

## THE CONFERENCE OF YALTA

4/11 February 1945 : 1984

Entertainment by Henri Chopin

### Prologue

It is difficult to think of the Conference of Yalta without associating it with the "Rights of Man". It was the most important moment in human history, past, present and future, because never before was the richest continent of the planet so divided - the dividing up of more than six hundred million inhabitants who had seen the birth of the Industrial Revolution and were to found our electronic revolution is obviously a rare occurrence because, in the past, the civilisations that were brought into subjection were unknown and not considered (sometimes wrongly) as belonging to the developed world.

It is a rare occurrence to make use of a whole continent, a continent defeated and bled white in 1945, without consulting anybody who might have authority in the said continent and of course without consulting the peoples who belong to it. Most amusing of all is that even today in our so called democratic press, in our democratically informed media, no journalist, however talented, makes any reference to this swallowing up of a continent, nor have they even thought of it; the journalist suffers from a strange disease - he thinks he is important, he is always right and the rest of the world is incapable of thinking. In France he even goes so far as to claim the right to the professional secret, like a Head of State, a priest or a doctor - which means that he claims the right to keep secret his source of information, delators and police-informers, those who sell to the highest bidder. Lost in his profound meditation, forty years after the event, he is incapable of even understanding what we are talking about: Yalta - and as he cannot understand our feeling of oppression for six hundred million people, he claims to be untouchable when he recounts what he sees as life in its reality, and in his sensational scandal columns he might often be right. For him, the whole of man's activity can be crystallised in day-to-day hack reporting; yet he can understand nothing of the incommensurable Conference of Yalta and this lack of understanding leads him to make idols of the Reagans or Montands, who have never been anything more than interpreters of ephemera, The Conference of Yalta, however, would have been seized on with delight by the author of the *Persian Letters*, the subtle, enquiring Montesquieu; like us, he would have been pensive and most probably ironic. He would have offered us a lovely little epistle reminding us that there were once three "pilferers" famous in their day, who set out to sign the contract of this Conference, without any thought as to where the signatures would lead them or how six hundred million people would be eaten up.

This important moment of our History was signed and sealed by two men responsible for the Empires of

Great Britain and the old Imperia! Russia and by two men responsible for new Empires concealed behind two acronyms: U.S.A. and U.S.S.R., the latter being the indisputable heir to all the Russians. Only the label has changed.

Of these men, one must disappear, as Imperia! Russia and U.S.S.R. merged and in their fusion there remained only one man in charge, a Head of State with the mind of a policeman, cast in the mould of the Czars of old. This was fortunate as there was no real shift from tradition, from the norms, from "normalisation", a word which in our time has become a by-word of the Soviets. At last everything was clear. Clear? Yes, it was clear to all of us except, however, to our political commentators who see only a comma and then think they must write a whole work to analyse it. This comparison is appropriate as Communism can only be justified by thinking at the level of the comma.

We can also discount the man in charge of the old British Empire - an Empire that was to disappear shortly after his great 1945 victory. (Of course, later there was to be the fabulous, heroic, martial reconquest of the paradisiacal Falkland Islands, but this did not attain the height of a whole Conference like Yalta. For this pettiness the old Empire became the poorer, through its own fault).

However, though we discount the man in charge of the old British Empire, we cannot exonerate him from signing the treaty at Yalta. And, with his two co-signatories, we call him to witness. But first we must try to sketch the portrait of each of the three men trailing behind them in turn the British Empire, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.

The first to be held responsible:

He was a war hero; he had been a war hero since the Boer War, followed by the inglorious Dardanelles skirmish; moreover he was a politician. Since pluralism exists in this domain, too, this man, who was later represented by a big cigar and a "V", saying either "Victory" or "Up yours", was also many-sided, sometimes powerful, sometimes coarse, sometimes not exactly honest, sometimes strong-willed, carefully cultivating a pout that gave him the "Will for Power" sought by Friedrich Nietzsche. This stubborn man was a necessity and remained alone for a year, finally allowing his tardy allies (forced by events) to share his defeat of Nazism and the living Japanese god. He loved his country, his cigars, alcohol and good cheese. He may have been aware of the use of the word "cheese" in idiomatic French for both "a fuss" and "a cushy job", as he didn't believe in making a fuss about Parliamentary honesty when the hero kept quiet in Parliament about the Third Reich's death camps, though he was well aware of them. And he unfortunately had enough connections to play his part and get himself a cushy job when he went to the country of cheese and spent his time painting - which added nothing to his prestige. By the way, how many Heads of State are failed artists?

A more difficult summing-up of the second character:

Here we obey chronology, which places the British Empire at the origin of the great Resistance, followed by the representative of the USA. For Europeans, this representative was more mysterious and also more attractive than an Englishman. The old continent of Europe was overwhelmed by the powerful German army in 1940, and doubly so when faced with the American power since, as a Prussian friend said to me recently « With the Germans you heard the stamping of boots, their heavy, obsessive hammering, you heard a powerful and arrogant pride, but with the Americans it was rubber, a silence that could be insolent or relaxed or simply chewinggumming ». Behind this immense military power enhanced by jeeps, prodigious bridges and prestigious generals, we could hardly see the man at the top, a Head that still managed to be elected four times over to the Presidency of his country. In reality this man was of delicate health. He was not so strong as the cigar-lover and the conquering moustache stroker, but he overcame his poor health by generosity and willpower.

These two representatives constitute the minor and the major premises of our syllogism. The first is the minor because he was too weak - Great Britain could have done nothing alone except preserve itself and safeguard its independence. The second gives us the major premise of our reasoning, in the universal power represented by the USA.

But for this syllogism we need to discover the indispensable conclusion, the conclusion that has imposed itself for some forty years, since 1945, to be exact, since our Conference.

Thus we must introduce the final representative: ·

This conclusion, representative of the URSS, has a stubborn forehead, a cunning smile and a vulgar, conquering moustache that a conquistador would have been proud of. This moustache was adventurous; it grew on a seminarist, then transferred to a political agitator with an eye to the main chance. Then it adorned a generalissimo, who was to become absolute master of the Kremlin - when the moustache trembled with fear at his creations of Terror. Conquering Moustache offered up to himself a few million victims on his Communist altar, annexed a good dozen countries that in no way belonged to him, felt no scruple in devouring lands that owed him nothing and took it for granted that all the ancient Russias should become Communist, since for him Communism was a cement strengthened by other theoreticians (who were real Communists!) which was of considerable help to his own persona! power. Those other theoreticians who had strengthened Communism had also got rid of all religions, all spirituality - so necessary, however, to the successors of St. Peter, and that, too, was of considerable help to Conquering Moustache as he became the first Czarina of International Communism.

Our conclusion thus obtained, the syllogism that we were seeking for the Conference of Yalta is complete. As you see, this Conference involves four characters and it is through them that we offer you this play: The

Conference of Yalta, as seen in 1984 by Henri Chopin.

Characters: Mr. Cigar

Mr. Invalid

Mr. Conquering Moustache

The Bottle of Vodka and its label.