

**CHAPTER 23** Section 5 (pages 672–675)

# The Congress of Vienna

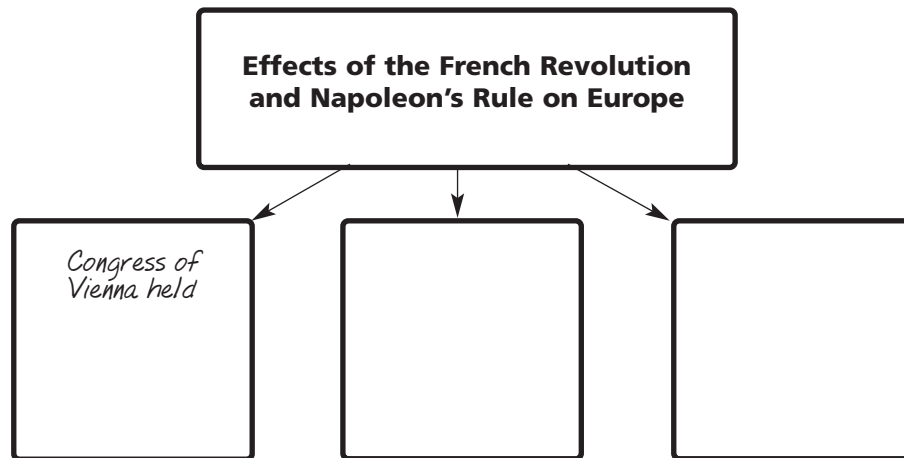
## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you saw how Napoleon’s empire collapsed.

In this section, you will learn how the rest of Europe reacted to both the French Revolution and Napoleon’s rise and fall.

## AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on the ways that leaders and people of other nations were affected by the ideas and results of the French Revolution.



### TERMS AND NAMES

**Congress of Vienna** Meetings in Vienna for the purpose of restoring order to Europe

**Klemens von Metternich** Key leader at the Congress of Vienna

**balance of power** Condition in which no one country becomes a threat to the other

**legitimacy** Bringing back to power the kings that Napoleon had driven out

**Holy Alliance** League formed by Russia, Austria, and Prussia

**Concert of Europe** Series of alliances to help prevent revolution

## Metternich’s Plans for Europe

(pages 672–673)

### *What was the Congress of Vienna?*

In 1814, leaders of many nations met to draw up a peace plan for Europe. This series of meetings was called the **Congress of Vienna**. The most important person at the Congress of Vienna was the foreign minister of Austria, **Klemens von Metternich**. He shaped the peace conditions that were finally accepted.

Metternich had three goals at the congress. First, he wanted to make sure that the French would not attack another country again. Second, he wanted a **balance of power** in which no one nation was strong enough to threaten other nations. Third, he wanted **legitimacy**. This meant restoring monarchs to the thrones they had before Napoleon’s conquests. The other leaders agreed with Metternich’s ideas.

Metternich achieved his first goal when the congress strengthened the small nations that

surrounded France. Meanwhile, France was not punished too severely. It remained independent and kept some overseas possessions. This helped achieve Metternich's second goal to create a balance of power.

The congress also worked to fulfill Metternich's third goal. Many rulers were returned to power in states throughout Europe, including France.

The Congress of Vienna created very successful peace agreements. None of the great powers fought against one another 40 years. Some did not fight in a war for the rest of the century.

**1. What three goals did Metternich have?**

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**Political Changes Beyond Vienna** (pages 673–675)

*How did European leaders respond to the effects of the French Revolution?*

Many European rulers were nervous about the effects of the French Revolution. In 1815, Czar Alexander, Emperor Francis I of Austria, and King Frederick William III of Prussia formed the **Holy Alliance**. Other alliances created by Metternich

were called the **Concert of Europe**. The idea of these alliances was for nations to help one another if revolution came.

Across Europe, conservatives held control of European governments. Conservatives were people who opposed the ideals of the French Revolution. They also usually supported the rights and powers of royalty. They did not encourage individual liberties. They did not want any calls for equal rights.

But many other people still believed in the ideals of the French Revolution. They thought that all people should be equal and share in power. Later they would again fight for these rights.

People in the Americas also felt the desire for freedom. Spanish colonies in the Americas revolted against the restored Spanish king. Many colonies won independence from Spain. National feeling grew in Europe, too. Soon people in areas such as Italy, Germany, and Greece would rebel and form new nations. The French Revolution had changed the politics of Europe and beyond.

**2. What happened to ideas about freedom and independence?**

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