

# Restoration, Romanticism, and Revolution, 1815-1848

## I. The Search for Stability

### A. Forces of the Past

1. Traditional institutions of power
  - Monarchy
  - Aristocracy
  - Church
  - Patriarchal family
2. Conservatism
  - Believed that national, historic, and religious traditions are the essential foundations of any society
  - Maintained that all change should be gradual
  - Appealed to those who were frightened by the social disorder, violence, and terror fomented by the French Revolution

## II. Restoring the Old Order: the Congress of Vienna

### A. Prince Klemens von Metternich (1773-1859)

1. Austrian foreign minister and host for the Congress of Vienna
2. Committed to the principles of conservatism
3. Viewed liberalism and nationalism as threats to European stability and the survival of the Austrian Empire

### B. The Principle of Legitimacy

1. Legitimacy meant restoring ruling families that had been deposed by the French Revolution and Napoleon.
2. As the younger brother of Louis XVI, Louis XVIII returned as the legitimate Bourbon ruler of France.
3. Bourbon rulers were also returned to their thrones in Spain and Naples.
4. The Congress restored the House of Orange in Holland and the House of Savoy in Sardinia-Piedmont.

### C. The Balance of Power

1. The leaders at Vienna wanted to weaken France so that it would no longer be able to wage wars of aggression and threaten the balance of power.

## Crash Course

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2. At the same time, the victorious powers did not want to impose a punitive treaty that would humiliate and antagonize France.
3. France was forced to return to its 1790 borders and to pay an indemnity of 700 million francs. However, France was allowed to keep most of its overseas possessions, its army, and an independent government.
4. To keep France from renewing its drive for power, the Congress encircled France with strengthened powers:
  - The Austrian Netherlands was united with the Dutch Republic to form a single kingdom of the Netherlands.
  - A group of 39 German states were loosely joined into a newly created German Confederation, dominated by Austria.
  - The Congress recognized Switzerland as an independent and neutral nation.
  - The kingdom of Sardinia in Italy was strengthened by the addition of Piedmont and Savoy.

### D. Territorial Settlements

1. Russia acquired more Polish territory.
2. Sweden retained Norway.
3. Prussia acquired two-fifths of Saxony and territory in the Rhineland along the border of France.
4. Austria acquired the northern Italian provinces of Lombardy and Venetia as compensation for its loss of Belgium.
5. Britain gained valuable territories for its overseas empire, including Malta, the Cape of Good Hope, Trinidad, and Tobago.

### E. Evaluation

1. The Congress of Vienna enacted a settlement that was acceptable to both the victors and to France.
2. It created a balance of power that lasted until the unification of Germany in 1871.
3. It underestimated the forces of liberalism and nationalism unleashed by the French Revolution.