

Outline: The Congress of Vienna

I. Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

- a. European monarchs sought to turn back the clock to 1789 and restore Europe's Old Regime
- b. Members included the "Big Four" and France
 - i. Austria – Prince Metternich
 - ii. England – Duke of Wellington and Lord Castlereagh
 - iii. France – Talleyrand
 - iv. Prussia – Frederick William III, Hardenberg, and Humboldt
 - v. Russia – Tsar Alexander I

II. Metternich (1773-1859)

- a. Opposed democracy and nationalism
- b. Proposed principles of compensation and legitimacy

III. Compensation and legitimacy

- a. Compensation
 - i. Napoleon's enemies rewarded with land
 - ii. Other nations compensated for land taken
 - iii. Redrew the map of Europe
- b. Legitimacy
 - i. Restoration of pre-Napoleon rulers
 - ii. House of Bourbon – France, Spain, and the two Sicilies
 - iii. House of Braganza – Portugal
 - iv. House of Orange – Netherlands
 - v. House of Savoy – Sardinia
 - vi. German princes – territories in the Confederation of the Rhine
 - vii. Pope and Catholic Church – Papal states

IV. Territorial changes

- a. Austria – gained Lombardy, Modena, Parma, Tuscany, and Venetia (all are areas in modern Italy)
- b. England – gained Cape Colony, Ceylon, Heligoland, Guiana, and Malta (areas in Africa, the Americas, and Asia)
- c. Holland – gained Austrian Netherlands (Belgium)
- d. Prussia – gained part of Poland, land along the Rhine River, 40% of Saxony, Swedish Pomerania, and Westphalia
- e. Russia – gained Finland and part of Poland
- f. Sweden – gained Norway

V. Fate of nationalism

- a. People had no say over territorial changes
- b. Language, nationality, and religion weren't taken into consideration
- c. Ideas of democracy and self-government were rejected by European leadership
- d. Soon enough, concessions were made

VI. Louis XVIII of France

- a. No more divine right of kings
- b. Charter (Constitution) granted in 1814
- c. Could not restore feudalism and serfdom
- d. Continuing religious toleration guaranteed

VII. Buffer states

- a. Designed to prevent France from again becoming a threat
- b. Holland and Sardinia enlarged and strengthened
- c. European nations guaranteed Switzerland's neutrality

VIII. Quadruple and Holy Alliances

- a. Metternich desired to maintain the status quo and make the Vienna treaties permanent
- b. Quadruple Alliance of 1815
 - i. Austria, England, Prussia, and Russia
 - ii. France joined in 1818
 - iii. Pledged to put down democratic or nationalistic revolts
- c. Holy Alliance
 - i. Organized by Tsar Alexander I of Russia
 - ii. Most European monarchs joined
 - iii. Pledged to govern with charity, justice, and peace
 1. But none of them did so

IX. Results of the Congress of Vienna

- a. Concert of Europe – group of leading nations which periodically met to discuss issues regarding stability
- b. Temporary suppression of democratic and nationalistic ideals
- c. International peace – no general war in Europe until World War I a hundred years later
 - i. Crimean War (1854-1856)
 - ii. Austro-Prussian War (1866)
 - iii. Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)

X. Review questions

- a. What countries made up the "Big Four" at the Congress of Vienna?
- b. What were the principles of compensation and legitimacy?
- c. How did the Congress of Vienna redraw the map of Europe?
- d. What was the purpose of the Quadruple Alliance?
- e. What were the results of the Congress of Vienna?