

0. SOVIET-OCCUPIED COUNTRIES - Story Preface

1. SOVIET-OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

- 2. FORCED LABOR CAMPS
- 3. FACTS ABOUT THE GULAG
- 4. ILLUSTRATED CAMP LIFE
- 5. DO THE WORK!!
- 6. BULGARIAN LABOR CAMPS
- 7. WHAT THEY ACCOMPLISHED

8. DAVID'S JOURNEY





This map depicts the fifteen Soviet Socialist Republics which comprised the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). In addition to these Republics, the Soviet sphere of influence extended to countries of the Warsaw Pact. They included Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Romania and Albania (until 1961).

Stalin met with Churchill and Roosevelt at Yalta because the three were allies in World War II.

By the time of FDR's last "<u>Big Three Conference</u>," Soviet troops were moving toward Germany from the east while British and American troops were advancing from the west. <u>Destroying Nazi power</u> and liberating German-captured territories was the Allied goal.

By February of 1945, eight months after <u>D-Day</u>, the Allies believed Hitler would lose. To make sure future German leaders would not cause a third world war, the Allies agreed to break Germany apart when the war was over. The Soviets would occupy the <u>eastern part</u> of the country while France, Britain and the USA would <u>occupy</u> the west.

To finish the war in Europe, however, Hitler had to be <u>defeated in Berlin</u> - a longstanding Soviet objective. To <u>reach</u> the <u>Reich's capital</u>, Stalin's soldiers had to march through other countries aligned with, or captured by, Germany. One of those countries was Bulgaria which the Red Army first entered, then occupied, on September 9, 1944.

By the time of the Yalta Conference, Soviet troops were only 40 miles from Berlin. Besides Bulgaria, they had also "liberated" the <u>Balkans</u>, Poland, Romania and much of Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Churchill and Roosevelt wanted Stalin to agree that Poland would have free elections after the war. They also wanted democratic elections in all other lands under <u>Soviet control</u>. To make sure those events happened, Churchill and FDR urged Stalin to sign the "<u>Declaration on Liberated Europe</u>."

Ever the cagey politician, Stalin signed the Declaration. Had he refused, Churchill and Roosevelt would have been even more suspicious of his true intentions. By agreeing, Stalin likely thought he had time to consolidate his pro-Communist base of power in each Soviet-occupied country.

As it happened, Stalin never did allow free elections in the Eastern European nations he controlled. Once his troops were there, who would throw them out?

And ... once the Soviets were in charge of those other lands - as they were of the <u>15 republics</u> which then comprised the Soviet Union - Stalin was free to export a system <u>he'd relied on</u> for decades to help <u>industrialize</u> the vast expanse of the USSR.

Forced <u>labor camps</u>, which we now know as the <u>GULAG Archipelago</u>, became "home" to <u>millions</u> of <u>people</u>, including children.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/SOVIET-OCCUPIED-COUNTRIES-I-Am-David

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/SOVIET-OCCUPIED-COUNTRIES-I-Am-David













Yalta Conference - Photo in Front of the Palace

U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph. <u>Image online</u>, courtesy Naval History & Heritage Command. PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Yalta-Conference-Photo-in-Front-of-the-Palace

<u>Yalta Meeting - Photo Highlights</u> Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Yalta-Meeting-Photo-Highlights

Destroying Nazi Power - Poster

WWII propaganda poster, described above, online courtesy gallery at komunizm.px.pl (a Polishlanguage website).

PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Destroying-Nazi-Power-Poster

Map: Occupation Zones of Germany After World War II Image online, courtesy Cal Poly. PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Occupation-Zones-of-Germany-After-World-War-II

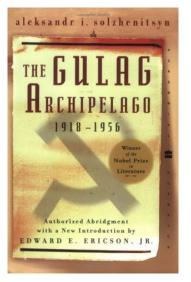
Russian Tanks in Berlin - May of 1945 Image online, courtesy Engines of the Red Army in WWII (a German-language website). PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Russian-Tanks-in-Berlin-May-of-1945







СЛАВА СОВЕТСКОЙ РОДИНЕ!



Berlin Street in May of 1945 - After the Fall Image, described above, online courtesy U.S. Army Center of Military History. PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Berlin-Street-in-May-of-1945-After-the-Fall

<u>Map: Soviet Expansion 1939-1949</u> Image online, courtesy SenatorServer.net PD View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Soviet-Expansion-1939-1949</u>

USSR - Poster of the 15 Republics

USSR propaganda poster, described above, online courtesy gallery at komunizm.px.pl (a Polishlanguage website).

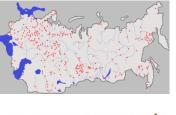
PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USSR-Poster-of-the-15-Republics

<u>GULAG Archipelago - by Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn</u> Book-cover image online, <u>courtesy Amazon</u>. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/GULAG-Archipelago-by-Aleksandr-I.-Solzhenitsyn</u>



Biędy dawnych rządów. – Jesteście ofiarami starego, carskiego rzą du. Przyzwyczaliście sie jadać codziennie.







Fored Labor Camps - Impact on People Image online via Polish-language Wikipedia.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Fored-Labor-Camps-Impact-on-People

Map Depicting Russian Labor Camps

Map image online, courtesy <u>Open Society Archives</u>. PD View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-Russian-Labor-Camps

SOVIET-OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/SOVIET-OCCUPIED-COUNTRIES</u>

<u>Big Three Conference - Yalta</u> Universal Newsreel, February 15, 1945. Courtesy, National Archives. Video - public domain. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Big-Three-Conference-Yalta</u>