

Q1: The congress system of 1815.
Europe and its impacts and
failures?

1- Introduction

The congress system was a series of congress regarding the ~~chall~~ questions that challenged the ~~congr~~ European continent in post-Napoleonic era. The system played a significant role in peace and order in Europe. However, this peace had not lasted for long due to internal divisions among allies, and thus the system collapsed.

2- The congress system

The congress system consisted of different sessions regarding the matters that challenged

and stability of the continent. The following sessions are:

- ① Congress of Vienna (1815)
- ② Congress of Aix la Chapelle (1818)
- ③ Congress of Troppau (1820)
- ④ Congress of Laibach (1821)
- ⑤ Congress of Verona (1822)

① Congress of Vienna (1815)

The Congress of Vienna was held after the defeat of Napoleon to redraw the boundaries of Europe around pre-Napoleonic conquests. France was pushed back to its original boundaries. Its conquered territories in Italy, ~~North Germany~~ Prussia and Austria were restored to their respective monarchies. The territories were redrawn in a way as

as to prevent any french aggression. For Example, The Rhine territories were given to prussia which belonged Austria to create a defense. Austrian netherland (Belgium) and Holland were combined to create a state which ~~was~~ was effective for preventing France crossing through. In Northern Italy territories were given to Austria uptill the coast of Adriatic sea to create a buffer zone on that side of France.

2- congress of Aix la chappel (1812)

At this time in the congress of Aix la chappel France had

requested the congress to withdraw occupational forces as it was observing peace and the threat of Napoleon had halted. Further they requested to become part of Great Power Alliance. In this way, the Congress accepted these requests and did accordingly. The Quadruple alliance of ~~Brace~~ England, Russia, Prussia, Austria was now changed into Quintuple alliance adding France.

③ Congress of Troppau (1820)

By this time there were numerous liberal uprisings in Naples against Ferdinand-1. The Congress

decided to intervene in Naples and restore the legitimacy of Ferdinand-I. Therefore, Austria, Prussia and Russia signed the Troppau protocol to intervene in a country and crush the revolution. It was decided that 80,000 Austrian troops would suppress the revolution in Naples. Whereas, a large number of Russian troops were also kept on reserve.

(iv) Congress of Laibach (1821)

The congress of Laibach was convened to decide sending troops to Naples to crush liberals and restore conservative order.

order of the monarch.
It was decided that
Austrian forces would
march towards south
of Italy into Naples
and crush the revolution-
aries and restore the
rule of Ferdinand-1

5- Congress of Verona (1822)

The Greek revolt
for independence had
ended in 1821 and
so did a revolution
dethroned Ferdinand VII.
in Spain. The Congress
was meant to decide
an intricate question of
the Greeks. As England
and Russia were in
support of Greeks and
while Austria and

France opposed it because of helping rebellions over a monarchy would have caused the suffering of their interests. Moreover, in Spain, after serious controversy between liberal Britain and Conservative Continental powers, French forces were sent to crush liberal revolutionaries and restore the throne of Ferdinand VII. After this Britain had decided to leave the system.

Role of the congress in establishing order in Europe:

The congress adopted the following measures

to maintain peace and stability in Europe in the wake of Post Napoleonic disturbances.

- ① The principle of legitimacy
- ② maintaining balance of power in Europe
- ③ Restraint on future French aggression
- ④ Resolution of territorial disputes.

① The principle of legitimacy

The principle of legitimacy meant to restore legitimate conservative monarchies in Europe to restore peace and order. This principle was proposed by Talleyrand which was greatly

supported by Metternich as it preserved Austrian interests in Italy; Austrian ruling family had ties with the rulers of Italian states; Parma, Modena, Tuscany. The Pope has also ties with Holy Austrian Empire. Through the legitimacy principle unpopular kings and tyrant kings were also restored to their position such as Ferdinand I of Naples and Ferdinand VII of Spain. In France the throne was restored under Louis XVIII.

2- Maintaining Balance of Power:

The Congress system, in view of the Napoleonic power, aimed at preventing any one state from acquiring great power to unleash chaos over the continent again. The balance was maintained by occupying France for a while. Making territorial adjustments in a way to create buffer zone around France, prevent Russia from gaining access to the centre of Europe.

3- Restraining Future French aggressions

To restrain French aggression numerous buffer zones were created on French frontiers. Austrian

Netherland and Holland
were combined as a
single state to the
north of France. Rhineland
territories were given to
Prussia. ~~in this way it~~
~~was~~ Northern Italy,
Piedmont, Lombardy, Venetia
were given to Austria.

4- Resolution of territorial dispute

There were mainly
two disputes before the
Congress: Prussia demanding
the whole of Saxony
from Russia and Russia
demanding The Great
Dutchy of Warsaw. This
dispute was resolved after
the battle of Waterloo
peacefully.

Peace for a short term under the Congress system

The congress played an important in preserving peace for the continent after 20 years of devastating wars and conflicts. The congress achieved peace through a series of Congresses in which different problems confronting Europe were sort out, mostly, with consensus. The principle of legitimacy was applied to restore rightful owners to the thron in Europe. French territories were confiscated and pushed to pre napoleonic

borders. Revolutions of liberal and National forces were crushed in Spain ^{and} Naples ~~for~~ For almost 40 years peace was preserved on the Continent.

Setbacks and failure of the system?

The primary reason for the failure of the system was national and ideological difference among great powers. For example, Britain was not in favour of interventions in other countries to crush revolution because

was not its interests to
get dragged in
conflicts. Castlereagh
was reluctant till the
end to oppose interventions.
Moreover, Britain was a
liberal country, this
caused ideological difference
between it and continental
powers who supported
conservative monarchies.

Furthermore, the system failed
because it neglected
~~the~~ ~~active~~ ~~Nat~~ the forces
of Nationalism and
liberalism getting unleashed.

For example, Frederick
William III of Prussia
roused nationalistic
spirit to unite the
country against Europe.
Austria did similar.