

History 11 IB **Allied Strategic Conferences**

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Rank the following conferences in order of their importance:

1. Cairo, Egypt
2. Potsdam, Germany
3. Teheran, Iran
4. Casablanca, Morocco
5. Yalta, Soviet Union
6. Dumbarton Oaks
7. Moscow, Soviet Union - 1942
8. Moscow, Soviet Union - 1943
9. Quebec, Canada

1 Potsdam, Germany - July 1945

This conference in Germany was one of the most important conferences during the course of the Second World War. When Germany had surrendered unconditionally, Truman, Clement Attlee (the newly elected British Prime Minister) and Stalin met at Potsdam in July 1945. This marked a turning point as the war in Europe had finally ended. Many important decisions were taken here at this time. The Allies agreed to follow common policies in their zones of Germany. Decisions regarding the future of Germany were laid down. It was decided that a democratically elected government would be established in a united Germany.

2 Teheran, Iran - November 1943

This was an equally important conference in the course of the war. It brought Stalin into the scene. It made quite a big difference whether Stalin was an ally to the Western Powers or not. In this conference, the “Big Three” reviewed the whole course of the war, and decided upon May 1944 as the projected date for the opening of a second front in Europe. Stalin promised that Russia would enter the war against Japan after Germany had been defeated. It was also agreed that the Curzon Line should become the future Russo-Polish frontier.

3 Yalta, Soviet Union - February 1945

The conference at Yalta helped conceal allied differences. This was very vital, as there was growing tension among the allies at this point. The conference was a big factor to help unite the allies, and formulate a plan for the defeat of Japan. Over here, the allies reached a compromise over the fate of Germany and its citizens. Germany was to be divided and distributed among the allies. Decisions were made as to how Germany would be administered and controlled. The allies also decided that Germany would not have to pay any reparations for the war.

4 Casablanca, Morocco - January 1943

Although this was one of the earliest conferences, some very fundamental decisions were born here. Roosevelt and Churchill, together agreed that Germany should be forced to surrender unconditionally. If, by chance, they had decided to take the opposite route, and to stay isolated from the situation, the course of the World War would have been more tragic. Still worse, if the allies had decided to appease the Axis powers by means of negotiations, then Germany would have taken this to their advantage, and all this would have only lead to a prolonged war.

5 Cairo, Egypt - November 1943

In this conference, Churchill and Roosevelt were joined by the Chinese Nationalist leader, Chiang Kai-Shek, for talks on the Far East situation. Chinese involvement in the world war and their leaning towards the allies was a turning point in the course of the war. This conference was important because it help lay the basic plans regarding what the allies proposed to do about the Far East situation. The allies had also become confident as they were now joined by another large country, China.

6 Quebec, Canada - August 1943

At Quebec in August, Churchill and Roosevelt discussed in secret the progress being made on the development of the atomic bomb. Both leaders knew that this disastrous bomb was

being developed concurrently in both Germany and Russia. Churchill and Roosevelt had small talks on whether or not they would use the bomb to end the war. The atomic bomb was a major turning point, not only for the Second World War, but for the entire world globally.

7 Moscow, Soviet Union - May 1942

The alliance signed here paved the way for Anglo-Russian cooperation. Their military cooperation began in June 1941, when Germany attacked the Soviet Union. In May 1942, a formal twenty year alliance was signed, where Churchill promised Stalin that Britain would help Russia to overcome Nazi Germany.

8 Dumbarton Oaks, United States - October 1944

It was this conference where the U.S., British Commonwealth, China, and U.S.S.R. proposed the establishment of the United Nations Organization (UNO). The United Nations was to replace the League of Nations. Concrete plans were laid out here so as to make sure the UN wouldn't fail once again, just like the League. Discussions included the formation of a "Security Council" and the right of veto that would be given to its permanent members.

9 Moscow, Soviet Union - 1943

In this conference, the Allies primarily decided on the future of Austria after the war in Europe will have ended. Austria was one of Hitler's first victim. The Allies decided to free Hitler's most loyal Austrian supporters from guilt. They planned for Austrians to go back to their peaceful lives once the Germans had been defeated and evacuated from Austria.
