

SSWH₁₉: DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GLOBAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II.



ELEMENT C: Analyze the impact of the military and diplomatic negotiations between the leaders of Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

Post-WWII Military Negotiations

- ❑ The first significant meeting between the leaders of Great Britain, the USSR, and the US took place in 1943 in the city of Tehran.
 - Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin discussed plans for the invasion of northern France and another Soviet offensive in the east.
 - The Soviet Union agreed to join the war against Japan following the defeat of the Axis Powers in Europe.
- ❑ Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met again in February of 1945 in the Soviet resort town of Yalta.
 - By this time, the allies were confident that the defeat of the European Axis Powers was within reach.
 - At this conference the allies discussed the future of Germany, Austria and Eastern Europe.
 - The allies agreed to divide Germany and Austria into four occupational zones, the Soviet Union, America, Britain or France would each take responsibility for one of the zones.
 - The capital of Berlin would likewise be divided.
- ❑ The Soviet Union agreed to allow free elections in all of the Eastern European countries that it liberated from Nazi control.
- ❑ Further, the Allies agreed to the basic structure of the United Nations.
 - The US, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China would each be given a permanent seat on the Security Council and the power to veto any UN action.
 - Stalin also reaffirmed the Soviet Union's commitment to declare war on Japan.



Military Negotiations & Post-War Diplomacy

- The final major meeting of the leaders of the US, Britain, and the Soviet Union was held in Potsdam, Germany in July of 1945 after the Nazi surrender.
 - Roosevelt died in April of 1945 so he was replaced by Harry Truman and Churchill was replaced after an election by Clement Attlee.
 - At this meeting the allies implemented their plans for the division of Germany into occupied zones and agreed to the demilitarization of Germany.
- Further they developed a plan to purge Nazi elements from German society with a system of courts (the Nuremberg Trials) designed to identify, try, and punish war criminals.
- However, Stalin reneged on his promise to allow free elections in Eastern Europe kicking off the Cold War.
 - Britain, the US and China issued the Potsdam Declaration in which they threatened Japan with “prompt and utter destruction” if they did not surrender immediately.



The Cold War 1945-1991

