

Background Guide



WAMUNC XXVI

CONGRESS OF VIENNA



Letter from the Chair

Hello Delegates!

Welcome to the Congress of Vienna Committee! My name is Scarlett Metts, and I am excited to be your Chair for WAMUNC 2024. I am a current sophomore at George Washington University, majoring in International Affairs with a double concentration in Security Policy and International Environmental Studies. Additionally, I am a part of the GW Model UN travel team, and particularly enjoy the fast-paced and electric energy that crisis/specialized committees offer. I also did Model UN throughout high school, just like all of you. Competing in high school helped kindle my interest in foreign affairs, and Model UN has been the greatest part of my collegiate experience. Throughout this weekend, I expect to see many creative solutions, unique strategies, and extensive discussion- however, most importantly, I want everyone to have fun!

With that being said, I hope participating in the Congress of Vienna broadens your historical perspective and gives you a greater understanding of diplomatic policymaking. While the historical Congress was a lengthy event filled with lots of bureaucracy, our dynamic committee will be filled with excitement and intensity. I can't wait to see your debate and dialogue on such an intriguing topic!

Best Regards,

Scarlett Metts
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Introduction to Committee

As a historic/specialized committee, this committee will run most similarly to a traditional crisis committee. Delegates will, in their “frontroom,” engage in moderated and unmoderated caucus discussions, write and pass directives, and respond to crises. The “backroom” will operate on a one-pad system, where delegates write notes, utilizing their unique portfolio powers to progress an individual arc. Your arc can either aid the overarching goals of the committee or choose to go against them. Dynamic, well thought out arcs will be looked highly upon, regardless of the end goal.

Historically the Congress of Vienna occurred from 1814–1815 to discuss the future of European politics after the downfall of military leader and French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. It stood as a pivotal moment in European history following the Napoleonic Wars. Convened by

the major powers of Europe at the time (such as Austria, Britain, Russia, and Prussia), its primary objective was to restore stability and redraw territorial boundaries post-Napoleon. International statesmen and leaders like Klemens von Metternich of Austria aimed to establish a new balance of power to prevent future conflicts and maintain peace in Europe. The impact of this was profound, shaping the continent's political landscape for decades. Through a series of negotiations and agreements, the Congress reorganized Europe's map, dismantling Napoleon's conquests and reassigning territories while establishing a framework for cooperation among nations. The Congress of Vienna also marked a shift in diplomatic norms by introducing the concepts of multilateralism to address complex international issues. This legacy of diplomatic negotiations and the establishment of a conservative order influenced international relations for years to come, emphasizing diplomacy, negotiation, and cooperation among European powers. While not without criticisms or flaws, such as the disregard for national aspirations and the imposition of strict conservative ideals, the Congress of Vienna undeniably played a crucial role in shaping a new era of European politics, setting precedents for future peace conferences and diplomatic strategies worldwide.

However, our reenactment of this Congress will not follow these exact happenings of history. Instead, *you* will be able to decide the structure for a new European political and territorial order. By coming up with new ideas, new rules, and new boundaries, you will be able to set the precedent for modern European rule. Your actions in this Committee should only use the real historical Congress as a framework, as your ideas should be imaginative and purely your own. As this topic is multifaceted and requires a broad context of world history, outside research is heavily encouraged, especially to familiarize oneself with the geography of Europe and its current and former nations, states, territories, and dynasties.

Historical Context

The aftermath of the Napoleonic Era left much of Europe unstable, disorganized, and divided. To discuss the Congress itself, we must first discuss the militaristic happenings that led to the need for such a convention- specifically the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars.

The French Revolutionary Wars and the Rise of Napoleon

The French Revolutionary Wars were a watershed moment in European history, stemming from the ideas initiated by the French Revolution of 1789. The revolution, fueled by Enlightenment ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity (or “La liberté, L’égalité, et La fraternité,” which

now serves as the French national motto), shattered the traditional social and political order in France. It introduced radical concepts like popular sovereignty and universal rights, challenging the prevailing monarchical systems and inspiring profound socio-political transformations. The wars that ensued, spanning roughly a decade beginning in the early 1790s, embroiled France and much of Europe as neighboring monarchies sought to contain the revolutionary fervor and prevent the spread of these transformative ideas. France also found itself inspired by its allies abroad, such as the newfound United States, experiencing the tumultuous American Revolutionary War.¹ Both revolutions stemmed from the same 3 main issues: economic struggles (largely taxation issues), upsets with the monarchy, and unequal rights (especially concerning the power of aristocracy).² As such, the two Revolutions bled into each other, and ideas of Enlightenment were diffused worldwide.

The American Revolution was the only war that France participated in after 1763, before 1789, France enjoyed a period of relative peace, spurred on by many formal alliances.³ These alliances would play a greater role in negotiating and bargaining during the Congress of Vienna, and the following are the most important in such a context:

1. The Bourbon Family Compacts: a series of military agreement alliances between France and Spain, which sought to limit Britain's overseas ambitions and to challenge Austria's Habsburg possessions in Italy.⁴
2. The Habsburg-Bourbon: a formal alliance between France and Austria, beginning in 1756.⁵

Note that the Habsburgs were the leading dynasty of Austria, while the Bourbons reigned in both Spain and France.

The War of the First Coalition

The French Revolutionary Wars themselves began with the War of the First Coalition, marked by a series of battles between the newly formed French Republic and an array of European monarchies fearful of the revolutionary contagion. It spanned from 1792 to 1797 and was a direct response to France's radical political transformation and its declaration of war on

¹ “How Did the American Revolution Influence the French Revolution?” 2023. HISTORY. June 13, 2023. <https://www.history.com/news/how-did-the-american-revolution-influence-the-french-revolution>.

² Ibid.

³ Schneid, Frederik C. “The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.” January 27, 2011. Text. EGO(<http://www.ieg-ego.eu>). IEG(<http://www.ieg-mainz.de>). <http://ieg-ego.eu/en/threads/alliances-and-wars/war-as-an-agent-of-transfer/frederick-c-schneid-the-french-revolutionary-and-napoleonic-wars>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ “The Diplomatic Revolution: The First Alliance of Versailles (1756).” n.d. Oxford Public International Law. <https://opil.ouplaw.com/page/539>.

several European powers. The historical context of the War of the First Coalition lies in the aftermath of the previously mentioned French Revolution of 1789. The revolution saw the overthrow of the monarchy, the establishment of a new republic, and the rise of radical ideologies that challenged the traditional order across Europe. Alarmed by these revolutionary waves and concerned about the spread of republican ideals, monarchies like Austria, Prussia, Spain, Great Britain, and others formed the First Coalition against France. The war was initiated on April 20, 1792, by the French Legislative Assembly against the "King of Bohemia and Hungary."⁶ The Legislative Assembly was both the legislature and governing body of France before the formal establishment of the First Republic,⁷ and was largely dominated by the Girondin faction of the Jacobin party under the leadership of Jacques-Pierre Brissot (1754–1793).

The conflict witnessed significant military campaigns across Europe. France, led by revolutionary fervor and initially facing internal turmoil, managed to repel invading forces in several key battles, notably at Valmy in 1792.⁸ The French Revolutionary Army, buoyed by a sense of nationalism and revolutionary zeal, displayed surprising resilience despite facing better-trained and equipped enemy forces. However, the war was marked by a series of victories and setbacks on both sides. The Coalition, which was formed by almost all the major European powers except Russia, initially made gains but later faced defeats, notably against Napoleon Bonaparte's leadership in Italy, leading to the Treaty of Campo Formio in 1797. This treaty ended the war and forced Austria to cede territories to France, marking the first of many territorial adjustments in the subsequent Napoleonic Wars. This specific treaty, signed by General Napoleon Bonaparte of the French Republic and Count Ludwig von Cobenzl of the Austrian Empire, ceded the Austrian Netherlands (present-day Belgium) to France and recognized the new states of Ligurian (formerly Republic of Genoa) and Cisalpine Republics as independent states.⁹ In exchange for the additional French possession of the Ionian Islands including Corfu, and the cession of Lombardy to the Cisalpine Republic, Austria received the Italian lands east of the Adige River (including Venice, Friuli, Istria, and Dalmatia).¹⁰ In conclusion, this astounding French victory saw the Habsburgs of Austria exchange their lands in Italy for compensation in the Holy Roman Empire, while the Venetian Republic lost its independence and became an Austrian occupied territory. The French annexation of Belgium and the west bank of the Rhine was also recognized by the Habsburgs.¹¹ These Franco-Austrian negotiations would outline future territorial cessions at the Congress of Vienna.

⁶ Schneid, Frederik C. "The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars." 2011.

⁷ "The Legislative Assembly." French Revolution (blog). Alpha History. November 19, 2012. <https://alphahistory.com/frenchrevolution/legislative-assembly/>.

⁸ Mark, Harrison W. "Battle of Valmy - World History Encyclopedia." October 3, 2022. https://www.worldhistory.org/Battle_of_Valmy/.

⁹ Grossman, Ira. "The Treaty of Campo Formio." n.d. The Waterloo Association. https://www.napoleon-series.org/research/government/diplomatic/c_campoformio2.html.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Schneid, Frederik C. "The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars." 2011.

The War of the Second Coalition

The War of the Second Coalition, which occurred from 1798 to 1802, emerged in response to the expansionist policies of the French Republic, particularly under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte. The previously discussed Treaty of Campo Formio, which ended the War of the First Coalition, only brought temporary peace to Austria, which had no intention to permanently accept the outlined negotiations- despite compensation in Germany, Austrian Chancellor Baron Johann von Thugut (1736–1818) was greatly dismayed by the treaty and sought to undermine it with a second campaign. To do this, in the time between the wars, he began to encourage a Russian alliance for military aid and negotiated British subsidies to help the financial crisis plaguing the weakening Habsburg monarchy.¹² The Second Coalition against France was composed of various European powers, including Austria, Russia, the Ottoman Empire, Great Britain, and others, to curb French dominance and halt further French territorial conquest. The conflict witnessed several significant battles and military campaigns. In 1798, Napoleon launched an ambitious expedition to Egypt, seeking to disrupt British trade routes to India and expand French influence in the region. However, his victories in Egypt were ultimately negated by British Admiral Nelson's decisive naval triumph at the Battle of the Nile in August 1798.¹³ Meanwhile, in Europe, the coalition forces, led by Austria and Russia, made gains against the French. Notably, the emergence of a Russo-Austrian alliance greatly aided the war efforts, with Field Marshal Alexander Suvorov (1729–1800) undoing much of Napoleon's previous accomplishments in Italy. However, Russia withdrew from the Coalition in 1799, due to arguments within the Coalition.¹⁴

Despite initial setbacks, Napoleon's return to France in 1799 marked a turning point. He staged a coup and seized power in a bloodless coup d'état, establishing himself as First Consul. Employing his military genius, Napoleon swiftly consolidated power, defeated the Austrians at the Battle of Marengo in June 1800, and secured the Treaty of Lunéville with Austria in 1801. This formally ended hostilities against the Coalition, leaving Britain alone in its continuing attacks.¹⁵ This treaty reaffirmed French territorial gains and led to a cessation of hostilities between France and Austria, and had 5 main clauses (largely related to territorial claims), which were as follows:

1. The eastern border of the Cisalpine Republic was pushed back from the Mincio River to the Adige.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ "Napoleon in Egypt: The Battle of the Pyramids (July 1798)." n.d. National Gallery of Victoria. <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/napoleon/facts-and-figures/napoleon-in-egypt.html>.

¹⁴ Schroeder, Paul W. "The Collapse of the Second Coalition." *The Journal of Modern History* 59, no. 2 (1987): 244–90.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1879727>.

¹⁵ Rickard, J. "Peace of Lunéville, 9 February 1801." n.d. http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/peace_luneville.html

2. All German lands west of the Rhine were given to France.
3. Belgium and Luxembourg remained under French control, and Belgium also became part of France.
4. Tuscany was to become an independent kingdom, Etruria, to be ruled by Louis, Duke of Parma.
5. Pope Pius VII was confirmed as ruler of the Papal States, and Etruria and the Papal States were to become French satellites.¹⁶

The War of the Second Coalition's importance lies in its aftermath. The Treaty of Amiens in 1802 officially ended the hostilities between France and the remaining Coalition members, marking a brief period of peace in Europe. However, this peace was short-lived. This Franco-British treaty, similarly to the Treaty of Campo Formio, was never imagined to be a permanent peace- and thus, Britain would be the one to break this treaty and renew conflict against the expansionist Napoleon.¹⁷ The war's outcomes, particularly Napoleon's militaristic ambitions and his territorial expansions, laid the groundwork for the Napoleonic Wars that followed. Napoleon's conquests in Italy, Austria, Egypt, and elsewhere in addition to the resulting conflicts reshaped Europe's political landscape, leading to a series of wars that engulfed the continent for over a decade, characterized by battles like Austerlitz, Jena-Auerstedt, and the Peninsula War.¹⁸ These events fundamentally altered Europe's balance of power and the redrawing of its boundaries.

The significance of the French Revolutionary Wars is not just in the military confrontations but also in the ideological fervor they unleashed. The revolution's principles resonated far beyond France, sparking hope among oppressed populations across Europe and beyond. The wars, driven by a complex interplay of territorial ambitions, political alliances, and ideological clashes, led to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte, whose military prowess and ambition reshaped the continent- and whose actions would directly contribute to the need for the Congress of Vienna. Additionally, the French Revolutionary Wars profoundly altered the nature of warfare itself, introducing mass conscription and nationalism as potent forces mobilizing entire societies for conflict. They highlighted the clash between revolutionary principles and traditional monarchy, paving the way for significant shifts in the balance of power, diplomatic relations, and the very fabric of European societies. The wars catalyzed a reevaluation of governance, the role of the state, and the rights of citizens, but also inspired a new era of French nationalism, conquest, and expansionism, leading directly to the Napoleonic Wars.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Markley, Robert. "The Treaty of Amiens 1801." n.d. https://www.napoleon-series.org/research/government/diplomatic/c_peace.html.

¹⁸ Atkins, Harry. "10 Key Battles in the Napoleonic Wars." September 1, 2021. History Hit. <https://www.historyhit.com/key-battles-in-the-napoleonic-wars/>.

The Napoleonic Wars

Even before the outbreak of the Napoleonic Wars, it was clear that Napoleon had the strategic upper hand. He was able to use European rivalries and the individual goals of nations to his advantage, turning allies into enemies, and breaking coalitions apart. Napoleon also sought to extend French administration, particularly in political and cultural senses, to regions of Europe annexed into Imperial France (particularly Piedmont, Tuscany, and Umbria).¹⁹ It was this ambitious mind, overwhelming influence, and military prowess that brought Napoleon to greatness as First Consul, but ultimately, it would be his downfall. The outcomes of the War of the Second Coalition saw France as the greatest power in Western Europe and saw Britain at a great disadvantage and diplomatically isolated, after its fallout with Russia, Prussia, Austria, and the rest of the Second Coalition. However, distrust between Britain and France would lead to the breaking of the Treaty of Amiens before 1804, and Napoleon's imperialistic actions in Italy and Germany would spark another anti-French alliance between Russia and Austria.²⁰

Ultimately, the Napoleonic Wars would see many different coalitions and alliances form and break. The Third Coalition, formed in 1805, was comprised of Britain, Russia, Austria, Naples, and Sweden, in response to Napoleon's territorial ambitions and attempts to establish hegemony over Europe. This coalition sought to see European borders return to the way they were pre-1802; essentially, they wanted to entirely undo the Treaties of Lunéville and Campo Formio. In response to this, Napoleon constructed a massive continental army, with his satellites, the kingdoms of Italy and Holland, and the support of German princes of Baden, Wurttemberg, and Bavaria. In this war, both the Third Coalition and Napoleon sought to seek alliances with Prussia, which had remained largely neutral in the conflict. Finally, in December of 1805, Napoleon's French forces defeated the Austrians and Russians at the Battle of Austerlitz, securing a significant victory and compelling Austria to sign the Treaty of Pressburg.²¹ This treaty led to the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire, and the creation of the French-controlled Confederation of the Rhine. In addition, Austria ceded Venice and Trentino to the kingdom of Italy, while Bavaria received the Tyrol and the elevation of its duchy to a German kingdom.²² In February 1806, a Franco-Italian army took control of Naples, leading to Napoleonic control of the entire peninsula. While this was a massive French victory, there was only one Coalition success- the destruction of the Franco-Spanish fleet at Trafalgar in October 1805. Finally, the announcement of a tentative Franco-Prussian alliance sparked the British to re-declare war, establishing a new Fourth Coalition.

¹⁹ Schneid, Frederik C. "The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars." 2011.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Jensen, Nathan D. "Battle of Austerlitz." August 2023.

<https://www.frenchempire.net/battles/austerlitz/>.

²² "Treaty of Pressburg | Austria, France, Prussia." n.d. Britannica.
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Pressburg-1805>.

The beginning of the Fourth Coalition saw Russia, Britain, and Sweden as strong opposers of France, with Napoleon having Spain, Prussia, the Ottoman Empire, Bavaria, Wurttemberg, Baden, and his satellite kingdoms of Italy, Naples, and Holland as allies. However, the Franco-Prussian alliance did not last long; the fate of Hanover,²³ a German state which had been occupied by France since 1803, was a point of contention for Prussia, Britain, and Sweden alike. On October 14, 1806, Napoleon moved against Prussia and defeated its armies at Jena-Auerstedt.²⁴ Following this French victory, the Treaty of Tilsit was signed in July of 1807 to penalize Prussia and further consolidate the Napoleonic ‘Grand Empire.’ An unexpected counter-effect of this was the emergence of nationalism in other areas of Europe, specifically Germany (where the abolition of the Holy Roman Empire and the establishment of the Confederation of the Rhine promoted German consolidation of power)²⁵ and Italy. The Treaty of Tilsit also saw the creation of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, therefore establishing a Polish state from Prussian Poland, and instituting a formal alliance between the Poles, who had helped with the Prussian defeat, and Napoleon.²⁶

Napoleon's strategy revolved around military innovation, rapid mobilization, and exploiting weaknesses in his adversaries' positions. His Grand Army, a formidable force, employed innovative tactics and superior organization to secure victories in various theaters of war, extending French control across Europe. However, Napoleon's overextension, the resilience of his enemies, and the emergence of new coalitions against French dominance led to his downfall. In 1808, Napoleon's distrust towards Spain led to him overthrowing the Spanish Bourbons, with whom the French had retained a strong alliance up until this point, and establishing his older brother Joseph Bonaparte as King.²⁷ The following Peninsular War in Spain and Portugal, where French forces faced guerrilla warfare and resistance, drained French resources and weakened Napoleon's hold.²⁸ Napoleon's focus on the Iberian Peninsula allowed Austria the opportunity to attack, but its failure to gain a Prussian alliance, and Napoleon's success with securing a Russian alliance led to a defeat of Austrian armies against Napoleon's coalition of Russia, the Confederation of the Rhine, and the kingdom of Italy.²⁹ In response to this defeat, a dynastic marriage between Habsburg Archduchess Marie-Louise, the daughter of former Emperor Francis II of the Holy Roman Emperor (or, more simply, Archduke Francis of

²³ “Hanover - Countries - Office of the Historian.” n.d. US Department of State.
<https://history.state.gov/countries/hanover>.

²⁴ “Jena-Auerstedt 14 October, 1806.” n.d. Napoleon.Org.
<https://www.napoleon.org/en/magazine/itineraries/jena-auerstedt-14-october-1806/>

²⁵ “The Confederation of the Rhine and the Dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire (1 August 1806).” n.d. LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY: EXPLORING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.
<https://revolution.chnm.org/d/516>.

²⁶ Schneid, Frederik C. “The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.” 2011.

²⁷ Flantzer, Susan. “Joseph Bonaparte, King of Spain, King of Naples.” February 24, 2023. Unofficial Royalty (blog).
<https://www.unofficialroyalty.com/joseph-bonaparte-king-of-spain-king-of-naples/>.

²⁸ “Peninsular War” n.d. National Army Museum.
<https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/peninsular-war>.

²⁹ Schneid, Frederik C. “The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.” 2011.

Austria) to Napoleon.³⁰ This marriage helped diplomatically restore the Austro-France alliance and put the Habsburg Austrians above the Russians and Prussians in the context of the new Napoleonic Empire.

Disagreements between Napoleon and Tsar Alexander I of Russia on economic and political affairs in the Empire led to greater anti-French sentiments and the opportunity for another anti-French coalition. Napoleon's risky decision to invade Russia proved to be wildly unsuccessful and directly contributed to his downfall. The Russian campaign of 1812, marked by the disastrous retreat from Moscow due to harsh weather conditions and Russian scorched-earth tactics, severely weakened the Grand Army.³¹ Despite former diplomatic and dynastic alliances, the Sixth Coalition, comprised of Russia, Prussia, Austria, and Britain, formed against France and dealt a decisive blow to Napoleon's forces in the Battle of Leipzig in 1813. This battle, known as the "Battle of Nations," marked the turning point. In 1814, after a series of defeats and increasing pressure on multiple fronts, Napoleon abdicated and was exiled to the island of Elba. Napoleon's escape from Elba in 1815 and his return to power, known as the Hundred Days, culminated in the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815, where the British and Prussian forces defeated Napoleon once and for all. He was subsequently exiled to the remote island of Saint Helena, where he spent the remainder of his life.³² The Napoleonic Wars fundamentally altered Europe's political landscape, contributing to the emergence of new alliances and ideologies while marking the end of Napoleon's quest for European supremacy.

Current Situation

All of this has led us here, to this fateful September day in 1814, following Napoleon's surrender and the adoption of the initial Treaty of Paris in 1814. As of this date, Napoleon remains in exile on Elba, and many territories are up for grabs. A new political rule must be established, and new borders must be drawn. The 1814 Treaty of Paris (another one would be signed in 1815, after Napoleon escapes from Elba) listed settlements for the Congress of Vienna and set a rough outline for the discussions of the Congress.³³ The following key points of the

³⁰ Jay, Deborah. "Napoleon's Other Wife: Who Was Habsburg Archduchess Marie-Louise?" November 2015. HistoryExtra.

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/georgian/napoleon-bonaparte-first-second-wife-marriage-josephine-de-beauharnais-marie-louise-archduchess-name/>.

³¹ "Napoleon Enters Moscow | September 14, 1812." February 9, 2010. HISTORY.
<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/napoleon-enters-moscow>.

³² Schneid, Frederik C. "The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars." 2011.

³³ "Treaties of Paris | Congress of Vienna, European Balance of Power, Peace of Paris." n.d. Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaties-of-Paris-1814-1815>.

Treaty were also established, and should be considered for further discussion in this reenactment of the Congress:

1. **Territorial Adjustments:** France's borders were redrawn to their pre-Napoleonic boundaries. Napoleon's conquests were dismantled, and France lost significant territories, reverting to its 1792 borders, but reacquired territories lost to Britain during the war, like Guadeloupe.
2. **Restoration of Monarchies:** The treaty sought to reinstate the pre-Napoleonic monarchies that had been overthrown during the Napoleonic era. This restoration aimed to reestablish stability and traditional authority across Europe, and halt future revolutions. The Treaty notably saw the return of the Bourbon monarchy to France, under the rule of Louis XVIII.
3. **Financial Reparations:** France was obligated to pay substantial financial reparations to the victorious powers as compensation for the costs incurred during the wars. These payments were intended to help rebuild war-torn regions and economies.
4. **Principles of Legitimacy:** The Treaty of Paris endorsed the concept of legitimacy, emphasizing the restoration of legitimate monarchies and traditional political systems that had been disrupted by the French Revolution and Napoleonic conquests. The principle of legitimacy aimed to maintain stability and prevent further revolutionary upheavals.³⁴
 - a. Additionally, the Principles of Compensation sought to provide compensation to the victors of the war, particularly Russia, Prussia, and Austria.³⁵
5. **Establishment of a New Balance of Power:** The treaty attempted to create a new balance of power in Europe by ensuring that no single nation could dominate the continent. This balance aimed to prevent future conflicts and maintain peace among the major European powers.

It is important to note that the Congress was not a stationary event, but rather, a series of diplomatic meetings. Many of these meetings were rather lavish and indulged in the grandeur of European aristocracy. In addition to functional working groups, meetings were also held informally in the form of banquets, balls, and salons. The Austrian Court ensured an array of entertainment, and many deals were made on the side and in secret.

Goals of the Congress: Territorial Issues

The Treaty of Chaumont in 1814 had already addressed many major territorial concerns, including the establishment of a confederated Germany, the division of Italy into independent

³⁴ Jajoo, Priyanshi. "Vienna Congress: Principle of Legitimacy." July 12, 2020. <https://glimpseshistory.com/vienna-congress-principle-of-legitimacy/>.

³⁵ Ibid.

states, the restoration of the Bourbon kings of Spain, and the enlargement of the Netherlands.³⁶ However, many territories remained at large and should be discussed by this committee, including:

1. Poland: Poland had been partitioned among Russia, Prussia, and Austria in the late 18th century. The Congress of Vienna sought to discuss the fate of Poland and attempt to reestablish Polish sovereignty, but Russian influence was still desired in Poland.
2. Italy: As established by the Treaty of Chaumont, the Italian peninsula was divided into various states controlled by foreign powers and regional rulers. The Congress sought to balance the interests of these states and the major powers and to squash ongoing Italian nationalist sentiments, with Austria vying for power in Italy.
3. German States: The Congress addressed the issue of the German states, seeking to maintain stability by reorganizing these states into a loose German Confederation, as outlined by the Treaty of Chaumont. While this Confederation preserved a degree of independence for individual states, Austria and Prussia both sought degrees of control over Germany at the Congress.

Goals of the Congress: Conservatism and Suppression of Nationalism

Seeking a return to pre-Napoleonic rule, another major goal of the Congress was to promote conservatism and suppress nationalist and revolutionary ideals, particularly in divided areas like Italy and Germany. The Congress favored conservatism, promoting traditional social hierarchies and the status quo. The conservative ideals prioritized the preservation of the existing social, political, and economic structures, emphasizing the authority of the monarchy, aristocracy, and established institutions. This suppression of nationalist aspirations and promotion of conservatism also sowed the seeds for future conflicts, as it resembled the reasons for the outbreak of the French Revolution in the first place. The disregard for emerging national identities and the imposition of boundaries often ignored ethnic, cultural, and linguistic realities. This contributed to simmering tensions that would eventually lead to nationalist movements and revolutions in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many disagreed with this new Conservative Order and aristocratic ideas of Counter-Enlightenment, which sparked tensions at the Congress and became a point of discussion.³⁷ Overall, these newfound conservative ideals played a major role in the development of a new European political order and should be considered in this committee.

³⁶ “Treaty of Chaumont | Napoleonic Wars, Quadruple Alliance, Peace of Paris.” n.d. Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Chaumont>.

³⁷ Smitha, Frank E. “Conservatism Order and Counter-Enlightenment.” n.d. <http://www.fsmitha.com/h3/h36-pol.html>.

Guiding Questions

1. How did the Napoleonic era influence, form, and break European alliances? Which alliances stood strong during the Congress of Vienna, and which stood as points of contention? Should new alliances be formed?
2. Which Coalitions were the most important to the successes of the Napoleonic wars? Should these Coalitions be reinstated, or do certain countries pose a threat to international order? How can the balance of power be observed?
3. What should the fate of Napoleon be? How can this Congress learn from his mistakes of the past and prevent the rise of another Napoleonic figure? Or, is Napoleon a victor and a martyr, and should future revolutions be inspired?
4. How can territories be justly ceded and apportioned? Should borders be drawn to award the victors of war, or to establish new independent nations?
5. How should political order in Europe be established? Is conservatism important in the prevention of future revolutions, or should Enlightenment be further spread?
6. What has your character, or the nation they are representing, personally gained or lost throughout the French Revolutionary Wars/Napoleonic Wars? What do they have to gain further or lose?

Positions

1. **Prince Klemens von Metternich**, Prince of Metternich-Winneburg zu Beilstein- Austrian statesman and the Foreign Minister, Chairman of the Congress of Vienna.

Prince Metternich, an Austrian statesman and currently the Foreign Minister of the Austrian Empire, will later serve as the Chancellor of the Austrian Empire. He is at the head of the Congress of Vienna and is undoubtedly one of the most important figures there. As a traditional conservative, Metternich greatly endorses the balance of power and seeks to resist Russian territorial expansion and crush nationalist revolts in Italy. In Austria, Metternich has been both praised and criticized for his intense conservative policies, including censorship and spy networks. On behalf of Austria, Metternich also seeks to further his influence in Germany and Italy, and keep Emperor Francis informed of all Congress happenings.

2. **Baron Johann von Wessenberg**- Austrian diplomat, deputy to the Foreign Minister. Baron Wessenberg serves as second in command to Prince Metternich, and will later serve as Minister-President of the Austrian Empire. He also seeks to push for the goals of the Austrian Empire and works to keep Emperor Francis informed. At the Congress, Wessenberg will seek to further establish the German Confederation.

3. **Robert Stewart**, Viscount Castlereagh- Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, 2nd Marquess of Londonderry.

Robert Stewart, mostly referred to as Viscount or Lord Castlereagh, played a major role in the downfall of Napoleon, as he managed the Coalition that defeated him. As Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, he helped finalize the Treaty of Chaumont in 1814. At the Congress, he seeks to maintain the balance of powers and rejects the notion that France should be punished. Castlereagh does not wish to establish a negotiation based on vengeance and supports non-interventionist policies. It is also important for the goals of the United Kingdom to prevent France from re-emerging as a world power and to stop Russia from becoming one entirely.

4. **Arthur Wellesley**, 1st Duke of Wellington- prominent British politician and military Commander.

A prominent Tory politician and future Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Wellesley would also later defeat Napoleon with the Seventh Coalition in 1815 at Waterloo. However, at this moment, he serves as the Duke of Wellington, and as a major militaristic commander. Wellesley is one of the few here who fought Napoleon on the battlefield, having served as a General and Field Marshall during the Peninsular campaign of the Napoleonic Wars. At the Congress, he seeks to employ the goals of the United Kingdom, including the protection of smaller nations to safeguard the balance of power. He may also seek to employ his advanced militaristic strategy to keep Napoleon under guard.

5. **Tsar Alexander I**, Emperor of Russia.

As the Emperor of Russia, Tsar Alexander has much influence and power in the Congress. His main goal concerns gaining control over Poland, and spreading Russian influence, as Russia shows promise to become a major power. He wants to promote Russia as the world's superpower while also encouraging coexistence between nations and further alliances. Monarchism and anti-secularism are important to his ideologies, as are combating rising revolutions and threats of republicanism.

6. **Count Karl Robert Nesselrode**- Foreign Minister to Russia.

Alongside Tsar Alexander, Count Nesselrode seeks to further Russian influence and secure a grand monarchist alliance between Russia, Prussia, and Austria. As a Russian-German diplomat to Prussia, born to a French Huguenot mother in Portugal and baptized in Britain by the Church of England, Nesselrode has connections with many nations.

7. **Prince Karl August von Hardenberg**- Chancellor of Prussia.

A powerful Prussian statesman, Prince Hardenberg has a long history of forming alliances and seeking negotiations. As the primary representative of Prussia, Hardenberg seeks to annex all of Saxony, therefore strengthening the Prussian position in Germany. However, he will contest for power against Prince Metternich, and must be careful not to cause further issues. Behind the scenes at the Congress, Hardenberg keeps King Frederick William III of Prussia informed.

8. **Wilhelm von Humboldt**- Prussian scholar and diplomat

Humboldt serves as the second delegate of Prussia, behind Prince Hardenberg. As a distinguished and well-respected German philosopher, linguist, government functionary, and diplomat, Humboldt has many specialities that he can use to his advantage. He is also at the forefront of many European educational reforms, and founded the Humboldt University of Berlin

in 1810. His ‘Humboldtian education ideal’ served as a standard for education in Prussia, and later influenced educational reforms in the United States and Japan.

9. **Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord**, 1st Duke of Benevento- Foreign Minister of France.

Talleyrand, as he is simply known, is one of the most important figures of the Congress, and is the premier representative of France. His former negotiations established the Treaty of Paris in 1814, setting the standard for the Congress, and putting Louis XVIII on the throne of France. Talleyrand wants to re-establish France as a world power, although he faces much distrust and opposition. Even King Louis XVIII distrusts him and has been secretly negotiating with Prince Metternich. Talleyrand continues to push for French influence on the global stage, and is aided by his crafty, cynical, and ambitious personality. The former chief diplomat to Napoleon, Talleyrand holds many of Napoleon’s secrets and uses them as bargaining chips, but is still seen as a traitor by many. Even though Talleyrand supports the Bourbon Restoration in France, his individual goals at the Congress remain unclear to most. He has already been involved in deals with Tsar Alexander I of Russia.

10. **Emmerich Joseph de Dalberg**, 1st Duke of Dalberg- Minister Plenipotentiary.

Dalberg, the second representative of France, serves as a slightly more neutral figure when placed against the controversy of Talleyrand. A German diplomat, Dalberg became a French citizen through naturalization and was also a minister who arranged many influential diplomatic marriages; including Napoleon’s marriage to Mary-Louise of Austria in 1809. He is also a close friend of Talleyrand.

11. **Don Pedro Gómez de Labrador**, 1st Marquess of Labrador- Representative of Spain.

The sole representative of Spain, Labrador will face much opposition when implementing his diplomatic goals. Most important to him is the restoration of the Spanish Bourbons to old Spanish holdings in Italy, and reestablishing control over Spanish-American colonies. A melodramatic, arrogant, frantic, and often angry man, many see the Marquess as incompetent and doubt that he will succeed in his goals. Labrador will also seek to gain an alliance with the Holy See and gain territory in Portugal, but will face strong opposition from Austria and Britain. It will take a great feat and much connivery for Labrador to pull off his imagined schemes.

12. **Pedro de Sousa Holstein**, Count of Palmela- Portuguese Plenipotentiary.

Holstein, a representative of Portugal, will later become the first modern Prime Minister of Portugal. At the Congress, his main goals are concerned with gaining Portuguese control of the city of Olivenza. A strong supporter of Portugal, Holstein is notable for standing up directly against Napoleon in 1808 by telling him that the Portuguese would not ‘consent to become Spaniards.’ As such, it is clear that he wishes to avoid foreign influence in Portugal.

13. **António de Saldanha da Gama**, Count of Porto Santo- Portuguese Plenipotentiary.

As a politician, navy officer, diplomat, and colonial administrator, Saldanha de Gama has many specialties that he can use to his advantage. He is also acting directly on behalf of Prince Regent John of Portugal. The former governor of both the Portuguese colony Maranhão in northern

Brazil and Portuguese Angola, he has much administrative expertise. The title of Count of Porto Santo will be given to him in 1823.

14. **Joaquim Lobo da Silveira**, 7th Count of Oriola- Portuguese Plenipotentiary.

The final representative of Portugal, Silveira is also acting directly on behalf of Prince Regent John of Portugal. However, he also has a unique interest in Prussia and individually seeks influence, land, and diplomatic standing there. Silveira wishes to have a standing with the King of Prussia and may wish to form an alliance with his representatives.

15. **Count Carl Löwenhielm**- Representative of Sweden.

A Swedish military officer, diplomat, and politician, Löwenhielm is respected by the Congress. However, he is also an illegitimate son of King Charles XIII of Sweden. His half-brother, on his mother's side, is a well respected General and diplomat. As a lesser power at the Congress, Sweden will be easily overlooked, and Löwenhielm must push hard to advocate for his goals. Swedish Pomerania, on the Baltic coast of Germany, is a major territory up for grabs. Löwenhielm's main bargaining chip is the island of Guadeloupe, which is highly desired by France, but remains under Swedish control after it was captured by the British and ceded through the 1813 Treaty of Stockholm.

16. **Count Niels Rosenkrantz**- Foreign Minister of Denmark.

Rosenkrantz, a Norwegian-Danish diplomat and statesman, also had a brief military career. He has served in both the Prussian and Russian courts, and as a peace agent in Sweden- therefore, he may have many foreign connections. He was also a messenger between Denmark and Napoleon in 1808, and as such, is distrusted by many. Notably, in 1811, he became a Knight of the Order of the Elephant, Denmark's highest-ranked honor. His story is one of success, as unlike many other attendees of the Congress, he was born to a poor family, and only became wealthy after the death of an extremely distant relative, who left him an inheritance.

17. **Richard Le Poer Trench**, 2nd Earl of Clancarty, 1st Marquess of Heusden- British Ambassador to the Dutch Court.

An Anglo-Irish peer, Trench is also a member of the Dutch nobility and a member of the Irish (and later British) Parliament. A member of the Tory party and grand supporter of Prime Minister William Pitt, Trench currently serves as Ambassador to the Netherlands and, uniquely, Postmaster General of the United Kingdom. This unique position may prove useful when attempting to succeed in his goals at this Congress. Trench is largely concerned with border disputes in Holland, Germany, and Italy.

18. **Hans Christoph Ernst Freiherr von Gagern**, Baron Hans von Gagern- Representative of the Netherlands.

Another representative of the Netherlands, Gagern is a German statesman and political writer, widely known for his publications on history and the social sciences. He also previously served directly to the Prince of Nassau-Weilburg, a former state of present Germany. At the Congress, he represents William I, King of the Netherlands, and aims to gain more territory for the Netherlands.

19. **Charles Pictet de Rochemont**- Representative of Switzerland, from Geneva.

While representatives from other Swiss cantons were present, Rochemont of Geneva was the most important. His father, a renowned colonel, inspired Rochemont to be in the military from a young age. At the Congress, Switzerland has two contradictory goals: to achieve Genevan independence and to make Geneva a part of the newly established Swiss Confederation. Rochemont's ambition and impressive diplomatic skills will aid him greatly in aligning these goals, but he will face much opposition from Talleyrand in particular. Rochemont must find a way to reclaim Swiss territories in France, to connect canton enclaves to the rest of the Swiss Confederation. Versoix, a municipality of Geneva, currently lies in France, but Talleyrand refuses to hand over any regions of the French Pays de Gex.

20. **Graf Ernst zu Münster**- Representative of the House of Hanover.

A German statesman, politician, and minister, Münster is in service to the House of Hanover. He seeks to establish the Kingdom of Hanover, under the rule of King George III of the United Kingdom, who had refused to recognize the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806. King George III has been acting as the Elector of Hanover, maintaining a diplomatic council there even though the Duchy of Brunswick-Lüneburg was not recognized after the fall of the Holy Roman Empire. Münster's direct alliance with the British crown may further aid him in his goals.

21. **Maximilian Graf von Montgelas**, Count von Montgelas- Bavarian statesman.

Montgelas comes from the noble family of the Duchy of Savoy, an area of present France, Italy, and Geneva. Despite being raised in Bavaria, Montgelas took much to French influence and speaks and writes in French. He also had a previous career in public service, where he worked in the censorship of books. Interestingly, Montgelas also had ties to the Illuminati, a Bavarian secret society that upheld anti-clerical ideals of the Enlightenment. The Illuminati sought to oppose religious control in society and abuse of state power, it was later outlawed with support by the Catholic Church by Charles Theodore, Elector of Bavaria. Many claimed that the Bavarian Illuminati group was responsible for the French Revolution. Montgelas aims to reduce the political and cultural influence of the Catholic Church and to increase European secularization. His connections with the Illuminati serve as a great advantage, but he should be careful who to trust.

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