

# EUROPEAN HISTORY:

## QUESTION: METTERNICH

### ERA:

Discuss the attempts made by Metternich to control the German Confederation between 1815 to 1848? Why did revolutionary outbreak fail? Explain with details.

### ANSWER:

#### Introduction:

"When France sneezes  
The entire Europe catches  
cold"

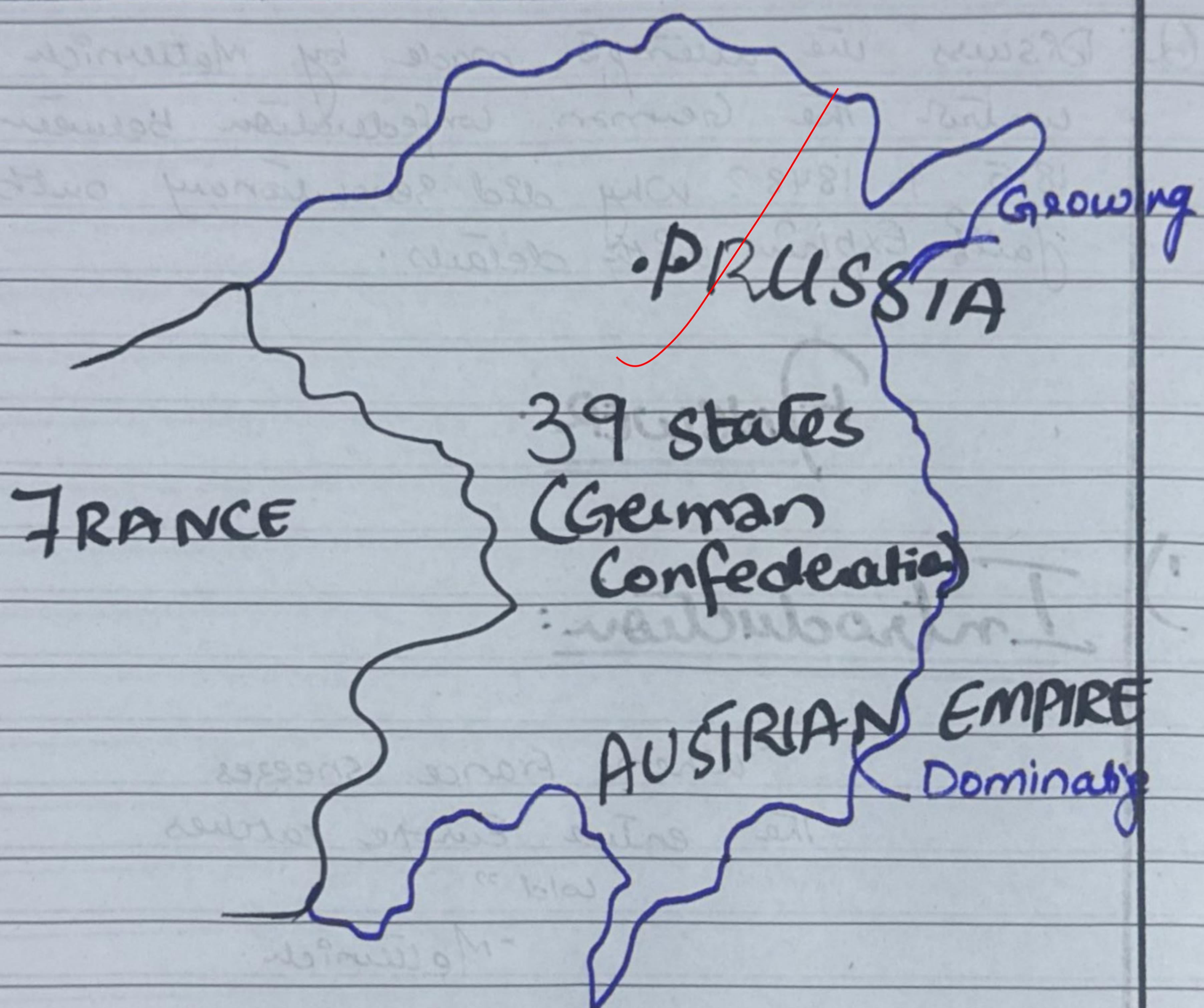
- Metternich

Metternich was the foreign Minister of Austria (1809- 1848). He is also known as the 'Architect of Post-Napoleonic Europe'. He was anti-revolutionary and the mastermind behind the German Confederation. Austria dominated the German Confederation under his rule. Thus, giving him the power over German policies.

and he introduced Carlsbad Decree (1819) and Bundestag laws to suppress nationalism. The revolution failed due to lack of common goal and unity amongst the people.

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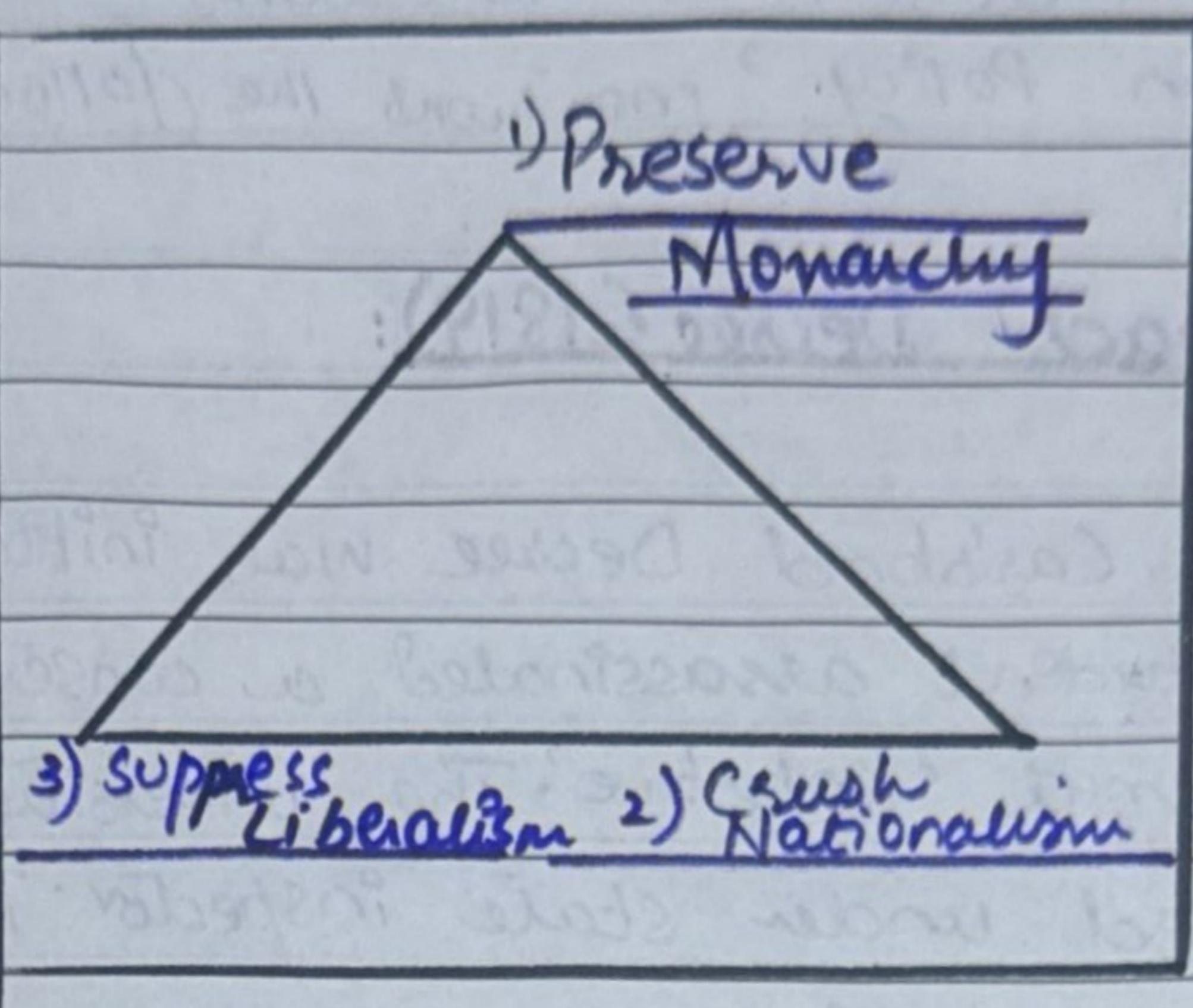
What was the German Confederation?



The German Confederation was created by Austria at Congress of Vienna to dominate Europe and suppress any revolutionary instincts.

3) The Vision After 1815:

The vision of Metternich was mainly known as Triad Philosophy.

TRIAD PHILOSOPHY4) The Attempts To Control German Confederation:

Objectives of His Attempts:

- 1) Maintain Balance of Power in Europe.
- 2) Alliance of the 4 powers - Austria, GB.
- 3) Intervention to dominate
- 4) Conservative Order.
- 5) Preserve Monarchy and Absolutism.

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## 4.1, Tools used by German Confederation to dominate:-

Enno Krache in his work 'Mellénich's German Policy' mentions the following:-

### i- Carlsbad Decree (1819):

The Carlsbad Decree was initiated when a student assassinated a conservative writer named, 'Kotzebue'. The universities were placed under state inspector. The professors were removed who encouraged liberal ideas. The student societies (Burschenschaften) were banned. Press censorship began.

"Revolutions are born in universities" -Mellénich.

### ii- The Federal Diet Control:

In European language, it is known as Bundestag. The Austria led policy. To keep Germany fragmented. It vetoed liberal Reform Proposals. It blocked the reforms. Henry Kissinger mentions in his work, "A world restored: Mellénich, Castlereagh and the problems of Peace".

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1812- 1822? Mentions about Diet Control and Metternich's work to suppress German Confederation and keep it fragmented.

### iii. Suppression of Liberalism and Nationalism:

The foundation for Metternich was to undermine and suppress the feelings of liberalism and nationalism. This would prevent chaos and another Napoleon for the next 30 years to come. The revolution of 1830 was crushed and the revolution of 1848 - was delayed but eventually found its way out.

"HIS system suppressed revolution, it did not cure its causes"

- A. J. P. Taylor.

### iv) Spying and Censorship:

The policy of secret police. Any heat of revolutionary ideas would be avoided and terror. The surveillance of intellectuals. The censorship of books and news. To prevent any type of revolutionary ideas that would threaten their authority.

"Congress of Vienna created

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peace, Metternich maintained  
it through policing"  
- Paul Schröder

## v) Preservation of Dynastic Legitimacy:

Metternich preserved Dynastic legitimacy.

Weak Dynastic  
Legitimacy of 39 states.

Dominated Austria

This was the reason to align and suppress  
the dynastic legitimacy by dominating  
and ruling over those. This further  
gives power to Metternich over  
39 states (German Confederation).

## vi) Use of Austrian Troops:

This was to crush revolts and  
protect Monarchs and Absolutism.  
To prevail conservatism.

## The Reasons for the failure of Revolutionary Outbreak:

Prussia was weak

### 5.1, No middle-class unity

There was no common goal. The Middle class wanted reform but were fighting for different kinds and different demands. Peasants wanted food, workers wanted employment. This reflects the diversity amongst the middle class.

"The House divided amongst themselves can not stand"

- Abraham Lincoln.

### 5.2. Strong Austrian Army

Austrian Army was strong. It would revolt against commoners. And Prussian army supported Austrian Army. This proved to be positive for Metternich. And created a strong block.

### 5.3, Censorship killed Co-ordination

The censorship killed coordination amongst the people. Ideas were not accessible. The Revolution was in the hearts of people but fear and censorship did not align.

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6) CONCLUSION:

Metternich's policies of containing and making loose German Confederation. The policies were to suppress revolt and revolutions like Carlsbad and Federal Diet. To some extent these were successful as well and suppressed liberalism. But the 1848 revolution showed the liberalism was in the hearts of people.

"Metternich stood  
for Europe that  
no longer existed"

- Eric Hobsbawm

