

CONGRESS OF VIENNA SIMULATION

INTRODUCTION

This simulation allows students to reorganize the boundaries of Europe as the Congress of Vienna did following the Napoleonic Wars. Students are given the same goals as the original participants and are allowed to make the decisions which they think will most likely lead to the accomplishment of these goals.

HISTORY

The major powers in Europe by the late 1700s consisted of Britain, France, Prussia, Austria and Russia. Poland, Ottoman Empire and the Netherlands were powers in decline. Most of central Europe was divided into small states who could be dominated by the major powers. French support for Poland had previously limited Russia, Prussia and Austria in their desire to take Polish territory. When war with France broke out in the early 1790s, Poland was divided between the three powers: Prussia seized West and North Poland, Austria annexed South Poland and Russia took East Poland. French military successes in the late 1790s resulted in France annexing the Austrian Netherlands and Palatinate. By 1803, Napoleon had added the Italian areas of Piedmont and Parma to his empire. A series of French victories from 1805 to 1809 over Austria, Prussia and Russia resulted in the total restructuring of central Europe. The Netherlands, Munster, Oldenburg, Hanover and Tuscany were all incorporated into the French Empire. Croatia and Tyrol were taken from Austria with Croatia being annexed into the French Empire. The Grand Duchy of Warsaw was created by taking South Poland from Austria and both West and North Poland from Prussia. After Napoleon's disastrous invasion of Russia in 1812, Britain, Austria, Prussia and Russia formed a coalition that defeated Napoleon in 1814 and again in 1815.

MAP

The boundaries of the major powers in Europe are marked with various colors on the map: red for Austria, blue for Prussia, yellow for Russia and green for France. The double line represents the boundaries at the height of Napoleons' power in 1810 while the single line represents where the boundaries had been in 1795 after the partition of Poland. Where boundaries had not changed the single line merges with the double line. Thus, the double line shows a contraction of Prussia and Austria which lost territory from 1795 to 1810 and an expansion of France which gained territory during that period. For the purpose of clarity in this simulation, the area that constituted Poland just prior to the French Revolution has been identified as North, South, East and West Poland rather than the historical names for the regions. The boundaries of these regions are based on how Poland was divided by Prussia, Austria and Russia in 1793 and 1795. Similarly, to facilitate the simulation, some of the small German and Italian states have been consolidated and labeled with regional names.

DIRECTIONS

Students will be divided into small work groups of 2 or 3. Each group will receive a map of Europe and an Options Sheet listing the various choices available for consideration at the Congress of Vienna. Each group will consider the various options in light of the four goals listed below and come to a consensus decision as to which options should be selected. Information concerning the history, language, religion, ethnic composition and economic development of areas can be obtained from the instructor. Only the last item is really relevant to the goals listed below. The actual participants at the Congress of Vienna ignored the first four issues as part of their rejection of nationalism. Decisions will be recorded on the Options Sheet and notes can be written there or in the Work Area below. The instructor will select a member of the group to report the group decisions and the logic behind them. Other members of the class will be called upon to critique the decisions.

GOALS

1. Reward victorious allies Russia, Prussia and Austria. (Britain is rewarded with some islands in the Caribbean.)
2. Reestablish a "Balance of Power" between the five major powers: Russia, Austria, Prussia, Britain and France.
3. Provide for the containment of France in the future.
4. Reestablish the French monarchy and provide for good relations with the new French government.

CONGRESS OF VIENNA
OPTIONS SHEET

Circle and/or fill in blank for those options you choose.
Draw a line through those options you reject. Some of the
options are interrelated and choices must not be contradictory.
Switzerland, Denmark and the Netherlands must remain independent
but territory can be added to them.

France

- A. Pay allied war costs.
- B. Lose Flanders to _____.
- C. Lose Alsace-Lorraine to _____.
- D. Retain boundaries of France prior to the Revolution.
- E. Retain conquest of Austrian Netherlands.
- F. Retain conquest of Piedmont.

Prussia

- A. Regain West Poland from Grand Duchy of Warsaw.
- B. Regain North Poland from Grand Duchy of Warsaw.
- C. Gain South Poland which had been Austrian from GDW.
- D. Gain East Poland from Russia.
- E. Gain German territories: _____.
- _____.
- _____.
- _____.

Austria

- A. Lose Galacia to Russia.
- B. Regain Croatia from France.
- C. Regain Austrian Netherlands from France.
- D. Regain South Poland from Grand Duchy of Warsaw.
- E. Regain Tyrol.
- F. Gain German or Italian territories _____.
- _____.
- _____.
- _____.

Russia

- A. Lose East Poland.
- B. Retain boundaries after partition of Poland.
- C. Gain North Poland which had been Prussian from GDW.
- D. Gain West Poland which had been Prussian from GDW.
- E. Gain South Poland which had been Austrian from GDW.
- F. Gain Galacia from Austria.

Reorganize various states in Germany and Italy.

Other options for Croatia and Austrian Netherlands.