

Activity #1: Mapping Pre-War Imperialism

Student Name _____ Date _____

The Greater East-Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere

Japan proclaimed the idea of a “Greater East-Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere” or a “New Order for East Asia,” in the late 1930s. The fundamental idea behind this concept was that under Japan’s leadership Western imperialism in the region would be ended, giving rise to a cooperative economic order that would benefit all hitherto oppressed Asians in the region. Never a precise blueprint, it was an expression of a widely-held belief that Japan’s destiny was to become the region’s dominant power. It was also an appeal to the peoples of the East Asian region to throw off European imperial rule and accept a benign Japanese hegemony.

The idea emerged as Japan, after its conquest of Manchuria, created the puppet state of Manchukuo in 1932, conquered large areas of China in subsequent years, and occupied French Indochina in two stages (1940, 1941). After Pearl Harbor, Japan swiftly took control of Burma, the Dutch East Indies, Malaya, the Philippines, and less consequential Western possessions. It also achieved a dominant relationship with a quasi-independent Thailand. These were impressive conquests, rich in raw materials that Japan badly needed. In practice, however, the Empire was unsuccessful in exploiting them. Because of bureaucratic ineptness and military rivalries in the new territories, Tokyo was never able to establish a workable administration. Nor, by and large, did it gain the loyalty of peoples who rightly surmised that they were exchanging one set of rulers for another. The swiftness of US-British counter-offensives, moreover, denied Japan the time required to establish a durable hegemony.

A Greater East Asia conference, held in November, 1943, and attended by prominent Japanese collaborators from China, Manchukuo, Thailand, and Burma, issued a declaration calling for Asian unity and the expulsion of Western power. An effort to rally Asians as a group and counter the appeal of the Atlantic Charter, it had little success. By then, Japan already had suffered important defeats at the hands of Westerners.

The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere delivered scant benefits to its originators. Increasingly dominant American naval power allowed Japan only mixed and transitory success in exploiting East Asia’s raw materials. In Southeast Asia especially, the era of Japanese imperialism ended just a few years after it had begun. But the days of Western imperialism were also numbered. The imperial regimes that Japan expelled were unable to reestablish themselves over the long run. East Asians saw themselves as distinct peoples with unique destinies, not as an undifferentiated mass to be organized by outsiders.

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Activity #3: Testing the Values of the Grand Alliance

Student Name _____ Date _____

Table of Documents

Information on each document or set of documents is provided below. All of the documents below are recommended, but teachers who need to give lighter assignments will likely find the following (designated by *) most useful.

Document #	Date	Description & Source	Topic	
			China	Indochina
1	20 January 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VI: The British Commonwealth, The Far East</i> , pp. 294-96 [The French Embassy in China to the American Embassy in China, Jan. 20, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=919#4		X
2	31 January 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VI: The British Commonwealth, The Far East</i> , pp. 294-96 [The Ambassador in China (Hurley) to the Secretary of State, Jan. 31, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=919#3		X
*3	February 1945	<i>FRUS: The Conferences at Malta and Yalta, 1945</i> : pp. 352-58 [Yalta Conference Briefing Book Papers on policy toward China—Two Outlines] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=918#1	X	
*4	February 8 1945	<i>FRUS: The Conferences at Malta and Yalta, 1945</i> : pp. 766-70 [Excerpts from Roosevelt-Stalin Meeting, Feb. 8, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=918#2	X	
5	February 11 1945	The Yalta Conference, February 4-11, 1945 (a) Protocol of the Proceedings, February 11, 1945 [excerpt on page 5 of Text Document] http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/yalta.htm	X	
6	March 10 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VII: The Far East, China</i> : pp. 266-67 [President Roosevelt to Mr. Mao Tse-tung, March 10, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=918#4	X	
7	March 15 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. I: General, the United Nations</i> : p. 121 [The Secretary of State to the Charge in China (George Atcheson); Message from President Roosevelt to President Chiang Kai-shek, March 15, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=918#3	X	

Document #	Date	Description & Source	Topic	
			China	Indochina
*8	March 15 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. I: General, the United Nations:</i> pp. 121-22, 124 [Excerpts from Memorandum of Conversation (with President Roosevelt), by the Adviser on Caribbean Affairs (Charles Taussig), March 15, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=919#7		X
9	April 14 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VII: The Far East, China,</i> pp. 329-32 [The Ambassador in China (Patrick J. Hurley), Temporarily in Iran, to the Secretary of State, April 14, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=919#2		X
10	April 17 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VII: The Far East, China:</i> pp. 338-40 [The Chargé in the Soviet Union (George F. Kennan) to the Secretary of State, transmitting communication from Ambassador Patrick J. Hurley, April 17, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=918#5	X	
*11	April 23 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VII: The Far East, China:</i> pp. 342-44 [The Chargé in the Soviet Union (Kennan) to the Secretary of State, for Ambassador W. Averell Harriman, April 23, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=918#6	X	
12	May 8 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VII: The Far East, China:</i> pp. 380-82 [Memorandum by Everett F. Drumright, “A Brief Estimate of the Situation in China on the Conclusion of the War in the Far East,” May 8, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=918#7	X	
13	May 9 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VI: The British Commonwealth, The Far East,</i> pp. 307 [The Acting Secretary of State to the Ambassador in France (Jefferson Caffery), May 9, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=919#5		X
*14	June 6 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VII: The Far East, China:</i> pp. 403-05 [Excerpts from Memorandum by Mr. John S. Service to the Chief of the Division of Chinese Affairs (John Carter Vincent), June 6, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=918#8	X	
*15	June 22 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VI: The British Commonwealth, The Far East,</i> pp. 556-57, 567-68 [Excerpts from Department of State Policy Paper, “An Estimate of Conditions in Asia and the Pacific at the Close of the War in the Far East and the Objectives and Policies of the United States, June 22, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=919#6		X
*16	c. July 1 1945	<i>FRUS: The Conference of Berlin (The Potsdam Conference), 1945, vol. I,</i> pp. 915-21 [Memorandum by the Assistant to the President’s Naval Aide (George M. Elsey), c. July 1, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=919#1		X
*17	July 10 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VII: The Far East, China:</i> pp 430-33 [Excerpts from The Ambassador in China (Hurley) to the Secretary of State, July 10, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=918#9	X	

Document #	Date	Description & Source	Topic	
			China	Indochina
18	August 16 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. IV: Europe:</i> pp. 703-05 [Excerpts from The Ambassador in France (Caffery) to the Secretary of State, Aug. 16, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=919#8		X
*19	August 20 1945	<i>FRUS, 1945, vol. VII: The Far East, China:</i> pp. 448-52 [Excerpts from Memorandum by Edwin A. Locke, Jr., Personal Representative of President Truman, Aug. 20, 1945] http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=918#10	X	

Activity #3: Testing the Values of the Grand Alliance

Student Name _____ Date _____

From the Protocols of the Proceedings of the Yalta Conference, February 11, 1945:
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/yalta.htm>

Washington, March 24 - The text of the agreements reached at the Crimea (Yalta) Conference between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Generalissimo Stalin, as released by the State Department today, follows: ...

AGREEMENT REGARDING JAPAN

The leaders of the three great powers - the Soviet Union, the United States of America and Great Britain - have agreed that in two or three months after Germany has surrendered and the war in Europe is terminated, the Soviet Union shall enter into war against Japan on the side of the Allies on condition that:

1. The status quo in Outer Mongolia (the Mongolian People's Republic) shall be preserved.
2. The former rights of Russia violated by the treacherous attack of Japan in 1904 shall be restored, viz.:
 - (a) The southern part of Sakhalin as well as the islands adjacent to it shall be returned to the Soviet Union;
 - (b) The commercial port of Dairen shall be internationalized, the pre-eminent interests of the Soviet Union in this port being safeguarded, and the lease of Port Arthur as a naval base of the U.S.S.R. restored;
 - (c) The Chinese-Eastern Railroad and the South Manchurian Railroad, which provide an outlet to Dairen, shall be jointly operated by the establishment of a joint Soviet-Chinese company, it being understood that the pre-eminent interests of the Soviet Union shall be safeguarded and that China shall retain sovereignty in Manchuria;
3. The Kurile Islands shall be handed over to the Soviet Union.

It is understood that the agreement concerning Outer Mongolia and the ports and railroads referred to above will require concurrence of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. The President will take measures in order to maintain this concurrence on advice from Marshal Stalin.

The heads of the three great powers have agreed that these claims of the Soviet Union shall be unquestionably fulfilled after Japan has been defeated.

For its part, the Soviet Union expresses its readiness to conclude with the National Government of China a pact of friendship and alliance between the U.S.S.R. and China in order to render assistance to China with its armed forces for the purpose of liberating China from the Japanese yoke.

Activity #3: Testing the Values of the Grand Alliance

Student Name _____ Date _____

Report on _____

Directions: Place in the blank above the name of the country you have been assigned to report on. This worksheet allows you to gather and sort information from relevant documents in order to answer the questions listed below and make your report back to the whole class. Indicate the document from which information is drawn by noting its number in parentheses at the end of that information.

Question	Answer
<p>What were this country's postwar plans for the various prewar European colonies (such as Indochina)?</p>	
<p>What were this country's postwar plans for China?</p>	

What were this country's reasons for these policies?

What did this country believe about the plans of the other allies?

How did this country plan to persuade or pressure one or more of the other allies to go along with its plans?