The Congress of Vienna 1814-1815

The Congress of Vienna was the first large-scale peace conference ever. Its main task was to discuss the future of Europe after the Napoleonic wars. The borders, the system of government, the attitude towards the revolutionary ideas.

**TASK 1:** Label the map with the expressions from the box - the most important changes Napoleon made to the map of Europe.

- Grand Duchy of Warsaw
- Confederation of the Rhine
- Austrian Empire
- Illyrian Provinces
- Helvetian Republic
- Kingdom of Italy

**TASK 2:** What changes to the Napoleonic map of Europe were the statesmen meeting at the Congress of Vienna most likely to make?

**TASK 3:** The Statesmen, Match the main statesmen present at the Congress with their main principles/interests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statesman</th>
<th>Principles/Interests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Klemens von Metternich</td>
<td>balance of power, not to punish France too severely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Austria)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander I.</td>
<td>stability depends on rule by monarchy and respect for the aristocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Russia)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Stewart Castlereagh</td>
<td>acting as the saviour of Europe, rebuilding it on Christian principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Great Britain)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl von Hardenberg</td>
<td>trying to avoid weakening his country too much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Prussia)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Maurice de Talleyrand</td>
<td>well-being of Europe as a whole depends on punishing France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(France)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The two most conflicting issues concerned the future of:

- Poland
- Saxony

The main terms of the treaty were:

- Old ruling dynasties were to be restored (e.g., Bourbons in France)
- To prevent any further revolutions is the common aim of all the participants in the conference
- **Quadruple Alliance** (Austria, Russia, Prussia, Britain) was formed to suppress any possible revolutionary activities. France joined in 1818 (**Quintuple Alliance**)
- **Holy Alliance** (Austria, Russia, Prussia) formed to protect the precepts of justice, Christian charity and peace, promoting traditional conservative ideas and values
- France was to pay indemnity
- Territorial changes
  - France returned to its borders as in the year …
  - Austria gained …
  - Prussia gained … and …
  - Russia gained … and …
  - Britain got …
  - Sweden got …
  - The Netherlands got …
  - German states turned into …

  under the presidency of…
The ‘Congress System’ and the Revolutions

The main powers of the Congress of Vienna decided to meet regularly and suppress any possible revolutionary movement.

Wartburg Festival 1817
- festival of radical German students demanding liberal reforms and the unification of Germany.
- the black, red and golden flag introduced for the first time

TASK 4: Wartburg festival was held to celebrate the 300th anniversary of an important event not only for Germany. What was the event?

The reaction of the authorities led to increased censorship and imprisonment of the leading organizers.

Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle (Aachen) 1818
- concerning France –
- France became a new member of the alliance – Quintuple Alliance

Congress of Troppau 1820
- Troppau Prorocol (Austria, Prussia, Russia) –
- Britain and France did not sign it

Revolutions 1820-1821
The revolutions broke out in Portugal, Spain, Naples and Piedmont.

TASK 5: Why did the revolutions break out in countries that belonged to the former Napoleonic Empire? What were the main demands and specific reasons for the revolutions?

Congress of Laibach 1821
- Austria to intervene in ………………. and ……………… to subdue the revolutions

Congress of Verona 1823
- France to intervene in ……………… X Britain left the Alliance – policy of no interference in Europe
Decembrist Revolt in Russia 1825
- Tsar Alexander I died, the opposition attempted to use the opportunity for a coup
- Decembrists (mainly army officers) demanded the end of absolutism, reforms, constitution and the end of serfdom
- Decembrists were not unified, did not have any clear plan
- Troops remained loyal to the new Tsar Nicholas I, Decembrists were severely punished

Greek Uprising 1821 – War of Independence from the Ottoman Empire
- dilemma for the Quintuple/Holy Alliance
  o Greeks fellow Christians X the Sultan a legitimate ruler
  o sympathy for the Greek cause in Europe X fear of Russian interference
⇒ European powers did not help X volunteers from Europe joining the Greeks
- alarmed by the brutality of the Turks, Britain and Russia decided to take action – St. Petersburg Protocol 1826 – Greece should be granted autonomy

TASK 6: What was the motivation of Britain and Russia to help the Greeks?
- 1827-1829 war between Russia and the Ottoman Empire
- 1830 London Protocol – Greece granted independence

The July Revolution in France 1830
After the defeat of Napoleon the royal dynasty of Bourbons was restored in France.
Louis XVIII (1814-1825), brother of Louis XVI, liberal, wise king, trying not to stir any unrest
- Charter (a constitutional document), king played the most important role, parliament with restricted privileges (can’t propose new legislation), civil liberties remained
Charles X (1825-1830), another brother of Louis XVI
- his main aim was to restore ……………….……………
- believed in the divine right of the kings
- church untouchable, aristocracy were paid for their loss of land during the revolution
- reduced electorate (100 000 under Louis XVIII, 25 000 under Charles X)
  x
- opposition growing, economic recession

Three Glorious Days (27-29 July) – The July Revolution
July Monarchy of Louis Philippe (1830-1848)

- **constitutional monarchy**, supported mainly by the rich, wealthy people
- **Charter 1830**
  - broader electorate (3% of the population)
  - parliament could propose new laws
  - king couldn’t suspend laws and rule by decree

**TASK 7**: Label the social pyramid and identify the group supporting Louis Philippe’s regime.

Belgium 1830

- inspired by the success of the July Revolution in France, Belgium declared independence from ............
- Britain supported the cause and the independence of Belgium was accepted

Poland 1830

- after the Congress of Vienna Poland was ........................................
- in 1830 the Poles rose demanding independence, but the uprising was brutally suppressed by the Russian army
- Poland became part of Russia

**Revolutions 1848-1849, ‘The Spring of Nations’**

**TASK 8**: Using your knowledge of the period 1815-1848, identify the main demands of the 1848 revolutions in the following categories.

- **Nationalistic demands:**
- **Liberal demands:**
- **Social demands:**
France, February Revolution 1848

**TASK 9:** Study the following cartoons and decide which features of the July monarchy were criticized the most.

The growing dissatisfaction with Louis Philippe’s regime was escalated by the economic crisis of 1847 and bad harvests 1846, 1847.

**February Revolution (Feb 25, 1848)**
- ‘The Second Republic’ declared, Louis Philippe resigned
- **Republican Reforms**
  - universal male suffrage –
  - National Workshops –
  - maximum working hours
- **June days** – uprising of workers in protest against the abolishment of the National Workshops

**TASK 10:** Why were the national workshops so unpopular with the majority of the French population?

- presidential elections in December 1848, hope for a strong personality able to restore order and stability – **Louis Bonaparte** elected
Italy 1848-1849

There were several revolutionary groups working in secret, demanding the unification of Italy.

- Carbonari –
- Young Italy (Giuseppe Mazzini) –

**TASK 11:** Study the map. What were the main obstacles concerning the unification of Italy?

- February 1848: uprising in Milan, Austrian army forced to withdraw
- uprising in Naples, the Bourbon king forced to promise reforms, constitution
- Kingdom of Sardinia declared war on Austria, took the lead in the revolution but was defeated by the excellent Austrian commander Radecky at Custozza 1848 and Novarra 1849.
- by this defeat the liberals demanding constitutional monarchy under the King of Sardinia lost their chance for success
- May 1849 radicals declared republic in Rome
- French forces arrived to help the Pope to restore his state and defeated the republicans

German Confederation 1848-1850

The German Confederation consisted of 38 states. The Austrian Empire held the honorary presidency.

Due to the Industrial Revolution the German states began to cooperate in the field of economy and formed the Zollverein (customs union) in 1834

In March 1848 there were revolutions in most of the German states. The kings, dukes and other rulers unable to face the opposition groups had to promise the end of absolutism as well as reforms, constitution.

At the end of March a Vorparlament (Interim parliament) met in Frankfurt to discuss the unification of Germany. In May a regular Frankfurt Assembly was elected to draw a constitution of the future unified Germany.
**Task 12:** Study the map. What were the biggest obstacles in the process of unification of Germany? What different demands and attitudes had the Frankfurt assembly to solve?

September 1848 – radicals disillusioned with the Frankfurt Assembly stirred up a revolution but were defeated. Moreover, they annoyed the conservatives who decided on a compromise with the ruling families.

Spring 1849 – The Frankfurt Assembly agreed on a constitution making Germany a Constitutional Monarchy and offered the crown to the King of Prussia – *Frederick William IV* but he refused the crown from the hands of a revolutionary assembly and helped to suppress revolutionary governments in remaining German states.

Prussia then formed its **Union of Erfurt** (including 28 mainly North German states under the leadership of Prussia)

1850 **Olomouc** – Prussia was forced to dismiss the Union under the pressure of ……………….and …………….

1851 The **German Confederation** under Austrian presidency was renewed.
**Austrian Empire**

**TASK 13:** Why do you think the situation in Austria was probably the most complicated in Europe? Could Austria solve only its internal problems? What were the most conflicting issues within the Empire?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Action</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Revolution in Vienna, end of absolutism, Metternich forced to resign, promise of constitution</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Pillersdorf’s Constitution, only minor reforms in favour of the wealthy</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>2nd Revolution in Vienna, constitution revoked, universal male suffrage, elections to the Constituent Assembly</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>opening session of the Constituent Assembly</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 7</td>
<td>end of feudal system</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 6-Nov 1</td>
<td>3rd Revolution in Vienna, radicals, defeated</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>new government Felix Schwarzenberg</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Olomouc, Francis Joseph I</td>
<td>Czech Lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>Kremsier Parliament dismissed, Stadion’s Constitution introduced</td>
<td>Czech Lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 31, 1851</td>
<td>Sylvester Patents, absolutism renewed</td>
<td>Czech Lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Pressburg Diet, March Laws – autonomy of Hungary, government under Lajos Kossuth</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 14, 1849</td>
<td>1849 Habsburgs dethroned, war</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 28-Mar 7</td>
<td>Kremsier Parliament – constitution, federation of 14 lands</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>Petition to the Emperor, national, liberal and cultural demands</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 8</td>
<td>Cabinet Letter, the Emperor promises to fulfill the demands</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr, Palacký’s Letter to Frankfurt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2-12</td>
<td>Slav Congress in Prague</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12-18</td>
<td>Revolution of the radicals in Prague suppressed by general Windischgratz, martial law</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 13</td>
<td>Battle of Vilagos, Hungary defeated by Austria and Russia</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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EUROPE 1815-1848