

## Handout – End of Second World War

### 1.) Conferences

#### Allied Forces:

Who? Soviet Union: Stalin  
USA: Roosevelt  
UK: Churchill

When? 1st January 1942

Where? North-east: Soviet Union  
North-west: British  
South: American

#### What?

- stop German, Japanese and Italy aggression
- American rescued Jews from the holocaust
- UStroupes landing on Port of Hamburg and fighting till Berlin

Why? The attack on Pearl Harbor

#### Yalta:

Who? US: Roosevelt  
UK: Churchill  
UdSSR: Stalin

When? 7th till 11th February 1945

Where? Near of Yalta (Soviet Union)

What? Meeting of the heads of government

Why: to:

- make sure how to split Germany
- disturbs in Europe after the war
- make a plan for the war in Japan

Because:

- war in Germany was as good as won
- believed that Japanese war would take longer, so they make sure a plan together

#### Potsdam:

Who? Great Britain: Attlee  
USA: Truman  
UdSSR: Stalin  
(France)

When? 17. July till 2. August 1945

Where? Potsdamer Castle Cecilienhof

### **ALLIED FORCES**



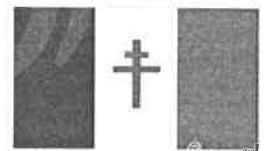
Great Britain



URSS



USA



Free France



THE YALTA CONFERENCE



What? Conference between the Victories of WW2

Why? to make sure how to split Germany

Provision:

- east of Germany: Poland
- north- west of Germany: England and France
- south- west of Germany: USA
- east of Germany: Russia
- 5 ADs: Denazification, Demilitarization, Democratization, Decentralization + *Démontage*
- The Nationalsozialism was made to democracy

## 2.) Warfare Operations

### Pearl Harbor:

Who? Japan, America

When? 7th December 1941

Where? Hawaii -> Island Oahu Kahuku Point (USA)

What?

- attack on Pearl Harbor was of the Imperial Japanese naval air force on the US Pacific Fleet (1200 sailors died)
- Pacific war give USA the rise to join the world war
- 11th December union of japons and Germany fight against USA

Why? Goal: damage the American pacific fleet so it couldn't enter the 2. WW

Failed



### Hiroshima:

Who? Japan, US and Allies

When? 6th August and 9th August 1945

Where? Hiroshima and Nagasaki

What?

- nuclear weapons from the US destroyed Hiroshima
- that's why Hirohito give up and the end of WW2 began
- Hiroshima was destroyed 80% and 100.000 people died
- Japan surrenders after 1st bomb

Why? Military test bomb purpose of the USA



## 3.) Dictionary

Jews	Juden	Democratization	Democratisierung
nuclear weapons	Nuklearbomben	Decentralization	Dezentralisierung
Denasification	Entnazifizierung		
Demilitarization	Entmilitarisiert		

## On the Homefront – Life in Germany and Britain during the war

### history, time frame, political mood

### (GERMANY)

- head of state: Adolf Hitler (Nazi party)
- 1939: Nazi party took totalitarian control over nearly all aspects of life  
SS built Concentration camps (for instance "Buchenwald") for jews, political convicts...
- 1940: invade Denmark and Norway to secure supplies of oil, coal and grain invade France:  
thousands of locomotive and rolling stock, stockpiles of weapons, copper, tin, oil, nickel,  
furniture and clothes
- 1942/43: Stalingrad – turning point – thousands of German and Russian soldiers died  
many soldiers resisted propaganda and wanted to end the war  
communist party was a major rival by the Nazi party
- 1945: in effort to destroy German morale, many sorties were given civilian targets by soviet forces  
bombing of Dresden (10.430 deaths) by the allies  
battle of Berlin (16.4.1945 – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1945)  
thousands of people committed suicide because of defeat of Germany
  - total 5,3 million Germans were killed



not necessary here!

### history, time frame, political mood:

### (ENGLAND)

- head of state: King George VI. and prime minister Winston Churchill
- 1939: Britain declares Germany the war because Hitler invades Poland 20 and 23 aged men have  
to join military
- 1940: bombing including London, Liverpool, Bristol, battle of Britain – Britain Air Force defeat  
German Air Force
- 1941: England constantly resists German attacks → men under 51 and unmarried woman between  
20 and 30 can join military
- 1944: 60<sup>th</sup> day of bombing of London, with more than 6000 deaths, 17000 injuries and damage or  
destruction on around 1 million buildings
- 1945: total 388000 English people were killed

### air raids, rationing

### Germany

#### allied bombings

- intensive bombing program in May 1943 > kill people's spirit and force
- goal = end the war
- big parts of cities were destroyed
- lot of people died (around 800.000)
- bombs fell often on residential areas
- effects:
  - > lots of equipment
  - > increasing of population
  - > people lost accommodation

decreasing

?



#### rationing

was introduced to Germany in late August 1939  
most foodstuffs were rationed, together with clothing, shoes, leather, soap  
meat could not be eaten everyday  
many things were not available, because they had to be imported from overseas – coffee, tropical  
fruits, etc for instance  
Ration stamps were issued to all civils, were colour coded and covered sugar, meat, eggs, grains...  
Extra rations for men, involved in heavy industry, less for Jews and Poles

### air raids, rationing

### England

- rationing: starts 1940  
rationing > everybody gets the same  
need coupons and money to get rations  
If you have eaten all food > can't get more
- air raids: German air force carried out bombs at British urban  
most attacks – 1940 – 1941 with 43.000 dead civilians

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- black market: very successful  
nearly everything available  
massive inflation in food prices  
officially not allowed to sell or buy things- but there was a widespread corruption
- “made and mend” in poverty civilians invents new things..... for example they used to make coffee from chestnut or made “Mehlsuppe” (flour cooked with water (floursoup))
- Persons feeling: had always fear, women with kids alone for long time → husband /father of the children is in war , family sat on packed suitcases, didn’t know if the house was still standing after an air raid, had to darken rooms in the evening (so the enemy bomber couldn’t face the target, ,never slept peaceful and fearless
- Life during war:**
- wartime homes: lived in the same houses but sat on packed suitcases because of the air raids, when house was destroyed by bombs → tried to find a sleeping place maybe by relatives or they slept on the street
- listening to the radio almost every family had a radio. only opportunity to get information about the war Germany – propaganda not always the truth  
England –BBC- correct news
- Writing letters soldiers wrote their families and were waiting for letters, too  
sending took a long time  
a messenger brought telegram with bad news (the husband, the son lost his life)
- friends and neighbours  
Jews were hidden by some Germans → lived always in fear of discovery by Gestapo, friendships to Jews were no more allowed *Germany!*  
people helped each other, many families were bombed out -> neighbours offered food and bed and clothes  
in Germany- people couldn’t trust each other (Gestapo informer)
- food and shopping → rations, black market (look there)  
German submarine bombed British supply boats
- work women worked in the defence industry (most important industry)  
or as nurses in a military hospital  
in Germany: many children went with classes to farms to help on the fields
- freetime couldn’t play so much outside because of the bombs, played in the disturb houses and streets,  
at begin of the war there were still football games,  
but later the players had to fight in the war  
the German kids had to join the “Hitler-Jugend”



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- vocabulary list: supply boats – Versorgungsboote;  
floursoup – Mehlsuppe; Nazi party – Nazi Partei  
air raids – Luftangriffe; defence industry – Rüstungsindustrie;  
rationing – Rationierung; political mood – politische Stimmung;  
time frame – Zeitrahmen; secure supplies – sicherer Bedarf;  
heavy industry – Schwerindustrie; stamps – Marken

**sources:**

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