

**14.8**

# **Impact of World War II**



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Evaluate the goals that Allied leaders set for the postwar world.
- Describe the steps that United States and other nations took toward international cooperation.
- Explain the impact of World War II on the postwar United States.

# Planning Postwar World

**Unlike WWI, WWII was fought till the bitter end, there were no peaceful surrenders**

**Yalta Conference-** Roosevelt, Churchill, & Stalin meet at Yalta at the Black Sea to discuss post war plans in 1945

**Stalin gave vague promises (such as free elections for some countries) that he would later go back on**

**After Roosevelt's death, Truman would meet with Clement Atlee (the new prime minister of England) & Stalin**

# **Potsdam Conference**

**The “Big Three” met & decided that when the war ended, Germany would be split into 4 zones**

**New governments were established, the U.S. helped oversee a new constitution for Japan**

**After WWII colonial peoples began to renew calls for independence from European powers**

**The British Empire came out of the war suffering severe economic issues, eventually started loss of colonies**



# Superpowers & Treaties

The U.S. & the Soviet Union became the world **superpowers**- Most powerful nations in the world

The U.S. came out as the most powerful with heavy industry & the atomic bomb

The U.S. took on the major responsibility of shaping the post war world & supplying nations

1947- **General Agreement of Tariffs & Trade (GATT)**- Expanding world trade by reducing tariffs

# United Nations

**The U.S. lead the world to form the **United Nations (UN)**- Organization of 50 world powers to try & prevent future conflicts**

**Set up in New York City it also created world codes to prevent events such as the Holocaust**

**Eleanor Roosevelt became the first representative for the United States**

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights- Document that defended human rights & condemned slavery & torture**

# War Crimes

**During the war, Axis powers broke the Geneva Convention constantly**

**Geneva Convention-** International agreement governing the humane treatment of wounded soldiers & prisoners of war

**Nuremberg Trials-** Allies prosecuting Nazis for war crimes, especially the Holocaust

**Many were put to death & the formation of Israel was created during these trials**



# **Domestic Impact of War**

**People in America began to hope for  
tolerance, freedom, democracy, & peace  
at home**

**Americans realized the world was small &  
what happened on the globe affected  
them**

**Wealth was redistributed & the war  
powers act gave the President more  
powers to conduct war (future wars)**

**African American's began to demand  
equal rights in the country**