

How did the peace settlement of 1814 to 1815 restore effective balance of power and paved the way to a European peace?

## Peace Settlement of 1814 to 1815

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Between September 1814 to June 1815, the great powers including Britain, Austria, Prussia and Russia met together for addressing the consequences of Napoleonic wars and French revolution faced by the Europe. After revolution in France, there was rise of revolutionary ideas in Europe and widespread social unrest. In order to redesign geopolitical map of Europe, great powers met at Vienna for peace settlement which established new order in Europe by restoring balance of power and peace for a longer period.

### 1. Exploring Factors that led toward Peace Settlement of 1814 to 1815

Following are the factors that compelled great powers to arrive at a peace settlement of 1814 to 1815.



## a- Rise of revolutionary ideas in Europe

After French revolution, there was rise of nationalism, liberalism and romanticism in Europe. For instance, Peninsular war in Spain and Portugal (1808 to 1814) gave rise to nationalism. Prussia introduced liberalism after its defeat from France in Battle of Jena of 1806. These revolutionary ideas that erupted in Europe after French revolution and Napoleonic wars disrupted peace in European societies and compelled great powers toward Vienna Settlement of 1815.

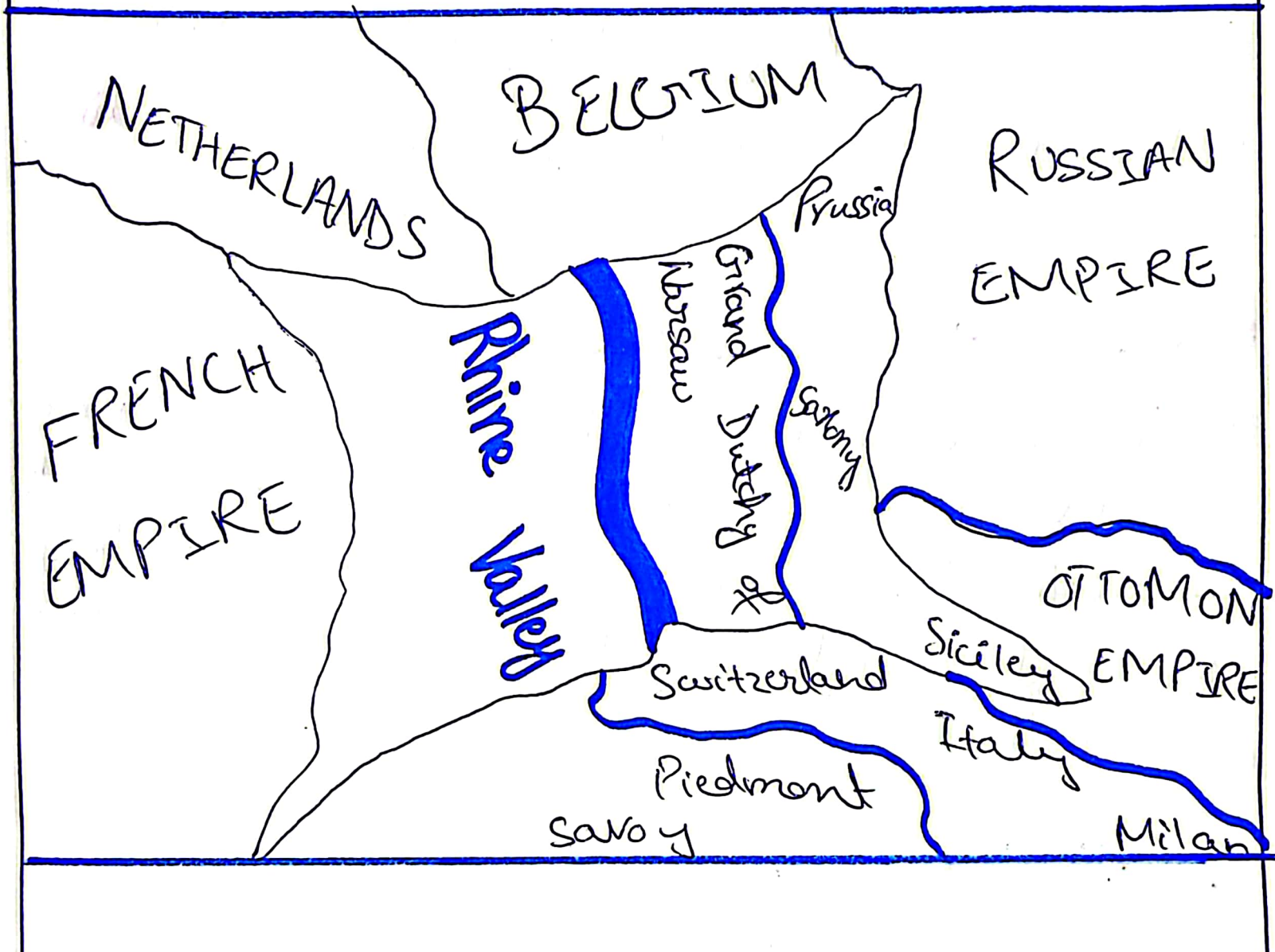
## b- Disruption of Balance of Power in Europe

Balance of power was badly disrupted because of Napoleonic regime. He torn away many territories from various countries and added them to others according to his own political interests. He built three kingdoms in Europe for consolidating his control over European politics. For



instance, Napoleon built Kingdom of Italy, Confederation of Rhine and Grand Duchy of Warsaw. These geographical arrangements transformed the political order of Europe and drastically changed the balance of power in Europe. So, in order to address this disruption of balance of power in Europe Congress of Vienna was called in 1814 to 1815 for making peace settlements.

Fig: Disruption of Geographical map of Europe under Napoleonic Era





## c- Upset of Political Order in Europe

French revolution and Napoleonic regime disrupted the political order in Europe. For instance, in France the absolute monarchism was challenged when the ~~first~~ government of Louis XVI was replaced by the first republic of France. Similarly, during Napoleonic era he expelled all the absolute rulers in conquered countries like Naples and Sicily and replaced them by his relatives and generals. In this way, French revolution challenged the autocratic tradition of Europe. So, in order to preserve legitimate rule in Europe <sup>peace</sup> ~~Vienna~~ settlements were made in Vienna during 1814 and 1815.

## 2. Expounding how Peace Settlement of 1814 to 1815 restored balance of power and paved the way to European Peace

Major players?

Following are the factors which show how peace settlement of 1814 to 1815 restored balance of power in Europe



and paved the way for European Peace.

## → Elucidating how Peace Settlement of 1814 to 1815 restored balance of power

Peace settlement of 1814 to 1815 restored balance of power through following ways.

### a- Restoring legitimate Rulers in Europe

The Vienna settlement restored Bourbons to France, Spain and Naples. House of Orange was restored in Holland; Pope was restored in Papal states; House of Savoy in Piedmont-Sardinia was restored; Habsburg rule was restored to Parma, Modena and Tuscany. By restoring pre-revolutionary political order in Europe, the peace settlement of 1814 to 1815 restored balance of power in Europe.

### b- Containing the aggressor

Peace settlement restored balance of power in Europe by containing the aggressor i.e. France. To the east of France,



Switzerland was made a buffer country between France and Austria. Austrian power was firmly established in Lombardy, Venetia. To the Northeast of France, Netherlands and German confederation were formed. To the South, <sup>kingdom of</sup> Piedmont-Sardinia was established. In this way, balance of power was restored.

### c- Preventing territorial grievances of great powers

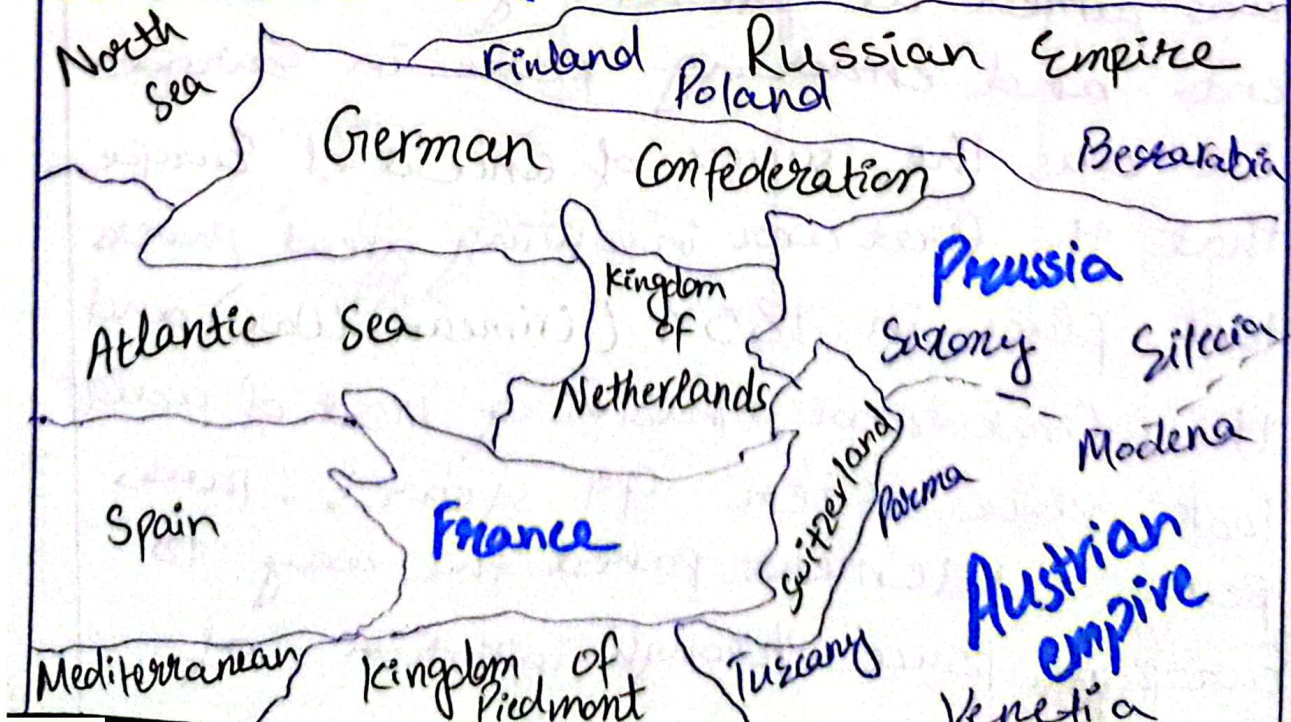
Peace settlement rewarded great powers for their efforts in defeating Napoleon. For instance, Russia was awarded Finland and large part of Poland. Moreover, lands were given to powers which had lost their territories under new balance of power. Following this objective, Austria gained large part of Northern Italy for its loss of many states of Southern Germany and Austrian Netherlands. Similarly, Prussia gained Saxony, lands on the river Rhine and Westphalia due to its loss of Polish territory. In this way, peace settlement prevented territorial grievances of great powers and successfully restored balance of power.



## A- Balancing territorial gains of each Great Power

In peace settlement, in order to counter Bourbons in kingdom of Italy i.e. Sicily and Naples, Austrian rule was established in Northern Italy. Similarly, peace settlement balanced territorial gains of Russia by increasing the influence of Austria in Italian Peninsula. Moreover, Austria and Prussia both were given equal position in German Confederation to balance the territorial gains of each other. In this way, peace settlement restored balance of power in Europe by balancing territorial gains of great powers so that no power could dominate the other.

### Geographical Map Designed by Peace Settlement of 1814 to 1815





## → Highlighting Factors that reveal how Peace Settlement Paved the way to European Peace

Peace Settlement of 1814 to 1815 paved the way to European peace by Initiating Concert of Europe.

### Initiation of Concert of Europe: A Way to European Peace Paved by Peace Settlement of 1814 to 1815

Concert of Europe refers to spirit of international cooperation among great powers that emerged after 1815 as the aftermath of Peace Settlement of 1814 to 1815. The concert of Europe was aimed at preserving Vienna settlements and ensuring peace in Europe. It was the success of Concert of Europe that the first war involving great powers took place in 1854 (Crimean War) and the first war involving most of world took place after 99 years. Thus, peace settlement paved the way to European peace through initiation of



of Concert of Europe.

## Institutional Arrangements of Concert of Europe

Holy  
Alliance

Quadruple  
alliance

Congress  
System

Congress of  
Aix la Chapelle  
1818

Congress of  
Troppau 1820

Congress  
of Laibach 1821

Congress of Verona (1823)



## 1- Holy Alliance

Peace settlement of 1814 to 1815 paved a way to European peace through Holy alliance. It was a symbolic alliance that brought monarchs of Austria, Russia and Prussia together for combating revolutionary uprisings in Europe that could disrupt peace of Europe.

## 2- Quadruple Alliance

Peace settlement of 1814 to 1815 paved a way to European peace by establishing Quadruple alliance which later transformed into Quintuple alliance in 1818 when France joined this alliance for ensuring balance of power in Europe.

## 3- Congress System

Peace settlement paved a way to European peace as it laid down the ground for congress system which included four congresses.



## i- Congress of Aix la Chapelle (1818)

This congress discussed the issue of revolutionary movements in Spanish American colonies for preserving peace in Europe.

## ii- Congress of Troppau (1820)

In 1820, Austria, Russia and Prussia agreed on the protocol of Troppau which asserted on the principle of intervention for preserving legitimate rule in Europe. In this congress, it was decided that powers would help the countries facing revolutionary uprisings for maintaining peace in Europe.

## iii- Congress of Laibach (1821)

In 1821, during this congress Austria was authorized to intervene in Spain and Naples for preserving peace in Europe.

## iv- Congress of Verona (1822)

In this congress, France was given a mandate to intervene in Spain and restore king Ferdinand VII for ensuring



preservation of legitimate rule in Europe with the broader goal of preserving European Peace.

How effective was it?

Its drawbacks?

## Conclusion

Peace settlement of 1814 to 1815 restored balance of power in Europe by restoring legitimate rulers, containing the aggressor i.e. France, balancing territorial gains of each great power and preventing territorial grievances of great powers. Moreover, this settlement paved a way to European Peace by initiating Concert of Europe.

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