

# FOUNDING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Second World War signaled a turning point for humankind. By the end of World War II, more than 100 million people were killed, wounded, or disabled including both soldiers and civilians. Even before victory was certain, the Allied powers were beginning to discuss the creation of a new world organization that would seek to unite the nations and prevent a World War Three in the future.

A series of meetings were held beginning with the Teheran Conference in 1943, and followed by the Dumbarton Oaks Conference in Washington, D.C. in 1944. In February of 1945, the "Big Three," Churchill, Stalin, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the United States, met at Yalta in the Crimea where they agreed to the formation of the "United Nations" as one of the first crucial post-war actions.

Following the total surrender of the Germans in May, the Allies moved rapidly to implement this proposal and the founding conference of the United Nations was convened in San Francisco in June. Fifty-one countries signed the UN Charter as founding members on 26 June, 1945.