

# *What was the significance of the WW2 conferences?*



**Look at the this photograph carefully and analyse the following:**

- **Body Language**
- **Facial expressions**
- **Mood of the conference**

# A New World Order:

Following WW2, the political powers of pre war Europe were gone. Two **superpowers** emerged; USA and Soviet Union. It was their military and economic strength that defeated Hitler, but it would be their military and economic strength that would shape the post war world.



Summarise the US and Soviet attitudes after WW2

The Grand Alliance (Big 3) met 3 times during WW2 to decide future actions...



"It should be noted, and you should remember, despite us working with Stalin to defeat Hitler, we really don't like or trust him".

The feeling is more than mutual!



## Before we look at the WW2 conferences, I think we need to sort out this tension between the Big 3...



**Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)**  
*President of the USA: 1933-45*

- Believed strongly in democracy.
- Didn't trust Stalin, but not always as tough on him as Churchill would have liked.
- Roosevelt believed the only chance of long term peace would be if Soviet Union accepted as a superpower.



**Winston Churchill (1874-1965)**  
*Prime minister of Britain:*

- Didn't trust Stalin at all
- Saw his role as try to stop the Soviet Union from taking control of eastern Europe



**Joseph Stalin (1878-1953)**  
*Leader of the Soviet Union: 1920s-1953*

- Stalin strengthened communist rule in the Soviet Union
- He believed the West wanted to destroy Communism
- He believed he had to stand firm in negotiations with the West (USA and Britain)



Copy these fact files into your books when you're finished write a sentence explaining why you think it will be difficult for them all to get on and agree on the future...



## USSR wanted to influence:

- Yugoslavia
- Poland
- Czechoslovakia
- the Baltic States
- Hungary
- Romania

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Influencing these  
countries  
will provide a  
buffer zone from  
the West

"I promise, I will only 'influence' these states! They can still have free elections and a level of democracy!" **Yalta 1945**





# Britain and USA wanted to influence

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- Western Europe
- Greece
- Italy

- Poland
- Yugoslavia
- Czechoslovakia
- the Baltic States
- Hungary
- Romania

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Can't let them  
influence too  
much of Europe  
with their  
Communism!

"We'll let Yugoslavia go Communist, Stalin will then let us  
get our wishes!" **Yalta 1945**



| Date:   | Leaders: | Key decisions | Disagreements | Impact on relations |
|---------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Tehran  |          |               |               |                     |
| Yalta   |          |               |               |                     |
| Potsdam |          |               |               |                     |

Which conference had the biggest impact on relations between the big 3? And why?

## Conference 1: **Tehran, November 1943:**



*Aim:*

To plan a winning strategy to end WW2

# Significance of Tehran:

| Who was at Tehran?  | Why did the meet?   | What did they want?   |
|---|---|---|
| Roosevelt (USA)<br><br>Churchill (Britain)<br><br>Stalin (Soviet Union) | The three countries wanted to agree how they would work together to fight the Nazis | 1) Stalin wanted Britain and USA to open a 'Second Front' to fight Germany in Europe.<br><br>2) The USA wanted the Soviet Union to help it to fight Japan |

From what we know so far, describe the mood or atmosphere at the first day of this meeting...





# Conference 1:

## Tehran, November 1943:

### *Aim:*

To plan a winning strategy to end WW2



### Agreements:

- USA & Britain would open a 'second front' by attacking Germany in Western Europe, this would ease pressure on the Eastern Front where the Soviets were suffering.
- Stalin would declare war on Japan and support USA when Germany had been defeated
- To keep Germany weak
- Soviet Union could keep some land in Poland after the war
- An international body should be set up to settle future disputes through discussion and negotiation, not war
- They would work together to win WW2

# Conference 1: Tehran, November 1943:

*Aim:*

To plan a winning strategy to end WW2



## Disagreements:



I want to open up a 'second front' in the Balkans, not western Europe



Hey, Roosevelt, who's side are you on?

I'm supporting Stalin on this one, Western Europe it is!

Oh! I wasn't expecting that, I thought they were delaying the 'second front' on purpose but great!



These two are falling apart, great! Soon the British will be out of my hair

What is the significance of the Tehran conference on relations between the Big 3? How did it strengthen and weaken the Grand Alliance?

**You should use some of the following connectives:**

As a result of... The effect of this was... This led to... Because of this... Consequently... Therefore...

# Significance of Yalta:

| Who was at Tehran?  | Why did the meet?  | What did they want?  |
|---|--|--|
| Roosevelt (USA)<br><br>Churchill (Britain)<br><br>Stalin (Soviet Union) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The 'Second Front' was pushing German troops back to Berlin.</li><li>• The Soviets were also pushing back the German army from Russia</li><li>• The allies wanted to talk about winning the war and how to run post war Europe</li></ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Stalin wanted to make sure that he kept control of parts of Eastern Europe at the end of the war</li><li>2) Britain and USA wanted to make sure there was peace in Europe</li></ol> |

From what we know so far, describe the mood or atmosphere at the first day of this meeting...



## Conference 2: **Yalta,** **February 1945:**



### *Aim:*

To discuss winning the war and governing post war Europe



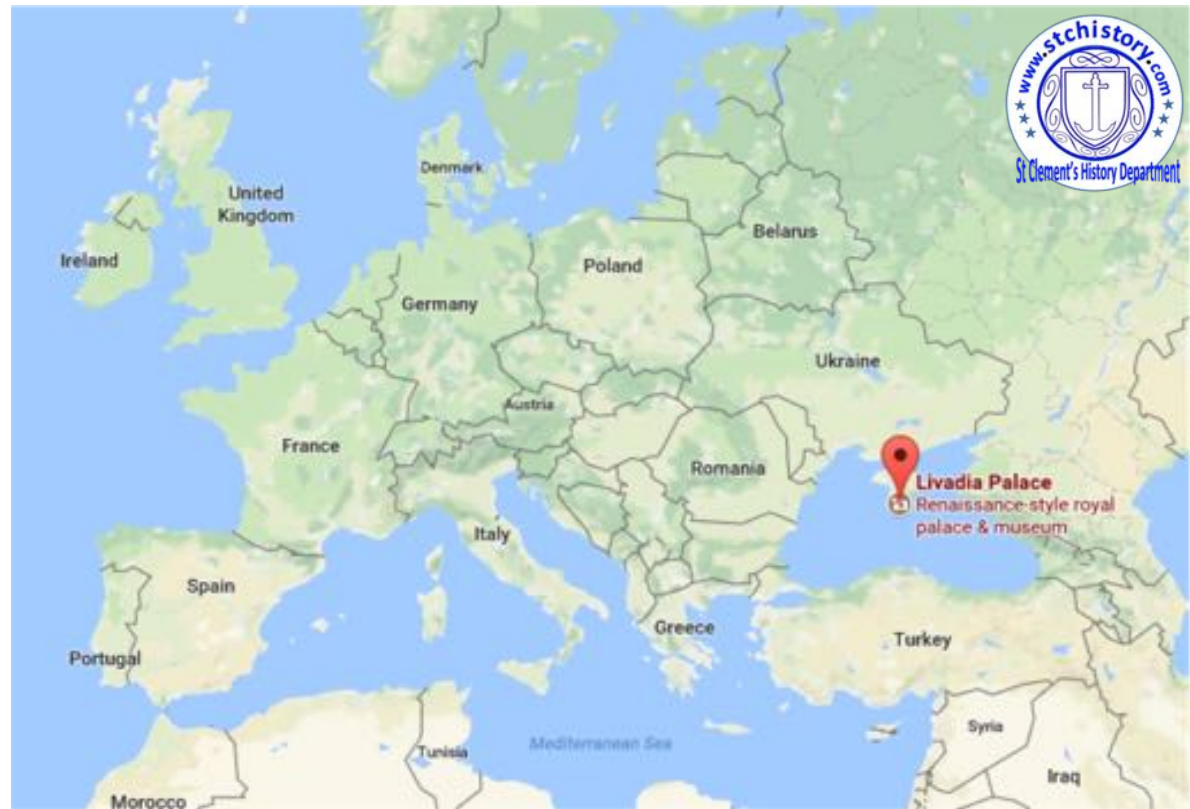


## Conference 2:

# Yalta, February 1945:

### *Aim:*

To discuss winning the war and governing post war Europe



### Agreements:

- Germany would be split into 4 zones, each controlled by a different power (USA, GB, France & USSR)
- Germany would pay \$20B reparations, half going to Soviets who'd suffered the most
- Nazi Party banned and war criminals caught and put on trial
- United Nations (UN) would be set up
- Stalin joined the war against Japan
- Stalin agreed that future governments of countries in Eastern Europe will have free elections
- Stalin could keep parts of Poland but it would be a free country with free elections



## Conference 2: Yalta, February 1945:

**Aim:**

To discuss winning the war and governing post war Europe



### **Disagreements:**



Didn't really play much of a part at this conference!



I really am glad you've agreed to the UN and the free elections Stalin!

No, that won't be happening!

Yo Stalin! We're supporting the free elections in Poland and we are determined to see it remain free!

What is the significance of the Yalta conference on relations between the Big 3? How did it strengthen and weaken the Grand Alliance?

**You should use some of the following connectives:**

I would like all 16 Soviet republics to have individual membership!



What about Russia, Ukraine and Belarus then? Although I do wonder who you think you are Roosevelt!

This Poland issue, although I have parts of it, I want it all to be communist! I'm not happy!

I just need to 'make sure' a pro-communist government is elected

As a result of... The effect of this was... This led to... Because of this... Consequently... Therefore...

# Yalta: Summary

It seemed that, although they could not all agree, they were still able to negotiate, and do business with one another.



# Significance of Potsdam:

| Who was at Tehran?  | Why did the meet?   | What did they want?  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Truman</b> (USA)<br><b>Attlee</b> (Britain)<br>Stalin (Soviet Union) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Germany had surrendered. The Allies needed to finalise their previous agreement on how to run Europe.</li></ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Stalin wanted to make sure that the Soviet Union remained powerful in Eastern Europe</li><li>2) Truman wanted peace in Europe but to stop the spread of communism</li><li>3) Attlee wanted to get back home quickly</li></ol> |

From what we know so far, describe the mood or atmosphere at the first day of this meeting...





## Conference 3: **Potsdam,** **August 1945:**


What can you notice from these photographs compared the the previous 2 conferences?





# Conference 3:

## **Potsdam,**

### **August 1945:**



I really don't like either of you



Feeling is more than mutual Mr Stalin, you have pushed your luck too far already!

### Important changes / events since Yalta

- Roosevelt had died and was replaced by **Truman**
- Churchill lost the 1945 General Election and was replaced by Labour's **Clement Attlee**
- Germany had surrendered in May 1945
- The United Nations had been created
- The Atomic Bomb had been developed by USA and tested on day 2 of this conference
- Truman deliberately delay the conference until the Atomic Bomb was ready – **Why?**



# Conference 3:

## **Potsdam,**

## **August 1945:**



Relations were very different between the 3 leaders at this conference, Truman and Atlee had limited experience compared to Roosevelt and Churchill *as a result* it was much harder for them to get their way with Stalin.



“We have to get tough with the Russians, they don’t know how to behave”

How significant is the arrival of Truman to relations between the US and USSR?

“The Soviet government is alarmed at the attitude of the US government. The American government cooled once it was clear Germany was defeated. It’s as though the Americans are saying the USSR is no longer needed



# Conference 3:

## **Potsdam, August 1945:**

### *Aim:*

US to get tough on USSR  
and post war Germany  
to be split into zones



### **Agreements:**

- Organisation of splitting Germany into the 4 zones. The German economy would be run as a whole
- Berlin would be divided into 4 zones (despite it being well inside Soviet controlled Germany)
- Reparations would be taken from each countries zone
- As the Soviet zone was poorest, they could take a ¼ of industrial equipment from the Western zones, but they had to provide the west with coal and food from the Soviet zone
- To participate fully in the United Nations

# Conference 3: Potsdam, August 1945:

## Disagreements:



I agree with Truman on this one!



I don't think we should punish Germany too much, remember what happened last time, at Versailles?

Really, I just want a stronger Germany to block Communism expansion west!



Oh, It is ok for you to say, you didn't lose 20 million Russians! I don't want my people worried about future attacks from Germany, they must be crippled and properly this time!

# Conference 3: Potsdam, August 1945:

## Disagreements:



I just want to get home and begin my job as Prime Minister



I'm not happy with the amount of control you have over Eastern Europe Stalin!

You seriously need to remember who you're talking to!

Also, the Polish borders agreed at Yalta, I don't think that is appropriate either! Too much Communist influence

What is the significance of the Potsdam conference on relations between the Big 3? How did it strengthen and weaken the Grand Alliance?

I freed these countries from the Nazis, they are under my control, what are you going to do? Nothing!



Not sure who you think you are, coming here with your big talk and big bomb! If it wasn't for me, WW2 would still be going on! You're afraid, afraid of me and of Communism, admit it! You're interference is not welcome!

**You should use some of the following connectives:**

As a result of... The effect of this was... This led to... Because of this... Consequently... Therefore...



Although the Big 3 agreed on many things at the 3 WW2 conferences, by the end of Potsdam it was clear the relationship between USA and USSR was at breaking point!

- Stalin wanted control of Eastern Europe to ensure the security of the Soviet Union, a defensive measure. Stalin wanted his Red Army to remain in the countries of Eastern Europe that he had freed from the Nazis
- Truman believed Stalin was trying to spread Communism to the West and challenge it's Capitalist values, he wanted the Red Army to leave Eastern European countries they had freed from the Nazis
- **Mutual suspicion have turned the wartime alliance into peacetime hostility**



# Topic Test Next Lesson:

Homework: Whilst doing this Q1, revise for your Topic Test next lesson

- You will be answering a Q1 [8 marker] on one of the conferences
- You should prepare by revising the conferences at [www.stchistory.com](http://www.stchistory.com) and using the Structure Strips in the Cold War Revision section so you know how to answer this question...

## Exam-style question, Section A

Explain **two** consequences of the decisions made by The Grand Alliance at the Yalta Conference in February 1945.

**8 marks**

### Exam tip

This question asks about 'consequences', so you will need to think about what difference the decisions made to relations at that time. Don't just give details of what happened, explain why the decision was important. It was agreed that Germany should be divided into four zones. How did that **affect** international relations?