

75 years ago, on July 17, 1945, the Potsdam Conference of the victorious allied began. As decided at the Yalta Conference, the forces of the anti-Hitler coalition defined the foundations for a peaceful post-war Europe after the military smashing of German fascism. The negotiators of Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the USA formulated conditions of that European post-war order, which should contribute to the fact that never again fascism and war can start from German soil.

The goals were the destruction of the military potential of German fascism and the establishment of a social order on the basis of denazification, demilitarization, demonopolisation/ decentralization and democratization. This also corresponded to the will of all anti-fascists, which had fought in their countries for liberation from fascism.

The restoration of the sovereignty of the previously occupied countries was regulated as well as a territorial reorganization in Central Europe, in particular the Oder-Neisse line as Germany's eastern border. Connected with this was also the resettlement of parts of the German population, which revanchist circles, especially in Germany, denounce to this day as "expulsion".

At the end of the negotiations, the British Prime Minister Attlee as well as the Soviet head of state Stalin and the American President Truman as representatives of the victorious powers signed this document. This treaty, which was later joined by France, still forms the political framework of the European post-war order.

Even if it must be noted that - with the emerging Cold War - important aspects of the anti-fascist new beginning were not implemented, particularly in the western zones, the Potsdam Agreement remains of outstanding importance for us as an international anti-fascist organization until today. Because

- it marks the criminal character of the fascist organizations and institutions, as it was also legally proven in the Nuremberg trial,

- it guarantees until today especially the inviolability of the Polish western border,
- it fends off all revanchist claims, especially against Poland and the Czech Republic,
- it also names the responsibility of the big industry, the banks and consolidated companies in the German Reich for the fascist crimes and thus stands crosswise to all attempts of historical-revisionist reinterpretation,
- it defines the political foundations of an anti-fascist democratic reorganization in Germany,
- it is the document of the victorious anti-Hitler coalition, which was carried by the military units of the armies and the anti-fascist liberation struggle of the peoples.

The FIR and its member federations defend the ideas of the Potsdam Agreement against all beginnings of the re-emergence of fascism and anti-communism particularly in Central and Eastern European states and against all attempts to falsify the history of the Second World War. It is never acceptable to equate Hitler with Stalin, fascism with socialism, the fascist murderers and their victims, as was done in the scandalous European Parliament resolution of 19 September 2019. The peoples of Europe, who have had to bear the consequences of the German imperialist-fascist war, should not accept such a revision of history by falsifying the history of the Second World War.

For the FIR and its member federations, the memory of the Potsdam Agreement is an obligation to oppose offensively the revival of fascist groups and ideologies as well as all forms of falsification of the history of the anti-fascist fight.

FIR (Fédération Internationale des Résistantes - Association des Antifascistes)