

## Hlinka, Andrej

(1864--1938), Slovak clergyman and nationalist political leader for whom the Hlinka Guard was named.

Czechoslovakia became an independent republic in 1918. Hlinka supported the change and called for his native Slovakia to join the new state. However, he and other Slovak Catholic leaders were unhappy about the new government's policy of division of church and state, and especially disapproved of the laws that removed education from the church's control. Disappointed in Czechoslovakia, Hlinka revitalized the Slovak People's Party, and led it in a campaign for Slovak self-rule within the context of the Czechoslovak government. Hlinka's party soon came into conflict with the Czechoslovak authorities, who promoted the idea of a unified Czechoslovak people. The party also felt that the authorities discriminated against Slovaks with regard to the economy and other matters. Some elements in the party even began advocating Slovak national independence, despite the fact that Hlinka himself still called for Slovak autonomy within Czechoslovakia. In fact, there were several elements in his party that Hlinka could not contain, including those who called for attacks on Jews, while he denounced antisemitism and called on Slovak Jews to support Slovak nationalism.

After his death in 1938, Hlinka became a symbol of Slovak nationalism and his party became a major force in Slovak politics.