***The Congress of Vienna***

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| **The Congress and the Diplomats**   * Following the defeat of Napoleon, Europe was a mess. Napoleon had completely rearranged the boundary lines of many countries – now that he was gone, what was to be done? * The ***Congress of Vienna*** was not a legislative body, but a meeting of diplomats from major nations in Europe. Their job was to decide what to do about the changes Napoleon had made to Europe. * Representing *Austria*, and the host of the Congress, was ***Prince Klemens von Metternich***, the foreign minister to the Austrian Emperor. Britain was represented by *Lord Castlereagh*, Russia by the ***Czar*** himself, ***Alexander I***, and Prussia by their ***King Frederick William III.*** * Many felt *France* should not have been invited because they had caused all the turmoil, but they were represented well by the crafty Charles Maurice de Tallyrand. | **Guiding Principles of the Congress**   * ***Conservatism*** The diplomats were all members of the upper classes, and therefore were interested in the traditional order of things. Historians consider these diplomats to be ***reactionaries*** (extreme conservatives) because they wanted to return to the previous era. * ***Legitimacy*** The diplomats decided to return the *legitimate* rulers to their thrones in cases where Napoleon had deposed them. The King of Sardinia (Italy) was restored as ruler of his various territories, and King Louis XVIII was recognized as the ruler of France. * ***Compensation*** It was decided that nations who had suffered in fighting against Napoleon would be given land. The Netherlands received Belgium, Russia got Finland and part of Poland, Prussia received the other part of Poland, and Britain received control of various colonies. |
| **Forces Ignored?**   * **Liberalism** The idea that individuals had certain innate rights and liberties was completely ignored by the delegates of the Congress. It was as if they tried to completely erase the ideas of the Enlightenment. * **Nationalism** This force was, to some degree, born during the French Revolution (in Europe), and was inadvertently spread by Napoleon’s troops. The principle of compensation followed by the diplomats went completely contrary to the growing forces of nationalism. | **Results?**   * Fans of the Congress point out that there was not another widespread European war for almost 100 years and suggest that the Congress effectively established peace and order. * Critics of the Congress point out that major nationalist rebellions broke out only 15 years after the Congress. A series of rebellions rocked Europe in 1830, breaking out in Paris, Berlin, Poland, in Italian states and in Belgium (which was successful in breaking away from the Netherlands.) * By 1848, rebellions were so widespread that it was considered epidemic. |

***Congress of Vienna***

1. What was the situation in Europe following the defeat of Napoleon?

2. What was the *Congress of Vienna*? What was its purpose?

3. Who were the delegates at the Congress?

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| *Country* | Delegates |
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4. Why did many think that France should NOT have been invited to the Congress?

5. **Explain** the guiding beliefs of the *Congress*. Give examples, if possible.

a. Conservatism –

b. Legitimacy –

c. Compensation –

6. Explain the forces that the delegates ignored. Give examples of how the forces were ignored.

a. Liberalism –

b. Nationalism –

7. Why do so many suggest that the *Congress* was a success?

8. Why do so many suggest it was a failure? (Please offer specific examples.)