

Congress of Vienna

The Congress of Vienna was an international conference. Many territorial decisions had to be made in the conference that was held in Vienna, Austria, from September 1814 to June 1815. The main goal of the conference was to create a balance of power. When the great powers of Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Great Britain met at Vienna, to bring peace for a while by balancing of power between countries. All members decided to do not fragmentize the whole country but to keep their borders as before of Napoleon I. ruling.

The main goals of Congress were:

- LEGITIMACY: Only rulers from families before the French Revolution should be put back on the throne.
- REDRAWING THE MAP OF EUROPE
- TO PRESERVE THE "STATUS QUO"—a Latin word for the way things had always been. This was the hardest one, because Napoleonic reforms had given people a taste of equality and freedom.

Of course, there were also hundreds of other minor princes, dukes, barons, and religious leaders all meeting in Vienna. They went to party after party. During the night they danced with great beauties, but during the day, they negotiated for their separate countries. During the Congress of Vienna, diplomats exchanged secrets and made deals during the endless rounds of parties. Much of the congress's work was accomplished by means of such "diplomacy through entertainment."



Important Decisions:

- France was deprived of all territory conquered by Napoleon
- The Dutch Republic was united with the Austrian Netherlands to form a single kingdom of the Netherlands under the House of Orange.
- Norway and Sweden were joined under a single ruler
- Switzerland was declared neutral
- Russia got Finland and effective control over the new kingdom of Poland
- Prussia was given much of Saxony and important parts of Westphalia and the Rhine Province.
- Austria was given back most of the territory it had lost and was also given land in Germany and Italy (Lombardy and Venice)
- Britain got several strategic colonial territories, and they also gained control of the seas.
- France was restored under the rule of Louis XVIII.
- Spain was restored under Ferdinand VII

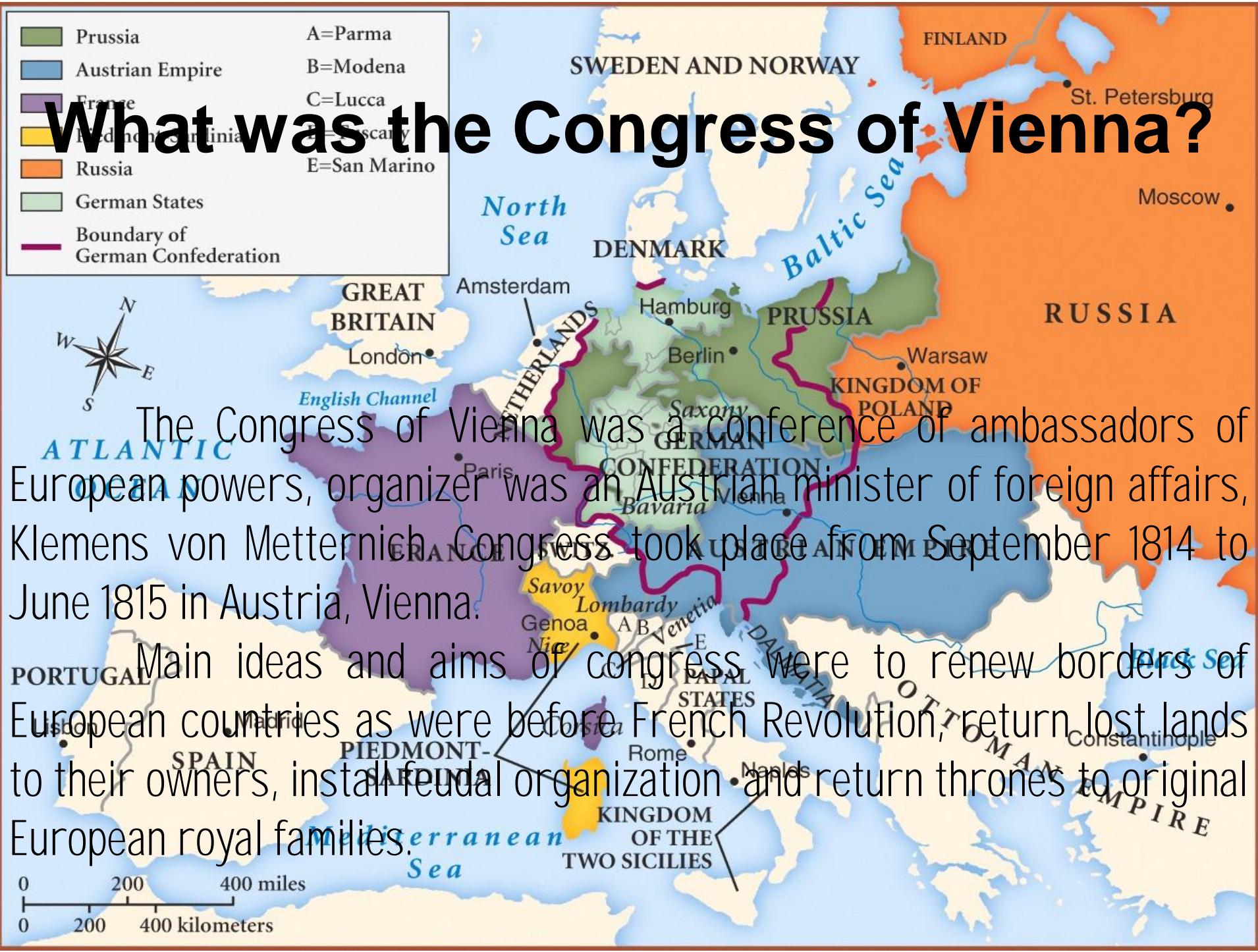


HISTORY Project

**Congress of Vienna and New
Organization of Europe after
1815**



What was the Congress of Vienna?



The Congress of Vienna was a conference of ambassadors of European powers, organizer was an Austrian minister of foreign affairs, Klemens von Metternich. Congress took place from September 1814 to June 1815 in Austria, Vienna.

Main ideas and aims of congress were to renew borders of European countries as were before French Revolution, return lost lands to their owners, install feudal organization and return thrones to original European royal families.

Klemens von Metternich

A portrait of Prince Klemens Wenzel von Metternich, an Austrian politician and statesman. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a dark, patterned coat over a red waistcoat and a white cravat. He has dark hair and a serious expression, looking slightly to the left. The background is dark and indistinct.

Prince Klemens Wenzel von Metternich was an Austrian politician and statesman, one of the most famous diplomats of his period. He studied at German schools and got into the policy, later in 1809 became Austrian minister of foreign affairs and in 1821 Austrian Chancellor.

He had more powers and abilities than Austrian ruler Francis I., who was very weak ruler. He supported strong Austrian empire and was conservative, is the most known thanks to the Congress of Vienna.

Participants of Congress

Main four participants, that attended the Congress of Vienna were the strongest powers. Austria was represented by Metternich, the Great Britain by Viscount Castlereagh and Lord of Wellington, France by minister of foreign affairs, Talleyrand and Prussia by king Fredrick William III., also Russia was invited and represented by tsar Alexander I.

Other important countries that attended were Spain, Portugal and Sweden, then also Denmark, Netherlands, Switzerland, German city – states and deputy of Papal State. They all had to find solutions and made a deal together.

