

Yalta & Potsdam Conference Simulation Instructions

Welcome to the Yalta and Potsdam Conference Simulation. Your objective is to represent the interests of your assigned nation—either the United States, the United Kingdom, or the Soviet Union—in a series of negotiations. Your goal is to reach an agreement that balances your nation's priorities with those of the other Allied powers.

Step 1: Forming Teams and Reviewing Background Information

1. Assign Teams: You will be divided into three teams, each representing one of the major Allied powers at the Yalta Conference:

- **Team USA**
- **Team UK**
- **Team USSR**

2. Read the Yalta Background Newspaper: Each team will receive a newspaper article covering the context and public goals of the Yalta Conference. This article provides a snapshot of the international situation, the objectives of each power, and the cooperative spirit at the time. Read this carefully as it will set the tone for your upcoming negotiations.

Step 2: Negotiating the Yalta Agreement

1. Review Your Nation's Objectives: Each team has been provided with a set of three "Objective Cards" detailing the high- and medium-priority goals for your nation at Yalta. Use these cards to understand what your nation wants to achieve in the negotiations.

- **Phase 1**
 - 1. **Research**-Teams get 10 minutes to review material and create a narrative.
 - 2. **Present**-Teams get 10 minutes to review material and create a narrative.

- **Phase 2**
 - 1. Research- 10 minutes to review the negotiation options and come up with an acceptable proposal.
 - 2. Present proposals for what is acceptable (1-2 proposals per team, 3 minutes max).
- **Phase 3**

1. Discussion- teams spend 5 minutes strategizing for the open debate
2. Debate- Open debate for 10 minutes. If no agreement is reached, each country scores the minimal score of 1. Caveats are considered as 0.5 points above or below the set score.
 1. Try to find common ground where possible.
 2. Decide on a set of terms that balances each nation's priorities, aiming for a compromise that reflects mutual interests.
 3. Remember to consider your negotiating strengths as well as your priorities.

2. Finalize and Record the Agreement: Once the group has reached an agreement, write down the terms you've all agreed to. This will serve as the "Yalta Agreement."

Step 3: Review the Updated Context After Germany's Surrender

1. **Read the Updated Potsdam Background Newspaper:** After the fall of Germany, the power dynamics have changed. Each team will now receive an updated newspaper article that provides context on how the Allies' priorities have shifted and highlights recent developments, such as the end of the war in Europe and new technological advances.

Step 4: Reviewing Updated Objective Cards for Potsdam

1. **Receive New Objective Cards:** Each team will now receive three new "Power Shift Cards" that reflect your nation's changing priorities and altered power levels at the Potsdam Conference.
 - o These cards explain the changes in your nation's goals and negotiating position. Some goals may have become less urgent or achievable, while others have gained importance.
2. **Discuss Strategy with Your Team:** Review the changes and discuss your strategy based on the updated information. Determine which goals are now the highest priority and how your nation's altered power level affects your negotiation tactics.

Step 5: Negotiating the Potsdam Agreement

Second Round (Potsdam Agreement):

1. **Reviewing the "Behind the Times" Article (15 minutes):**

- o Each team reads the new article ("Behind the Times") that details the updated context after Germany's surrender and shifts in the balance of power. This provides crucial insights into how the Allies' priorities have changed and how the power dynamics are altered.

2. Reviewing and Discussing Updated Material (15 minutes):

- o Teams will review the updated "Power Shift Cards" reflecting the changes in their nation's objectives and priorities.
- o Teams will also have time to discuss within their group how the new power dynamics (with Germany now out of the way) influence their negotiating position.
- o This phase allows teams to re-evaluate their strategy and decide which goals are now more important.

3. Debating and Re-Negotiating (10 minutes):

- o Teams will have an additional 10 minutes to debate and re-negotiate their positions using the new information.
- o The goal here is for each team to leverage the updated knowledge and arguments to shift the "agreement number" in their favor. The key focus should be on maximizing their nation's benefit—especially with Germany no longer being a major player.
- o Teams will aim to:
 - Adjust their positions based on the new power dynamics.
 - Try to push for terms that are more favorable, either by weakening the position of other teams or strengthening their own.
 - Consider how the removal of Germany affects each nation's strategy—does it make certain goals easier to achieve? Does it shift the balance of power in a way that opens new opportunities?

4. Final Agreement (Record the New Potsdam Agreement):

- o Once the negotiations are complete, each team will record the final terms of the Potsdam Agreement. This will reflect the updated and re-negotiated agreement, where each nation

may have adjusted their stance to better align with their revised priorities.

Step 6: Debrief and Reflect

1. **Reflect on the Changes:** As a group, discuss how and why the terms changed from Yalta to Potsdam. Consider questions like:
 - o How did each power's objectives shift, and why?
 - o How did the change in negotiating power affect your strategy?
 - o What compromises were made, and which priorities were preserved or sacrificed?
2. **Write a Brief Summary:** Each team should write a brief summary of their experience, focusing on what it was like to negotiate from their power's perspective, the challenges they faced, and the strategies they used to reach agreements.