



Yalta conference

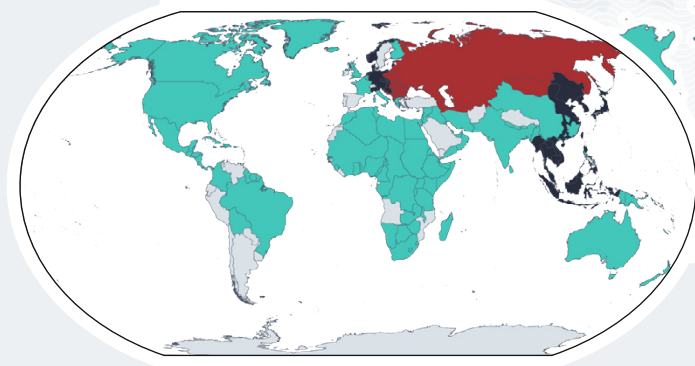
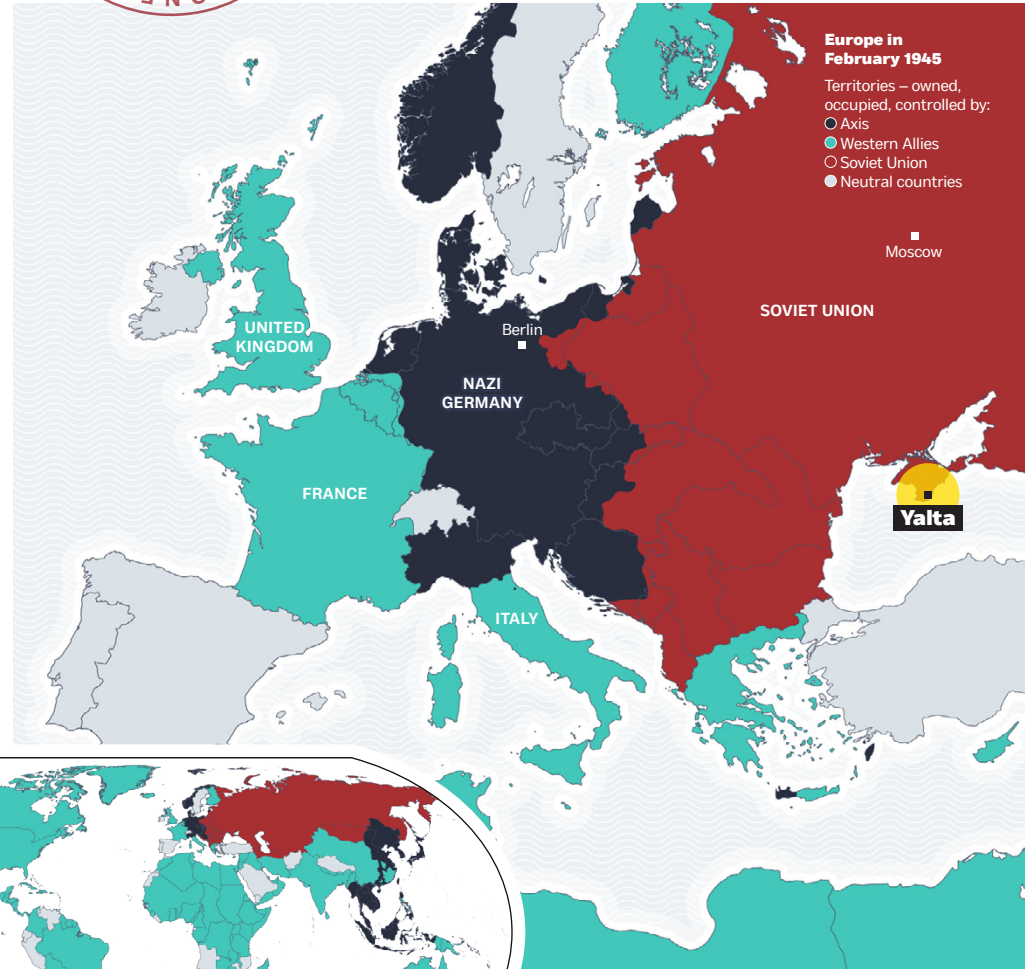
also known as the
Crimea Conference

4–11 February
1945

The Big Three's second meeting took place near Yalta at the Livadia, Yusupov and Vorontsov Palaces, Crimea USSR. Stalin selected and insisted on the location.

The conference was codenamed *Argonaut*.

Their deliberations resulted in the "Declaration of Liberated Europe." At the end of the conference, the Big Three signed the "Protocol of Proceedings of the Crimea Conference" that was made public soon thereafter.



World map in
February 1945

Circumstances



1944

6 June –
31 August

Operation Overlord. Landing in Normandy and the Allied offensive in France.



19–25 August

Liberation of Paris by the Western Allies.



1945

12 January –
4 February

Red Army winter offensive. Soviets capture Poland west of the Vistula River and advance toward Berlin.



1943

28 November –
1 December

Tehran conference, the first meeting between the Big Three.



1 August – 2 October

Warsaw Rising. A Red Army offensive (Operation Bagration 22 June – 31 August) seized the eastern part of Poland. In Warsaw, an uprising of the Polish underground against the Germans lasted 63 days. Despite reaching the Vistula River, the Soviets provided no aid. The Polish capital was completely destroyed.



21 August – 7 October

Conference in Dumbarton Oaks, USA. Allies discuss the concept of the United Nations. USA, USSR, UK, France and China selected as permanent members of the UN's Security Council.



17 October –
26 December

Allied victory in the Battle of Leyte. First step in freeing the Philippines from Japanese occupation.

4–11 February

Yalta conference.



Key figures



The big three

1 Winston Churchill

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

2 Franklin Delano Roosevelt

President of the United States

3 Joseph Stalin

Premier of the USSR



The leaders were accompanied by their delegations, including:

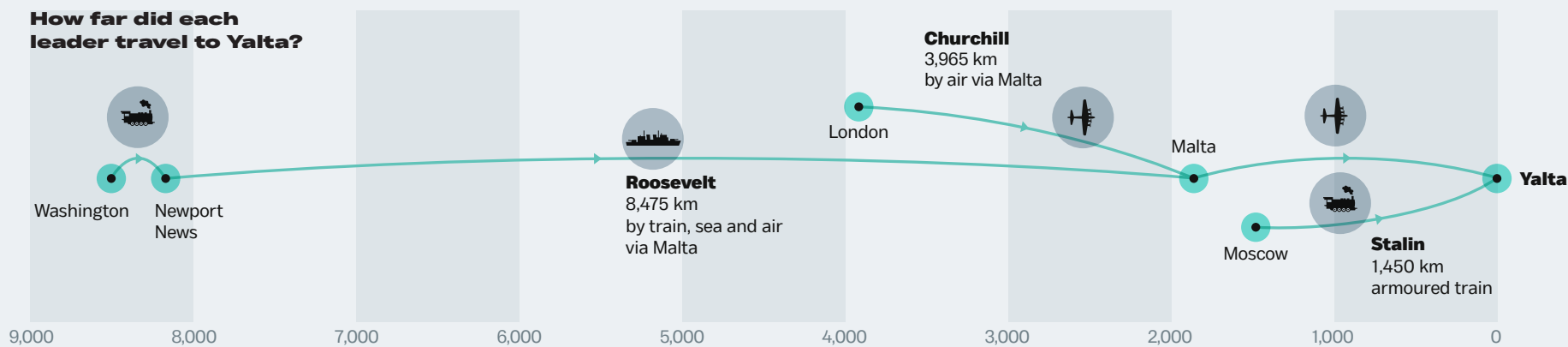
Anthony Eden
British Foreign Secretary

Edward Stettinius Jr.
US Secretary of State

Vyacheslav Molotov
Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs

Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin at Yalta in February 1945, discussing their joint occupation of Germany and plans for postwar Europe.

How far did each leader travel to Yalta?



General decisions



United Nations – the UN opening conference was scheduled for 25 April 1945 in San Francisco. It would be attended by national delegations from all signatories to the Declaration of the United Nations. The Big Three agreed that Security Council (UK, USA, USSR, France and China) decisions could only be enacted unanimously.



Reparations from Germany – the Big Three set up a Reparations Commission to convene in Moscow. It would decide on the amount and form of reparations to each country with priority given to those that suffered the most and bore the main brunt of the war.

Nazi war criminals were to be punished, although the manner was undecided.



Declaration on Liberated Europe – the Big Three issued a declaration stating that Europe's liberated nations have the right to create democratic institutions of their own choice. The three governments were to help and assist this process.



The conference table for the Yalta Conference, Feb 1945. Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill along with other officials seated around the table.



Decisions



Military

The USSR will **1** attack Japan two or three months after Germany's surrender.



Countries and borders

2 Germany – Division of Germany into four occupation zones. France given a zone and a seat on the Control Commission for Germany. Germany would remain dismembered and the Allies would establish a special committee to decide this matter.



3 Poland – A new government (Provisional Government of National Unity) would be formed on the basis of the communist government already created in Poland and including Soviet selected politicians from other parties. The government-in-exile in London was no longer considered a legal representative of the country.

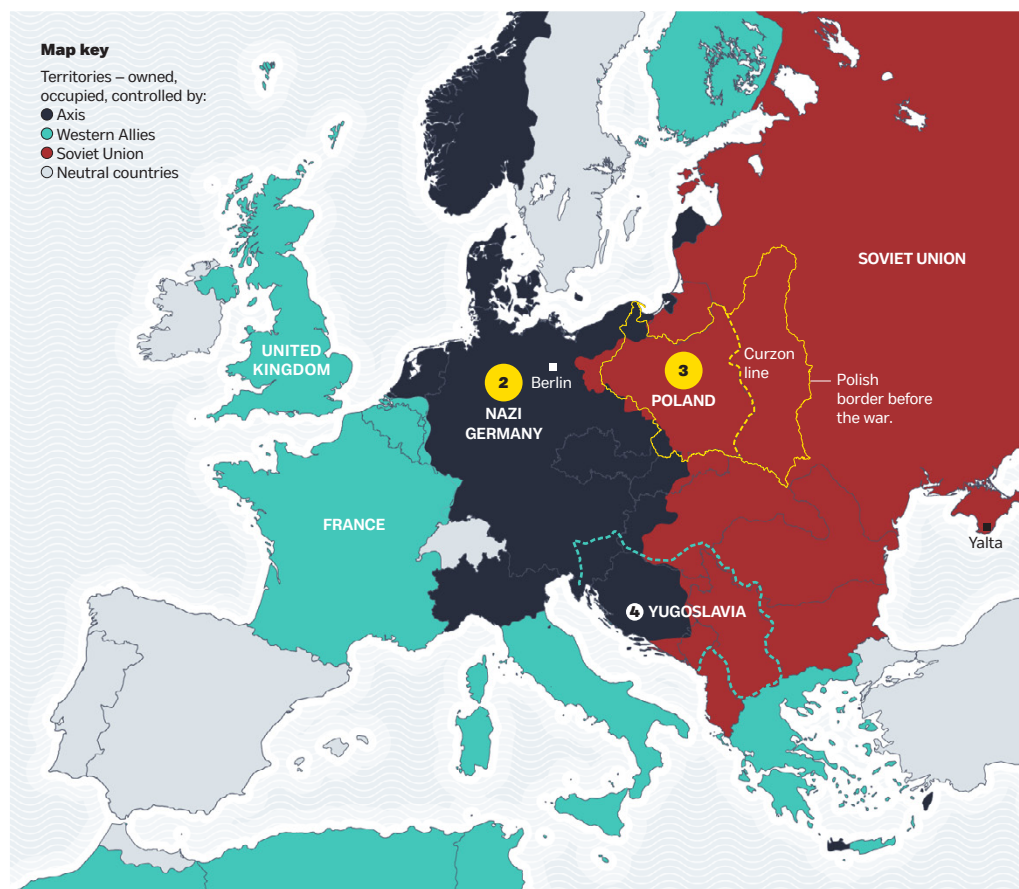
The Polish eastern border would be the Curzon Line, leaving one-third of Polish territory to the USSR.

4 Yugoslavia the Big Three supported the agreement between partisan leader Josip Broz Tito and Prime Minister-in-Exile Ivan Subasić, who were to jointly create a new government.

5 Japan Kurile Islands and Southern Sakhalin would be awarded to the USSR after Japan's surrender.

Map key

- Territories – owned, occupied, controlled by:
- Axis
 - Western Allies
 - Soviet Union
 - Neutral countries



Aftermath



Germany

Faced with impending defeat, Adolf Hitler committed suicide on 30 April. On 2 May Soviet forces won the battle of Berlin and Germany surrendered six days later.



Soviet rule in Eastern Europe.

Although Stalin had stated that every nation could freely decide its own government, communist parties in respective countries began seizing power with Red Army support and Soviet-style terror.



Poland

A Provisional Government of National Unity in Poland was established on 28 June 1945, just days after a show trial of 16 leaders of the Polish Underground State. They had been captured by the Soviets, falsely accused, and tried in Moscow for offences including "collaborating with Nazi Germany".



San Francisco Conference

25 April – 26 June 1945
The United Nations was founded at the conference. In October 1945, the UN's headquarters in New York opened.



General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower addressed the World via motion picture and sound recordings, shortly after the German mission had signed the instrument of unconditional surrender at Rheims, France, 7 May 1945.



European Network
Remembrance
and Solidarity

GEORG ECKERT
INSTITUTE

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Infographics prepared for the project *Hi-story lessons. Teaching & learning about 20th-century European history*

The mission of the *Hi-story lessons*' project is to show European history of the 20th-century from different perspectives. Underlining the need to teach history with an awareness that neighbouring countries may possibly have a different viewpoint on the same historical fact is the project's main aim. With *Hi-story lessons* we strive to challenge how teachers and their students see the history of Europe – its diversity and complexity at times even with contrary opinions.

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MINISTRY OF CULTURE

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