

The Major Conferences of World War II

Overview

Students will explore five major World War II conferences – the Atlantic, Casablanca, Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam -- by creating an informative 1940's news radio broadcast based on the participants and events.

Grade

11

NC Essential Standards for American History II

- AH2.H.6.1 - Explain how national economic and political interests helped set the direction of United States foreign policy since Reconstruction
- AH2.H.6.2 - Explain the reasons for United States involvement in global wars and the influence each involvement had on international affairs
- AH2.H.7.1 - Explain the impact of wars on American politics since Reconstruction

Materials

- World War II Warm Up Image, attached
- "Big Three at Yalta" Image, attached
- "Big Three at Yalta" Image Numbered, attached
- *Reporting World War II* handout, attached
- Conference Handouts, attached
 - Atlantic Conference
 - Casablanca Conference
 - Tehran Conference
 - Yalta Conference
 - Potsdam Conference
- *World War II Conferences Notes Sheet*, attached
- Projector
- Computer with internet access (optional)
- World History or US History Textbook

Essential Questions:

- What impact did radio have on Americans during World War II?
- Who were the major figures involved in the decision making process at the Allied Conferences?
- What was the impact on the Allied war strategy of the decisions made at the Allied Conferences?
- What was the impact of the Allied Conferences on the postwar world?
- What role did current events play on the decisions made at the Allied Conferences?

Duration

1 ½ block periods

Student Preparation

Students should have basic understanding of the causes, battles, people, and places of World War II.

Procedure

Warm Up: Radio During World War II

1. Project the attached, "World War II Poster" depicting radio related propaganda. Allow students a minute to silently view the image and then ask the following questions:
 - What do you see? What first catches your eye in this poster?
 - What message is this poster trying to convey?
 - Why do you think so many Americans were tuned to the radio during World War II?
 - Compare and contrast radio usage in society today to that of the 1940s. What purpose does the radio serve in society today? Do you think radio is the main form of entertainment and news today? If not, why not and what replaced it?
2. Inform students that throughout World War II, the radio was the main form of news and entertainment for American homes. According to a 1947 survey taken, 82 out of 100 Americans were radio listeners. Many Americans learned about the progress of the war through radio news reports. (*Image Source:* http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/36/Radio_-_Keep_It_Free.gif)
3. If possible, *visit* the following websites and play some actual WWII news broadcasts. This will give students a better historical sense of the time period, as well as prepare them for creating their own historically accurate broadcasts later in the lesson.
 - <http://www.otr.com/news.shtml>
 - http://www.earthstation1.com/America_WWII.html

The Big Three at Yalta "Act-it-Out"

4. Next, project or provide students a copy of the attached image from the Yalta Conference, but do not give students any information regarding the photo at this time. Instruct students to silently view the image and then discuss:
 - What or who do you see? Can you identify any of the people in the photo?
 - Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin, and various advisors.
 - When do you think this photo was taken? What evidence makes you think this?
 - February 1945
 - Given the people present and the year we have identified, why do you think that these leaders were meeting?
 - Inform students that this is a picture of the "Big Three" – Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin – at the Yalta Conference in 1945. Explain to students that during the war, the Allies were constantly collaborating and communicating to determine the most effective military strategies. Face to face meetings between Allied leaders occurred to discuss important strategic issues, to assert the reasons for fighting the war, and/or to shape the postwar world.
5. As a brief review of the three main players pictured, title three pieces of chart paper with the names of Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin. Ask a student volunteer to be a scribe for one of the three pieces of chart paper. Solicit information from students regarding what they already know about each of these three leaders, their actions, strategies, philosophies, etc. Information covered should include (source: history.com):
 - **Winston Churchill:**
 - Winston Churchill is one of the best-known, and some say one of the greatest, statesmen of the 20th century. Though he was born into a life of privilege, he dedicated himself to public service. His legacy is a complicated one – he was an idealist and a pragmatist; an orator and a soldier; an advocate of progressive social reforms and an unapologetic elitist; a defender of democracy as well as of Britain's fading empire – but for many people in Great Britain and elsewhere, Winston Churchill is simply a hero.
 - **Franklin Roosevelt:**
 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882 – 1945) was inspired by his fifth cousin, the former president Theodore Roosevelt, to pursue a career in politics. After serving first in the New York Senate and then as the state's governor, he became the 32nd president of the United States in 1932 and went on to serve four terms – more than any other US president in history. During his 12 years in office, Roosevelt led the nation out of

the Great Depression and remained at the helm through most of World War II. Ranging from new government agencies and economic initiatives to the Lend-Lease program and the United Nations, Roosevelt's legacy would shape life in the US – and America's place in the world – for decades to come.

- **Joseph Stalin:**

- Joseph Stalin ruled the Soviet Union for nearly 30 years, solidifying the communist goals of the Russian Revolution and transforming the USSR into one of the world's strongest powers. His ruthless programs to reform Soviet industry and agriculture led to the deaths of millions of Soviet citizens, and his purge of political enemies in the 1930s resulted in the execution and imprisonment of tens of thousands more. Stalin led the Soviet Union to victory over Germany in World War II, but soon turned against his fellow Allied nations. His attempts to foster the spread of worldwide communism led to increased conflict with the West, resulting in the Cold War. Stalin's regime, while brutal, also instilled a great sense of awe in the Soviet citizenry, engendering a "cult of personality" that lasted until the dictator's death in 1953.

6. Next, tell students you want them to imagine what was being thought or said at the moment this photo was taken. While students ponder the image, have them draw a numbered slip of paper from a receptacle. (The slips should contain a number from 1- 6.) Once all students have a number, project the second "Big Three at Yalta" image that is numbered. Tell students that based upon the number they drew, they will assume the character of the person in the image labeled with the corresponding number and write a first-person response to what they are thinking, feeling, seeing, hearing, etc. Once students have had time to formulate and write down their thoughts, give them a 1 minute warning and tell them to review what they have written in preparation for sharing. Next, have 6 student volunteers who represent each figure to come to the front of the classroom and take the same position as the people in the image. In numerical order, have the students read their first-person monologues.

Depending on time constraints, teachers can also have students take their creativity further, such as by instructing two students, in character, to go into an improvised dialogue together.

7. Debrief:

- What types of important information did you hear from these characters?
- Did anything surprise you? Did anyone interpret one of the figures very differently than you would have? Explain.
- If you had to give this picture a caption or title, what would it be?

Reporting About World War II on 1940s Radio

8. Although there were many meetings between various Allied leaders throughout the war, explain to students that they will be focusing on the five most important conferences in a group activity. Before dividing students into groups, distribute and review the attached project instructions. Answer any student questions and remind students of teacher expectations for group work.
9. Next, divide students into mixed ability groups of 3 – 5 and assign each group one of the following Allied conferences: the Atlantic Conference, Casablanca Conference, Tehran Conference, Yalta Conference, and the Potsdam Conference. Provide each student with a copy of the corresponding handout.
10. Inform groups that they have the remainder of class to complete their projects and that they will be presenting their radio reports at the start of the next class. Circulate throughout the class to ensure students are on task. Provide students with updates of time remaining.
 - *Teacher note:* A projectable countdown timer is available at <http://www.online-stopwatch.com/>.

Day Two

11. In lieu of a warm up, allow students five minutes to meet with their groups to finalize their radio presentations. While students are finalizing their projects, post the following presentation order on the board:
 - Atlantic Conference

- Casablanca Conference
- Tehran Conference
- Yalta Conference
- Potsdam Conference

12. Once groups are ready to present, review respectful audience expectations. Distribute the attached *World War II Conferences Notes Sheet* and instruct students to fill out the handout while their classmates are presenting. At the conclusion of each presentation, allow the audience to ask the presenters to repeat any information they may have missed.
13. Debrief the lesson by discussing the following questions:
- Which of these conferences do you think will have the most lasting impact on the postwar world and why?
 - Do you think that Truman replacing Roosevelt and Atlee replacing Churchill had an effect on Stalin's demands? Do you think that Stalin viewed them as equal to their predecessors? Explain.
 - What particular events affected the outcome of each conference and how? Give specific examples.
 - Can you think of any recent conference that is similar to those you just learned about? Who were the participants? What did they meet to discuss? Was the United States involved?
 - Why do you think that the current wars the United States is engaged in – Afghanistan and Iraq – do not have similar conferences?

Additional Activities

- For homework, have students choose a conference and create a political cartoon describing the impact of the conference on the postwar world.

Resources

- Radio Days: News
 - <http://www.otr.com/news.shtml>
- Second World War America Audio & Video
 - http://www.earthstation1.com/America_WWII.html
- History Channel: World War II
 - <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii>





Big Three at Yalta



Name _____

Assigned Conference: _____

Reporting World War II

Directions: Imagine that you're a group of American radio news reporters during World War II and you've been assigned to cover an important meeting between the Allied powers. It is your job to explain to your audience basic information about the conference as well as the historical significance of your conference. Your broadcast should last between five and ten minutes.

Requirements:

- An **introduction** that informs listeners about your station, news team and provides an overview of the broadcast. Use the example below as a starting point, BUT be more creative!
 - "Reporting from London, Joe Schmo, Jane Doe, and I'm Alan Smithee for CBS News Radio."
- **Accurate information** that answers all of the **Presentation Focus Questions**.
- A **quote** – real or imagined -- from one of the participants in the conference.
 - **Reporter:** "Here's President Roosevelt expressing his opinion on the outcome of the conference."
 - **Roosevelt:** "We have reached an agreement here that will bring a swift end to the war."
- **Editorial commentary or opinions** regarding outcome of the conference. Use one of the discussion questions.
 - **Reporter 1:** Now with commentary on this historic conference, Joe Schmo.
 - **Reporter 2:** It seems to me that the Russian received way too many concessions from the US and UK. It's this reporter's opinion that this will have lasting effects on the postwar world.
- A **creative signoff**.
 - "That finishes our report from London. For Joe Schmo, Jane Doe, I'm Alan Smithee. To our listeners: Goodnight and good luck."
- The group must provide a **transcript** -- that includes the above requirements -- of your radio broadcast for the teacher.
- **All group members must participate in the radio broadcast.**

Grading Rubric

Requirement	Points Possible
Preparing Radio Broadcast	
Used class time wisely	5
All Group Members participated in creation of project	5
Followed directions	5
Radio Transcript	
Has an introduction	10
Contains accurate information and answer the Presentation Focus Questions	15
A quote from one of the participants	5
Editorial Commentary	10
A creative signoff	5
Performance of Radio Broadcast	
Performance was between five and ten minutes	10
Performers used good presentation skills (volume, spoke clearly, showed emotion in voices, etc.)	5
Performers took presentation seriously	10
Performance was organized and well thought out	10
Performance was creative	5

Atlantic Conference

Excerpt from *World War II: A Short History*

Throughout the summer and fall of 1941, America's role in support of Britain increased significantly. In April, US forces occupied the Danish territory of Greenland after an agreement with the Danish ambassador in Washington. In July, American troops also took over Iceland, another Danish possession. They relieved British troops, who had occupied the island soon after the German seizure of Denmark. Both Greenland and Iceland became bases from which US air and naval units could patrol the Atlantic.

In August, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill met in a secret rendezvous, off the coast of Newfoundland. There they drafted the Atlantic Charter, which, as a joint declaration of policy by a belligerent power (or power fighting in the war) and a technically neutral nation, was a remarkable document. Its idealistic terms upheld the right of all peoples to choose their own governments, affirmed Anglo-American dedication to peace "after the final destruction of Nazi tyranny," and rejected any territorial aggrandizement – gaining new territories -- as a result of the war. The Atlantic Charter was important because it symbolized growing Anglo-American solidarity. It also had propaganda appeal to the conquered peoples of Europe, encouraging them not to lose hope.

Source: Lyons, Michael. World War II: A Short History. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004. 147. Print. Adapted and Edited by the NC Civic Education Consortium

The Atlantic Charter

AUGUST 14, 1941

The President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

First, their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;

Second, they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

Third, they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them;

Fourth, they will endeavor, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity;

Fifth, they desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing, for all, improved labor standards, economic advancement and social security;

Sixth, after the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want;

Seventh, such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance;

Eighth, they believe that all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be

employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measure which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.

Sources: <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/atlantic.asp>
Education Consortium

Adapted and Edited by the NC Civic

Images for the Atlantic Conference



Directions: Using the above documents, prior knowledge of World War II, and your textbook, answer the following questions as a group on a separate sheet of paper.

Presentation Focus Questions:

- 1) Who attended your conference?
- 2) Where was your conference held?
- 3) When was your conference held? (Be as specific as possible)
- 4) What were the terms of the agreement reached at your conference?
- 5) Why is your conference historically significant?

Group Discussion Questions

- 1) In what ways did the United States support the Allies despite being neutral?
- 2) How might the Atlantic Charter encourage the "conquered peoples of Europe" not to "lose hope"?
- 3) How do you think Nazi Germany responded to the Atlantic Charter?
- 4) Do you agree with the ideals set forth in the Atlantic Charter? Why or Why not?

- 5) Which section is most important and why?
- 6) In what ways has the Atlantic Charter been upheld by the United States in the post-World War II world?
- 7) In what ways has the Atlantic Charter been ignored by the United States in the post-World War II world?

Casablanca Conference

Excerpt from *World War II: A Short History*

Hitler's decision to send troops to Tunisia was in one sense a blunder because of the sacrifice of so many soldiers. But it also lengthened the Allied operation in North Africa to such an extent that the British and Americans were unable to shift forces to Britain in time for a cross- [English] channel invasion in 1943. Churchill and Roosevelt actually confirmed this outcome when they met in a conference at Casablanca in January 1943 while the struggle for Tunisia was still far from complete. Roosevelt accepted Churchill's proposal that the Allies concentrate on additional offensive operations in the Mediterranean during 1943, specifically, an invasion of Sicily. In return, Churchill approved a massive buildup for a cross-[English] channel invasion in 1944.

Source: Lyons, Michael. World War II: A Short History. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004. Print.
Adapted and Edited by the NC Civic Education Consortium

ROOSEVELT, CHURCHILL MAP 1943 WAR STRATEGY AT TEN-DAY CONFERENCE HELD IN CASABLANCA; GIRAUD AND DE GAULLE, PRESENT, AGREE ON AIMS

By DREW MIDDLETON Special Cable to The New York Times

CASABLANCA, French Morocco, Jan. 24 [1943] -- President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill today concluded a momentous ten-day conference in which they planned Allied offensives of 1943 aimed at what the President called the "unconditional surrender of the Axis powers."

The President flew 5,000 miles across the Atlantic with his Chiefs of Staff to confer with Mr. Churchill and British military, naval and air chieftains in a sun-splashed villa within sound of Atlantic breakers. Every phase of the global war was discussed in conferences lasting from morning until midnight. Both war leaders emphasized that the conference was wholly successful and that complete agreement had been reached on great military enterprises to be undertaken by the United Nations [Allied Powers] this year.

General Henri Honore Giraud, High Commander for French North Africa, and General Charles de Gaulle, leader of fighting in France, met at the conference and found themselves in accord on the primary task of liberating France from German domination. President Roosevelt predicted that French soldiers, sailors and airmen would fight beside the Allied armies in the liberation of France.

Stalin Kept Informed

The President and Mr. Churchill expressed regret for Premier Joseph Stalin's inability to leave the Russian offensive, which he is directing personally, but emphasized that all results of the conferences had been reported to the Soviet Leader. [Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek was similarly advised, The Associated Press reported.]

Assurance of future world peace will come only as a result of the total elimination of German and Japanese war power, the President declared. He borrowed a phrase from General Grant's famous letter to the Confederate commander at Forts Donelson and Henry -- "unconditional surrender" -- to describe the only terms on which the United Nations [Allied Powers] would accept the conclusion of the war.

He emphasized, however, that this did not mean the destruction of the populace of Germany, Japan and Italy, but the end of a philosophy based on the conquest and subjugation of other peoples in those countries.

The President saw three objectives before the United Nations in 1943.

The first of these is maintenance of the initiative won in the closing days of 1942, its extension to other theatres and an increase in those which the Allies now hold the upper hand.

Second, the dispatch of all possible aid to the Russian offensive must be maintained with the double objective of whittling down German manpower and continuing the attraction of German munitions and material on the Russian front.

Third, Mr. Roosevelt called for assistance for the Chinese armies, now in their sixth year of war, with Japanese domination ended forever.

Both Leaders Satisfied

To gain these objectives the military and political leaders of the United Nations [Allied Powers] are determined to pool all their resources, military and economic, in 1943 to maintain the initiative wherever it is now held and to seek every opportunity to bring the enemy to battle on terms as unfavorable as those now prevailing in Tunisia.

Both leaders were extremely satisfied at the successful conclusion of the fourth meeting between them since the beginning of the war. Cooperation between the American and British Chiefs of Staff was described by Mr. Roosevelt as the closest possible, with the military leaders living together and working as personal friends more than allies.

President Roosevelt predicted that the war would proceed according to schedule, with every indication that 1943 would be an even better year for the United Nations [Allied Powers] than 1942.

The conference, which probably made more important decisions than any other called by the United Nations [Allied Powers], was held in a lush tropical setting in conditions of greatest secrecy. A swimming pool in the back yard had been turned into an air raid shelter, but no German planes approached Casablanca during the conference, and if any had come they would have been greeted by squadrons of British and United States fighter planes flying guard over the region.

Talks Closely Guarded

Many acres of the resort were enclosed in two lines of barbed wire, on which tin cans were hung. If any one had been foolhardy enough to approach these lines he would have been riddled by bullets from machine guns or bayoneted by some of the hundreds of American infantrymen who stood helmeted atop roofs or patrolled the shady walks around the area.

Both the President and the Prime Minister seemed confident and satisfied when they appeared at the noon press conference today. The President wore a worn gray suit and the Prime Minister was dapper in a gray pin-stripe suit topped by a somewhat battered bray Homburg hat. The sunshine winked in a jeweled "V" and as American Distinguished Service Order bar in his lapel buttonhole.

The two unmilitary-looking men, who lead half of the strongest coalition in history, were accompanied by General de Gaulle and General Giraud. For the benefit of the camera, the two generals shook hands.

"A historic moment," President Roosevelt commented.

The sun beat fiercely on the group. Mr. Churchill asked the President, "Do you want a hat?"

"I was born without a hat," Mr. Roosevelt replied.

Mr. Roosevelt revealed that the Allied victories in North Africa had made his fourth meeting with Mr. Churchill necessary. The situation had been reviewed in the meeting and plans made for the next steps in 1943, he said.

Both he and Mr. Churchill expressed deep regret for Premier Joseph Stalin's inability to leave the Russian offensive which he is directing personally, but emphasized that all the results of the conference between the President and the Prime Minister and their Chiefs of Staff committees had been reported to the Soviet leader.

Mr. Churchill agreed with Mr. Roosevelt that the conference was unprecedented in history. Describing himself again as the President's ardent lieutenant, Mr. Churchill declared they worked together as partners and friends and described their cooperation as one of the sinews of war of the Allied powers.

The Prime Minister began to speak slowly, by gradually raised his voice as he described the frustration of the enemy by the men Adolf Hitler had called incompetents and drunkards. This brought a laugh. Mr. Churchill beamed.

The events in North Africa have altered the whole strategic aspect of the war, making the Germans and Italians fight under conditions of great difficulty, he declared. He described general Field Marshal Erwin Rommel as a fugitive from Libya and Egypt now trying to pass himself off as the liberator of Tunis. But he reminded the correspondents that General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery was hot on Marshal Rommel's trail and that everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go.

Purpose Is Unconquerable

Design, purpose and an unconquerable will lie behind all that is being done by Britain and America, the Prime Minister said solemnly. These will be applied to enforce unconditional surrender upon the criminals who plunged the world into the war, he concluded.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/0114.html#article>

Adapted and Edited by the NC Civic Education Consortium

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Presentation Focus Questions:

- 1) Who attended your conference?
- 2) Where was your conference held?
- 3) When was your conference held? (Be as specific as possible)
- 4) What were the terms of the agreement reached at your conference?
- 5) Why is your conference historically significant?

Group Discussion Questions

- 1) What is "unconditional surrender"?
- 2) Why do you think that the Allies decided to call for the Axis' "unconditional surrender"? Do you think that the results of World War I had an impact on this decision? Why or why not?
- 3) Why was Joseph Stalin unable to attend the conference?
- 4) What events influenced the decisions made by the Allies at the conference?
- 5) According to President Roosevelt, what were the three objectives before the Allies in 1943?
- 6) Why do you think the *New York Times* article neglected to mention the decision to invade Sicily?
- 7) Why do you think the reporter included the exchange between Churchill and Roosevelt regarding a hat?

Tehran Conference

Excerpt from *World War II: A Short History*

This was the first face to face meeting of all three Allied leaders, the "Big Three". It took place in the capital of Iran [Tehran], a country that Soviet and British troops had occupied jointly in the summer of 1941 to facilitate the transit of Western aid to Russia and to safeguard Allied access to Iranian oil fields. [...] Stalin supported the Americans and insisted on [Operation] Overlord [the Allied plan to invade Normandy, France]. Confronted by the opposition of both his allies, Churchill reluctantly agreed that the cross channel invasion would have top priority in 1944, while the Italian campaign would be relegated to secondary importance. They also agreed that American troops would undertake an invasion of southern France to coincide with [Operation] Overlord but on a lesser scale.

It was also at Teheran that Roosevelt made his decision to appoint [General Dwight] Eisenhower supreme commander of the Allied expeditionary forces that would carry out the invasion. Western leaders had already agreed that an American would serve in this post because the United States would ultimately commit larger forces to the conquest of Western Europe. [...]

The decision proved especially beneficial to the Allied cause. Eisenhower possessed the ability to get along with both American and British leaders [...] These qualities were of vital importance in the man who was responsible for holding the coalition together.

Source: Lyons, Michael. World War II: A Short History. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004. Print.
Adapted and Edited by the NC Civic Education Consortium

THE TEHRAN CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 1, 1943

(a) Declaration of the Three Powers, December 1, 1943

We the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and the Premier of the Soviet Union, have met these four days past, in this, the Capital of our Ally, Iran, and have shaped and confirmed our common policy.

We express our determination that our nations shall work together in war and in the peace that will follow...

As to war-our military staffs have joined in our round table discussions, and we have concerted our plans for the destruction of the German forces. We have reached complete agreement as to the scope and timing of the operations to be undertaken from the east, west and south.

The common understanding which we have here reached guarantees that victory will be ours.

And as to peace-we are sure that our concord will win an enduring Peace. We recognize fully the supreme responsibility resting upon us and all the United Nations to make a peace which will command the goodwill of the overwhelming mass of the peoples of the world and banish the scourge and terror of war for many generations.

With our Diplomatic advisors we have surveyed the problems of the future. We shall seek the cooperation and active participation of all nations, large and small, whose peoples in heart and mind are dedicated, as are our own peoples, to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance. We will welcome them, as they may choose to come, into a world family of Democratic Nations.

No power on earth can prevent our destroying the German armies by land, their U Boats by sea, and their war plants from the air.
Our attack will be relentless and increasing.

Emerging from these cordial conferences we look with confidence to the day when all peoples of the world may live free lives, untouched by tyranny, and according to their varying desires and their own consciences.

We came here with hope and determination. We leave here, friends in fact, in spirit and in purpose.

(b) Declaration of the Three Powers Regarding Iran, December 1, 1943

The Governments of the United States, the U. S. S. R., and the United Kingdom recognize the assistance which Iran has given in the prosecution of the war against the common enemy, particularly by facilitating the transportation of supplies from overseas to the Soviet Union.

The Three Governments realize that the war has caused special economic difficulties for Iran, and they are agreed that they will continue to make available to the Government of Iran such economic assistance as may be possible, having regard to the heavy demands made upon them by their world-wide military operations, and to the world-wide shortage of transport, raw materials, and supplies for civilian consumption.

With respect to the post-war period, the Governments of the United States, the U. S. S. R., and the United Kingdom are in accord with the Government of Iran that any economic problems confronting Iran at the close of hostilities should receive full consideration, along with those of other members of the United Nations, by conferences or international agencies held or created to deal with international economic matters.

The Governments of the United States, the U. S. S. R., and the United Kingdom are at one with the Government of Iran in their desire for the maintenance of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran. They count upon the participation of Iran, together with all other peace-loving nations, in the establishment of international peace, security and prosperity after the war, in accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Charter, to which all four Governments have subscribed.

(c) Military Conclusions of the Tehran Conference

The Conference:

(1) Agreed that the Partisans [guerilla fighters] in Yugoslavia should be supported by supplies and equipment to the greatest possible extent, and also by commando operations:

(2) Agreed that, from the military point of view, it was most desirable that Turkey should come into the war on the side of the Allies before the end of the year:

(3) Took note of Marshal Stalin's statement that if Turkey found herself at war with Germany, and as a result Bulgaria declared war on Turkey or attacked her, the Soviet would immediately be at war with Bulgaria. The Conference further took note that this fact could be explicitly stated in the forthcoming negotiations to bring Turkey into the war:

(4) Took note that Operation OVERLORD [invasion of Normandy, France] would be launched during May 1944, in conjunction with an operation against Southern France. The latter operation would be undertaken in as great a strength as availability of landing-craft permitted. The Conference further took note of Marshal Stalin's statement that the Soviet forces would launch an offensive at about the same time with the object of preventing the German forces from transferring from the Eastern to the Western Front:

(5) Agreed that the military staffs of the Three Powers should henceforward keep in close touch with each other in regard to the impending operations in Europe. In particular it was agreed that a cover plan to mystify and mislead the enemy as regards these operations should be concerted between the staffs concerned.

Source: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/tehran.htm>. (not working)

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Directions: Using the above documents, prior knowledge of World War II, and your textbook, answer the following questions as a group on a separate sheet of paper

Presentation Focus Questions:

- 1) Who attended your conference?
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- 3) When was your conference held? (Be as specific as possible)
- 4) What were the terms of the agreement reached at your conference?
- 5) Why is your conference historically significant?

Group Discussion Questions

- 1) Why was control of Iran significant to the Allies? Why do you think that petroleum is an important resource for fighting a war?
- 2) Who is Dwight Eisenhower and why was his appointment significant?
- 3) Using the map as a hint, why was the cross-channel invasion – Operation Overlord -- important for defeating Germany?
- 4) What concessions were given to Iran for their role in helping the Allies?
- 5) Of the five military conclusions reached under the Tehran Conference, which one is the most important and why?

Yalta Conference

Excerpt from *World War II: A Short History*

Early in February [1945], with the Soviets already less than 40 miles from Berlin and the Western Allies still recovering from their rude shock in the Ardennes [Battle of the Bulge], Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met in their second “Big Three” conference in the former tsarist summer residence at the seaside resort of Yalta in the Crimea. Clearly, with the Red Army in control of most of Eastern Europe and seemingly poised to strike directly at Berlin, Stalin participated from a position of great strength, and the Western Allies were quite aware of it. Roosevelt also hoped for Soviet participation in the war against Japan as well as cooperation between the two countries in the post War era. In pursuit of these objectives, he worked more closely with Stalin than with Churchill, much to the latter’s chagrin. To some extent this reflected the obvious decline in Britain’s stature in the Allied coalition by this time, but it was also due in part to continuing American suspicion of British imperialist ambitions. The Americans also realized that the Soviets would be in control of Eastern Europe when the war ended and hoped to avoid alienating Stalin by being too demanding regarding this area. This did not mean that all would go smoothly, and the tendency of both sides to cast their arguments in ideological terms helped to create tension that would continue after the conference ended.

In regard to Europe, the Big Three agreed to the American-sponsored Declaration on Liberated Europe, a rather forlorn attempt to moderate Soviet intentions in Eastern Europe. It provided for the establishment of coalition governments containing Communists and non-Communists in all liberated countries as well as free parliamentary elections. Churchill and Roosevelt also recognized the USSR's claim to eastern Poland and agreed that the border should run generally along the line that British foreign secretary Lord Curzon had proposed in 1919. In return, the Western leaders won Stalin's agreement that free elections would determine Poland's future government.

As for Germany, the three men affirmed their intention to divide the country into occupation zones for each of the major allies as well as allotting a smaller zone for France. The Soviet zone would include most of eastern Germany. They also provided for the division of Berlin into occupation zones and declared their dedication to disarming Germany as well as punishing war criminals and eliminating Nazi influence. Finally, Stalin demanded extensive reparations from Germany to compensate for wartime losses and to help rebuild the Soviet economy. Churchill and Roosevelt managed to defer the actual amount until after the war.

Source: Lyons, Michael. World War II: A Short History. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004. Print.
Adapted and Edited by the NC Civic Education Consortium

Yalta casts its shadow 60 years on

By Paul Reynolds World Affairs correspondent, BBC News website

It is 60 years since the three major allied leaders, Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin, met to divide up the world in the old summer palace of the tsars in the Crimean resort of Yalta - and the dark memories of that conference linger today.

It was at Yalta, between 4 and 11 February 1945, that the first shivers of the Cold War were felt, as the alliance between democracy and communism began to give way to rivalry and hostility.

In their book *Cold War*, Jeremy Isaacs and Taylor Downing state: "The Yalta Conference represented the high-water mark of Allied wartime collaboration."

But they add: "Yalta revealed cracks in the Grand Alliance. Only the common objective of defeating Hitler had kept it together."

Still controversial

Only in the last few years has the legacy of Yalta finally been overcome, with the re-unification of Germany and the emergence of countries in eastern and central Europe as members of the European Union.

The latest example of the cloak of history being shaken off has come with the recent elections in Ukraine, which now owns the Crimean peninsula.

Even on the 60th anniversary, controversy remains.

A row has broken out over the installation in the palace of a sculpture of the three leaders.

Crimean Tartars have objected to the inclusion of Stalin, who deported them by the tens of thousands for allegedly collaborating with the German invaders.

The Yalta talks, held at Stalin's insistence in the then Soviet Union and necessitating a long sea and air journey by the ailing President Roosevelt, came as the Red Army had broken through on the eastern front and the US, British and Canadian armies were still west of the Rhine.

Stalin therefore was in a strong position and he used it. He was determined to ensure that whatever the post-war settlement in Europe, there should be no threat to the Soviet Union. He intended to carry this out by placing sympathetic governments in a buffer zone between him and western Europe, especially Germany.

Soviet influence

For his part, President Roosevelt had two main aims: to get agreement on the formation of the United Nations, and to get Russia to join the war against Japan. He was less worried about the future of Europe and felt that Stalin could be trusted.

Winston Churchill felt that Roosevelt was naive about Stalin. He tried to resist the imposition of punitive reparations on Germany and worked to restore the position of France as a significant power to bolster that of Britain. Above all, he tried to stop the extension of Soviet influence, especially in Poland. After all, the defence of Poland was why Britain and France had declared war on Germany in the first place. But though Churchill spoke with a loud voice, Britain by then carried only a relatively small stick.

Poland in the middle

A deal was done.

Stalin agreed to fight against Japan (acquiring in the process islands in Kurile chain near Japan) and he agreed to the UN, having first ensured that the Soviet Union would have a veto in the proposed executive body, the Security Council.

In return, he insisted on covering the security of the Soviet Union.

And here he chose Poland, the most contentious issue in the summit, to make his point and to provide an example of what would eventually happen right across the Soviet satellite states.

First, he ensured that Poland's borders were to his liking. So, the Soviet Union acquired much of eastern Poland and Poland was given tracts of eastern and northern Germany in return. Vast movements of populations took place. One of the cities gained by Poland was Danzig, to be re-named Gdansk. The Baltic city provided another example of how fortunes can change. World War II started over Hitler's demands for access to Danzig, and it was in Gdansk that Poland's own modern freedom began, among the shipyard workers led by Lech Walesa.

Stalin then won loose language to describe the future governance of Poland, which he intended to be of his choosing. With the Red Army in a powerful position - and having stood by while the Polish nationalists were slaughtered in the Warsaw Uprising - he had already installed a provisional government in Poland, ignoring the government-in-exile which had been operating throughout the war in London.

The Yalta communiqué said only that this provisional government should be broadened: "The Provisional government which is now functioning in Poland should therefore be reorganised on a broader democratic basis with the inclusion of democratic leaders from Poland itself and from Poles abroad."

'Fair deal'

Of course, neither the Americans nor the British could enforce this. It is true that, for a time, Stalin stuck to the agreement.

The Polish leader-in-exile, Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, became deputy prime minister.

But the communists swept to full power in dubious elections in 1947, Mikolajczyk was accused of being a foreign agent and had to flee into exile.

Churchill was only too aware of what might happen. After 16 Polish underground leaders disappeared following a meeting with Red Army officers, Churchill wrote to Stalin and lamented the way matters were developing.

"They [the British people] can never feel this war will have ended rightly unless Poland has a fair deal in the sense of sovereignty, independence and freedom, on the basis of friendship with Russia. It was on this that I thought we agreed at Yalta," he wrote.

Poland, however, did not gain the sovereignty, independence and freedom for which the war had been declared until many years later.

The Cossacks are another people with bitter memories of Yalta. Some of them had been recruited to fight with the Germans and Stalin got Allied agreement that all Soviet citizens should be returned home. Thousands of Cossacks were on the Western side of the lines and their return in many cases meant their death.

Churchill, and particularly Roosevelt, were later criticised for giving way to Stalin. However, the historian A J P Taylor, in his Oxford English History 1914-1945, was more understanding. "Soviet armies controlled most of eastern Europe, and the Western Allies had no resource other than Stalin's good will," he wrote, "unless they fell back belatedly on an alliance with Hitler - a course which no-one contemplated."

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4241863.stm> Adapted and Edited by the Consortium

Directions: Using the above documents, prior knowledge of World War II, and your textbook, answer the following questions as a group on a separate sheet of paper

Presentation Focus Questions:

- 1) Who attended your conference?
- 2) Where was your conference held?
- 3) When was your conference held? (Be as specific as possible)
- 4) What were the terms of the agreement reached at your conference?
- 5) Why is your conference historically significant?

Group Discussion Questions

- 1) What two factors contributed to the relatively weak bargaining position of the Allies at Yalta?
- 2) What did the Allies decide to do with Poland after the war?
- 3) How were the Allies going to divide up Germany?
- 4) In regards to Germany, what other aims did the Allies dedicate themselves to? How do you think they would accomplish these goals?
- 5) Why do you think Roosevelt and Churchill acted cautiously in regards to the USSR's demands for reparations?
- 6) According to the BBC article, what was the only thing holding the Allied forces together?
- 7) Why do you think that Stalin was so concerned with creating a buffer zone between Germany and the USSR?
- 8) What international agency was created at Yalta? Why do you think Roosevelt pushed for the creation of an international agency?
- 9) Many historians consider Yalta the beginning of what conflict? Why?

Potsdam Conference

This Day in History: the Potsdam Conference

The final "Big Three" meeting between the United States, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain takes place towards the end of World War II. The decisions reached at the conference ostensibly settled many of the pressing issues between the three wartime allies, but the meeting was also marked by growing suspicion and tension between the United States and the Soviet Union.

On July 17, 1945, U.S. President Harry S. Truman, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met in the Berlin suburb of Potsdam to discuss issues relating to postwar Europe and plans to deal with the ongoing conflict with Japan. By the time the meeting began, U.S. and British suspicions concerning Soviet intentions in Europe were intensifying. Russian armies occupied most of Eastern Europe, including nearly half of Germany, and Stalin showed no inclination to remove his control of the region. Truman, who had only been president since Franklin D. Roosevelt died three months earlier, arrived at the meeting determined to be "tough" with Stalin. He was encouraged in this course of action by news that American scientists had just successfully tested the atomic bomb. The conference soon bogged down on the issue of postwar Germany. The Soviets wanted a united but disarmed Germany, with each of the Allied powers determining the destiny of the defeated power. Truman and his advisors, fearing the spread of Soviet influence over all Germany--and, by extension, all of western Europe--fought for and achieved an agreement whereby each Allied power (including France) would administer a zone of occupation in Germany. Russian influence, therefore, would be limited to its own eastern zone. The United States also limited the amount of reparations Russia could take from Germany. Discussion of the continuing Soviet occupation of Poland floundered.

When the conference ended on August 2, 1945, matters stood much where they had before the meeting. There would be no further wartime conferences. Four days after the conference concluded, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in Japan; on August 9, another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. World War II officially came to an end on August 14, 1945.

Source: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/potsdam-conference-begins>

Potsdam Conference Excerpt

In the summer of 1945, the victors of World War II met outside of Berlin in Potsdam, Germany. Joseph Stalin, Harry S. Truman, and Clement Atlee, who replaced Winston Churchill during the talks, crafted the final document that would divide Germany and ensure that it would not pose a future military threat. This division, initially planned to be temporary, lasted until 1991.

The Berlin Conference of the Three Heads of Government of the U. S. S. R., U. S. A., and U. K., which took place from July 17 to August 2, 1945, came to the following conclusions:

II. THE PRINCIPLES TO GOVERN THE TREATMENT OF GERMANY

A. POLITICAL PRINCIPLES.

1. In accordance with the Agreement on Control Machinery in Germany, supreme authority in Germany is exercised, on instructions from their respective Governments, by the Commanders-in-Chief of the armed forces of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the French Republic, each in his own zone of occupation, and also jointly, in matters affecting Germany as a whole, in their capacity as members of the Control Council.
2. So far as is practicable, there shall be uniformity of treatment of the German population throughout

Germany.

3. The purposes of the occupation of Germany by which the Control Council shall be guided are:

- (i) The complete disarmament and demilitarization of Germany and the elimination or control of all German industry that could be used for military production. To these ends:-
 - (b) All arms, ammunition and implements of war and all specialized facilities for their production shall be held at the disposal of the Allies or destroyed.
- (ii) To convince the German people that they have suffered a total military defeat and that they cannot escape responsibility for what they have brought upon themselves, since their own ruthless warfare and the fanatical Nazi resistance have destroyed German economy and made chaos and suffering inevitable.
- (iii) To destroy the National Socialist Party and its affiliated and supervised organizations, to dissolve all Nazi institutions, to ensure that they are not revived in any form, and to prevent all Nazi and militarist activity or propaganda.
- (iv) To prepare for the eventual reconstruction of German political life on a democratic basis and for eventual peaceful cooperation in international life by Germany.

4. All Nazi laws which provided the basis of the Hitler regime or established discriminations on grounds of race, creed, or political opinion shall be abolished.

5. War criminals and those who have participated in planning or carrying out Nazi enterprises involving or resulting in atrocities or war crimes shall be arrested and brought to judgment.

6. All members of the Nazi Party who have been more than nominal participants in its activities and all other persons hostile to Allied purposes shall be removed from public and semipublic office, and from positions of responsibility in important private undertakings. Such persons shall be replaced by persons who, by their political and moral qualities, are deemed capable of assisting in developing genuine democratic institutions in Germany.

7. German education shall be so controlled as completely to eliminate Nazi and militarist doctrines and to make possible the successful development of democratic ideas.

8. The judicial system will be reorganized in accordance with the principles of democracy, of justice under law, and of equal rights for all citizens without distinction of race, nationality or religion.

9. The administration in Germany should be directed towards the decentralization of the political structure and the development of local responsibility. To this end:

- (i) local self-government shall be restored throughout Germany on democratic principles and in particular through elective councils as rapidly as is consistent with military security and the purposes of military occupation;
- (ii) all democratic political parties with rights of assembly and of public discussion shall be allowed and encouraged throughout Germany;
- (iii) representative and elective principles shall be introduced into regional, provincial and state (Land) administration as rapidly as may be justified by the successful application of these principles in local self-government;
- (iv) for the time being, no central German Government shall be established. Notwithstanding this, however, certain essential central German administrative departments, headed by State Secretaries, shall be established, particularly in the fields of finance, transport, communications, foreign trade and industry.

10. Subject to the necessity for maintaining military security, freedom of speech, press and religion shall be permitted, and religious institutions shall be respected.

B. ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES.

11. In order to eliminate Germany's war potential, the production of arms, ammunition and implements of war as well as all types of aircraft and sea-going ships shall be prohibited and prevented. Production of metals, chemicals, machinery and other items that are directly necessary to a war economy shall be rigidly controlled and restricted to Germany's approved post-war peacetime needs to meet the objectives stated in Paragraph 15. Productive capacity not needed for permitted production shall be removed in accordance with the reparations plan recommended by the Allied Commission on Reparations and approved by the Governments concerned or if not removed shall be destroyed.

13. In organizing the German Economy, primary emphasis shall be given to the development of agriculture and peaceful domestic industries.

15. Allied controls shall be imposed upon the German economy but only to the extent necessary:

- (a) to carry out programs of industrial disarmament, demilitarization, of reparations, and of approved exports and imports.
- (b) to assure the production and maintenance of goods and services required to meet the needs of the occupying forces and displaced persons in Germany and essential to maintain in Germany average living standards not exceeding the average of the standards of living of European countries.
- (c) to ensure in the manner determined by the Control Council the equitable distribution of essential commodities between the several zones so as to produce a balanced economy throughout Germany and reduce the need for imports.
- (d) to control German industry and all economic and financial international transactions including exports and imports, with the aim of preventing Germany from developing a war potential and of achieving the other objectives named herein.
- (e) to control all German public or private scientific bodies research and experimental institutions, laboratories, et cetera connected with economic activities.

19. Payment of Reparations should leave enough resources to enable the German people to subsist without external assistance.

III. REPARATIONS FROM GERMANY.

1. Reparation claims of the U. S. S. R. shall be met by removals from the zone of Germany occupied by the U. S. S. R., and from appropriate German external assets.

3. The reparation claims of the United States, the United Kingdom and other countries entitled to reparations shall be met from the Western Zones and from appropriate German external assets.

8. The Soviet Government renounces all claims in respect of reparations to shares of German enterprises which are located in the Western Zones of Germany as well as to German foreign assets in all countries except those specified in paragraph 9 below.

9. The Governments of the U. K. and U. S. A. renounce all claims in respect of reparations to shares of German enterprises which are located in the Eastern Zone of occupation in Germany, as well as to German foreign assets in Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Rumania and Eastern Austria.

Source: <http://www.pbs.org/behindcloseddoors/pdfs/PotsdamConference.pdf>

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Group Discussion Questions

- 1) Why do you think the Potsdam Conference was “marked by growing suspicion and tension between the United States and the Soviet Union”?
- 2) Why do you think that President Harry Truman felt the need to appear “tough” with Joseph Stalin?
- 3) How did the USSR and US plans for postwar Germany differ?
- 4) Why do you think the United States wanted to limit the amount of reparations the USSR could take from Germany?
- 5) Why do you think the Allies wanted to completely dismantle the Nazi party in Germany?
- 6) Why do you think the Allies were concerned about rebuilding Germany’s postwar economy?
- 7) In what ways did the Potsdam Conference promote a spirit of cooperation between Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States? In what ways was this conference a precursor to the Cold War?

Name_____

World War II Conferences Notes Sheet

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