



Attempts made by Metternich to control German Confederation between 1815 to 1848. Why did revolutionary outbreak fail?

1 - Introduction

Metternich, an anti-nationalist, had made numerous attempts at suppressing the revolution in German Confederation. These attempts include suppressing nationalism, curbing liberalism and utilising congress of Vienna. As a result of these efforts, he remained successful in curbing the revolution. However, the revolutionary outbreak also failed due to internal division and failure of Frankfurt parliament. Moreover, the external actors also played a vital role in the failure of the revolution.

2- Metternich: An Introduction

He was a Chancellor and foreign minister of Austrian empire. He had unforgettable influence over European history during his age. He is regarded as the "Coachman of Europe".

3- Manifestations of the attempts made by Metternich

i) Suppressed Nationalism

He had attempted his best at restricting nationalism in German confederation. He had adopted strict policies regarding controlling Nationalism. Therefore, he is known as "reincarnation of restoration (F.D. Madavan)".

ii) Suppressed Nationalistic Movements

He suppressed nationalistic movements by implementing strict policies and arresting the proponents of nationalistic movements. Thousands of Germans were arrested during a German festival based on nationalistic fervor.

iii) Restricted Liberalism

He was a follower of monarchy. Hence, he adopted a strict attitude against liberalism. According to him, liberalism is a "disease of our age". Resultantly, he secured German Confederation from this disease because of the fear that traditional monarchy might come to an end.

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iv) Controlled Federal Diet

Federal Diet

↓
a body under Austrians
and Prussian influence controlled
German decision

Metternich used to control this
body for passing strict law such
as Carlsbad Decree

v) Decree: The Silent Killer of German Revolution

Decree
↓
suppressed freedom
↓
suppressed press
order to arrest revolutionaries

This heinous decree had mitigated
the influence of German Revolution
to a great extent

4- Causes of the failure of Revolutionary outbreak in 1848

i) Internal Division among Revolutionaries

They were split into two groups.

Radicals
↓
want Republic

liberals
↓
wanted

Constitutional monarchy

This split created a rift that impacted revolution.

ii) The Role of external powers under the Holy Alliance

Russia → assisted Prussia Austria in suppressing the revolution in German confederation. Russia, under the influence of Holy Alliance, had assisted Austria.

iii) Failure of Frankfurt Parliament

This parliament was devised in order to bring Constitution for German confederation. However, it failed to fulfill its purpose. It also had impacted the revolution. because their main concern was associated with constitution.

iv) Role of Congress of Vienna

This congress agreed upon restricting liberalism and Nationalism. Ultimately, it had played its role in restricting German revolution. Metternich had utilised the members of Congress of Vienna for curbing German revolution.

5- Conclusion

In conclusion, it becomes abundantly obvious that international influence and internal and external actors had played a key role in failing the outbreak of revolution in German confederation. These factors are responsible for the failure of revolutionary outbreak in German confederation.