

Historical Committee

The Yalta Conference

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Definition of Key Concepts

Capitalism:

An economic system in which the production of goods and their distribution depend on the investment of private capital with minimal government regulation and involvement; privatisation of industry (ideology in the US/western Europe)

Communism:

A political and economic system in which all private ownership of property is abolished along with all economic and social class divisions; based on the dictatorship of the proletariat (ideology in the USSR/Eastern Europe)

Joint Communiqué:

A formal, official statement issued by two or more parties, such as governments or organizations, that publicly announces their shared position, agreements, or the outcomes of a meeting or negotiation. These documents are used to convey a unified message about decisions, commitments, or important matters to the public or other entities.¹

Spheres of Influence:

An area in which the power or interests of a country or an organization are of greatest importance.²

Iron Curtain:

The political, military, and ideological barrier erected by the Soviet Union after World War II to seal off itself and its dependent eastern and central European allies from open contact with the West and other noncommunist areas.³

Polish Question:

This was the issue, in international politics, of the existence of Poland as an independent state. Raised soon after the partitions of Poland in the late 18th century, it became a question

¹ *Joint Communiqué* (2025) *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Communique%C3%A9

² *Sphere of influence* (no date) *Cambridge Dictionary*.
https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sphere-of-influence#google_vignette

³ *Iron Curtain | Definition & Facts | Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Iron-Curtain>

current in European and American diplomacy throughout the 19th and parts of the 20th centuries.⁴

Territorial Settlements:

An establishment or division of land boundaries, either between nations or in an urban planning context to the development and planning of urban areas, through peace treaties or to resolve disputes.

Lend-Lease Program:

This was a U.S. policy enacted in 1941 that allowed the United States to provide military and other aid, such as food and oil, to Allied nations during World War II. Under this program, which was formally called the Lend Lease Act, the U.S. supplied allies like the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China without requiring immediate payment, as long as the recipient nation was considered "vital to the defense of the United States".

Red Army:

Red Army, Soviet army created by the Communist government after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. The Red Army was recruited exclusively from among workers and peasants and immediately faced the problem of creating a competent and reliable officers' corps. The name Red Army was abandoned in 1946.⁵

⁴ *Polish question* (2025) *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_question

⁵ (No date a) *Red Army | Facts, history, & size | britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Red-Army>

Structure of the Committee

This committee is recreation of the February 1945 Yalta Conference. This committee requires an expert level of diplomacy, and understanding of wartime strategies and requires delegates to balance national, and personal dynamics as well as nation's priorities.

This committee is composed of three countries, delegates represent individual people, not generic country stances. However, they must always maintain a national unified stance. The countries and representatives are:

➤ *United States of America*

- **President:** Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- **Army Chief of Staff:** George Catlett Marshall
- **Chief of Staff to the President:** William Daniel Leahy
- **Secretary of State:** Edward Reilly Stettinius Jr.
- **Senior Presidential Advisor:** Harry Lloyd Hopkins

➤ *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

- **Prime Minister:** Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill
- **Foreign Secretary:** Robert Anthony Eden
- **Chief of the Imperial General Staff:** Alan Francis Brooke
- **Senior Allied Commander, Mediterranean:** Harold Rupert Leofric George Alexander
- **Minister of War Transport:** Frederick James Leathers

➤ *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*

- **Premier Leader:** Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin
- **Foreign Minister:** Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov
- **Chief of the General Staff:** Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Vasilevsky
- **Senior Soviet Marshal / Front Commander:** Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov
- **Soviet Ambassador to the United States:** Andrei Andreyevich Gromyko

Delegates are expected to remain in historical character at all times, speak from the perspective of their assigned figure, and try to coordinate internally before presenting

positions publicly. Reconstruct the negotiation environment of Yalta, explore strategic tensions among the Big Three, and draft a historically plausible joint communique.

Pre-Session Delegation Strategy Meeting

As each of the three delegations is composed of five different representatives, before the first session begins, each delegation will be granted a brief private meeting of between 5-10 minutes to organise internally and align perspectives. During this meeting, delegations must make a set of decisions which will influence the direction and development of the committee. These choices include:

➤ **Delegation leader**

Each delegation must appoint a representative as delegation leader. These internally elected individuals will be expected to take on a set of responsibilities such as delivering the opening statements for their delegation, without undermining the importance of their fellow delegates.

➤ **Initial national objectives**

As the conference evolves, objectives must be clear from the very start in order to build a stable foundation for negotiations. Delegations must all be clear on what those objectives will be.

➤ **Red lines and non-negotiable positions**

Delegations must discuss and outline said non-negotiables as these will be essential for the discussions ahead.

➤ **Negotiation strategy for the opening phase**

As delegations seek to achieve their objectives, a common strategy will guide the representatives and help accomplish their previously identified goals.

➤ **The division of responsibilities within the team**

Conference success comes from organisation and a clear foundation, therefore delegations must divide responsibilities clearly to make sure all individuals understand their position and how to move forward with the conference.

Although meetings will be supervised by the Secretary-General as well as the chairs, no feedback or guidance will be given to the delegations.

Opening Phase

This part sets the political atmosphere of the debate for the entire conference. This should be delivered by each delegation leader and must include: National priorities, immediate concerns in early 1945, long-term strategic goals, and desired tone toward the other delegations (cooperation, cautious optimism, firm resistance, etc.) The purpose of this phase is to establish the diplomatic posture of each state as well as to reveal early tensions or alignments and provide a starting point for the debate.

Standard Debate Procedure

This committee proceeds with a modified Model UN structure that emphasises negotiations and historical realism. Debate includes moderate caucuses for focused interventions and unmoderated for free-flowing diplomatic exchange. Throughout the discussion, delegates must remain grounded in 1945 viewpoints, avoiding modern terminology, 21st-century political narratives or past-based reasoning. Delegations must always prioritize their nation's benefits before personal beliefs. Chairs are responsible for actively overseeing historical realism, ensuring that no delegation employs arguments inconsistent with period ideology, wartime conditions or leadership objectives

Delegation Strategy Meetings (Throughout the Committee)

During the course of this conference, delegations will be called back into private rooms to update strategies and modify any decisions previously agreed upon. These meetings will be called at specific moments chosen by the dias. During these meetings, delegations must:

- Adjust their internal strategy
- Adapt to developments in debate
- Address internal disagreements

- Reassign roles if necessary
- Prepare coordinated negotiation plans

These meetings, much like the Pre-Session Delegation Strategy Meeting, will be observed by the Secretary-General and committee chairs. This designated time will serve to evaluate delegation cohesion and leadership.

Drafting Phase

As negotiations get more serious and necessary points emerge, delegations shift into drafting components of the Joint Communiqué. Drafting can occur during unmoderated caucuses, bilateral, or trilateral negotiations (when permitted by chairs), or supervised strategy sessions. Delegations must build text to reflect the genuine 1945 political tensions and alliances, focusing on issues such as, but not limited to:

- The future of Germany
- The governance and borders of Poland and Eastern Europe
- Reparations of economic reconstruction
- The design of the United Nations and the veto structure
- Spheres of influence in Europe
- Security guarantees and occupation arrangements

Drafts should be diplomatic and realistic, they should reflect the slow and strategic nature of real diplomatic writing.

Historical Constraints and Chair Enforcement

In order to preserve historical integrity and a politically professional atmosphere, committee chairs must enforce and uphold certain standards. Chairs must make sure delegates stay in character throughout the duration of the conference, maintaining the corresponding viewpoints and relations. By extension, arguments must reflect ideological positions of the period. Chairs will also ensure any and all proposed outcomes remain historically plausible while national interests remain consistent.

Chairs may also intervene when these standards are not met. These instances include those where delegates present ahistorical claims which do not apply to the committee's historical context. Therefore, if the debate drifts into modern political logic chairs are permitted to step in and mediate. The same applies if the communique becomes unrealistic.

Final Negotiation Round

Towards the end of the conference, the delegations enter a final negotiation round chaired by the dais. This is the final decisive moment where all unresolved tensions must be confronted directly. Delegations attempt to reconcile disagreements, refine compromise language and lock in the structure of the Joint Communique. Signatures from all three powers are required for the communique to stand and be accepted. This round is here to capture the pressure, final urgency, and strategic partnership that historically shaped the final days of the Yalta Conference.

Outcome of the Committee

This committee does not produce a traditional MUN resolution. Instead, its output is a Joint Communique of the Yalta Conference. In this specific communique, there are compulsory sections that must be abided by in order to make sure this conference is productive and completes its duty, such as:

- Agreed political arrangements
- Territorial settlements
- Reconstruction and security provisions
- Institutional agreements, including the UN
- Policies regarding Germany, Eastern Europe, and Poland
- Any unresolved issued or noted agreements

It should mirror real communiques from 1945 being diplomatic, concise and historically accurate, reflecting both tensions and partnerships.

The Yalta Conference

Shortly before the end of World II in 1945, the leaders of the three main Allied powers, alongside some other national representatives, met in Yalta to discuss the future of the war and the geographical landscape of nations. American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, or as they were also known: the “Big Three”, had deemed a second meeting as necessary by the summer of 1944. The conference was held between February 4th and February 11th 1945 in Yalta, Crimea, as Stalin opposed a meeting outside the Soviet Union. This conference marked a turning point in history, three nations with inevitable disagreements and underlying mistrust allied together with the goal to make a better world.

During the conference there were discussions surrounding the future coordination of the Allies’ war plans as the war had entered a decisive phase, especially since they had the upper hand at that moment. They also sought to reach an agreement on the political future of Europe after their predicted victory. They specially focused on coordinating specific timings of agreed battles to strategically push against Germany on the Eastern and Western fronts.

Poland was also an important and crucial topic throughout the 7 days as they discussed its territorial extension and how its government would now be formed. The Allies debated shifting Poland’s borders westward, which would grant it territory from Germany while allowing the Soviet annexation of its eastern regions.

The Yalta Conference also dealt with how Germany would be treated in the postwar world, the amount of reparations it would have to pay and what would happen to the different occupation zones within Germany. With this issue, the three nations also discussed French participation in the occupation zones.

It was President Franklin D. Roosevelt who most advocated for the creation of an International Organisation to help prevent another war, therefore the conference discussed the possible establishment of the United Nations, and the role the major powers would play in it. They specifically focused on the structure of a supposed Security Council, including the

controversial veto power that the major nations demanded if the organisation were to be formed and they were to join.

The conference also included talks on the Soviet Union joining the war against Japan, after the war concluded in Europe. Of course, this possible military support wouldn't go unrepeated, Stalin wanted certain territory to be returned to the Soviet Union as well as other economical and strategic compensations.

The following paragraph includes the summarised outcomes of the Yalta Conference and therefore should not be mentioned during the MUN. It is strictly for context and should be used as an outline:

The Yalta Conference agreed on redrawing Poland's borders, shifting them westward. A Soviet influenced provisional government was also accepted with the condition of free elections. Although the free elections were not truly upheld. The Allied also agreed on the division of Germany into occupational zones, which included the later participation of France. The establishment of the United Nations was also agreed upon, with the major powers being granted veto power and an initial conference in San Francisco. Stalin also agreed to join the war in Europe after the defeat of Germany, in exchange for major concessions in Asia. Lastly, The Declaration on Liberated Europe promised democratic governments and the cooperation between Allies.

Background Before the Conference

The Yalta Conference emerged from a world that had been pulled apart, then attempted to build back up and pulled apart again. By early 1945, the Second World War had gone on for almost six years, reshaping the global balance of power and leaving the major Allied leaders searching for a way to end both the fighting and the uncertainty that would come after.

Europe was still recovering from the First World War, after the Treaty of Versailles that left Germany in ruins in 1933, setting the stage for Hitler's rise. Throughout the 1930s, his expansion across Europe exposed how weak diplomacy had become, and by 1939 the invasion of Poland launched the Second World War. Within two years, Germany dominated

most of Europe, dragging Britain, the Soviet Union and eventually the United States into a reluctant but necessary alliance.

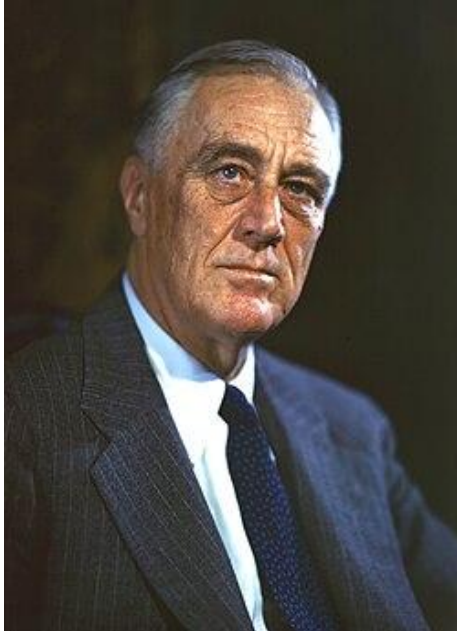
As the war intensified, this alliance revealed deep priority and strategic tensions. The Tehran Conference in 1943 showed how through tensions and arguments, Eastern Europe and Poland were slowly falling apart and the future of these places was undetermined. Despite their being a strong bond to defeat Hitler, there was a strong fear of Soviet domination over liberated territories, while Stalin was actively seeking security in regions the Red Army was already occupying.

By late 1944 and early 1945, the Allies knew the war in Europe was close to an end, yet the political future of the continent was dangerously vague. The Soviet advance across Eastern Europe, Roosevelt's push for the United Nations and Churchill's worries about balance of power all gathered into one urgent question: what would the postwar world look like? The Yalta Conference in February 1945 became the moment to negotiate borders, influence, and international structures before victory arrived and the alliance dissolved.

Individual Delegation Profiles

Country Leaders

Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born into a prominent New York family whose influence stretched across finance, politics, and society. His childhood was shaped by private tutoring, travel, and the expectations placed on someone raised inside America's upper class. Yet beneath that privileged exterior, he grew into someone incredibly determined. His marriage to Eleanor Roosevelt broadened his worldview, pushing him toward deeper social awareness, and therefore became a figure of the people. His career took shape slowly, beginning in New York state politics and rising to national prominence when he became Governor of New

York. When he contracted Polio, he redirected his ambition, cultivating an image of strength that resonated with Americans facing the hardships of the Great Depression.

By the time he assumed the presidency in 1933, the United States was in economic freefall. Roosevelt's leadership blended experimentation with an instinctive understanding of public morale. Through the New Deal, he expanded federal responsibility and introduced programs aimed at stabilizing the economy and restoring hope. When World War II began, his position shifted from domestic reformer to wartime statesman. His diplomacy was central to holding together the uneasy alliance between the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, and his personal relationships with Churchill and with Stalin helped navigate the competing ambitions within the coalition.

Roosevelt came to Yalta because he understood that the end of the war would shape the world for decades. His goal was to secure Soviet cooperation in the final fight against Japan, outline political arrangements for liberated Europe, and protect American interests in the emerging balance of power. Even weakened by illness, he worked to build agreements that might preserve unity among the Allies long enough to prevent immediate postwar instability. Yalta

offered him the chance to influence borders, elections, and the postwar security system at the precise moment when Allied victory was almost certain but its consequences were still undecided.

Winston Churchill



Winston Churchill grew up basically set in British aristocracy, the son of Lord Randolph Churchill and linked to the influential Marlborough lineage. His youth was loud, restless, and filled with the kind of life and issues only possible for someone with his social background. Before entering high-level politics, he served as a cavalry officer, fought in colonial wars, and worked as a war correspondent. These experiences sharpened his political instincts and made him a public figure long before he held real power. His political career soared and crashed repeatedly; he switched parties, held major positions, and endured long years on the margins after controversial decisions like his stance on

Indian self-governance and rearmament. Despite the turbulence, he developed a deep understanding of military strategy and international affairs, which would define his later leadership.

When he became Prime Minister in 1940, Britain was isolated and facing the threat of Nazi invasion. Churchill's leadership combined relentless positive speeches with a willingness to make harsh, pragmatic decisions. His speeches offered the British public clarity and emotional stamina at moments when survival looked unlikely. He cultivated strong ties with the United States, recognizing early on that only American economic and military strength could sustain Britain's resistance. Throughout the war, he balanced the needs of domestic morale with larger strategic priorities, contributing to major Allied decisions on operations in North Africa, Italy, and eventually France. His stature on the world stage grew not only from his political authority but from the symbolic weight he carried as the voice of a nation refusing to fall.

Churchill went to Yalta determined to defend Britain's status at a time when global power was tilting toward the United States and the Soviet Union. He hoped to secure democratic governments in liberated Europe, particularly Poland, and to prevent the continent from turning into a patchwork of Soviet-dominated states. He also aimed to safeguard British influence in the Mediterranean and maintain the empire's strategic value. At Yalta, he acted as both negotiator and realist, understanding that Britain's leverage was limited but still pushing for outcomes that aligned with British security, political ideals, and long-standing diplomatic commitments.

Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin



Joseph Stalin's early life in the Georgian town of Gori was defined by poverty, instability, and limited opportunity. Born to a cobbler and a laundress, he experienced illness, hardship, and a volatile home environment. His early education at a church school and later at the Tiflis Theological Seminary exposed him to revolutionary ideas, eventually leading him to join the Bolsheviks. His ascent through the movement was marked by discipline, political calculation, and a talent for maneuvering within party structures. After the 1917 Revolution, he accumulated administrative power, which he gradually consolidated throughout the 1920s and

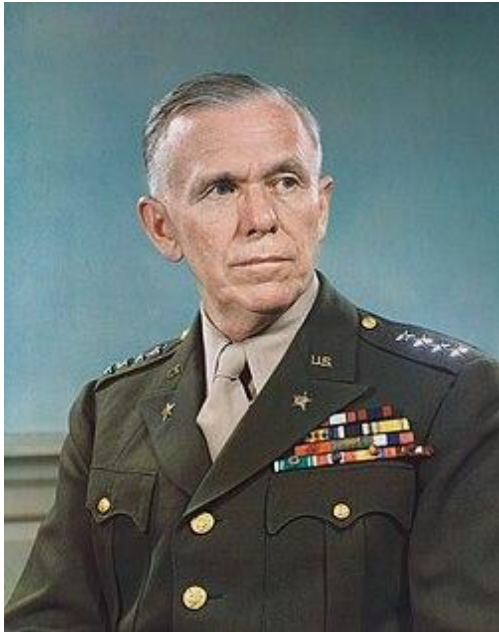
early 1930s. His leadership brought rapid industrialization and agricultural collectivization, policies that transformed the Soviet Union into a centralized, heavily controlled state at enormous human cost.

By the time World War II reached Soviet borders, Stalin held near-absolute authority. His early miscalculations about German intentions left the USSR vulnerable in 1941, but the Soviet state mobilized with extraordinary speed. Under his direction, factories were relocated eastward, the Red Army was rebuilt, and the population was pushed into total war. Victory at Stalingrad and subsequent Soviet advances shifted the balance of the war, positioning the USSR as the dominant military force in Eastern Europe. The power of the Red Army on the ground gave Stalin political leverage unmatched by any other Allied leader.

Stalin attended the Yalta Conference seeking to secure Soviet influence and long-term safety after a war that had devastated his country. With the Red Army occupying much of Eastern Europe, he aimed to formalize Soviet political and territorial gains, ensure friendly governments along the USSR's borders, and obtain commitments regarding postwar security arrangements. At Yalta, Stalin negotiated from a position of strength, shaping the agreements in ways that reflected both the sacrifices of the Soviet war effort and his vision of a secure buffer zone around the USSR.

United States of America

George Catlett Marshall



George Catlett Marshall was born in Pennsylvania and educated at the Virginia Military Institute, later serving in staff and training roles. Early in his career, he built a reputation for strategic thinking and a methodical, disciplined style. His experience in administration, logistics, and planning made him ideally suited for high command in the coming global war.

As U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Marshall oversaw the United States' rapid military expansion, training millions of soldiers, and coordinating global war plans. He worked closely with Allied leaders to align American forces with broader strategy. His long-term planning contributed to major operational decisions in both Europe and the Pacific. Marshall's leadership was defined by responsibility, foresight, and steady direction.

At Yalta, Marshall advised Roosevelt on America's military capabilities and potential contributions to postwar security. He evaluated the feasibility of occupation forces, offered input on how to deploy resources, and helped shape the U.S. delegation's strategic proposals. His guidance ensured that diplomatic agreements considered the realities of military power and logistic constraints.

William Daniel Leahy



William Leahy was born in Iowa, entered the U.S. Navy, and held several high-ranking positions before becoming one of Roosevelt's closest advisors. His career gave him deep insight into naval operations, administration, and inter-service coordination. He was known for his calm, judicious counsel and his ability to bridge different branches of the armed forces.

As Chief of Staff to President Roosevelt, Leahy coordinated military advice across branches and helped shape strategic policy. He mediated between Army and Navy leadership, ensuring Roosevelt could make informed, balanced decisions. His experience and judgment strengthened the coherence of U.S. wartime strategy and maintained unity at the top levels of command.

Leahy attended Yalta to provide unified military counsel to Roosevelt and the American delegation. He advised on naval strategy, force commitments, and the realistic scope of future deployments. His presence helped align diplomatic aims with military feasibility, ensuring that U.S. proposals were credible and strategically sound.

Edward Reilly Stettinius Jr.



Edward Stettinius Jr. grew up in a prominent American business family and built a successful corporate career before entering government service. His early work in industry gave him experience coordinating large organizations, which later translated well into federal positions dealing with production and wartime management. His shift into diplomacy was driven by his involvement in Lend-Lease administration, where he worked closely with Allied governments.

As Secretary of State, Stettinius played a central role in managing American wartime diplomacy. He helped organize the flow of supplies to Allied nations, worked on shaping postwar international structures, and represented the United States in major negotiations. His leadership style emphasized cooperation, administrative efficiency, and an openness to broader international engagement.

At Yalta, Stettinius helped structure the diplomatic framework for agreements on liberated Europe, voting arrangements, and future international cooperation. He assisted Roosevelt in navigating complex issues involving Eastern Europe, the United Nations Charter, and Soviet-American coordination. His presence provided continuity across the technical and legal dimensions of the diplomatic discussions.

Harry Lloyd Hopkins



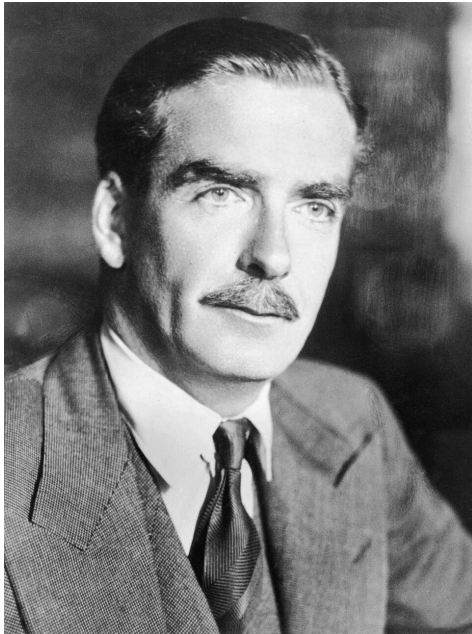
Harry Hopkins came from Iowa and built a career in public service and social welfare, eventually becoming one of Roosevelt's closest confidants. His work in New Deal programs showed his dedication to public good and ability to manage large-scale efforts. He was deeply trusted by Roosevelt, who relied on him for both political and diplomatic advice.

During WWII, Hopkins served as a special envoy, traveling to London and Moscow to maintain personal relationships with Churchill and Stalin. He used his empathy, courage, and direct style to bridge political divides and smooth negotiations. His interventions often helped overcome misunderstandings and personal tensions.

At the Yalta Conference, Hopkins provided vital behind-the-scenes support to Roosevelt. He interpreted foreign intentions, managed disputes, and helped preserve Allied unity. His influence made it easier for Roosevelt to navigate complex negotiations, and his presence strengthened the personal dimension of diplomacy.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Robert Anthony Eden



Robert Anthony Eden came from a British elite background and was educated at Eton and Oxford. Serving in World War I, he gained recognition for bravery and leadership. By the 1930s, Eden was a key figure in British diplomacy, opposing appeasement and cultivating a reputation for careful, principled negotiation.

By the time Britain entered the Second World War, Eden had become one of the country's most recognizable diplomatic figures, serving in key cabinet roles and eventually returning as Foreign Secretary. In this position, he helped coordinate the British alliance system, oversee communication with Allied governments, and guide planning for political settlements expected once the war ended. His understanding of both European politics and British strategic interests made him one of Churchill's most valued advisors. Eden's deep involvement in diplomatic networks gave Britain continuity and clarity as it navigated an increasingly complex wartime landscape.

Eden attended the Yalta Conference because his expertise in diplomacy was essential to British goals. He assisted Churchill in managing discussions on liberated Europe, political transitions, and postwar security arrangements. His presence ensured that the detailed wording of agreements aligned with British interests, especially concerning Eastern Europe, France, and the broader reconstruction of the continent. Eden worked to balance pressure from the Soviet delegation with the need for cooperation, helping Britain secure outcomes that reflected both principle and strategic necessity.

Alan Francis Brooke



Alan Francis Brooke was born into a military family and educated at elite British military institutions, with early experience in World War I. He developed a reputation for strategic thinking, caution, and strong organizational skills. Between the wars, he built his career through staff roles, focusing on operational planning and logistics. By WWII, he was widely respected for his realism and clarity in military matters.

As Chief of the Imperial General Staff during the Second World War, Brooke became one of the most influential military figures in Britain. He was responsible for shaping overall strategy, advising Churchill, and coordinating British operations with those of the United States and the Soviet Union. His role often required balancing military logic with political pressure, particularly in decisions involving the timing and direction of Allied offensives. Known for his cautious realism, he played a major role in determining where Britain committed forces and how the broader Allied campaign unfolded.

At Yalta, Brooke provided military advice that grounded diplomatic decisions in operational reality. He evaluated proposed final offensives, contributed to discussions on occupation zones, and made strategic recommendations. His presence reassured the British delegation that military constraints would be considered in peace negotiations. His insight was critical for linking war goals with postwar planning.

Harold Rupert Leofric George Alexander



Harold Alexander came from a prestigious Anglo-Irish aristocratic family and was educated at Harrow and Sandhurst, preparing him for a life of military service. His early career took him across the British Empire, including distinguished action in the First World War. Known for his composure, personal bravery, and ability to connect with soldiers, he rose quickly and gained a reputation as one of Britain's most capable commanders.

During the Second World War, Alexander became central to British operations overseas. He led the successful defense of Burma's retreat, directed key phases of the North African campaign, and later commanded Allied armies in Italy. His calm leadership and flexibility helped guide multinational forces through difficult operations in complex terrain. For Britain, he represented both professional competence and the empire's ability to project military power across continents.

Alexander attended the Yalta Conference to help explain the progress of the Italian front and the broader military situation in the Mediterranean. His insights were crucial for British arguments about the strategic value of operations in southern Europe and their impact on postwar political arrangements. By providing authoritative military assessments, he helped support Churchill's diplomatic goals regarding the Balkans and Italy's political transition.

Frederick James Leathers



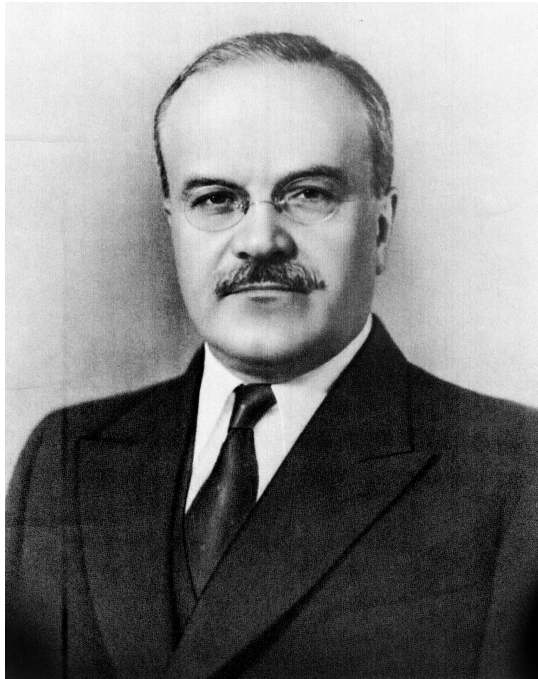
Frederick Leathers grew up in modest circumstances in London but became a leading figure in British shipping and logistics before the war. His business experience made him an expert in transport systems, supply chains, and large-scale coordination. His energy and organizational talent caught the government's attention as the war escalated.

As Minister of War Transport during the conflict, Leathers oversaw the vast system that kept Britain supplied and supported its global military operations. He coordinated shipping, railways, road transport, and the movement of troops and equipment, ensuring that Britain's logistical capacity kept pace with wartime demands. His work was essential for sustaining British industry, maintaining the Atlantic supply lines, and supporting Allied operations abroad.

Leathers attended the Yalta Conference because logistics played a central role in Allied planning for the final stages of the war and the immediate reconstruction afterward. His expertise allowed the British delegation to negotiate realistically concerning supply commitments, shipping allocations, and the movement of forces in Europe and the Pacific.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov



Vyacheslav Molotov was born into a working-class Russian family, became politically active early, and steadily rose through the Bolshevik ranks. Known for his ideological discipline and precise beliefs, he earned Stalin's trust and became a central figure in Soviet foreign policy. He was deeply involved in shaping the USSR's long-term strategic direction.

As Foreign Commissar, Molotov was the Soviet Union's primary diplomat. He played a key role in negotiating alliances, treaties, and wartime agreements, including the pre-war non-aggression pact with Germany. During the war, he managed relations with Allied governments, defended Soviet interests in Europe, and coordinated with military leaders to align diplomacy with battlefield developments. His negotiating style was firm, precise, and unapologetically protective of Soviet strategic goals.

At Yalta, Molotov represented Soviet power and ambition, pushing for control over Eastern Europe, reparations, and border adjustments. He played a crucial role in drafting legal and political frameworks that would formalize Soviet influence. His involvement was integral to ensuring that Soviet demands were legally binding and diplomatically enforceable.

Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Vasilevsky



Aleksandr Vasilevsky grew up in rural Russia and initially seemed destined for the church, but destiny pulled him into the military. He developed into an expert strategist and staff officer during the interwar years, earning high-level trust for his planning skills. By WWII, he was one of the Soviet Union's most trusted military minds.

During WWII, Vasilevsky coordinated large-scale Soviet operations, working closely with front-line commanders and Stalin. His cerebral approach to strategy and logistics made him vital in planning offensives, managing supply lines, and optimizing troop movements. He ensured that Soviet military power was used efficiently and effectively across critical theatres.

He was respected for his clarity, attention to detail, and ability to adapt Soviet strategy to changing battlefield conditions. At Yalta, Vasilevsky provided crucial assessments of Soviet military strength, potential occupations, and future campaigns. He advised Stalin and others about how the Red Army could shift from war to peace. His presence helped guarantee that military strategy underpinned diplomatic decisions and postwar planning.

Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov



Georgy Zhukov came from poor origins in rural Russia and rose through the Red Army via merit, bravery, and pure hard work. His early military career was marked by small but significant conflicts, and he quickly developed a reputation for being bold, disciplined, and strategically brilliant. By the time WWII began, he was already considered one of the USSR's top military minds.

In WWII, Zhukov commanded Soviet forces in some of the most decisive battles of the war: Moscow, Stalingrad, Kursk, and beyond. His leadership combined tactical innovation, personal courage, and an individual ability to coordinate large-scale operations. He inspired troops and struck fear into adversaries, earning immense respect from both soldiers and political leaders. He was known for being a figure to be scared of, not someone to take as a joke or look down on, but someone to respect.

At Yalta, Zhukov's military insight was invaluable. He advised Stalin and the Soviet delegation on the final offensives, demarcation lines, and the postwar occupation of Germany. His presence communicated to the Allies that the Soviet Union's military achievements would directly influence the peace settlement.

Andrei Andreyevich Gromyko



Andrei Gromyko was born in Belarus to a farming family and became a diligent student of economics and diplomacy. He joined the Soviet diplomatic service, distinguishing himself with meticulous analysis and unwavering loyalty. By the 1940s, he had become ambassador to the United States, representing Soviet interests during a crucial period.

As ambassador, Gromyko maintained vital communication between the USSR and the United States. He negotiated details of treaties, interpreted American intentions, and translated Soviet objectives into diplomatic language. His steady, analytical style gave him credibility and influence among both Soviet

and Western leaders.

At Yalta, Gromyko supported Molotov and Stalin by contributing to diplomatic drafting, translating complex positions, and interpreting Western proposals. His understanding of American politics allowed him to help shape Soviet strategy in a way that was both principled and practical. His presence strengthened the Soviet negotiating team and helped institutionalize its long-term goals.

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