

Tuka, Vojtech

(1880--1946), Prime minister of the Nazi satellite state of Slovakia during World War II. A Slovak nationalist, Tuka worked as a law professor in the southwest Hungarian city of Pecs and later at the University of Bratislava. He also served as the secretary of the Slovak People's Party, which called for an independent Slovak state, and edited the party's periodical, *Slovak*.

After World War I Tuka worked together with the Hungarian Irredenta movement with regard to their joint anti-Czech platform. In 1923 he set up the fascist Home Guard military organization, and in 1929, a Czechoslovak court convicted him of high treason against the Czechoslovak government. Over the next decade, Tuka became a major supporter of an independent Slovakia, and acted as a leader of the extreme right-wing pro-German elements of the Slovak People's Party, which was now under the command of the Catholic priest, Andrej Hlinka.

As prime minister of Slovakia during World War II, Tuka strongly advocated the deportation of his country's Jews to the east--in other words, to their deaths at Nazi extermination camps in Poland. After the war, Tuka was sentenced to death by a court in Bratislava, Slovakia, but he died in prison.