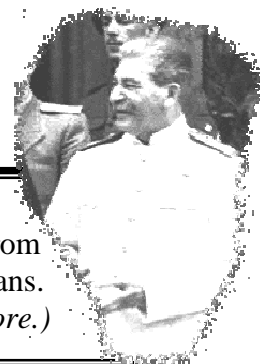


Winner Takes Some



Springboard:

Students should study “Which countries should our Soviet Union liberate from freedom next, Comrade Stalin?” cartoon and explain what they think it means. *(The U.S.S.R. had already taken over surrounding countries and wanted more.)*

Objective: The student will be able to explain how World War II enabled the Soviet Union to gain control of much of Eastern Europe.

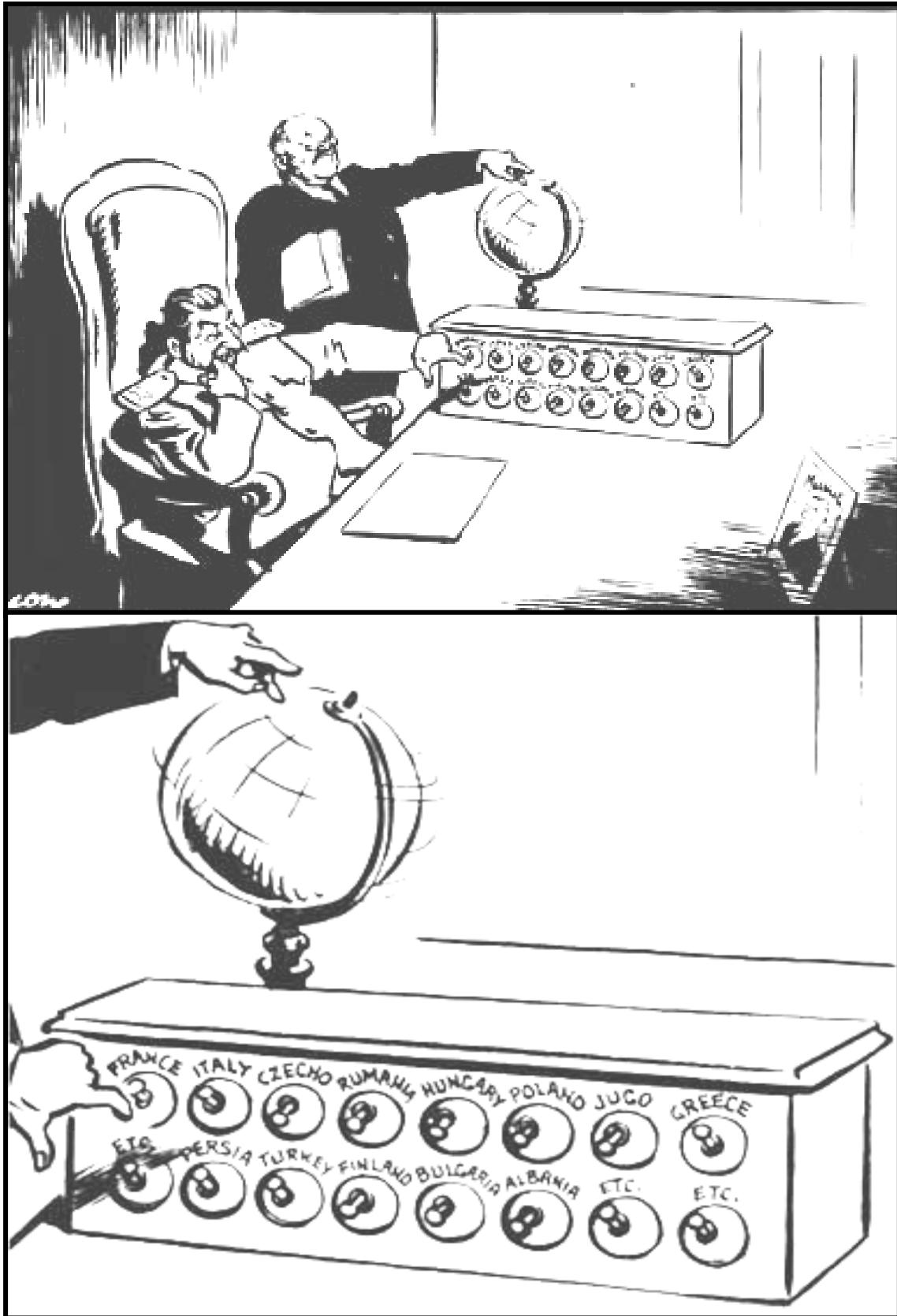
Materials: “Which countries should our Soviet Union liberate ”
(Springboard handout or transparency)
The Big Three at Yalta (3 page handout)
Predicting Problems (1/2 sheet handout)

Terms to know: **United Nations** - world peacekeeping organization established after World War II
reparations - payments for war damages

Procedure:

- After discussing the Springboard, explain that in this lesson the student(s) will learn how the Soviet Union gained control over Eastern Europe at the end of World War II.
- Hand out copies of “The Big Three at Yalta” and “Predicting Problems.” **For group instruction** have the students work in groups of threes to read the skit and brainstorm possible problems to complete the handout. **For individual instruction** have the student read the skit on his/her own.
- Have the student(s) share their predictions and discuss. During discussion of the situation, explain that though Roosevelt did not live to see what happened, Stalin failed in the end to uphold his agreement to allow free elections in countries within his sphere of influence. From the end of the war to 1947, elections were held in Eastern Europe. Communists won some government seats along with members of other political parties. For a time power was shared among the various parties. However by 1948, the Communists had given up on cooperation and had taken over all of Eastern Europe (except Yugoslavia) and established direct control of the Soviet Union.

“Which countries should our Soviet Union liberate from freedom next, Comrade Stalin?”



March 1948 cartoon from the British newspaper, The Evening Standard
From learningcurve.pro.gov.uk/coldwar/G3/cs1/s4.htm

The Big Three at Yalta

By February of 1945 with an Allied victory in Europe clearly within view, the "Big Three," leaders from Great Britain, the United States, and the U.S.S.R., met at Yalta in the Soviet Union to discuss post-war plans. Read this skit to learn about the decisions made by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Franklin Roosevelt, and Premier Joseph Stalin (l. to r.) at that important conference.



Stalin - Gentlemen, allow me to welcome you both to this meeting of goodwill.

Churchill - Our alliance has proven successful in wearing down Nazi Germany and the Axis. We are now very close to winning the war, so it is time.

Roosevelt - We have planned well for war and now we must plan well for peace. It is our job to see to that our nations' friendship continues.

Stalin - Of course, so let us begin.

Churchill - I think it best to begin with those areas in which we already know we are in agreement, and by that I mean most importantly the United Nations.

Roosevelt - Absolutely. In previous meetings we have all supported the establishment of a world peacekeeping organization. This must be done.

Stalin - Agreed, of course, and all nations with all forms of government should participate.

Churchill - Yes, but major decisions should be made by a group of powerful, core countries.

Roosevelt - I agree. A smaller Security Council will help the organization move more quickly on issues of immediate concern. It would be impractical to expect all nations to agree on every issue.

Stalin - I also think we all agree that we should issue a declaration about liberating Europe from the Axis. I have taken the liberty to draft a short statement. It reads as follows:

"The Premier of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and the President of the United States of America have consulted with each other in the common interests of the people of their countries and those of liberated Europe. They jointly declare their mutual agreement to concert during the temporary period of instability in liberated Europe the policies of their three governments in assisting the peoples liberated from the domination of Nazi Germany and the peoples of the former Axis satellite states of Europe to solve their political and economic problems."

Roosevelt - That is well said, Premier Stalin, however I think we should include wording in the statement to assure the liberated countries that they will be allowed to freely choose their own governments through democratic elections.

Stalin - As a Communist leader, I'm not so sure it is important that...

Churchill - (interrupts) Mr. President, why don't we come back to that point at a later time in our discussion and continue to focus on points of agreement? For example, we all agree that we want Germany to surrender and give up the lands it has taken over in the war.

Roosevelt - Indeed, Germany must be reduced to its original size and it is up to us to see to it that a new government is formed with no Nazi influence whatsoever. As we have previously discussed, all three of our nations shall have a part in having this come about.

Churchill - I actually think we should include France in post-war Germany. Even though that nation was occupied during most of the war, the Free French Forces fought on and were a great help to the Allies.

Roosevelt - I think that would be a good idea.

Stalin - That's fine. So, as I understand it, Germany will be divided into four zones, each occupied by one of the four Allies.

Roosevelt - I have a bit of a problem with the term "occupied." It is more a matter of temporarily overseeing the rebuilding efforts.

Stalin - Whatever you say, Mr. President. Now what about reparations?

Churchill - I honestly don't think reparations are necessary. We do not want to create a situation like the one after World War I. Requiring payments that cannot be made can create a dangerous situation. It's like passing laws that no one expects to be obeyed.

Roosevelt - I agree that leaving the country with debts that cannot be paid would be harmful to the new German economy. I don't see a problem though with some reparations being required, particularly if they are to be paid in equipment, industrial goods, or resources, as opposed to money.

Stalin - That's an excellent idea. We can take things from Germany that the nation should not be allowed to have anyway. We must see to it that Germany does not rebuild its military and start another war.

Churchill - We can discuss the amounts of reparations in specific terms at our next conference. As we've agreed earlier, we should continue to meet every three or four months, at least until the post-war situation is normalized.

Roosevelt - What about war criminals? The Holocaust in particular is one of the greatest crimes against humankind in history. Those involved must be brought to trial.

Stalin - We should at the very least arrange for the matter to be looked into.

Churchill - I think that's a good starting point. Now if there are no other points upon which we agree, we should move on to the stickier topics.

Stalin - All right. I know that the two of you see my country and especially me as a problem to be dealt with, but I would like to say that the Russian people did more than their share to help the Allies in the war. The Soviet Union provided the most soldiers, maintained the Eastern Front for most of the war by itself, and sustained more casualties than any of the other Allies. I also must remind you that this is not the first time we have done so.

Roosevelt - Our nations are certainly grateful to the Soviet government and people for their sacrifices in the war.

Stalin - That's fine, but we want protection against possible future invasions.

Churchill - We all want that, but to be honest, our fear is that you want land.

Stalin - It is no secret that Russia would like to extend its form of government to other poor countries in the world. Many people have grown weary of the rich upper classes holding all the wealth while poor workers starve to death. Communism offers a real solution to their problems. Contrary to what you may believe, the Soviet Union is not an evil empire seeking to take over the world.

Roosevelt - We just cannot and will not give land to you, regardless of your country's great sacrifices in the war. The liberated nations deserve the chance to decide their own forms of government.

Stalin - I believe we already control quite a bit of land that the Soviet armies have liberated from the Nazis. However I am certainly open to discussion about the future of that land.

Churchill - What if we give you a few small tracts of land to serve as a buffer between the Soviet Union and the rest of Europe?

Roosevelt - I can accept that, but then elections must be held in all of Eastern Europe as well as in the Soviet quarter of Germany.

Stalin - I think that is a fine idea! I can assure you, Gentlemen, that my country will honor its part in the Allied peace.

Roosevelt - We are trusting that you will uphold your agreements, Premier Stalin.

Churchill - Our willingness to compromise here and in the future is important if we are to maintain peace in the world.

Stalin - It is and, as we have demonstrated here at Yalta, we are all more than willing to compromise. I want to thank you both for coming to my country for this meeting. I look forward to seeing you again soon.



DIRECTIONS: Predict as many problems as you can think of that could come about as a result of the situation in the world at the end of World War II.



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