Roosevelt and Stalin at Yalta

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This session will explore:

- Who were Roosevelt and Stalin?
- What were their views and understandings of the war?
- The role of the Four Freedoms and United Nations
- Three myths of Yalta
- Four key documents
- Five take-away understandings
Three Myths of Yalta

1. The “Big Three” Alliance was a cozy, well-oiled Love Fest

2. FDR gave away Eastern Europe to the Russians

3. Yalta was a Failure
Joint Declaration of the Nations United against the Axis Powers

In January 1942, just weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, FDR called to Washington representatives from 26 nations to stand united against the Axis Powers. This group came to be the core of developing the idea of the United Nations.
The “Big Three”

This photo shows the “Big Three.” Careful reading of the body language shows FDR turning from Churchill towards the Stalin as the United States and the Soviet Union become the world’s two new Superpowers.

Note also that Stalin and FDR’s chairs are of roughly equal height, while Churchill’s is lower – representing England’s decline in world affairs.
Soviet distrust of the Untied States and Great Britain is justified in point number 3 of this memo outlining how the Atomic Bomb will be produced and used without sharing information with the Soviets.

This distrust was a key underpinning of the Cold War.
Sketch for the Structure of the United Nations

FDR made this doodle outlining the structure of the United Nations at Tehran in 1943.

The new world organization would bring basic employment needs to the people of the world through an “ILO” (International Labor Organization), basic food needs through an “agricultural–food” committee, basic health needs through a “health” committee and peace and security through the “Four Policemen.”

Together, the items listed above would provide all of FDR’s “Four Freedoms.”
Five Key Take-a-ways

To more fully understand relations between nations you must consider...

1) The Personalities of the Leaders
2) The Histories of the Nations
3) The Political Systems and Cultures
4) The Perceptions and Perspectives
5) The Reality of the Current Situation