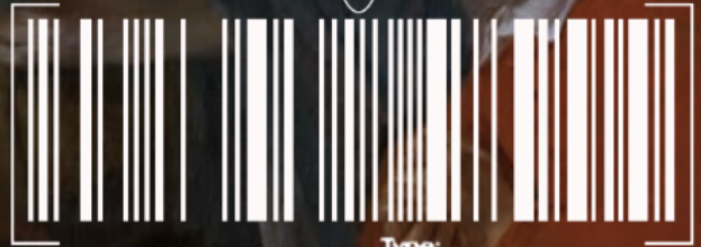


ALFAMUN POTSDAM CONFERENCE

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL
Defne Çankaya

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT
Yiğit Köksal



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I. Letter From the Secretary General

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to AFMUN'26. As the Secretaries-General, we are truly pleased to see this conference once again bring together so many bright and motivated young individuals who believe in dialogue, diplomacy, and cooperation.

First and foremost, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to our academic and organization teams. This conference would not have been possible without their dedication and commitment, and we are deeply grateful for the effort they have put in.

We are living in a time where it is almost impossible to ignore what is happening around the world. Many of us often find ourselves thinking that certain situations could have been handled differently, or questioning the decisions that were made. However, AFMUN is not only a place for reflection, but also a platform for initiative. Through our committees, you will have the opportunity to express your ideas, challenge perspectives, and engage in meaningful discussions. As young people in today's world, your voice is truly important.

We hope this conference will be both inspiring and memorable for all of you.

And as we say, a realm cannot endure without its sovereign.

Yours truly,

Kaan MUŞTU & Ömer Talha Demirel

kaansettar@gmail.com

demirelomer123456@gmail.com

II. Letter From the Under-Secretary General

Esteemed Participants,

I delightfully welcome you all to this prestigious conference, AFMUN'26. I thank and congratulate the Academic & Organization Teams and the Executive Team for their immaculate work in making this conference possible. While extending my gratitude for the Executive Team, I wish to especially thank the Academic Advisor of the conference Çağın Taylan Özgün for his invitation.

The biggest thanks goes towards my virtuosic Academic Assistant and great friend Yiğit Köksal. I feel beyond grateful for his diligent efforts leading up to the conference. I am sincerely grateful that we finally got the chance to work together.

This committee was one I wanted to tackle for a long time. It brought great memories to me years ago when I was a delegate, and I sincerely hope it feels the same way to my delegates as well. My Academic Assistant and I have worked together to ensure maximum comprehension for this particular Study Guide, so it is required that all participants read it. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any inquiries.

Yours Truly,

Defne Çankaya

The Under-Secretary General of the Potsdam Conference

III. Letter From the Academic Assistant

My beloved Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Potsdam Conference Committee of AFMUN'26. Firstly, I would like to thank the Academic, Organizational, and Executive Teams for their respective contributions towards this conference. Last but definitely not least, my biggest thanks go to my Under-Secretary General, Defne Çankaya, for inviting me as her Academic Assistant to this committee. It's always a pleasure to work with her, and I became more impressed and more sure of her work throughout years of friendship with her. I'm sure that she is the perfect person for this job, and she will do the best, like she always does.

As your Academic Assistant, I am very excited to be with you throughout this conference and to see the changes on the history you will make with different perspectives, ideas, and approaches you will bring to this committee. Please do not prepare yourselves by just gathering information from the Study Guide and internet. Debating is about learning how to think critically, question different perspectives, and turn those things to your advantage.

I hope this Study Guide will be a useful starting point for your preparation. However, we strongly encourage you to go beyond the information provided here and conduct your own research. The more you understand the historical context, the perspectives of the actors involved, and the circumstances surrounding the conference the more confidently you will be able to participate.

During the conference, do not hesitate to argue till the end, engage with other delegates, and think creatively. Diplomacy is not about proving that one side is right but debating is all about being right (or making others believe that you are right.)

Most importantly, I hope we all can enjoy our experience in this committee. debate can be demanding but it is also an opportunity to learn, improve, meet new people and create memories.

I wish you all the best and I look forward to seeing you at AFMUN'26.

Best regards,
Yiğit Köksal

IV. Introduction to the Committee

On July 17 1945, with the Nazi Germany coming to defeat and the war against Japan coming near to its conclusion, “*The Big Three*” Allied leaders — Soviet General Secretary Joseph Stalin, U.S. President Harry S. Truman, and the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (later replaced by Clement Attlee on July 28, 1945) — gathered in the Cecilienhof Palace located in the German city of Potsdam for their final wartime conference. The Potsdam Conference represented both the formal end of World War II's alliance politics and the beginning of superpower confrontation. The agreements reached at Potsdam would determine the fate of post-war Europe, Germany's occupation, Poland's borders, and the treatment of defeated enemies.

The Potsdam Conference served as an integral platform of discussion for post-war administrative efforts and reconstruction, as well as the trajectory of global politics and power. Centering around the idea of denazification, the handling of defeated Germany had to be especially diligently constructed. The debate and negotiation of the conference proved to be crucial to rejuvenate society, specifically in the European continent.



V. Historical Background of the Potsdam Conference and World War II

The Potsdam Conference took place from 17 July to 2 August 1945, immediately after the capitulation of Nazi Germany in World War II. World War II started with Germany invading Poland in 1939, and went on to become the biggest world war in history. By May 1945 Germany had been beaten, but the war against Japan was still underway.

The combat in Europe was over, but now the Allies confronted a new question: What would the postwar world be like? Germany was in ruins, millions of people were uprooted and the political destiny of Europe remained uncertain.

The conference was convened to discuss a number of key problems including:

- Occupation and Administration of Germany
- Denazification and demilitarization of Germany
- Reparations from Germany
- Poland and Germany: Future Horizons
- Trial of Nazi war criminals

- The last strategy to end the war against Japan

Even with working together in the war, tensions had already begun to show between the Allies. The United States and Britain wanted democratic governments and economic recovery. The Soviet Union wanted security and more influence in Eastern Europe. Such disputes would eventually escalate to become the Cold War.

Historical Background of World War II

World War II (1939-1945) is the greatest and bloodiest conflict in contemporary history to this day. The war started when Germany invaded Poland on September 1 1939, and the United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany in the following two days. Soon the fight spread throughout Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific engaging more than 60 countries. It was finally concluded with the defeat of the Axis Powers in 1945.

Primary Alliances

Allied powers

Key Members:

- United States of America
- United Kingdom
- Soviet Union (joined after the Nazi invasion in 1941)
- China
- France

Axis Powers

Key Members:

- Nazi Germany
- Japan
- Italy

The Second World War was the biggest military battle in modern history, lasting from 1939 to 1945. It impacted more than 60 countries and resulted with the death of an estimated 70-85 million people. The war formally began with Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1 1939, but its origins stemmed from the unsolved ramifications of World War I, the development of fascism, economic instability, and the failure of the League of Nations to avert aggression.

Germany had surrendered; but when the Potsdam Conference met in July 1945, Europe was politically and economically severely decimated. The policies and decisions made at Potsdam were largely shaped by the wartime experience of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom.

Chronological Order of Relevant Events

1939

- Germany invaded Poland on September 1st, 1939.
- On September 3, the United Kingdom and France officially declared war on Germany.
- The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact split Poland between Germany and the Soviet Union.

1940

- Germany invaded Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and France.
- In the Battle of Britain, the United Kingdom held off the German invasion.

1941

- On June 22, Germany opened the Eastern Front with Operation Barbarossa against the Soviet Union. The invasion brought great harm, mass casualties, and loss of life throughout the Soviet Union.

- On December 7, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States entered the war.

1942-1944

- The Soviet victory in the Battle of Stalingrad was a crucial turning point on the Eastern Front.
- In North Africa, the British and American forces defeated the Axis forces.
- In 1943, the Allies invaded Italy by launching Operation Husky. The expeditious Allied triumph resulted in the Italian government voting out and arresting Benito Mussolini.
- D-Day, 6th June 1944: Allied forces landed in Normandy and opened up the Western Front in occupied France.

1945

- After months of severe battle, the Soviet forces took Berlin on May 2.
- As the Soviet troops advanced, Adolf Hitler committed suicide on April 30.
- Germany surrendered unconditionally on May 8, officially concluding the war in Europe.
- The conflict with Japan continued until September, 1945.

Tehran Conference (1943)

The Tehran Conference, held between November 28 and December 1 of 1943, was a pivotal meeting among the leaders of the Allied Powers during World War II: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin. It was the first occasion in which these three leaders gathered together as a threesome. While discussing wartime matters, the leaders also tackled possible postwar plans, including territorial adjustments in Poland and Germany, and the formation of a new international organization, later known as the United Nations. The Tehran Conference served an impactful role in planting the seeds of further discussions for postwar reconstruction for the upcoming conferences.

Yalta Conference (1945)

The Yalta Conference, held from February 4 to February 11, 1945, was the following meeting after the Tehran Conference among the leaders of the Allied nations during the final phase of World War II. Attended by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, the conference aimed to further discuss plans and postponed decisions from Tehran for the post-war reorganization of Europe, particularly concerning Germany, Eastern Europe, and the establishment of the United Nations.

Poland presented two problems for the Allies: its frontiers and its government. When Poland had been conquered by the Germans and the Russians in 1939, a Polish government-in-exile had been established in London. After the Soviet Union joined the Allies in 1941 and began liberating Poland from Nazi rule in 1944, Stalin had formed the Polish Committee of National Liberation, essentially a Communist government-in-exile, which was known as the Lüblin government.

Stalin wanted the Communist government to be recognized as the legitimate government by the Allies. Furthermore, he wanted the Curzon line — an ethnically based boundary — to be the frontier between the Soviet Union and Poland, with Poland's western frontier moved farther west into Germany. He strongly argued that he needed a Polish security buffer between Germany and the Soviet Union. Stalin did, however, agree that the Polish provisional government should be reorganized on a broader, democratic basis to include democratic leaders from within Poland and from abroad. Moreover, he agreed the elections for this united Polish government would occur "as soon as possible."

As for the other countries of newly liberated Eastern Europe, the Allies agreed to support all interim governments until free elections could be held. Specific problems in the Balkans had already been settled by Stalin and Churchill at a meeting held in Moscow in October, 1944, when they agreed that spheres of temporary influence would be established. The Americans and the British were to be prevalent in Greece, the Soviets, in Romania and Bulgaria. Each country was to have equal shares in Hungary and Yugoslavia. This agreement was not discussed at Yalta, nor was there

discussion on the future of Czechoslovakia, Finland, or the Baltic states, all of which later came under Soviet influence or control.

The future of Germany was the most divisive problem taken up at Yalta. Most of the decisions were based on recommendations made by the foreign ministers, who had been discussing the problem since 1943. Stalin favored a partition of Germany in order to keep it under control, and Churchill toyed with the idea of a dismembered Germany. Since Roosevelt was vague, they decided to refer the matter to the ministers of foreign affairs. The Allies approved a temporary military occupation; Germany was to be divided into four zones of military occupation, with France (whose section would be carved out of the Anglo-American part) being included as an occupying power. Policy decisions pertaining to the administration of the occupation were to be made by a four-power Allied control commission in Berlin. Berlin itself was to be divided and occupied by all four powers, and the Allies agreed that common occupation policies were to be imposed, by mutual agreement, on the entirety of Germany.

As for German reparations and the German economy, Stalin favored a plan proposed earlier by U.S. secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr. Morgenthau's plan favored the complete deindustrialization of Germany: All of Germany's industry was to be given to the Allies as reparations, and Germany would be allowed to maintain only an agrarian economy. At Yalta, neither Churchill nor Roosevelt favored this plan, nor could they agree with Stalin on the exact amount of reparations to demand from Germany. Roosevelt did agree in principle, to a ten-billion-dollar figure for reparations to the Soviet Union as a "basis for discussion." The only agreement made, however, was the appointment of a reparations commission to study the problem and to make recommendations.

Apart from the military occupation, there was no agreement as to whether Germany should be dismembered, kept intact, or given new boundaries, other than that Poland would be given compensation in Germany and that East Prussia would be divided between the Soviet Union and Poland. The Allies agreed to appoint another commission to make recommendations on these questions. These questions were left unresolved, left to be ruminated in Potsdam.

VI. Key Participant States of the Conference and Their Policies and Objectives

The United States of America

Under the leadership of President Harry S. Truman, United States held a seminal role in mitigating the negotiation efforts. While not being located in the European continent, their influence upon the reconstruction of the continent was deemed truly consequential.

Position in WWII

The United States of America joined WWII following the Imperial Japanese Navy attack on Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. Throughout the war, the United States became the main industrial supplier of the Allied Powers. Their troops fought in North Africa, Italy and France, and played a major part in the liberation of Western Europe. The United States continued to fight Japan in the Pacific even after Germany surrendered.

Objectives Regarding the Conference

Avoiding another great European conflict became the center goal of the Allied Powers, as well as the United States. After the downfall of Nazi ideology, promoting democratic administration in liberated nations and building Europe again with political and economic stability were also goals of importance. Securing Soviet support to terminate the war against Japan and strengthening the new United Nations were aspired as well.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Position in WWII

The USSR entered the war after Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. They fought the war's biggest and most expensive land campaign. Devastating mass casualties with over 20 million deaths both military and civilian impacted the Soviets greatly. The Soviet Union was victorious in many crucial battles, including

the Battle of Stalingrad and the Battle of Kursk. On the way to Berlin, the USSR liberated and seized large parts of Eastern Europe.

Objectives Regarding the Conference

Preventing another westward invasion was a major priority of the Soviet Union. Installing friendly regimes in Eastern Europe aiming to maintain peace and order was intended. Being opposed to the possible resurgence of Nazi ideology, the Soviet Union demanded to keep the German nation frail by demanding substantial reparations and weakening their military power. The Soviets also aimed to obtain greater political influence in the continent, especially in Eastern Europe.

The United Kingdom

Position in WWII

The United Kingdom officially declared war on Germany shortly after the invasion of Poland. They successfully prevented Germany achieving air superiority in the pivotal aerial campaign named the Battle of Britain. British troops served with the Allied forces in North Africa, Italy and Western Europe. The United Kingdom maintained close military collaboration with both the United States and the Soviet Union throughout the war.

Objectives Regarding the Conference

Maintaining the balance of power in Europe took precedence among their goals for the outcomes. Akin to other Allied nations, the British also wished to prevent the rejuvenation of Nazi ideology in the continent and hinder Germany from becoming a military danger again. The United Kingdom also aimed to restrict Soviet expansion and influence throughout Europe. Ensuring the British influence imposed abroad stayed robust despite the fact their economy faced a recent significant downturn remained their utmost priority.

Relation to the Potsdam Conference

Although the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom fought together as the major Allied Powers throughout World War II, each country had their very own different priorities emerging from the fight.

The United States heavily concentrated upon post-war reconstruction and rebuilding, obtaining economical superiority, upholding democracy, and perpetuating further international collaboration.

The Soviet Union had suffered unimaginably huge losses and casualties; thus achieving security, reparations, and significant political influence over Eastern Europe were their major priorities.

The United Kingdom wanted to keep Europe stable and free of aggressor forces. Maintaining and expanding the extent of the British influence across the globe, meanwhile mitigating peace and security in the European continent, remained their main concern.

These divisions and differences directly influenced the deliberations during the negotiatory efforts of the Potsdam Conference, and subsequently formed the basis of many later Cold War debates.

VII. Key Issues and Agenda Items

***Note From the Academic Team:** It is requested that you read Section VIII. (Notes From the Committee Secretariat) regarding the exact topics that delegates are expected to debate upon.*

The main objective of the Potsdam Conference was to address pivotal issues following Germany's defeat. By being the last inter-Allied conference, it served as a convention to tackle the aftermath of World War II. Although the Allies remained committed to fighting a joint war in the Pacific, the lack of a common enemy in Europe led to difficulties reaching consensus concerning post-war reconstruction on the European continent. The necessary discourse of reparations, borders, and occupational matters played a significant role in influencing the post-war world.

The Administration of Germany and Austria

Among the large number of the issues discussed during the course of the Potsdam Conference, the most significant was the issue of administration of post-war Germany. Neutralizing the terror and aggression of the Nazi Germany came up as a major goal of the Allies. The Potsdam Conference's Declaration on Germany stated, "It is the intention of the Allies that the German people be given the opportunity to prepare for the eventual reconstruction of their life on a democratic and peaceful basis." The four occupation zones of Germany conceived at the Yalta Conference were set up, each to be administered by the commander-in-chief of the Soviet, British, U.S., or French army of occupation. The cities of Berlin, Vienna, and Austria were also each divided into four occupation zones.

An Allied Control Council made up of representatives of the four Allies was to deal with matters affecting Germany and Austria as a whole. Its policies were dictated by the "five Ds" decided upon at Yalta: demilitarization, denazification, democratization, decentralization, and deindustrialization. The negotiators confirmed the status of a demilitarized and disarmed Germany under four zones of Allied occupation.

According to the Protocol of the Conference, there was to be “a complete disarmament and demilitarization of Germany”; all aspects of German industry that could be utilized for military purposes were to be dismantled; all German military and paramilitary forces were to be eliminated; and the production of all military hardware in Germany was forbidden. The agreement states that Germany's military, economic, and political infrastructures be either fully dismantled or redirected in such a way that they prevent any future resurgence of Nazi groups or other nationalistic, militaristic trends in the country.

Furthermore, German society was to be remade along democratic lines by repeal of all discriminatory laws from the Nazi era and by the arrest and trial of those Germans deemed to be “war criminals.” The German educational and judicial systems were to be purged of any authoritarian influences, and democratic political parties would be encouraged to participate in the administration of Germany at the local and state level. The reconstitution of a national German Government was, however, postponed indefinitely, and the Allied Control Commission (which was composed of four occupying powers, the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union) would run the country during the interregnum.

On the economic side, the Potsdam Agreement outlines plans for Germany's main industries to be strictly regulated, with an emphasis placed on traditional, nonviolent areas such as agriculture, fishing, and forestry. Finally, the agreement establishes a system by which German reparations should be paid to the Allies.

Further Concerns in Europe

One of the most controversial matters addressed at the Potsdam Conference dealt with the revision of the German - Soviet - Polish borders and the expulsion of several million Germans from the disputed territories. In exchange for its territory lost to the Soviet Union, Poland was to be compensated in the west by large areas of German land up to the Oder-Neisse Line. After the exchange for the territory it lost to the Soviet Union following the readjustment of the Soviet - Polish border, Poland

received a large swath of German territory and began to deport the German residents of the territories in question, as did other nations that were host to large German minority populations. The negotiators at Potsdam were well aware of the situation, and even though the British and Americans feared that a mass exodus of Germans into the western occupation zones would destabilize them, they took no action other than to declare that “any transfers that take place should be effected in an orderly and humane manner” and to request that the Poles, Czechoslovaks and Hungarians temporarily suspend additional deportations.

VIII. Notes From the Committee Secretariat

Our committee will fixate upon the administration of defeated Germany and the fate of Eastern Europe. The conclusion of the war in the Pacific will not be discussed during our debate. Delegates are expected to focus upon German reconstruction. Further arrangements in Europe aforementioned in this Study Guide also fall under the scope of discussion.

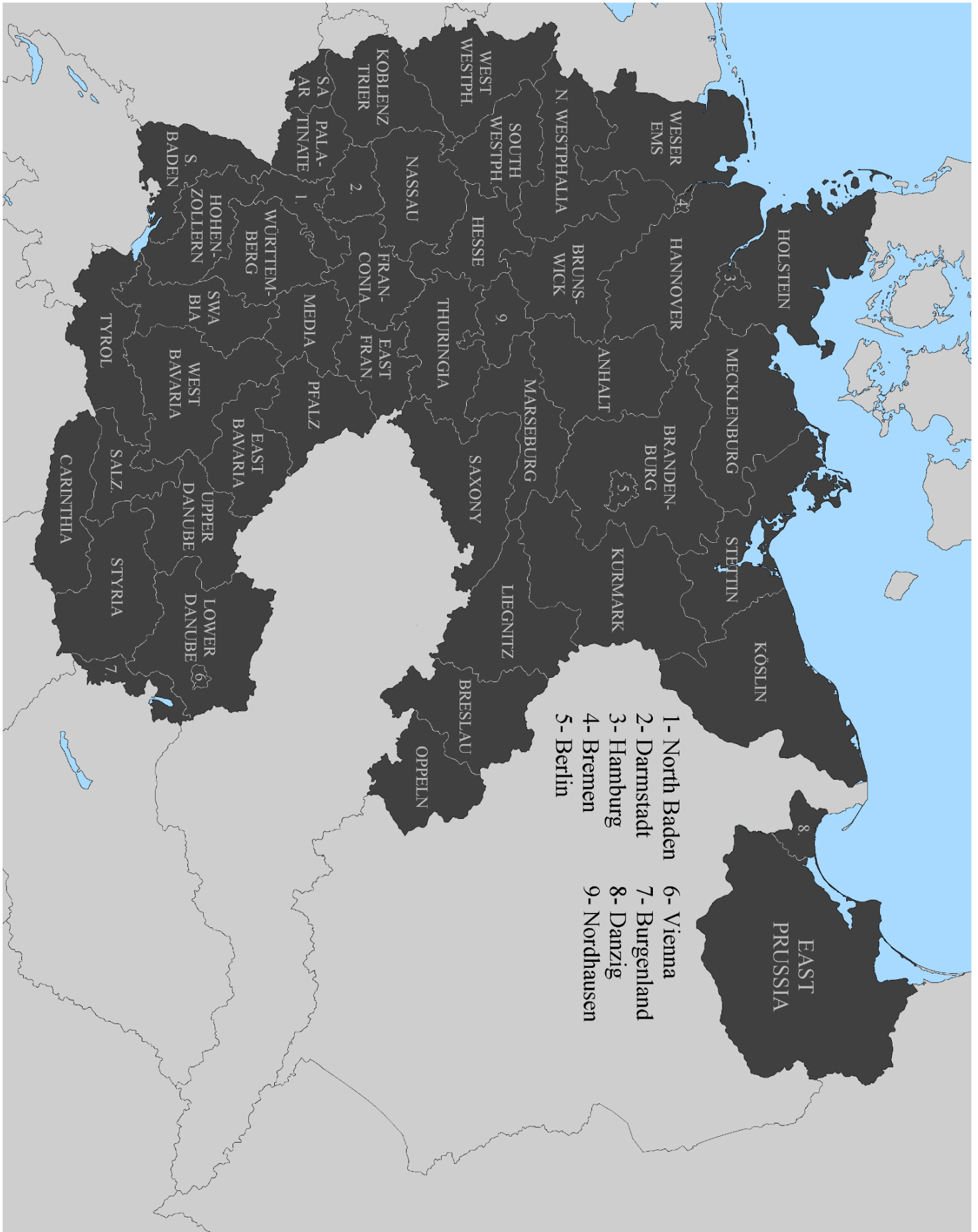
Further research is strongly encouraged to be conducted to ensure proper comprehension. Examining historical and demographic information can provide insight into argumentative points. Patterns of settlement and population distribution are strong factors to consider and evaluate while distinguishing and establishing land borders and jurisdictional boundaries.

The Committee Secretariat highly recommends that participants read existing final documents from previous conferences, especially Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam. This reading can aid in extending the level of comprehension and understanding. Participants are not required to follow real historical decisions made in the actual Potsdam Conference. However, the prior decisions can provide insight into the logistics involved in the process.

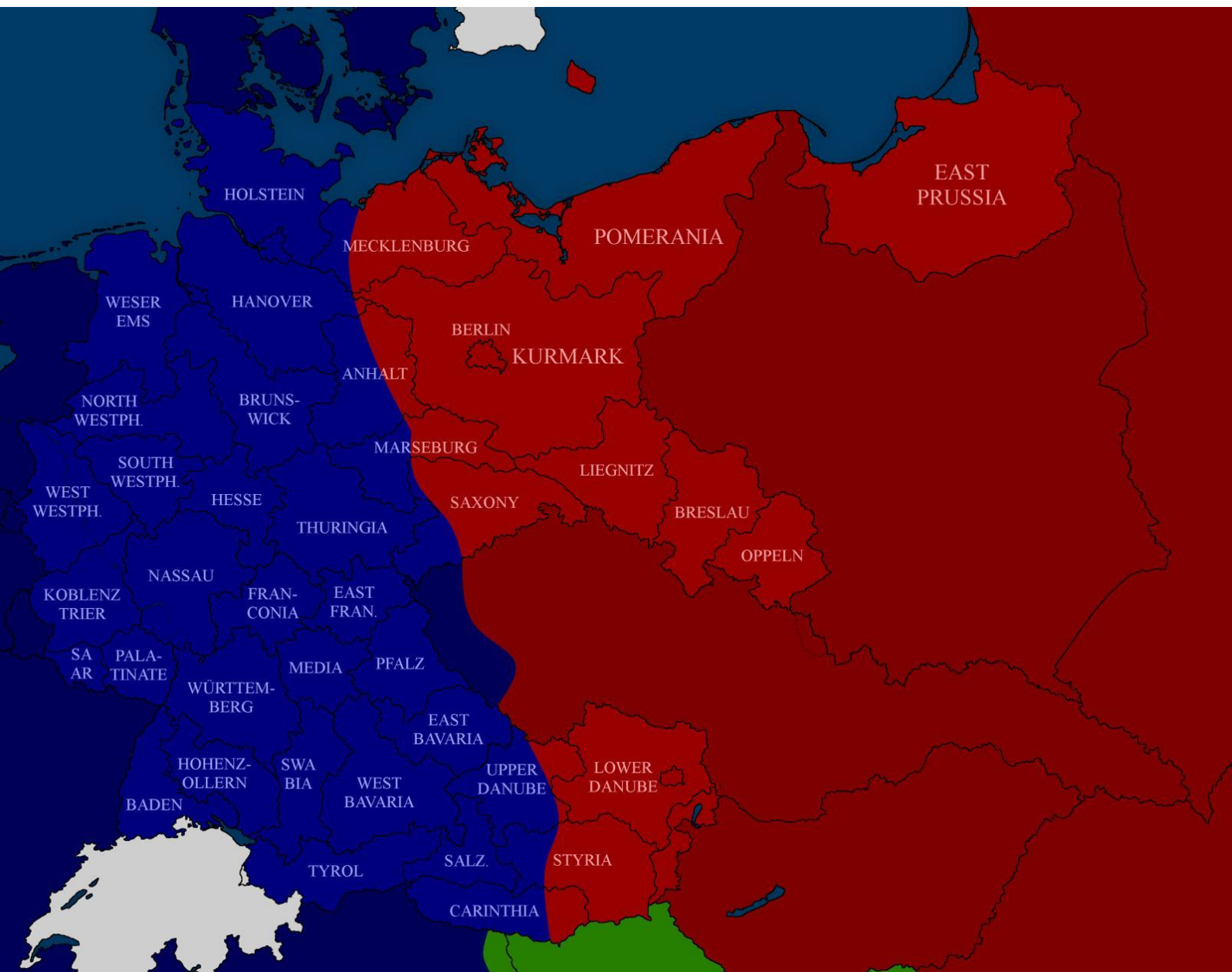
A brief handbook regarding the Rules of Procedure of the committee will be provided by the Committee Secretariat prior to the Conference. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further assistance and inquiries.

IX. Matrix & Maps

Map 1: Map to be used when redrawing Germany's territory.



Map 2: Western and Soviet occupation status in Germany during our committee



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