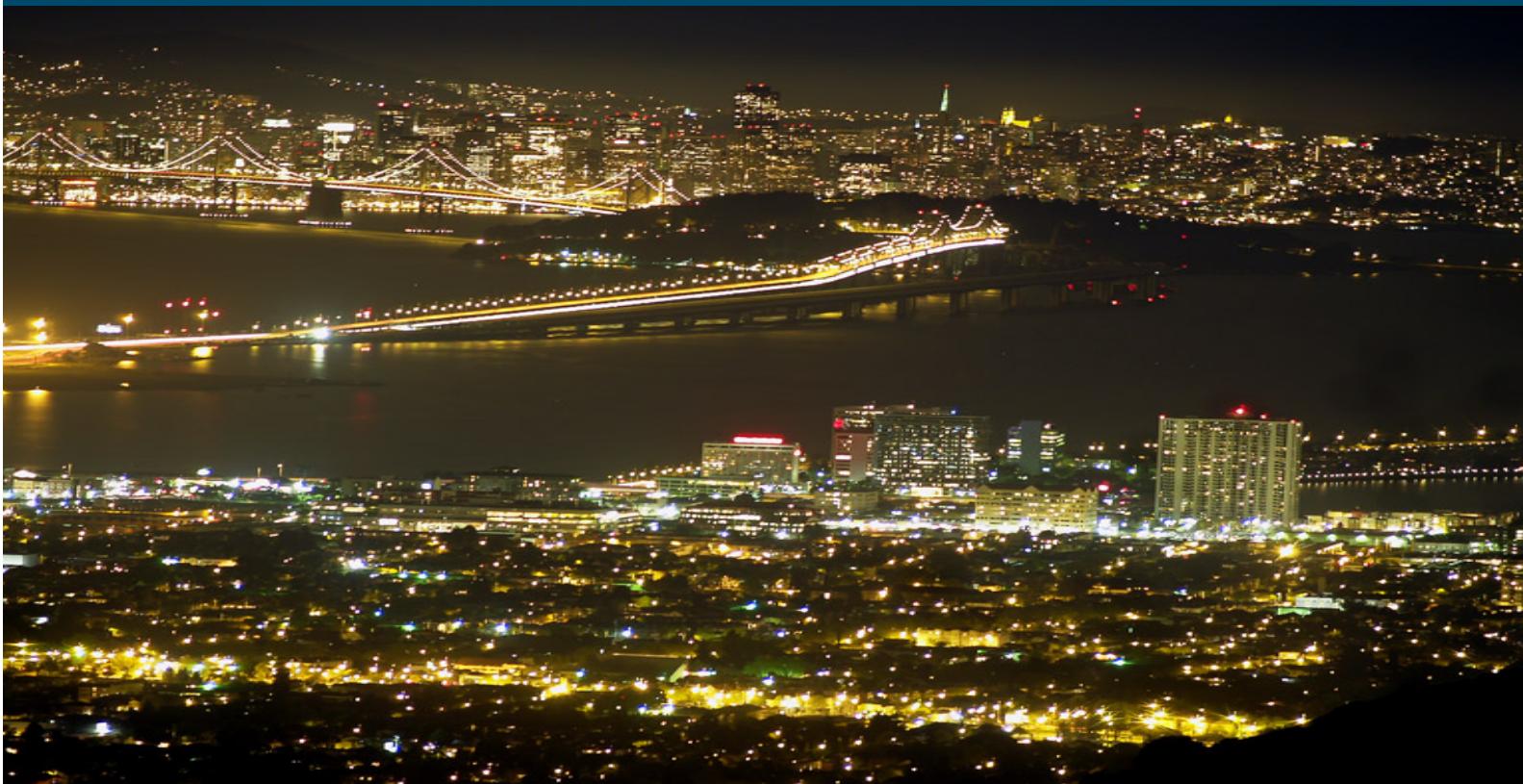


BayMUN Fall 2014



November 15th, 2014

The Congress of Vienna

Head Chair: Mikaela Rear

Crisis Director: Varsha Venkatasubramanian

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Congress of Vienna at BayMUN Fall 2014! Both crisis director Varsha Venkatasubramanian and I look forward to a thrilling day of debate, deception, and all-around debauchery.

The topic of this committee is the Congress of Vienna (1814-1815). In the aftermath of the French Revolutionary Wars and Napoleonic Wars, it will be imperative for Congress participants to restore and reinforce stability throughout Europe. Delegates will be responsible for determining a balance of power across the continent while simultaneously managing their individual territorial, economic, and political motivations. By the end of committee, contemporary historians' understandings of Europe in 1815 will likely be a mere shadow of what delegates and the crisis staff bring to fruition.

As for myself, I am a senior double-majoring in political science and peace and conflict studies. I have been active in UCBMUN since my freshman year, serving as Head Chair of the UNSC-CTC in 2013 and as an ACD for the African Union in 2012. This year I will also be Head Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Secretary-General at UCBMUN in 2015. I also spent last spring abroad in Istanbul, Turkey.

I look forward to meeting you all at what promises to be an exhilarating and challenging BayMUN! Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or Varsha if you have any questions as you prepare. Best of luck!

Mikaela Rear

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Historical Background

Napoleon Bonaparte came to power in France in 1799, and many historians place this event as the end of the French Revolution. Napoleon replaced the Directory with the French

Consulate, but in 1804 he reconstituted the monarchy and crowned himself Emperor of the French Empire. Napoleon's rise was the foreground to a series of wars between France and the rest of Europe, beginning in 1789. During the Revolution mass conscription and emboldened nationalism led France to victory in most battles, and the victory did not end with Napoleon. He managed to stave off five coalitions of European powers and conquered much European territory. Napoleon continued his eastward advance into Russia (in 1812 at the height of his power), but this campaign was a disastrous failure. At this moment of vulnerability, the Sixth Coalition pushed Napoleon back into France.

In March of 1814, while Napoleon was attempting to hold on to his fragile empire, the Coalition agreed to preserve itself until Napoleon was completely defeated. The Treaty of Chaumont, which outlined this oath of preservation, was an important precedent for the Congress of Vienna that would soon form. On April 11th 1814, Napoleon and representatives from the Coalition countries signed the Treaty of Fontainebleau, which ended Napoleon's rule and exiled him to Elba. A month later on May 30th, Louis XVIII, the restored Bourbon monarch, signed the Treaty of Paris, which crucially maintained France's 1792 boundaries, thus including any territory it acquired during the Revolution until then.

In September of 1814, the Congress of Vienna convened. All the major powers of Europe sent delegates to decide how the broken Europe Napoleon had left behind would be put together. The overarching goal for all delegates was to constrain France's power, thus France was lined with strong bordering states, Netherlands and Piedmont. Prussia received the left bank of the Rhine, and Austria received northern Italian territory. The Bourbons were restored in Spain, but

the powers decided not to unite Germany into a fragile Holy Roman Empire. Instead the kingdoms of Bavaria, Wurttemberg, and Saxony remained as Napoleon had left them.¹

The lingering issues are those of Polish and Saxon control. Alexander I, Tsar of Russia, had desired Poland for years, but Austria was wary of expanding Russian influence. Prussia also insisted on gaining all of Saxony. Britain and Austria wanted to avoid conflict over territories, as well as a stable balance of power. Russia's control over Poland, or Germany's over Saxony would not contribute to this. At this moment, Talleyrand, the representative from France, seriously handicapped because of his nation's volatile past, weaseled himself into the inner circle of powers.

Current Issues

This is where committee will begin. Talleyrand is on the brink of forcing himself into the inner circle with the other Big Four (Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia). Metternich and Castlereagh are doing their best to bring Europe back to the condition it was in before 1789. Humboldt and Tsar Alexander are advocating for an increase in their territorial power.

From the small powers to the large, every delegate will have territorial claims and stances on how to maintain the Balance of Power. Delegates should consider colonial claims as well as territorial expansion within Europe. Besides maintaining colonial power overseas, global issues such as the slave trade are also on the agenda. Especially since Britain abolished the slave trade in 1807.

The Polish-Saxony Question

¹ Jarrett, Mark. *The Congress of Vienna and Its Legacy War and Great Power Diplomacy after Napoleon*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2013. Print.

The first main issue will be dealing with the Polish-Saxon crisis. Poland is coveted because it is a gateway to its surrounding regions, as seen by numerous invasions in the 18th century. Internal feuding and lack of centralization makes Poland susceptible to external control, and Russia, Austria, and Prussia have dissolved any sense of a sovereign state with partitions in the late 18th century. Napoleon had maintained a portion of Poland as the Duchy of Warsaw, but since 1813 a decision has yet to be made about its fate.²

Also important in deciding this question will be Polish sentiments, which have grown increasingly nationalistic since Napoleon's invasion. Dealings between Prussia and Russia also complicate the issue for the Congress, especially since Prussia hopes to gain Saxony by leveraging its relationship with Russia as well as supporting Russia's gaining of Poland.

Resolutions of this problem should account for Poland's sentiments as well as what consequences any decision would have on the delegates' respective nation and the overall balance of power.

Colonial Unrest

A lack of respect for the rising creole population, free trade, and influence from other contemporary revolutions, pushed Latin American countries to engage in major independence movements from Spain. The issue of assisting Spain with its colonial unrest, which was indirectly caused by Napoleon's earlier meddling and Spain's decline during the Wars, is central to many delegates in this committee. Deciding the amount of assistance that can be given to Spain to deal with its colonies will set precedent, as well as endanger other European colonies across the globe. Britain, which is much more liberalized in terms of trade in the early 19th century than it used to be, still relies heavily on colonial support. This dependence will only

² Hobsbawm, E. J. *The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848*. Cleveland: World Pub., 1962. Print.

grow in the 19th century, and the colonies will become central to her identity. As for other countries, the issues of sovereignty and the language of the Enlightenment will play a central role in deciding Latin America's fate.

Domestic Unrest

As a result of the Enlightenment and of course the Revolution and Napoleon, much of Europe has been 'tainted' with the passion for sovereignty and nationalism. However this excitement will not always be compatible with the governments of the Congress. Delegates will have to decide on how to deal with domestic dissent and unrest, issues of free press, and self-expression. Any decisions will greatly affect not only the countries' national identities, but also their legitimacy on a global scale. In making decisions about other countries domestic problems, key issues of recognizing others' sovereignty and autonomy will be emphasized, however the idea of self-determination that spreads through Europe challenges the legitimacy of every European power affected.

Characters³

- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland – Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Viscount Castlereagh

³ Lockhart, John G. *The Peacemakers: 1814 - 1815*. New York: Putnam, 1934.



Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh, was the chief representative of the United Kingdom at the Congress of Vienna. As a global, maritime power, Castlereagh understood British interests to rest chiefly on preserving freedom of navigation and in the retention and possible expansion of British colonies. However tremendous public pressure in London had also begun to demand action against the African slave trade, which British abolitionists regarded as a terrible sin that could even be dealt with by force with the Royal Navy if necessary. In Europe however, Castlereagh was concerned above all with constraining the Great Powers, particularly post-Napoleonic France. As the only power to have resisted France throughout the post-revolutionary period, Castlereagh also believed Britain had to play a primary role in establishing a sustainable balance of power.

- Austrian Empire – Foreign Minister Prince Klemens von Metternich



Klemens von Metternich represented the Hapsburg monarchy at the congress, and as the nominal “host” played a pivotal role in the negotiations. As a state surrounded by the destruction Napoleon’s armies had brought to Germany, Poland and Italy, Metternich was concerned with Austrian influence in these regions. In Italy Metternich wanted Austria to remain paramount on the peninsula as a Great Power without French intervention. And in Germany he desired Austria to maintain a leadership role amongst the German states cut loose by the end of the Holy Roman Empire. But above all else he feared Tsar Alexander I, with whom he also shared a personal rivalry, and Russia’s perceived designs on the former Napoleonic satellite of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw.

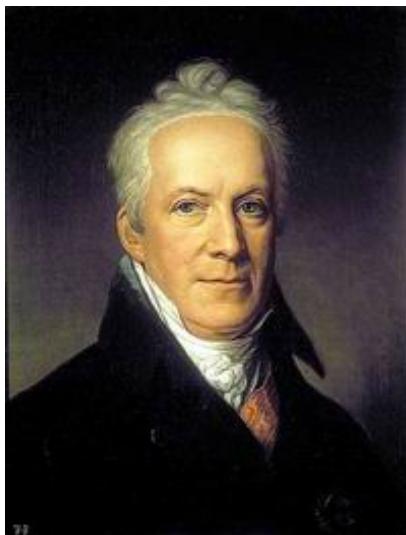
- Russian Empire – Tsar Alexander I



The rare leader who did not send a foreign minister to the negotiating table and, like in battle, chose to represent his country himself, Tsar Alexander I approached the negotiations expecting to have his demands met. He viewed Russia as being the principle power in defeating Napoleon, due in no small part to his formidable armies, and wanted a just reward. The Grand Duchy of Warsaw, whose lands had previously been partitioned

amongst Prussia and Russia, was his biggest target, particularly because of the Poles perceived lingering allegiance to Napoleon and radicalism.

- Kingdom of Prussia – Chancellor Prince Karl August von Hardenburg



Chancellor von Hardenburg formed a team with another top Prussian diplomat and scholar, Wilhelm von Humboldt, to represent the interests of Prussia and their king, Frederick William III. Of the Great Powers, Prussia suffered the worst of Napoleon's campaigns, its armies crushed and its territory conquered and divided. The congress thus represented an opportunity to reaffirm the country's status as a Great Power. The primary objective of von Hardenburg was acquiring the territory of Saxony, a rich and populous German region that had also been highly sympathetic to Napoleon. Operating from a position of relative strategic weakness, Prussia nevertheless also sought to shore up its position among the German states and help form a new confederation, as well acquire territory from Denmark, a former Napoleonic ally.

- Kingdom of France – Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord



Talleyrand was a political survivor par excellence, having served every French government since the Revolution, who now found himself negotiating on behalf of the defeated country at Vienna. His primary objective was to simply restore French influence, power and prestige and to avoid diplomatic isolation at all costs. But as one of the wisest statesmen of his time, Talleyrand was most interested in a durable balance of power that could put a check on revolution and war across the continent.

- Kingdom of Spain – Marquis Pedro Gómez de Labrador



The Marquis of Labrador represented a country which had lost dearly in the Napoleonic Wars. Occupied by France and liberated through a nasty guerilla war, Spain had lost whatever pretense of Great Power status it may have had before the wars. However it also opened the door for revolutions in Latin America. Colonial power was Spain's primary asset, and suppressing revolution, or even recovering lost territories, was Labrador's single biggest interest. However he also sought to restore the Bourbons to Spain's former Italian possessions in Sicily and Naples, and to replace the king Joachim Murat installed there by Napoleon.

- Kingdom of Portugal – Pedro de Sousa Holstein, Count of Palmela



The Count of Palmela, even representing a more minor power, was in a strong position chiefly due to his country's strong alliance with Great Britain during the Napoleonic Wars. At Vienna the Count was tasked with ensuring good relations with Great Britain, particularly on maritime issues, while also pressing its claim for the border town of Olivenza occupied by Spain and asserting Portuguese interests in South America.

- Kingdom of Sweden – Count Carl Löwenhielm



Having fought against Napoleon and his allies in the Kingdoms of Denmark and Norway, Sweden had signed the Treaty of Kiel earlier in 1814 to receive Norway in exchange for ceding Swedish Pomerania to the Danish. However, Norway refused to submit to Swedish rule and tried to resist by war. Sweden won the war, but had to accept a personal union rather than complete control of Norway. As a result, Count Löwenhielm's chief objective at the Congress of Vienna was to resist the treaty obligation to cede Swedish Pomerania, as well as to hedge against an expansion of Russian power along their border. Most optimistically, the Count hopes to recover Finland from Russia, if not at least receive compensation for its seizure in 1809.

- Kingdom of Denmark – Foreign Minister Count Niels Rosenkrantz



Having already given up all claims to Norway in the Treaty of Kiel, Count Rosenkrantz's chief objective at the congress was securing Danish control over Swedish Pomerania and resisting Prussian expansion in Germany.

- Sovereign Principality of the United Netherlands – Baron Hans von Gagern



Having been effectively demolished as a state only to be resurrected as a state by the British, the new diplomat Baron von Gagern represented the new monarch, William I of Orange. Von Gagern's biggest priority was securing Belgium and Luxembourg for the Netherlands so as to unite the Low Countries, as well as rebuilding the nation's defenses and properly restraining French aggression. His primary threats were nominally pro-Austrian sentiment in Brussels and ever-present radical republicanism in the Low Countries in general.

- Kingdom of Bavaria – Maximilian Graf von Montgelas



Von Montgelas, as Bavaria's chief diplomat, had relatively modest, defensive-minded goals at the Congress fitting a vulnerable, central German state. He sought to hedge against Hapsburg and Prussian power in Germany while also reorganizing the German states into a politically and economically more viable confederation. He also sought good relations with other Catholic powers, notably Austria, France and the Papal States, against the other Protestant German states, notably Prussia.

Committee Objectives

The overriding objective of the Congress of Vienna was to form a post-war order that could constrain Great Power aggression and prevent a continental war like those of Napoleon. However the Napoleonic conquests had so shaken up the map of Europe that entire nations had

to be reconstituted and territories apportioned. These issues had to be resolved without tipping the scales in one power's favor or creating states too weak to defend themselves from foreign aggression.

But beyond the practical power realities, a new set of principles had to be established to govern the post-war order. Nationalist and republican movements across the continent had been empowered by Napoleon's conquests, only to have power taken from them, yet their ideas and agitation still had explosive potential.

Guiding Questions

How do you think the balance of power can be maintained?

How did Napoleon change your country?

What settlements are you willing to make? What sacrifices are you not able or prepared to make?

How do you envision the future of your nation, and of Europe?

Who are your allies, and why do you support them?