

Machinery dominated production and it was destined to cheapen production. In time, it was to create a larger demand for goods and greater prosperity. But in the first years of this new age, unemployment increased and wages decreased. Unemployment increased because the industries could employ lesser number of men than the number employed in the cottage industries and wages declined because in the act of bargain between the labourer and the industrialists, the industrialists could win according to the law of demand and supply.

Unemployment
and wage decline

The Industrial Revolution in England was responsible for a new shifting of population. People began to flock towards the cities and towns, the villages were desolated as a result and new large industrial towns sprang up.

The new industrial working class was extorted beyond measure and historian Marriot marked that England touched the 'nadir of industrial dislocation and discontent' after Waterloo. The miserable condition in which the industrial labourers were forced to live evoked sympathy among the thinking people and as a result 'Socialism' was born. The working class people gradually improved their lot. The industrial people by virtue of their great wealth tried to control the politics of the country. The working class gradually tried the same. The Chartist Movement during the middle of the 19th century was a semi-economic and semi-political movement. During the same period, the English Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel introduced free trade. The most important political result of the Industrial Revolution had been the

Condition of
labour

Political demand
of the working
class

movement for Parliamentary Reform and the change in the attitude of State from individualistic to welfare policy.

Effects of Industrial Revolution on the World

The consequences of Industrial Revolution which had been seen in England was nearly echoed in every country where Industrial Revolution took place. Destruction of the cottage industry, installation of big industrial plants and all other effects would follow. The Industrial Revolution of Europe caused important reactions in the economic and political life of the world.

General effects of Industrial Revolution

The general result of the Revolution was that economic difference between the workers and the owners sharply increased. The big industrialists became inflated with more and more wealth while the working class was threatened with starvation. The net result was that the rich became richer and the poor more poorer. The big amount of export brought huge profits and hence, the economy of the country became dependent on the industries. The Revolution also caused and increased inter-dependence among the countries.

Sharp difference between the industrialists and working class

But the biggest consequence of the Industrial Revolution in its world aspect was the effect the Revolution brought to bear upon the under-developed countries outside Europe. When Industrial Revolution flourished in most countries of Europe, there began a mad race to secure raw materials for the factories and markets to sell the finished goods. In this race, the European nations haunted

Mad race for raw materials

Asia and Africa. The populous countries of Asia specially Japan, China and India gave prospects of Markets ; Africa showed good prospects as source of raw materials. So, China and Japan who had kept aloof of world politics for centuries together were forced to open up their gates to the European nations and India, already a part of the British Empire became easily the market for British goods. Africa was partitioned among the European powers.

Demand for market and raw materials

Industrial Revolution took place as a result of the colonial expansion and empire of European powers. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the European Nations had gone to Asia, America and some parts of Africa. When Industrial Revolution took place, the greedy attention of Europe was drawn to the countries of Asia and Africa. The countries of Asia were populous but very backward in industry. The European Nations established political domination wherever possible and by various devices destroyed the industries of the Asian countries and dominated the economic life of the countries. This kind of economic imperialism is one of the most notorious consequences of Industrial Revolution.

Colonisation, empire, political domination and economic imperialism

But one thing must be remembered here. Though Industrial Revolution touched most countries of Europe, it did not touch them in equal degrees. In industrial output, the most important rival of England had been France. But in course of time, Germany outdid France in this respect and entered into serious contest with England and France. To this contest was added the keen desire to secure more and more.

Competition among European nations

territory. The extreme form of nationalism that was seen after Germany became united, the territorial lust and the competition with France and England in respect of industrial output and their export formed the background of the First World War.

In the 19th century, the electricity was invented and along electricity came telegraph, electric lamps, electrically operated machines, etc. In the 18th century, the Industrial Revolution brought profound changes in the world of production. In the 19th and 20th centuries, various inventions had made life more and more comfortable. One invention was followed by a stream of other inventions.

This flood of inventions has completely changed man's habit and usages, has caused immense changes in the mode of living and has offered interesting future. The Industrial Revolution has no doubt helped the human civilization to march ahead.

The condition of India may be discussed here. From very ancient times, Indian goods had very large demand in Asia and Europe. Indian silk and cotton goods were especially very much favoured. In fact, India had developed a very high standard of cotton industry. When after the Battle of Plassey, 1757, the English got a hold over Bengal, they began to take away from Bengal the wealth and prosperity for which she had earned fame. The enormous capital thus secured from Bengal was utilised when Industrial Revolution broke out. The factories required large capital which was supplied in that way. And then, the prosperous handloom cotton industry was destroyed

Invention of electricity revolutionised man's mode of living

Conclusion

Effects of Industrial Revolution in India

in India so that Lancashire mill-owners could sell their goods in India. Not only that, by virtue of their political position, the English directed the economy of India to England's interest, kept her industrially backward and used her mainly as a market for British goods.

Except for a few coastal places better part of Africa was unknown to the European Nations. The great rivers, the great forests and deserts, extremely unhealthy climate had been responsible for keeping Africa unknown to Europe. She was known as the 'Dark Continent'. But during the middle of the 19th century some European adventurers entered into her heart—two names are famous in this connection. They are Livingstone and Stanley. Stanley wrote some books and one of them—'Through the Dark Continent' was very important. The book unfolded the vast possibility of Africa as a great source of raw material and innocent Africa became prey to the greedy Europe. Within a short time, the Continent of Africa was partitioned among the European nations. Nearly every member of Europe joined in this territorial feast but the lion's share went to England and France and not a very moderate portion, was shared by Italy, Portugal, Germany etc. Only Ethiopia remained independent. The peculiar feature of this partition was that it was very peacefully done and not a single European war became necessary.

Expeditions into the heart of the 'Dark Continent'

Peaceful partition

Questions

1. Define Industrial Revolution. Discuss how Industrial Revolution took place in England in the Reign of George III.

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

(Human desire to apply less manual labour—use of beasts and natural power. Cottage Industry—invention changed the shape of things—Cottage Industry converted into big factories—the Revolutions in the field of production. Inventions in the Cotton Industry—other inventions—introduction of the machine age.)

2. Why did the Industrial Revolution first take place in England ?

3. Discuss the effects of Industrial Revolution.

(Industrial Revolution changed the mode of production—big exports—bigger profits and better prosperity—unemployment and wage decline—miserable conditions of labour—political demands of the working class—sharp difference of income.)

4. Discuss the effects of Industrial Revolution in its world aspect with special reference to Asia and Africa.

(Mad race for raw materials—demand for market—colonisation, Empire—economic Imperialism—destruction of the industries of India—opening up of China and Japan—partition of Africa).

5. What were the importances of Industrial Revolution ?

CHAPTER IV

THE AGE OF CONGRESSES

Introduction

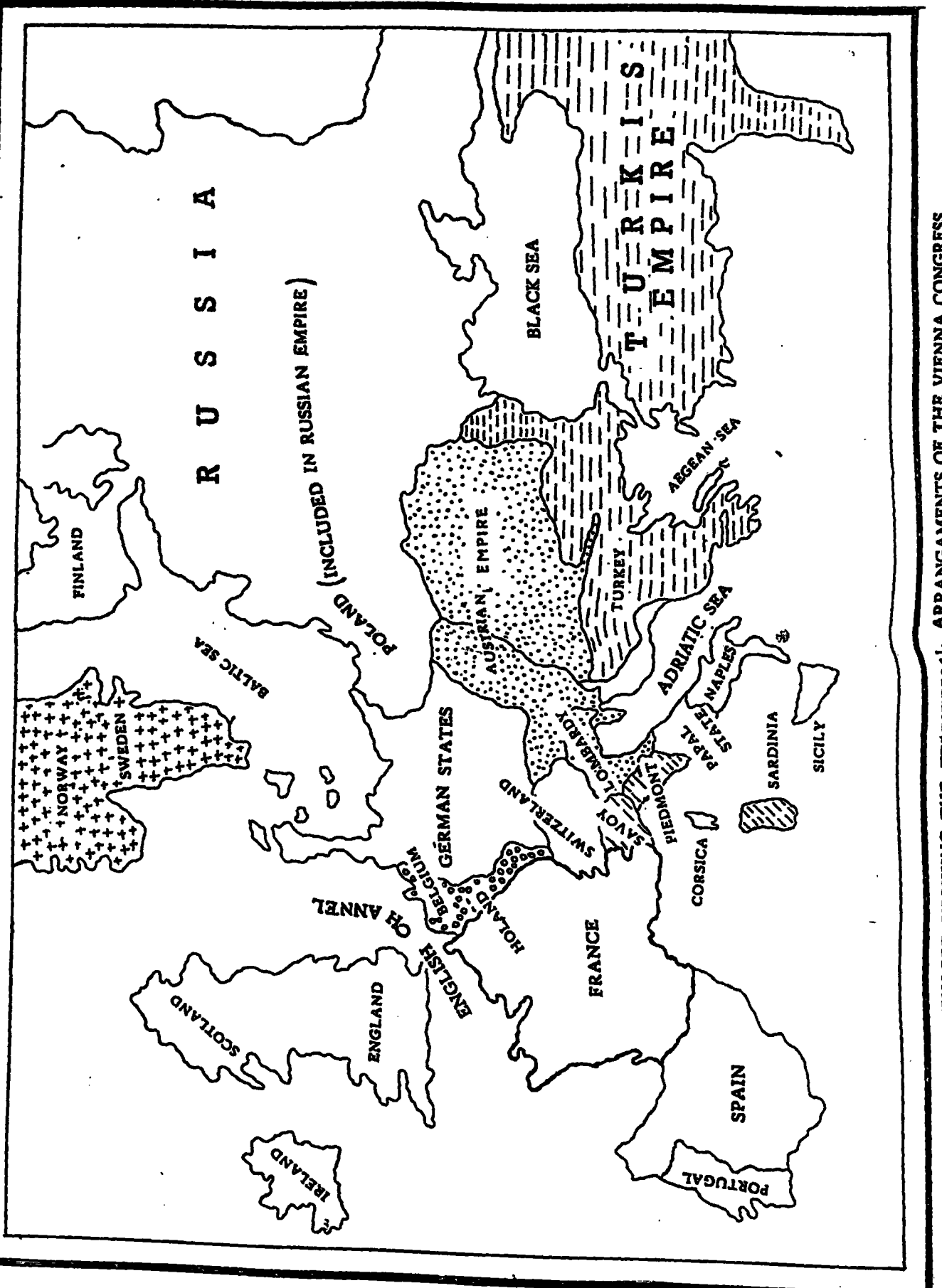
Napoleon Bonaparte had severely disturbed the political boundaries of different states of Europe. He had demolished old boundaries and created new states according to his own will and advantage. After Napoleon had been defeated, the European statesmen met at Vienna, the capital of Austria for the resettlement of Europe. This meeting is known as the Congress of Vienna. Never had Europe witnessed before the galaxy of statesmen and crowned dignitaries. All the European states except Turkey sent representatives to the Congress but the Congress was dominated by Austria, Prussia, Russia and England. England was represented by her foreign Secretary Lord Castlereagh, France by the astute diplomat Talleyrand, Austria by Prince Metternich who presided over the Congress and Russia by the visionary idealist Tzar Alexander I. The name of Metternich deserves special mention because he was strongly opposed to all revolutionary principles and he was the most outstanding among the personalities that assembled at Vienna.

Vienna Congress

To the assembled diplomats of Europe, the main problems were three—to re-establish the territorial limits and dynasties that existed on the eve of the French Revolution; to arrange the state system of Europe in such a manner as would be a strong

The diplomats met at Vienna to reconstruct Europe

There problems



R U S S I A

FINLAND

POLAND (INCLUDED IN RUSSIAN EMPIRE)

BLACK SEA

T U R K I S
E M P I R E

AUSTRIAN EMPIRE

ADRIATIC SEA

TURKEY

FINLAND

BALTIC SEA

NORWAY
SWEDEN

GERMAN STATES

ADRIATIC SEA

GERMAN STATES

ROYAL STATE

ENGLISH OH ANNEAL

SWITZERLAND

PIEMONTE

ENGLISH OH ANNEAL

HOLLAND

CORSICA

SCOTLAND

ENGLAND

FRANCE

SPAIN

PORTUGAL

IRELAND

SARDINIA

SICILY

A MAP OF EUROPE SHOWING THE TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE VIENNA CONGRESS.

check upon any aggression in future by France ; and rewards to the victors and retribution to the vanquished. The activities of the Congress remained mainly limited in the solution of these problems.

The establishment of the territorial boundaries and dynasties that existed before the outbreak of the Revolution was accomplished according to a principle. The principle was the Principle of Legitimacy. According to it, the Bourbon dynasty was re-established in France, Spain and Naples and the old dynasties of Holland and Sardinia Piedmont got back their throne. The dominion of Pope was restored to him. The rulers of the small German kingdoms merged in the confederation of Rhine and were re-established in their principalities. The old Federal type of government was re-established in Switzerland and her neutrality was again guaranteed by the powers. Austria regained her superior position in Italy and Germany by a thorough application of this Principle.

France had created warfever in Europe and kept her terror stricken for nearly a decade. The aggression of France was too recent to forget. A mentality to make such an arrangement as would prevent France from making an aggressive war any more prevailed. Two measures were taken accordingly. The territorial limits of France was reduced and fixed at the boundary she had on the eve of the Revolution. Secondly, a chain of strong Kingdoms were created and it was hoped that these chain of strong kingdoms would act as check upon any future French aggression. By creating the chain of strong kingdoms on all sides of France,

Principle of Legitimacy, the reestablishment of old dynasties and old boundaries

Security against France

security against French aggression was sought. With this view, Belgium was joined with the Holland and thus a strong kingdom was created in the north of France. The Rhine lands were given to Prussia and thus enabled her to become powerful in the east of France. To the kingdom of Sardinia Piedmont was added Genoa and this addition created a strong state in the South East of France. In this way, a chain of powerful states were established on all sides of France to preserve the peace of Europe.

As a punishment to defeated France, she was asked to pay a huge sum as war indemnity and it was arranged that an army of the victorious powers would remain within France and the expenses of this army were to be borne by her as long as the indemnity was not paid. Norway was taken away from Denmark and given to Sweden. Thus Denmark was punished for helping Napoleon. On the same offence, Saxony was penalised and a portion of her territory was given to Prussia. Russia was allowed to secure Central Poland and she secured the ratification of the conquest of Finland and some small territories of Turkey. Prussia secured some portions of Saxony, a slice of Poland, the Swedish Pomerania and large territories on the Rhine. The predominance of Austria was established in Italy. Austria secured Lombardy and Venetia and she gave up her rights over Belgium. England secured in Europe Heligoland, Malta and the Protectorate over the Ionian islands. England made some good gains in respect of Colonial acquisitions—she secured Trinidad from Spain, Tobago and Mauritius from

Territorial arrange-
ment and
distribution

Punishment to
the defeat

Reward to the
victors

France and Cape of Good Hope and Ceylon from Holland.

These three principles i.e. the principle of Legitimacy, the principle of Security against France and the Preservation of the Balance of Power in Europe and reward to the victors and the punishment to the defeated powers moulded the Vienna

Triumph of
reaction

Settlement. In the Congress of Vienna was spoken and heard the expression of lofty sentiments and high emotions. The Vienna Congress also saw the triumph of reaction. The iron minded Prince Metternich was there. He sought to

secure the re-establishment of Austrian power and prestige. He was against all revolutionary ideals. The state system which he

Metternich the
citadel of reaction

wanted to create was a European state system with an amount of balance in the powers of the member states and the re-establishment and the preservation of the 'State quo'. But Metternich had failed to estimate the real strength of the New Ideals of the New Age. He failed to realise that "while he himself was growing old and feeble, the world was renewing its youth." Similarly, the real change that can be brought against the assembled diplomats of Vienna was that they ignored the challenge of the French Revolution. They accepted the Principle of Balance of Power and ignored the popular sentiment. They failed to see

The Vienna
Congress did not
respect the new
liberal principles

that the revolutionary principles of Democracy and nationalism were becoming dominant political factors. Before making any criticism of the action of the Congress, the legacy of the French Revolution must be discussed. It may be thought that the French Revolution had become a failure

with the fall of Napoleon and the subsequent restoration of the Bourbon Dynasty. But the cherished principles of the Revolution did not die out altogether. The victorious army of Napoleon Bonaparte had taken with them the seeds of Nationalism and Democracy wherever they went. The French Revolution had caused a revolution in the realm of ideas of men. Though reaction triumphed everywhere, these principles were not lost to the people of Europe. This profound change was not realised by the statesmen of Vienna Congress.

Much of the work of the Congress had been reactionary. The principle of Nationalism was violated when Belgium was tagged with Holland and Norway with Sweden. The territorial readjustment made by the Congress did not conform to the new ideas of Nationalism but stuck to the old idea of Balance of Power. The restoration of the old reactionary dynasties was a great blow to the principle of Democracy and basic equality. So, imbued with the spirit of nationalism and democracy people struggled hard against their reactionary rulers throughout the century. The dominance of Austria was put to an end with the unification of Italy; the effort to keep Germany divided into many small states failed with the unification of Germany; there were great upsurge and trouble in Balkan areas and two more French Revolution, one in 1832 and another in 1848 were necessary to warn the reactionaries all over Europe to be cautious. These incidents virtually undid the structure created by the Congress. Therefore it is highly justified to say that there was little that was permanent and much that was temporary.

Much of the Congress was temporary and there was little that was permanent

Gentz, the secretary to the Congress had cynically stated that behind the fine phrases about the reconstruction of the social order and the establishment of an enduring peace founded on a just redistribution of forces was disguised the real object of the Congress 'to divide among the conquerors the spoils of the conquered'. But Gentz was not surely completely correct. It is inevitable that the assembled statesmen at Vienna, would seek to ensure security against aggression and to safeguard their own interests. The armies of France had kept Europe terror-stricken for nearly a decade. That was a

Triumph of
reaction inevitable

menacing thought to all the statesmen.

Besides, the diplomats that went to Vienna were men of the old order with old ideas about politics and old conceptions about society. They cannot be blamed too much if they failed to respond to the new aspirations of the age. These were grave drawbacks no doubt, but it must be said to the credit of the Congress that it showed moder-

Conclusion

tion and political wisdom by not treating the defeated France too harshly (which the Paris Peace Conference did to the defeated Germany a century later) and it gave Europe peace for nearly forty years.

The Holy Alliance

Since the Vienna Congress was represented by nearly all the countries of Europe, it was natural that the settlement

made by the Congress would be under the collective guarantee of the powers. And for greater international security, they organised an institution of international character. The idea of an assembly of all nations was not new. It had

Principle of
collective security

been advocated by Utopian writers. But the Concert of Europe was the first institution of this type.

Two opposing ideas were put forward to found an international body for the preservation of peace. One was put forward by Tsar Alexander I of Russia. The liberal and idealist Tsar Alexander I put forward the proposal of the Holy Alliance. The Holy Alliance was a declaration and not a treaty. As a diplomatic institution, it was a failure and as a political machinery it was useless. The

The idea of Holy Alliance and its nature

monarchs of Europe except the Tsar himself never took it seriously. It contained nothing that was practical and to Castlereagh, it was

piece of sublime mysticism and nonsense and to Metternich it was a high sounding nothing. It was a short lived idea of Tsar Alexander I containing some moral gesture, pious aspiration and a highly debatable semi-religious and semi-political programme. Needless to say that it came to nothing.

The Concert of Europe

But a more concrete structure took shape when guided largely by the diplomacy of Metternich. Austria, Prussia, Russia and England joined in a Quadruple

The Quadruple Alliance

Alliance. France was allowed to join after she had paid up the war indemnity. This

Alliance was in effect a dictatorship of the great powers. The programme was to hold periodical meetings of the member powers and the idea was the maintenance of the peace of Europe. This Alliance was the famous Concert of Europe.

The first Congress was held in 1818 at Aix-La Chapelle. In this meeting, the allied army of occupation was with-

drawn from France and she was accepted as a member of the Concert of Europe. The Aix-La Chapelle session of the concert saw harmony among the powers. The Congress issued orders on the Swedish king for alleged violation of his Treaty obligation and successfully solved some other smaller issues.

The second meeting of the concert of Europe was held first at Troppau in 1820 and then by adjournment at Laibach in 1821. The Troppau Congress met to discuss the revolutions at Spain, Portugal and Naples where popular risings had forced their autocratic rulers to grant constitutional Government. The Troppau Congress drafted the Troppau Protocol which provided that a constitution to be acceptable must be granted by the king and in the case of a revolutionary change of Government the concert would be empowered to bring it back. The general application to these principles were objected to by England. If Austria interfered with Italian politics, England had no cause of alarm. But in the case of an Austrian intervention in Spain, English interest would be at a stake because England had entered into profitable business with the Spanish American colonies. These colonies had become independent during the confusion that was created when Napoleon captured the throne of Spain for his brother Joseph. Moreover, a revolution was an internal affair of a sovereign state and as a matter of principle, England did not agree to interfere on this ground only. So, there was a considerable disunity in the Troppau Congress. The Congress of Troppau was adjourned for sometime and it again met at Laibach next

The Congress
Aix-La Chapelle

The Congress of
Troppau and
Laibach Troppau
protocol

Disunity of
opinion—the rift
in the concert

year. The Laibach Congress empowered Austria to put down revolt at Naples. The rebellion at Naples had endangered the position of Austrian superiority in Italy. An Austrian army put down revolt of Naples and on their way back, they put down a popular rising in Piedmont.

The third meeting of the Concert was held at Verona in 1822. The main issue before it was the Spanish Revolution. Over the point of intervention the powers were divided.

The Verona Congress—the end of the Concert of Europe

The Bourbon of Spain had appealed to the Bourbon of France for help. France desired to play the rôle which Austria had played in Italy. England apprehended the junction of two Bourbons with alarm. When the Concert decided to send a joint note to Madrid, England withdrew from the Congress. In April 1823, the French army went to Spain and within a very short time put down the popular rising there.

But with the withdrawal of England, the Concert of Europe broke down. It was first institution in human history which tried to maintain peace in the international sphere in an organised way and it anticipated the League of Nations, established a century later. But with all the lofty ideas and good offices, the Concert could not but be a failure. The causes were mainly two—jealousy among the powers and the conflicting principles.

The Concert could not have lasted long for the clashing of interest and principle

In threatening the weak and small states, the Concert of Europe was successful. But when their own interest clashed, there was serious disunity and ill feelings. When the Spanish people rose in revolt, Tsar Alexander I requested to summon the session of the Concert and volunteered to

Why the Concert of Europe did not last long?

send some soldiers to put down the revolt in Spain. But to Metternich, the display of Russian forces was not liked and he managed to shelve the issue. The meeting of the concert was not called. But then revolt broke out in Naples and people forced the ruler to make some concessions. The revolution in Naples was dangerous because it endangered the supremacy of Austria in Italy. So the meeting of the concert was convened and Austria was allowed to put down the revolt which she did. Again, England would not allow Russian ships in the Mediterranean to put down the pirates. In many points like these, Austria, Russia and England had many conflicting interests and so perfect unanimity among them was not possible for a long time. Austria had her interest in Italy, Russia in Balkan

The divergence
to interest

areas and England must see that her position in the Mediterranean was not endangered because through it lay the most vital route to go to India. Great controversies were sure to arise on these points. On matters of principles, the powers had different traditions. England was governed by constitutional monarchy and she could not possibly long stay with the forces of reaction.

In the Congress of Aix-la-chappelle, the member states were unanimous. But below this tranquillity there were signs of disunity. These signs became very prominent in Troppau and Laibach, and finally at Verona the concert of Europe came to an inglorious end.

The end of the
concert

Questions

1. 'Three chief principles moulded the Vienna Settlement.'
—Discuss (Need for reconstruction of Europe—Diplomats and

monarchs of Europe assembled at Vienna—problems before them—the principles of Legitimacy security against aggression, and reward and punishment respectively for the victors and defeated).

2. Criticise the activities of the Congress of Vienna. (The new ideas of Nationalism and Democracy—the ideas were not respected—the Vienna Settlement was done on the basis of old ideas of Balance of Power—by the Principle of Legitimacy—autocratic rulers were put on the throne—but the diplomats were old men with old ideas—the settlement preserved the peace of Europe for forty years).

3. "The real charge that is brought against the members of the Vienna Congress was that they ignored the challenge of the French Revolution."—Discuss critically.

4. Write short comments on the following :—

(a) "It was a meeting of the victors to divide the spoils of war."

(b) "There was much that was temporary and little that was permanent."

5. Critically discuss the principles and activities of the Concert of Europe.

(Need for preservation of peace—security and peace of Europe to be under the guarantee of European powers—Concert of Europe devised—Congresses at Aix-la-chappelle, Troppau, Laibach and Verona—the Troppau Protocol—the difference of opinion among the powers—dissolution).

6. Write short notes on the following :—

(a) The Holy Alliance, (b) Metternich, (c) The Troppau Protocol.

CHAPTER V

FRANCE FROM 1815 TO 1870

Introduction

The Vienna Congress had caused the re-establishment of the Bourbon monarchy in France. But though the reactionary Bourbon was established on the throne, the history of France became as if the continuation of the Revolution of 1789. Time and again, the French monarchs withheld the popular liberties, tried to throttle the freedom of the press and wanted to restrict the form of good government and on every case the French people had to fight hard to secure these achievements of the Revolution of 1789. Twice the process of peaceful movement failed and in 1832 and 1848 the French people had to rise against their monarchs. From 1815 to 1870, the history of France was a long process of restlessness.

The nature of the course of French history from 1815 to 1870

Louis XVIII and Charles X

According to the Principle of Legitimacy, Louis XVIII, the brother of the executed king Louis XVI was installed on the throne of France. The new king had to face many difficulties and problems—the foremost of them was the quarrel of different political parties. Louis XVIII had been forced to live the life of an exile and that had made him wiser. Though he was confronted with various vexed questions and sometimes quite opposing questions, still he managed

The reign of Louis XVIII

the affairs anyway. He did not try to play the role of a despot. Like King Charles II of England he acted with mildness and moderation and preferred to keep in check his Bourbon nature to a life of exile. He died in 1824 and was succeeded by his brother who ascended the throne with the title of Charles X.

He tried to rule with moderation

Charles X had a very different character and he wanted to govern according to his own wish. He was a reactionary to the tip of his finger. Charles X tried to rule as a despot and in so doing, he wanted to undo the work of the French Revolution. Charles X was an ultra-royalist and made rapid progress to re-establish despotism in France. A vast amount of money was voted as compensation to the Emigree nobles for the loss they suffered during the Revolution. Some of the old privileges were restored to the clergy. Thus Charles X wanted to base his despotism on the support of the two pillars—that of the nobility and the clergy.

Charles X threw all cautions to the wind and became highly despotic.

Charles X pursued a vigorous foreign policy. During his reign, Algiers was conquered for France. Some help was given to the Greeks who were fighting the battle of independence against Turkey and the French fleet gained some prestige by its participation in the naval battle of Navarino.

Vigorous foreign policy of Charles X

But at home, Charles X's policy brought disaster. Though the opinion of the French people were becoming more irritated, Charles showed no disposition to moderation. Matters came to a head when he appointed an arch-reactionary named Polignac as his Prime Minister. And

Polignac advised the king to issue four Ordinances (July, 1832). By these four Ordinances the liberties of the press were suspended, the Chamber of Deputies was dissolved, the right of franchise was curtailed and the electoral role was changed to suit the advantages of the king. These Ordinances meant that Charles wanted to rule like an absolute monarch and that he had thrown cautions to the winds.

Polignac and the
reactionary
Ordinances

The July Revolution, 1832

At the news of the Ordinances, the French people became highly enraged and in Paris, a revolt broke out. The revolutionaries got the better of the army of the government and at this Charles X fled from the capital and abdicated in favour of his grandson. But the Parisian revolutionaries set him aside and placed on the throne Louis Phillippe, an Orleanist. He was known for his liberal views and he assumed the title of 'King of the French'. The new king gave assurance to safeguard the popular liberties and promised to rule constitutionally. This successful revolution took place in the month of July 1832 and is known as "July Revolution".

Revolution in
Paris

Louis Phillippe
became "King of
the French".

European Reaction of July Revolution

The successful July Revolution profoundly stirred the liberal-minded people of Europe and everywhere people rose in revolt against existing order. Reaction first took place in Belgium. Belgium, as we have seen, had been joined with Holland by the Congress

Revolt in Belgium

of Vienna. Though tied with Holland, Belgium was totally different in language, religion and culture. The Dutch enjoyed better political rights. An attempt was made on the part of the Dutch to make Dutch, the official language. The Belgians wanted to free themselves from

Independence of
Belgium
guaranteed

the Dutch and when the news of the successful July Revolution reached them, they rose in revolt, defeated the Dutch army and proclaimed independence. Louis

Phillippe, the new French king wanted to make some advantages out of this situation but he was kept in check by Palmerston. The Belgium question was placed before an European Conference which was held in London in 1840. By the London Conference, the independence of Belgium was guaranteed and she was made a permanently neutral state. The separation of Belgium from Holland and its subsequent independence was the first breach in the territorial arrangement made by Metternich and the Vienna Congress.

The successful July Revolution in France produced repercussions in Germany also. The people of the smaller states of North Germany rose against their rulers and forced them to grant constitutions.

Popular rising in
Germany and
Italy

But the two great powers of Germany, Austria and Prussia continued to be the citadel of absolutism as before. And under the pressure from these two powers, repression of liberal institutions and repression of press and popular liberties again prevailed and reaction again triumphed everywhere in Germany. In Italy, the popular revolt broke out in some of the states like Modena,

The failure of
the movement

Parma, etc. and in the Papal states. But the Austrian army soon extinguished all revolutions. The suppression of all popular revolts by the army of Austria created an increased hatred for Austria by the people of Italy.

The reactions of the July Revolution secured the independence of Belgium but saw the extinction of Poland as a state. Poland was secured by Russia according to the Vienna Settlement. Tsar Alexander I treated Poland with extreme generosity and mildness. But the Polish people were not satisfied because they had a proud past. They could not be reconciled to their subjection to Russia. This discontent of the Poles increased when Tsar Alexander I died in 1825 and was succeeded by Tsar Nicholas I who was an absolutist out and out. Under his rule, many of the liberties granted by the previous Tsar were withdrawn—and this made the Poles all the more discontented. When the news of the July Revolution reached them, the Poles rose in revolt. But they were soon overpowered and Poland was absorbed in the Russian Empire. The July Revolution produced distant echoes in Spain and Portugal where constitution was granted to the people by their rulers. But the reasons for granting constitution in these countries were less due to the movement of the people and more due to the struggle for succession.

The July Revolution was an event of extraordinary importance for the people of France and it was also very much important for the European reaction it produced. Everywhere people rose in rebellion against their reactionary rulers. Liberals and Nationalists tried to establish kingdoms