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Winston Churchill

Great Personality of the Big Three

Bachelor Thesis

UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS IN BRATISLAVA
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Great Personality of the Big Three

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Declaration

I hereby declare, that I have elaborated the final thesis independently and I have listed all the literature used.

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ABSTRAKT

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Práca sa zameriava na pôsobenie Winstona Churchilla vo Veľkej Trojke v čase, keď prebiehala druhá svetová vojna a Británia bojovala na strane spojencov proti Nemecku. Chcem priblížiť vplyv a významnosť osoby, britského premiéra Churchilla v rámci jednotlivých konferencií v Teheráne, Jalte a Postupime a poukázať na vývin vzájomných vzťahov medzi predstaviteľmi – Rooseveltom a Stalinom, čo patrí aj medzi hlavný cieľ bakalárskej práce. V mojej práci stručne spomínam tiež Churchillov politický život po druhej svetovej vojne, teda jeho pôsobenie, keď ešte nebol britský premiér, jeho zlyhania a kritiku zo strany verejnosti. Práca je rozdelená do piatich kapitol. Metodikou mojej práce bola podrobná historická analýza a opis tejto problematiky.

Kľúčové slová: Winston Churchill, Veľká Trojka, Teheránska konferencia, Postupimská konferencia, Jaltská konferencia, britský premiér, druhá svetová vojna

ABSTRACT

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The bachelor thesis focuses on Winston Churchill's activity as part of the Big Three in time, when Great Britain fought on the side of the Allies against Germany in the World War II. The aim of my thesis is also to describe the importance of his figure at conferences held by the Big Three – in Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam, and mutual relationships among representatives of the Big Three. I also analyze his political career before the WWII, when he was not the British Prime Minister, followed by the consequences of his critics. The thesis is divided into five chapters. The methodology of my work includes very detailed analysis and a thorough insight into the subject's problematics.

Key words: Winston Churchill, The Big Three, Tehran Conference, Yalta Conference, Potsdam Conference, British Prime Minister, World War II.

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INTRODUCTION

Winston Churchill belongs to one of the most important personalities ever concerning the 20th century. Churchill's name is associated with the image of "the best leader during the Second World War", which is not only a term but definitely a fact. British nation was not a matter of indifference to him. Churchill entered politics already in the year, 1900, since he had changed many political seats and views on politics. Firstly, he represented the Conservative Party. Later he joined the Liberal Party as feeling an urgent need to help indigent people. Now, it was possible to negotiate the same rights as other classes. Besides, Churchill participated in fighting for women's rights. In spite of a huge wave of criticism because of catastrophe in Dardanelles in the year 1915. Churchill was elected Prime Minister of Great Britain after the outbreak of the World War II. For Great Britain, it was the best that could come. Churchill was aware that in order to defeat Nazi Germany, it was necessary to join the United States of America and the Soviet Union. The Grand Alliance was created thanks to him. However, a long and complex process preceded the origin of collaboration. But all members of the Big Three had a common goal - to win over Germany. The establishment of Anglo-American cooperation was much easier for Churchill, due to the same language, similar political systems, and cultures. Moreover, the then President F. D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister of Great Britain Winston Churchill shared a close and friendly relationship. Therefore, Great Britain and the US collaborated long before the formation of the "Big Three". On the other hand, connection with the third side of the Grand Alliance was more difficult as Winston Churchill criticized communism in the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, he tried to ignore the hateful attitude towards the Soviet Union during the five years of the war. Churchill attended several meetings with members of the Big Three besides the main conferences in Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam. It can be concluded, that defeat of the Axis was a sufficient motivational factor with completely different political systems, opinions, ideologies, and partners.

This thesis deals with Winston Churchill as a significant personality of the Big Three. It is divided into five main chapters based on time periods in Churchill's life.

The first chapter provides a brief overview of Winston Churchill's rise from his birth until the year, 1939. The part of this chapter is focused on Churchill's first engagement in politics. The main aim is to abstract his journey to a political career, how he got into politics. It demonstrates, that Churchill's interest stems mainly from the family background. Another part of the chapter focuses on the political life of Winston until the Second World War. It

illustrates his change in views on politics. This chapter is describing his greatest failure, the main reason for his criticism.

The second chapter demonstrates the period of the Second World War. The primary goal is to describe the creation of the Grand Alliance and members of the Big Three. The relationship between President F. D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister of Great Britain is a necessary part of its origin. Therefore, it provides an outline of meeting and collaborating with President Roosevelt. Pathway to the first conference of the Big Three is part of the chapter as well.

The third chapter focuses on the first official meeting of all three members of the Big Three, which happened in Tehran. It illustrates Winston Churchill's wishes on post-war Europe, the *Operation Overload*, and outcomes of the conference.

The fourth chapter is dealing with *the Yalta Conference*. It describes Churchill's worries about Poland's destiny. Part of the chapter is the final victory of the Allies in Europe, generally known as VE Day.

The fifth chapter with a description of the last *Potsdam Conference* and post-war life of Winston Churchill is closing this bachelor thesis. What happened after the war ended? It points out Churchill's political life after he lost the elections.

The methodology of the thesis comprises of two major sets of methodological tools. These tools which are used in the thesis are analytical and descriptive. The work does not include the practical part of the research. This may be argued by the fact that the work looks into the depth of historical data and its outcomes. Instead of collecting information from quantitative data sources, the author uses a qualitative type of research. Resources such as historical reviews, books, or scientific articles were analysed and relevant information was implemented in the thesis. This data arise from the detailed and comprehensive analysis of Winston Churchill's importance in the Big Three what is also the author's major aim of the work. The thesis describes the whole overview of Churchill's political career to better understand his views and decision-making and as well as thinking. Overall, the methodology of the work focuses on the person of Winston Churchill in a chronological and descriptive concept. A precise analysis of his personality is provided from a perspective of an individual person, but the core aim is to research, uncover and examine Churchill's personality as a leader, public figure or as a politician, during the Second World War and his impact on the Grand Alliance while maintaining close contacts with F.D. Roosevelt and J.V. Stalin. These

relationships, as it is understood, later on, were vital for building the Alliance. This was a significant step for multiple reasons, one of them being the urgency to stop the expansion of Nazi Germany.

1 PRE-POLITIC ERA

In order to truly understand Mr. Churchill, it is vital to look at his background from early life. Therefore, this chapter uncovers aspects that shaped Churchill before he entered the world of politics. Only this way, one may grasp a precise and an overall picture of what kind of a man and a human Winston Churchill was.

1.1 Early Life

Winston Churchill was born on 30 November 1874, into an extremely influential and wealthy group of people who dominated in social and political life at that time, and therefore his way of life was mostly influenced by the people he spent time with from this circle. Winston was born to Jennie Jerome, a rich American heir and Lord Randolph Churchill a young English aristocrat. He remained a confident aristocrat throughout his life, deeply devoted to his family.

Winston was a neglected child even by the standards of aristocratic families at that time. Like other children of prerogative families, Winston was also raised by nurses but many of them gave notice in a voluntary way because of his troublesome and knavish behaviour apart from Mrs. Everest who loved him like her own child. His parents did not have much time for their children because of their career and Churchill, therefore, did not meet his parents very often. The one thing his parents provided was financial support. Winston had been enthusiastic about wooden soldiers since his childhood. Finally, his father had allowed him to enter the military class.

Winston had to go to the boarding school in Ascot at the age of seven. His behaviour at school was extremely problematic according to his teachers. And in spite of this, teachers thought that Winston was talented. However, he was associated with the group of worst students due to his erratic behaviour. Churchill's father, one of the most popular politicians had sent him a letter expressing remorse for his academic achievement. The letter affected him very much. Winston felt the need, to convince his father of his abilities and to prove to him that the views contained in his letter were mistaken. It was one of the main incentives (Ponting, 1994). Winston had decided to start preparing for Harrow School when he turned thirteen years (Norman, 1995).

In 1895, Winston's father together with his devoted nursemaid Mrs. Everest died. This period was very difficult and tough for him. On the other hand, he grew into a man due to these difficult life situations. He achieved the greatest success in horse riding so far and then decided to join the 4th Hussar Regiment after graduating from the riding school. From that moment on, the door to his military career opened although it was from the very lowest level (Truchanovskij, 1984).

1.2 Pathway to the Political Career

Churchill lived in poverty at the beginning of his independent life. Money played an important role in his lifetime, so he had started to save money even before he started his political career. And Churchill himself often stated, that his high position in the power of the state was exactly thanks to his effort (Truchanovskij, 1986).

At the beginning, Churchill's career in the army was merely an intermediate step towards a major career in politics. Of the five years he spent in military service, he had spent a much more interesting way like devoting himself to more attractive activities rather than drifting around the battlefields in the far ends of the empire. He was engaged in journalism and later he rose himself to become a war correspondent. He was afraid of his untimely death, and that drove him to leave behind immense actions. He could have tried luck in politics after his father's death, but he did not have enough money, and without that, doing a political career was impossible. He lacked the so-called liberal education, and because of that, he was very disadvantaged (Truchanovskij, 1986).

His fame began to spread the following years in 1895 when he was only 21 years old. Churchill went to America in 1896 and took part in events such as the conquest of Sudan for the next four years, witnessing fighting in Cuba and South Africa (Norman, 1995). Churchill was imprisoned after the outbreak of the war in South Africa for the reason that he behaved not as a journalist but as a soldier. He succeeded in escaping from prison and after that went back to Natal, where he decided to participate in the fighting again (Mazúrek, 2002).

He was able to write in the London newspapers *The Daily Graphic* thanks to the post of war correspondent and attendant of these events. This allowed him to be famous exactly as he always wanted. Winston firstly visited the United States of America - New York on the way from Cuba. He was fully aware of the importance to maintain friendly contacts with the Americans, but he was upset that one day the United States of America would be

dominant all over the world. Even though very hesitantly, he had to sail to Mumbai together with the 4th Hussar Regiment in the year 1896 as the situation there was getting worse. His life was going down the hill according to young Winston. He stayed in India until the spring of the year 1899. Winston was there basically for the reason just to be elected to the parliament while spending time by self-education (Norman, 1995).

Churchill was of the opinion that history must include only notable and brilliant personalities and believed he was one of them. Thanks to his determination and faith were his first steps connected to the joining of the Parliament. For all that, it was truly confirmed, and Winston became a famous personality at the turn of the century in three years (Truchanovskij, 1986).

1.3 Life Until WWII

Sir Winston Churchill worked in politics for more than 60 years (from 1900 until June 1964). Churchill's views on politics had been changing as time was passing. At first, he wanted to enter politics as a liberal, since views of conservative party members were considered to be outdated for Churchill. The aim was to build a strong warship for Britain while refusing women's suffrage and enforce international trade among states. Therefore, the main concern was to enforce free trade (Gilbert, 2002).

Unfortunately, it ended in a great failure, when Mr. Churchill firstly wanted to enter politics in 1899. Until a job in Oldham, he had worked as a war correspondent in South Africa alongside the Boer War. During the stay here, young Winston had survived a prison escape, in which he was held. Finally, door to the Parliament in Oldham, Lancashire has opened, at the general election in 1900. However, instead of joining politics as a liberal, Churchill started his political career as a conservative Member of Parliament. Winston was only 26 years old at that time. During this period, the attention was leaning towards the undemocratic political system. The majority of the population could not vote in the elections at that time period. Only 40% of the men could vote and women were not allowed to vote at all. The conservatives had been in power at that time since 1895 when Lord Salisbury was the Prime Minister for the third time. Next, Salisbury was followed by his nephew, Arthur J. Balfour, who was elected in 1902. After the initial success, Balfour's government was greatly weakened and therefore, could not solve the incoming problems (Gilbert, 2002).

Over time, the Liberal Party seemed more and more competent and effective to Churchill and his connections with conservatives were becoming extremely dissentious. This was happening, while the British parliament had been solving the problem of tariff act and reconstruction of the army, which on the other hand, were not the main points of interest for Churchill. He wanted to fix the economy and social issues. He often criticized his party and Salisbury's plan for the reformation of the army and started to see his future more realistic on the side of the Liberals. Fully devoted to the idea of free trade, Churchill decided to switch from Conservative to Liberal Party. In 1902, the law on the introduction of a levy on imported corn, flour, and cereals were voted on, which would also provide for its own source of income. Churchill was not against, due to his passion for free trade, but he strongly denoted his dislike to protectionism. However, a conflict had arisen with Chamberlain in 1903, because Churchill aimed to introduce strong protectionism in the economy (Gilbert, 2002).

In 1904, Winston Churchill stood as a candidate and a month later he definitely joined the Liberal Party. Later, he was appointed as undersecretary at the Colonial Office of Sir Henry Campbell- Bannerman's government. He also accepted this post because he was relatively well versed in it. Lloyd George became the Minister of Finance, with whom Churchill started to establish a comradeship. Winston became the president of the Board of Trade in Herbert Asquith's administration in March 1908. With a new position, a number of new reforms have been put in practice, including compulsory unemployment insurance. In 1909, Churchill established The Trade Boards Act, thanks to which he introduced minimum wages in industries, where most women had been working for low pay. Among other things, the man himself has influenced the reduction of the length of some sentences and has made people retire after the age of 65 and not the age of 70. Winston also introduced reforms that helped to create the Welfare state (Mazúrek, 2002).

Churchill became a Home Secretary in 1910 when the liberals were back at the power (Toye, 2017). A year later, he was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty in 1911-1915. In this capacity, young Churchill took the view that it was necessary to modernize and develop the British navy, as the war was about to come and the German navy continued to make progress (Mazúrek, 2002). He was commissioned to push Turkey out of the Dardanelles war in 1915. Unfortunately, this plan was unsuccessful, and he was refused to continue with this function in the next election. Winston began to devote himself mostly to what he enjoyed after this great catastrophe, and that was painting. He took a break for only four years with

a political career and later became the Minister of War and Aviation for two years. Britain was able to develop air force thanks to him. Later, he lost his seat in parliament again in 1922 and spent the next two years writing his famous memoirs. Winston Churchill was Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1924 to 1929 (Toye, 2017).

According to the information above, we can say that Winston Churchill changed his political attitudes and opinions frequently. He replaced many political positions and seats in parliament with occasional breaks for his failure or criticism.

1.4 The Dark Side of Winston Churchill

“All men make mistakes, but only wise men learn from their mistakes” W. Churchill (Diaz, 2008, p. 88).

Despite the fact Winston Churchill helped the world from the horrible times of war and was known as a great man and especially a leader, with his strong-mindedness to never give in and fight on, he also suffered from a huge storm of criticism due to his failures. As a well-known quote says, *“to err is human”*, means to pardon the person of his/her failure. This was not the case for some individuals. Many prominent figures, excellent rulers, or powerful kings and queens have caused some kind of undoing in the eyes of the public, which seemed inexcusable. This time, it was Mr. Churchill, who stepped over the line. Therefore, as natural as it is, there had to be someone responsible for the unfortunate aftermath, someone, to point a finger at, someone to blame, who would carry the shame. And who else could be considered as guilty, other than Mr. Churchill, with so much power, influence, and public recognition?

1.5 Disaster on Gallipoli

Churchill was engaged in a lot of fights and war campaigns during the First World War. Causation of his criticism mostly includes *The Gallipoli Campaign* which was a tremendous loss, mostly for the Allies. This campaign was led by Mr. Winston Churchill, who was the First Lord of the Admiralty at that time. This incidence, where a great many people were killed from Great Britain, Australia and not to forget New Zealand became one of the most tragic battles of the First World War. The initial aim of this campaign starting in April, 25th, 1915 was an absolute surrender of Turkey. For the first phase of the operation,

Churchill considered the attack on the Gallipoli Peninsula, where the main place of interest would be Constantinople. This was even before the British government was at war with Turkey. Churchill suggested attack on the weakest ally of the Central Powers – the Ottoman Empire. His strategy was to break through the Dardanelles with a fleet to conquer Constantinople, to remove the Ottomans out of the battle, in order to ease the force on Russia. This way, Great Britain would have an open pathway through the Black Sea to supply the Russian army with rifles and ammunition, who were in a great scars of such inventory in battles against the Germans from the eastern side (History.com Editors, 2020). Another reason to defeat the Turkish-Ottoman army, would be to involve Greece, Bulgaria and Romania into the war and get them on the side of the Treaty. The way to attack the Turks should have been fully prepared. Unfortunately, it did not work out. It all failed on November, 3rd, two days before the declaration of the war in Turkey, when Churchill as First Lord of the Admiralty commanded a bombing attack on the fortress in Dardanelles. Around 180,000 victims were recorded on the side of the Treaty all over the beaches of the Gallipoli Peninsula, also due to various infectious diseases. One of the advantageous aspects of the Turkish defence was the support from German officers, led by General Eric Liman von Sanders (Mackenzie, 2020). The causes of the loss are considered insufficiency of weaponry and mistakes in tactics on the side of the British and French authorities. Allies paid such a high price in number of lives of soldiers, without any sight of Constantinople (Johnson, 2014).

This fight affected Winston's career for many years. First Lord of the Admiralty resigned from the government after such unsuccessful battle. He left to France for a business purposes to support the battalion at the Western Front as an infantry officer, after the shocking disaster in Dardanelles (History.com Editors, 2020). This chapter of his life was possibly the most painful. He convinced himself with the fact that his political career was over. His name was connected with gossiping about the intrigue of the reorganization of the government. Still, this huge failure did not force Churchill to put an end to his career (Johnson, 2014).

2 THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Churchill was one of the first politicians to predict the imminent threat of Nazi Germany when already in 1933, he pointed out how badly Hitler, who had been German Chancellor for only two months, was dealing with minorities in Germany (Gilbert, 2002). Therefore, Churchill was increasingly needed and important, when the war was about to break out in 1939. It was clear to British politicians that Churchill had to return to politics, despite the great failure in Gallipoli. Mr. Churchill had already assumed during this time-period that Italy, led by Mussolini, would be on the side of Germany and that Hitler would try to conquer territories such as Poland. Another of Churchill's assumptions was that Hitler, even though he had allied with the USSR, would eventually attack the Soviets (Gilbert, 2002). It may be said that Churchill's intuition was appropriate, assuming majority of the events quite accurately. Within this period time Great Britain still had no thought-out strategic plan in case of invasion (Churchill, 1999).

World War II officially began on September 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland after it broke off secret negotiations with Great Britain and France. Great Britain and France declared war to Germany two days later, on September 3, 1939. Churchill was appointed the first Lord of the Admiralty on the same day and that gave him further hope (Pečenka a kol., 1999). Great Britain had numerical superiority over Germany concerning the Navy, though was not so advanced, Germans had more modern technologies (Gilbert, 2002).

He became the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, in 1940. As he was appointed the Prime Minister of Great Britain as 65 years old he gave a masterful speech to his nation: *"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering. You ask, what is our policy? I can say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. This is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory, there is no survival"* (Winston Churchill, House of Commons, 13 May 1940 (DeMarco, 2013, 142p.). For the nation it was a hope for a better future.

"I felt as if I were walking with destiny, and that all my past life had been a preparation for this hour and for this trial." (Eldredge, 2009, 69p.) Winston Churchill described his start to

the post of prime minister later in 1940 with these words and we can assume, he was talking about his mistakes including the above-mentioned *Battle of Gallipoli*.

2.1 The Big Three

Great Britain joined France after the well-known *Battle of Britain*. *The Battle of Britain* lasted (July 10 until October 31, 1940). This was the first battle taking a place between the German Luftwaffe and the British Royal Air Force after the Fall of France on June 20, 1940. It was the very first time Hitler has encountered with a defeat on a battlefield (Klein, 2020). So, the United Kingdom was not alone in this struggle. It already had one “Ally”. Relations with France, therefore, were good during WWII. However, their relations were not like this until the war. The main problem was conflicts of various kinds, especially over the leading position in Europe. This changed on September, 3th, 1939. From that date, France and Great Britain were on the same side against Nazi Germany (Nálevka, 2007).

However, the war could not be won, if they were in an alliance only in such a formation. Winston Churchill himself was very well aware of this. He, therefore, decided to ask for help. Churchill thought that with the help of the United States of America they could together defeat Germany since he had well-established contacts there. He perceived the US in a completely different way than the Soviet Union. He thought such a co-operation could benefit both countries. A political system, common language, countries with similar cultures were aspects, which Churchill saw as a good pretext to form an Anglo-American alliance (Rees, 2011).

At that time, the British Prime Minister had in mind that in order to win the war as soon as possible, the communist Soviet Union must join the side of Great Britain. Churchill tried to establish a relationship with the Soviet Union even before the war. It is known that Churchill had always been an anti-communist. He was well aware of what kind of collaboration he wanted to establish. Despite this fact, Churchill wanted to make contact with countries that were not according to his taste. Due to the main reason, just to bring peace into the world as quickly as possible (Rees, 2011).

And why was Churchill aware that he had to continue collaborating with the Soviet Union in order to defeat Germany? He was mainly convinced by the fact that Soviet troops were strong enough to defeat the Nazis. Later on, during the war, Churchill’s prediction about the Russian army’s strength was proven by their victory over the Germans in the Battle

of Stalingrad. Germany's defeat had been considered impossible until then. It was this event that strengthened the faith in Winston Churchill and the necessity to continue the alliance with the Soviet Union. On the other hand, the Soviet Union would have joined Germany, if Great Britain had not united with the USSR. Such an act would be a clear victory for Germany and its Axis. As already stated, Churchill was an anti-communist. Communism represented something against freedom to him. Prime Minister of Great Britain could not allow spreading the rules of this regime to other parts of the world. So, the reduction of spreading communism after the war was another reason for collaboration with Russia. Churchill thought that doing so could be at least partially limited by joining them. However, the first attempt to contact the Soviet Union was unsuccessful and Churchill knew that it will not be so easy. Stalin would not be satisfied only with the so-called mutual agreement. He had to be sure and wanted to have it on "paper". It was a long process until the beginning of the co-operation between the Soviet Union and Great Britain. British Prime Minister, however, did not give up. Finally, they signed collaboration or better said the alliance in 1942. Churchill did not only convinced himself but also Stalin by the then current war situation. The main holder and motivator of the alliance was the joint fight against the Axis (Rees, 2011).

So, after all, the three great Allied powers (Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States of America) created *the Grand Alliance* that led to victory. However, it was not as easy as all partners did not share mutual political intentions and did not agree on various things including a strategy for winning the war. Churchill and Roosevelt worked together for some time, when the US joined the war, in 1941. However, cooperation began on common action between Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin after the Soviet Union entered the war.

2.2 Members of The Big Three

Firstly, to understand an alliance between members of the Big Three, it is necessary to describe personalities of other two members, their lives, and destiny.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt representing the Big Three on the side of the United States of America was elected as President and resided in the White House for four terms, from 1933 to 1945. He was a significant person for his personal qualities, bravery, and tremendous inner strength to overcome challenging physical problems. He was a naturally

optimistic man. His political profile strongly indicated the political system of capitalist society and the bourgeois political environment in which he lived and worked. F.D. Roosevelt strove to influence this system according to his own ideas and opinions throughout his life. He began to realize the incoming danger that threatened the world by fascists already in the mid-thirties. The American President was one of the first significant statesmen to come to the conclusion with the only possible solution of the coexistence of different political systems. He tried for calm cooperation. F.D. Roosevelt contributed to the abolition of US isolationism and the establishment of cooperation with the Soviet Union. His importance and greatness of a statesman lie mainly in the fact that he was one of the main initiators of the anti-fascist coalition that contributed to its victory. He contributed to the establishment of the United Nations as well and sought peaceful coexistence among nations. Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt was a man, a politician, and a statesman completely open and accessible to knowledge, a man who was constantly learning from political experience and who was literally perceived by all his senses. At the same time, F.D. Roosevelt was patient and devoted to his work. He entered the Second World War with the United States on December 7th, 1941, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. Roosevelt was elected as president for the fourth time in 1944. Unfortunately, Franklin D. Roosevelt died shortly before the end of World War II after the second Big Three conference (Blahož, 1983).

Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin represented the Big Three on the side of the Soviet Union. This, less admired man by Winston Churchill was also called a *Man of steel* (Churchill, 1999). He was born on December 18, 1879. Stalin was totally different in comparison to the other members of the Big Three. He was guilty of millions of deaths of his own nation. Churchill and Roosevelt attempted to establish a relationship with Stalin. Stalin, however, had constantly been using his active life as an excuse, claiming he had to be 'at home' at the Russian front. In point of a fact, he was afraid of flying as he has never gone further than one hundred miles away off the front (Worrall, 2020). Stalin's health had gone worse at the beginning of the year 1950, until he died on March 5, 1953. Even though he made Russia a superpower, he was regarded to be a holder of the horrible message of death and horror (Biography.com Editors, 2020).

The Second World War joined the three great powers into one big anti-Hitler association, whose interests, politics, especially their views on the post-war organization of Europe were totally dissimilar. The Alliance of the above-stated members was represented by several meetings and conferences. The preparation of meetings was extremely difficult.

Let us try to imagine the situation when the war broke through and leaders of countries must have striven for finding a good place for conferences, good conditions, in which there had been no danger for them. The most important political and military agreements were adopted on all important issues of post-war Europe at those meetings. Such sessions but also a description of completely different personalities of the Big Three had shown that the cooperation of different systems was possible. The Soviet Union wanted to spread communism into more countries by defeating Germany. On the other hand, Churchill wanted complete reconstruction of the whole of Great Britain, France, and defeated Germany. Roosevelt wished to achieve world peace and therefore demanded the withdrawal of his troops from Europe. Later, neither the president nor the Americans themselves agreed on it. Mr. President of the United States of America demanded Great Britain to take over the police activities of Europe after the War (Dukes, 2017).

2.3 W. Churchill & F.D. Roosevelt

An essential part is to describe and explain the relationship between Mr. Churchill, and Mr. Roosevelt due to their common interests, good relations, and an extraordinary friendship as Churchill himself once described. He recorded their first common meeting with the following words: *“Meeting Franklin Roosevelt was like opening your first bottle of champagne; knowing him was like drinking it”* (Miller, 2014, 51p.). Relationship between Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt plays, therefore, a crucial role for the beginning of *the Grand Alliance*. Their friendship, however, began to disintegrate in the last year of the war as will be later described.

Churchill and Roosevelt maintained quite friendly relations from the beginning of their meeting. We can consider the start of the World War II as the basis of their actual relationship. However, they had already met before in London, in 1918. Firstly, Roosevelt complained about Churchill's origins. Even the British Member of Parliament's (MP's) speech on the production of military equipment was not successful in Roosevelt's eyes and other Americans. But many things have changed since their first meeting. Roosevelt became president and well-experienced Churchill also changed many political seats. President Roosevelt experienced hard times because of the financial crisis in Wall Street, which influenced the whole world. Roosevelt did not give up and created the program *New Deal*, by which he tried to moderate the terrible consequences of the crisis. This situation was replaced by an even more disastrous one - The Second World War. Churchill was at the peak

of his political career at this time as he became Minister of the Navy. From now on, Churchill and Roosevelt were more in touch as Roosevelt asked Churchill to establish and maintain their contacts and demanded detailed information about the course of the war. The two shared common interests, especially in the Navy sector, but they exchanged information mainly about the progress of the war (Brož, 2010). Germany did not stop with the expansion of their fighting. After France was forced to capitulate, Great Britain did not know what would happen next. The sudden outcome for hopeless Great Britain was an immediate call for aid from the United States of America. Mr. Churchill demanded the US to enter the war, but the response was negative. Later, as the multinational conflict was rising, Britain was attacked as well, as one of the major world powers from the side of the Allies (Alldritt - Pilátová, 1997). Churchill asked Roosevelt for help again but it was not so easy, because of the American laws. Finally, Americans made a compromise, when Great Britain left the US military bases in *Bermuda* and *Newfoundland*. The US did not interfere in the combat from the very beginning of the war. Due to the high debts of the United Kingdom from the previous World War I, the United States were only able to lend weapons or to provide tools, items, facilities, and other supplies for the production of the weapons. For now, this was the only support the Allies have gotten in the fight against Germans. The relationship between Churchill and Roosevelt became more and more established. At the same time, the US also profited from providing weapons and tools to Great Britain. It suited them, as Americans were still suffering from the crisis (Brož, 2010). Great Britain led by Churchill finally prospered when they achieved to sink the German ship called *Bismarck*. The President of the United States himself congratulated Churchill on this success. Churchill did not stop to persuade Roosevelt to join the Allies and engage in the War against the opposite side. President's decision did not change, and the US remained silent on the entire subject, only engaging in a supportive role of Allies (Bercuson-Holger, 20007).

Churchill's hope increased in June 1941, when Germany invaded the Soviet Union, known as *Operation Barbarossa*. On the same day, Churchill announced his intention to accept the Soviet Union as a partner against Germany. The current Prime Minister of Britain did not disappoint by his speech again and delivered a master performance. Sir Winston Churchill did not hesitate and immediately began with help for the Soviet Union. Though, it was not such help, which Stalin would have imagined. The Soviet Union asked the British to open further two fronts beyond the Arctic Circle and northern France, but for Churchill it was inconceivable. Despite the fact, Stalin demanded to open the Western Front since 1943,

they did not open it immediately. The aim of opening the Western Front was to divide German troops in order to fight not only in the East but also in the West. This issue was discussed at several subsequent negotiations and meetings between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt (Bercuson – Holger, 2007).

The other side of the future *Grand Alliance*, the Soviet Union, was concerned that the US and Great Britain's forces would have only taken action once the eastern front was drained and unable to hold its position against the Nazi oppression. This assumption led to distress about western Allies taking advantage of such an outcome. Stalin aimed to avoid such a scenario. Therefore, the USSR demanded the opening of a second front, in order to force Hitler's troops transfer also to the west. The United States recognized the necessity to help the Soviet Union, thus Roosevelt sent his advisor Harry Hopkins to Moscow to visit Stalin, promising to help him and his nation. And there was a sudden need for action, and so the first direct meeting took a place between Churchill and Roosevelt (Groom, 2018).

2.4 First Meeting

The following meeting contributed to the creation of the so-called anti-Hitler coalition. The first official meeting of the US President and the British Prime Minister was considered the meeting, which took a place in *Newfoundland*. Churchill was reputedly greatly looking forward to this convention. The major aim of this seating was to discuss the specifics of America's help for Great Britain's army. Churchill expressed his concerns about the defeat of the Soviet Union by Germany, yet before the US would enter the war as was stated above. President Roosevelt proposed to create the so-called declaration. So, a document had been established, consisting of eight major points. This is also called *the Atlantic Charter*, which should had been followed by the signatory states in the context of the growing world conflict. The signing of the treaty happened in August, from the 9th until the 14th, 1941 (Bercuson-Holger, 2007).

Briefly, *the Atlantic Charter* included these eight points:

1. not seeking to achieve any territorial gains,
2. respecting of national rights and their system of government,
3. economic cooperation with all nations (all people should have better working conditions and social security),

4. riddance of German tyranny as well as guaranteeing the peace of nations (all people should live in peace without worrying about their lives),
5. no territorial changes, which will not be in accord with the free will of the state,
6. ensuring free navigation by the sea and oceans (all people can safely sail on sea and oceans),
7. creating a permanent system of security based on disarmament (all nations should give up the use of force, otherwise peace cannot be achieved),
8. free trade.

Churchill and Roosevelt also agreed that they should jointly help the Soviet Union at this session. They did not mean financial support, but the provision of weapons and any military material. After that, they proposed a joint meeting in Moscow in September, where the issue should be discussed. *The Atlantic Charter* joined the Soviet Union later on September, 24th, 1941 at a conference at the St. James, which was attended by all countries that opposed fascist Germany. The Charter was signed by other representatives of the states, including Czechoslovakia at the end of the meeting. The Atlantic Charter laid the foundations of the establishment of the United Nations Declaration. 26 countries of the anti-Hitler coalition signed the United Nations Declaration (including Czechoslovakia) on January 1st, 1942 in Washington. Signing it pledged them to respect the principles found in the Charter. The principles represented undertaking to destruct fascism (Bercuson – Holger, 2007).

The US entered the war on the side of the anti-Hitler coalition when Japan attacked the American fleet of Pearl Harbour. This act happened on December 7th, 1941. Also, Hitler declared war on the United States after the attack on the American base by Japan. Mr. Churchill grasped the opportunity and immediately went to the United States of America in order to visit Roosevelt. The two friends and now co-operators as well devised a plan and strategy for a joint fight against Japan and Germany. The fight against Germany was the number one priority (Groom, 2018).

From this moment on, we can talk about the start of the all Second World War. We can state, that the Pearl Harbour attack, as well as *Operation Barbarossa*, initiated the establishment of *the Grand Alliance* together with other states against Nazi Germany (Brož, 2010).

2.5 The Pathway to the Big Three Conference

Churchill, as a major force in the fight against Germany, has travelled across the world from one place to another in order to meet representatives of *the Grand Alliance*. Churchill has attended five meetings with Stalin and another nine with F. D. Roosevelt besides the main three conferences of *the Grand Alliance* (Nálevka, 2007).

The Prime Minister of Great Britain participated in lots of meetings except the first mentioned session, where *the Atlantic Charter* was established. The idea of '*Operation Overload*' was created yet before *the Tehran Conference*. Firstly, it should have been the first official meeting of all three members, but Stalin was unable to attend it. The reason was *the Battle of Stalingrad*. Eventually, only Roosevelt and Churchill came to Casablanca under the code name *Symbol* on January, 14th, 1943. The meeting lasted ten days. They discussed the stated '*Operation Overload*' and opening of the Second Front here (Nálevka, 2007).

Churchill has already made a proposal for post-war Europe during a conference called The Trident, in Washington. *The Trident Conference* was held from May 12 until 25, 1943. The British Prime Minister primarily tried to convince the United States at this session that Britain was not only trying to pursue its own superpower goals. This was exactly what the US was worried about. As mentioned above, Mr. Churchill had already suggested at *the Trident conference* how the post-war world would look like. He wished to separate Prussia from all of Germany and to create several independent German states. Later on, it was the main point of *the Tehran Conference* (Nálevka, 2007).

Besides, Churchill, together with the British Chiefs of Staff met with American ones in the province of Quebec in August 1943. The meeting was secretive, therefore it needed a codename. In this case, it was named *Anvil*. One of the major topics of the meeting was again planning of the *Operation Overlord*, this time in a much more detailed concept. General Marshall proposed his plan among other things. The arrangement included Operation Dragoon, which was the invasion in southern France. Churchill, unfortunately, took a sceptic stand of this idea. Marshall suggested that the landing ship should be used in the Mediterranean. At first, Churchill did not trust this operation, because the possibility of losing this operation posed a threat in the form of strengthening the German army. But Sir Churchill imagined it either in the Balkans or in a country like northern Italy. Said in practice, Germany would be attacked firstly from the south and east through Italy, the Aegean and the Black Sea, and then through the Balkans (Rees, 2011).

British Prime Minister Churchill, the US President Roosevelt, and Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek met in the capital of Egypt in Cairo. This meeting took a place on November 25, 1943. It lasted five days as they were travelling to the Tehran Conference. Together, they were determined to fight Japan. The idea of unconditional surrender of Japan was already presented at the previous joint meeting of Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt in Casablanca. Among other things, Churchill's intention was to persuade President Roosevelt to support the Western Allies at the planned Tehran Conference, which was to be attended by all the three leaders of the Big Three. Mr. Churchill wanted to expand their military units in the Mediterranean region. This conviction by the British Minister was not so easy, because Roosevelt firstly refused it. Roosevelt did not want to lose Stalin's confidence, he thought that the overly directed US procedure and Britain would deter him. Fight against Japan and other wartime steps were discussed after that (Pečenka a kol., 1999).

However, some questions remained unanswered. The situation required further meetings, but this time together with the Soviet Union and its commander Stalin. The question was whether or not to create the Western Front. The first major conference of all the three Allies was needed to agree on pending issues. So, the Tehran Conference was realized a month after the above-mentioned meeting of the Ambassadors of the Four Powers and meeting of Churchill, Roosevelt, and Chiang Kai-Shek in Cairo (Pečenka a kol., 1999).

3 TEHRAN CONFERENCE

As we have already noticed, several meetings and preparations preceded the first official Big Three meeting. The main goal of the Big Three conference was to improve the explosive relations between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union. Together it is the first and official meeting of all three representatives of the Big Three. “*The greatest concentration of world forces that ever existed in the history of mankind*”, (Dukes, 2017, 30p.) announced Churchill at the beginning of the Conference. He added words that expressed they would try together to shorten this frightful war. Churchill suggested the conference to be held in London. Eventually, the meeting went on in Tehran – Capital of Iran, because Stalin had intransigently insisted, even though he was well aware of how far away Churchill and Roosevelt would have to travel. It had to be anonymous and so it was named “*Eureka*” (code name) and took place from November, 28th until December 1st, 1943. Reportedly, Germany knew about it, although the conference was supposed to be secret. Therefore, Germany has prepared an attack on this conference. Fortunately, no sabotage took a place, because the Soviet Security Service found out about what Germans were going to do. The meeting officially started at 16 o'clock at the Soviet Embassy. Churchill did not take part in the official start of the meeting, as it is said that the conversation between Roosevelt and Stalin is considered the beginning. Fortunately, Churchill missed nothing important from these talks because supposedly it was just an informal friendly conversation between them. Firstly, they did not know what they were going to negotiate, so they began to solve the things that seemed most needed to them (Rees, 2011).

Main goals of the Tehran conference:

- Operation Overlord
- The post-war division, i.e. the division and future of Germany, and the situation of Poland (its borders and position)
- Italy should enter the war alongside the Allies
- Victory over Germany
- Opening a second front
- War strategy

Churchill considered not only the above points as the objective of this conference. The Prime Minister wanted to negotiate mainly about the opening of the second front. Churchill wanted Britain to also benefit from it. He, and Mr. Roosevelt, who was in favour of opening

it, had frequent disagreements. It was due to Mr. Churchill not agreeing with the opening of the second front. He wanted to keep British leverage in the Balkans if the second front had opened. We must point out, that Mr Churchill's intention was not in the centre of discussion as Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Stalin agreed on post-war division as the salient point. Another point of discussion that was being discussed was the position of Poland after the war. Churchill came up with an idea. He proposed that the future Polish state will be between the Curzon Line, located in the east and the Oder River in the north and west. Poland had to be joined by Cieszyn Silesia and East Prussia. The idea was accepted and nobody objected (Nálevka, 2000). In the end, Churchill also expressed the hope that the Polish exile government in London would be admitted after the war (Gromyko, 1981).

The turning point of the discussion was *the Operation Overlord*. Roosevelt insisted that this action would be carried out no later than May 1, 1944. President F.D. Roosevelt refused any postponement of the planned attack. So, there were agreements between Stalin and Roosevelt that included promises if the Americans helped the Soviet Union in the war with Germany, the USSR led by Stalin would help the US fight Japan, with whom the US fought. Churchill did not remain silent and was fully part of this discussion. Together all Allies discussed and dealt with the issue of the Southern Front and its further progress. Churchill was calmer when Stalin promised him his support and cooperation. Stalin's Red Army was ready to intervene on the Allies side against fascist Germany in Operation Overlord. But hard-mouthed Stalin wanted to know the exact date and name of the commander of the stated operation. But Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt could not tell him because they did not know it by themselves. What they knew for sure was a guarantee of doing so by the end of the year, 1943 (Rees, 2011).

Overall, the final conclusion of a successful conference was a joint Declaration of the Three Powers on December 1, 1943 by all three representatives of the Big Three, in which all the three members of the Big Three expressed a wish for Iran's independence (Rees, 2011).

It can be stated that the first joint conference of the three allies in Tehran was partially successful as the question of the division of Germany was resolved at this meeting. *The Operation Overload* was supposed to be landed in May 1944 according to Churchill, but they could not determine the exact date yet. *Operation Overlord* and the post-war division of Europe were the main points of discussion that were sort of resolved at this conference. We can see here, that the main points did not arise at the Tehran Conference, but at the

meeting before. Still, it was not just one joint meeting in Iran that was enough to win the fight against Germany. There was a need to act quickly and plan further meetings. And even though the Prime Minister of Great Britain Mr Churchill did not achieve his main point of interest, he continued to strive to achieve his Balkan goals - to keep British impact on it (Groom, 2018).

Churchill's view of Stalin's post-war plans was even more doubtful than ever before after the Tehran Conference (Groom, 2018).

3.1 Situation between Tehran and Yalta Conference

Meanwhile, the war was going on throughout the whole of Europe. After the capitulation of the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis in North Africa, the Allies did not hesitate to invade Sicily. This invasion was prosperous for Allies because Italy capitulated after this incident. Thus, while British and American troops were entering Italy, Soviet troops fought with their Red Army in Eastern Europe. There was the well-known Day D, the over-planning Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944, which, as mentioned above, was planned by the Allies at several meetings, especially in Tehran. This operation was planned for almost 4 years. The Allies aimed to regain control of Europe from Nazi Germany and to liberate France. We can say, that the start of this operation, when the Allies landed on the coast of Northern France, was the greatest milestone of World War II. It affected the subsequent development of the entire war. From this incident, the Allies fought against the Nazis on all fronts (Hart-Davis, 2007).

Churchill attended several other meetings among the major conferences of the Big Three. We also consider the Dumbarton Oaks in Washington to be an important conference, where the Foreign Ministers of all Allies met. It took place on August 21, 1944, and its aim was the establishment of the United Nations Organisation (Gilbert, 2002). Churchill again discussed the after post-war Germany at a meeting in Quebec with the President Roosevelt in September of the same year, in 1944. The British Prime Minister disagreed with the plan of the US. According to the plan, the entire industry in Germany should be destroyed and focus only on agriculture. A month later, Churchill presented his own plan with similar ideas to this American one. Germany should become a more agricultural country and gradually the whole industry should be destroyed. Churchill spent three days in Malta before traveling to Yalta. To be more precise, he came here on January, 30th, 1945. He initiated it and it was

to be attended only with him and Mr. Roosevelt. This meeting was mainly about discussing the Ruhr occupation and they determined the likely end-date of the war, which fell on June 20, 1945. Churchill was not getting on well with Roosevelt and often came into conflict with him. The relationships between them were tense. But the need to win over Germany was more important, so they had to find compromises. Churchill was aware that his country was the most weakened of all the three Allies. But his determination to continue was enormous. It was time for the second Big Three conference, which Roosevelt initiated (Rees, 2011).

4 YALTA CONFERENCE

The conference in Yalta began with the written communication initiated by Mr. Churchill. The British Prime Minister sent a letter to American president Mr. Roosevelt containing the following words before meeting in the second official Big Three meeting: “*No more let us falter. From Malta to Yalta. Let nobody alter*” (Buhite, 1986, 3p.). Churchill’s letter represented an invitation to Mr. President, mentioning there that he will be waiting for his associate on the quay (Buhite, 1986). However, the Prime Minister of Great Britain had no idea his excellent friend from the US would avoid conversations with him during the conference, which made W. Churchill extremely disappointed (Dukes, 2017).

Yalta Conference was the second meeting and simultaneously the last complete session of all the three members of the Big Three – Mr. Winston Churchill the oldest member of the Big Three as he was 70 years at that time, Mr. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Mr. Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin. This event was held on February 4th – 11th, 1945 in the Crimea, in Yalta under the codename *Argonaut* together with foreign ministers, state leaders, and other necessary people for discussion of the following situation in the world. American and English leaders of the Big Three had to make a concession to Stalin already with the choice of venue for this conference, who insisted that he had to control the entire course of the war. We estimate that the Russian leader used it as a pretext not to allow other places for the session. Nonetheless, the Big Two knew they had to tailor to Stalin if the meeting was about to take place (Rees, 2011).

The greatest war with Germany was ongoing night and day, but still, there was an urgent need to discuss political and war issues with the upcoming defeat of Germany. We can state, that actually, what was approved on *Yalta Conference* was initiated in the previous Tehran Conference. The issue of the postwar division was one of the main points of discussion as the war was coming to an end. Representatives of the Big Three often did not find a compromise and disagreed concerning this difficulty which resulted in conflicts between them later on. Stalin was convinced that the German area should be divided into five occupation zones. However, the idea did not appeal to Mr. Churchill as he had the opposite view regarding postwar Germany. Actually, Churchill insisted on the non-division of Germany. Thus, the British Prime Minister decided to negotiate. The main item of the negotiation was the political post-war order, with which it should have been achieved a European balance of power. The result of the discussion was the establishment of a concrete

plan and procedure, with which Germany should give up and surrender. It represented total control over the German area by the three allied countries. Later, France joined the Allies with help to control Germany as well. Churchill suggested to restore France's position as a superpower and disagreed with the demands of the Soviets for reparations. Among other things, the establishment of already mentioned in the previous chapter organization called the United Nations based in San Francisco was discussed as well. This topic also resulted in contradictions between the Allies. At first, Stalin disagreed with the idea of creating an organization, especially with the terms of the Security Council. However, after several discussions, he realized that it would be better if such an organization was set up for ensuring world peace. According to Roosevelt, the first assembly of the new organization was to be held in the month of the same year, but because of the objections of the other Allies, this date was rejected because the war was not over yet and it was not so urgent to deal with the United Nations now. The Allies realized that they had to stick together so that the catastrophic situation of a re-attack by Nazi Germany did not happen again (Buhite, 1986). Churchill and his other two Allies established the *Declaration of Liberated Europe*, by which every liberated country could originate its own democratic establishment. Such a new provision was similar to the above stated *Atlantic Charter*.

The Prime Minister of Great Britain wanted to find out what the Soviet dictator thought of the unresolved Polish situation. Nevertheless, Churchill and Stalin could not agree again. The British Prime Minister was deeply concerned about the destiny of Poland as the Polish legitimate exile government was founded in Britain. Churchill failed, no matter how he tried to press for directing postwar Poland with free elections. Stalin had decided Poland to have Nazi-Poland borders and Churchill could not do much as the Red Army governed over the whole land. It could be said that Mr. Churchill had a choice to only agree with Stalin's demands (Catherwood, 2020). On the other hand, Churchill's seeing that Stalin's Soviet troops took up positions in the regions of Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and not to forget Greece. Churchill himself knew that the Soviet Union would be more entitled also to the appropriation of the above-noted territories. Thus, the plan began on the division of these areas. Mr. Churchill spared no effort to remove the Soviet Union from the Mediterranean. Eventually, he succeeded in doing so and divided the areas following. Hungarian and Yugoslavia regions were divided in half, Greece fell mostly to Britain while Bulgaria and Romania fell mainly to the Soviet Union (Švankmajer, 2004).

Churchill was often at feud with Roosevelt mainly about Mr. President's cooperation with Stalin. Indeed, the President did not want to disrupt relations with the Soviet leader, but the British Prime Minister did not hide his displeasure and distrust of Stalin. Forasmuch as he could not rely on Roosevelt, who worked now more with Stalin, he had to rely on himself, and all he could do was to start negotiating with Stalin and to impress the President at the same time. The Prime Minister of Great Britain began to negotiate with Stalin even before the Yalta Conference in 1944 when he personally flew to Moscow to see him. The goal of his long journey to Moscow was to explain each other their territorial areas of interest in the Balkans, but also in Central Europe (Švankmajer, 2004). There is a debate about what would occur if President Roosevelt used a completely diverse strategy and maybe stand on the side of Churchill, concerning the Polish question. It is unclear to assume, whether Stalin would have been on the same page with Churchill and Roosevelt discussing certain topics, especially the question over Poland, since he agreed to debate over the Black Sea and Germany restorations (Ploky, 2011).

It can be stated that the most discussed issue was Germany and the post-war division of Europe at the Yalta Conference, while in comparison to the Tehran Conference, the leaders of the Big Three dealt mainly with the strategy of war, the above-mentioned successful *Operation Overlord*. Major obstacles to reach success at the conference were diverse geopolitical ambitions and distant political views between West and East (Ploky, 2011). Churchill had to make too many concessions to Stalin to solve at least something during the Yalta Conference. However, Churchill did not manage to resolve the question of Poland although Britain had entered the war just because of it. In retrospect, Yalta was beginning in a new situation that later would be called as Cold War. It was the first step of dividing Europe into two blocs, namely Western and Eastern. We found out this fact after some time, but only Churchill had a feeling of the truth already during *the Yalta Conference* (Catherwood, 2020). Churchill's pronounced statement said two weeks already before the Yalta Conference was proof Churchill was right. "*Make no mistake, all the Balkans, except Greece, are going to be Bolshevised; and there is nothing I can do to prevent it. There is nothing I can do for poor Poland either*" (Langworth, 2017, 174p.).

Meanwhile, the health state of the President Roosevelt was critical already during the Yalta Conference. Mr. Roosevelt passed away two months after the Yalta Conference on April 13, 1945. Heavy news extremely affected the British Prime Minister as he did not expect it at all. Churchill wrote a telegram to Harry Hopkins after his death, who was the

closest advisor of the already deceased President, in which he expressed compassion and sadness with him after losing this great man, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (Norman, 1995). These sincere words were written in the telegram: *“In Franklin Roosevelt there died the greatest American friend we have ever known and the greatest champion of freedom who has ever brought help and comfort from the new world to the old.”* (Evans, 2002, 107p.). From Mr. Churchill’s words one can feel the sincerity, the sadness he frankly felt after losing his exceptional and good friend. He could capture words in this sentence, with which many people identified. It was a time when the war was coming to an end. We can say, the world was waiting only for the signing of the surrender from the side of Germany (Norman, 1995).

4.1 VE Day

Germany signed the surrender on 8 May 1945 known as VE day. Representatives of Great Britain, the US, the Soviet Union, and France were present at this achievement. It represented the end of World War II in Europe with the victory of the anti-Hitler coalition. Mr. Churchill described the surrender in his book with these words: *“The unconditional surrender of our enemies was the signal for the greatest outburst of joy in the history of mankind. The Second World War had indeed been fought to the bitter end in Europe. The vanquished as well as the victors felt inexpressible relief. But for us in Britain and the British Empire, who had alone been in the struggle from the first day to the last and staked our existence on the result, there was a meaning beyond what even our most powerful and most valiant Allies could feel”*(Churchill, 2002, 548-549pp). The then Prime Minister Winston Churchill was admired on VE day. So much of the credit for victory can be given to him as he drove the whole process of the war to success. He announced glad news of surrender from the Cabinet Room at 3 p.m., noting that *“We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead”* (U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg, 2020). Churchill indicated that, the war in Europe had ended indeed, but in the world, to be more specific in Japan, the fight was still ongoing. Thus, it was still necessary to defeat the Japan, in order to claim an absolute victory of the Allies in the World War II.

Sad to say, Mr. Churchill together with other Allies faced a new problem at that time. Creation of an economically stable Europe and countries in this continent. The war affected all sectors of life in the countries, and the area of economics did not avoid it either. The Soviets, as Winston Churchill assumed, gained influence over the Communist governments

in the so-called Eastern Bloc. The Eastern Bloc, also known as Communist Bloc, were countries of Eastern Europe under the influence of the Soviet Union after the end of the Second World War. However, Stalin violated the mentioned Declaration of Liberated Europe and prevented the emergence of democratically elected bodies in these countries. This was the reason, why relations between the Eastern and Western Allies began to disintegrate after the Yalta Conference. So, after all, British and American representatives of the Big Three did not succeed in reaching a compromise with a pitiless Soviet dictator Stalin in the emergence of democracy in liberated countries. Great Britain could no longer take pride in such a position in the world as before the war. It was by due to Great Britain, which was fighting a war for six years. Churchill himself was aware that the only power that could equate to the Soviet Union was the United States. As we already mentioned in the previous chapter, the beginning of the Cold War is regarded to be the period after the Yalta Conference. From now on, the Cold War was real (Rees, 2011).

The Last 'conference' followed. However, we cannot say 'conference of the Big Three' anymore as some of the representatives could no longer attend it. The third major meeting to finalize post-war issues was held in Potsdam.

5 POTSDAM CONFERENCE

Churchill realized that one more meeting would be needed and organized already after the victory of the Allies. A wish for this happening was with the view of solving and finishing all the post-war questions about the future of the world. Churchill wanted the conference to be held in Berlin, which belonged to the Allies after the liberation. However, this request could not be realized as Berlin was totally bombed. The last Big Three conference was held on Stalin's proposal in Potsdam in Cecilienhof Palace dated on July 17th until August 2nd, in 1945. The conference had a code-name *Terminal* and lasted for two weeks. Churchill also explained this name to be a *station in the peaceful world after the war* (Author's own statement, 2020). However, the representatives were no longer in line-up as at the Yalta or Tehran conferences. President Roosevelt was replaced by the new US President Harry Truman, Churchill represented Great Britain only initially. The reason was parliamentary elections, which he lost with his Conservative Party and due to it was replaced by British Prime Minister Clement Attlee from the Labour Party (Nálevka, 2000). Considering this, the conference was suspended for two days. Churchill had already decided to leave the Potsdam Conference himself because he was legally allowed to resign after *the Potsdam Conference*. However, he did not change his mind and left this place to Mr. Attlee. He resigned at Buckingham Palace with words describing the following difficult situation of the new government, which will have a great responsibility both at home and abroad. He also expressed hope for a successful action. Stalin took the place of the Soviet Union during the last conference. Each of the representatives was aware that it was necessary to undergo this conference as the war was over and post-war issues had to be concluded (Gilbert, 2002).

The crucial role of the last Big Three meeting was to negotiate the post-war organization of Europe and subsequently to develop peace treaties. Therefore, a Council of Foreign Ministers of the countries of the Soviet Union, France, Great Britain, the US, and China for development peace treaties of Bulgaria, Italy, Hungary, and Finland was set up. It had the task to prevent past mistakes in Versailles when the participants were not sufficiently prepared (Nálevka, 2007).

Since the Allies won, defeated Germany was another unresolved question that had to be answered. The conference set the principles of occupation zones on the so-called four D's - denazification, democratization, decartelization, and demilitarization. After a long discussion, Germany was divided into four occupation zones and each of them was managed

by one of the Allies, namely the USA, the Soviet Union, Britain, and France (Nálevka, 2007). Germany was also obliged to pay for all the damage it caused to the countries fighting it. The question of Poland and its borders with Germany also had to be resolved. The dictator of the Soviet Union, Stalin, has determined the conditions of the issue. The border was represented by the Odra and western Neisse. Neither the US nor Britain has succeeded in internationally overseeing the Polish elections. They also failed to influence or mitigate the development of countries in the South East (Hart-Davis, 2007, 406-407pp.).

Meanwhile, the United States was fighting with Japan. Stalin promised the US help. So, the Soviet Union obliged to be on the US's side at war with Japan. The US tried to force Japan to surrender by dropping nuclear bombs. The plan succeeded. V-J Day (Victory of Allies over Japan) is dated August, 14th, 1945. From this moment on, we can talk about the complete victory of Allies not only in Europe but also in the World. After that, the US sought to limit as much as possible the influence of the Soviets in the Asian continent. The US simultaneously sought to refute the notion that they had not won the war without the assistance of the USSR (Nálevka, 2007).

Churchill announced his famous speech on 5 March 1946 in Fulton, Missouri: *"From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent."* (History.com Editors, 2010) He described the fact in his speech that behind the curtain there are all the capitals of the countries stuck in this Soviet regime such as Berlin, Prague, Warsaw, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest or Sofia. He did not think that the Soviet Union wanted to start a war but believed that it was to extend this Soviet influence on as many countries as possible. As we already mentioned and what is extremely important is that Winston Churchill was one of the first to mention and warn against the spread of Soviet influence and its dangers. Churchill has always been an opponent to Stalin's policy. He was for non-cooperating with Stalin even before the end of World War II. Winston Churchill was against the purpose Stalin wanted to introduce into the liberated countries. America was in a similar position this time. We can state, that the anti-Hitler coalition later disintegrated also because of this stand (Nálevka, 2007).

Great Britain began to provide economic assistance to Turkey and Greece after the end of World War II. However, the country was unable to handle it two years later. The then-President Harry Truman assured Britain that he would help Greece and Turkey. Good relations with the United States were shown here alike. But we point out, Truman had to do so if he did not want Soviet influence to spread beyond the Mediterranean (Nálevka, 2007).

5.1 Churchill's Life After War

"I am never going to have anything more to do with politics or politicians. When this war is over, I shall confine myself entirely to writing and painting" Winston Churchill (Dilks, 2012, 116p). These were the words said by disillusioned Winston Churchill. However, the tide turned and he appeared in politics indeed.

Mr. W. Churchill was so admired as the Prime Minister during the five years of the war. And so, Churchill applied for the post of Prime Minister with a proper mandate in order to begin with reconstruction of the country after the end of the WWII. He tried to postpone the election, but he failed and ended in a strong rejection. The Labour Party had its own plan for the reconstruction of the country, and they rejected any other plan. Besides, Churchill was perceived as the country's leader during the war but was not seen as a good leader in internal politics. Britain touched bottom concerning economy in this period similarly like the other European countries, had billions of debts and no reserves, and it seemed that the Labour Plan was much preferable for British Nation. Churchill gradually lost support and eventually lost the election as had been already mentioned above. We can say that his function was over after the Second World War ended (Gilbert, 2000). Churchill had not given up so easily with politics and had engaged in several activities like international cooperation with other nations, bringing and maintaining peace in his country.

He believed Great Britain and America should continue to work together after World War II. Sir Winston again began to paint and write and wrote the well-known six-volume book *World War II* after losing elections. Only thanks to Churchill's determination did the Conservative Party survive. He became the British Secretary of Defence again when he was 77 years old from 1951. However, his politics was not so liked. As he always wanted, he tried to alleviate communism in liberated countries or to continue establishing relations with the US. Churchill was forced to resign as Prime Minister on April 5, 1955 due to problems as physical so mental. (Robbins, 1993).

Winston Churchill won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953. He remained a member of the House of Commons until 1964, but he resigned from his government positions at the age of 80. He died on January 24, 1965 at the age of 90. Sir Winston Churchill is well known all around the world as the man, who won the Second World War. Winston Churchill, also declared as a citizen of the world, is buried in the cemetery in Bladon now

already with his whole family. He is therefore resting in peace near the Blenheim Palace where he was born (Mazúrek, 2002).

CONCLUSION

The primary goal of the bachelor thesis was to present a very detailed comprehensive summary of Winston Churchill's life mainly during the Second World War. The centre of this work was to describe the idea of creation of *the Grand Alliance* and its impact. For better understanding the whole formation of the so-called Big Three connection, it was necessary to present a thorough description of Winston Churchill's political life before the outbreak of the above-mentioned WWII. It has been essential to provide details about relationships amongst individual members of the Big Three, their personalities, and join pathways for official common conferences. Winston Churchill is considered to be one of the most significant personalities in British history. Therefore, the thesis aimed to provide an overall overview of his life. The bachelor thesis was divided into five major chapters based on individual time periods, by which each had its own subchapters.

It may be concluded, that Churchill's idea to create *the Grand Alliance* and join the United States of America and the Soviet Union was nothing else, but the greatest step for defeating Germany. Only thanks to his strong-mindedness was the victory over the Axis possible. It could be seen here, that neither different political systems and cultures nor different language did deter the Big Three from bringing peace into the world and beat Nazi Germany. Churchill did not give up even then when he had faced huge criticism. Great Britain as a country, but also the whole British nation needed him. It can be affirmed, that Churchill predicted the coming war already more than one decade before its outbreak. Churchill also presumed the beginning of the Cold War, which has happened already after the Yalta Conference. It is possible to state, that the reason for Churchill's cooperation with the Soviet Union was not only the victory over Germany, although, it was the primary motivational factor. Among other things, Churchill aimed to avoid the broadening of Stalin's communism to liberated countries. To be concluded, the entire situation could have ended up catastrophically if Churchill had not taken all his premeditated steps. All in all, even nowadays Winston Churchill has been spoken about as one of the "greatest" human-beings, and one of the greatest leaders of all times within British history.

RESUMÉ

Za cieľ bakalárskej práce pokladáme vysvetliť význam Winstona Churchilla v rámci tzv. Veľkej Trojky. Winston Churchill je jedna z najvýznamnejších osobností minulého storočia, preto pokladáme za dôležité vysvetliť a opísať jeho život pred vojnou, po vojne, ale najmä počas vojny. Práca sa zameriava hlavne na obdobie cez druhú svetovú vojnu z dôvodu, že práve tu vzniklo spojenectvo Veľkej Trojky. Winston Churchill, známy svojimi neuveriteľnými prejavmi, si získal britský národ, ktorému dával veľkú nádej na možnú porážku Nemecka. Práca je rozdelená do piatich hlavných kapitol, pričom každá má svoje podkapitoly.

Prvá kapitola stručne opisuje Churchillov život predtým, než sa začal angažovať v politike. Časť kapitoly sa sústreďuje teda na obdobie do roku 1900. Winston Churchill sa narodil do aristokratickej, veľmi bohatej rodiny. Záujem o vstúpenie do politiky pramení z rodinného pôvodu, pretože sám jeho otec bol politik. Detstvo prežil čiastočne v opatere rôznych pestúnok bez rodičov, ktorí mu poskytovali iba finančnú podporu. Škola ho nebavila a tak sa nesnažil dosiahnuť dobré výsledky. Toto zasiahlo jeho otca, ktorý, ako sa vyjadril v liste, bol tým veľmi sklamaný. Po smrti otca prežíval Winston ťažké, často depresívne stavy. Winstonova finančná situácia nebola jednoduchá ani počas jeho dospievania. S pozíciou novinára sa mu podarilo navštíviť Južnú Afriku, kde sa odohrávala vojna. Mladého Winstona uväznili z dôvodu zapletenia sa do boja, pričom mal zastávať iba novinársku pozíciu. Bol ale šikovný a podarilo sa mu utiecť do Ameriky. Tu si Churchill už uvedomoval, že je dôležité udržiavať dobré vzťahy s Američanmi. Ďalšie podkapitoly ilustrujú Churchillovu politickú kariéru do vypuknutia druhej svetovej vojny. Winston oddal skoro celý svoj život politike. Miesta v parlamente zastával od roku 1900 do 1964, teda viac ako 60 rokov. Spočiatku chcel mladý Winston vstúpiť do politiky na strane Liberálov. To sa mu však nepodarilo. Nakoniec, už ako 26 ročný, vstúpil do politiky. No tentokrát nie ako liberál, ale ako konzervatívec. Neskôr sa mu začal viac pozdávať plán Liberálnej Strany. Winston, ako osoba odhodlaná bojovať za svoj národ, chcel pomôcť ľuďom v núdzi. Keď vstúpil do Liberálnej strany, snažil sa vybojovať pre ľudí z nižších vrstiev rovnaké práva, aké mali tie vyššie. Okrem iného bojoval aj za ženské práva. V roku 1910, povelaný za Ministra námorníctva, sa snažil čo najviac zmodernizovať vojnové loďstvo, keďže vedel, že vojna sa blíži a Nemci neustále napredujú. Samostatná podkapitola sa zaoberá vlnou kritiky spadajúcej na Winstona. Na svedomí má incident v Gallipoli, veľkú stratu pre Britániu, kvôli ktorej bol donútený odstúpiť z funkcie. Celý národ ho kritizoval.

Druhá kapitola začína vypuknutím druhej svetovej vojny. Opisuje fakt, že Churchill už dávno pred začatím vojny, v roku 1933 naznačoval, ako zle zaobchádza Hitler s menšinami. Predpovedal prichádzajúcu, ďalšiu doteraz najhoršiu vojnu ľudstva. Preto si boli britskí ministri vedomí, že je nevyhnutné povolať Churchilla späť do funkcie. Kapitola sa koncentruje na Churchilla, keď bol v roku 1940 zvolený do funkcie premiéra. Churchill si uvedomoval, že na porážku Nemcov je nutné spojiť sa s Američanmi a so Sovietskym zväzom. Nadviazanie kontaktov so Spojenými Štátmi nebolo ťažké, keďže Churchill mal dobrý a priateľský vzťah s vtedajším prezidentom F. D. Rooseveltom. Predpokladáme tiež, že dôvod spolupráce bol taktiež vďaka spoločnému jazyku, kultúram a podobným politickým systémom. Iné to však bolo so Sovietskym zväzom. Je známe, že Winston Churchill bol antikomunista. Preto bolo proti jeho vôli nadviazať kontakt so Stalinom. Hlavným faktorom však bola motivácia vyhrať nad Nemeckom. Na druhej strane, keby sa Churchill nespojil so Stalinom, Sovietsky zväz sa mohol spojiť s Nemeckom, čo by pre nich znamenalo jasnú výhru. Konštatujeme, že ďalší Churchillov dôvod bol, že chcel aspoň ako tak zabrániť šíreniu Stalinovho komunizmu po skončení druhej svetovej vojny v oslobodených krajinách. Tretia kapitola má podkapitolu, opisujúcu vzťah medzi F. D. Rooseveltom a W. Churchillom, ďalej poukazuje na osobnosti Veľkej Trojky, ich vznik a spoločnú cestu k ich prvému stretnutiu.

Tretia kapitola sa odohráva na samotnom prvom stretnutí Veľkej Trojky – v Teheráne. Opisuje tu udalosti a výsledky, s ktorými prišla Veľká Trojka. Primárnou zložkou bolo vylodenie spojeneckých vojsk v Normandii, známe pod menom Operácia Overlod. Výsledkom Teheránskej konferencie je Deklarácia troch mocností. Okrem iného sa tu ilustruje Churchillov postoj k rozdeleniu Európy po vojne.

Štvrtá kapitola predstavuje druhé spoločné stretnutie na polostrove Krym, na Jalte. Opisuje sa tu fakt, že na porozumenie so Stalinom musel britský premiér robiť mnoho ústupkov. Ich záujmy sa líšili aj na otázke Poľska. Churchill sa obával povojnového osudu Poľska, keďže poľská exilová vláda bola založená v Londýne. Aj práve kvôli napadnutiu Poľska vstúpila Británia do vojny. Vedel však, že Stalin so svojou Červenou armádou budú mať väčšie slovo v ich povojnovom osude. Piata kapitola pozostáva z podkapitoly *'Deň víťazstva'* nad Nemeckom.

Piata kapitola opisuje poslednú konferenciu v Postupime. Winston Churchill sa však zúčastnil tejto konferencie len spočiatku, pretože v roku 1945 prehral so svojou Konzervatívnou stranou voľby a nahradil ho Clement Attlee. Vojna síce skončila, potrebné

však bolo dohodnúť a usporiadať povojnový kontinent Európy. Podkapitola sa zameriava na Churchillov život po vojne. Aj keď sa vyjadril, že ak skončí táto vojna, už nikdy nevstúpi do politiky, bolo to inak. V roku 1951 ho zvolili za premiéra druhýkrát. V roku 1955 rezignoval z postu premiéra kvôli fyzickej i mentálnej slabosti. V parlamente zostal aktívnym členom do roku 1964. Rok po vystúpení z parlamentu, ako 90 ročný zomrel.

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