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## 1938: History Repeating

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Why can 1938 tell us so much about the present moment?

A philosopher worried about the present day chanced upon surprise after surprise while idly exploring the year 1938. Above and beyond such well-known milestones as the Munich Agreement and the so-called "weakness of democracies," he discovered facts, but also language, logic, and obsessions oddly parallel to those of today. The relinquishing of politics to the Popular Front, an insatiable thirst for authority, increasingly incantatory calls for democracy to counter the rise of nationalisms, immense fatigue with regard to law and justice: in the past, Foessel found the very image of our present.

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