

Objectives

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



Terms and People

- **Yalta Conference** – meeting at which Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin discussed plans for the postwar world
- **superpower** – strong country that dominated the postwar world
- **GATT** – General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; treaty designed to expand world trade by reducing tariffs
- **United Nations** – organization of nations formed after World War II

Terms and People (continued)

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** – UN document affirming basic human rights
- **Geneva Convention** – international agreement governing the humane treatment of wounded soldiers and prisoners of war
- **Nuremberg Trials** – trials in which the Allies prosecuted Nazis for war crimes



What were the major immediate and long-term effects of World War II?

World War II changed the United States in profound ways.

The nation emerged from the war as a **superpower**, prepared to take an active role in world affairs.

Even before the war ended, Allied leaders were making plans for the peace.



Big Three Meetings, 1945

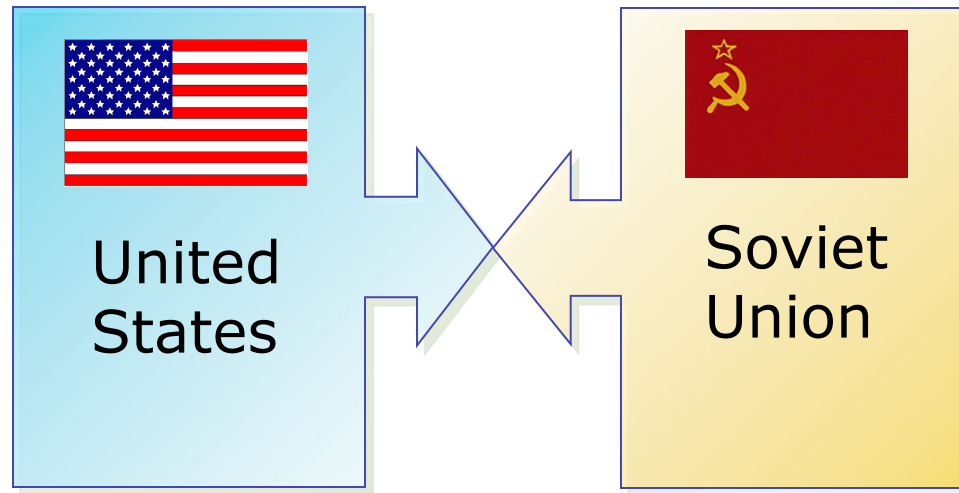
Location	Participants	Agreements
Yalta	Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free elections for Poland, Bulgaria, Romania
Potsdam	Truman, Atlee, Stalin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide Germany into four zones of occupation • New borders and free elections for Poland • Allow Soviets to claim war reparations

Stalin, however, eventually reneged on the promises made at Yalta and Potsdam.

Nearly all of the **Eastern European countries** occupied by Soviet troops at war's end came under **communist control.**

Free elections were never held.

These developments pitted the United States against the Soviet Union.



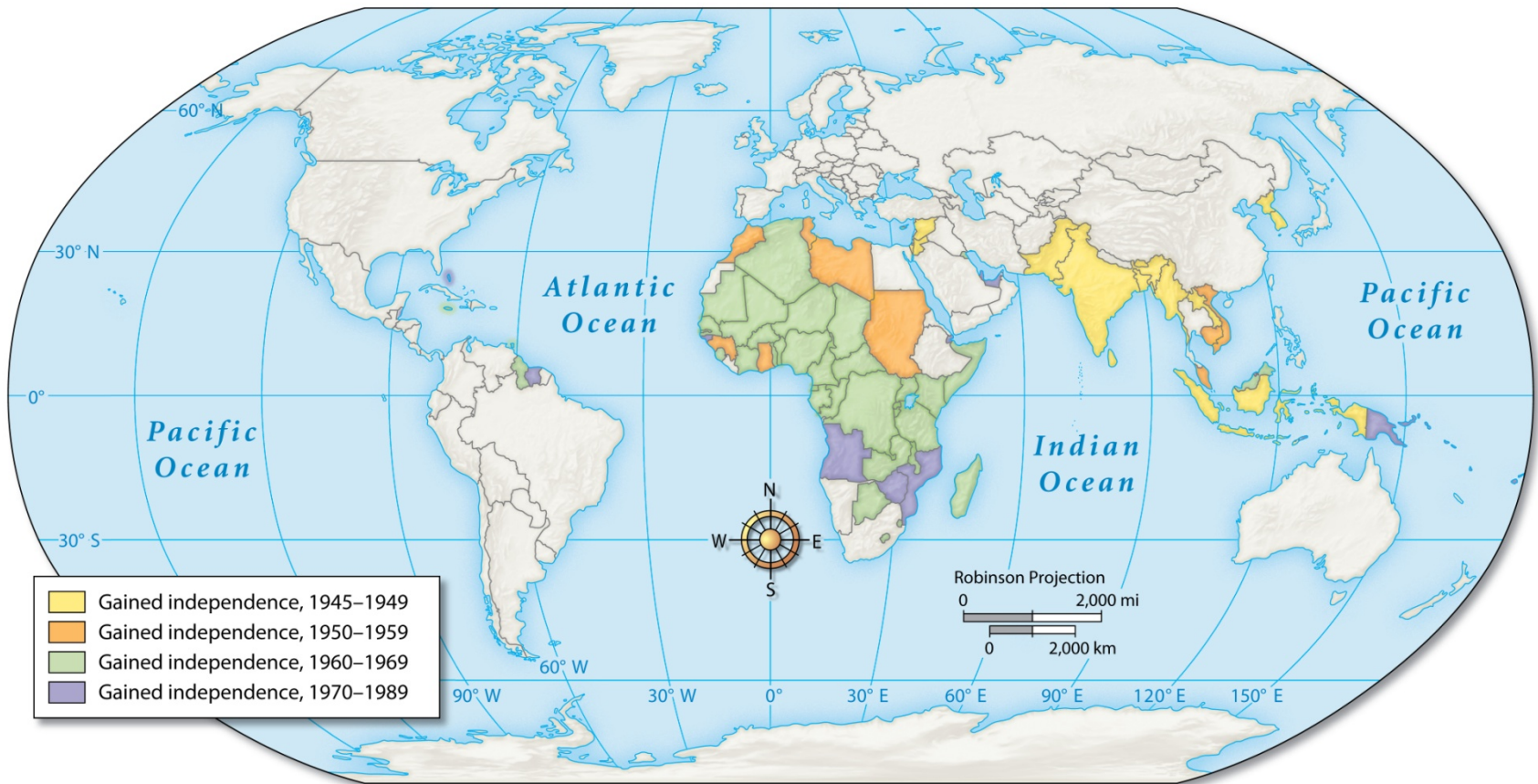
- Both had emerged from the war **strong** and **confident**.
- Both were **world superpowers**.
- But they were **no longer allies**.

The end of the war saw other changes in global politics.



- In Japan, American occupation forces supervised the writing of a **new constitution**.
- In China, the **civil war between Nationalist and communist** forces resumed.
- In Africa, Asia, and Latin America, **former European colonies gained independence**.

The Decline of Imperialism, 1945–1989



As the postwar world took shape, the Allies turned to those responsible for the war's death and destruction.

- **Japanese war criminals** were tried for committing atrocities and mistreating POWs.
- **Nazi war criminals** were prosecuted at the **Nuremberg Trials**, which revealed the depth and horror of their crimes.

To prevent future conflicts, many called for increased international cooperation.

Americans took the lead, embracing their new role as citizens of a global superpower. They helped establish:

- The International Monetary Fund
- The World Bank
- The **GATT** treaties

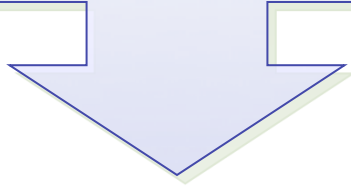
The U.S. also led the charge for the creation of the **United Nations**.

Since it was founded in 1945, the UN worked to make a difference throughout the world.

- Aided the move away from colonialism
- Helped create the state of Israel
- Mediated regional conflicts
- Provided aid to needy nations
- Issued the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

The war changed Americans in other ways, too.

In the fight against totalitarianism, Americans turned with renewed pride to the **nation's ideals of freedom and democracy.**



Yet many still faced **racism** at home.

This led to an increased commitment to the fight for civil rights.

The war also brought lasting changes to the nation's economy.



- Ended the Great Depression
- Ushered in decades of growth and prosperity
- Led to an expanded role for government in the economy

Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

