

Spring Semester 2020:

Distance Learning Assignments: World

Each week, there will be a reading assignment from your textbook. For each assignment, you will need to read the assigned pages AND:

- 1. Write a 5+ sentence summary in your own words of the material covered in the reading.**
- 2. Include 2 vocabulary definitions from the reading. The definitions should be in your own words.**
- 3. You will need to email me at dalmasc@luhsd.net your summary and vocabulary. (both should be in the same email.) BE SURE TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EMAIL YOUR FULL NAME (First and last) AND Period AND THE TITLE OF THE READING ASSIGNMENT. (for example, US Reading Assignment Week One)**

**You can email throughout each week day (Monday through Friday) 8:15 a.m. - 3:00p.m. if you have any questions.
Email: dalmasc@luhsd.net**

The United Nations Gets Organized The preamble to the UN Charter opens with a declared goal: “To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind.”

The UN Charter also details the structure of the United Nations. The UN has six principal organs, or parts, all created in 1945. The General Assembly is the main body of the United Nations, consisting of all member states. The General Assembly discusses many important questions, such as the budget or the admittance of new members, and makes decisions by a two-thirds or simple majority vote, depending on the issue.

The Security Council, a much smaller but more powerful body, consists of 15 member states, five of which are permanent—the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China. The Security Council focuses on issues of peace and security, and can use military power to enforce its decisions. Each permanent member can veto any Security Council resolution, which can often lead to drawn out negotiations.

The International Court of Justice is the UN’s main judicial section. The only UN organ based outside the United States, it settles international legal disputes. The Economic and Social Council is where member nations discuss economic and social issues. A fifth branch, the Secretariat, functions as the staff of the United Nations and its de facto spokesperson, the Secretary-General.

The sixth section of the United Nations is the Trustee Council. This council oversaw certain “trust territories” and helped develop their independence and governments. However, this council rarely meets, as all trust territories had become independent nations by 1994.

The United Nations faced one of its first challenges in 1947, originating from a crisis in Palestine, a region on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea. Jews, many of whom had migrated to the area to escape the Nazis, wanted to establish their own nation there—a desire that Arabs in the region strongly rejected. Violent clashes resulted from this unrest, after which the United Nations decided to partition Palestine by dividing it into Arab and Jewish territories. In 1948, Jews proclaimed the state of Israel, and the first of several Arab-Israeli wars followed. Tensions would continue for years to come.



The UN Security Council consists of 15 member nations. Five of these nations—Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and China—are permanent members, while the other ten nations are elected from the General Assembly every few years.

2. Dealing With the Axis Powers

Even before World War II ended, the Allies faced important decisions regarding the future of defeated Axis powers. A generation earlier, the World War I victors had imposed a harsh peace on Germany. The Treaty of Versailles's war-guilt clause and excessive reparations aroused bitter resentment among Germans. Adolf Hitler used this resentment to help fuel his rise to power. Recalling the mistakes made after World War I, the Allies were determined not to let history repeat itself.

War Crime Trials Allied demands following World War II were relatively lenient compared to those following World War I. Germany and Japan had to disarm and surrender conquered territory. Although they did have to pay reparations, the Allies did not demand a great deal of money from them. Instead, reparations were ordered in the form of industrial equipment, as well as other goods and services.

U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt explained this approach in his last address to Congress in March 1945. "By compelling reparations in kind—in plants, in machinery, in rolling stock [railroad cars], and in raw materials," he said, "we shall avoid the mistake that we and other nations made after the last war." Allied leaders did not want to punish the people of Germany and Japan after World War II. Rather, they chose to leave the countries with enough resources to remain independent. The Allies sought only to punish the German and Japanese leaders who had committed war crimes, or violations of internationally accepted practices related to war.

Roosevelt delivered his statement shortly after returning from Yalta, a Soviet city on the Black Sea. There, he had met with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin to discuss and plan the defeat of Nazi Germany, including punishment for war criminals. Five months later, at a meeting near Potsdam, Germany, President Harry Truman agreed with the other Allies to hold fair and open trials for Nazi war criminals.



This photo shows Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt arriving for the Yalta Conference. At this conference, they began to discuss how the Allies would punish the Axis for World War II.

These trials took place at Nuremberg, Germany, in front of an international military tribunal. The judges and chief prosecutors of this tribunal, or court, originated from the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and France. The American prosecutor, Robert H. Jackson, presented the opening statement of the trial:

The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, and so devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated. That four great nations, flushed with victory and stung with injury, stay [stop] the hand of vengeance and voluntarily submit their captive enemies to the judgment of the law is one of the most significant tributes that power has ever paid to reason.

—Robert H. Jackson, opening remarks, November 21, 1945

The 22 defendants of the Nuremberg Trials included leaders of the Nazi Party, the military, the SS, and the Gestapo. The SS were the elite Nazi Party corps, most infamous for running the concentration camps, while the Gestapo were the Nazi's secret police. These leaders were charged both with war crimes and crimes against humanity, including persecution and extermination, to which they all pleaded not guilty. On October 1, 1946, twelve defendants were condemned to death, seven received prison terms, and three were acquitted. Other trials occurred thereafter. Those convicted of war crimes included officials who ran concentration camps and doctors who conducted gruesome medical experiments on inmates.

A separate tribunal met in Tokyo in 1946 to try Japanese war criminals. The trial, which lasted over two years, found 25 defendants guilty. Sixteen received life sentences, two received lesser sentences, and seven were sentenced to death by hanging. The final group included Hideki Tojo, Japan's leader during much of the war.



Several defendants of the Nuremberg Trials, including Nazi official Hermann Goering (shown here), claimed they were merely doing their duty. "For a soldier, orders are orders!" one blurted. Another defendant said, "We were all under Hitler's shadow." The tribunal rejected these claims, stating that the defendants made a moral choice to carry out orders from their superiors.

Rebuilding Germany and Japan The Allies also worked to restructure Germany and Japan after the war. At Yalta, they decided to divide Germany into four military occupation zones, one for the United States, the USSR, France, and Britain. Berlin was also divided into four parts—one for each occupying power—even though it lay entirely within the Soviet zones. They also determined that Germany’s military industry should be dismantled.

During the war, Allied bombers destroyed numerous German cities; many Germans continued to suffer from famine and disease as a result. The United States did little to help rebuild Germany at first, concerned primarily with dismantling German factories to eliminate the country’s war-making capacity. Later, policy would shift to focus on restoring Germany’s economic health. In 1948, the U.S. Congress passed an initiative to give monetary aid to Western European countries. This initiative was known as the Marshall Plan, after then-Secretary of State George Marshall. The United States gave billions of dollars to countries like the United Kingdom, France, and western Germany with the goal of rebuilding their postwar economies.

The Allies approached postwar Japan differently, placing American general Douglas MacArthur in charge of the country. Although Allied soldiers occupied Japan, they did not directly control the country as in Germany. Instead, the Japanese government implemented reforms that MacArthur and his staff prescribed.

After dissolving Japan’s empire and disbanding its military, the Allies worked to install democracy in Japan. MacArthur and his officials prepared a new constitution that established a parliamentary government, based on the British model, with a strong legislature and an independent judiciary. The emperor would only have ceremonial powers, both women and men could elect representatives to parliament, and civil and political liberties were ensured by a lengthy bill of rights. The constitution also stated that “the Japanese people forever renounce war . . . and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.” These changes were meant to give Japan independence, while also ensuring that war would be avoided at all costs.

The United States first sought to weaken Japan’s industrial economy, like it did with Germany. By 1948, however, U.S. officials had decided to promote economic growth. Japan began the difficult task of rebuilding its ruined cities. In 1951, Japan, the United States, and 47 other countries signed a peace treaty that restored Japan to full sovereignty, or independent authority of self-government. Many more years would pass before Germany regained full independence.



This poster depicts the flags of countries that participated in the Marshall Plan. Through this plan, the United States distributed billions of dollars to promote European economies and industries.



General Douglas MacArthur was an influential general who played an important role in the Pacific theater of World War II. He was also the figure who accepted the surrender of Japan. Here, he is shown speaking at the official surrender ceremony.