

Origins of the Cold War

Wartime Conferences - Emergence of areas of conflict between East and West

Teheran (November 1943)

- first meeting between Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin
- subject: strategy for winning war - Anglo-American promise to open up Second Front in Europe to alleviate Soviet forces in East. But, Churchill objected; invasion of France delayed until late 1944 (May then June) after invasion of Italy which took longer than expected.

Yalta (February 1945 - Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin)

- subject: postwar settlement
- UNO
- Germany (and Austria) divided into zones of occupation
- free elections in Eastern European states
- Stalin agrees to declare war on Japan 3 months after Germany defeated in return for Japanese possessions (Sakhalin Is.; territory in Manchuria)
- * Poland: Soviets drive Nazis out of Poland, setting up communist Lublin gov't, but, there is also Polish gov't-in-exile in London
 - So, Soviets agree to allow some London Poles to join Lublin gov't, and Russia allowed to keep strip of eastern Poland gained in 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact.- Curzon Line [London Poles object to this].
 - But, Stalin's demand that all German territory east of Oder-Neisse Rivers be given to Poland is rejected.

Potsdam (July 1945 - Churchill replaced by Attlee (a sheep in sheep's clothing), Truman (replacing Roosevelt who died in April), Stalin)

- change in participants and a cooling-off of relations
- Germany: demilitarization, denazification and war crimes trial, democratization; reparations to be taken in goods from country's zone of occupation
- Poland: Red Army occupying Germany east of Oder-Neisse line, 5 million Germans living there expelled and territory placed under Polish (communist) gov't control- not in keeping with Yalta
- Truman didn't tell Stalin about atomic bomb; 4 days after conference ended Hiroshima and then Nagasaki bombed.

Nature of the Cold War conflict - some characteristics:

- * ideological conflict: western capitalism, democracy, individual liberties versus communism, Marxist-Leninist revolution, collectivism
- * open hostility and mutual suspicion; break-down of normal diplomacy
- * super-power rivalry: formation of Western and Eastern blocs
- * creation of strategic/geopolitical spheres of influence
- * avoidance of direct military confrontation
- * massive arms build-up (nuclear & conventional weapons)