

Aim: How did the decision making process at The Congress of Vienna help pave the way for 100 years of peace in Europe?



**KEEP YOUR  
FRIENDS CLOSE  
AND  
YOUR ENEMIES  
CLOSER**

Get Going: Analyze the above quote. Write down your thoughts.

# Key Players at Vienna



Tsar Alexander I (Rus.)



King Frederick William  
III (Prus.)



The "Host" Prince  
Klemens von  
Metternich (Aus).



Foreign Minister,  
Viscount Castlereagh (Br.)



Foreign Minister,  
Charles Maurice de  
Talleyrand (Fr.)

Which major European power is missing?



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Why do you think the strategic decision is made to include France at the Congress of Vienna?

- ★ If France is severely punished, they might attempt revenge.
- ★ If France was broken up and divided, another country might become too powerful and threaten all.

# The Global History and Geography II Times

Read All About It!

Winter 1814-1815

## Congress of Vienna Meets!

By: Mr. Lewis

After the fall of Napoleon, a group of aristocratic leaders from various European countries met to discuss ways to prevent more political and social unrest as well as to establish the future boundaries of the continent. Representatives from most European countries and even France met to determine the future of the continent. Officials from Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, and Austria (the Quadruple Alliance) made most of the decisions at this conference known as the Congress of Vienna. The meetings were held in Vienna between 1814 and 1815. Prince Klemens von Metternich, a brilliant Austrian diplomat, dominated the conference. His ideas greatly influenced European affairs for the next thirty years. Metternich helped restore Europe's monarchs after the turmoil of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars.



Prince Metternich takes control at the Congress of Vienna

Metternich distrusted the democratic ideals of the French Revolution. Like most other European aristocrats, he felt that Napoleon's behavior had been a natural outcome of experiments with democracy. Metternich wanted to keep things as they were and remarked, "The first and greatest concern for the immense majority of every nation is the stability of laws—never their change." Metternich had three goals at the Congress of Vienna. First, he wanted to prevent future French aggression by surrounding France with strong countries. Second, he wanted to restore a balance of power, so that no country would be a threat to others. Third, he wanted to restore Europe's royal families to the thrones they had held before Napoleon's conquests.

## The Containment of France

By: B. Lewis

- The Congress took the following steps to make the weak countries around France stronger:
- The former Austrian Netherlands and Dutch Republic were united to form the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- A group of 39 German states were loosely joined as the newly created German Confederation, dominated by Austria.
- Switzerland was recognized as an independent nation.
- The Kingdom of Sardinia in Italy was strengthened by the addition of Genoa.

## Legitimacy Restored!

by: Me



Legitimacy-Agreeing that as many as possible of the rulers who Napoleon had driven from their thrones be restored to power

The great powers affirmed the principle of legitimacy—agreeing that as many as possible of the rulers whom Napoleon had driven from their thrones be restored to power. By agreeing to come to one another's aid in case of threats to peace, the European nations had temporarily ensured that there would be a balance of power on the continent. The Congress of Vienna, then, created a time of peace in Europe. It was a lasting peace. The Congress of Vienna was a victory for conservatives. Kings and princes resumed power in country after country, in keeping with Metternich's goals. Nevertheless, there were important differences from one country to another. Britain and France now had constitutional monarchies. Generally speaking, however, the governments in Eastern and Central Europe were more conservative. The rulers of Russia, Prussia, and Austria were absolute monarchs.

## Keeping Things Conservative

By Lewis, Brian



Late in 1815, Czar Alexander I, Emperor Francis I of Austria, and King Frederick William III of Prussia signed an agreement called the Holy Alliance. In it, they pledged to base their relations with other nations on Christian principles in order to combat the forces of revolution. Finally, a series of alliances devised by Metternich, called the Concert of Europe, ensured that nations would help one another if any revolutions broke out. Despite their efforts to undo the French Revolution, the leaders at the Congress of Vienna could not turn back the clock. The Revolution had given Europe its first experiment in democratic government. Although the experiment had failed, it had set new political ideas in motion. The major political upheavals of the early 1800s had their roots in the French Revolution.

**EDITORIAL**  
**“ON THE LEGACY OF CONGRESS OF**  
**VIENNA”**

The Congress of Vienna will leave a legacy that will influence world politics for the next 100 years. The continent-wide efforts to establish and maintain a balance of power will diminish the size and the power of France. At the same time, the power of Britain and Prussia will be increased.

Nationalism will begin to spread in Italy, Germany, Greece, and to other areas that the Congress has put under foreign control. Eventually, the nationalistic feelings will explode into revolutions, and new nations will be formed. European colonies will also respond to the power shift. Spanish colonies will take advantage of the events in Europe to declare their independence and break away from Spain.

At the same time, ideas about the basis of power and authority have changed permanently as a result of the French Revolution. More and more, people see democracy as the best way to ensure equality and justice for all. The French Revolution has changed the social attitudes and assumptions that have dominated Europe for centuries. A new era has begun!



# CONGRESS OF VIENNA

**1. Answer the following questions based on the article "Congress of Vienna Meets":**

- a) Why did European leaders meet following the fall of Napoleon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b) Which nations made up the Quadruple Alliance?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c) Which leader from which country dominated most of the conference?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d) According to the article, were his ideas successful or unsuccessful? Explain.

**2. Answer the following questions based on the article "Metternich Most Influential"**

- a) What was Metternich's motivation in attending and leading the Congress?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b) What were Metternich's three goals at the Congress of Vienna:

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**3. Answer the following questions based on the article "The Containment of France":**

a) What were some of the ways in which The Congress ensured that the weak countries around France were strong? Summarize:

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b) Why do you think this was such an important part of the planning of the future of Europe?

**4. Answer the following questions based on the article "Legitimacy Restored":**

a) Define the principle of legitimacy:

b) What was the purpose of "legitimacy"? Was it successful?

c) What was the major difference between nations such as Britain and France as opposed to Russia, Prussia and Austria?

**5. Answer the following questions based on the article "Keeping things Conservative":**

- a) Who agreed to join "The Holy Alliance" and what was it an agreement on?
- b) What was the Concert of Europe?
- c) Even though The Holy Alliance and The Concert of Europe were strong ideas and alliances, why were they inevitably going to fail?

**6. Answer the following questions based on the Editorial "On the Legacy of the Congress of Vienna"**

- a) For how long was the impact of the Congress of Vienna felt in Europe?
- b) Whose power decreased, and which nations found their power increase exponentially?
- c) What is nationalism and where did it begin to grow?
- d) What does nationalism typically lead to? Whose colonies began to feel nationalistic and break away from their mother country?
- e) What did the French Revolution change forever? What type of government were people looking for following the French Revolution?



