"A False Unity": The Impossible Task of Creating a Unity among Competing Allies at the Yalta Conference in 1945

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Thesis Proposal and Layperson Summary
A False Unity

The year is 1945. It was a blistery, cold winter in southern Ukraine, and the most important figures in the world were determining the fate of it. Yalta was a conference that meant to establish a unified strategy to defeat the Germans, as well as ensure that the world be put back together from the shambles that it was left in; or so everyone thought.

What was President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s real intention behind one of the most important conferences of the modern era? Why was this meeting so important for the general population along with the governments of the big three world super-powers, specifically the United States? And what did President Roosevelt set out to establish during this conference? Through doing research, looking into a plethora of primary source evidence as well as establishing a historiographical trend set forth by researchers before me, I believe I have come up with a hypothesis to answer to these questions. The intention of the Yalta Conference was much more complicated than what the media had shown to the public as a unified effort to rid the world of evil. Rather, the Yalta Conference was the foundation to alleviate the occurrence of what known as the Cold War. The conference failed but not without a major effort set forth by Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill. Each of the major leaders of the Allied Powers knew the importance of a unified world, and they knew they needed to convince their nations that the world would stay peaceful even in the face of ideological and political disputes. President Roosevelt found this especially challenging because he knew, just as the other major leaders knew, that the world craved peace but that the United States citizens refused to be seen as weak
heading into future ideological, economic, and political disputes. Balancing the forces between these two fundamental ideals was essential for President Roosevelt during this conference.

This essay will look into primary as well as secondary sources to help prove this thesis. Because this was a major event from the modern era, I have found many examples of primary sources such as the official Yalta Conference report, secret letters sent from President Roosevelt and President Roosevelt's address to Congress after the conference to help me back up my thesis. These examples, along with the abundance of secondary sources will help me establish a well-informed and supported argument. President Roosevelt participated in one of the most important balancing acts of all time during the Yalta Conference. He had the responsibility of giving the world not only the unity and peace it craved but also the power the general population felt like it deserved.