USDL4) Origins of the cold war

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Yalta and the grand alliance

- The roots of the cold war lie in the relationship between the British and the Russians and the US at the opening and closing of WW2
- Some historians will draw on the Russian revolution and the intervention upon this by the British and the US however this is not essential as it lies in a lack of understanding between the three nations due to a lack of interaction
- Roosevelt is always in the middle; he always occupied the central role.
- The grand alliance was not grand at all in fact it was an alliance but not one that one would idealize, more of a shotgun marriage, they were together simply due a connected ideology against Germany
- Had Roosevelt lived he somehow could have managed this relationship so that while it would never be based on love between nations but could have been rivals without being enemies
- At the Yalta conference at fib 1945 the prospects of solidifying the alliance appeared quite bright especially true in terms of the situation at the time.
- The US military remained in France and had not yet crossed the Rhine river and entered Germany while the soviets are coming out of Poland less than 30 miles out of Berlin
- The negotiations went remarkably well postponing the issues until the war was over so they could reach more amicable decisions
- Considering the shared government of Poland and the division of Germany
- On other issues they meet key conclusions such as the soviets agreeing to sign a treaty of friendship with China with the nationalist leader of China their political enemy
- Vital gesture that Stalin was not going to support the communist revolutionary party directly
- The US are considering invasion plans to invade Japan - thus the Russians are being persuaded to invade Japan within three months of the surrender of Germany alongside the US
- From the American perspective they were happy with the negotiations in Yalta, so much so that Hopkins Roosevelt’s closet aid refereed to it as a dawn of a new age - this optimistic assessment was reinforced when the US and soviets met on the Elbe river Close to Berlin and did not engage in a race for Berlin

Potsdam
- July 1945 - the third of the big three summits at Potsdam
- Tehran - Yalta - Potsdam
- On the day of the summit Truman got word that the atomic bomb was effectively tested in New Mexico
- Churchill is replaced by Clement Atlee and Stalin remains only as the big three