

# World War II – Forming Post-War Europe

## Peace conferences

- Teheran November 1943
    - o Concerned with war tactics
      - Agreed to partition postwar Germany
  - Moscow Conference
    - o Between Stalin and Churchill
    - o Concerned with postwar spheres of influence
  - Yalta February 1945
    - o Soviets were strong
      - Stalin had 11 million soldiers in Eastern and Central Europe
    - o He wanted a buffer against any future Western aggression
      - Spheres of influence
      - Also wanted resources and strategic military position
    - o Roosevelt moved toward “self determination”
      - Similar to Wilson
    - o *Declaration on Liberated Europe*
      - Liberated countries could create democratic institutions of their own choice through free elections
    - o Roosevelt wanted Soviets to help them with Japan
      - Promised Stalin territory
    - o UN
      - Postwar international organization
      - All big three would be involved
    - o Other issues
      - **Unconditional surrender of Germany**
        - 4-way partition of Germany
        - Zones for Soviets, Britain, and US
          - o French share out of US and Britain
      - Poland
        - Provisional government with both Polish Communist Lublin Poles and non-Communist London Poles
          - o They both hated each other!
        - Future free election but government also supposed to be pro-Soviet
          - o Problem with self determination
            - These countries had to be pro-Soviet
              - If they had free elections, they would not choose to be Soviet
- **Potsdam July 1945**
  - o Much less friendly
  - o Soviets were upset at the end of Lend-Lease
    - US no longer spent fortunes to send them equipment
      - US refusal to give \$6 billion loan
  - o West was upset with Soviet failure to honor the Declaration on Liberated Europe
    - Soviets put dictators in charge of these places
      - Romania- Soviet coup installed **Petra Groza** “little Stalin”
      - Poland- London Poles were arrested and Lublin Communists took power
  - o Truman (much stronger and tougher attitude, especially towards Stalin) learned at the conference that the A bomb worked



- He did not need the Soviets anymore against Japan
  - Stiffer approach
- Truman- tougher line to Stalin, and Stalin refused free elections in Eastern Europe

## Post-War Developments

### - Postwar Problems

- Had to deal with War Criminals
- Europe had to be re-built
- Japan had to be re-built
- Build global economy
- Create lasting peace

### - Key Postwar Figures

- Harry S. Truman
  - American President
  - Little International Political Experience
    - Learned quickly
      - Took a hard-line against Soviets
      - *Had the Atomic Bomb*
- Josef Stalin
  - Hailed as a war hero in Soviet Union
    - Still had strangle hold on political structure
- Wanted Revenge and protection from invasion
  - Hard headed
    - Knew what he wanted and fought to get it



### - New Economic Institutions

- *Bretton Woods Conference*
  - Bretton Woods, New Hampshire
  - July, 1944
  - Met to decide on new World Economic system
    - World Bank
      - Loan system to help stimulate economies of third world
    - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
      - Regulate Exchange Rates
- Russians not interested
  - Too "Capitalist"

### - The creation of the United Nations

- April 1945
- Days after death of Roosevelt
- Drafted organization's founding charter
  - Very similar to League of Nations
- US Forced to pass through senate
- United Kingdom weakened
  - US sees that it has to pick up where UK was leaving off
    - Forced out of Isolationism
- Creation of Permanent "Security Council"
  - Had Veto powers on UN Resolutions
  - Permanent members
    - United States
    - Great Britain
    - France
    - China

- USSR
  - Serve as a way to solve problems
    - Could openly discuss issues instead of going directly to war
      - All nations have a voice
    - Can draft resolutions
      - Plans of Action
  - **Nuremberg Trials**
    - War Crimes court
      - Set up to deal with Nazi officials
    - Mostly Americans and British Judges
      - French and Russians not so concerned
        - French had officially allied
        - Russia scared they might be next
    - Mostly went after high up officials in Nazi Party and people associated with the Holocaust
      - Main Trial 21 people
        - Final Verdict
          - 13 Death Sentences
          - 6 Imprisonment
          - 3 Acquitted
        - **Hermann Goering**
          - Hitler's chosen successor command
            - Highest ranking official captured
          - Head of Luftwaffe
          - Sentenced to death
            - Committed suicide night before
        - Karl Donitz
          - Head of Kriegsmarine
            - Unrestricted submarine warfare
          - 10 years
        - Wilhelm Keitel and Alfred Jodl
          - Both Generals
          - Death sentences
        - Albert Speer
          - Hitler's Architect
          - Came up with idea of slave labor in arms production in occupied territories
          - 20 years
- **Rebuilding Germany**
  - Many Problems
    - British, French, America, USSR controlled different regions
    - Berlin
      - Located deep inside Russian zone
        - Also divided
  - Eventually British, French, and US territories Merge into **West Germany**
    - West German Federal Republic
      - Independent in Sept 1949
    - Allies maintain bases to "ensure stability"
      - Protect against Soviet movements into Germany and rest of Western Europe



- East Germany remains heavily controlled by Soviets
  - German Communist Party Walter Ulbrecht
  - German Democratic Republic – Oct 1949
- Germany will remain split until Nov 10, 1989
- Rebuilding Japan
  - US takes almost sole responsibility for Japan
    - Japanese accept responsibility and accept American occupation
      - Work with Americans to re-build country
  - General Douglas MacArthur
    - Controlled Democratization and re-building efforts
    - Tokyo Trials
      - Convicted Japanese War Criminals
  - Within a year Japan accepts new Democratic constitution
    - Accepts pledge to not rearm
      - In return for US Military protection
- **The Marshall Plan**
  - Soviet Union wants revenge
    - Huge war reparations
    - Dismantle German Factories
  - Truman sees this as a problem
    - Learns from History
      - Did not work before
        - Treaty of Versailles
  - US Secretary of State George C. Marshall comes up with idea
    - US would give *\$10 Billion to re-build Europe*
      - Only if Europe agreed to work to this end
        - Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany all agreed
      - Seen as huge success
        - Stabilized economy
        - Prevented post-war economic collapse
        - Boosted European economies
          - Within 10 years European factories exceeded pre-war production levels
        - Ensured communism would not take root
    - Pre-cursor to European Union



### The Fall of European Empires

- Irony: One of motives for going into World Wars was to defend its empire
  - The wars were one of the major reasons for the downfall
- Loss of Military supremacy
  - Destroyed myth of European Supremacy
    - They fought and died like everyone else
    - British loses to Japan destroyed Racial Supremacy claims
  - Most importantly naval
    - USA is now undisputed Naval superpower
- Loss of face among colonies
  - Europe needed colonies, they did not need Europe
    - Strengthens pushes for *home rule*
    - Throw in the fact that many colonials were just armed and trained
- UK deeply in debt to the US
  - Could not afford to maintain empire

## Decolonization

- Process by which Imperial governments withdraw and allow autonomy
- Mostly left many countries with “puppet governments” who were pro-British, pro-French etc...
  - o Not necessarily strongest group in a country
    - Will cause many civil wars in places like Africa
- The “Third World”
  - o Countries who use to be colonies, now independent and economically down trodden
    - Many still rich in natural resources
- New Power Struggle
  - o With UK and France out of the picture, power vacuum created that USA and USSR race to fill up
    - Looking for allies
    - Looking for new markets
    - Looking for new places for military bases

## Asia

### - Creation of Israel

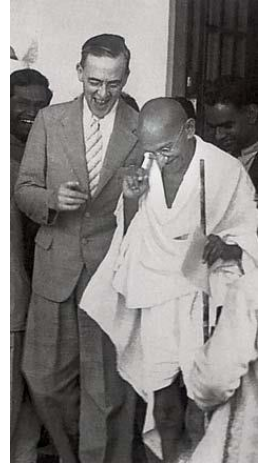
- o Creating a Jewish Nation
  - One of the first tasks for United Nations
- o Land in traditional homeland
  - British Palestine
- o Mass Migration
  - Displaced Jews from Europe
    - Hoping to get away from persecution
    - New problems in Palestine
      - o Surrounded by Palestinians
- o Israel as a pawn of the Cold War
  - United States hopes to win the favor of Israel
    - Keep the Soviet Union out
  - United States officially recognizes Israel as a Nation
    - Against advice of foreign policy advisors
    - Election Year
      - o Truman hoping to secure Jewish Vote
    - Post-War Sympathy
      - o Popular move with the people because of Holocaust
  - Impacts
    - USA gains an ally in the Middle East
    - Loses many allies
      - o Arab/Muslim states very un-happy with move



### - India

- o British Colony
- o Early Grievances
  - Famine
    - Exhausted land and produced non-essential crops
      - o Cotton
  - Heavy Taxes
    - Forced to pay for an Army that subjected them
- o World War I
  - Indian troops brought to Europe to fight
- o World War II
  - Indian troops again used in Europe and Africa
  - India directly attacked

- Heavy losses
- World War II was idealistically an anti-Imperial war for Americans
  - Quit India Movement
    - India forced to fight in war against imperialism
  - Pressured England to give up its empire after war
- Resistance movements
  - **Mohandas Gandhi**
    - Heavily nationalistic
    - Served in Indian National Congress
    - *Non-Violent opposition*
      - Salt Marches
      - Home-Spun
- **Indian Independence Act 1947**
  - British withdraw
  - Allowed for self-rule in British India
    - Sovereign rule in India and new country of Pakistan
    - August 14<sup>th</sup> (Pakistan) and 15<sup>th</sup> (India)
      - Great Migration – 10-15 million people move to respective countries
        - Muslims to Pakistan
        - Hindu to India



## - China

- Nationalist vs. Communist
  - Nationalist = Chiang Kai-Shek
    - Minimally backed by USA
      - Money and Weapons
  - Communists = Mao Zedong
- Civil War begins again after World War II
- Mao's Forces popular with farmers
  - Eventually able to win full control on Oct 1, 1949
- Huge loss for Americans
  - ¼ of world population now Communist
  - New Chinese Government does not like America
  - Chiang Kai-Shek and nationalists flee to Taiwan
    - USA Still does not recognize PRC's sovereignty over Taiwan

## - Vietnam

- French Colony
- World War II
  - **Ho Chi Minh**
    - Communist
    - Vietnamese leader who fought with French against Japanese
      - American Supplies
    - Planning on throwing off French Rule
- Post War Vietnam (1950s)
  - French try to reassert control over area
    - Americans back plan after fall of China
  - First Indochina War
    - French Expeditionary force sent
    - Facing Viet Minh
      - Communists backed by China and USSR
    - **Dien Bien Phu**



- Major loss for French
- Forced into un-favorable position at peace talks
- Geneva Accords of 1954
  - *Ended French Colonization*
  - Split Vietnam along the 17<sup>th</sup> Parallel
    - North = Communist under Ho Chi Minh
    - South = Loyalist Bao Dai

## Africa

- World War II
  - North Africa was a battle ground
  - African Colonial troops were only given train ticket and thanks for support of European
  - Many Africans trained as soldiers
    - Returned home and hoped to use skills in nationalistic movements
- Decolonization
  - *British Method – Gradual Transfer of Power*
    - Accepted by Africans
    - Resentment by Whites
      - Wanted favorable constitutions in place
    - Tanganyika 1961 – led by African Majority
    - South Africa 1961 –led by White Minority
  - *French Method – Assimilation*
    - Allowed Morocco and Tunisia to declare independence, held onto Algeria
  - *Belgium – Hold on at all costs*
  - *United States – De-Colonization*
    - Pressured Europeans to give up colonies, by 1980 all independent
- Post-Imperial Africa
  - Africa became power vacuum
  - USA and USSR both sought to control areas
    - Used espionage and control of dictators to get what they wanted

