

Vienna settlement 1814/15

By Amigo tutor :Theresa Shamiso Sibanda

Email add :shamisoblessing@gmail.com

Cell :0774658065

Mount Pleasant high school

Great powers representatives at Vienna settlement. (congress)

- Metternich of Austria
- Francis 1 of Prussia
- Castlereagh of Britain
- Talleyrand of France
- and Tsar Alexander of Prussia

Background history of Vienna settlement

- This conference started in 1814 and was disrupted by Napoleon's escape from St. Elba and continued in 1815
- This conference was held after the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte
- French Revolution and Napoleon had caused war and turmoil for 20 years
- Great powers were worried about how to maintain peace after the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte
- All discussions at Vienna were surrounded by fear of possible war and desire to maintain peace in Europe.
- This meeting was held in Austria in the city of Vienna .

Prince Metternich of Austria

- Austria was made up of people of different nationalities.
- These include, Austrians, checzs, magyrs, poles, slavs, Hungarians
- If these people were given liberty to form their governments, Austria will become a weak state
- So Metternich was influenced by this fear of nationalism and liberalism.
- Metternich at Vienna was vocal about suppression of nationalism and liberalism.
- These selfish reasons also shaped Vienna settlement

Talleyrand of France

- Felt if ancien rulers deposed by Napoleon are restored their powers they will check on on forces of liberalism and nationalism that disturbed peace in Europe for over 20years.
- Ancient despotic rulers had zero tolerance to liberalism

Britain

- Britain was worried about maintaining balance of power.
- No one country should dominate a region
- Had selfish reasons like protecting her islands for trade purpose and coastal states that were strategic to her trade.
- Wanted countries to be restored of former territories lost during napoleonic Era

Russia

- Was mainly interested in dominating the Mediterranean sea and Polish states or grand Dutch of War saw

Prussia

- Was interested in dominating Saxony
- Conservatism maintain status quo in Europe before the French Revolution and napoleon era
- So Vienna settlement became the melting pot of these ideas. Selfish motives plus fear of further french aggression and desire to maintain peace in Europe
- So what ever aims great powers crafted had a bearing on these factors.

Aims of Great powers at Vienna settlement

- To share spoils after the final defeat of Napoleon (repossess territories once colonised by Napoleon Bonaparte.)
- How maintain peace in Europe after 20 years of Turmoil
- Form an alliance of great powers and meet regularly in congresses (birth of congress system)
- How to prevent further french aggression
- How to divide spoils in a manner acceptable by all.

Principles to be adopted

- 1.principle of legitimacy
- 2 principle of balance of power
- 3 principle of suppression of liberalism and nationalism

How to achieve these aims

- Creation of buffer states
- Suppression of liberalism and nationalism
- Principle of balance of power
- Principle of legitimacy

Features of conservatism

- Restoration of legitimate rulers who were dictators
- Suppression of nationalism and liberalism

Reactionary policies

- Principles of legitimacy
- Suppression of nationalism and liberalism

Creation of buffer states

- Great powers created buffer states to protect themselves from further french aggression.
- Northern frontier = joined Belgium and Holland to created Netherlands
- Rhine frontier =joined Rhine states
- Italia frontier =joined Northern Italian states*
- Nb* created strong defensive lines

Criticism levelled against creation buffer states

- Buffer states protected great powers and sacrificed small powers. Served selfish interest.

Sharing of spoils Austria got :

- Lombardy and Venetia given to Austria
- Austria got 39 German states

Britain got:

- Ceylon
- Island of Malta
- Trinidad
- Tobago
- Mauritius
- West Indies
- Heligoland
- Cape of Good Hope

Prussia got:

- Prussia got Posen
- Prussia took Rhineland
- 2/5 of Saxony

Russia got :

- Russia took Finland
- 3/4 of Poland

Holland got :

- Holland was joined to Belgium to form Netherlands
- In Belgium there were pro revolutionary groups
- Holland was rewarded for refusing napoleon 's Continental system.
- Small powers also benefited from the Vienna settlement.
- Great powers punished supporters of Napoleon and rewarded napoleon opponents

Piedmont

- Port of Genoa was added to piedmont
- Small powers also benefited from the Vienna settlement

Criticism

- The divided the spoils using 1804map.
- Division was characterized by greed.. Smaller states were sacrificed and their interest were not considered. Serbs fins and poles.

Principle of balance of power

- It principle that prevented one powers from dominating a particular region

Principle of legitimacy

- Ancient rulers deposed by Napoleon Bonaparte and the French Revolution were to be restored of their claims to the throne
- Restored despotic leaders who had zero tolerance to liberalism and nationalism.
- Conservatism and reactionary forces are seen at play
- Conservatism means maintaining status quo especially of the ancient regime.
- Reactionary means reverting to earlier position.
- Revolution had taken people to another stage. So reactionary policies were reverting to the old order

Examples of legitimate rulers restored

- Ferdinand I restored in Naples.
- Ferdinand VII restored in Spain
- Louis XVIII restored in France
- Princes related to Austrian Hapsburg monarchy restored in the 3 duchies of Parma Modena and Tuscany
- Victor Emmanuel I in Piedmont Piedmont
- Pope and Pius IX in the Papal States

Principle of balance of power

- It's a principle to that aims to balance power and prevent other countries from dominating a particular region.

Principle of suppression of nationalism and liberalism

- Nationalism is struggle for self determination.
- Many states wanted self rule.
- Wanted to be independent from dominant powers

Examples of liberalism to be suppressed

- Demanding a constitution
- Freedom of association
- Freedom of speech and publication
- Relaxed censorship
- Trial by jury system and no arbitrary arrest
- Staging revolts and demonstration or petitions

Criticism levelled

- Principle of liberalism was suppressed.
- Ignored concept of liberalism
- Reactionary forces dominated the conference
- Suppression of liberalism was retrogressive and conservative of ancien regime principles.
- Suppressed nationalism.
- Ignored independence of Small states and joined states with different lifestyle eg Belgium and Holland

Small states that also benefitted : piedmont

- Holland
- Piedmont
- Denmark

Did they achieve their aims

- Formed alliance of great powers and met regularly in congresses
- Formed quadruple alliance and later quintuple alliance.
- Met in congresses at Aix-la-Chapelle, Troppau, Liabach and Verona
- They maintained peace for 40 years.
- They shared spoils in a manner acceptable by all

Controversy

- Russia wanted the Grand Duchy of Warsaw
- Prussia wanted the whole of Saxony
- This didn't go well with other great powers like France Britain and Austria and formed an alliance against those two.
- Napoleon Bonaparte took advantage of this confusion and escaped from st Elba
- The great powers united against napoleon and defeated napoleon Bonaparte at waterloo.
- After that date Russia and Prussia agree to compromise.
- Saxony and Polish states were shared among European powers

Practice questions

- Assess the main features of the Vienna settlement.
- To what extent was the Vienna settlement characterized by the forces of reaction?
- How true is the verdict that the Vienna settlement served interest of great powers.

The end

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