**FINAL NOTES: WWII**

- **Tehran, Yalta, Potsdam** determined how Allied powers would divide Germany into zones of administration as well as how the war would be concluded in Europe and Japan. Unconditional surrender was affirmed; the USSR also committed to declaring war against Japan as Germany surrendered.

- **IMT and IMTFE** proceedings formed the base for further war crimes trials and represented efforts to right the wrongs of WWII. There was limited success in administering justice, though; what punishment is really good enough to fit those who perpetrated these crimes? Is death too easy?

- **Occupation of Japan** was determined by America; American efforts primarily engaged and ended Japanese aggression in the Pacific, so the duty to administrate Japan fell to us. We also didn’t want the USSR having too strong a hand with Japan because of burgeoning (beginning) suspicions of Soviet power and expansion. Douglas MacArthur helped direct rebuilding Japan; their new constitution based off the American Constitution; we helped rebuild their industry; and they kept the imperial family, but it was purely symbolic.

- **Who’s going to fill the power vacuums left by the Axis powers?** The US and USSR begin competing for political power and economic influence, and each tries to limit the role the other nation played in the bipolar post-war world. This is the Cold War.

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