**The Congress of Vienna, November 1814 – June 1815**

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| **Aim:**  | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:****1.****2.** |  |

**A. Congress of Vienna**

The Congress of Vienna was an international conference that was called in order to remake Europe after the downfall of Napoleon. The rulers of Europe met to create a balance of power that would preserve peace. Kings and ministers of the major powers of Europe met in Vienna, Austria. They redrew the map of Europe. Their goal was to "turn back the clock" to the "happy days" before the French Revolution and Napoleon. They also had to remake Europe since so much of it had been part of Napoleon’s empire. Let us see how they proposed to return to those "good old days." Here, we sit in on a meeting of Czar Alexander I of Russia, Prince Metternich of Austria, Viscount Castlereagh of Great Britain, and Talleyrand of France. They are discussing the past and the future of Europe.

*Describe the purpose (persuade, inform or entertain) for the Congress of Vienna.*

**B. The Conversation at the Congress of Vienna**

The members of the conversation are: Prince Metternich (Austrian foreign minister) is talking to two other leaders of Europe, Lord Castlereagh of Great Britain and Minister Talleyrand of France, and Czar Alexander of Russia.

**Castlereagh** (**Great Britain):** There is one thing we can all agree upon. Things have changed in Europe.

**Talleyrand** (**France):** Things, things- I’m not so sure I know what you mean. Aren’t we back where we started before the Revolution? Haven’t we turned back the clock to the good old days?

**Castlereagh**: Don’t be a fool, Tallyrand. (He raises his voice slightly) Things can never be the same. We can try, but the French Revolution and Napoleon will always be with us.

**Metternich (Austria):** Don’t say that: Thank God, Napoleon is gone. We’ve shipped him off to Elba. Put the man on a battlefield and you never know what might happen. He took boys and gave them guns. Somehow he won ten (10) battles in twenty (20) days! He is dangerous!

**Talleyrand:** I have nightmares of Napoleon escaping and rallying the mobs around him. Never again will a man rise from nowhere and become an emperor, as Napoleon did. Only those born to be kings may be kings.

**Metternich:** You are right for once, Talleyrand. It was clever of us to choose old Louis, the dead king’s brother, to sit on the throne of France. There is no question about his being the legitimate (rightful) ruler. It was a blessing that there was at least one real Bourbon (Louis family name) left in France.

**Alexander (Russia):** Not clever- we were not clever at all. We are lucky that Louis happened to be available. Now he is Louis XVIII, and believes he was made King of France by the grace of God.

**Metternich:** He looks like a fool and acts like a fool. But he is the king of France. And that‘s it. Revolutions are over! There will be no more changes in the governments of Europe. The common people will never rule our nations. They will never be given a chance to get control. We must keep the mob in its place! Legitimacy- inherited rank and privilege- is the answer! We must never forget that!

**Castlereagh:** I repeat: You cannot turn back the clock! We can try to hold back the hands of the clock, we can try to prevent changes, but gentlemen, and the world is not the same. It will never be.

**Metternich:** (angrily) wrong again Castlereagh! We are going to keep things exactly as they are. The present order will remain forever. We have made revolutions impossible.

**Talleyrand:** (places a map of Europe on the table) look at this map of Europe. The countries of our continent are all locked in. There is simply no room for change. No new nations can ever rise. Notice how Italy has been divided into many states; each is weak and helpless. And don’t forget how cleverly we’ve divided Germany! There are now thirty-eight (38) weak states and they are really controlled by Austria. No there will never be a united Germany!

**Castlereagh:** I wonder-are we really all that clever- Belgium ruled by Holland, Norway ruled by Sweden? Do you honestly think that all of this is going to last forever?

**Alexander:** (in a commanding voice) Gentlemen, I have a simple suggestion that will make all of this last forever. We must protect our thrones through definite action. I hear too much talk about how things can never change. To prevent revolutions, I propose a Holy alliance of the Kings of Europe. Let the people try to revolt. We will crush them without a second thought! We must be sure of ourselves. We must fight together to keep things from changing!

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| *Leader*  | *Goals at the Conference*  | *How could this goal prevent future revolutions?* |
| Metternich of Austria |  |  |
| Castlereagh of Great Britain |  |  |
| Talleyrand of France |  |  |
| Alexander of Russia |  |  |

**C. Effects of the Congress of Vienna**

* French returned territories gained by Napoleon
* Louis XVIII placed on the throne.
* Switzerland was declared neutral.
* Britain gained control over several strategic colonies and become the first superpower of the world.
* Holy Alliance crushed revolutions.
* The balance of power was successful... For 100 years Europe was peaceful.

*What effects of the Congress of Vienna do you think will help Europe the most? Explain.*

*How was the Congress of Vienna a turning point? (Be sure to explain what happened before)*

**D. French Aftermath**

After the Congress of Vienna, Louis XVIII ruled France as the head of a constitutional monarchy. Upon Louis XVIII's death, his brother, Charles X came to power. In 1830, Charles abolished freedom of the press and limited the number of people who could vote. The people immediately revolted against the monarchy during in July 1830. Charles was forced to abdicate the throne and to flee. As a result, Louis Philippe rose to power. Because political gatherings were outlawed in France, activists began to hold a series of fund-raising banquets to provide a legal place to criticize the government. In February 1848, Louis Philippe forbade such banquets. As a result, the people revolted. Barricades were erected and fighting broke out. On February 23, a large crowd gathered outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. An officer ordered the crowd not to pass and ordered his men to fix bayonets, probably wishing to avoid shooting. However, in what is widely regarded as an accident, a soldier fired, which resulted in the rest of the soldiers firing into the crowd. Fifty-two people were killed. King Louis Philippe abdicated and fled to England. On February 26, 1848 the Second Republic was established. Universal male suffrage was enacted, relief for the unemployed was achieved.

*Describe the causes of the two revolutions in France.*

*Even though there were two more revolutions in France, would you consider the Congress of Vienna successful?*