

The Leaders Meet

DAILY ACTIVITY Chapter 29, Section 5

Directions: Use the chart on wartime conferences below and your text to answer the questions that follow.

<p>Atlantic Conference Year: 1941 Attendees: Roosevelt & Churchill Location: Off Newfoundland Decisions: Atlantic Charter signed; provisions became foundation of UN Charter; provisions include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no territorial expansion • no territorial changes without consent of inhabitants • self-determination for all people • freer trade • cooperation for the improvement of other nations • disarming of all aggressors 	<p>Yalta Conference Year: 1945 Attendees: Roosevelt, Churchill, & Stalin Location: Yalta, Crimea, U.S.S.R. Decisions: Germany to be disarmed and divided into four zones of occupation; veto power to be given to Big Five nations at the UN; Soviet Union to get 3 seats in UN General Assembly; in exchange for entering war against Japan 2-3 months after Germany surrenders, Soviets to be given: Southern Sakhalin Island, concessions in Manchuria for ports, joint control of Manchurian railroad, and Central Kuril Island; Eastern Polish borders to be set to the advantage of Soviets; U.S.S.R. to pledge to hold free elections in Eastern Europe; war crimes trials to be held after the war</p>
<p>Casablanca Conference Year: 1943 Attendees: Roosevelt & Churchill Location: Casablanca, Morocco Decision: to accept nothing less than unconditional surrender of the Axis powers</p>	<p>Potsdam Conference Year: 1945 Attendees: Truman, Stalin, & Churchill/Atlee* Location: Potsdam, Germany Decisions: Potsdam Declaration; provisions include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -unconditional surrender of Japan or face prompt and utter destruction -set up of a council to administer Germany -set up of machinery to negotiate peace treaties -transfer of German people out of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland into Germany <p>Stalin's announcement that there will be no elections in Eastern Europe</p> <p>*Atlee replaced Churchill during conference when Churchill's Conservative party lost the British election.</p>
<p>Cairo Conference Year: 1943 Attendees: Roosevelt, Churchill, & Chiang Kai-shek Location: Cairo, Egypt Decisions: Korea to be independent at war's end and Taiwan to be returned to China from Japan</p>	
<p>Teheran Conference Year: 1943 Attendees: Roosevelt, Churchill, & Stalin Location: Teheran, Iran Decisions: agreement to open a second battlefield in Europe; Soviet agreement to enter war against Japan after defeat of Germany; inconclusive discussion about demilitarization and occupation of Germany</p>	

Interpreting Events

1. How many conferences did Churchill attend? Stalin? Roosevelt? How would this continuity have affected the conferences?

2. Explain how decisions made at the Atlantic and Yalta conferences affected the structure and purpose of the United Nations.

3. Why were concessions made to the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe and Asia?

4. How did the conferences, intended primarily to work toward ending World War II, also seek to prevent a third world war?

Predicting Outcomes

5. What problems might have been anticipated as a result of the Yalta Conference decisions? Explain.



TRANSPARENCY
51
ACTIVITY

Churchill's “Iron Curtain” Speech

During World War II, the Soviet Union, under the leadership of Josef Stalin, was allied with the United States, Great Britain, France, and the other Allied powers. A common goal—defeating Hitler and the Nazis—united these nations. As World War II drew to a close, however, tensions between the Western powers and the Soviet Union grew. In a now-famous speech, Winston Churchill outlined his concern about Soviet control of Central and Eastern Europe.

Read the excerpt below from Churchill's speech, then answer the questions that follow. If necessary, use a separate sheet of paper.

A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately lighted by the Allied victory. Nobody knows what Soviet Russia and its Communist international organization intends to do in the immediate future, or what are the limits, if any, to their expansive and proselytising tendencies. I have a strong admiration and regard for the valiant Russian people and for my wartime comrade, Marshal Stalin. There is deep sympathy and goodwill in Britain...towards the peoples of all the Russias and a resolve to persevere through many differences and rebuffs in establishing lasting friendships. We understand the Russian need to be secure on her western frontiers by the removal of all possibility of German aggression. We welcome Russia to her rightful place among the leading nations of the world. We welcome her flag upon the seas. Above all, we welcome constant, frequent and growing contacts between the Russian people and our own people on both sides of the Atlantic. It is my duty however, for I am sure you would wish me to state the facts as I see them to you, to place before you certain facts about the present position in Europe.

From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in many cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow. Athens alone—Greece with its immortal glories—is free to decide its future at an election under British, American and French observation. The Russian-dominated Polish Government has been encouraged to make enormous and wrongful inroads upon Germany, and mass expulsions of millions of Germans on a scale grievous and undreamed-of are now taking place. The Communist parties, which were very small in all these Eastern States of Europe, have been raised to pre-eminence and power far beyond their numbers and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control....

—From *The Sinews of Peace: Post-War Speeches* by Winston S. Churchill, edited by Randolph S. Churchill. Copyright © 1949, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

ANALYZING INFORMATION

1. What is your interpretation of the term “iron curtain”? How appropriate was Churchill's analogy?

2. **CRITICAL THINKING: Making Comparisons** How has Europe changed since this speech was made by Churchill?
