

Intro Question -

- What should be done to the Germans in the aftermath of WWII?

Main Idea:

WWII cost millions of human lives and billions of dollars in damages. It left Europe and Japan in ruins.



Why it Matters Now:

The U.S. survived WWII undamaged, allowing it to become a world leader.

16.5 Europe & Japan in Ruins

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**World War II ends with the surrender of Germany on May 9th
and the surrender of Japan on Sep. 2nd 1945.**



By McNulty, August 15, 1945

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American servicemen and women gather in Paris to celebrate the unconditional surrender of the Japanese.

Devastation of WWII

- Europe was in ruins
 - 40 million Europeans had died – 2/3 of them civilians
 - 20 million Soviets died
- Hundreds of cities reduced to rubble
 - London was left in ruins by the German Blitz.
 - Warsaw, Poland, was almost wiped completely wiped out
 - Berlin was 95% demolished
 - One U.S. officer stationed in Berlin reported, “Wherever we looked, we saw desolation. It was like a city of the dead.”

A City in Great Britain



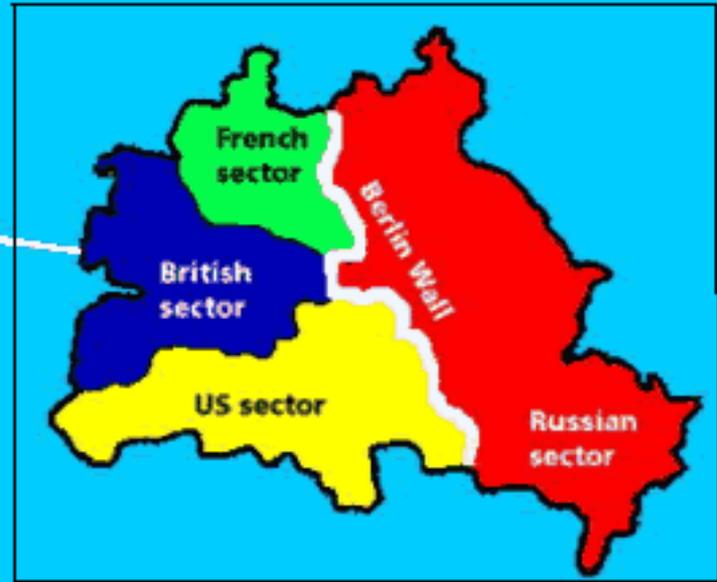
Wartime Conferences

- Attendees: THE BIG 3
 - U.S. - FDR
 - Great Britain – Churchill
 - Soviet Union - Stalin



British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin met at **Yalta** in February 1945 to discuss their joint occupation of Germany and plans for postwar Europe.

The division of Germany and Berlin



Postwar Governments and Politics

- Europeans often blamed their leaders for the war and its aftermath.
- After the war the Communist Party promised change, and millions were ready to listen.
- They made huge gains in the first postwar election, and many alarmed French and Italians reacted by forming anticommunist parties

Nuremberg War Trials

- Nov. 20, 1945: first trial against the principal war criminals of the “Third Reich”
- 22 Nazi leaders were charged with waging a war of aggression, accused of committing “crimes against humanity” & “crimes against peace”
- Not all major Nazis could be brought before the Allies: Hitler, Joseph Goebbels and Heinrich Himmler committed suicide.



Nuremberg War Trials

- Oct. 1, 1946: 12 of the 22 accused are condemned to death
 - Seven receive sentences of many years or life
 - Only three cases were acquitted
 - In later trials of lesser leaders, nearly 200 more Nazis were found guilty of war crimes
 - For the first time in history a nation's leaders had been held legally responsible for their actions during wartime
 - 12 defendants were sentenced to death by hanging, and their bodies were cremated in the same ovens of their victims at the concentration camp Dachau.

The Effects of Defeat in Japan

- The defeat suffered by Japan in World War II left the country in ruins, two million people were dead and their major cities had been destroyed.
- US forces occupy Japan under the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur.
- MacArthur began a process of **demilitarization** to disband the Japanese armed forces and he also began the process of bringing war criminals to trial.
- MacArthur begins the process of **democratization** by drawing up a new constitution, changing the empire into a Constitutional Monarchy like that of Britain.

