

**Module 9: The Cold War – The 1950s**  
**Topic 1 Content: Reorganizing Europe after World War II**

**Introduction**

## **REORGANIZING EUROPE AFTER WORLD WAR II**



**Click *NEXT* to continue.**

After the Allies won World War II, the United States and Great Britain controlled Western Europe, and the Soviet Union controlled Eastern Europe. Click ***NEXT*** to see the next steps taken in the process of reorganizing Europe.

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**Yalta**



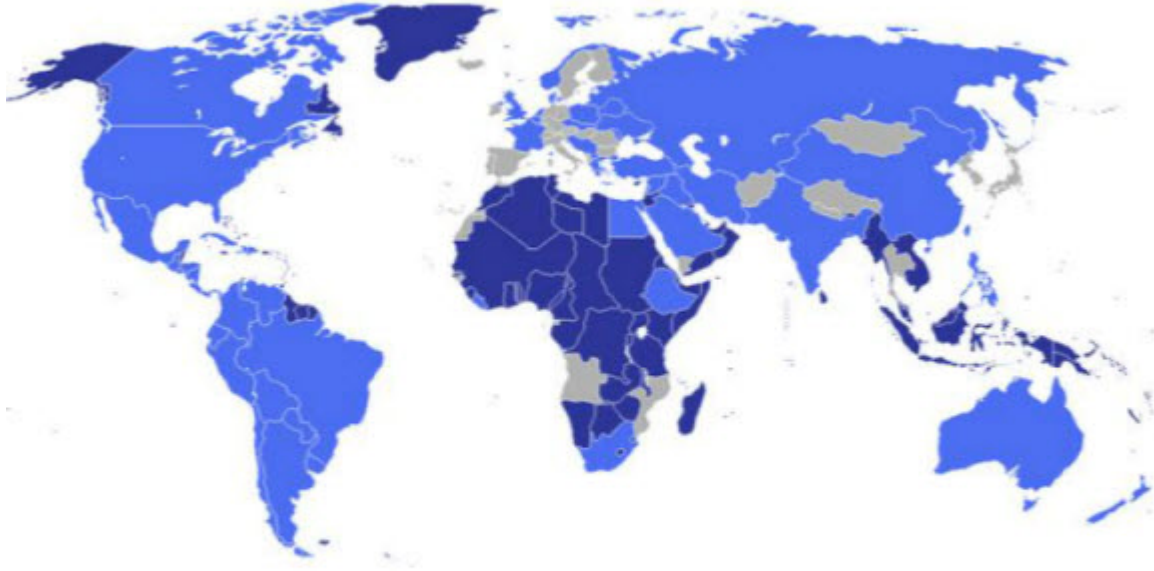
**1945 Yalta conference with Winston Churchill (Great Britain), Franklin D. Roosevelt (United States), and Josef Stalin (Soviet Union)**

Before Germany surrendered, the Allied powers met in Yalta in early February of 1945 to discuss how to reorganize Europe after the war was over. During the Yalta conference, the three major powers agreed to divide Germany into four military occupation zones. Each of the three major powers would control one zone, while France was given control of a fourth zone consisting of territory taken from the British and American zones. The Yalta conference also included initial discussions about a world-wide body of nations that could prevent wars and replace the ineffective League of Nations.

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#### United Nations



**A map of the United Nations members by the end of 1945; light blue are member states, dark blue are colonies of member states, gray are non-member states**

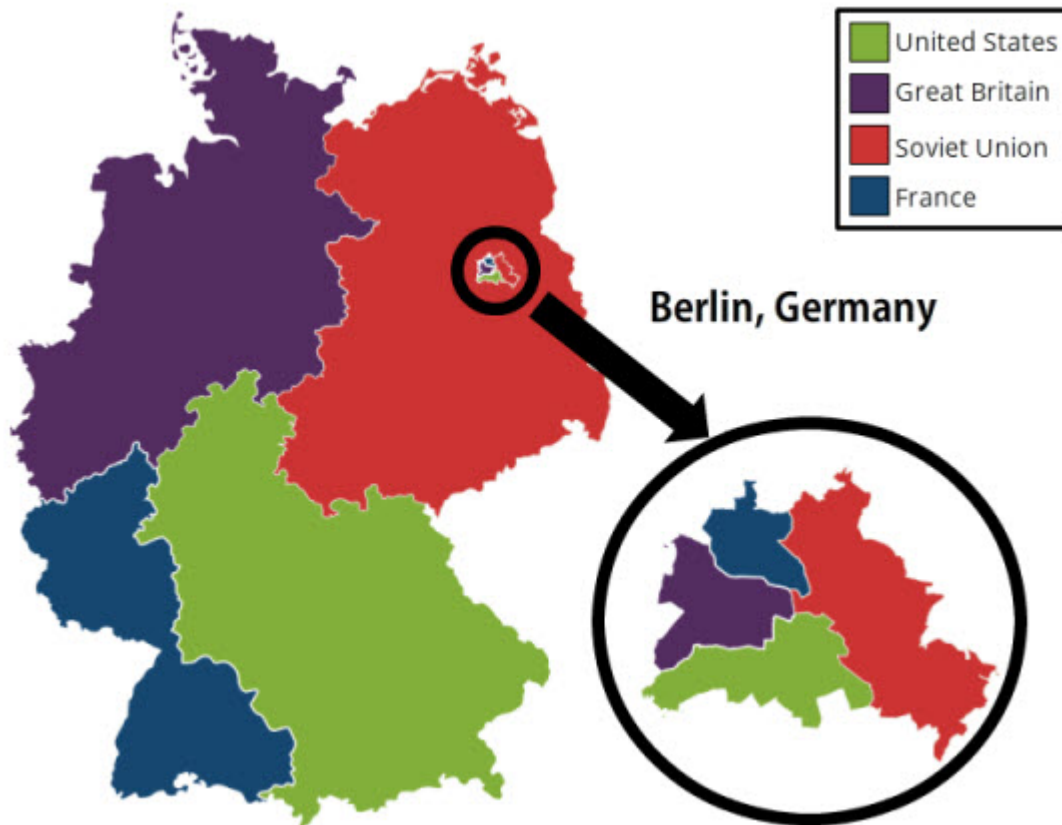
Between April and June of 1945, representatives from countries around the world met in San Francisco to develop a charter for a new international organization designed to preserve world peace. President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, lead the conference; and delegates from fifty other nations attended. This new group of nations would replace the ineffective League of Nations. In October 1945, the United Nations was officially established. The United Nations created a Security Council, which was responsible for maintaining worldwide peace and security, investigating international problems, and resolving disputes. The United States, China, France, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom became the five permanent member countries on the Security Council. Joined by other countries on a rotating basis, the Security Council has the power to use military force to uphold United Nations resolutions. This organization still plays an important role in foreign policy today.

Click on each number to view the eight points the people of the United Nations were determined to uphold, as listed in the preamble of the group's charter.

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#### Potsdam Conference



The three major powers met again in the German city of Potsdam at the end of July 1945. During the Potsdam Conference, the plans to divide Germany into four military control zones were finalized, and the capital city of Germany, Berlin, was also divided into four occupation zones. The Soviet Union also retained control of Eastern and Central European territory it had liberated from German military control during the war.



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**East and West Germany**



**German shepherd border guard dog posted between East and West Germany**

The United States, Great Britain, and France worked together over the next four years to help the western German territories they controlled resume self-government. This area came to be known as West Germany, and it developed economic and political systems that mirrored those of the occupying countries. West Germany, including West Berlin, became a self-governing democratic country in 1949, with a capitalist style economic system. In contrast, East Germany and East Berlin remained under the strict control of the Soviet Union. East Germany did not adopt democratic institutions, and its economic systems were controlled by the government of the Soviet Union.