

Sources of Discord, 1945-1946

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #1: Plans for Postwar Europe

Directions (Group #1): The Yalta Conference produced a set of agreements on the nature of the postwar world. As you read through the following document, complete the worksheet below, indicating what specifically was agreed upon at Yalta. To identify the locations mentioned in the document, see the interactive map, located at

<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/neh/interactives/coldwareuropemap/>.

Excerpts from the Yalta Conference: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/yalta.htm>

[For background on this conference, click on location #2 on the interactive map.]

II. DECLARATION OF LIBERATED EUROPE

[Note: While this agreement covered nearly every country in Europe, it would only break down over the fate of Central and Eastern Europe.]

The following declaration has been approved:

The Premier of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the President of the United States of America have consulted with each other in the common interests of the people of their countries and those of liberated Europe. They jointly declare their mutual agreement to concert during the temporary period of instability in liberated Europe the policies of their three Governments in assisting the peoples liberated from the domination of Nazi Germany [Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Greece] and the peoples of the former Axis [the alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan] satellite states of Europe [that is, eastern European countries allied to Germany; namely Finland, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria] to solve by democratic means their pressing political and economic problems.

The establishment of order in Europe and the rebuilding of national economic life must be achieved by processes which will enable the liberated peoples to destroy the last vestiges of nazism and fascism and to create democratic institutions of their own choice.... To foster the conditions in which the liberated people may exercise these rights, the three governments will jointly assist the people in any European liberated state or former Axis state in Europe where, in their judgment conditions require,

- (a) to establish conditions of internal peace;
- (b) to carry out emergency relief measures for the relief of distressed peoples;
- (c) to form interim governmental authorities broadly representative of all democratic elements in the population and pledged to the earliest possible establishment through free elections of Governments responsive to the will of the people; and

(d) to facilitate where necessary the holding of such elections.

The three Governments will consult the other United Nations and provisional authorities or other Governments in Europe when matters of direct interest to them are under consideration.

When, in the opinion of the three Governments, conditions in any European liberated state or former Axis satellite in Europe make such action necessary, they will immediately consult together on the measure necessary to discharge the joint responsibilities set forth in this declaration....

III. DISMEMBERMENT OF GERMANY

It was agreed that Article 12 (a) of the Surrender terms for Germany should be amended to read as follows:

"The United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall possess supreme authority with respect to Germany. In the exercise of such authority they will take such steps, including the complete dismemberment of Germany as they deem requisite for future peace and security."

The study of the procedure of the dismemberment of Germany was referred to a committee consisting of [British Foreign Secretary] Mr. Anthony Eden, [U.S. ambassador to Great Britain] Mr. John Winant, and [Soviet ambassador to Great Britain] Mr. Fedor T. Gusev. This body would consider the desirability of associating with it a French representative.

...V. REPARATION

The following protocol has been approved:

1. Germany must pay in kind for the losses caused by her to the Allied nations in the course of the war. Reparations are to be received in the first instance by those countries which have borne the main burden of the war, have suffered the heaviest losses and have organized victory over the enemy.
2. Reparation in kind is to be exacted from Germany in three following forms:
 - (a) Removals within two years from the surrender of Germany or the cessation of organized resistance from the national wealth of Germany located on the territory of Germany herself as well as outside her territory (equipment, machine tools, ships, rolling stock, German investments abroad, shares of industrial, transport and other enterprises in Germany, etc.), these removals to be carried out chiefly for the purpose of destroying the war potential of Germany.
 - (b) Annual deliveries of goods from current production for a period to be fixed.
 - (c) Use of German labor.
3. For the working out on the above principles of a detailed plan for exaction of reparation from Germany an Allied reparation commission will be set up in Moscow. It will consist of three representatives - one from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, one from the United Kingdom and one from the United States of America.

4. With regard to the fixing of the total sum of the reparation as well as the distribution of it among the countries which suffered from the German aggression, the Soviet and American delegations agreed as follows:

"The Moscow reparation commission should take in its initial studies as a basis for discussion the suggestion of the Soviet Government that the total sum of the reparation in accordance with the points (a) and (b) of the Paragraph 2 should be 22 billion dollars and that 50 per cent should go to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

...VII. POLAND

The following declaration on Poland was agreed by the conference:

[Note: For background on the Polish situation, click on location #1 on the interactive map.]

"A new situation has been created in Poland as a result of her complete liberation by the Red Army. This calls for the establishment of a Polish Provisional Government which can be more broadly based than was possible before the recent liberation of the western part of Poland. The Provisional Government which is now functioning in Poland [that is, the Communist government recognized by the Soviet Union on January 5] should therefore be reorganized on a broader democratic basis with the inclusion of democratic leaders from Poland itself and from Poles abroad [namely London]. This new Government should then be called the Polish Provisional Government of National Unity.

"[Soviet foreign minister] M. [Vyacheslav] Molotov, [U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union] Mr. [Averell] Harriman and [British ambassador to the Soviet Union] Sir A. Clark Kerr are authorized as a commission to consult in the first instance in Moscow with members of the present Provisional Government and with other Polish democratic leaders from within Poland and from abroad, with a view to the reorganization of the present Government along the above lines. This Polish Provisional Government of National Unity shall be pledged to the holding of free and unfettered elections as soon as possible on the basis of universal suffrage and secret ballot. In these elections all democratic and anti-Nazi parties shall have the right to take part and to put forward candidates.

"When a Polish Provisional of Government National Unity has been properly formed in conformity with the above, the Government of the U.S.S.R., which now maintains diplomatic relations with the present Provisional Government of Poland, and the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the United States of America will establish diplomatic relations with the new Polish Provisional Government National Unity, and will exchange Ambassadors by whose reports the respective Governments will be kept informed about the situation in Poland.

"The three heads of Government consider that the eastern frontier [border] of Poland should follow the Curzon Line [a line first drawn by a Soviet diplomat in 1919, but which was fairly similar to the line which German and Soviet diplomats established in 1939 as the border between German-controlled Poland and Soviet-controlled Poland. In other words, the Soviets would not have to give up what they had taken from Poland in 1939.].... They recognize that Poland must receive substantial accessions in territory in the north and west [in other words, territory taken from Germany]...."

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For each of the subjects listed in the left-hand column, indicate what agreement was reached at Yalta.

Issue	Agreement Reached
The future of the liberated states (as well as Axis satellite states)	
The future of Germany	
German reparations	
Poland's government	
Poland's eastern border	