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Did FDR and Churchill betray Eastern Europe?

President George W Bush recently said that what happened at the Yalta Conference was "one of the greatest wrongs of history" when "powerful governments negotiated, the freedom of small nations was somehow expendable." Your job in this lesson will be to decide whether you agree with this assessment or not.

Activity One: Watch the film about the circumstances surrounding the Yalta Conference in February 1945. As the film progresses note down all the key points on the sheet below (Resource One). For each point decide whether it backs up the view that 'Stalin was the victor' at Yalta and got everything that he wanted. Write the point close to or far away from the text in the circle depending on how far it agrees with the view.

Activity Two: After the film has finished take a look at your key points sheet. Decide to what extent Stalin was the victor at Yalta. Discuss this with your class.

Activity Three: Look at the cards below (Resource Two). Circle all those that show that Churchill and Roosevelt betrayed Eastern Europe at Yalta. With a different colour circle all those points that could give reasons for the way that Churchill and Roosevelt acted.

Activity Four: Discuss the following question with your class: Do you agree that Roosevelt's and Churchill's actions at Yalta were "one of the greatest wrongs of history"?

Resource One



STALIN WAS THE
'VICTOR' AT YALTA

Resource Two

Stalin knew that the size and position of the Red Army in February 1945 gave him power at the Yalta	At Yalta the 'Big Three' made the Declaration of Freedom	The British govt had gone to war to protect Poland in 1939
The Red Army had thrown the Nazis out of Poland and Baltic States by February 1945	Roosevelt said that he would have to have a war with Stalin in order to save Eastern Europe	Everyone knew that Britain would never be able to
Roosevelt has other priorities besides what happened to Eastern Europe after Germany was beaten	At Yalta Stalin persuades the other leaders to move Polish boundaries westwards to make the USSR a bigger country	Stalin promised that there would be democratic elections in Eastern Europe after the Germans had been beaten
Churchill was anxious about sacrificing Poland to the Russians	The Red Army was about to launch an attack on Berlin when the leaders discussed matters at Yalta	Churchill and FDR would've have had to launch D-Day a year earlier and lost lots more men to save Eastern Europe from Stalin
80% of all German troops who died in WW2 were killed by the Red Army	Roosevelt was desperate to get Stalin's help in the war against Japan and also to join the United Nations	Within weeks Stalin wouldn't keep his promises about freedom in Eastern Europe