

Slovak National Uprising

A revolt that broke out in Slovakia in late August 1944 and lasted until October 1944. Groups including the Communist Party, Slovak nationalists, and a group of Slovak army officers planned the rebellion. Their common goal was to overthrow the pro-Nazi government of Jozef Tiso.

On August 28, 1944 German troops invaded Slovakia to suppress the country's Partisans. At that point, the uprising erupted. The Germans thought that they would curb the rebellion in just a few days, but the rebels---the Slovak army and partisan units---proved to be much harder than they had estimated. More than 2,000 Jews also participated in the revolt, including underground fighters from the Jewish labor camps at Novaky, Sered, and Vyhne. These Jews hoped that by vanquishing the pro-Nazi government, the remaining 20,000 Jews in Slovakia would be rescued. However, by October the Nazis sent in thousands of soldiers to destroy the rebellion. On October 27 the uprising headquarters were crushed, signaling the end of the uprising.

In punishment, the Germans began rounding up thousands of Jews and partisans. Some were killed immediately, while another 13,500 were sent to Auschwitz and Theresienstadt. Because the war was almost over, 10,000 Slovak Jews survived in the camps. Another 4,000--5,000 survived by hiding in Slovakia.