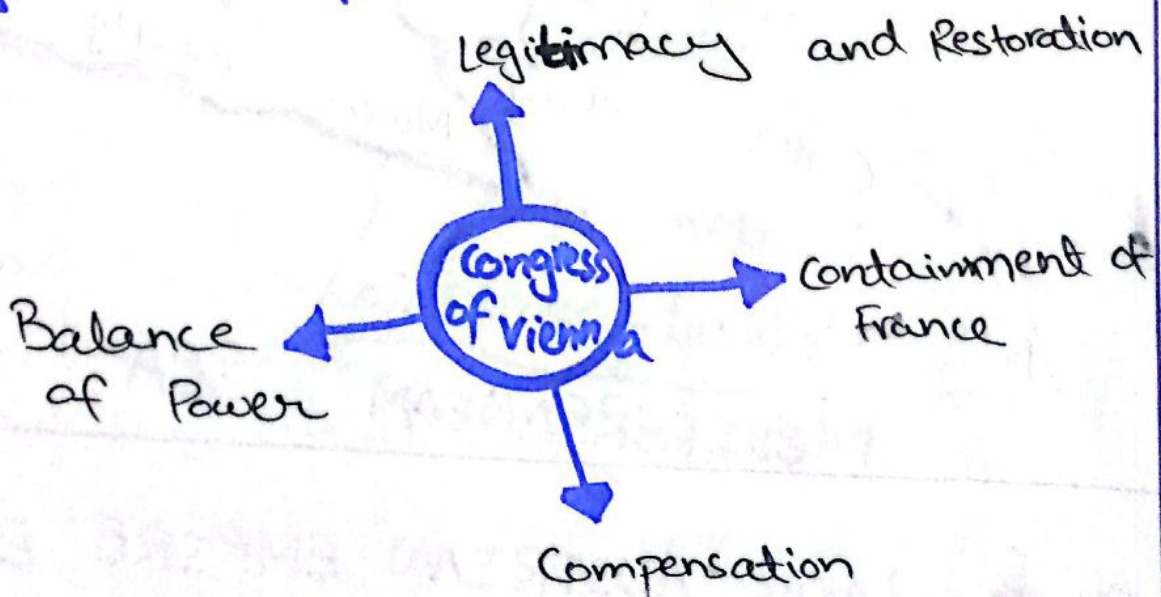


Q. "COV (Congress of Vienna) does not walk, it dances." Elucidate. but

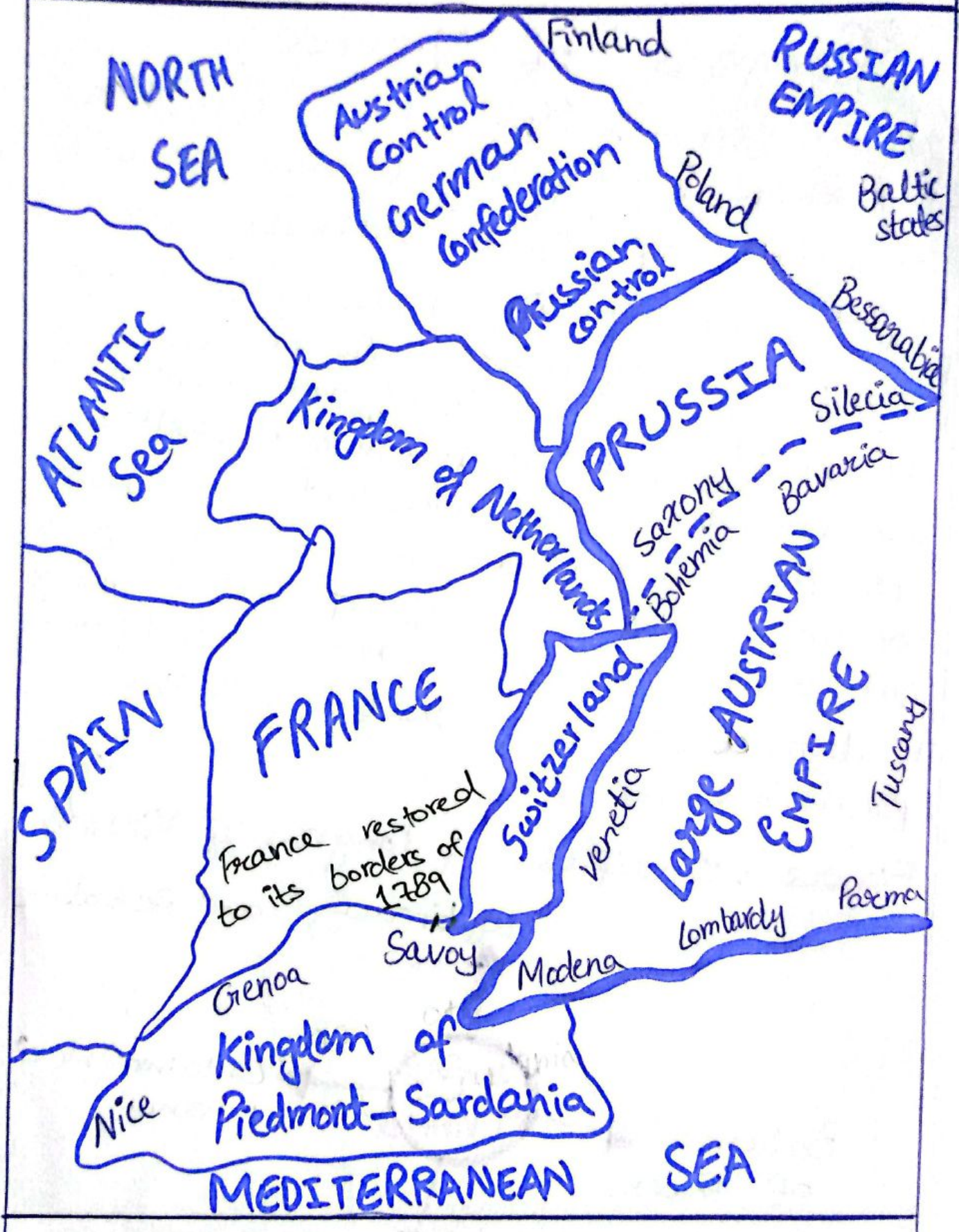
Congress of Vienna

Between September 1814 and June 1815, the great powers met together at Vienna for addressing issues like suppression of revolutionary movements in Europe, preventing future aggression of France, ensuring peace in Europe and how to reach general territorial agreements. The influential players like Castlereagh, Metternich, Tsar Alexander I and Prince Hardenberg made such decisions that had unintended consequences on Europe. Due to lack of cooperation among great powers, Congress of Vienna failed; but it danced because it had long-lasting repercussions for Europe.

Figure : Principles of Congress of Vienna



New Geographical Map of Europe designed at Congress of Vienna



Explicating how Congress of Vienna does not walk

Congress of Vienna ~~does~~^{did} not walk because it failed to uphold its principles and objectives in following ways.

i- Failure to suppress revolutionary ideas in Europe

Congress of Vienna could not walk because it failed to suppress ideas of liberalism and nationalism across Europe. For instance, it ignored the spirit of nationalism rising in Europe during 19th century and added Catholic Belgium to Protestant Holland which led toward Belgium Revolution of 1830. This highlights Congress of Vienna did not walk.

ii- Failure to address social Issues of Europe

Congress of Vienna did not walk because it failed to address social issues of Europe that erupted in 19th century due to industrialization and urbanization. Congress of Vienna used traditional policies to tackle new forces of change. This led toward failure of Congress system, a key initiative of Congress of Vienna. This shows Congress of Vienna did not walk.

iii. Failure to sustain unity among Great Powers

One of the main reasons to say that Congress of Vienna did not work is that it failed to sustain unity among great powers. For instance, in concert of Europe the three autocratic powers i.e. Austria, Prussia and France conflicted with Britain on principle of intervention and suppression of revolutions in Spanish American colonies. This lack of cooperation shows Congress of Vienna could not work.

iv. Failure of Congress System

Another aspect that clearly shows Congress of Vienna could not work is the failure of Congress system. For instance, Congress of Vienna initiated congress system but alliance of Britain with US through Monroe Doctrine of 1823 acted as severe blows to the principles of congress of Vienna. This failure of Congress system clearly highlights that Congress of Vienna could not work.

Expounding how Congress of Vienna Dances

Congress of Vienna danced in Europe because it had unintended consequences across Europe which were opposite to its principles. Congress of Vienna inspired nationalist aspirations across Europe and led toward revolutions of 1830 and 1848.

i- Rise of Nationalism in France and French Revolution of 1830

Congress of Vienna gave rise to nationalism in France which fuelled nationalists to overthrow Bourbon monarchy which was known as July Revolution of France in 1830. This shows Congress of Vienna danced across Europe.

ii- Rise of Italian Revolts in 1830

Congress of Vienna's decision to split kingdom of Italy into many patchwork of states gave momentum to rising tide of Italian nationalism in 1830. This fueled Italian revolution of 1830, showing Congress of Vienna had irreversible consequences.

iii- Rise of Swiss Revolution of 1830

Although Congress of Vienna was aimed at suppressing revolutionary ideas, but it danced

in Europe because it highlighted nationalism across Switzerland by establishing cantonal government there. This compelled Swiss liberal and nationalists to call for revolution in 1830.

iv. French Revolution of 1848 fueled by Nationalist and Liberal Aspirations

Congress of Vienna failed to address liberal and democratic aspirations of French people because congress had reinstated "Louis Philippe" as a citizen-king under July monarchy. This fueled nationalist and liberal aspirations of French leading toward French revolution of 1848 and formation of second French Republic in 1848 showing COV danced across Europe.

Rise of

v. Austrian Revolution of 1848

Congress of Vienna danced across Europe because it had inspired nationalist aspirations across Europe. For instance, COV led toward suppression of liberal revolutionary movements in Austria through Metternich System.

The Carlsbad Decree of 1819 caused dismissal of liberal professors and suppression of political activists, which caused Austrian revolution of 1848.

vi- Italian Revolution of 1848 inspired by Congress of Vienna

Italian Revolution of 1848 is a critical phase of broad process of Italian unification, originated from the discontent of people with post-Napoleonic order established by Congress of Vienna. This shows COV inspired nationalist aspirations across Italy having unintended consequences in the form of Italian revolution of 1848.

Concluding Thoughts

Although Congress of Vienna had successfully maintained peace in Europe for 99 years but it had failed due to its weak administrative policies and conflict of interests among Great Powers which shows it could not walk. However, Congress of Vienna had unintended repercussions in Europe in the form of revolutions of 1830 and 1848. This shows Congress of Vienna danced in Europe.