

Activity #1: Map Exercise

Student Name _____ Date _____

The ARCADIA Conference, Washington, D.C., December 22, 1941-January 14, 1942.

Often overlooked in brief accounts of World War II, the Arcadia Conference was significant primarily for establishing the Anglo-American grand strategy of the conflict, developing war production priorities, and sorting out command relationships. It was undertaken at the initiative of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who insisted on traveling to the United States shortly after Pearl Harbor. Churchill may have hoped to establish British control of the war effort while American officials were off balance. The conference that ensued, however, demonstrated that US political and military leadership was fundamentally unreceptive to British arguments on points of controversy and determined to play the leading part in management of the war. Fortunately, US-British differences were relatively small when contrasted with the common interests and outlooks of the two nations. Soviet foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov also came to Washington and received assurances of American and British support.

The most immediate result of the conference was the Declaration of the United Nations, issued on January 1, 1942. The truly important results were long run. The conference reaffirmed a decision that already had been reached in British-American talks before Pearl Harbor—to concentrate on the defeat of Germany first, and then deal decisively with Japan. The United States also agreed to garrison Iceland and Northern Ireland. The conference also established a joint British-American command structure. Finally, it set ambitious war production targets and reached agreement on apportionment of military materiel between Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union

Churchill's inspirational presence in the United States alongside Roosevelt, the Molotov visit, and the United Nations Declaration together left an impression of allied unity and resolve that lifted the spirits of all three nations. The British, convinced that their experience entitled them to run the war, were, however, disappointed that functional military authority was primarily claimed by the United States. In this, as in other issues on which the two nations differed, America's overwhelming supremacy in manpower and productivity was decisive.

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Suggested Reading: David Bercuson and Holger Herwig, *One Christmas in Washington: Roosevelt and Churchill Forge the Grand Alliance* (Woodstock & New York: The Overlook Press, 2005).

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Using the maps below, answer the questions that follow.

The Far East and the Pacific, 1941. The Imperial Powers, 1 September 1939:

<http://www.dean.usma.edu/history/web03/atlas/ww2%20pacific/ww2%20pacific%20%20pages/ww2%20pacific%20map%2002.htm>

Europe, Sept. 1, 1939, with German expansion, 1936-39, highlighted:

<http://www.dean.usma.edu/history/web03/atlas/ww2%20europe/ww2%20europe%20pages/ww2%20europe%20map%2002.htm>

Europe, June 21, 1941 showing German and Soviet expansion at time of German invasion of USSR:

<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/neh/interactives/wwiidiplomacymap/>

December, 1941, German penetration of the USSR:

<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/neh/interactives/wwiidiplomacymap/> (click on December 1941 in upper left-hand corner)

East Asia and the Pacific in World War II. July, 1942 (line shows Japanese expansion into Manchuria, China, and French Indo-China and across the Pacific).

<http://www.dean.usma.edu/history/web03/atlas/ww2%20pacific/ww2%20pacific%20%20maps/ww2-asia-overview.gif>

Question	Answer
Who were the major imperial powers in East Asia on the eve of the Second World War?	
Which of these imperial powers seemed to be most threatening to the other powers in the region? Explain.	

List the steps (places and dates) in Germany's expansion between 1936 and the eve of the Second World War that would begin on September 1, 1939.	
What country or countries appear from the map to be the most threatened by any potential agreement between Germany and the USSR?	
How did the map of eastern Europe change between September 1939 and June 1941? What happened to Poland? What states did the USSR take over?	
What Balkan states were allied with Germany or under German control prior to the invasion of Russia on September 1, 1939?	
How successful was the German invasion of Russia between June 22 and August 25, 1941?	
What gains and losses had the Germans made by November 1942?	
What territorial changes occurred in Asia and the Pacific region between September 1939 and July 1942?	
What allied territories appear to be especially threatened by further Japanese expansion?	

Activity #2: The Goals of the Grand Alliance

Student Name _____ Date _____

Directions: On the chart below, indicate what the two following documents say about each of the subjects indicated in the left-hand column:

The Atlantic Charter, August 14, 1941: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/atlantic.htm>

Declaration of the United Nations, January 1, 1942:
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/decade/decade03.htm>

	The Atlantic Charter	Declaration of the United Nations
Fighting the war		
Making peace with the Axis Powers		
Forms of government in the postwar world		
Political self-determination		

Rights and freedoms		
International trade		
Economic well-being in the postwar world		
World peace		

Activity #3: Competing National Objectives

Student Name _____ Date _____

Team #1: Soviet Interests

Consult the following documents and answer the questions that follow each one.

Conversation between German Foreign Minister Ribbentrop, Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov, and Stalin, night of August 23-24, 1939: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/nazsov/ns053.htm>

Question	Answer
What did both sides think of the military power of Great Britain?	
What did both sides think of the military power of France?	
Where did Stalin suspect the Italians might go next after their conquest of Albania? Did the Reich Foreign Minister (RFM) say anything to lessen Stalin's fears? Explain.	
What was Stalin's attitude toward Japan? What did the RFM offer to do?	
What do you think the RFM was trying to do by either encouraging or downplaying Stalin's fears of Germany's allies? What advantage could Germany gain from this?	
Although the RFM said that "the German people desired peace," he made it clear that they had grown impatient with one nation and were more than willing to make war on it. What nation was that? Did the RFM offer any reason for this?	

Both sides in this discussion appeared to be united in their opposition to Great Britain. What particular charges did they make against British international goals and methods of achieving those goals? What groups within Britain did they see as responsible in part for Britain's foreign policy?	
What did the RFM and Stalin say about the attitude of the German people toward the USSR and toward the just-signed German-Russian Non-Aggression Pact? How did the RFM explain earlier tensions between Germany and the USSR?	
Do you think that the RFM and the Soviets were being honest with one another? Explain your reasons. Why might it be in the interests of both sides to be either honest or dishonest in these negotiations?	

Nazi-Soviet Pact, August 23, 1939: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/nazsov/nonagres.htm>

Additional Secret Protocol, August 23, 1939: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/nazsov/addsepro.htm>

Question	Answer
What did Germany and the USSR promise (in the part of the treaty made public) not to do?	
Was this to be a long-term agreement? Explain.	
In the "Secret Additional Protocol" signed the same day, what areas were assigned to the Soviet and German "spheres of influence"? What state's existence was left undecided, dependent on "the course of further political developments?"	

Why do you think that this protocol was “to be treated by both parties as strictly secret”?	
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German-Soviet Boundary and Friendship Treaty, September 28, 1939:
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/nazsov/gsbound.htm>

Confidential Protocol, September 28, 1939: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/nazsov/conproto.htm>

Secret Supplementary Protocol, September 28, 1939:
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/nazsov/sesupp.htm>

Secret Supplementary Protocol [No. 2], September 28, 1939:
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/nazsov/sesupp1.htm>

Question	Answer
What was to be the fate of the defeated Polish state? What did Germany and the USSR promise to do to any Polish nationalism that surfaced in their territories?	
What was to happen to any ethnic Germans (i.e., people of German descent) and any ethnic White Russians or Ukrainians (the Ukraine was a part of the USSR) living in Poland?	

USSR-Japan Neutrality Treaty, April 13, 1941: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/s1.htm>

Question	Answer
What did the Soviets promise Japan and Great Britain in these agreements?	
Were these promises in accordance with the wartime goals stated in the Atlantic Charter and the Declaration of the United Nations? Why or why not?	

Finally, based on your reading of all of the above documents, answer the following questions:

Question	Answer
<p>Even though they cooperated to carve up Eastern Europe, and especially Poland, among themselves, do you believe that Germany and the USSR actually trusted one another in 1939? Was their pact really meant to be a lasting agreement? Explain.</p>	
<p>When Germany broke this agreement by invading the USSR on June 21, 1941, the Soviets were quickly supported by Britain and the US. What in their conversations and dealings with the <i>Germans</i> might have caused the Soviets to mistrust Britain and the US as allies? What in this earlier Soviet relationship with Germany might have caused Britain and the US to mistrust the USSR?</p>	
<p>Stalin had originally wanted territory in Eastern Europe in part as protection against any aggression from the west. Did this goal change at all because of the USSR's experience with Germany between 1939 and 1941?</p>	
<p>Why did the Soviets seek neutrality and nonaggression agreements with hostile, expansionist neighbors, and especially when they knew from experience that these were not likely to be honored?</p>	

Which documents suggest that the Soviets were more focused on the European war than on linking that war with the war in the Pacific? Why do you think that linking these two theatres of war was less pressing for the Soviets than it was for the US and especially for Great Britain?