

GRADE 12 HISTORY**THE COLD WAR****THE THREE CONFERENCES**

The Cold War began after the end of World War II because of disagreements over postwar Europe. Each superpower (United States, Britain, France and Russia) had their own idea of how postwar Europe should be rebuilt. The Cold War rose not from one isolated event, but from the different ideologies and interests between the Soviet Union and the West.

THE THREE CONFERENCES**1. TEHRAN (IRAN) CONFERENCE (1943)**

f Roosevelt, Churchill, & Stalin [“Big Three”]

f Decisions:

- Agreement to open a second battle front in Europe.
- Soviet agreement to enter war against Japan after Germany is defeated.
- Inconclusive discussion about demilitarization and occupation of Germany.

2. YALTA (CRIMEA) CONFERENCE (1945)

f Roosevelt, Churchill, & Stalin

f Decisions:

- Germany to be disarmed & divided into 4 zones of occupation.
- Veto power to be given to Big 5 nations at U. N.
- 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 concessions in Manchuria for ports, joint control of Manchuria RR, and Central Kuril Is.
- Eastern Polish borders to be set to the advantage of the Soviets.
- U. S. S. R. to pledge to hold free elections in E. Europe.
- War crimes trials to be held after the war.

3. POTSDAM (GERMANY) (1945)

f Truman, Stalin, & Churchill / Attlee

[Attlee replaced Churchill during the Conference when Churchill’s Conservative Party lost the British election].

f Decisions:

- Unconditional surrender of Japan (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. - Stalin’s announcement that there will be no elections in Eastern Europe.