

## **Yalta & Potsdam Conference Simulation Instructions**

Welcome to the Yalta and Potsdam Conference Simulation. Your objective is to represent the interests of your assigned nation—either the United States, the United Kingdom, or the Soviet Union—in a series of negotiations. Your goal is to reach an agreement that balances your nation's priorities with those of the other Allied powers.

### **Step 1: Forming Teams and Reviewing Background Information**

1. **Assign Teams:** You will be divided into three teams, each representing one of the major Allied powers at the Yalta Conference:
  - o **Team USA**
  - o **Team UK**
  - o **Team USSR**
2. **Read the Yalta Background Newspaper:** Each team will receive a newspaper article covering the context and public goals of the Yalta Conference. This article provides a snapshot of the international situation, the objectives of each power, and the cooperative spirit at the time. Read this carefully as it will set the tone for your upcoming negotiations.

### **Step 2: Negotiating the Yalta Agreement**

1. **Review Your Nation's Objectives:** Each team has been provided with a set of three "Objective Cards" detailing the high- and medium-priority goals for your nation at Yalta. Use these cards to understand what your nation wants to achieve in the negotiations.
2. **Begin Negotiation:** Come together as a full group with the other teams to negotiate an agreement. Use your nation's objectives to guide your strategy.
  - o Try to find common ground where possible.
  - o Decide on a set of terms that balances each nation's priorities, aiming for a compromise that reflects mutual interests.
  - o Remember to consider your negotiating strengths as well as your priorities.
3. **Finalize and Record the Agreement:** Once the group has reached an agreement, write down the terms you've all agreed to. This will serve as the "Yalta Agreement."

### **Step 3: Review the Updated Context After Germany's Surrender**

1. **Read the Updated Potsdam Background Newspaper:** After the fall of Germany, the power dynamics have changed. Each team will now receive an updated newspaper article that provides context on how the Allies' priorities have shifted and highlights recent developments, such as the end of the war in Europe and new technological advances.

### **Step 4: Reviewing Updated Objective Cards for Potsdam**

1. **Receive New Objective Cards:** Each team will now receive three new "Power Shift Cards" that reflect your nation's changing priorities and altered power levels at the Potsdam Conference.
  - o These cards explain the changes in your nation's goals and negotiating position. Some goals may have become less urgent or achievable, while others have gained importance.
2. **Discuss Strategy with Your Team:** Review the changes and discuss your strategy based on the updated information. Determine which goals are now the highest priority and how your nation's altered power level affects your negotiation tactics.

### **Step 5: Negotiating the Potsdam Agreement**

1. **Begin Potsdam Negotiations:** Using your updated cards and strategy, come together as a group for a second round of negotiations. Aim to reach a new agreement that reflects the altered balance of power and your nation's revised objectives.
  - o Keep in mind that the outcomes may now lean in favor of some powers more than others based on the updated dynamics.
  - o Be prepared to adjust your original terms to accommodate the new priorities of each team.
2. **Finalize and Record the Agreement:** Once all teams have come to an agreement, write down the final terms. This will serve as the "Potsdam Agreement."

### **Step 6: Debrief and Reflect**

1. **Reflect on the Changes:** As a group, discuss how and why the terms changed from Yalta to Potsdam. Consider questions like:
  - o How did each power's objectives shift, and why?
  - o How did the change in negotiating power affect your strategy?

- o What compromises were made, and which priorities were preserved or sacrificed?
2. **Write a Brief Summary:** Each team should write a brief summary of their experience, focusing on what it was like to negotiate from their power's perspective, the challenges they faced, and the strategies they used to reach agreements.