



# STUDY GUIDE

## Yalta Conference Security Council

(February the 4<sup>th</sup> of 1945)

### AGENDA ITEM

Effectively restructuring Germany and Poland, to ensure peace in Europe

### CHAIRING PANEL

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## Introduction

The Yalta Conference took place from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of February in 1945. It was the second conference of the allied states, where the heads of government of the United Kingdom, The United States of America and the Soviet Union met to discuss the post-war restructuring of Germany. They met in the Livadia Palace near Yalta in Crimea, USSR. The Potsdam Conference followed the Yalta Conference. The general goal of the “Big Three” was to create a post-war piece in Germany. The countries tried to establish a governmental agenda, for governing post-war Germany, but the military power of the three countries within Germany were unequal, which led to a misbalanced power distribution between the three heads of government, in the conference. Especially the Red Army was at the time of the conference just a few kilometers away from Berlin and had the power over Poland, which made Stalin very powerful and a difficult partner to deal with. Apart from planning an agenda to restructure Germany and Poland, the Yalta Conference also looked out for a solution to create peace between the European countries around Germany.

This was the first intent to restructure Germany and Poland after the second world war. The conference had been preceded by the Tehran Conference in 1943, which was a meeting of the allied states, focused on opening a second front against Nazi Germany.

The Problem that the allied states tried to solve had been caused by the second world war and by Nazi Germany in the years of 1939 until 1945. Germany had started a world war, led by Adolf Hitler. The war was ended by the United States of America, The United Kingdom, The Soviet Union and France, which were then in power of a fully destroyed country. The issue was to build up Germany in a way which wouldn't allow the nation's military power to grow to an extend that would make another war possible. This was a common agreement between the Nations. The problem was caused by different ideas and ideals of Germany. There were proposals of making Germany a fully agricultural state (Morgenthau Plan), others preferred to split up the country to make the formation of a strong military impossible. The major problem was how to create an agenda for the future Germany, based on the very different political systems and views of the allied states. On the other hand, it was not sure what would happen to Poland after the second world war. Would it be part of Germany or an independent country?

The fear of Germany starting another war, was created by the second world war, that had followed the first world war, which was partly started by Germany as well. Germany was in strong need of a government and an agenda that would build up the country and the people.



## Definition of Key Terms

- **Military Power/Force:**

Armed forces- the military forces of a nation or nations, including the army, navy, air force, marines, etc.

- **Morgenthau:**

The Morgenthau Plan, first proposed by United States Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr. in a memorandum entitled Suggested Post-Surrender Program for Germany, advocated that the Allied occupation of Germany following World War II include measures to eliminate Germany's ability to wage war by eliminating its armament industry, and the removal or destruction of other key industries basic to military strength. This included the removal or destruction of all industrial plants and equipment in the Ruhr.

- **Marshall Plan:**

The Marshall Plan (officially the European Recovery Program, ERP) was an American initiative to aid Western Europe, in which the United States gave over \$12 billion (approximately \$120 billion in current dollar value as of June 2016) in economic support to help rebuild Western European economies after the end of World War II. The plan was in operation for four years beginning April 8, 1948. The goals of the United States were to rebuild war-devastated regions, remove trade barriers, modernize industry, make Europe prosperous again, and prevent the spread of communism. The Marshall Plan required a lessening of interstate barriers, a dropping of many regulations, and encouraged an increase in productivity, labour union membership, as well as the adoption of modern business procedures.

- **Post-war:**

Happening or existing in the period after the second world war.

- **Pre-war:**

Happening in the period before the world war.



- **Allied States:**

The big four Allied powers of World War II were England (Great Britain, the United Kingdom), the United States of America, the Soviet Union (U.S.S.R., Russia), and France

- **Soviet Union:**

A former federal union of 15 constituent republics, in Europe and Asia, comprising the larger part of the former Russian Empire

- **Big Three/ Grand Alliance:**

The Grand Alliance was an alliance made during World War II, which joined together the United States (led by Franklin Roosevelt), the Soviet Union (led by Joseph Stalin) and Great Britain (led by Winston Churchill). Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill are often known as "The Big Three."

- **Red Army:**

The Workers' and Peasants' Red Army was the army and the air force of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, and after 1922 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

- **DDR/BRD:**

DDR stands for "Deutsche Demokratische Republik" and was governed by the Soviet Union after the second world war. BRD stands for "Bundesrepublik Deutschland" and was the western part of Germany governed by the US and partly by the other allied states

- **Nazi Germany:**

Nazi Germany is the common English name for the period in German history from 1933 to 1945, when Germany was governed by a dictatorship under the control of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party (NSDAP)



## General Overview

### The issue of Poland in the Yalta Conference

A quote from the Yalta Conference: "For the Russian people, the question of Poland is not only a question of honor but also a question of security. Throughout history, Poland has been the corridor through which the enemy has passed into Russia. Poland is a question of life and death for Russia."

The status of Poland was discussed but was complicated by the fact that Poland by this time was under the control of the red army. It was agreed to reorganize the Provisionary Polish Government that had been set up by the Red Army through the inclusion of other groups as the Polish Provisional Government of National Unity to be followed by democratic elections. (This effectively excluded the exile Polish government that had formed in London).

The Polish eastern border should basically follow the Curzon Line, and Poland should receive substantial territorial compensation in the west from Germany.

### The second world war

The Second World War was arguably the most significant period of the 20th century. It brought about major leaps in technology and laid the groundwork that permitted post-war social changes including the end of European colonialism, the civil rights movement in the United States, and the modern women's rights movement, as well as the programs for exploring outer space. The primary combatants were the Axis nations (Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, Imperial Japan and their smaller allies) and the Allied nations, led by Britain (and its Commonwealth nations), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. The Allies were the victors. Two superpowers, the USA and USSR, emerged from World War II to begin a Cold War with each other that would define much of the rest of the century.

The world war two, was apart from being a war of guns and bombs, a war of ideas and ideals. The alliances built throughout the second world war were unique in a sense that the countries would under any other circumstances never sit together to fight for a "common" goal. The different ideas and ideals later led to conflicts, wars and fights still visible today.



## The cold war

The cold war tells a lot about the strong oppositions within the allied states and it shows how big an influence the clash of two superpowers had in the world. We can also see how relevant the Yalta conference is in this case. Would another decision have triggered a different reaction of the US or the Soviet Union?

In many ways, the Cold War began even before the guns fell silent in Germany and in the Pacific in 1945. Suspicion and mistrust had defined U.S.-Soviet relations for decades and resurfaced as soon as the alliance against Adolf Hitler was no longer necessary. Competing ideologies and visions of the post-war world prevented U.S. president Harry S. Truman and Soviet premier Joseph Stalin from working together.

Stalin intended to destroy Germany's industrial capabilities in order to prevent the country from remilitarizing and wanted Germany to pay outrageous sums in war reparations. Moreover, he wanted to erect pro-Soviet governments throughout Eastern Europe to protect the USSR from any future invasions. Truman, however, wanted exactly the opposite. He believed that only industrialization and democracy in Germany and throughout the continent would ensure post-war stability. Unable to compromise or find common ground, the world's two remaining superpowers inevitably clashed.

## Germany's former industrial power

The power Germany had before the world wars is important to recognize the potential Germany had. Its geographical location combined with its connections and resources made Germany an attractive country, even after the world wars.

Domestically, Germany rode an economic and technological boom for most of the late 1800s. The unification of Germany boosted industrial growth and railway construction. Coal production, iron ore mining and foreign investment all spiked during the mid-19th century. The government adopted policies to encourage industrial growth, while unification removed the border tariffs and trade duties which existed before 1871. German banks formed and grew quickly, providing credit and investments for new ventures. With its large and rapidly growing population Germany could meet the labour needs of industrialisation. By 1900 German steel production exceeded Britain's, and was second only to the United States. Agricultural production did not grow in the line with the industrial sector, but nevertheless remained steady and efficient, and could meet Germany's food needs.



# Major Parties Involved

## The United Kingdom

Germany: Plays a key role in their thinking. They wanted it reunited as soon as possible so that it would serve as a strong, more formidable element in opposition to the Soviet Union. Want France to have an occupation zone in Germany. Want to prevent Soviet Union from taking whatever they want from Germany. Britain has a strong British-German future ally in mind.

Poland: Wants the "London Poles" (former Polish government that fled to England) to build up a new government in Poland after the German armies would be out. They did not trust the Soviet Union in building up government in Poland.

## The United States of America

Germany: Believe in democratic principles and believes that Germany should eventually be allowed to reunite through free elections and that Germany should be only temporarily divided among the victorious Allies.

Poland: Want a free, democratic, and united Poland. Especially interested in free elections in Poland because of the Polish-Americans' vote in the United States, and they regarded Poland as a symbol of Soviet intentions in Eastern Europe.

## Soviet Union

Germany: Want Germany to be permanently divided under the supervision of Britain, the USSR, and the United States of America. Also, wanted to take 20 billion dollars from the Germans to pay back what they did during the war.

Poland: Wants a friendly, socialist government in Poland under the leadership of Lublin Poles. Also, wanted parts of eastern Poland to be added to the Soviet Union, as a buffer area, in case Germany would start a war at any point again.



## Timeline of Key Events

- **Moskva Declaration (October 30, 1943)**

The Moscow Declarations were four declarations signed during the Moscow Conference on

October 30, 1943. The declarations may be distinguished from the Communiqué that was issued following the Moscow Conference of 1945. They were signed by the foreign secretaries of the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and Nationalist China. Four declarations were signed at the conference: The Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security, the Declaration on Italy, the Declaration on Austria, and the Declarations on Atrocities.

- **Yalta Conference (February 4, 1945)**

- **Ending of the second world war (September 2, 1945)**

- **Moskva Conference (December, 1945)**

Five Moscow conferences took place during and just after World War II among representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Soviet Union:

The Moscow Conference (1941), from September 29, 1941 to October 1, 1941

The Moscow Conference (1942), from August 12, 1942 to August 17, 1942

The Moscow Conference (1943), from October 18, 1943 to November 11, 1943

The Moscow Conference (1944), on October 9, 1944

The Moscow Conference (1945) (also known as the Interim Meeting of Foreign Ministers) between December 16 and December 26, 1945)

- The Communiqué issued after the Conference on December 27, 1945 contained a joint declaration which covered a number of issues resulting from the end of World War II. It was signed by the foreign ministers of the three powers and contained the following sections:

1. Preparation of peace treaties with Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland. (See Paris Peace Treaties, 1947)
2. Far Eastern Commission and Allied Council for Japan.
3. Far Eastern Commission
4. Allied Council for Japan
5. Korea: The rival U.S. and Soviet military commands in Korea would set up a Joint Commission to make recommendations of a single free government in Korea
6. China
7. The establishment by the United Nations of a commission for the control of atomic energy



## Possible Solutions

1. Germany as an agricultural state. (Morgenthau Plan)
  - This was a plan proposed by the United States
2. Splitting Germany into small countries, which are then distributed amongst the affected nations of the second world war
3. Splitting into DDR (Russia) and BDR (US, Great Britain, and France)
  - Was proposed by the Soviet Union
4. Leaving Germany to it self

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