

4. WORLD WAR II

United Nations

Unlike post-World War I, there was no official multinational peace conference after World War II. Instead, the victorious powers reached a series of separate agreements about postwar policy.

The postwar planning process actually started long before the war ended. Churchill and Roosevelt outlined their hopes for the postwar world in the Atlantic Charter, announced in August 1941. That document, like Wilson's Fourteen Points, was a statement of general international principles. In it the two leaders affirmed the right of all nations to self-government, pushed for free international trade, and pledged to work to avoid future wars.

In three meetings in 1943, the Allies made further plans. The first meeting was held in Casablanca, Morocco, in January. At that meeting, Churchill and Roosevelt

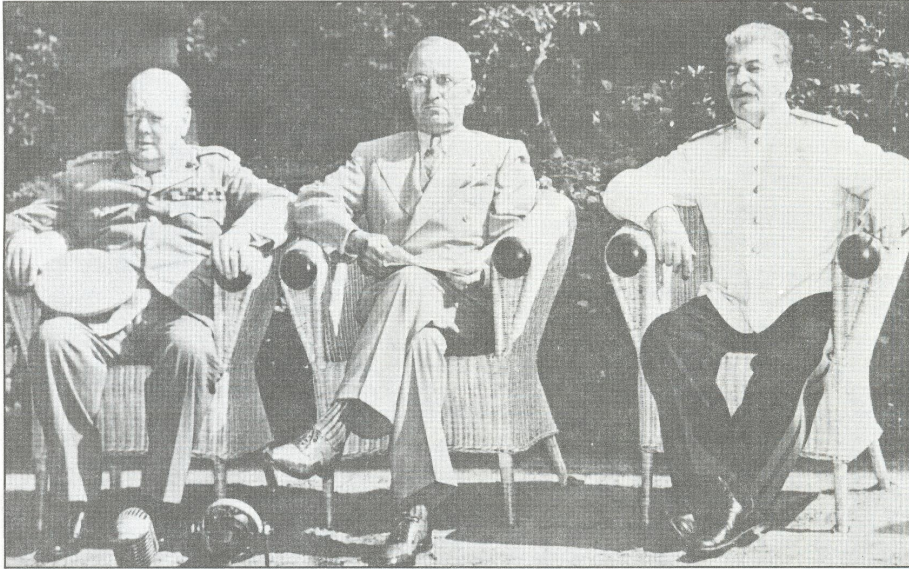
said that only unconditional surrender of the Axis powers would be accepted. At a second meeting in Cairo, Egypt, in November, Churchill, Roosevelt, and Chiang Kai-shek of China made plans for the defeat of Japan and pledged not to expand their own countries in the Far East.

Later the same month, the Big Three—Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt—met for the first time at Teheran, Iran. At that conference, the Allied leaders made plans for the invasion of Europe and pledged to work together to keep the peace after the war.

The next time the Big Three met was at Yalta in Russia in February 1945. They agreed to divide Germany into four zones of occupation after the war. The largest zone, in eastern Germany, would be occupied by the Soviet Union. Three western zones would be controlled by the United States, Britain, and France. The city of Berlin, in eastern Germany, was also

Postwar plans and decisions were decided in a series of high-level meetings among the major allied powers. Here the Big Three — Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill— meet in Teheran, Iran, in November 1943.





At Potsdam, Germany, Harry Truman, who replaced FDR as president, Churchill, and Stalin agreed upon allied zones of occupation in postwar Germany.

divided into four zones. Reparations were not officially set, but it was agreed that the Soviets would receive half of whatever figure was eventually agreed upon.

The Allied leaders also discussed the war against Japan. Roosevelt was convinced that Soviet help was essential to the defeat of Japan. The Soviets pledged to enter the war against Japan within three months after the defeat of Germany. In return, they were promised the rights to the Kuril Islands and part of Sakhalin Island, which were controlled by the Japanese.

As it turned out, the atomic bomb rendered Soviet assistance unnecessary. By the time the Soviets declared war on Japan, the United States had shown that it could defeat the Japanese with nuclear weapons if necessary.

It also became clear at Yalta that relations between the Soviet Union and the West were deteriorating. Stalin was very concerned about establishing governments friendly to the Soviet Union in eastern Europe. The Soviets had lost more than twenty million people in the war, and they were determined to guarantee the safety of their western border.

Western leaders were more concerned with guaranteeing democracy. They did

not want communism entrenched in Europe and knew that democratic governments would be friendly to the West.

Eventually, the western Allies accepted the idea that the Soviets would be responsible for rebuilding the countries of eastern Europe. Stalin was supposed to assure that those countries would have democratic governments, but no system was set up to monitor elections to make sure that they were free.

In general, that meant that the Soviets had a free hand in eastern Europe. In Poland they demonstrated what they hoped to accomplish throughout the region.

During the war, there were two Polish governments: a Communist regime in the Soviet Union and a democratic government-in-exile in England made up of prewar Polish leaders. When the Soviets occupied Poland, they installed the Communist government and refused to allow Poland's former leaders back into the country. Eventually, some of the old leaders were allowed back because of pressure from the U.S., but the Soviets had won control of the country.

Despite events such as these, Soviet and western leaders continued to try to work together. They met for the last time during

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Europe After World War II

- Pro-West (diagonal hatching)
- Communist (solid blue)
- Non-aligned (white)

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the war at Potsdam, Germany, in July 1945. Because Roosevelt had died on April 12, Harry Truman represented the United States. In the middle of the conference, Churchill was replaced by Clement Attlee, who became British prime minister when the Labour party won control of the British Parliament.

At Potsdam, the Allied leaders reached final agreement on dividing Germany into zones of occupation. They agreed that the Soviets could take equipment and materials from their zone in Germany as reparations. The other zones also contributed some reparations to the Soviets.

The question of peace treaties was referred to a Council of Foreign Ministers of the Allied nations. In 1947 peace pacts were signed with Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Finland. The western Allies and the Soviets later signed separate peace agreements with Japan.

At the various wartime conferences the Allies also discussed a proposal for the establishment of a new international peace organization. Their discussions eventually led to the creation of the United Nations.

At the Teheran conference, the Allied leaders had pledged their support for the creation of a new international body. In a 1944 meeting at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., Allied representatives made proposals for a general conference to be held later to organize the United Nations.

At Yalta, Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill discussed specific proposals regarding the United Nations. They agreed that the organization would have two major bodies—the General Assembly, in which all member nations would be represented, and the Security Council, which would be made up of representatives of the great powers.

Each member of the Security Council would have the right to veto any action taken by the council. In addition,

Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to allow the Soviet Union separate representation in the General Assembly for two of its republics as a concession to win Soviet participation in the new organization.

In April 1945, representatives of fifty nations met at the United Nations conference in San Francisco. The charter of the U.N. was drawn up by June 26, and it was ratified by the end of October. The first U.N. meeting took place on January 10, 1946.

The establishment of the United Nations made many people optimistic about future prospects for world peace. But despite the agreements that had been reached after World War II, the international situation after the war was at best uneasy.

Stalin had two primary goals: to make sure that the Soviet Union was the dominant power in eastern Europe and to encourage Communist movements around the world. Western leaders, on the other hand, were very concerned about Soviet expansionism and were openly hostile to communism. Only time would tell if the two sides would be able to cooperate to keep the peace.

4. WORLD WAR II: REVIEW

United Nations

A. Conferences

DIRECTIONS: Mix and match the following parts of sentences found below to make five statements concerning wartime conferences. Write your sentences on the lines provided in the order in which the conferences occurred.

SUBJECTS

Stalin, Truman, and Attlee
Churchill and Roosevelt
Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt
Churchill, Roosevelt, and Chiang Kai-shek
the Big Three

PREDICATES

made plans for the defeat of Japan
reached final agreement on Germany
met for the first time, made plans for the invasion of Europe, and pledged to work together for peace after the war
agreed to divide Germany into four zones of occupation
said that only the unconditional surrender of the Axis Powers would be accepted

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

at Potsdam
at a second meeting at Cairo
during their meeting at Casablanca
at Teheran
at Yalta

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

4. WORLD WAR II: REVIEW

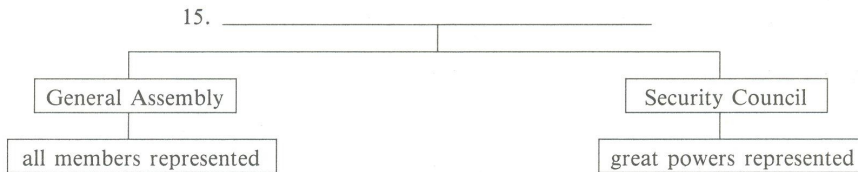
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13. Briefly describe the changes in the Polish government during World War II.

14. What were Stalin's two major goals after World War II?

D. Interpreting

DIRECTIONS: Study the diagram below. Write the name of the international peace organization it represents on the top line. Then answer the questions below.



16. What right was granted to the Security Council?

17. The Soviet Union was allowed special representation in the General Assembly. Explain that representation.

18. What did Churchill and Roosevelt hope to accomplish by allowing that representation?
