

Concerto fo europe



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International Relations
The Concert of Europe was a balance of powers between the most powerful countries to plan a solution to problems and ensure the peace between the European Nations.

Its founding members were Britain, Austria, Prussia and Russia who were also the countries that had fought against Napoleon. The Concert of Europe lasted between 1814 and 1898, and Europe experienced the longest time in peace of its history. The Concert of Europe was established in the Congress of Vienna of 1815. The problem that wanted to be resolved was that Europe was always been in war.

After the French revolution of 1789 and the Napoleonic Wars, European leaders were in a need of peace. Europe had been devastated after the Napoleonic Wars and with the French revolution, the idea of liberalism and nationalism spread all over Europe. The leaders of the main countries wanted to restore the old type of order before 1789. The Concert of Europe was designed to reflect the interests of the Big Powers, to establish their borders of expansion in Europe, and create a balance of powers.

It was in the Congress of Vienna where all the ambassadors of the most powerful countries met. The Congress of Vienna was a conference between the victorious powers against the Empire of Napoleon Bonaparte. The objectives of these countries was to redraw the political map of Europe, to restore order in France and balance their forces to ensure peace in Europe. It began on September 1814 and lasted until June 1815. Their intention was give back the territories that Napoleon had conquered and create a new a balanced map of Europe where no country, especially France, could have any

type of advantage over the others. The Congress gave a balanced settlement which ensured no big conflict for forty years and then until 1914. It adopted a fair policy of no great rewards and no great punishments to France although they took away most of the territories they had after Napoleonic Wars. It was still generous to the defeated France, so that French didnt have feelings for revenge and started a new war.

They adopted a policy to restore the ??? status quo ante bellum??? (the situation as it was before the war) a return to 1793 as far as possible. The French Revolution had created new ideas of democracy and patriotic nationalism throughout Europe. The diplomats represented the crowned heads of Europe and their main goal was to restored monarchies across Europe.

The Congress of Vienna was chaired by Klemens Wenzel von Metternich, but he also was representing Austria. He had an important influence in the out coming of the Concert of Europe because he really believed in the settlement through an alliance of European monarchies. Prusia was represented by the prince Karl August von Hardenberg and his chancellor Wilhelm von Humboldt. Russia was represented by Karl Robert Nesselrode , but normally was the Tzar Alexander I who took all the important decisions. For the British, it was also the foreign minister Castlereagh but after February, the Duke of Wellington took over. France was also invited, represented by their foreign minister Talleyrand , although it was the defeated country, most of the items concerning in the conference had to do with them. They were also a lot of participants from different countries as Spain, Portugal, Sweeden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, the German States.

There were three basis principals that oriented the conference. The first one was the principle of legitimacy defended mainly by Talleyrand, in which they were considered legitimate rulers and the borders that existed before the French Revolution. It served the interests of the victorious in the war against Napoleon Bonaparte, but at the same time, it look to safeguard the territorial losses of France and foreign intervention. It wasnt really respected cause the four powers tried to get some advantages when designing the new territories of Europe organization. The principle of restoration, which was a big concern by the absolutist monarchies, because this would put Eruopean in the same political situation that existed before the French Revolution, which ended with royal privileges and instituted the legitimate right of ownership the bourgeoisie.

The Principle of balance, it defended the organization of a balanced economic and political powers of Europe. It divided territories of some countries, such as the German Confederation that was divided into 39 states with Prussia and Austria as its leaders, and annexing territories near France, as the case in Belgium which is attached to the Netherlands, to find a balance of power in nineteenth century Europe. One of the biggest difficulties they found in the conference was at the time when they had to divide the territories between the different countries. As normal everyone wanted as much as possible and conflict arose, especially between Russia and Prussia. The final agreement pleased everyone cause it meant the equilibrium everyone was looking for. Russia was able to keep Finland and they also gained the territory of Duchy of Warsaw. Prussia also received a

part of Warsaw, but they also gained a part of Saxony, Danzig, and the Westphalia.

The Dutch Republic was united with the Austrian Netherlands to form a single kingdom of the Netherlands under the House of Orange. A German Confederacy was set up to replace the old Holy Roman Empire. The number of German states was reduced from over 300 to 39. A presidency was established under the kingdom of Austria, delegates were send to these states.

Also The neutrality of Switzerland was guaranteed and stayed like that until today. Austria was given back most of the territory it had lost and was also given land in Germany and Italy like Lombardy and Venice. Britain got many several strategic colonial territories like Malta, Trinidad as well as Mauritius, Tobago and Santa Lucia from France. They also gained control of the seas which was very important for them cause of the big navy army Britain had.

France received French Guiana from Portugal, Guadeloupe from Sweden, and Martinique and the Isle of Bourbon from Great Britain. But the main thing France gained was it was restored under the rule of Louis XVIII and that it didnt suffered a lot of punishments. Besides political and territories provisions, they stated the principle of free navigation on the rivers Rhine and Meuse. They aso condemned the slave trade, determining because it didnt respected basic human rights.

There were also some measures favorable to improve the living conditions of the Jews. They created a regulation on the practice of diplomatic activities between countries. After the congress of vienna there were different meeting

between the powerful countries were held such as Aix-la-Chappelle (1818), Carlsbad (1819), Verona (1822), and London in 1830, 1832, 1838-1839.