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.
Circumstances

1943

1944

1945

**1943**
- 1 December – 11 December
  - Tehran conference, the first meeting between the Big Three.
- 28 November – 2 October
  - Warsaw Rising. A Red Army offensive Operation Bagration 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.
- 17 October – 26 December
  - Allied victory in the Battle of Leyte. First step in freeing the Philippines from Japanese occupation.
- 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.

**1944**
- 1 August – 2 October
  - Yalta conference. A Red Army offensive Operation Bagration 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.
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- 26 December
  - Allied victory in the Battle of Leyte. First step in freeing the Philippines from Japanese occupation.
- 4–11 February
  - Yalta conference.
- 4 February
- 6 June – 31 August
  - Operation Overlord. Landing in Normandy and the Allied offensive in France.
- 10–25 August
  - Liberation of Paris by the Western Allies.

**1945**
- 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.
- 4 February
- 12 January – 4 February
- 6 June – 31 August
  - Operation Overlord. Landing in Normandy and the Allied offensive in France.
- 10–25 August
  - Liberation of Paris by the Western Allies.
Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin at Yalta in February 1945, discussing their joint occupation of Germany and plans for postwar Europe.

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

**Key figures**

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

**How far did each leader travel to Yalta?**

- **Churchill**: 3,965 km by air via Malta
- **Roosevelt**: 8,475 km by train, sea and air via Malta
- **Stalin**: 1,450 km by armoured train

The distances are as follows:
- **Washington**: 9,000 km
- **Newport News**: 8,000 km
- **London**: 5,000 km
- **Malta**: 3,000 km
- **Yalta**: 1,000 km
- **Moscow**: 1,450 km

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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 **attack Japan** two or three months after Germany’s surrender.

### Countries and borders

1. **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.

2. **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.

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

4. **Japan** Kurile Islands and Southern Sakhalin would be awarded to the USSR after Japan’s surrender.

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**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.
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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