

The Congress of Vienna

The Fall of Napoleon

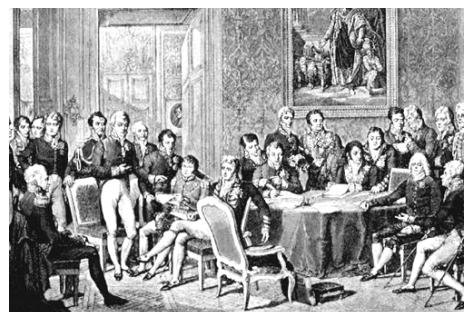
Describe the events leading to Napoleon's downfall.



What can you expect might happen now that Napoleon is gone?

The Congress of Vienna

The Congress of Vienna was an international conference that was called in order to remake Europe after the downfall of Napoleon. The rulers of Europe met to create a balance of power that would preserve peace. The meeting was held in Vienna, where the Austrian leader **Metternich** was ruler. There were also other rulers representing the nations of **Great Britain (Castlereagh)**, **Russia (Alexander)**, and **France (Talleyrand)**.



Vienna July 1815

Castlereagh: There is one thing we can all agree on; things have changed in Europe.

Talleyrand: Things- I'm not sure I know what you mean. Aren't we back to where we started before the revolution? Haven't we turned back the clock to the good old days? Change has been wiped out!

Castlereagh: Don't be a fool, Talleyrand. *(He raises his voice slightly.)* Things will never be the same. We can try, but the French Revolution and Napoleon will always be with us.

Metternich: Don't say that! Thank God, Napoleon is gone. We've shipped him off to Saint Helena. I could not sleep if he were still at large. Put that man on a battlefield and you never know what might happen. He took boys and gave them guns. Somehow he won ten battles in twenty days! That man was dangerous!

Talleyrand: I still dream of his escaping and rallying the mobs around him once again. What a nightmare! Never again will a man rise from nowhere and become an emperor, as Napoleon did. Only those born to the throne may be rulers!

Castlereagh: I repeat: You cannot turn back the clock! We can *try* to hold back the hands of the clock. We can *try* to prevent changes. But gentlemen, the world is not the same. It can never be!

Metternich: *(angrily)* Wrong again, Castlereagh! We are going to keep things exactly the way they are. We will insist upon it! Everything we have done here in Vienna has one goal: keep things as they are. The peasant order will remain forever. We will make revolutions impossible!

Talleyrand: *(as he places a map of Europe on the table)* Look at this map of Europe. The countries of our continent are all locked in. There is simply no room for change. No new nations can ever rise. Notice how Italy is broken up into many states; each is weak and helpless. And don't forget how cleverly we've divided Germany! There are now 38 weak states, which are really controlled by Austria. No, there will never be a united Germany!

Castlereagh: I wonder- are we really all that clever? Do you honestly think this will last forever?

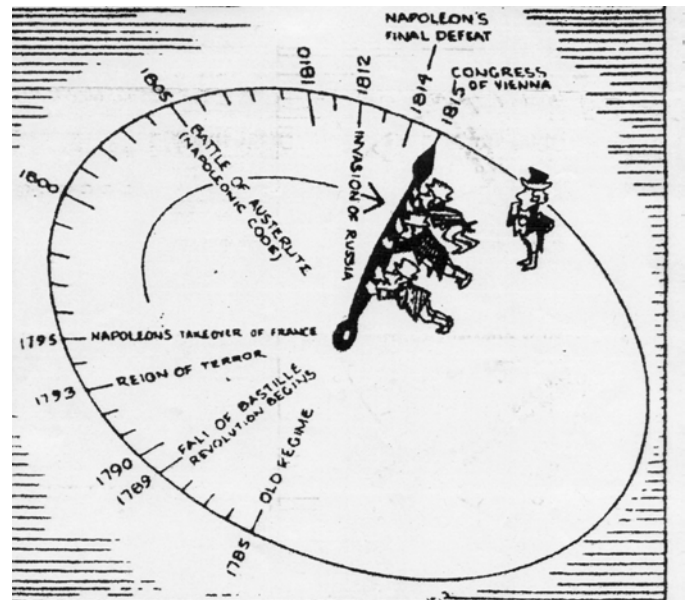
Alexander: *(in a commanding voice)* gentlemen, I have a simple suggestion that will make all of this last forever. We must protect our thrones through definite action. I hear too much talk about how things will never change. To prevent revolutions, I propose a Holy alliance of the Kings and Queens of Europe. Let the people try to revolt. We will crush them without a second thought! We must be sure of ourselves. We must work together. We must fight together to keep things from changing!

(Talleyrand and Metternich seem pleased and excited by Alexander's suggestion. Castlereagh's expression does not change.)

DIRECTIONS: With a partner, examine the dialogue between the members at the Congress of Vienna. Based on the dialogue, decide what each member's view and/or goal was at the Conference.

LEADER	GOALS AT THE CONFERENCE
Metternich of Austria	
Castlereagh of Great Britain	
Talleyrand of France	
Alexander of Russia	

How is the picture to the right related to the Congress of Vienna?



Napoleon's Empire



Europe after the Congress of Vienna



How did Europe change as a result of the Congress of Vienna in 1815?
