

Treaty of Nonaggression Between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Summary

In August 1939, representatives from Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) signed an agreement that the countries would remain **neutral** toward each other. They also agreed not to side with other countries against each other and that they would discuss problems that affected their shared interests. If the two nations disagreed they would discuss the issue on friendly terms or form an **arbitration commission** to work out their differences.

Word Bank

Neutral - when two countries agree not to fight with each other or to take sides in disagreements that involve the other nation

High Contracting Parties - Germany and the U.S.S.R., the two countries who have signed the agreement

Arbitration commission - a group that is formed to work out the differences between two opposing sides or nations

Provision - a condition or requirement

Denounce - to refuse to honor an agreement

Ratified (ratifications) - to sign an agreement (signed agreements)

Primary Source (Adapted text)

To strengthen the plan for peace between Germany and the U.S.S.R. and proceeding from the Neutrality Agreement of 1926, Germany and the U.S.S.R. have reached the following agreement:

ARTICLE I

Both High Contracting Parties agree to stop any act of violence, any aggressive action, and any attack on each other, either individually or jointly with other powers.

ARTICLE II

Should one of the High Contracting Parties become the object of (hostile) action by a third power, neither country will lend its support to this third power.

ARTICLE III

The High Contracting Parties will contact one another to exchange information on problems affecting their common interests.

ARTICLE IV

High Contracting Parties will not participate in any grouping of powers that is directly or indirectly aimed at the other country.

ARTICLE V

Should disputes or conflicts arise between the High Contracting Parties both parties agree to settle these disputes or conflicts through the friendly exchange of opinion or through the establishment of arbitration commissions.

ARTICLE VI

The present treaty (will last for) ten years, with the provision that, if one of the High Contracting Parties does not denounce it one year prior to the end date, the treaty will automatically be extended for another five years.

ARTICLE VII

The present treaty shall be **ratified** within the shortest possible time. The **ratifications** will take place in Berlin. The agreement shall enter into force as soon as it is signed.

Done in duplicate, in the German and Russian languages.

MOSCOW, August 23, 1939.

For the Government of the German Reich: V. RIBBENTROP

With full power of the Government of the U.S.S.R.: V. MOLOTOV

Adapted from the original document posted at https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/nonagres.asp