economic, military, and strategic considerations. With strong support from the French and American delegations, diplomatic arguments were made to adhere to Masaryk’s demands as they would provide both a counter to Germany and her former allies as well as a buffer against the spread of Bolshevism into Western Europe. With little debate, the British delegation was swayed to approve of the plan.\textsuperscript{36}

When the political map of Europe was redrawn, the new nation of Czechoslovakia was

mapped out (see Appendix G). Historical Czech lands, the traditional Slovak territories of Hungary and Ruthenia and the Sudetenland, which the Czechoslovakian Legion occupied at the conclusion of the war, were now under the authority of Masaryk’s new nation.\textsuperscript{37} 

Despite this, President Wilson was still deeply concerned that the rights of ethnic minorities in Czechoslovakia would still be ignored. He cabled Secretary of State Robert Lansing lamenting that “ethnic lines cannot be drawn without the greatest injustice and injury in Bohemia.”\textsuperscript{38} Even the Pittsburgh Agreement, lauded as a diplomatic success, did not provide broad autonomy for Ruthenians, Germans, Hungarians, or Poles inside Czechoslovakian territory.\textsuperscript{39} While the new nation would be established as a true democratic republic, the voices of minority groups within Czechoslovakia were stifled to a large degree.\textsuperscript{40} 

Following the war, the desires of France and Britain to punish Germany with harsh reparations and the growing nationalism of newly formed nations of Europe caused great disappointment in the United States. The Senate, despite President Wilson’s strongest

diplomatic efforts (see Appendix H), refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. In the elections of 1920, the Republican Party regained control of the White House and Congress.\(^{41}\) Throughout the decade of the 1920s, the United States gradually withdrew itself from involvement in European affairs and returned to its traditional roots of isolation and neutrality.\(^{42}\)

Meanwhile, the unbalanced union of ethnic groups that grew from discontented nationalist positions made for a very difficult situation for newly elected Czechoslovakian president Tomas Masaryk. Agents of German, Hungarian, Ruthenian, and Polish nationalism, acting both internally and externally, caused a weakening in both internal and international diplomatic relations, just as President Wilson anticipated.\(^{43}\) Masaryk would do his best to hold this fragile coalition together until his death in 1937, just as his homeland was facing the threat of an invasion by Nazi Germany.\(^{44}\)

Following Masaryk’s death, a second Czecho-Slovak Republic was created in accordance with the Munich Agreement in which diplomacy was disguised as appeasement to Nazi aggression. This agreement introduced a hyphen in the new spelling of the nation to signify Slovak emancipation. Masaryk’s dream of a united and independent Czechoslovakia had


seemingly died with him.\textsuperscript{45}

By this point, more than two-thirds of the Sudeten Germans embraced Nazism and the reunification of all Germanic peoples with the “Fatherland.” Slovak separatists were emboldened by Czechoslovakia’s diplomatic defeat at the Munich Conference in 1938 and the loss of the Sudeten territory in hopes of an independent Slovakia. However, on March 15, 1939, Nazi forces marched across the border into Czechoslovakia commencing their bloody, six-year occupation of the nation.\textsuperscript{46}

Following World War II, Czechoslovakia would fall under Communist rule behind the Soviet Union’s “Iron Curtain.” Despite these regime changes, Masaryk’s legacy lived on as the nation continued to balance deep internal divisions. But, as the Cold War ended, so did the nation that Tomas Masaryk worked so hard to establish.\textsuperscript{47}

The Velvet Revolution of 1989 caused the final divorce between the Czechs and Slovaks. On January 1, 1993, the nation of Czechoslovakia was formally divided into the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia.\textsuperscript{48} Despite this mutual separation, the true meaning of the Pittsburgh Agreement still retains a strong legacy. The solidarity that Masaryk worked so hard

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to establish still exists in a spirit of diplomacy that continues to permeate throughout much of Central and Western Europe.49

The Pittsburgh Agreement also allowed for an analysis and interpretation of the role that immigrants to America played in the establishment of their national and political identities through a trans-Atlantic network of alliances that forged and shaped 20th century diplomacy. Even in the midst of a world war, the diplomatic efforts of Tomas Masaryk had an enormous impact on not only the Czech and Slovak people, but also on the continent of Europe. This helped the United States establish its first diplomatic footprint on the world stage.50

Masaryk would correctly label the United States as the “foster parent” of Czechoslovakia. Taking advantage of a unique set of circumstances centered around war and revolution, combined with President Wilson’s desire for peace and autonomy, Masaryk enabled world leaders to overcome mutual suspicions, forged new diplomatic avenues, and created a document in the Pittsburgh Agreement that altered the course of the history of Central Europe for decades to come.

In a unique and unprecedented way, the joining of the Czech and Slovak peoples, despite their many internal debates and struggles, actually helped them both maintain their cultural identities in the most uncertain of times. Even today, as the Czech Republic and the Republic of

50 Ibid.
Slovakia exist as different entities, they still retain strong diplomatic bonds with one another. The legacy of Tomas Masaryk and the Pittsburgh Agreement remains relevant more than a century after it was signed.
Tomas Masaryk was one of the most influential world leaders of the early 20th century. His ability to capitalize on the tumultuous events in Europe to achieve his dream of an independent Czechoslovakia was extraordinary.

Central Europe was dominated by the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the early 1900s. Numerous ethnic groups were subjugated under their iron-fisted rule. This map details the boundaries of Austria-Hungary in the decade prior to World War I.

Appendix C

Over 1.5 million Czech and Slovak immigrants came to the United States between 1880-1920. Most, like this miner, came seeking economic opportunity and political freedom and found work in the mines and steel mills of Western Pennsylvania.

Appendix D

Postcards featuring Masaryk and Wilson were popular items among the Czech and Slovak populations on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The diplomatic pairing of Tomas Masaryk and Woodrow Wilson reshaped the political map of Europe and established a new order on the continent.

Appendix E

The Pittsburgh Agreement was a diplomatic accord that established the nation of Czechoslovakia in independence from Austria-Hungary. It settled debates between the Czech and Slovak peoples and established a government built on the principles and ideals of the United States.

Tomas Masaryk (seated to the left of the crack in the Liberty Bell) declared Czechoslovakian independence on July 4, 1918, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This symbolic photo with the Liberty Bell features Masaryk and the Czech and Slovak delegations that made the Pittsburgh Agreement a reality.

The new nation of Czechoslovakia was carved out of the remnants of the Austro-Hungarian Empire based on traditional ethnic claims and land occupied by independent Czechoslovakian forces following the war.

Despite his best diplomatic efforts, President Wilson could not persuade the Senate to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. This cartoon illustrates the attitude of numerous Republican senators, their interpretations of the Constitution, and their desire to return to isolationism and normalcy.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

“1906 Rand & McNally Map of Austria-Hungary.” Map, Austria-Hungary, Library of Congress, 2009, https://www.loc.gov/resource/g6030.ct002033/. As seen in Appendix B of this paper, a 1906 map of Austria-Hungary is used to juxtapose the changes to the continent of Europe following World War I as seen in the map of Czechoslovakia in Appendix G. This map also illustrates the dominance of the Habsburg Dynasty and the Austro-Hungarian Empire over the vast majority of Central Europe at the turn of the 20th century.

Bronstrop. “They Won't Dovetail.” History Teaching Institute, Ohio State University, 2022, https://hti.osu.edu/opper/lesson-plans/league-of-nations/images/they-wont-dovetail. Accessed 5 Jan. 2022. President Wilson's failed efforts to see that the United States Senate ratified the Treaty of Versailles in an effort to become a member of the League of Nations following World War I is illustrated in this political cartoon titled, “It Won't Dovetail.” This political cartoon can be seen in Appendix H.

Following the completion of the Pittsburgh Agreement, Tomas Masaryk made a symbolic visit to Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to formally declare Czechoslovakian independence. This article in the *Washington Post* also details how Masaryk used this occasion for photo opportunities with Czech and Slovak dignitaries posed in front of the Liberty Bell.

Lejnnar, Carolyn. “Conditions in Austria-Hungary.” 12 Aug. 1907, Prague, Czechoslovakia. My great, great, great, great, grandmother was Carolyn Lejnnar who left Austria-Hungary for the United States in 1907. When she arrived here, she would write of the vast differences between her new home and the one she left behind. In this letter, which was part of our family’s archive, she writes about life under the heavy hand of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

changes brought about on the European continent as a result of the diplomatic efforts of Tomas Masaryk and the Pittsburgh Agreement.

Masaryk, Tomas, et al. “Signed Lithograph with the Calligraphic Text of the Pittsburgh Agreement, May 31, 1918.” Image, the Pittsburgh Agreement, Pennsylvania State Historical Commission, 2021, https://explorephistory.com/displayimage.php?imgId=1-2-1D97. My most important primary source was the Pittsburgh Agreement that can be viewed in Appendix E. This document was the Czechoslovakian Declaration of Independence. Combined with Masaryk's diplomatic savvy, this document ensured the redrawing of the political map of Europe at the conclusion of the conflict.

Masaryk, Tomas. “Concerning the Advancement of Our Army into Hungary.” Received by Edvard Benes, Digital Collections, University of Pittsburgh, 14 Apr. 2021, https://digital.library.pitt.edu/islandora/object/pitt%3A317350926864#page/1/mode/2up. Accessed 20 Dec. 2021. One of the greatest diplomatic tools at the disposal of Tomas Masaryk to establish an independent Czechoslovakia was the Czechoslovakian Legion that fought against the Central Powers in World War I. In this letter, Masaryk praises his troops as they advance into Hungary.

Masaryk, Tomas. “Return of the Siberian Legions to the Homeland.” Received by Czecho-Slovak Joint Counsel, Digital Collections, University of Pittsburgh, 16 Oct. 2021,
The return of the Czechoslovakian (Siberian) Legion to their homeland was a great victory for Tomas Masaryk. With independence already secured, his victorious forces helped claim new territory, including the Sudetenland, for Czechoslovakia. This letter praises their efforts and the securing of new national borders.

Masaryk, Tomas. “State of the Czechoslovakian Union, 1928.” Czechoslovakian State of the Union Address, 1928. Czechoslovakian State of the Union Address, 1928, 30 Jan. 1928, Prague, Czechoslovakia, Parliament of Czechoslovakia. In his State of the Czechoslovakian Union Address in 1928, President Tomas Masaryk paid homage to the nation’s "foster parent," the United States. This was a very important primary source in the defense of my thesis emphasizing that President Wilson’s Fourteen Points played a critical role in the establishment of an independent Czechoslovakia.

Front. This letter details the plan established by Masaryk to help ensure the eventual independence of Czechoslovakia.

“The New Masters of Slovakia.” New York Sun, 14 July 1918,

https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030431/1918-07-14/ed-1/seq-39/#date1=1918&index=0&rows=20&words=Masaryk&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1918&proxtext=Masaryk+y=0&e=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1. Accessed 21 Nov. 2021. Published just six weeks after the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement, this article goes into great detail concerning the road to Czechoslovakian independence. Within the context of this article, Masaryk's skill and savvy are praised from his formation of the Czechoslovakian Legion to his building a bridge to unify Czech and Slovak populations in both Europe and the United States.

“Postcard of Tomas Masaryk and Woodrow Wilson.” Secretary Kerry on the Occasion of the Czech Republic’s National Day, U.S. Embassy in the Czech Republic, 27 Oct. 2016, https://cz.usembassy.gov/secretary-kerry-occasion-czech-republics-national-day/. Accessed 8 Jan. 2022. Postcards, such as this, seen in Appendix D, featuring Tomas Masaryk and President Wilson, were very popular items among the newly arrived Czech and Slovak immigrants in the United States at the time of Masaryk's arrival in their newly adopted county in 1918. Produced by organizations such as the
Bohemian National Alliance and the Czecho-Slovak Press Bureau, these postcards were used to build support for the idea of an independent Czechoslovakia inspired by the ideals of freedom and independence that the United States represented.


Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was chosen by Tomas Masaryk to be the site of the signing of the memorandum of understanding that would come to be known as the Pittsburgh Agreement because it was home to many Slavic immigrants, such as the one seen in the image in Appendix C. Hundreds of thousands of Czech and Slovak immigrants would make their homes in the Pittsburgh region by the start of the First World War.


In a fitting tribute to Czechoslovakia's "foster parent," the United States, Tomas Masaryk and the Czechoslovakian delegation who months earlier signed the Pittsburgh Agreement, pose in front of the Liberty Bell near Independence Hall in
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I chose to incorporate this image in Appendix F of this paper because it visually and symbolically captured the diplomatic ties established between these two nations.

“Tomas Garrigue Masaryk, Half-Length Portrait, Standing, Facing Front.” Photo. Print, Drawing, Library of Congress, 2020, http://www.loc.gov/item/90712453/. Accessed 23 Nov. 2021. **Tomas Garrigue Masaryk is the central figure that dominates the whole of my research.** I chose to use this image of Masaryk, as seen in Appendix A, to provide readers with an image of the "Father of Czechoslovakian Independence." I felt I would be remiss not to include this as a means of personalizing the man from the printed word.

“U.S. Congress Declares War on Germany.” The Tulsa Star, 3 Apr. 1919, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86064118/1917-04-07/ed-1/seq-1/date1=1917&index=1&rows=20&words=Congress+Congress+Declares+Germany+War+War+searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1917&proxtext=Congress+declares+war+on+Germany+&y=12&x=21&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1. Accessed 5 Nov. 2021. **Headlines around the nation declared the news of the United States entry into World War I.** This article from *The Tulsa Sun* details the vote in a special joint session of Congress to commit American troops to war in Europe.
Wilson, Woodrow. President Wilson's Fourteen Points: The Basis of the New World Order, 100th Anniversary Edition. Edited by James Hendrickson, League for Permanent Peace, 2019. This source allowed me to better analyze and interpret Wilson's diplomatic overtures to European powers to prevent future wars and to create new nations such as Czechoslovakia, based on traditional and historical claims. I referenced this book on many occasions in my research.


Wilson, Woodrow. The Papers of Woodrow Wilson. Edited by Arthur S. Link, Princeton University Press, 1985. Included in this collection was a very poignant letter from President Wilson to Secretary of State Robert Lansing in which the president expressed deep concern over the rights of minorities in the new Czechoslovakian state. This was critical to my analysis of Wilson’s concern for the rights of ethnic
minorities following the conclusion of the First World War.


Secondary Sources

Cohen, Warren I. The American Revisionists; The Lessons of Intervention in World War I. University of Chicago Press, 1967. Cohen's analysis of the new diplomatic stance taken by the United States in World War I proved to be a very valuable print resource for my research. This book helped my interpretation of the complex relationship between Masaryk and Wilson and the manner in which their goals and objectives changed as events unfolded.

Cottrell’s work provided a critical link in my research that allowed me to better analyze the continuing legacy of the Pittsburgh Agreement. This source proved very beneficial by identifying important diplomatic ties that still exist between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia.

“February Revolution.” Seventeen Moments in Soviet History, Michigan State University, 28 Dec. 2015, http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1917-2/february-revolution/. Accessed 19 Dec. 2021. This website detailed the February Revolution in Russia that overthrew Czar Nicholas II and established a new provisional government as well as numerous other key events within the Soviet Union and how Masaryk would take full advantage of this situation by creating a diplomatic accord with this new government to allow independent Czechoslovakian troops to attack the Central Powers on the Eastern Front. This article was very helpful in my analysis of the events in Russia and the Soviet Union that would have such a profound impact on the eventual creation of Czechoslovakia.

The fragile and unbalanced political identity of Czechoslovakia is analyzed in this article. Filipova's research is outstanding and helped me to better interpret the true diplomatic genius of Tomas Masaryk to not only create the nation of Czechoslovakia, but to also maintain order within its borders amidst the numerous ethnic-based disputes and debates.


This article examines how World War I propelled the United States into the status of a true world power and how post-war politics pulled the nation back into its traditional role as a neutral, isolationist nation. This valuable resource aided greatly in my analysis of the effects of the war on President Woodrow Wilson and the nation he guided through the First World War.

Hromádka J. L., and Kohák Erazim V. Masaryk. L. Marek, 2005. Another important print resource that I accessed during my research was this biography of Tomas Masaryk. This source proved valuable as it went into great depth on his use of the independent
Czechoslovakian Legion during the First World War. It also details how Masaryk established firm diplomatic leverage to coincide with the Pittsburgh Agreement as a declaration of independence.

“Isolationism and U.S. Foreign Policy after World War I.” Academic Resources, Norwich University, May 2019, https://online.norwich.edu/academicprograms/resources/isolationism-and-us-foreign-policy-after-world-war-i. Accessed 27 Nov. 2021. This article clarified the events that followed the conclusion of the First World War and the return to the United States as an isolationist nation. It also helped in my analysis and understanding of why the United States was never a member of the League of Nations.

Kamenarova, Renata. “Masaryk's Bond with Czech and Slovak Expatriates.” 15 Nov. 2021. Email Interview. I had the pleasure of interviewing Renata Kamenarova, a professor of Slovak studies at the University of Pittsburgh, to discuss the relationship Masaryk established between the Czechs and Slovaks in the United States and those who remained in Europe. She detailed how this trans-Atlantic bond helped secure Czechoslovakian independence at the conclusion of World War I and provided important background details on the life of Tomas Masaryk.

Lewis, Gavin. Tomas Masaryk. Chelsea House, 1990. Tomas Masaryk was the central figure
in my research paper. Lewis's biography was the most comprehensive of those I read and the one I referenced most frequently in the research and development of this paper. Within the context of this work, the diplomatic genius of Tomas Masaryk become very evident.


One of the first websites that I accessed in my initial research on the Pittsburgh Agreement was this page sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission. It provided both background and external links on the Pittsburgh Agreement that not only helped me analyze the historical importance of this document, but also led me to other valuable resources and images that I would incorporate into my project.

Sebak, Rick. “Czechoslovakia Was Forged in Pittsburgh.” Pittsburgh Magazine, 19 June 2018, Pp. 14–24. Rick Sebak is a renowned Pittsburgh historian whose article on the Pittsburgh Agreement was very beneficial to the development of my research paper. His interpretation of the legacy of the accord reached between the Czechs and Slovaks was helpful in my analysis of the agreement and in the continued relevancy of this groundbreaking document.

Tuchman, Barbara. The Guns of August. Ballantine Books, 1990. One of the great histories written on the causes and rapid escalation to World War I was Barbara Tuchman's, The Guns of August. I found this to be a most valuable resource in my analysis of the
causes of the war and how entangling alliances in Europe drew in every major power on that continent. I would reference this source multiple times as my paper developed.

“Wilson and WWI.” Wilson, Public Broadcasting Service, 2021, https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/wilson-america-war/. Accessed 4 Dec. 2021. I wanted to gain additional analysis on how the Great War impacted the presidency of Woodrow Wilson. This biographical article that was published in conjunction with a documentary on President Wilson that provided me with great insight into his fears and continued diplomatic efforts as the war concluded. This greatly benefitted my own analysis and interpretation of Wilson's deepest concerns over post-war Europe.

Zoufalik, Robin. “The Pittsburgh Agreement.” 29 Nov. 2021. Email Interview. The Czech consulate in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Robin Zoufalik granted me an interview to discuss the legacy of the Pittsburgh Agreement. Her insight into the history and legacy of this important document proved critical in my research by establishing historical connections among events that occurred throughout the 20th century in Central Europe. This interview was also very important in the development of the conclusion of my research paper.