

What aims and objectives did Congress of Vienna try to achieve? How far was it proved.

Introduction:

Give numbering to headings

Congress of Vienna was the meeting of the great powers like Russia, Austria, Britain, Prussia to reorganize the Europe after the Napoleon's defeat in 1815. The aims and objectives of Congress (OS) was to restore peace and stability, ensuring balance of power, principle of legitimacy, reorganizing the territories, and prevent from future revolution.

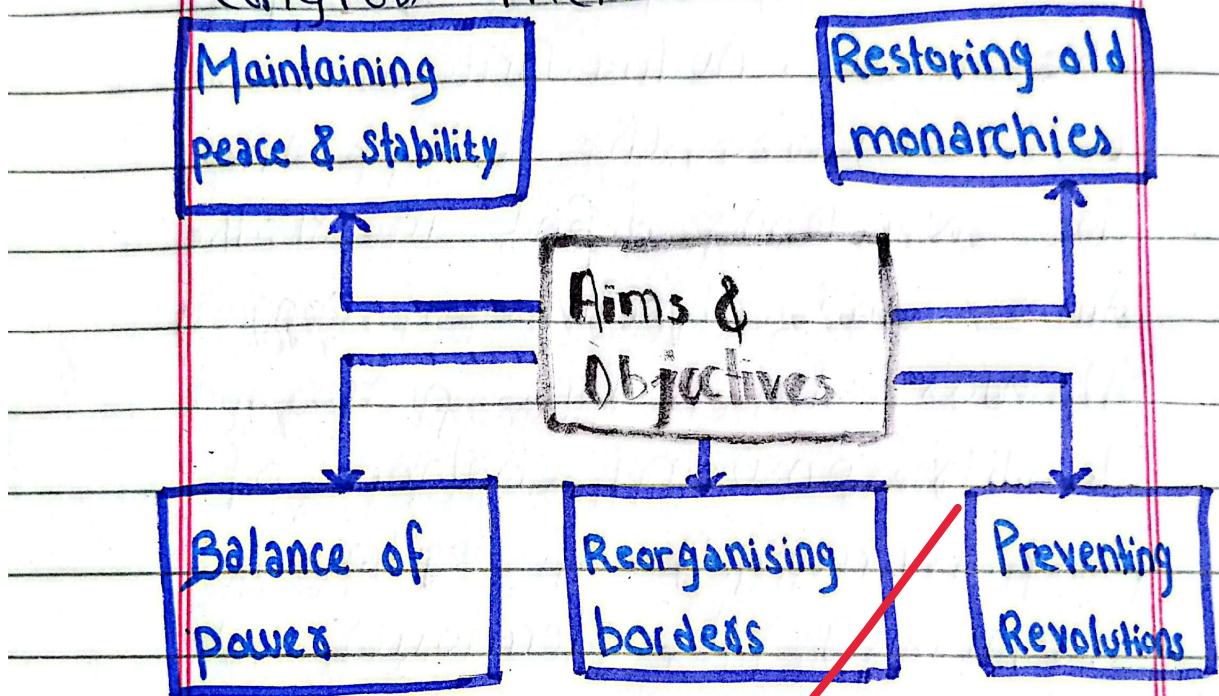
This protected the Europe from major wars for 100 years. But it cannot protect from further revolutions of 1830 and 1848.

This was due to the strong feeling of nationalism and liberalism that Congress wanted to suppress.

A paragraph on background

(I) Aims and objectives of congress of Vienna 1815:

After the Napoleonic wars, major powers met to decide the future of Europe. Aims and objectives of congress include:



i) Maintaining peace and stability after the chaos:

Congress of Vienna aims to maintain peace and stability after the chaos caused by Napoleonic Wars. These wars have caused destruction in

many countries by removing their kings and setting up their own representatives. So, this congress wants to establish peace in Europe.

ii) Restoring old monarchies- principle of legitimacy:

Napoleon had removed the kings from the throne and reward it to his (old) own family members. This caused havoc in these countries. So, the congress aimed to restore the old monarchies. This has resulted into restoration of some of worst rulers like Ferdinand VII of Spain and Ferdinand I of Naples.

iii) Balance of power- Preventing one nation to dominate others:

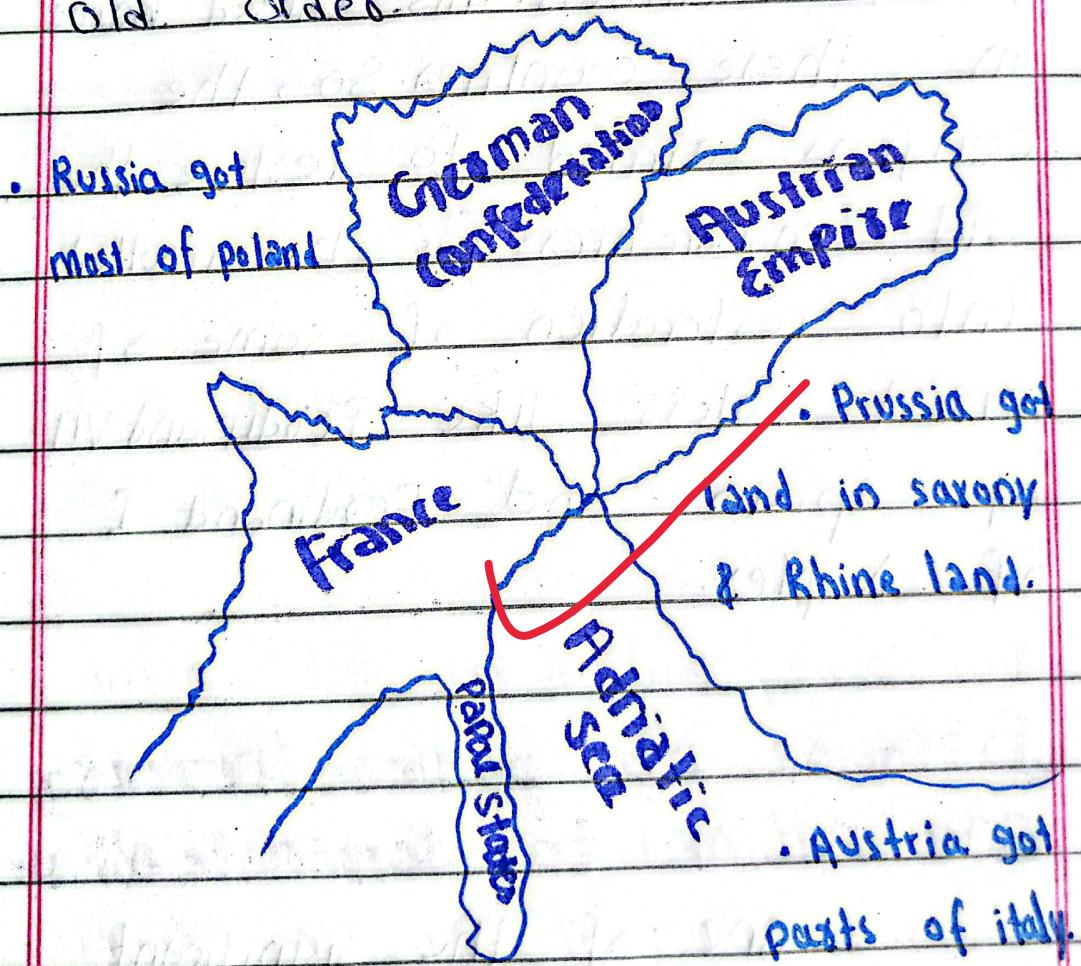
One of the significant

aim of Congress was to restore the balance of power in Europe. The purpose was to prevent one nation becoming too powerful to dominate other nations.

Contain France

iv) Reorganizing borders to restore old order:

Congress aimed to reorganize the borders to restore old order.



Europe after 1815

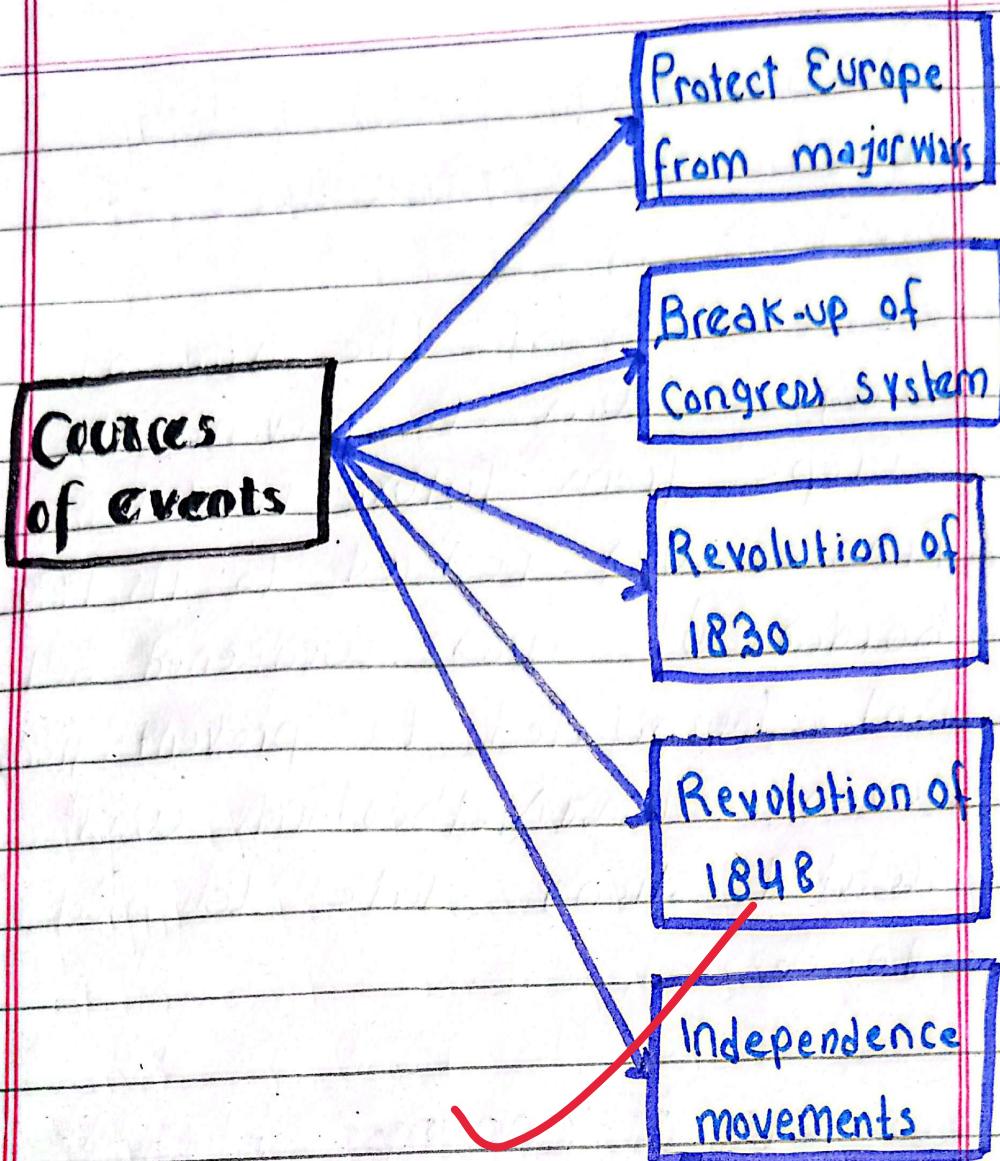
v) Preventing from future revolutions- Containment of France:

One of the aim of congress was to prevent the Europe from future revolution.

France was restored to its 1789 borders. It was weakened but not humiliated to prevent from revenge war. Netherlands was created strong state to block France.

(II) Success of congress in the light of future course of events in European history:

Congress of Vienna protect the Europe from major wars for more than 100 years. But it could not prevent the revolutions like 1830 and 1840. This failure was due to the ignorance of nationality and liberalism.



j) Protection of Europe from major war for more than 100 years:

The Congress of Vienna results into many fruitful treaties and no major wars for 100 years. After that the World War 1 started in 1914.

So, the congress had short-term benefits. It could not achieve its goals for longer period.

ii) Break-up of Congress system- Disagreements among major powers:

Russia and Austria wanted to suppress revolution by intervening in another countries. But Britain was not in favor of this policy and wanted to protect its economic interests.

The final outcome of these disagreements results into the break down of Congress System.

iii) Revolution of 1830- Overthrown of King Charles X:

Charles X completely ignored the Liberal ideas.

He censored the newspapers to prevent him from criticism.

Also loosing the elections, he imposed state of emergency. This angered the masses. A large number of rebellions resulted into his overthrow.

iv) Revolution of 1848- overthrow of Louis phillipe:

Louis phillipe was chosen by the chamber of duties to fulfill the interest of working class. But his foreign policy and internal policies were not much effective. He faced opposition from liberals, socialist, Republican, Bonapartist. Hence, the large number of opposition results into revolution and king was removed from the throne.

v) Suppression of (independent) Nationalism and independence movements:

The congress was unable to measure the extent of nationalism and ignored it. This ignorance results into unification of Germany and Italy in 1871. Greece also fight its war of independence and became an independent country.

Did it really succeed?

Conclusion:

Hence, from the aforementioned discussion it is clear that congress of Vienna was aimed to maintain peace and stability in Europe. But this peace and stability had short-term and Europe faced many revolution. At the end, congress system was broken due to the disagreement among major powers.