

World War II: Yalta and Poland

Did Franklin D. Roosevelt "sell out" Poland to the communists?

Part 1: Agreements at the Yalta Conference

Use Sites 1 and 2 to complete the following.

As the conference began, it was clear that the future of Poland would cause the most disagreements between the Big Three. Review the issues discussed and the agreements made at Yalta. Answer these questions:

1. "The Declaration on Liberated Europe"

What principle of the Atlantic Charter did the leaders at Yalta pledge to protect?

2. Poland

What guidelines were established for a provisional government after Poland's liberation from Nazi rule?

3. Agreement Regarding Japan

What did the three powers agree to concerning the defeat of Japan?

Part 2: Problems and Reality at the Yalta Conference

Use Site 2 to complete the following.

4. Why were the concepts of democratic elections and liberated territories to remain false hopes for Poland and the Baltic states?

5. The Soviets agreed to intervene in the war with Japan in return for what?

Part 3: Analyzing the Yalta Agreements

Use Sites 3 and 4 to complete the following.

6. At Site 3, examine the image of the Big Three at the conclusion of the newsreel. How would you describe Roosevelt's physical condition at Yalta?

7. According to Roosevelt's closest advisor, Poland was "a symbol of our ability to work out problems with the Soviet Union." Based on the information in this article, do you agree with that assessment?

8. According to the American diplomat who wrote the Site 4 article, what are Roosevelt's two primary concerns at Yalta?

9. Review the Polish situation (paragraph 4). How can Roosevelt's reaction to the questions about Poland be explained by the two goals referred to in the previous question?

Part 4: Position Paper

For homework, write a position paper (at least one well-developed paragraph) that answers the Focus Question: Did Franklin D. Roosevelt "sell out" Poland to the communists?

