

The Yalta Conference

The Yalta Conference, also known as the Crimea Conference and code-named the Argonaut Conference, was held from February 4-11, 1945.

Most historians would say the Cold War started at Yalta but the meeting of the “Big Three” (US, Soviet Union, and Great Britain) actually ended Germany’s rule during World War II.

The biggest end result of Yalta was the division of Europe. This dissolved Germany’s power.

The “Big Three” agreed to the following terms:

- ★ There would be an **unconditional** surrender of Germany.
- ★ Germany would be divided into four spheres:
 - Western Germany would be three spheres, controlled by the US, France, and Great Britain.
 - Eastern Germany would be one sphere controlled by the Soviets.



- ★ Franklin Roosevelt wanted a new League of Nations that would actually work this time. He thought that in order for it to work, the US and the Soviet Union **had** to be involved.
 - Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union agrees to join the **United Nations** with a secret agreement with the US that there would be a Security Council where the Soviet Union and US were members with veto power. So essentially they could back out and block anything they didn’t agree with.
- ★ Joseph Stalin agrees to offer free elections to Soviet controlled nations, although this never really happens.
- ★ The Soviet Union agrees to help the US invade Japan in exchange for land lost in the Russo-Japanese War. Turned out, the US didn’t need their help afterall.