

# POSTSCRIPT

## Negotiations

The negotiations were difficult. Austria and Great Britain opposed Russia and Prussia on their Poland/Saxony scheme. Around the New Year of 1815, the four nations nearly went to war. At this point, Talleyrand seized the opportunity to bring France into the inner circle. He offered to make an alliance with Great Britain and Austria in opposition to Prussia and Russia. The alliance was signed on January 3, 1815. Upon hearing of the alliance, Hardenberg and Alexander backed down, opening the way to compromise. Once the five powers reached a compromise on the Poland/Saxony issue, the diplomats were able to negotiate agreements on the other points.

## The Hundred Days

By the spring of 1815, the delegates had resolved their differences and had crafted agreements on the various issues. Committees were busy creating the final draft of the settlement. Europe seemed ready to begin an era of peace. Suddenly the news reached Vienna that Napoleon had escaped from the island of Elba. He made his way to Paris, with French citizens rallying behind him. Louis XVIII fled and Napoleon declared himself to be Emperor once again. He took charge of the French army and marched towards Belgium. The allies responded quickly. An allied army commanded by the British Duke of Wellington defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo on June 18. This time Napoleon was exiled to the far more distant island of St. Helena in the southern Atlantic Ocean.

## Changes to the Settlement

The diplomats in Vienna continued to negotiate, even as their armies again battled Napoleon. On June 9, 1815, the delegates signed the Final Act of the Congress of Vienna. In November, after Napoleon's defeat and subsequent banishment, France and the allies signed the Second Peace of Paris. The Hundred Days affected the final terms of the peace settlement. For its misbehavior in again supporting Napoleon, France was subjected to somewhat harsher terms than before (see below). The Final Act of the Congress of Vienna included the following terms:

# POSTSCRIPT

## More Agreements

Two other agreements emerged from the Congress of Vienna. The Four Great Powers (Prussia, Austria, Russia and Great Britain) signed the **Quadruple Alliance**, in which they pledged to work together to uphold the peace agreement of the Congress of Vienna. In addition, Czar Alexander I proposed that they create a different sort of alliance, in which all would agree to conduct their political affairs according to the Christian teachings of peace and charity. Though most European powers didn't really take it seriously, nearly all joined the **Holy Alliance**. Only the Prince Regent of Great Britain, the Pope and the Sultan of Turkey didn't sign. Throughout the 19th century the Holy Alliance came to represent the conservative forces that resisted liberal and national movements.

## Aftermath

In the end, the diplomats of the Congress of Vienna created a European system that was overall consistent with the principles of the balance of power and legitimacy. However, they either ignored or tried to suppress movements of nationalism and republicanism, forces that would grow dramatically throughout the nineteenth century and would constantly threaten European stability. But, as it turned out, their settlement was quite durable—Europe did not experience another general war for an entire century—until 1914.



# POSTSCRIPT

|                               | Final Act Congress of Vienna  |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Poland/Saxony                 | Prussia received two-fifths of Saxony. The remainder was returned to the former King of Saxony, Fredrick Augustus, who regained his freedom. Russia received a smaller Poland than Alexander had demanded while Austria and Prussia each received slices of Polish territory that were smaller than their possessions after the 1795 Partition. Alexander granted Poland a constitution and took the title King of Poland.  |
| The Netherlands               | Belgium (The Austrian Netherlands) and Holland (The United Provinces of the Netherlands) were united into the Kingdom of the Netherlands. William of Orange, whose father had been the Stadtholder of Holland, became the King of the Netherlands.  |
| The German States             | In addition to two-fifths of Saxony, Prussia received the territory east and west of the Rhine River, placing Prussia in a strong position to guard against future French attacks. The Congress did not try to restore the over 300 states of the Holy Roman Empire; instead it created the German Confederation, made up of 39 states, including Prussia and Austria. The Austrian emperor was president of the Confederation, a loose league with no effective central government, but less chaotic than the pre-Napoleonic system.   |
| Italy                         | The diplomats in Vienna followed the principles of compensation (using Italian land to compensate Austria for its role in the wars and for its losses elsewhere) and of restoration (returning "legitimate" monarchs to their thrones). They were not, however, inclined to restore the ancient Italian republics. They awarded Sardinia and the former Republic of Genoa to King Victor Emmanuel of Savoy and Piedmont. Austria acquired Venetia and Lombardy. The Hapsburg family received the Duchies of Modena, Tuscany and Parma, with Parma going to Marie-Louise (who was Napoleon's wife and the daughter of the Austrian Emperor Francis I). In central Italy, Pope Pius VII regained temporal rule over the Papal States. In southern Italy, General Murat's support for Napoleon during the Hundred Days resulted in his arrest and execution. The Bourbon King Ferdinand IV received Naples and became King Ferdinand I of the Kingdom of Two Sicilies. |
| Scandinavia                   | The allies acknowledged Russia's possession of Finland (taken from Sweden) and Sweden's acquisition of Norway (taken from Denmark, an ally of France).  |
| Switzerland                   | The great powers recognized and agreed to guarantee the neutrality of Switzerland.  |
| The Croation-Dalmatian Coasts | The Croatian and Dalmatian coasts became a part of the Austrian Empire.   |
| Spain/Portugal                | The Bourbon King Charles VI was restored to the throne of Spain and the Braganca Prince Regent John was returned to the throne of Portugal.   |

## Colonies

The British returned the Dutch East Indies to Holland but kept Malta, Heligoland, the Ionian Islands, the French and Spanish islands in the West Indies, Ceylon and the Cape of Good Hope.

## Reparations

In the First Peace of Paris, the allies did not require France to pay reparations, but after Napoleon's Hundred Days, France had to pay the allies 700 million francs. An allied army was stationed in France until the money was paid.

## Return of Plundered Art

In the First Peace of Paris, France was not required to return the art pillaged from the rest of Europe by the French armies. After Napoleon's return in the Hundred Days, the Second Peace of Paris required the return of much of the art.