

THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA

Starting with the French Revolution in the 1790's through the Napoleonic Wars in the early 1800's, France was fighting with many European countries. The French Revolution and Napoleon's rule had brought changes to Europe, including new ideas of more equality between classes, the unseating of kings and queens, and a new idea of nationalism. Nationalism was the belief of supporting a nation rather than a monarch which started to promote unity between people. Europe also saw Napoleon control much of Europe with impressive military victories.

The Napoleonic Wars had resulted in France taking land from several European countries which created an imbalance of power between the major European countries. The Treaty of Paris ended the Napoleonic Wars and said that European leaders would meet to restore the balance of power in Europe and create a plan to keep Europe peaceful.

These meetings were called the Congress of Vienna and happened over a year from July 1814 to June 1815. Prince Metternich of Austria was an important figure and led a group of representatives known as The Conservative Order. He pushed for the revolutionary ideas of equality, liberty, and fraternity to be replaced as he felt they led to the French Revolution. This meant that the Conservative Order saw that the



How did the French Revolution change Europe?

Why was an imbalance of power created and what did leaders do in response to the imbalance?

What did The Conservative Order want and why?



overthrown monarchs like the Bourbons of France were put back in charge. Metternich and others wanted to prevent one power from controlling Europe, and a solution was to re-draw some borders of European countries. This reduced France's land area and created a "buffer zone" between powerful European countries. For example, a new kingdom, known as the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which was made up of present-day Belgium and the Netherlands was created to keep peace between France, Prussia, and the United Kingdom.

The Congress of Vienna's attempt to stop nationalism, and other French Revolution values, led to tension between the European powers. For example, there were violent efforts by groups of people across Europe about 30 years after the Congress of Vienna. Countries like Germany became nationalistic which would again disrupt the balance of power. However, the Congress of Vienna was successful in keeping Europe peaceful for about one hundred years until World War One and the Congress of Vienna was the model used for the creation of the League of Nations and the United Nations.

Why was the Kingdom of Netherlands created?

Was the Congress of Vienna's attempt at creating peace in Europe successful?

What was the Congress of Vienna later used as a model for?

Sources

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