Congress of Vienna

The Congress and the Diplomats
• Following the defeat of Napoleon, Europe was a mess. Napoleon had completely rearranged the boundary lines of many countries -- now that he was gone, what was to be done?

• The Congress of Vienna was not a legislative body, but a meeting of diplomats from major nations in Europe. Their job was to decide what to do about the changes Napoleon had made to Europe.

• Representing Austria, and the host of the Congress, was Prince Klemens von Metternich, the foreign minister to the Austrian Emperor. Britain was represented by Lord Castlereagh, Russia by the Czar himself, Alexander I, and Prussia by their King Frederick William III.

• Many felt France should not have been invited because they had caused all the turmoil, but they were represented well by the crafty Charles Maurice de Tallyrand.

Guiding Principles of the Congress
• Conservatism. The diplomats were all members of the upper classes, and therefore were interested in the traditional order of things. Historians consider these diplomats to be reactionaries (extreme conservatives) because they wanted to return to the previous era.

• Legitimacy. The diplomats decided to return the legitimate rulers to their thrones in cases where Napoleon had deposed them. The King of Sardinia (Italy) was restored as ruler of his various territories, and King Louis XVIII was recognized as the ruler of France.

• Compensation. It was decided that nations who had suffered in fighting against Napoleon would be given land. The Netherlands received Belgium, Russia got Finland and part of Poland, Prussia received the other part of Poland, and Britain received control of various colonies.

Forces Ignored?
• Liberalism. The idea that individuals had certain innate rights and liberties was completely ignored by the delegates of the Congress. It was as if they tried to completely erase the ideas of the Enlightenment.

• Nationalism. This force was, to some degree, born during the French Revolution (in Europe), and was inadvertently spread by Napoleon’s troops. The principle of compensation followed by the diplomats went completely contrary to the growing forces of nationalism.

Results?
• Fans of the Congress point out that there was not another widespread European war for almost 100 years, and suggest that the Congress effectively established peace and order.

• Critics of the Congress, point out that major nationalist rebellions broke out only 15 years after the Congress. A series of rebellions rocked Europe in 1830, breaking out in Paris, Berlin, Poland, in Italian states and in Belgium (which was successful in breaking away from the Netherlands).

• By 1848, rebellions were so widespread that it was considered epidemic.
1. What was the situation in Europe following the defeat of Napoleon?

2. What was the Congress of Vienna? What was its purpose?

3. Who were the delegates at the Congress?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Delegate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Why did many think that France should not have been invited to the Congress?

5. Explain the guiding principles of the Congress. Give examples, if possible.
   - a. Conservatism -->
   - b. Legitimacy -->
   - c. Compensation -->

6. Explain the forces that the delegates ignored. Give examples of how the forces were ignored, if possible.
   - a. Liberalism -->
   - b. Nationalism -->

7. Why do many suggest that the Congress was a success?

8. Why do many suggest it was a failure? (Please offer specific examples... )
1. What was the situation in Europe following the defeat of Napoleon?

Europe was a mess. Napoleon had completely re-arranged the boundary lines of many countries.

2. What was the Congress of Vienna? What was its purpose?

A meeting of diplomats from major nations in Europe. To re-draw the map of Europe after the destruction of Napoleon’s wars.

3. Who were the delegates at the Congress?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Delegate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Prince Klemens von Metternich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>Lord Castlereagh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Czar Alexander I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prussia</td>
<td>Kaiser Frederick William III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Charles Maurice de Talleyrand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Why did many think that France should not have been invited to the Congress? They had caused the whole mess!!

5. Explain the guiding principles of the Congress. Give examples, if possible.

a. Conservatism --> they wanted to restore the traditional political and social order.

b. Legitimacy --> they decided to return the legitimate rulers to their thrones. King Louis XVIII was placed on the throne of France, and the King of Sardinia was restored as ruler over various territories.

c. Compensation --> they rewarded those nations who had actively fought Napoleon with land. The Netherlands received Belgium, Russia got Finland and part of Poland, Prussia received the other part of Poland, and Britain received control of various colonies.

6. Explain the forces that the delegates ignored. Give examples of how the forces were ignored, if possible.

a. Liberalism --> the idea that individuals had certain innate rights and liberties. It was as if they tried to completely erase the ideas of the Enlightenment.

b. Nationalism --> pride in one’s country. Any sense of nationalism was completely ignored by delegates as they gave away nations in the principle of compensation. (How were the Poles or Fins or Belgians to feel?)

7. Why do many suggest that the Congress was a success?

There was not another widespread European war for almost 100 years, and suggest that the Congress effectively established peace and order.

8. Why do many suggest it was a failure? (Please offer specific examples... )

Major nationalist rebellions broke out only 15 years after the Congress. A series of rebellions rocked Europe in 1830, breaking out in Paris, Berlin, Poland, in Italian states and in Belgium (which was successful in breaking away from the Netherlands).
Legal Disclaimers

Thank you for your purchase. If you found this work useful, please consider rating this work and purchasing other readings by the same author. Also, please consider recommending this author’s work to your colleagues.

©2010 Lauri Secker: The Lady Lion. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this work in another form, in part or in whole, is prohibited. Purchase of this unit entitles the purchaser the right to reproduce the pages in limited quantities for classroom use only. Duplication for an entire school, an entire school system or commercial purposes is strictly forbidden without written permission from the publisher. Electronic distribution limited to classroom use only.

All images are property of Jupiterimages and are licensed for use in this work only. Any other use of these images without proper license is unauthorized and prohibited. For licensing information, see www.clipart.com