



Agenda - Deliberating the Ethical, Political and Economic Reconstruction of post-war Germany

ARRA



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

We are delighted to welcome you all to the eleventh iteration of The Shishukunj Model United Nations. It is our honour to serve as the Executive Board of the Allied Reconstruction Assembly, and we look forward to making this MUN a very enriching experience.

The Allied Reconstruction Assembly is a historic committee with a freeze date of June 6, 1945. The agenda of this committee is 'Deliberating the Ethical, Political and Economic Reconstruction of post-war Germany'. Within this agenda, you will grapple with the difficult task of rebuilding a defeated nation while addressing questions of justice, reparations, governance, and preventing future conflict.

Your role in this committee is to represent your country's interests while working toward sustainable solutions for post-war Europe. You will need to balance competing priorities- holding Germany accountable, ensuring economic recovery, and creating conditions for long-term peace. The path forward is not clear-cut, and your decisions will shape the future of an entire continent.

Do keep in mind, this guide will serve as the basis of your research and the flow of the committee; however, we recommend that you go beyond this guide and research every topic thoroughly. We encourage all delegates to think originally and creatively at all points of the committee, especially during crises. Moreover, no act of plagiarism or use of artificial intelligence will be entertained by the Executive Board, and we expect all delegates to treat every issue at hand with the utmost respect and the appropriate attention it demands.

Feel free to reach out to us in case of any concern.

Best of luck, and welcome once again!

Sincerely,

Chairperson – Arya Meet Desai

Vice Chairperson – Janvi Behani

Vice Chairperson – Divita Jain

Executive Board – Allied Reconstruction Assembly

Shishukunj Model United Nations 2026

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The Allied Reconstruction Assembly is a high-level multilateral body convened in the aftermath of a major armed conflict to coordinate the political, economic, and social reconstruction of the affected states of Germany. It brings together the principal Allied powers, regional actors, and relevant international organisations to design a sustainable post-war order, prevent a relapse into violence, and address the structural causes of the conflict. In doing so, the ARA serves as a bridge between wartime coalitions and peacetime institutions, transforming military victory into durable peace and governance arrangements.

Post-war reconstruction is about much more than rebuilding cities and infrastructure. It involves creating new political systems, restoring security, rebuilding economies, and shaping relationships between governments and societies. Throughout history, reconstruction efforts have influenced not only the future of affected countries but also the global balance of power.

In the Allied Reconstruction Assembly (ARA), delegates will tackle key challenges such as balancing justice with reconciliation, rebuilding political and economic institutions, ensuring security, supporting refugees, and deciding the role of international oversight. Delegates must consider both ideal solutions and the practical limitations of resources, politics, and stability.

The ARA provides a unique opportunity to explore the links between diplomacy, development, and security. Delegates will learn from past reconstruction efforts while adapting their lessons to the situation at hand to create a stable, inclusive, and lasting peace.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

'Deliberating the Ethical, Political and Economic Reconstruction of Post-War Germany' places you, as delegates, at the cusp of international history- a moment when Europe's future was undecided, and the fate of a defeated Germany was under intense Allied debate and scrutiny. The agenda asks you how a state responsible for unprecedented destruction could be rebuilt in a way that ensures justice for the victims and accountability of perpetrators, stability of all sorts, and the prevention of future aggression.

At its core, the topic links three dimensions for you to explore: ethically, it raises questions about collective guilt vs individual responsibility, denazification, and the treatment of civilians and war criminals. Politically, it involves the design of new institutions, the division of authority between occupation powers and Germans, and debates over democracy, federalism, and the future of

sovereignty. Economically, it covers reparations, industrial restructuring, food and resource shortages, and the shift toward recovery and aid to stabilise post-war currency and costs.

Fundamentally, the agenda lays the groundwork for an assembly that you have the freedom to navigate in multiple directions, as long as you adhere to undisputed historical realities and endeavour to responsibly reconstruct Germany while also representing your national interests and stances. Where the League of Nations failed to bring into the world a peaceful and lasting global order, you are tasked to succeed- conceive of a renewed power structuring framework, rebuild a continent from the ashes of armed conflict, and debate over the fate of the nation that waged it.

For you as delegates, the agenda is less about finding one ideal blueprint, often borrowed from the traditional narrative, and more about knowing how these ethical, political, and economic choices interact in practice. That level of understanding can help you, as policymakers and power-brokers, draw up a sustainable and yet creatively trailblazing plan for reconstruction. Each line of debate - punishment vs reconciliation, allied control vs self-government, political unification vs division - will shape not only Germany's trajectory but also the emerging Cold War tensions and the credibility of the Allied powers' own principles.

By engaging creatively with this topic, you examine post-war Germany as a test model for what responsible reconstruction should look like after mass violence and authoritarian rule. The agenda, therefore, encourages historically grounded discussion of how far external powers can or should go in reshaping a society, and what long-term consequences follow from those decisions.

As delegates, you are expected to look beyond speeches and political statements to understand the true interests and objectives of the nations you represent. Terms such as "temporary measure," "emergency clause," or "tentative action" may sound limited in scope but often have long-term consequences, making safeguards and oversight important. Practical and realistic solutions will be valued more than lengthy criticism or idealistic promises. The Executive Board will encourage delegates to focus on feasible policies and effective decision-making.

Solution-oriented policies and reactions to crises are all hinged upon the level of preparation done by you as delegates, so ensuring extensive research on the agenda is a must.

TIMELINE

January 1944: Allied representatives form the European Advisory Commission in London, quietly sitting down to figure out how they will actually partition and run Germany once the Nazi regime inevitably falls.

September 1944: US Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr. pushes a radical idea to permanently strip Germany of its industrial teeth, proposing to shut down the mines and factories of the Ruhr valley and turn the country into a strictly agricultural nation.

February 1945: Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin meet at the Yalta Conference to map out the final blow, agreeing to divide Germany into distinct occupation zones and committing to a complete moral and military purging of the country.

April 26, 1945: The US military issues Directive JCS 1067, a harsh blueprint that explicitly warns incoming American commanders that Germany is not being liberated, but occupied as a defeated enemy, strictly forbidding soldiers from fraternising with the locals.

May 8, 1945: Germany signs an unconditional surrender, marking the victory day. The Nazi government instantly vanishes, leaving behind a scarred landscape of ruined cities, collapsed infrastructure, and millions of displaced, starving people.

May 10, 1945: President Truman signs off on the strict JCS 1067 directive, cementing a highly punitive economic policy for the American zone just as troops on the ground realise the sheer scale of the humanitarian disaster unfolding before them.

May 23, 1945: Allied troops arrest Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz and dissolve his short-lived "Flensburg Government," officially wiping out the very last vestige of independent German political authority.

June 5, 1945: The top military commanders of the US, UK, USSR, and France sign the Berlin Declaration, formally taking absolute, supreme control over all legislative, executive, and judicial matters in Germany.

BROADER HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In June 1945, Germany stood at the centre of one of history's greatest reconstruction challenges. A nation that had twice plunged Europe into catastrophic war within a generation now lay politically leaderless, economically shattered, and morally discredited. The Allied powers faced a question that would shape the future of Europe: how could Germany be rebuilt without allowing the conditions that had produced Nazism to emerge again?

They were all rooted in the unresolved issues from the original post-war experience of Germany after its defeat in the First World War.

1. We must understand that Germany was a powerful empire at the beginning of the 20th century. It had fought the First World War alongside the other Central Powers (Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, and the Kingdom of Bulgaria) and against the Allied Powers (the UK, the Russian Empire, and France). Germany made initial gains by occupying France and Belgium, but the Allied Powers, strengthened by the US entry in 1917, defeated Germany and the other Central powers in November 1918.
2. The defeat of imperial Germany and the abdication of the emperor allowed the political parties to recast the German polity. Political parties met in Weimar to form a democratic constitution with a federal structure, as a result of which the Weimar Republic was formed. The Weimar Republic was forced to accept some terms after Germany's defeat, as presented in the form of the Treaty of Versailles. The Treaty of Versailles (1919) imposed territorial losses, military restrictions, and reparations on Germany while placing responsibility for the war on it. Although the treaty aimed to ensure peace, many Germans saw it as punitive and humiliating. The new Weimar Republic struggled to establish legitimacy amid political violence, attempted coups, and economic instability.
3. Germany had fought most of the wars using loans and had to make reparations in gold. This depleted the gold reserves at a time when resources were scarce. As a result, France occupied its resource-rich Rhineland. Germany acted with passive resistance and printed paper money. With too much printed paper money in circulation, the value of the German mark fell, and 1 dollar became equivalent to trillions of marks. This situation came to be known as 'hyperinflation' - when the price rise is phenomenally high.
4. Germany did see some recovery during the late 1920s, but this progress relied heavily on foreign loans, especially from the United States (Introduction of the Dawes Plan). This support was withdrawn when the Wall Street Exchange of the USA collapsed. People made frantic efforts to sell their shares, leading to the situation of the Great Depression. The Great Depression of 1929 reversed these gains. Industrial production plummeted, unemployment skyrocketed, and millions of Germans faced poverty and uncertainty. As faith in moderate political parties faltered, extremist groups gained support by promising national revival and economic recovery.
5. One such group was Adolf Hitler's National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi Party). Capitalising on public anger over the Versailles treaty, fears of communism, and economic hardship, Hitler quickly expanded his political reach. After being appointed Chancellor in 1933, he dismantled democratic institutions through emergency decrees and the Enabling Act, turning Germany into a

totalitarian one-party state. Political opposition was crushed, civil liberties were eliminated, and extensive propaganda helped cultivate loyalty to the regime.

6. The Nazi government simultaneously pushed aggressive rearmament and economic mobilisation for which Hjalmer Schacht was appointed. Public works programs and military expansion reduced unemployment, boosting Hitler's popularity. However, this recovery is directly connected to preparations for war. The regime also adopted a racial ideology that systematically persecuted Jews, Roma, disabled individuals, political opponents, and other groups deemed undesirable. These discriminatory policies set the stage for the atrocities that would follow during the war.

7. Throughout the 1930s, Hitler challenged the international order established after the First World War. Hitler pulled Germany out of the League of Nations, remilitarized the Rhineland, annexed Austria, and took the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia. The weak response from the international community encouraged further expansion. On 1 September 1939, Germany invaded Poland, which led Britain and France to declare war, starting the Second World War. The Tripartite Pact was signed between Japan, Germany, and Italy, strengthening Hitler's claim to international power. Puppet Regimes supportive of Nazis were installed in larger parts of Europe. By 1942, Hitler was at the pinnacle of his power.

8. In the early years of the conflict, Nazi military successes placed much of Europe under Nazi control. Occupied territories faced forced labour, mass deportations, and systematic repression. The Holocaust resulted in the murder of around six million Jews and millions of other victims targeted by Nazi racial, political, and discriminatory policies (placing the 'superior' Aryan Race at the top while the Jews were placed at the lowest rung). These horrors deeply influenced the Allies' discussions about justice, accountability, and Germany's future after the war.

9. The turning point came after Germany invaded the Soviet Union. By doing so, Germany found itself in a prolonged conflict against strong Allied coalitions on multiple fronts. Germany exposed its eastern front to British aerial bombing and its western front to the Soviet Red Army. By 1944, Allied forces were advancing from the west after the Normandy landings, while Soviet armies steadily moved toward Berlin from the east. Strategic bombing campaigns severely damaged German cities, industrial centres, and transportation networks, crippling the country's capacity to continue the war.

10. The USA initially resisted entering the war because of the destruction the First World War had caused. Japan was extending its powers in the east and planning to destroy US naval bases. When Japan extended its support to Germany, it attacked the US naval base at Pearl Harbour. That's when the USA entered the war.



11. By the spring of 1945, Germany faced total military collapse. Adolf Hitler committed suicide on 30 April 1945 as Soviet forces entered Berlin. On 8 May 1945, Germany surrendered unconditionally, bringing an end to the war in Europe. The defeat left Germany without a functioning central government. Much of its infrastructure lay in ruins, and millions of civilians were displaced, homeless, or dependent on emergency aid.

German political groups emerged amid destruction, displacement, and institutional collapse.

IMMEDIATE HISTORICAL CONTEXT (freeze date- 6th June 1945)

On 8th of May 1945, Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally, and the war in Europe ended.

On 5th June 1945 (just a day before our freeze date), in the Berlin Declaration, the USA, UK, USSR, and France declared that Germany no longer had a functioning government and that they were assuming supreme authority over the country. Germany and Berlin were divided into four occupation zones, one under each power, and the Allied Control Council was established in Berlin as the joint authority for the whole territory.

Below are outlined the immediate and impending circumstances that form the context for our conference

a) Humanitarian crises in post-war Germany

By June 1945, the humanitarian situation in Germany was severe and unstable. Major cities such as Berlin, Cologne, and Hamburg have suffered extensive bombing- housing, hospitals, water systems, and even power plants are destroyed. Transport routes are disrupted, so even where food or fuel exists, it cannot be moved to where it is needed. Liberated concentration camp survivors, prisoners of war, and other displaced refugees are concentrated in Germany while Allied authorities organise their repatriation or resettlement. Rationing systems are fragile, and local officials are inadequate, so black markets emerge as a parallel means of survival. In this committee, any policy discussion on security, trials, or economic controls sits against the backdrop of an overcrowded nation facing resource shortages and administrative overload in the aftermath of a fatal war.

b) Economic and Industrial Ruin

The German economy in mid-1945 was damaged and largely disorganised. Many factories and mines have been destroyed/looted, while others are idle because they lack coal, raw materials, or functioning railway links. Industrial capacity that once supplied the 'Wehrmacht' now stands either wrecked, under threat of dismantling for reparations, or awaiting Allied decisions. The monetary system is also equally fragile. The Reichsmark currency has been over-issued during the war, while the supply of consumer goods has fallen. Many Germans use barter and black markets instead of relying on formal transactions. Memories of the Weimar hyperinflation make both German civilians and Allied officials cautious about further undermining currency. Yet, as of June 1945, there is no agreed-upon Allied plan for currency reform. You are therefore dealing with a damaged industrial base and a discredited currency at the exact moment when you're also debating reparations, restructuring of industry, and the long-term place of German production in European recovery.

c) Prosecution of captured war criminals and perpetrators of genocide

By June 1945, the Allies are negotiating the structure of an international tribunal (Nuremberg), the categories of crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity), and the first list of major war criminals (Hermann Göring, Albert Speer, etc) to be tried under joint authority. This is also an undertone of tension in the committee- whether to broadly punish all those involved and risk ridding the government of senior personnel, or punish only selected war criminals and risk the freedom of other perpetrators. Learning from the post WW1 experience, the Allies chose to be lenient on the German

populace and war criminals, but such a notion could be challenged- especially by the USSR.

d) Allied occupation of Germany in four occupation zones

Under the previous mandates, Germany and Berlin have been divided into four occupation zones under American, British, Soviet, and French control. The Berlin Declaration formalises this arrangement and confirms that the four nations now exercise power. But in practice, the occupation system is still taking shape presently- Troops are deploying to their assigned areas, boundaries, and responsibilities are being defined. The early signs of the Cold War can already be seen. The Soviet Union sought to maintain strict control over Eastern Europe and create a buffer zone for security, while the Western Allies worked to establish democratic governments and gradually move their occupation zones toward self-governance and independence. Territorial demands of Poland and France are also yet to be discussed.

e) Continuum of conferences at Tehran, Yalta, and Bretton Woods

The Allied Reconstruction Assembly stands in the shadow of three major conferences that shape what delegates can propose.

- At Tehran (1943), Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin (Termed the 'Big Three') agreed that Germany would be defeated, occupied, and prevented from launching another war.
- At Bretton Woods (1944), the Allies designed a new financial system, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, to support reconstruction and reduce the risk of another global economic crisis. Another crucial and often ignored motive of this convention was the institution of the United States Dollar (\$) as the standard for all future international transactions- essentially establishing the USD as the stabilised global currency in the post-war world, thus significantly strengthening American economic power as well.
- At Yalta (1945), they confirmed the four-zone divisions of Germany and Berlin, set out principles for German reparations, and repeated their commitment to bringing major war criminals to justice.

For you as delegates, this means the broad framework is not up for discussion: occupation, disarmament, and some form of reparations are already decided. The actual point of contention is interpretation and implementation- how strict reparations should be, how far German industry should be limited, how quickly institutions should be rebuilt, and under what rules Germany will eventually be given sovereignty back (if ever).



ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION

After World War I and especially by 1945, Germany faced severe shortages of food, raw materials, coal, and transportation resources. Many resource-rich regions, colonies, ships, and railway assets had been lost, leaving the economy weakened and the population struggling to survive.

- a) A key challenge after WWII was **rebuilding German industry for civilian use instead of military production**. Major companies that had supported the Nazi war effort, such as IG Farben and Krupp, were targeted for breakup and restructuring. However, separating civilian and military production was difficult because factories that made trains or tractors could also be used to produce military equipment.
- b) Germany's currency was also in crisis. Years of wartime spending had destroyed confidence in the **Reichsmark**, causing inflation, shortages, and a thriving black market where goods and even cigarettes were used as money. To maintain order and governance, the Allies introduced the **AM-Mark (Allied Military Currency)** while considering broader currency reforms to stabilise the German economy.

c) Policy Differences between Eastern and Western Blocs -

Eastern Bloc	Western Bloc
Marxism-Leninism is derived from the ideas of Karl Marx and shaped by Soviet influence and national political needs.	Based on liberal democracy, free-market economics, and democratic socialism.
Broad removal of Nazi influence from government, industry, education, and society.	Denazification combined with rebuilding administrative capacity and democratic institutions.
Redistribute land from large landowners to peasants and promote agrarian reforms.	Preserve private property while implementing reforms where necessary.
Strong Allied oversight with significant restructuring of political and economic institutions. A peaceful, demilitarised Germany aligned with socialist principles and Soviet security interests.	Temporary Allied supervision followed by the gradual restoration of German self-government. A peaceful, democratic, economically stable Germany integrated into a cooperative European order.
Transform society through socialist principles and collective welfare programs.	Reconstruct society through democratic values, individual rights, and economic opportunity.

POLITICAL RECONSTRUCTION

The fall of the Nazi regime provides an opportunity to rebuild Germany on the foundations of democracy, political pluralism, civil liberties, and the rule of law. This will require restoring democratic institutions, rebuilding local governments, reviving independent media, and encouraging a multi-party political system.

However, Germany's recent history of authoritarian rule raises important questions about how democracy should be reintroduced and what safeguards are needed to prevent the return of dictatorship. Many Allied policymakers support decentralising power and strengthening regional governments, arguing that Germany's highly centralised system enabled militarism and aggression. Others warn that excessive decentralisation could weaken governance and slow recovery. Delegates must assess whether a federal system is suitable and what constitutional arrangements would best promote stability.

At the same time, differences are emerging among the Allied powers. The Soviet Union seeks security through friendly governments and greater influence in Eastern Europe, while the United States and the United Kingdom favour democratic governance and economic openness. Delegates must consider whether Germany should remain under joint Allied administration, how political authority should be organised, and when Germany should regain sovereignty.

ETHICAL RECONSTRUCTION

A Shattered Society and Changed Demographics

By mid-1945, German cities lay in ruins, industry is crippled, and millions are dead or displaced. Many men of fighting age are dead or prisoners of war, while women, children, and the elderly dominate daily life in devastated communities. Alongside them are millions of refugees from lost eastern territories, forced labourers, and liberated concentration camp survivors struggling to find food, shelter, and security.

This humanitarian crisis raises immediate ethical questions for the Allies. Food shortages, destroyed housing, and disease mean that occupation policies may determine who lives and who dies. Any effort to re-educate Germans or promote accountability is unlikely to succeed if basic human needs remain unmet.

Individual Guilt vs Collective Responsibility

One of the central dilemmas facing the Allies is how responsibility for Nazi crimes should be understood. While atrocities were planned and directed by a relatively small leadership circle, they depended upon cooperation, indifference, or obedience from broader sections of society.

Delegates must consider whether responsibility should rest primarily with Nazi leaders and active supporters or whether wider German society should bear some degree of accountability. They must also determine how to distinguish between perpetrators, bystanders, and victims.

Denazification and Re-Education

Denazification seeks to remove Nazi individuals and ideology from positions of influence, while re-education aims to promote democratic values and respect for human rights.

Possible measures include:

- Dissolving Nazi organisations.
- Banning Nazi symbols and propaganda.
- Removing teachers, judges, police officers, and administrators with strong Nazi ties.
- Reforming education and media to challenge extremist beliefs and encourage democratic participation.

Delegates must assess how extensive these measures should be and whether they can be effectively implemented without disrupting governance.

Punishing War Criminals: Leniency vs Harshness

A major ethical question concerns how severely those responsible for Nazi crimes should be punished.

A targeted approach focuses on trying major war criminals and senior Nazi officials. This upholds the principle of individual guilt but may allow some perpetrators to avoid punishment or later regain influence.

A broader approach seeks to remove and punish a much larger number of individuals associated with Nazi institutions. While this demonstrates a stronger break from the past, it may weaken already fragile administrative systems and create resentment among the population.

Delegates must determine how justice can be pursued without undermining long-term stability.

Trials, Tribunals, and Legal Foundations

The Allies broadly agree that major Nazi leaders should face formal trials. These tribunals can establish a legal and historical record of crimes, including aggressive war, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Different Allied powers may emphasise different aspects of Nazi wrongdoing, but all must consider how legal proceedings can both deliver justice and reinforce the principles of a new international order.

Refugees, Survivors, and Humanitarian Concerns

Refugees, returning prisoners of war, displaced persons, and concentration camp survivors present both moral and practical challenges. Many have lost their homes, families, and livelihoods, while resources remain scarce.

Delegates must consider how humanitarian assistance should be distributed and how the needs of victims can be balanced with those of the wider German civilian population.

The Allies' Moral Responsibilities for Germany's Future

Beyond addressing past crimes, the Allies must decide how Germany's future should be shaped. Schools, courts, media, and political institutions may need significant reform to promote respect for human dignity, the rule of law, and democratic governance.

At the same time, the Allies must avoid creating the conditions that could fuel future extremism. Excessive humiliation, instability, or economic hardship may undermine the very peace they seek to build.

Ethical reconstruction, therefore, requires a careful balance: punishing grave crimes without condemning an entire population, dismantling a destructive regime without destroying the capacity for self-government, and pursuing justice without creating new grievances. The decisions made in 1945 will shape both Germany's future and the credibility of the post-war international order.

Historical Alternatives

While the Allies ultimately pursued a specific course of reconstruction, many other proposals were debated in 1945. Some were seriously considered by policymakers, while others remained controversial alternatives. These proposals reflected differing views on security, justice, economic recovery, and Germany's future role in Europe. Delegates may explore these alternatives, assess their potential consequences, and consider whether different decisions could have produced a more stable post-war settlement.

- Complete removal of Germany's industrial and manufacturing capacity, turning the country into a mainly agricultural state to prevent future military production and provide compensation to Eastern Bloc countries for their wartime losses.
- Introduction of a new unified German currency, or permanent use of the U.S. Dollar and the Allied Military (AM) Mark, to completely rebuild and stabilise Germany's economy.
- Adoption of strict punishment policies based on collective guilt, making the wider German population face major legal and economic consequences instead of holding only wartime leaders responsible.
- Transfer of major industrial and resource-rich regions, such as the Ruhr and Saar valleys, to direct Allied control, placing their industries, minerals, and infrastructure under Allied administration rather than German authority.
- Creation of a unified Germany with one central government and one banking system, allowing both the Eastern and Western blocs to pursue their interests without permanently dividing the country.
- Strict Allied monitoring of local German governments, including political oversight and surveillance, to ensure full compliance with new democratic and economic reforms.
 - Holding German scientists and academics legally accountable, by investigating, trying, and punishing those who contributed to the Nazi war effort, alongside military and political leaders, without granting immunity for scientific expertise.



International organisations faced the challenge of feeding, housing, and repatriating millions of displaced persons.

PRESENT GROUND REALITY

Germany in June 1945 is a nation in crisis. Less than a month has passed since its unconditional surrender on 8 May 1945, and only a day has gone by since the Berlin Declaration formally gave supreme authority over Germany to the United States, United Kingdom, Soviet Union, and France. The Nazi state has ended, Adolf Hitler is dead, and no recognised German national government exists. Political power now belongs entirely to the occupying forces.

Major cities like Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne, and Dresden have experienced extensive destruction from bombing and ground combat. Housing shortages are severe, public utilities only work sporadically, and transportation systems remain heavily damaged. The humanitarian situation is also dire. Millions of civilians face shortages of food, fuel, and medical supplies. In addition to the German population, there are many displaced persons, freed concentration camp survivors, refugees, and prisoners of war waiting to return home.

Germany's economy is stalled. Industrial production has plummeted, with many factories destroyed, dismantled, or unable to work because of a lack of labour, raw materials, and transport links. Coal production remains low, despite urgent demand, while agricultural output struggles to meet basic needs. The Reichsmark still circulates but lacks public confidence, and no clear Allied policy on currency reform has been settled yet. Meanwhile, discussions continue regarding reparations and how much to restrict German industry to avoid future military threats.

Germany's political future is uncertain. Allied authorities are starting the denazification process, aiming to remove Nazi influence from public institutions while keeping enough administrative capacity to govern effectively. Issues like prosecuting war criminals, rebuilding democratic institutions, and eventually restoring German self-governance remain unresolved.

At the same time, growing differences are emerging among the Allied powers. While everyone agrees that Germany must be disarmed and prevented from becoming a threat to international peace again, they disagree on how reconstruction should happen. The Soviet Union wants security through significant influence in Eastern Europe and heavy reparations, while the Western Allies are increasingly focused on political stability, economic recovery, and democratic governance. These differing priorities are beginning to affect policy within the occupation zones and may shape Germany's future.

As delegates meet on 6 June 1945, Germany finds itself at a turning point. The choices made about justice, governance, economic recovery, and sovereignty will not only affect the future of a defeated nation; they will also influence the political and security landscape of post-war Europe for many years.

CONCLUSION AND EXPECTATIONS

Conclusion

The Allied Reconstruction Assembly is an opportunity to examine how countries rebuild after devastating conflicts. Delegates are not simply revisiting history; they are exploring the difficult decisions that shaped post-war Germany, influenced the emergence of the Cold War, and tested the effectiveness of international cooperation in reconstruction. As this study guide has shown, reconstruction is not just about rebuilding cities and economies—it is also about making political, social, and moral choices that affect millions of people and can have long-lasting consequences.

Within this Assembly, every decision—whether related to governance, economic recovery, justice, or security—requires delegates to balance stability with freedom, accountability with reconciliation, and Allied control with German self-governance. The central challenge is determining how far occupying powers should go in reshaping a defeated nation while still allowing it to eventually govern itself. Although this committee focuses on Germany in 1945, the questions it raises remain relevant to post-conflict reconstruction efforts around the world today.

Expectations

You are expected to walk into this committee with a clear grasp of your country's history, interests, and limits in post-war Europe. You should know what your state has suffered, what it demands, what it fears, and what outcomes it can realistically secure in an occupied Germany.

You are expected to think beyond a textbook retelling of 1945 to 1949. You must identify what your country can bargain for, what it is prepared to trade away, and which partners it needs inside this Assembly to turn plans into policy. Your preparation should give you enough material to negotiate, not just enough to repeat what actually happened.

You are expected to use formal debate, caucuses, and draft resolutions as tools, but not as monotonous routine procedures. You will build coalitions, compete with other plans, and operate inside a room where Allied unity is fragile and time is tight. You are expected to keep decorum, follow the Rules of Procedure, and treat every speech, point, and paper as a chance to move the committee forward instead of filling the speakers' list.

You will have to improvise, extemporise, and think on your feet when plans fall apart, speak without notes, and act even when you do not have all the info you want. You are expected to treat the background guide as a starting point and then dig deeper into archival material, scholarship, and primary sources so that your choices in committee rest on real history.

Above all, you are expected to take risks. You are invited to reshape the story you know, within the bounds of plausibility, and to test what happens when your country pushes harder, concedes earlier, or

allies differently. This committee gives you room to be inventive while still grounded in fact, and you are expected to use that room fully. This is your conference- be bold enough to make your own mistakes, write your own narratives, and be as creative and imaginative as you can (within realistic limits)

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. How do we separate the actual masterminds of the regime from ordinary citizens who just went along with it to survive?
2. Where do you draw the line between punishment and giving people a chance to rebuild?
3. What is our concrete plan to overhaul the school and legal systems to permanently root out dangerous ideologies and teach a broken population how democracy works?
4. What kind of government structure can we build for Germany that gives people freedom but ensures another extremist or radical faction can never legally hijack the state?
5. What is the immediate plan to launch a stable new currency?
6. How do we deal with the differences between the Eastern and Western blocs?
7. How will the committee manage the political and humanitarian integration of millions of ethnic Germans displaced from the east?
8. How will agricultural production be sustained to prevent mass starvation?
9. How will the Allies secure, allocate, and distribute vital resources across the occupied zones?
10. How will the Allies dismantle Nazi propaganda while ensuring a free and democratic press is established?

KEYWORDS

Post-war reconstruction: The broad set of political, economic, and social measures taken after a conflict to rebuild institutions, infrastructure, and society, and to prevent a return to violence.

Allied occupation: The temporary control and administration of a defeated or liberated territory by Allied powers, often used to disarm former regimes, supervise reforms, and guarantee security during the transition period.

Transitional governance: Interim political arrangements (such as provisional governments, caretaker administrations, or international authorities) that manage a territory between the end of conflict and the establishment of a more permanent constitutional order.

Constitutional reform: The process of drafting, amending, or replacing a constitution to redefine the distribution of power, rights, and responsibilities in a post-conflict state, often to address grievances that contributed to the war.

State-building: Efforts to strengthen or (re)create core institutions of the state—such as the executive, legislature, judiciary, bureaucracy, and security forces—so they can legitimately exercise authority, provide services, and maintain order.

Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration: A sequence of measures in which former fighters hand over their weapons (disarmament), are formally released from armed units (demobilisation), and are assisted in returning to civilian life through support such as jobs, education, or relocation (reintegration).

Reparations: Measures taken to repair, as far as possible, the harm caused by conflict or mass abuses, which can include financial compensation, restitution of property, public apologies, or symbolic acts recognising victims' suffering.

Trusteeship / international oversight: Arrangements in which an external actor (such as a group of Allied states or an international organisation) exercises temporary authority or supervision over a territory's administration and reforms, with the stated aim of preparing it for self-government.

Peacebuilding: Long-term efforts to address the root causes of conflict and strengthen structures that support peaceful relations, including inclusive politics, economic opportunity, justice systems, and reconciliation initiatives.

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