PARK EAST HIGH SCHOOL
Purpose, Preparation, Pride

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

The Congress of Vienna

Directions: Answer the text dependent questions as you read.

Metternich's Plans for Europe

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 possession. 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 for 40 years. Some did not fight in a war for the rest of the century.

Why was the Congress of Vienna called?

Who was so significant in the developments of the Congress of Vienna?

What did he want to ensure with France?

How should other countries be treated?

What happened to France? How did it help his other goals?

What happened to rulers in Europe?

Was peace possible?

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Political Changes Beyond Vienna

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.

What did rulers do in attempts to aid each other in case of revolution?

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 encourages individual liberties. They did not want any calls for equal rights.

What did conservatives in Europe believe?

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.

How did the ideals of the French Revolution continue?

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 feelings 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.

What happened to the Spanish colonies?

How did the French Revolution change global politics?