

IMUN Historical Security Council

Officer Report 2021

The Question of The Allied Occupation and Denazification of Germany

Introduction:

The fighting of a World War is, once again, over for the second time in history. Although the world has exhaled a sigh of relief, there are still many problems to solve. Many countries are coming out of the war weakened, countries such as Germany, Japan, France and many more. However, there is a big problem to fix. How is the world going to rid themselves of the Nazi ideology that was present before, and during the years of fighting? How will the allied occupation of Germany function?

Background information:

The start of World War II dates back to 1939, however, the Nazi ideology was created long before. The Nazi Party, also known as the National Socialist German Workers' Party, came to power in Germany in 1933 and ruled using harsh methods until 1945. The party began to grow in popularity when Adolf Hitler came to power, after showing phenomenal communication skills, in 1920. The Nazi Party's ideologies consisted of anti-Semitism, nationalism as well as the abolishing of the Treaty of Versailles.

One of the Nazi Party's main goals was to abolish the Treaty of Versailles that had caused immense harm to their society. The Treaty of Versailles was a treaty created in 1919, at the end of World War I. Its creation was meant to find terms in which the victorious Allies and Germany

could peacefully coexist. Germany did not agree with all the points, in fact, the treaty did more harm than it did good. Germany was completely crippled and humiliated by the treaty itself. Some of the key compromises that Germany had to make was that they had to take all the blame for starting the war, they had to pay massive amounts for reparations, their army was limited to 100,000 men and they weren't even allowed an air force, tanks, or battleships. This greatly affected the country and the Nazi Party used the hatred against this specific treaty greatly to grow their influence.

Although Germany was still under great economic defeat and faced extreme poverty after World War I, the Nazi Party gave them a sense of hope that everything would get better. As soon as Hitler came to power, rearmament of Germany became a big deal. Not only did it create jobs for the people who were unemployed, it also somewhat went against the Treaty of Versailles's terms, and none of the other big European powers seemed to act on it. Hitler also worked to give the unemployed other jobs such as the construction of 7000km of roads which in turn created jobs for 80,000 men. This was an accomplishment for Germany and of course shed a very good light on the Nazi Party.

Later on, the term appeasement would become popular. The meaning associated with this word was that nations turned a blind eye to certain things to avoid conflict. This was exactly what countries such as France and Britain were doing. At the end of the day, the policy of appeasement did them no good and Hitler invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. France and Britain then declared war on Germany and World War II commenced.

The Nazi ideology itself consisted of much racism. It was not only the Jewish that were targeted during the Nazi's rule but also minorities such as gypsies and people with disabilities. Those seen as unfit to work for the benefit of Germany, were seen as unfit to even be treated

correctly. Although, the Nazi's deployed many methods against these minorities, one that would come to be known to the world is the holocaust. This was one of the most gruesome events to occur in history. The Nazi Party committed genocide against Jews all throughout Europe by using torturous methods. In total, around six million Jews were killed, this left a mark for not only the Jewish population but also the world. How is it going to be possible to combat this in an occupied Germany?

It should also be noted that during this time tensions between the Soviet Union and the USA were growing and the beginning of the Cold War was occurring. During the World War, both countries had the same desire to defeat the Nazis. When the war ended, suspicions started to arise on how the split of Germany would take place. How would communism and capitalism peacefully coexist bordering each other? Tensions became clear during the Potsdam conference where the two countries both had their preoccupations and worries with one another. The tension continued to grow between the two, they were no longer bound by a common enemy. The West was afraid of the spread of communism and as Churchill said, "An iron curtain is drawn down upon their front."

Tensions started to arise between the USA and the USSR at the Yalta Conference. The Big Three, Britain, the USA and the USSR were all attendees at this conference. The USA, represented by Roosevelt, Britain by Churchill, and the USSR by Stalin. During this conference Stalin was slowly advancing onto Eastern Europe to expand his 'circle of influence'. This worried the Western powers about the future of these countries as they were slowly being taken into the hands of communism. However, these powers still managed to come to some agreements. It was agreed upon that Poland would have a coalition government and that they would be able to have free and fair elections while still under Soviet control. Tired of arguing, the two other powers agreed. It was

also decided that Germany would be split between the three victorious allies and that the USSR would discretely join the war with Japan.

On July 17th, 1945, the Potsdam conference occurred. The USA's views on the USSR had changed drastically compared to the Yalta conference. Truman (the new President of the USA) accused Stalin of not keeping through with their commitments that were agreed upon at the Yalta conference. All three powers had a hard time coming up with solutions on how to occupy Germany. Overall the conference as a whole was bad tempered and not much was agreed upon. To add onto the chaos, Truman had confided to Stalin that they had just made a very powerful weapon (the nuclear bomb). Truman did so without specifically naming that it was a nuclear weapon but later on the Americans figured out that the Soviets already knew as they had been spying on their process.

To summarize, some of the key points that should be noted is that it was possible for Nazi Germany to rise to power again after severe economic defeat. Although the Treaty of Versailles was aimed to avoid this it had in fact promoted this by angering the Germans. This is a hard pill to swallow for the countries involved in the making of this treaty as well as a lesson learned. Another key point to keep in mind is that the Nazis have created a lot of damage that Member Nations are going to have to fix. Some examples of this damage would be the mental and physical trauma caused by the holocaust as well as the damage caused to several land areas. Another very important thing that should be noted are the tensions between the USA and the USSR. We are in the beginning of the Cold War and while attempting to restore world peace we must keep in mind that the tensions between communism and capitalism are growing.

Focus of debate:

The debate should be centered around stabilizing the world, specifically Germany after World War II. The main points that should be focused on is ridding Germany of the Nazi ideology as well as sorting out the allied occupation. When de-nazifying Germany there should also be questions asked about how to deal with the war criminals. Are Member States willing to put in the effort to have the whole Nazi population on trial? How are war crimes going to be dealt with? The world is also greatly affected mentally by the terrors of the holocaust, this could possibly change the world opinion on some subjects. When debating, problems such as the economic state of the Allies, Germany and all other Member States should be considered. The main goal of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security, meaning that all Member States should be able to come up with a compromise or a solution to this issue. Delegates should ensure that the mistakes previously made in The Treaty of Versailles are avoided.

Recommendations for Research:

For this topic delegates may only use primary sources or any form of source existing up until the debate year. For example if the delegates representing the USA, France, or Britain, might want to take a look at the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. This would give a lot of insight as to what mistakes should not be made again and how to do things differently. Another good research point would be to see what the Germans liked about the Nazi party to understand their standpoint. It is also very important that delegates understand the Nazi ideology and know exactly what their aims and goals were for this war. Alliances right after World War II should also be considered especially when debating the allied occupation of Germany. For example, the delegate of France might have similar ideologies as Britain and the USA. The same goes for other countries as well.

A big factor during this debate that should be noted is the fact that we are in the beginning of the Cold War. Both the USA and the USSR (big world powers) disagree and Member Nations should be prepared for conflicts to arise and make sure that they know who they are allied with.

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