

Endgame

The Peace Talks and the Future of the World After WWII



Essential Questions for the Lesson

- Who decided the fate of Europe after WWII?
- What decisions were made...
 - Before August 15, 1945
 - After August 15, 1945

... about how Europe was to again be organized after a brutal war?

- Who would become a superpower? What is an Atomic Age 'superpower' like?

The Yalta Conference, February, 1945

- The **BIG 3** meet to discuss the outcome of the war in Yalta, formerly part of the USSR, now in the Ukraine.



Temporary division of Germany

- French
- British
- American
- Soviet

Free elections for German independence

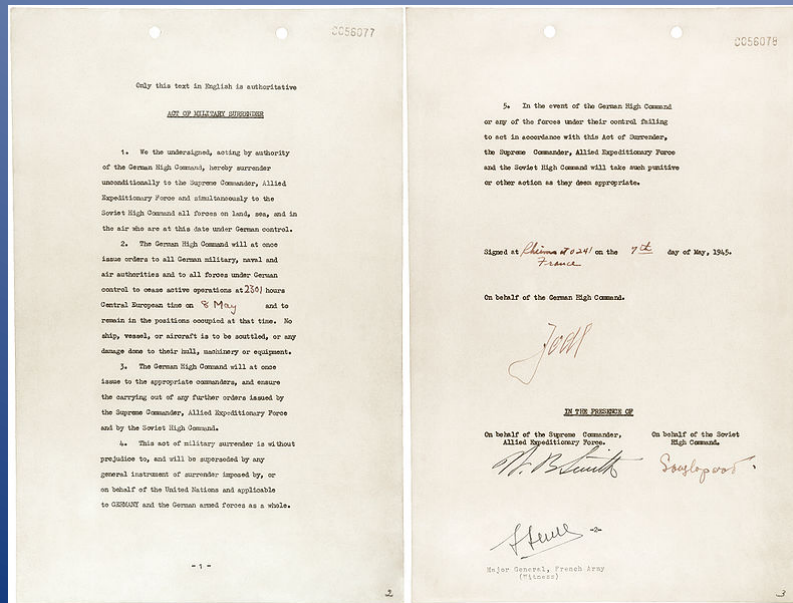
?Will these leaders continue to make the decisions in a few months?

Europe Pre WWII



May 8 1945 – V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day)

- Germany unconditionally surrenders.
- May 30, 1945: Hitler commits suicide.



The Potsdam Conference of July 16 – August 2, 1945

- A 2 Part Plan to fix Europe After WWII -

#1: The Potsdam Agreement



America – Truman
USSR – Stalin
England – Churchill
&
Attlee

REORGANIZATION OF GERMANY

#2: The Potsdam Proclamation, July 26

- England and America ask for the “unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces” and warned: “The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction.”