

## **Conference at Yalta**

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### **Setting**

World War II is nearly over. Even though Japan continues to fight on, Italy has been knocked out of the war, and Germany appears to be in the final weeks before it is forced to surrender. The principle members of the Allies will meet once again to discuss the progress of the war. However, unlike previous meetings, which discussed war tactics, victory in Europe is a forgone conclusion. The scope of this conference will focus on what to do in the time following World War II.

### **Task**

As diplomats of the primary Allied countries, it will be your job to represent your country's wishes at the Conference at Yalta. Read the descriptor page describing your country's desires on various issues concerning World War II and the post-war era. Determine your country's position on each of the topics to be discussed at the conference. Be prepared to defend your country's stand on the issues and willingness to negotiate a resolve with the other Allied leaders.

### **Principle Leaders**

Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain

Franklin Roosevelt, President of the United States

Joseph Stalin, Premier of the Soviet Union

### **Key Issues**

1. World Organization
2. Liberated Nation
3. Post-War Germany
4. Post-War Poland
5. Continued War in Japan

## Great Britain

**Leader:** Winston Churchill, Prime Minister

- Recognized British politician for over 60 years
- Veteran of the Boer War and World War I
- Recognized the Treaty of Versailles had failed and in part led to World War II
- Predicted the appeasement policy of Neville Chamberlain at the Munich Conference would fail.
- Agreed to the Atlantic Charter with Franklin Roosevelt, which supported self-determination and a new League of Nations
- Led Great Britain through World War II; Swore Great Britain would “Never give in” to Adolf Hitler and Germany

### **Primary Concerns:**

- Feared Great Britain was going to lose power and prestige to the “super powers” following World War II.
- Supported democratic nations in Europe and had even housed exile governments during World War II when Germany had invaded their countries (most notably, Lublin government of Poland).
- Had been destroyed by Germany

## United States

**Leader:** Franklin Roosevelt, President

- Led the United States through the Great Depression and World War II
- Had recently been elected to and began serving his fourth term as President
- Was in very poor health as those close to him saw he was very near death
- Recognized the Treaty of Versailles had failed and in part led to World War II
- Agreed to the Atlantic Charter with Winston Churchill, which supported self-determination and a new League of Nations

### **Primary Concerns:**

- Twice the United States had been pulled into World Wars. Wanted to ensure calamities of this nature would never happen again. United States had a policy of isolationism.
- As America was the “Experiment in Democracy,” there is the desire and belief in the spread of democracy to other countries.
- Greatest number of American deaths was in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Although Joseph Stalin had asked for assistance in Europe and it was returned with the D-Day invasion and additional support was provided in the Lend-Lease Plan, the Soviet Union had yet to mount an attack against Japan.

## Soviet Union

**Leader:** Joseph Stalin, Premier

- Leader of the Soviet Union following the death of Vladimir Lenin in 1924
- In attempts of internal reforms, Stalin led the Soviet Union to economic calamity during collectivization attempts
- Was very paranoid of threats to his control of the Soviet Union and threats of attacks from outside nations. Within the country, purges were staged to eliminate any threats to his power. Information from foreign nations were limited and censored while Soviet secrets were not released.

### **Primary Concerns:**

- The Soviet Union suffered the greatest number of deaths (by far) of any of the Allied nations at the conference.
- Germany and twice invaded the Soviet Union (officially Russia the first time) during the World Wars. Both had led to great loss of territory and millions of lives. Wants to ensure Germany will never be able to attack their country again.
- Soviet armies had defeated the German forces in Eastern Europe with little help from the other Allied nations.

## Conference at Yalta Diplomacy Sheet

Key Issues	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Creation of the United Nations	Dismantle the League of Nations and do not create a replacement	Create a United Nations separate of the League of Nations	Eliminate the League of Nations and create the United Nations	Create a United Nations to work in coordination with the League of Nations
Structure of the United Nations (assuming Option 1 is not chosen in the previous issue)	All nations have free and equal membership in the United Nations	All nations have membership in the United Nations but only the Allied Nations have voting power	All nations are invited to have representation in the United Nations with certain voting privileges given to Allied leaders	United Nations created with two groups – one with non Allied members and one with only Allied members
Liberated Nations	All nations choose new governments democratically by their own people	Nations will choose their own governments with support (influence) from the Allied powers	Allied leaders will determine new governments for freed countries	Governments restored to pre-war status
German government	German government would be restored to pre-war status	New democratic government would be created	Germany would be occupied and controlled by Allied nations	Allies would let Germany rebuilt its government as they saw fit
Reparations	No reparations	Reparations totaling \$22 billion	Reparations totaling \$92 billion	German economy would be taken over by the Allies and the Allies would pay to rebuild the country
Poland	Lublin government restored (previous government exiled to London during WWII)	Soviet Union create a new Polish government	Create a new democratic government	Poland is eliminated and is divided between the Allied powers
Japan	Soviet Union invades Japan immediately	Soviet Union invades Japan within 3 months following the end of war in Europe	Soviet Union does not invade Japan	Soviet Union does not invade Japan if Japan agrees to surrender immediately