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***The Yalta Conference Simulation***

**A Game to Change the World**

(Author - The BlueNoser)

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W

elcome to the world of simulation based learning and thank you for purchasing this educational product. A classroom simulation can best be described as a role-playing game with educational goals. Good simulations mirror real life and involve students in complex situations that challenge them to problem solve and work together. When a teacher uses a well-designed simulation, students can expect to find themselves in a wide variety of roles, from a police detective to an environmental activist to the President of the United States and almost everything in between. They will confront the problems and pressures of events as varied as an international crisis, corporate negotiations or a criminal trial.

Too often students study events from a disconnected perspective, never garnering a complete understanding of complex situations. Simulations provide the opportunity for students to become the people involved and suddenly they are on the inside looking out. In taking on the roles of decision makers, they come face to face with complexities, motivations and consequences.

Using a well-designed simulation makes learning an event and provides a chance for students to master content, build their skills, and gain a wider understanding of the world around them. They are also entertaining and engaging, drawing students into the activity and keeping them focused for long periods of time.

**A Few Words of Advice**

Simulations work so well because the focus of activity is shifted away from the teacher and onto the students. This represents a fundamental change in the classroom practice of many teachers and may be difficult to adjust to. Bearing this in mind, please consider the following suggestions as you prepare to run a simulation.

1. Be prepared to give up some control. In order for the students to get the maximum benefit from a simulation experience they must dictate the pace and take the actions (obviously within reasonable limits).
2. Let students make bad decisions. Offer advice, support and reinforcement but ultimately let them sink or swim on their own. There is value in learning from poor judgment.
3. Encourage creativity. Students will approach the challenges provided with incredible innovation and will likely present ideas/possibilities not considered by the simulation creators or the teacher running the event. You may be called on to make a quick decision about whether a student can take an unforeseen course of action. Don’t dismiss the idea because it’s not addressed in the rules. Evaluate its merits and if possible, permit it.
4. Accept that the outcome is unknown. Every simulation is unique as is every class and how these two come together creates a tremendous range of possibility. Not knowing exactly how an event ends makes it exciting for the teacher and reinforces feelings of realism and freedom among the learners involved.

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**Introduction**

The *Yalta Conference Simulation* is an educational experience designed to present learners in grades 9 through 12 with a variety of challenges. It involves role-playing and negotiating skills. This simulation recreates the complexities of international negotiations and competing agendas among the three major powers that were victorious in World War 2. It will significantly enhance studies of that conflict in particular as well as the history of the 20th Century in general.

The simulation centers on the Yalta Conference (February 4-11, 1945), where the leaders of the “Big Three” (USA, USSR and UK) met to discuss how the world would look after the war. Although they met previously in Tehran and would meet again in Potsdam, it is the conference at Yalta that represents the best opportunity for student learning about the shaping of the post war world. In Tehran, the focus was on winning the war. At Potsdam, two of the leaders were new (Roosevelt had died and Churchill was defeated in an election) and positions were already hardening into that would become the Cold War. Yalta represents the best conference for students to get a sense of both how the world after 1945 was shaped by the competing agendas of the allies and how it could have been profoundly different.

**Appropriate Grade Levels**

The *Yalta Conference Simulation* is suitable for students in Grades 9 through 12.

**Outcomes of the *Yalta Conference Simulation***

Knowledge - At the end of this simulation, students will demonstrate an understanding of the following concepts:

1. The problems facing world leaders at the end of World War 2.
2. The geopolitical positions held by the “Big Three” (USA, UK, USSR) near the end of World War 2.
3. The goals for the postwar world held by each of the Big Three (USA, UK, USSR) near the end of World War 2.

Skills – At the end of the simulation, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Work successfully in teams.
2. Follow a complex, evolving situation and determine its impact.
3. Make decisions to achieve specific goals.
4. Evaluate the results of their decisions and incorporate this information into strategies for achieving objectives.
5. Communicate their thoughts in writing.
6. Integrate current learning into a wider understanding of the world around them.

Attitudes – At the end of the simulation students will demonstrate:

1. An appreciation for the complexities of international relations and negotiations.
2. An appreciation for the difficult situation confronting national leaders as World War 2 reached its end.
3. An appreciation for how the postwar world of the 20th century might have been very different.

**Acceptable Numbers**

This simulation can accommodate between 18 and 33 students. Within each of the three national delegations there are 6 separate roles and the number of students assigned to these roles can be adjusted to suit class size. Having a single student assigned as the leader and two for each of the other roles would be ideal.

**Materials**

All the written materials required to conduct the *Yalta Conference Simulation* are included in this file. Students will require lots of paper for notes and letters between groups and poster size paper for writing out their national goals. While this is not a necessity, it makes the simulation debrief much easier if all three national agendas are posted side by side on a wall.

**Simulation Space**

The ideal scenario for this simulation is to place the three groups in their own rooms so that they are free to widely (and loudly) discuss their plans and use a fourth room for the conference. If this is not a possibility, a large space like a library, cafeteria or gym will also work. The key is to make sure that the groups cannot hear each other.

**Duration**

The length of this activity is typically between 2 and 3 hours but it is not recommended that it be run over a couple of days. Due to the complexity of the delegation’s positions and the negotiations that occur, it would be very difficult for students to be able to pick up where they left off. In addition, stopping the simulation in the midst of negotiations will severely affect the momentum and level of excitement.

While this initially appears as a problem, several solutions present themselves. One suggestion is to use lunchtime on either side of the class in which the simulation is scheduled. This will create a much larger block of time to work with. Using an hour after classes end is another option. Some teachers have solved this problem by holding the entire simulation after school or during the early evening or on a weekend. In exchange, teachers should offer students the appropriate amount of time off during the regular school day. Students are surprisingly responsive to these ideas if regular class time is offered in fair exchange.

**Procedures**

**Introducing the Simulation (15mins)**

Before beginning the simulation, you will need to divide the class into three groups of roughly equal size. Be sure to give some consideration to the personalities in each group to ensure a balance of strength and creativity. Some teachers may want to take matters a step further and assign specific roles to students. Once the class is divided into national delegations, pass out the *Student Introduction* and read through it with the class.

If you have not assigned roles, allow students to meet in their groups for a few minutes to make those decisions.

Ideally, the introduction should take place in the class prior to the simulation. This will give students the chance to dress for their roles, something that adds a great deal to the experience and should be strongly encouraged. In addition, this approach will maximize the time you have to run the *Yalta Conference Simulation* as it allows you to jump right into the activity at the beginning of the next class.

One key to the success of this event is to make sure that you have arranged appropriate space. The ideal situation involves each national delegation having a dedicated room with a large central space nearby for the actual conference. This is asking a great deal if you are running the simulation during the school day and is one compelling reason to give some thought to holding this event outside of school hours. A large space like a cafeteria, library or gym will also work well as long there are three private areas for the delegations to gather without being overheard and a space that can be organized for the conference.

**Running Stage 1 – Creating National Goals (45mins)**

Each delegation should meet in their private area and begin by reviewing the negotiation briefs for their roles. The remaining student handouts should be given out at this point. Next, you should meet with each group individually and assign them the following three tasks:

* After students have reviewed their handouts, each advisor should summarize their brief for the group so that everyone has a basic understanding of the military, political and economic positions of their nations.
* Working together under the direction of the leader, the group must create a list of National Goals. The list should address all three areas. These are to be written on poster sized paper and accessible to everyone in the delegation for reference. Later, the posters can be displayed and used as a reference point in the discussion at the end of the simulation. It is important that you stress that the National Goals must be kept secret at all times.
* Working together under the direction of the leader, the group must create a list of 6-10 topics to be placed on the conference agenda. These should reflect each group’s National Goals but not be so specific that the other nations will be able to figure out what the National Goals are. It is likely you will need to provide some guidance on this task.

It is also important to remind the journalists of their task. They must prepare a report to be ready for the beginning of the conference. These reports must not reveal anything about the National Goals and should reflect a strong bias in favour of their country, leader and delegation.

Once you have met with the three groups and they have begun their work, you will need to call the diplomats together in the conference area and review their task in some detail. During stage 1, they must determine the structure and rules of the conference. They should consider and address the following questions as they work:

* How will the chairs and tables be arranged?
* Will there be introductory speeches by the leaders?
* Who will lead the conference and make sure the schedule and rules are followed?
* How many topics will be discussed?
* How will topics be debated?
* How will agreements be proposed?
* How will agreements be decided on?
* Will delegations be provided with private time to decide whether they will support an agreement?
* In what order will delegations speak?
* How much time will each group get to speak on a topic?
* Will delegations get to ask questions of one another?
* How will agreements be recorded?
* Will delegations be allowed to pass letters back and forth during the conference?
* Will there be concluding speeches by the leaders?

This is the most difficult task in the simulation and students will benefit from your support as they work through these issues. It might be helpful for you to have given some thought to the structure and approach that will work best for your students and be ready to “guide” them in that direction if they are having difficulty.

It is important that you stress that all diplomats have a say in the conference structure and that decisions must be agreed to by all three nations. Finally, the diplomats should use some of the poster paper to list the structure and rules so that they can be displayed for all to see during the conference in stage 3.

**Running Stage 2 – Preliminary Negotiations (30mins)**

At the beginning of stage 2, the diplomats should return to their delegations and review the structure and rules of the conference with their group. Afterwards, the rest of the delegation should briefly summarize the National Goals and conference topics for the diplomats.

At this point, the leaders and advisors should begin sending letters to the students occupying the same positions in the other delegations. The goal is to gain some advantage for stage 3 through secret agreements or by discovering something about the other nation’s goals. Secret agreements must be agreed to by all member of a delegation before they can be accepted. It is important that you stress that this communication can only occur through letters. Do not permit direct conversation between delegations or allow delegates to enter another nation’s space for any reason.

During this time, journalists should continue to prepare their reports and should be told that they can now request interviews with advisors from any of the three nations. These interviews are to be requested in writing and then arrangements can be made to have the interviews done in the hallway or other quiet area. Journalists should focus on getting quotations that cast their nation, leader and delegation in a positive light while making the others look bad.

During stage 2, diplomats will meet to determine the official agenda of topics to be considered at the conference and the order in which they are to be discussed. It is important to remind diplomats that decisions about the structure and agenda of the conference can only be decided by consensus. All diplomats must agree in order for a topic to be put on the conference agenda. Also, be sure to remind them of the importance of the order of topics in the conference.

Throughout stages 2 and 3, it is crucial that you move constantly among the delegations and the diplomats to ensure that they are making progress and that decisions are made by consensus.

**Running Stage 3 – The Yalta Conference (60mins)**

Before the conference begins, it is very important that you review the structure and rules with the class to make sure that everyone understands what to do. Next, call the journalists up to give their reports and then turn things over to the diplomats to run the conference.

As agreements are reached, make sure that the diplomats record them on poster paper.

**Debriefing the Simulation (30mins)**

It is often beneficial to wait until the next class to undertake this activity as students need some time to process the events of the simulation. Post the National Goals of each delegation on a wall along with the conference agreements and lead the class through a discussion. The *Questions for Discussion* handout provides a series of questions that can be used but often simply reviewing what happened and allowing the students to share their thoughts and feelings will result in an interesting exchange of ideas.

**Next Steps**

An ideal follow up lesson is to allow time for a direct comparison between the events of the simulation and the real Yalta Conference. This should include an examination of the differences and similarities between the agreements.

**Evaluation**

Student efforts to meet the simulation’s outcomes can be evaluated using several approaches that work well alone or in combination. These are:

**Questions**

Drawing on the *Questions for Discussion* handout, a question sheet can be made up to give students the opportunity to express their thoughts on various aspects of this activity.

**Self-Evaluation**

Ask students to give themselves a mark out of 10 and justify their decision. This provides the teacher with insight into the student’s perspective as well as indicates what the student has learned. Stressing the justification component of this assignment enables students to revisit their actions, display what they have learned and build an argument in support of their decisions.

**Simulation Evaluation**

Ask students to make a list of 10 things they liked about the simulation, 10 things they didn’t like, and make 5 suggestions to improve the experience. This is an interesting exercise because it gives value to the students’ perspective and provides you with ideas you may wish to incorporate into this activity next time.

**Essay**

Drawing on the experience, have students answer one of the following questions in a short piece of writing:

1. With specific reference to the events of the simulation in your response, explain why it is so difficult to solve international problems and come to international agreements.
2. Describe each of the National Goals your group came up with and discuss your strategies for achieving these goals. Did the strategies work? Why or why not.
3. With specific examples in your response, give your opinion on which nation was the winner at the conference. Why did they win?

**Short Story**

Ask students to write a short story about the events surrounding the negotiations from the perspective of one of the people in the simulation. This could take the form of a report to a superior, a diary entry or perhaps a letter home to family and friends.

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**Questions for Discussion**

1. Will anyone volunteer to summarize what happened during the simulation?
2. Did any delegation meet all of its National Goals? How did they do it?
3. Did any of the delegations plan out a negotiation strategy before the start of the conference? Did you stick to it?
4. Did anyone make secret arrangements with other delegations? What was agreed to and why? Did it help you reach your goals?
5. Did any groups make deals or decisions that were not consistent with their real world counterparts? Why did it happen?
6. Did anyone find the negotiations difficult and/or frustrating? Why?
7. What can we infer about the real world and international problems based on your frustrations and challenges during the simulation?
8. Which group was the most powerful during the simulation? Why? Do you think this state of affairs was also true at the real Yalta Conference?
9. Which group was the least powerful during the simulation? Why? Do you think this state of affairs was also true at the real Yalta Conference?
10. What role did the media play in this simulation?
11. What impact do you think the media can have on international negotiations, relations and problems in the real world?
12. What was the best deal made during the simulation for your delegation? Why?
13. What was the worst deal made during the simulation for your delegation? Why?
14. Did anyone make a deal they wanted to break?
15. What was the most challenging aspect of this activity for the diplomats?
16. What can we infer about the role of diplomats in the real world and international problems based on events in the simulation?
17. Was the simulation realistic?
18. What parts of the simulation were realistic? What parts were unrealistic?
19. What is the best part of this activity? Why?
20. What is the worst part of this activity? Why?

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**Introduction for Students**

Welcome to the Yalta Conference, a meeting of the leaders of the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain that took place near the end of the Second World War. The conflict with Germany was almost at an end and these three met to discuss the organisation of the post war world. Each was accompanied by a large delegation of senior advisors, diplomats, military and economic experts as well as the media. All of these groups will be represented at the simulation and portrayed by you and others in your class.

The class will be broken up into three groups representing the nations of the USA, USSR and the UK. You will then take on one of the following roles for the simulation:

* Leaders (Stalin, Roosevelt or Churchill)
* Senior Advisors
* Military Advisors
* Economic Advisors
* Diplomats
* Journalists

The simulation will take place in the following three stages:

**Stage 1 – Creating National Goals**

You will review information briefs to identify your areas of concern and then work as a group to draw up a list of National Goals under the direction of your leader. This list must be kept secret at all costs. If the other nations know what you are after, they will make you pay a high price for it. Each nation will also need to create a list of between 6 and 10 topics it wishes placed on the official agenda for the conference in stage 3. **These topics should reflect your National Goals but not be so specific that the other nations will know what you want.**

During stage 1, Diplomats will meet with their counterparts to determine the structure and rules of the conference in stage 3.

National journalists will observe the discussions of their groups and begin to prepare a newscast to be given at the beginning of stage 3. Reporters must remember to protect the secrecy of the National Goals and represent a strong bias in their reporting. Quotes are encouraged.

**Stage 2 – Preliminary Negotiations**

All leaders and advisors can send letters to any of their counterparts in other nations with the goal of trying to gain some advantage in the conference in stage 3 through secret agreements or by discovering something about the other nations’ goals. **No direct conversation can occur and no one may enter the area of another nation for any reason.** Be very careful not to get caught agreeing to something which will hurt you later during the actual conference and always remember your goals!

During stage 2, diplomats will meet with their counterparts to determine the official agenda of topics to be considered at the conference and the order in which they are to be discussed. Journalists will continue to observe and may conduct interviews in the hallway with representatives of the other nations.

**Stage 3 – The Yalta Conference**

Using the rules and structure created in the diplomats, the Yalta Conference will be held. At the end of the conference all agreements will be written up and signed by the national leaders. The conference will begin with the journalists making their reports.

**Important Points to Remember during the *Yalta Conference* *Simulation***

1. All decisions must be made by consensus.
2. Advisors must at all times maintain a unified front during negotiations.
3. Students must stay in their roles at all times.
4. Costumes are strongly encouraged.

**Good Luck and have fun!**

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The USA - Political Negotiations

**Franklin D. Roosevelt** – This leader can best be described as an idealist. As the war was finally coming to an end, Roosevelt wished to make the world a better place for all people, not just Americans. In 1943, Roosevelt and Churchill signed the Atlantic Charter, which called for self-determination and free elections for all people. These ideals were still his priority at the time of the Yalta Conference. Unfortunately Roosevelt fell ill before the conference and was terribly sick throughout the proceedings. He died 4 months later on April 10th.

**Senior Advisors** – You are the President’s inner circle and he makes all decisions in consultation with you. Your primary concerns are the big international ones. Your role is to assist the President in his negotiations with the other leaders.

**Political Brief**

Having emerged from the war as the leading nation on earth, the United States feels that a number of issues should be addressed to their satisfaction. After all, without the economic might of the US, Nazi Germany would surely have won the war. The first and foremost international issue is the agreement to allow all nations self-governance and freedom from outside influence. The end of the old European system of colonialism is strongly desired. In particular, the British, Dutch, and French colonies and the new territories of the Soviet Union should be given their independence. **The goal is the independence of all nations**. The suggestion made recently by Churchill that the world should be broken up into spheres of influence for each of the “Big Three” is absolutely unacceptable. It is the continuation of the old Empire system on a larger scale.

After having been drawn into 2 European wars in less than twenty years, the United States is determined to see a fundamental restructuring of the world to improve security. One means of doing this is through the establishment of an international body to which all nations would belong and it would resolve disputes before wars an start. Such an organization would maintain the political and economic stability of the world.

Finally, decisions must be made with regard to the fate of Germany. Having seen the failure of the Treaty of Versailles, it is critical that the same kind of punishments not be imposed on Germany. After the war, Germany must be rebuilt with the help of the victors and structured to foster democracy. In particular, efforts must be made to rebuild the German economy, now shattered by Allied bombing.

One final concern for the United States is the fate of an estimated 21 million people without homes or food in Europe. Action by the allies must be undertaken to save these people from death.

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USA – Military Negotiations

**Military Advisors** – Your prime concerns are the important security considerations for both the United States and the US military after the war. Also, you are concerned with defeating both the Germans and the Japanese and ending this war as quickly as possible.

**Military Brief**

US military concerns fall under two general areas, each addressing an enemy. Of principle interest is securing the Soviet Union’s entry into the war against Japan, which is forecasted to go on after Germany’s defeat. A recent intelligence report on the invasion of Japan projects a total of 500,000 American military deaths and an additional 1,000,000 injured. This is a significant issue as American losses have already reached 300,000. Bringing the Soviets into the conflict would lessen American deaths in ending the war in the East. The increased involvement of the British, while helpful in reducing total American causalities, is politically undesirable for fear of further expansion of the British Empire. President Roosevelt has as one of his main principles, the end of the old European Empire system.

In Europe, the issues are more pressing. As American, British and Soviet troops move into Germany from the west and the east, a decision has to be made about the occupation of that country. How will the armies of three nations run this area? The American desire is a three-way occupation initially under a council of military control made up of commanders from each army. Then, as soon as possible, this council will turn over control to civilians. The occupation should be temporary in and all troops should be out of Germany as soon as possible. The American goal is to begin the rapid demobilisation of troops in the months after the war and completely withdraw from Europe within 2 years. The troops are needed in the factories of the US to maintain the incredible economic growth of the war years.

This goal can be extended throughout Europe. The US wants the complete withdraw of all foreign troops from European countries as soon as possible. President Roosevelt desires freedom for all the nations of Europe. This is a significant issue to debate as the Soviet Union currently occupies most of Eastern Europe including: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. Getting the Soviets to withdraw may be tricky.

Finally, there is one other issue to factor into the negotiations with the British and the Soviets. Recently a group of scientists in New Mexico have announced that they have created an atomic bomb. It is a weapon of such power that just one of them could destroy an entire city. The other allies are nowhere near building this kind of weapon.

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USA – Economic Negotiations

**Economic Advisors** – Your main task will be to address the devastation in the war ravaged countries of Europe and the Far East. Also you must protect the incredible gains made by the rapid growth of the American economy during the war. You must find a way to rebuild Europe, including Germany, without weakening the American economy.

**Economic Brief**

The main priority for the economic advisors is to stabilise the international economy and open up markets to the products of the USA. Your nation is the only major power to escape the entire war without damage to its infrastructure and industry. The US has suffered no civilian losses. The average life expectancy rose by 3 years, annual income increased by $3000 and the average standard of living vastly improved. US exports increased from 3 billion/year in 1939 to 14 billion/year in 1945. American factories truly won the war. By 1943, your country was turning out 6 warships a day and 6 billion worth of war related material per month.

In order to capitalise on and continue the economic growth of the US, the allies must agree to drop trade barriers and tariffs among their dependent nations. In particular, the opening of the Soviet Union to American goods is a significant possibility for growth.

While the desire for maintaining American growth is strong, the issue of rebuilding Europe is equally important. In Germany alone there is more than 4 billion cubic meters of rubble. The President has identified the additional goal of aiding the 21 million people estimated to be without homes or food.

To this end, the President has authorised you to make pledges of financial aid to the allies to help them rebuild their shattered nations. 1 billion dollars are available for aid. Also, the idea of making the defeated countries pay war reparations is to be strongly opposed at all costs. The President believes that practice is a major cause of this war. Defeated countries are to be helped not further punished – they have suffered enough.

On a final note, while the US has suffered the least in terms of destruction and death, your nation has spent the most money by far (1/3 of all funds expended on the war). The US has spent 341 billion which includes 50 billion given to the USSR and 31 billion given to the UK in the form of equipment and supplies through the Lend Lease program.

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USA – Diplomats

**Diplomats** – As a professional diplomat it is your task to devise a structure and a set of rules which will give your delegation and leader the advantage in these important negotiations. In many ways, this is a most important task. You must also make sure that the conference’s agenda includes all of the topics your delegation and leader wants.

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USA – Journalism

**Journalist** – You will observe the conference preparations, interview delegates and prepare a news report for the beginning of the Yalta conference. You must present events from the perspective of the country you represent, reflecting as much bias as you can. Your job is to glorify the efforts of your nation’s representatives and downplay those of the other nations present.

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USSR –Political Negotiations

**Joseph Stalin** - Stalin’s thinking was dominated by thoughts of security for his country. The USSR had been invaded twice by Germany in 25 years. Stalin was suspicious of the western powers and believed the capitalist countries were out to destroy the Soviet Union. This is why the west failed to make a pre-war alliance against Hitler and delayed for 2 years opening up a western front in France.

**Senior Advisors** – You are the General Secretary’s inner circle and he makes all decisions in consultation with you. Your primary concerns are the big international ones. Your role is to assist the General Secretary in his negotiations with the other leaders.

**Political Brief**

The dominant Political thinking in the inner circle around Comrade Stalin focuses on security for the future. It would be best if a buffer zone of territories under the control of the USSR could be created to protect your country from invasion. The losses incurred by the Soviet Union are unparalleled in history – 30 million died. Looking at it another way, 2 of every 5 people who died during the war were Soviet. This must never occur again.

To that end, Soviet control of Poland must continue indefinitely as Poland has historically been the route to Russia from Germany. In fact, the Soviet Union should insist on moving the Polish borders westward into Germany to create a greater distance between the motherland and the Europeans. This is a significant goal to pursue at these talks.

The principle political policy the Soviet leadership wishes to follow is that of “Security through Expansion”. If you control the countries along your border they cannot be used as a staging area for an invasion or otherwise be turned against you.

Having been attacked by Germany twice this century, considerable efforts must be made to insure that Germany never threatens the Soviet Union again. That nation must be stripped of all military and economic abilities and permanently controlled. One method for achieving this would be in the permanent placement of Soviet troops in Germany.

The leadership is also interested in developing a “Spheres of Influence” policy which would gain the Soviet Union a free hand in controlling and dominating Eastern Europe.

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USSR – Economic Negotiations

**Economic Advisors** – The USSR desperately needs money to rebuild an economy devastated by four terrible years of war. Either reparations from Germany or money from the US will assist but not at the expense of the USSR’s new and advantageous position as occupiers of Eastern Europe. Your job is principally to secure the needed funding.

**Economic Brief**

The devastation caused by the Germans in the Soviet Union is unparalleled in human history. Your country bore the full weight of the Nazi war machine and the costs are astonishing. Roughly 7.7 million civilians were killed in the assault on Russia and 30% of Soviet industry was utterly destroyed. During the war years civilian consumption of all products including food was reduce by 40% - almost to starvation levels for the entire population. During the Nazi occupation 47% of the farmland and 87% of all pigs were lost to the people of the Soviet Union. When the Nazi’s retreated they burned the farmlands and took the livestock. In 1943, the national harvest of grains was down by 63%.

Confronted with these hardships and an army which lost 15 million soldiers to fighting the Nazi war machine, you task is to recoup the losses. Officials have calculated that the Soviet Union is owed 10 billion in either goods or funds for its war efforts. Publicly it does not matter to the Soviet Union who pays this, Germany or the US but secretly it is preferred that the US contribute the funds as these will be far easier to collect. It is known already that the US wants to avoid German reparations so the threat of imposing them may be a key bargaining chip.

One final concern centres on the issue of opening Soviet markets to foreign goods. Comrade Stalin feels very strongly that the Capitalist countries of Britain and the US will try to gain access to our people through a demand for open markets. The corrupting influence of capitalist goods must not be permitted into the Soviet Union or countries currently occupied by your country. Comrade Stalin expressly forbids you to agree to any deals of this sort – no matter what.

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USSR – Military Negotiations

**Military Advisors** – Along with Stalin, the military believe that since the Soviet Union fought its way into central Europe, it should not have to withdraw. Your primary responsibility is to see the Allies agree to the permanent presence of the Red Army in Europe and to protect the security of your state and its interests by whatever means necessary.

**Military Brief**

In military matters the Soviet Union is confident that it holds the upper hand. The Red Army currently occupies eastern Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. Comrade Stalin has indicated that he would like to retain control of these areas as a buffer zone against further attack from the west since the USSR has been attacked twice from Germany in less than 25 years. The philosophy of “Security through Expansion” is the general principle for all Soviet military negotiations.

Besides, the Soviet Union has paid for these gains in blood. During 1418 days at war with Germany, the Red Army fought along a front varying from 3,000 – 6000 km in length, launched 9 campaigns, 210 operations and lost more than 15 million soldiers. Each hour of the war, 587 Soviet soldiers died. Neither of the Allies can make such claims of suffering or of strength. The Red Army has earned this territory.

Your military goal is to get the US and UK to agree to a permanent Soviet military presence in Europe as a defensive strategy. In addition, Red Army wants the Americans demobilized and gone from Europe as quickly as possible in an effort to remove the only real rival left. Intelligence reports indicate that Britain has exhausted its resources in defeating Germany and will not be able to maintain a position of power for much longer. If the US can be convinced to withdraw, the Soviet Union will dominate Europe.

The other crucial issue for consideration is the future of Germany and the end of the war. Stalin wants the Red army to occupy as much of Germany as possible including Berlin in order to strengthen his hand in later negotiations. The goal is to get the allies to agree to permit the Soviets to enter Berlin and to agree to a permanent Red Army occupation of that country. Germany must never again be allowed to attack the USSR. As for assisting the Germans, the Red Army is not interested in helping those who so viciously tried to wipe out the Slavic peoples. Germany must be driven down and stay there. Comrade Stalin specifically orders you to maintain Red Army troops in Germany – no matter what.

In addition, proposals of joint rule in Germany by the allies are to be rejected in favour of zones of control. The Soviet Union feels that any joint rule with the US and UK will create a situation where the capitalist allies can continuously vote down the Soviet Union’s efforts. The USSR wants absolute control within the area occupied by the Red Army. A consequence of this is to get the allies to agree to give as much of Germany’s territory to the USSR as soon as possible.

***The Yalta Conference Simulation***

***A Game to Change the World***

USSR - Diplomats

**Diplomats** – As a professional diplomat it is your task to devise a structure and a set of rules which will give your delegation and leader the advantage in these important negotiations. In many ways, this is a most important task. You must also make sure that the conference’s agenda includes all of the topics your delegation and leader wants.

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USSR - Journalism

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British – Political Negotiations

**Winston Churchill** – Churchill was more of a realist than an idealist. His most immediate worry was how to maintain a balance of power in Europe. He feared that the Soviet Union would take control of Eastern Europe after the war. His main hope was to form an alliance with a reunited and rebuilt Germany, France and the US. Churchill faced enormous pressure at this time to achieve an honourable settlement for the peoples of Europe.

**Senior Advisors** – You are the Prime Minister’s inner circle and he makes all decisions in consultation with you. Your primary concerns are the big international ones. Your role is to assist the Prime Minister in his negotiations with the other leaders.

**Political Brief**

The political issues that Great Britain faces currently are significant and with each passing day the British position weakens. The war has exhausted the labor forces and industries of your small nation while the US and USSR have grown in power. Nevertheless the British must push several important issues. In truth, though British power is diminishing, it was your nation’s refusal to yield to the Germans that ultimately won the war. You should be accorded some leeway for this.

Of principle political concern is the state of Poland which is currently under military occupation by the Red Army. Poland is officially the reason that the UK entered the war and Churchill wants Poland restored to its pre-war state. In particular, the British want free elections held in Poland as soon as possible.

Despite a desire to protect Poland, you are interested in developing an agreement with Stalin and Roosevelt about “Spheres of Influence” – areas where each nation is free to exercise control as it sees fit. The Russians could have the East of Europe and Britain could maintain a free hand in her colonies, a real source of income to rebuild your exhausted nation. Also, you fear that the US will completely withdraw from Europe leaving the British alone to stand against Stalin – an impossible situation. If Stalin would agree to limits in European affairs, the Soviet influence in Europe could be controlled without force of arms. Better yet, the British hope to convince the US to place a permanent force in Europe.

Continuing along the line of the Soviet threat and American withdraw, Churchill wants you to negotiate a position for France among the Big Three in the upcoming peace. France would further counterbalance the power of the Soviets. Germany must also be rebuilt and made independent as quickly as possible to help confront the Red Army.

Finally, the British must negotiate protection from the Communists for Greece, an important trading partner and access route to Middle Eastern oil for the UK. A strong communist presence is growing there but the USSR must not be permitted to gain control. Perhaps negotiations could eliminate this threat.

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British - Military Negotiations

**Military Advisors** - Your prime concern is to concentrate upon the most important security considerations for both the UK and the British military after the war. You are chiefly concerned with defeating both the Germans and the Japanese and ending this conflict as quickly as possible as your nation is on the verge of exhaustion.

**Military Brief**

The United Kingdom has exhausted its population in the struggle with Germany. During the war more than 8.7 million men were under arms and 326,000 of them were killed. The primary goal for military advisors is the rapid completion of the war in a manner that costs Britain as few casualties as possible and the rapid withdraw of troops to cut costs for a government now overburden with expenses. Unfortunately this appears unlikely.

The British must maintain a strong military presence as long as the Red Army is in central Europe, especially in the face of a possible US withdraw. A priority for the British is the commitment of a permanent US force in Europe to offset the threat of the Red Army. Failing that, the goal must be to convince the USSR to withdraw out of Poland and Germany as quickly as possible. An independent Germany can help counteract the threat of Soviet domination.

The issue of Germany is a crucial one for post war Europe. You must convince the US to join you in gaining as much territory as possible and meeting the Red Army as far to the east as you can to limit the size of the Soviet occupation. British and US troops should take Berlin, the traditional seat of the German government, in order to gather as much power as possible in that defeated nation. In addition, control of Germany in the time immediately after the war should be handled by a three way panel made up of the military leaders of each of the Big Three plus France. In this way, the demands of the Soviets could be voted down by a majority of democracies.

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***A Game to Change the World***

British – Economic Negotiations

**Economic Advisors** – The UK is financially broken and in desperate need of economic aid. Your task is to get this aid from the United States without threatening the continued existence of the British Empire. You are not adverse to the US providing aid to the USSR either as it could create a means of controlling that country, now in occupation of Eastern Europe.

**Economic Brief**

Great Britain faces an economic crisis even as it emerges victorious from this bloody war. More than 62,000 civilians have been killed and the UK lost roughly 30% of its housing. British exports have been reduced by 40% and British shipping has been cut by 30% due to wartime destruction by U-boats. The extreme cost of this fight has forced the British government to sell off a huge number of overseas assets to fund the war effort and now that money is gone. In short, the UK is in a crisis.

The chief way out of this situation is to access roughly 3 billion in materials and funds from the US, the wealthiest nation on earth. While the need for funding is urgent, the British are not prepared to consider war reparations from a defeated Germany for two reasons. First, it is generally believed that the demand for reparations after WWI led to this recent and far more destructive war. Second, it would only keep Germany weak longer. A strong and free Germany is required to assist the UK in keeping the Soviet Union from dominating all of Europe.

The central goal of the economic negotiations is to secure funding for Britain from the US and block German reparations. After that, efforts should be focused on gaining US aid for Germany and even the Soviet Union. In fact, aid from the US may create a situation of dependence and a means of controlling Stalin and the USSR.

Finally, the British government is not willing to eliminate the trade barriers and tariffs within its empire to allow in US goods. The volume of these goods from an economic sector going full steam ahead would shatter British control. Traditionally, the closed markets of the Empire have been a source of wealth for your nation and will be the essential means of rebuilding Britain.

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British Diplomacy

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