Asynchronous Presentation Outline: Jozef Tiso

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SPCH-101-41

General Purpose: To inform.

Specific Purpose: To inform my colleagues of Jozef Tiso, his life, and his crimes as a Nazi collaborator

Organizational style: Chronological

**Introduction**

**Attention Getter:** On April 18th, 1947, a Slovakian priest wrapped up in delusions of nationalistic fervor was hung for his crimes against humanity. This man, Jozef Tiso, had given up the Jewish people of Slovakia to the Third Reich and headed a fascist regime in the name of securing his nation’s prosperity.

**Relevance Statement:** In studying Tiso’s life, I believe we can learn an important cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked ultranationalism.

**Credibility Statement:** After choosing this topic I researched several scholarly sources on Jozef Tiso, including *Priest, Politician, Collaborator: Jozef Tiso and the Making of Fascist Slovakia*, the first English-language biography on Jozef Tiso by James Mace Ward, a historian at Cornell University, and Jozef Tiso: The Tragedy of a Politician, Priest and Man by Ivan Kamenec, a Slovakian historian, in addition to various other researchers’ and archivists’ work to collect Tiso’s writings and records of his actions.

**Thesis Statement:** Throughout his life, Tiso was a man devoted to his country and willing to do whatever was necessary to ensure its creation and growth, a devotion that led him to evil acts.

**Overview of the Main Points:** I plan to cover Tiso’s early life living in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and studying to be a priest, his work as a journalist, spokesman, and politician in the Slovak People’s Party, his dealings with the Third Reich to establish an independent Slovakia from Czechoslovakia and Hungary which led to his willingness to deport the Jews of his country to death camps, and finally, his trial for crimes against humanity, execution, and legacy.

**Transition:** *Now then, when discussing Jozef Tiso, we must first discuss the time in his life when Slovakia was still a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.*

**Body**

1. **MP1:** On October 13th, 1887, Jozef Tiso was born into a religious, ethnically Slovakian family in the Kingdom of Hungary and spent the first few decades of his life living under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. (Kamenec, 2013, p. 22)
2. He attended a grammar school where Hungarian nationalism was encouraged due to Slovakian grammar schools being shut down by the government. (Kamenec, 2013, p. 22)
3. Tiso studied to earn his Doctorate of Theology from the Pázmáneum, a seminary school in Vienna for Hungarian theological candidates. (Ward, 2013, p. 21)
4. During the First World War, Tiso served as a field curator in the 71st regiment which was comprised almost entirely of ethnic Slovakians and was where he first began to write. (Kamenec, 2013, p. 30)

**Transition:** *After the end of the war, Tiso understood that the time had come for a rise in Slovakian nationalism as the Empire fell apart.*

1. **MP2:** With the creation of the first Czechoslovak republic, Jozef began to become more politically active, arguing for the sovereignty of the Slovakian people over Slovakian land.
2. Joining the Slovak People’s Party in 1918, Tiso soon began to rise through the party’s ranks through his education, intelligence, and experience working with the common people. (Kamenec, 2013, p. 42)
3. During the interwar period, Tiso displayed the persona of a moderate politician who could compromise with others easily, seemingly abandoning his earlier anti-Semitism. (Kamenec, 2013, p. 43)

**Transition:** *As the German-speaking Sudetenland was taken by the Third Reich, Tiso began to make overtures to Hitler and his cabinet.*

1. **MP3:** To secure the independence of Slovakia from the Czech, Tiso made a deal with the Third Reich by asking for German assistance and protection.
2. As early as February 1939, Tiso entered secret meetings with German representatives, the payoff coming when the Germans occupied the remainder of Czechoslovakia and propped up the Slovak Republic where he was first named Prime Minister then President. (Ward, 2013, p. 178-9.)
3. The trade-off was the dream of Jozef’s anti-Semitism; in February 1942, Slovakia became the first German ally to agree to the deportation of Jews to work and death camps. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

**Transition:** *Yet for all his attempts to secure his new regime, Tiso’s goals and plans collapsed with the fall of Germany and his arrest by Allied forces.*

1. **MP4:** Tiso’s crimes would secure his condemnation and his legacy as a Nazi collaborator.
2. On April 15th, 1947, Tiso was sentenced to death by the restored Czechoslovak National Court for his crimes against humanity, and on April 18th, 1947, while wearing his clerical vestments, the man who had sold the Jewish population of his nation to the Nazis was hung while wearing his clerical vestments. (Ward, 2013, p. 258-9)
3. In secret, the Czech government buried Tiso’s body to prevent Slovakian ultranationalists from turning his grave into a shrine. (Ward, 2013, p. 266)

**Transition:** *And thus ends the life of one of the most pragmatic collaborators, a man who was willing to sell his soul to secure his country’s independence.*

**Conclusion**

**Review Main Points:** In his life, Tiso served as a priest within the old Austria-Hungarian Empire and army, wondering when the Slovakian people would be recognized as independent. After the First World War, he took political matters into his own hands and began to rise through the political ranks in Czechoslovakia before signing deals with the Third Reich to secure Slovakia’s establishment while signing away the lives of thousands of Jews. For his actions to achieve his ambitions, Tiso was marked and executed as a traitor and should be remembered as such.

**Restated Thesis:** Throughout his life, Tiso was a man devoted to his country and willing to do whatever was necessary to ensure its creation and growth, a devotion that led him to evil acts.

**Clincher Connected with the Introduction:** If left unchecked, one’s ambitions can lead them down the same path of Tiso, one of pragmatic opportunism and collaboration with a regime such as the Third Reich to secure one’s goals.

References

Kamenec, I. (2013). Jozef Tiso: Tragédia politika, kňaza a človeka. [Jozef Tiso: The Tragedy of a Politician, Priest and Man] (in Slovak). Premedia.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (n.d). *The Holocaust in Slovakia.* Retrieved January 23, 2017, from https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007324

Ward, J. M. (2013). *Priest, politician, collaborator: Jozef Tiso and the making of fascist Slovakia*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.

1. Many thanks to the Zach for allowing me to use his work as the basis for this example. A student consent form is on file. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)