

# The Atlantic Charter

## Summary

In August of 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill met and agreed on the eight points of the Atlantic Charter. Both countries agreed that they were seeking:

1. No additional power
2. No changes in territory unless the change was supported by the people of that region
3. The right for all people to choose their government and to live under their own rules
4. Equal access to trade and raw materials for all nations
5. To improve all labor conditions and economic standards for all nations
6. To destroy the Nazi regime to allow all to live without fear
7. Safe sea travel
8. Peace without the necessity of control of armed forces

## Word Bank

**Aggrandizement** - to increase one's power

**Sovereign rights**- legal right of a country to rule in the best interest of its citizens

**Self-government** - ability for a country to govern its own people

**Armaments** - weapons

## Primary Source (Adapted text)

The President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill of the United Kingdom, met and agree on certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

First, their countries seek no **aggrandizement**, territorial or other;

Second, they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

Third, they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see **sovereign rights** and **self government** restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them;

Fourth, they will try...to further equal access to trade and to the raw materials needed for economic prosperity;

Fifth, they desire for all nations to work together to secure improved labor standards, economic advancement and social security for all people;

Sixth, after the final destruction of the Nazis, they hope to see peace for all nations to live in safety within their own boundaries, with the assurance that all the men in all lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want;

Seventh, such a peace should enable all men to travel the high seas and oceans safely;

Eighth, they believe that all of the nations of the world...must abandon the use of force. No future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air **armaments** continue to be employed by nations which threaten...aggression outside of their frontiers. They believe, until a permanent system of general security is formed, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measure which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of **armaments**.

Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston S. Churchill

*Adapted from the original document posted at <https://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/atlantic.asp>*