

1 Major Conferences- During and Post World War II – The Start of Cold War



Name: _____

Date: _____

Recommended Readings: Howarth pages 190-198 and Global Forces pages 171-172

I. Tehran, (Iran) Conference- Nov. 1943- Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin (review main points- second front, Russia to enter war against Japan, Soviet borders to be moved west into Poland) (see Global Forces p. 129, 1st and 3rd column)

II. Yalta (south USSR) Conference- Feb. 1945... FDR, Churchill, Stalin

- main points

*- Germany divided into three occupation zones for Bt., USA and USSR. (A fourth, for France, added later out of western allied territory)

- this division to be temporary, the withdrawal of occupation troops and the reunification of Germany to occur in the near future)

- *Berlin, deep in Soviet zone, also divided into Bt. Am. Fr and Soviet zones

- free elections in Eastern Europe (comment...different interpretations here)

* Stalin to declare war on Japan 3 months after the defeat of Germany

all agree to support setting up of the United Nations – see overhead map and handouts

Problems

6) - *Poland, - couldn't agree on new western border

Stalin wanted all territory east of the Oder and Neisse rivers to go to Poland (see map Howarth p. 191 and De Marco p. 156) Note: Poland already had a Communist government (remember July 1944 Warsaw uprising) - issue not settled at Yalta, Churchill very suspicious of Stalin

7)* agreed to collect reparations from Germany. Couldn't agree on how much (Stalin wanted \$20,000,000,000, with half going to the Soviet Union)

decisions on these two problems to be made after Germany defeated

(-Stalin did agree to allow some members of the London based Polish government in exile to join his communist government in Lubin, later these people visited Moscow and were arrested)

(as Soviets advance through eastern Europe, many Germans living in these regions were tortured or killed- many become refugees- between 1945 and 1947, approx. 16 million Germans expelled from Central and Eastern Europe, seven million from the territory east of the Oder-Neisse rivers... about 2 million died as a result of this compulsory flight. read excerpt Howarth p. 195.)

III. Potsdam Conference and Aftermath

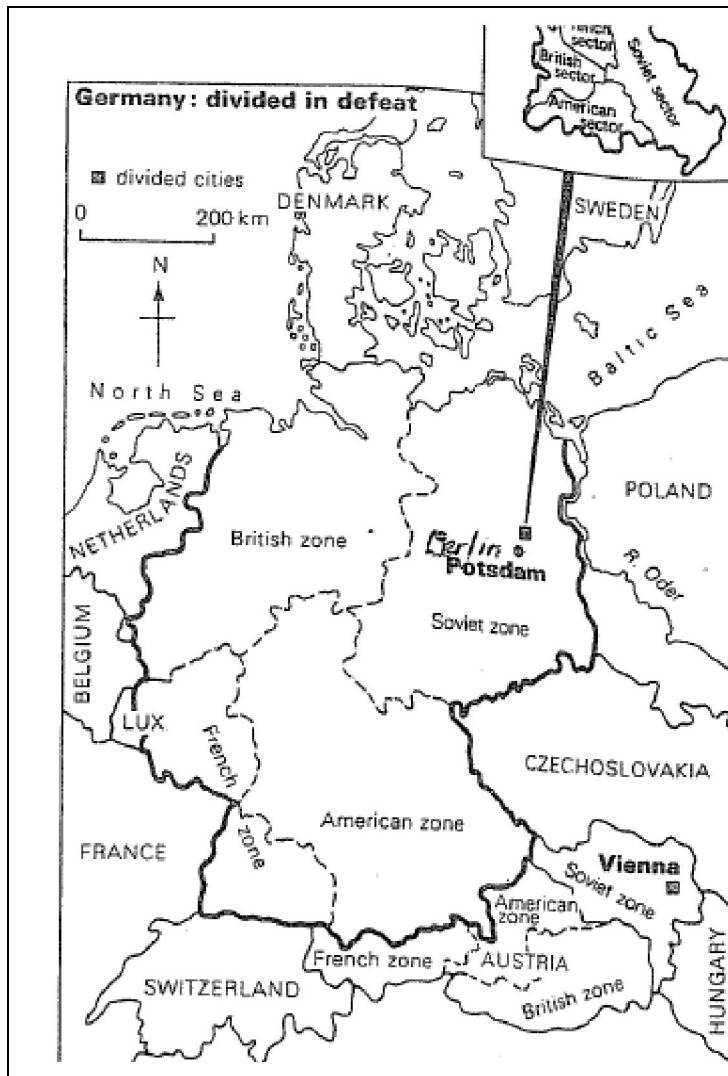
*- July 17 to Aug. 2 1945, Potsdam, suburb of Berlin- Churchill & Clement Atlee (Bt.), (PM under coalition government) Truman (USA) and Stalin – see picture in DeMarco on p. 155

- prior to Conference, Stalin had invited the Non-Communist Polish leaders to Moscow and imprisoned them, Poland becomes a Communist puppet state,

*- Stalin declares he couldn't prevent the Poles from taking over the territory up to the Oder - Neisse rivers... western allies either go to war or accept it

- Stalin presents the western allies with a "fait accompli", could either accept this or go to war with the Soviets...Churchill urges Truman to resist Soviets.. but Truman suspicious that Churchill wanting to build up Britain's pre-war empire

- now Truman has the bomb (successfully tested July 17 - 1st day of the conference)... not such a need for Soviet aid against Japan...can take a firmer line against the Soviets
- during conference - Atlee replaces Churchill who lost election



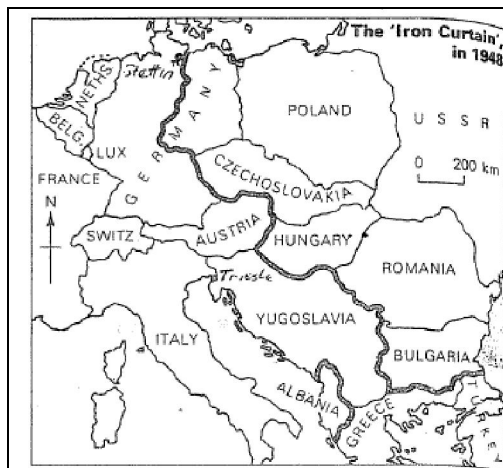
- *division of Germany began, Germany to be administered by a Control Council of the 4 military commanders of the occupied zones..(the western view was that it would eventually become a unified democratic state)

- Russians start to collect reparations from their zone... moving factories and industrial goods (good at that)

- the denazification starts.. former SS men would be put on trial, leaders of the Nazi Party and the army brought before an Inter-Allied Special Tribunal at Nuremberg... 21 top Nazi's tried, 11 hanged... process still going on

- after Potsdam... Russians ensure that the Socialist Unity Party (Communist) becomes the dominant party in their zone in Germany

*- in March, 1946, Churchill spoke of an **"iron curtain"** descending across Europe...by 1948, a 2000 mile "curtain" of barbed wire and armed guards had formed.. see map Howarth p. 196... by 1948 Bulgaria, Rumania, Poland, Hungary, Albania and Czechoslovakia all had communist governments. (see De Marco p. 156, Fulton, Missouri speech, "iron curtain" originally a phrase from Goebbels)
*- Jan. 1947, Am., Bt. and Fr. German zones joined together



- predicament of Berlin, in Soviet zone but with western sector in city, looking awkward- note- the division of Germany was assumed to be temporary, but no timeline set. Assumed by the west that a democratically elected government of a united Germany would sign a peace treaty, but as the division last till 1990

Note: Yugoslavia is not "behind" the Iron Curtain. They are communist but President Josip Tito acted independently from Moscow.

Critical Thinking Question: Using the recommended readings as evidence, how did these conferences demonstrate a hardening of tensions between allied leaders (leading to the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the West)