

Congress of Vienna (1815)

The political map of Europe that was altered by Napoleon had to be redrawn after his defeat. A Congress of the Representatives of different states of Europe assembled at the Vienna (Capital of Austria) for the purpose.

The three principles followed by the diplomats were the principles of ① Legitimacy, ② Compensation or Reward and ③ Balance of power.

Principle of Legitimacy:

The diplomats wanted to retain status quo in respect of the territorial redistribution of Europe. The restoration of territories to powers to whom they belonged before French Revolution.

Compensation or Reward.

Great Britain, Russia, Prussia and Austria were rewarded for the sacrifices they had made for the overthrow of Napoleon. In order to reward one country, the territories from other country or countries had to be taken. This was infringement of the principle of ~~legi~~ Legitimacy.

Balance of power.

The first victim of the principle of the Balance of power was France. All measures were adopted to ensure the prevention of her rising in the future.

The real object of the Congress was to divide among the conquerors the spoils of the conquered - 9a the application of the principles they were never consistent. The principles of legitimacy was compromised by the two other principles of Compensation and Balance of Power.

— 2 —

Q. What was Metternich System? What was its results?

Metternich was the central figure not only in Austrian and German politics, but also in European diplomacy. He was the most famous statesman produced by Austria in 19th century. He was the Prince of diplomats. His vanity had no limits. He felt that world was resting on his shoulders.

Metternich was the enemy of the French Revolution. At the Vienna Congress under Metternich the leadership of Europe passed from France to Austria. He was able to create a strong barrier on the frontiers of France. So that she might not be able to create any trouble in the future.

Metternich stood for the maintenance of the Statusquo in Europe. He wanted to make the Vienna Settlement permanent and for that purpose he entered into the Quadruple alliance with Prussia, Russia and Great Britain. In 1818 was held the first Congress at Aix-la-Chapelle. An attempt was made to guarantee the territorial Statusquo as established by the Congress of Vienna. But the attempt was unsuccessful on the account of opposition of Great Britain. However in 1820, the

Protocol of Troppau was made inspite of the opposition of Great Britain. The Protocol enabled Metternich to police the whole of Europe and crush liberalism and nationalism.

The era of Congresses ended in 1822 after the Congress of Vienna when Great Britain left the Congress on question of Spain and her American colonies. However Metternich had secured what he wanted.

His diplomacy hastened the fall of Napoleon. His personality, his deep insight into human character, his direct knowledge of European politics helped him to extend his influence on European affairs for a long time. So that the period between 1815 to 1848 came to be known as the Age of Metternich. Ultimately, his repressive system failed. The liberal movement that started in the wake of ^{July} revolution of 1830 paved the way for the destruction of Metternich system. The February Revolution of 1848 made certain the end of Metternich System.