

## Essay

After a night of tough negotiating, the dawn of September 30, 1938 broke with news of an agreement signed between by Neville Chamberlain and Adolf Hitler, which is now known as the infamous Munich Agreement. The Munich Agreement permitted Adolf Hitler to invade the Sudetenland, a region in Czechoslovakia. This agreement was the hallmark of the policy of appeasement that Neville Chamberlain espoused to “prevent war in our generation”. Yet less than a year later, on September 1st, 1939 when the peace in Europe was shattered as Hitler sent his armies thundering into Poland. In the end, Neville Chamberlain’s policy of appeasement permitted Adolf Hitler to turn Germany into a military industrial complex that spared no one the world over. Unfortunately, the lessons learned from the Munich Betrayal have yet to be realized by those in power in the United States of America.

In 1886, the Supreme Court of the United States of America ruled in the case of Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad Company that under the equal protection clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, corporations are persons in their own right. Establishing this fact, the Constitution of the United States holds that all corporations therefore must be treated equally. Although the Constitution holds that corporations are deemed equal in the eyes of the state, our legislators have decided to forsake the

document that they have sworn to uphold in order to appease special interest groups. Even worse, the courts of this country have been overrun with judges who have made ultra vires (ie beyond the powers) rulings that have systemically punished corporations for conducting honest business.

With sin taxes already placed upon tobacco products, casinos, and other goods enjoyed by millions of Americans, states now have their eyes on taxing foods that have either a high fat or sugar content. Bending to powerful lobbyists, the policy of appeasement is continuing as states such as New York are considering special taxes on sodas and fast food restaurants in order to legislate the lifestyle that those in power believe Americans should lead. Unfortunately, everyday Americans have decided through consent of ignorance to permit a small but powerful lobby to legislate how we live our lives.

Although morally repugnant and un-American, the Government has decided to reject the intrinsic right of equality for all persons. Instead of following an established jurisprudence, the government has decided to bend to the whims and appease a small yet vocal minority, who has a desire to control, through legislation the lives of other Americans. Maybe everyday Americans would be better served if, instead of penalizing and punishing those who choose to provide luxurious items such as certain food products, tobacco and other products, it were to focus on other more pertinent issues instead of legislating morality.