

Gerhard Weinberg, a historian well known for his work on World War II discussed his work on the post-war visions of Allied and Axis leaders. He emphasized that there were serious disagreements between these leaders about most things during the war, and a post-war vision was no exceptions.

It was not surprising to Weinberg that Hitler had the most unique view of a post-war world. First, Hitler believed that the conflict was simply a starting point for other wars, which would continue until the world was entirely under German control. Unlike his allies, who envisioned a world that was carved up under German, Italian, and Japanese domination, Hitler planned to move German citizens into all states to increase Aryan influence.

Hitler planned to divide Africa in three parts: the northern part for Italy, the middle for Germany, the southern for an Afrikaner state sympathetic with Germany.

Asia was a source of contention between Germany and its allies, but also between German leaders. While some of his advisors disagreed, Hitler agreed with the Japanese that central Siberia and all points east would become Japanese territory, as would all of Germany's former Pacific colonies. Germany would take control of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Weinberg said there was little archival evidence to explain Hitler's vision for North America.

Mussolini intended for Italian control to stretch from Venice to the Aegean. He also wanted Corsica, part of France and Germany, and most of Yugoslavia, as well as North Africa, Somalia, and Kenya.

Weinberg said Tojo's vision was the most complete because he was a "stickler for detail," so abundant archival evidence delineates the borders he envisioned. He foresaw a Japanese empire that included Australia, New Zealand, Alaska, Western Canada, parts of the western United States, central and South America, Indonesia, Burma, India, and eastern Russia.

Weinberg said that Allied leaders were generally more modest in their expectations: Chiang Kai Shek he wanted the return of all Chinese and Manchurian lands taken by Japan, as well as Hong Kong. Weinberg added that there is some indication he wanted parts of Korea.

Weinberg said that the United States was unique in that it sought no additional land. He said Roosevelt anticipated an independent Philippines, the creation of "trust empires" in former European colonies, and the implementation of trusteeships for the islands under Japanese control.

In his larger project, Weinberg analyzes the documents that show how world leaders envisioned new borders after the end of World War II. He said that while it is fascinating to see the sometimes remarkable differences between world leaders, he explained that it is important to study these documents to see how these visions impacted today's borders.